

Cadences – Making Musical Sense

*twinkle twinkle little star how I wonder what you are up above the world so high
like a diamond in the sky twinkle twinkle little star how I wonder what you are*

- We take punctuation for granted, in writing and in speech.
- Punctuation, whether we are conscious of it or not, helps us make sense of words.
- Cadences, whether we are conscious of them or not, help us make sense of music.

Cadences are the musical equivalents of commas (still needs to be finished) and full stops (finished). A cadence is a pair of chords (progression of 2) that occurs at the end of a melodic phrase.

There are 4 types of cadence:

Sound finished (full-stops)

- * **Perfect cadence**
- * Plagal cadence

Sound un-finished (commas)

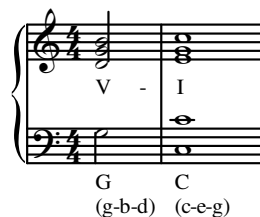
- * **Imperfect cadence**
- * Interrupted cadence

(Those in **bold** are most common)

Perfect Cadence

Always Chord **V** to Chord **I**

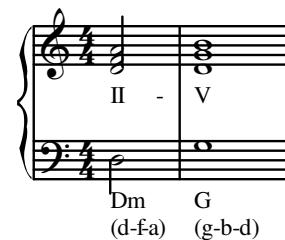
e.g. G to C (= V-I in C major)



Imperfect cadence

2 chords, 2nd of which is V

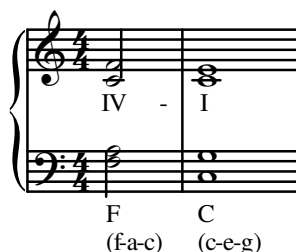
e.g. C to G (= I-V in C major)
Dm to G (= II-V in C major)
F to G (= IV-V in C major)
Am to G (= VI-V in C major)



Plagal Cadence

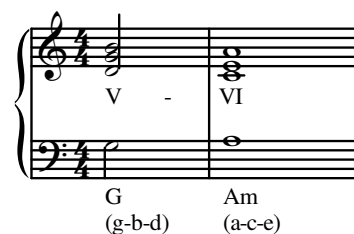
Always Chord **IV** to Chord **I**

e.g. F to C (= IV-I in C major)



Interrupted Cadence

The 'twist in the tale'
Usually V - VI (= relative minor)
e.g. G to Am (= V-VI in C major)

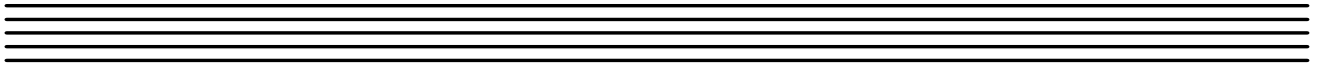


Write out the 2 triads for the following cadences:-

* Perfect in C major

= ____ to ____

=



* Perfect in F major

= ____ to ____

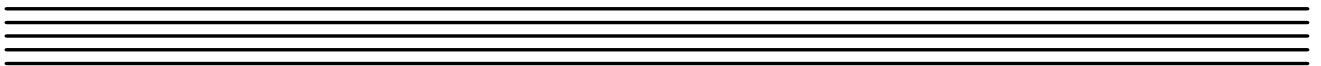
* Perfect in G major

= ____ to ____

* Imperfect in C major

= __I__ to __V__

=



* Imperfect in F major

= __I__ to __V__

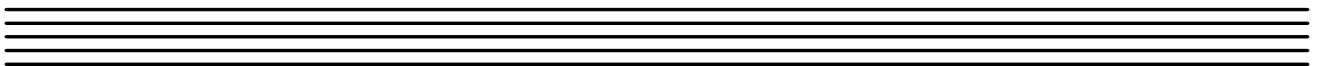
* Imperfect in G major

= __I__ to __V__

* Imperfect in C major

= __II__ to __V__

=



* Imperfect in F major

= __II__ to __V__

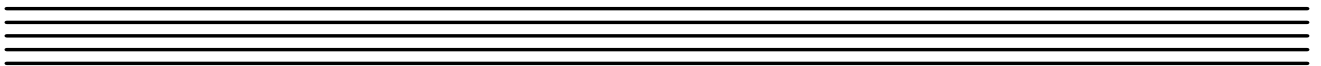
* Imperfect in G major

= __II__ to __V__

* Imperfect in C major

= __IV__ to __V__

=



* Imperfect in F major

= __IV__ to __V__

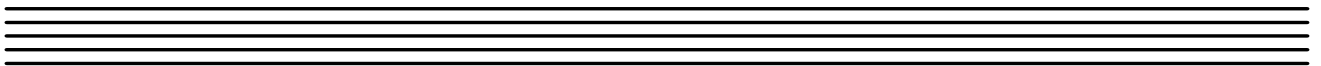
* Imperfect in G major

= __IV__ to __V__

* Plagal in C major

= ____ to ____

=



* Plagal in F major

= ____ to ____

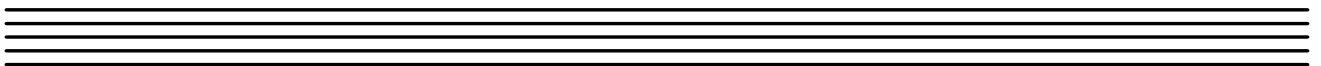
* Plagal in G major

= ____ to ____

* Interrupted in C major

= ____ to ____

=



* Interrupted in F major

= ____ to ____

* Interrupted in G major

= ____ to ____