

AJ Wednesday Open Jam - Handout no: 5

Harmony pt 2

Hello everyone. Hope you are safe and well.

In this handout I'd like us to look again at **Harmony**, which one of the important elements in music making

In my handout no: 1 we looked at three note / triad chords.

In this handout we'll look at **Major 7 (maj7) chords**.

To me Major 7 (maj7) chords seem to have an open, airy, almost wistful quality.

One songwriter that uses them to great effect is Burt Bacharach, who wrote a lot of hits for artist such as Dionne Warwick, Aretha Franklin, The Walker Brothers and many others.

Let's look C major 7 (Cmaj7) chord as an example. It's arguably the simplest as there are no sharps (#) or flats (b) notes in the C major scale.

First let's look at what notes are in the C major scale:

C D E F G A B

In our basic three note / triad chords we use the 1st, 3rd and 5th notes.

In the case of C major this is:

C E G

With Major 7 (maj7) chords we add the 7th note of the major scale, in the case of C major it will be B

So the notes in C major 7 (maj7) are:

C E G B

C maj 7 chords are not to be confused with C7 chords (often referred to as dominant 7 chords)

The notes in C7 / dominant 7 are:

C E G Bb

We'll look properly at 7 / dominant chords in the next handout.

For now I would like us to look at an example of a song that uses both the Major 7 (maj7) and dominant 7 *Everybody's Talk*, (please see *handout 5 pt 2 'Everybody's Talkin Chords by Harry Nilsson'*) which was written by Fred Neil, but we're gonna look at the Harry Nilsson version which is probably the more famous as it was featured in the 1969 *Midnight Cowboy*.

note: Coincidentally Burt Bacharach wrote the theme music and the majority of the sound track for *Midnight Cowboy*.

The Harry Nilsson version was recorded in the key of E, which is why in the *'Everybody's Talkin Chords by Harry Nilsson'* handout it will ask you to put a capo in the 4th fret; if you're playing it on guitar. However this is optional you can - and I do - play it in C and just follow the chords on the handout

I hope you have fun with Major 7 chords - I know I do, they are probably my favourite chord type - and playing *Everybody's Talkin*.

I'll be back with some more handouts soon.

Until then, stay safe and well!

Take care

AJ