

LESSON 18

Date: _____

Roman numeral analysis in music involves the analysis of scale degrees, chords, and harmony using Roman numerals. Using Roman numerals is one system that allows musicians to represent harmony within the context of a key and makes it easy to understand harmony in any key.

Triads are named based on their root, or the scale degree they are built on. Uppercase Roman numerals (I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII) denote major and augmented triads, while lowercase Roman numerals (i, ii, iii, iv, v, vi, vii) denote minor and diminished triads. The augmented and diminished triads also use an additional superscript to differentiate them from their major and minor counterparts.

UNDERSTANDING ROMAN NUMERAL NOTATION

There is a significant amount of information that can be communicated through one Roman numeral chord figure. It is this efficiency that makes it so useful when discussing harmony.

	Major	Minor	Diminished	Augmented
Keys and Degree are linked	+ : I, IV, V - : V, VI	+ : ii, iii, vi - : i, iv	+ : vii ^o - : ii ^o , vii ^o	+ : N/A - : III ⁺
The number part of the Roman numeral figure represents the degree of the triad.				
Type:	Uppercase Roman numerals represent major triads.	Lowercase Roman numerals represent minor triads	Lowercase Roman numeral is used with a superscript ^o .	Uppercase Roman numeral is used with a superscript +. Note: The + symbol in this context is not to be confused with a major quality.

The position of a triad is also present in the Roman numeral representation either through Arabic numeral superscripts, or through the lack of these superscripts. The superscript numbers are the intervals of the upper notes with respect to the bass note.

A Roman numeral with no numeric superscripts indicates a triad in root position.

The following examples illustrate the use of Roman numerals in triad analysis.



Key(s): F+, or d-
 Type: minor
 Position: root
 Degree(s):
 F+: submediant
 d-: tonic

Roman numeral representations:

F+: vi d-: i

Key(s): f# -
 Type: augmented
 Position: 1st inversion
 Degree: mediant

Roman numeral representation:

III^{x6} or III⁺⁶

Key(s): A b+, or f-
 Type: major
 Position: 2nd inversion
 Degree:
 A b+: subdominant
 f-: submediant

Roman numeral representations:

A b+: IV⁶ f-: VI⁶

Key(s): G+, or e-
 Type: diminished
 Position: root
 Degree:
 G+: leading note
 e-: supertonic

Roman numeral representations:

G+: vii° e-: ii°

PRACTICE

- Identify the key(s) then represent each of the following triads with a Roman numeral figure. Where two answers are possible, give both.



key(s): _____

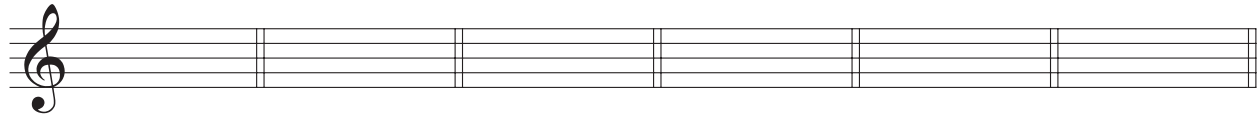
Roman numeral: _____



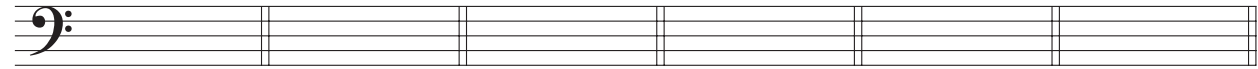
key(s): _____

Roman numeral: _____

2. Write a solid triad given each of the following keys and Roman numeral figures.



e-	A \flat +	c-	D+	A+	g-
i ⁶ ₄	ii ⁶	III ⁺	IV ⁶	V ⁶ ₄	VI



F+	a-	E \flat +	c \sharp -	C+	b-
vii ^o	V ⁶	I	III ⁶ ₄	iii ⁶	ii ^{o6}

3. Analyze the following chorale. Reduce each chord to a triad in root position on the extra staff provided. Shade in the bass note to help determine the position of each chord. Then write the Roman numeral figure for each chord. You may omit chords marked with an asterisk.