

# Recognizing Basic Chords

HCNW – Session 3

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The purpose of this class is to help you become proficient in looking at the sheet music at any point and identifying what chord is being sounded at any time. We want you to be able to identify which part of the chord you have, and how to sing it based on that knowledge. Although we don't assume any prior music knowledge, it would be helpful if you can identify notes by name on the treble and bass clefs. If you'd like practice in doing that, go to <http://muquiz.com/>

## Overtone Series

Lessons to learn

## Key of the Song

How to identify:

Flats, sharps, other

## Structure of the Tonic Triad (I)

explanation: notes 1, 3, 5

root position

examples: Bb, Eb, Ab, G, D, C, F

## Dominant 7<sup>th</sup> Chord (V7)

notes 5, 7, 2, 4

root position or 2<sup>nd</sup> inversion

Variations of I  
add2, add6, maj7

Variations of V7  
V9, V13

Other diatonic triads, 7ths  
ii, iii, IV, vi

Secondary V7  
II7 (V7/V), VI7 (V7/II), III7 (V7/VI)  
movement by circle of 5ths

Other chromatic chords  
bVI, bVII  
augmented 6 chords, tritone substitution  
diminished, half-diminished, augmented