

# Guide Chord Progressions for Theme and Variations Compositions

Compose a theme based on one of these chord progressions. Repeat and modify this theme to compose each variation.

## Chord Progression 1 (based on Mozart Menuett K2)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

I Ib IV Ic V I V I V7 V7b I V InGm:vii7 i ii7b V7 i

InF:vii7 I iib V I Ib IV I V vi I Ib IV I V I

## Chord Progression 2 (based on Handel Sarabande)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

i V V7 In.F(I V) In.D(viib.of.iv) iv i ((iib.of.iv) ivb76 V In.F(I V ii (V.of.ii)

IV I) In.d:iv V i V V7 In.F(I V) In.D(viib.of.iv) iv i VI iv Ic V i

## Chord Progression 3 (based on Beethoven 32 Variations in C minor)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

i Vb In.F(V7d) Ib) #IVaug6 Ic iv iv V7 i In.Eb(I Vb) In.Ab(V7d) Ib)

Vb i (V7.of.V) V i Vb In.F(V7d) Ib) #IVaug6 Ic iv iv V7 i

**Chord Progression 4 (based on Bach Goldberg Variations)**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

GBD DF#A EGB DF#A GBD CEG CEG DF#AC GBD GBD AC#EG DF#A EGB AC#EG DF#A EGB AC#EG DF#A AC#EG DF#A DE#A

I Vb vi V lb IV vi V7 I I In.D:V7d lb vi V7 V7d lb iib V7d Ic V7 I In.G:V V7d

18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

GBD CEG ACEBD#F#A EGB GBD CEG GBD ACE BD#F#A EGB CEG GBD ACE DF#AC GBD CEG DF#A GBD DF#AC GBD

lb IV ii (V7.of.vi) vi Ic IV lb ii (V7.of.vi) vi IV lb ii V7 I IV V7b I V7 I

**Chord Progression 5 (based on Rachmaninov Variations on a Theme by Chopin)**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

CEB G FabC GBD CEB G AbCEb DbFAb EbGBbDb AbCEb GBDF CEGb FA#C CEG DF#AC GBD DF#AC GBD

i iv V i In.Ab:I IV V I In.c:V7 In.f:V7 i V In.G:V7 I V7 I

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

CEb G AbCEb BDFAb GBbD ACEb AbCEbF# GBD GBDF CEB G FabC GBD CEB G AbCEb DbFAb GBDF CEB G

In.c:i Vlb vii7 Vb3 +IVb V V7d i iv Vb i VI bii V7 i

**Chord Progression 6 (based on Brahms Variations on a Theme by Paganini)**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

ACE EG#B ACE EG#B ACE EG#B ACE EG#B AC#E DF#A GBD CEG G#BDF ACE FACD#EG#B ACE AC#E DF#A GBD CEG G#BDF ACE FACD#EG#B ACE

i V i V i V i V In.D:V I In.C:V I viic ib V i In.D:V I In.C:V I viic ib V i

**Chord Progression 7 (based on Mozart 12 Variations on Ah Vous Dirai-Je Maman)**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

CEG CEG FAC CEG DFA GBDF CEG ACEDFAC GBDF CEG CEG GBDF CEG GBDF CEG G#BDF ACE DF#AC CEG GBDF CEG CEG FAC CEG DFA GBDF CEG ACEDFAC GBDF CEG

I lb IV lb ii V7b I vi ii7b V7 I Ic V7 Ic V7 Ic (vii7.of.vi) vi (V7b.of.V) Ic V7 I lb IV lb ii V7b I vi ii7b V7 I

### Chord Progression 8 (based on a theme by Debussy)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 3

CEG FCEG# FG#BD ACE DFAC GBDF DFAC GBD DFACE DFAC FAC GBDF DFACE DFAC DFAC GBDF

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

GBDF G#BDF FAC ACE CEG CEbG CDG GBD CEG FG#CE G#BD ACE DFAC GBDF DFAC CEG

### Chord Progression 9 (based on a theme by Liszt)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

GBD BD#F#A EG#BD AC#EGB CEGB DF#AC GBD GBDF CEbG F#ACE GBD GBDF CEbG ACEF# GBD EG#BD ACEG BD#F#AC

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

EG#BD EG#CD AC#EGB ACEG ACEbG DF#AC GBD BD#F#A EG#BD AC#EGB CEGBD DF#AC GBD

### Chord Progression 10 (based on a theme by Tchaikovsky)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

EGB EGB/G F#ACE FAC CEG EGB BEF#A BD#F#A EGB GBD BDF# DF#AC ACE/E FACD BD#F#A EGB

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

DF#A DF#AC/E DF#A/F# EG#BD ACE ACEbG/G F#ACE BD#F#A EGB EGB/G F#ACE FAC CEG EGB BD#F#A EGB