

## Singing ii V I(i) Bass Lines

Hearing chord changes is an essential part of a musician's abilities. Hearing chords all at once can be a challenge. The first step is to be able to hear the bass lines of chord changes (assuming the chords are in root position).

An excellent way to develop one's hearing is to be able to sing the things you want to pick out by ear. This exercise gets you to sing the bass lines of ii V I(i) progressions in all 12 keys.

Part I goes through the keys C, B $\flat$ , A $\flat$ , G $\flat$ , E & D (by descending 2nds)

Part II goes through keys F, E $\flat$ , D $\flat$ , B, G & A (also by descending 2nds)

As you sing these, use the words "two...five...one..." for each associated bass note. Try to go through each part (six keys, plus the first one again) without stopping. At first, use the piano, then gradually wean yourself off of it. Take a breath before singing each new ii V I progression.

### Part I (starting in the key of C, moving by descending 2nds)

C: ii V I B $\flat$ : ii V I A $\flat$ : ii V I G $\flat$ : ii V I  
Sing: *two five one...* (etc.)

E: ii V I D: ii V I C: ii V I

### Part II (starting in the key of F, moving by descending 2nds)

F: ii V I E $\flat$ : ii V I D $\flat$ : ii V I B: ii V I

A: ii V I G: ii V I F: ii V I

### Things to try once you get comfortable with this:

- Practice without the piano
- Practice part II immediately after part I
- Practice with a partner, trading off keys
- Sing the names off the bass notes instead of "two...five...one".