



Lesson: Making Chords

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Level: Beginning

Resources: Studio One DAW, optional MIDI Controller

NAfME Standards:

- 3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
- 4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.

Objectives: Students will create basic chords as a basis for future composition assignments.

Procedure:

1. Discuss the fundamentals of tertiary harmony using I, IV, and V chords.
2. Create a new song in Studio One and select "Instruments" in the browse menu. Select a keyboard sound then drag and drop the instrument into the main window to create a new track.
3. Double click in the first measure of the track to create a region, and then open the "Edit" menu. Quantize to quarter notes.
4. Enter a midi whole note on C4, E4, and G4 to create a basic major triad in root position. Repeat with F4, A4, C5, and G4, B4, D5.
5. Copy, paste, and reposition chords to hear various combinations.
6. Follow up by changing chord positions, adding more chords, varying rhythms, or transposing keys.

