



Chords can be notated on the staff or above the staff using symbols. *Chord symbols* represent the harmonies in a composition. Major and minor chords are the foundation of most harmonies; however, diminished and augmented chords are also distinctive. Chord symbols can get quite complex, especially when indicating extended chord structures. Review the following chord symbols used in *Sunny Stroll*.

C	G7	F	Dm	Cdim	Caug
C major	G dominant 7th	F major	D minor	C diminished (stacked minor 3rds)	C augmented (stacked major 3rds)

Sunny Stroll

Brightly, with swing

Chord symbols for *Sunny Stroll* are shown above the staff. The music is in 4/4 time and features a piano accompaniment with a melody line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The dynamics range from *mp* (mezzo-piano) to *f* (forte).

Chord symbols: C, G7, F, C, G7, C, F, C, G7, C, F, C, G7, C, Dm, G7, Cdim, C.

Measure numbers: 1, 5, 9, 13.

Handwritten annotations: *mp*, *mf*, *f*, and various fingering numbers (1, 2, 3, 5).

Chord diagrams for the bass line are provided below the staff for measures 1, 5, 9, and 13.

Compose Your Own Piece Compose a piece that includes chord symbols. Refer to the chords in *Sunny Stroll* for ideas. Inversions may be useful for smooth transition between chords. Is there a guitar or bass player who could perform this piece with you? With chord symbols, musicians can play together!

1. Create a title.
2. Choose a tempo.
3. Add dynamics.

Toolbox Tip

Your compositions in this book will be 16 measures long. There may be times when you want to make your pieces longer. If so, your additional measures can be written on staff paper.

Composer Connection

The British rock group, The Beatles, composed 310 songs. Of these, 20 of them have been on the Billboard Hot 100 list. All of them began with a melody, lyrics and chord symbols!



Tempo:

Handwritten musical notation for the first two measures of a piece in 4/4 time. The first measure has a C chord symbol above it and a '4' below the first note. The second measure has a Dm chord symbol above it and a '3' below the first note. The notation includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a bass clef. The notes in the first measure are C4, E4, G4, and F4. The notes in the second measure are D4, F4, A4, and G4. There are two empty measures to the right.

5

1
3
5

Handwritten musical notation for measures 5 through 8. The notation is blank, showing only the treble and bass staves.

9

Handwritten musical notation for measures 9 through 12. The notation is blank, showing only the treble and bass staves.

13

Handwritten musical notation for measures 13 through 16. The notation is blank, showing only the treble and bass staves.



Some composers use a simplified method of notating their music. A *lead sheet* is a score to a song including only the melody line, chords and lyrics. Performers use them as guides to create their own renditions of the music.

When practicing a lead sheet, first learn the melody and block the left-hand chords. Decide which chords you want to play as inversions for smooth transitions. When ready, try different forms of broken chords to create your own rendition of the music. For a special challenge, use extended chord structures for more complex harmony. (See Book 5, page 18.)

Lead sheets are very practical for jazz and rock bands. They are easy to follow, keeping the performers together. Chord symbols ensure compatible harmonies between players and offer a foundation for improvisation.

Irish Blessing

Tenderly

5/4

Dm 1 2 3 F G

May the road rise up to meet you,

5 Dm 5 Am B \flat 3 C

May _____ the wind be al - ways at your back,

9 Dm 1 2 Dm 3 F 2 G

May the sun shine warm up - on your face, and the

13 Am Dm G 2 1 A 3 Dm

rains fall soft - ly _____ on your fields.

Compose Your Own Piece

Compose a song, using lead sheet notation. Most songs start with lyrics, so consider beginning with your words. It can be a favorite poem or quotation, or you can make up the words yourself. Pay attention to the natural accents of the words as you put them to a melody. Choose a key that is compatible with your voice. The chord symbols can be added when your melody is finished.

1. Create a title.
2. Choose a time signature.
2. Choose a tempo.
3. Add dynamics.
4. Add chord symbols.

Toolbox Tip

Composer Connection

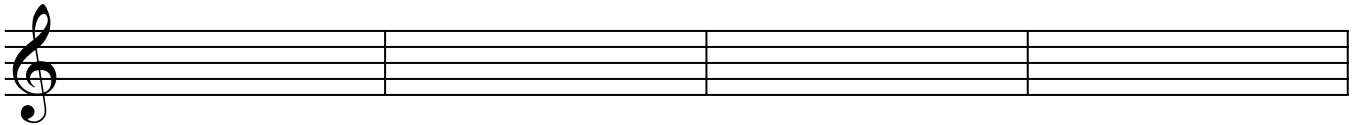
CHORD SYMBOLS represent the harmonies in a composition.

Most jazz, rock and pop composers write in lead sheet form. Many of our great song writers work for famous performers. Sammy Cabn (1913-1993), an American songwriter, wrote hit songs for Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Doris Day and others.

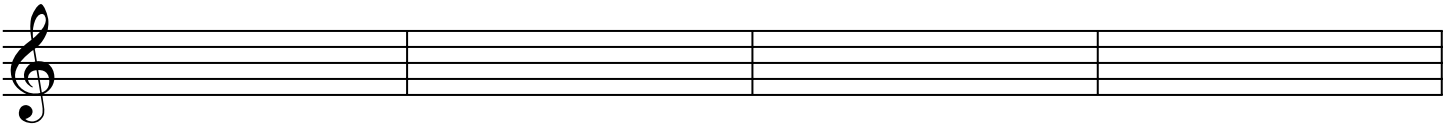


_____ (Title)

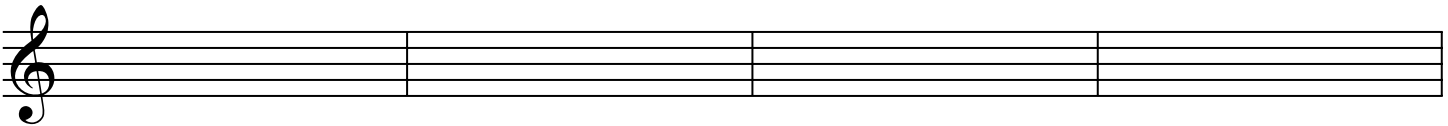
Tempo:



5



9



13

