LESSON 5: ANALYSIS
using music theory to analyze songs

Can you believe we’re already on the last lesson of this course?!? Crazy!

In this final lesson we’re going to be going over how to analyze a song and learn what you like (and don’t like) about it.

Now in the past we’ve been talking about analyzing bits and pieces of songs, but for this lesson I want you to take an entire song and analyze it. Consider it your final project. You can even analyze one of your own songs if you like, as long as it’s a finished one.

So here are the steps I want you to take, once you’ve chosen your song.

1. FIND THE KEY OF THE SONG.

That’s easy enough! If you’re unsure about the key, google it and you should be able to find the key. You might want to choose a song that’s in an easy key, unless you’re just a pro at playing in D flat major. ;)

2. SING THE SONG (THE ENTIRE SONG) IN SOLFEGE.

Don’t expect to get this on your first try! This will take LOTS of double-checking! Write out the scale and label each note with its solfege syllable so you can easily hit the notes on the keyboard as you sing.
3. PLAY THROUGH THE ENTIRE SONG SPEAKING THE ROMAN NUMERALS AS YOU PLAY.

Feel free to write out the roman numerals first. But once you've done that, see if you can play it saying the roman numerals from memory.

4. TAP OUT THE RHYTHM.

Since it'll take a LOT of writing to write out the beat divisions for every single word in the song, try writing out the beat divisions (1 e & a etc.) on paper and then tap the rhythm with a pencil, literally hitting the counts as you say them.

This will probably take a few tries, especially with a fast-paced song. And be a perfectionist! If you're unsure about a rhythm, play the song again until you completely understand it!

5. YOUR THOUGHTS

Now I want you to write out your thoughts on the song - what do you love about it? what don't you love about it? Is there a particular melody that you think is super catchy? Do you hate the chord progression?

Remember the whole point of developing your understanding of melody, chord progressions, and rhythm is to understand what you like and don't like so you can incorporate ideas into your own songwriting.

And that's my whole job as a songwriting coach - not to tell you how to write your songs or to tell you what to write about, but to help you understand the technical side of songwriting, so you can express your ideas in the most effective way and write song that you are 100% proud of.

I hope you got something out of this course and I hope it inspired you to start working to develop your musicianship. It's something that might take more than a week, but once you start thinking of music in an analytical way, it'll seriously change the way you write and listen to music.
| **Song title:** |  |
| **Key of song:** |  |
| **Solfege analysis:** |  |
Roman Numeral Analysis:
Your thoughts on melody, lyrics, chord progression, etc. What do you like about the song? What do you hate? What would you do differently?