

# The Harmonic Cadences



A **CADENCE** IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE THE **LAST TWO CHORDS** OF A **PHRASE, SECTION OR PIECE**. THERE ARE **FOUR TYPES** OF CADENCES, EACH WITH THEIR OWN SPECIFIC **REQUIREMENTS** AND **VARIATIONS**.

AN **AUTHENTIC CADENCE** CONSISTS OF A **DOMINANT FUNCTION CHORD (V OR VII)** MOVING TO **TONIC**.

TO BE CONSIDERED A **PERFECT AUTHENTIC CADENCE**, A CADENCE MUST MEET **ALL** OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- IT MUST USE A **V CHORD** (NOT A VII)
- BOTH CHORDS MUST BE IN **ROOT POSITION**
- THE SOPRANO MUST **END** ON THE **TONIC**
- THE SOPRANO MUST **MOVE BY STEP**

G: V I

IF THE CADENCE DOESN'T MEET **ALL** OF THOSE CRITERIA, IT'S CONSIDERED TO BE AN **IMPERFECT AUTHENTIC CADENCE!**

G: vii°6 I

G: V<sub>4</sub> I

A **PLAGAL CADENCE** CONSISTS OF A **SUBDOMINANT FUNCTION CHORD (IV OR II)** MOVING TO **TONIC**.

TO BE CONSIDERED A **PERFECT PLAGAL CADENCE**, A CADENCE MUST MEET **ALL** OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- IT MUST USE A **IV CHORD** (NOT A II)
- BOTH CHORDS MUST BE IN **ROOT POSITION**
- THE SOPRANO MUST **END** ON THE **TONIC**
- THE SOPRANO MUST **KEEP THE COMMON TONE**

G: IV I

IF THE CADENCE DOESN'T MEET **ALL** OF THOSE CRITERIA, IT'S CONSIDERED TO BE AN **IMPERFECT PLAGAL CADENCE!**

G: IV<sup>6</sup> I

G: ii I<sup>6</sup>

A **HALF CADENCE** IS ANY CADENCE THAT ENDS ON THE **DOMINANT CHORD (V)**.

G: I V

A SPECIFIC TYPE OF HALF CADENCE IS THE **PHRYGIAN CADENCE**, WHICH MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- IT OCCURS ONLY IN **MINOR**
- IT USES A **IV CHORD** MOVING TO **V**
- THE SOPRANO AND BASS MOVE **BY STEP** IN **CONTRARY MOTION**
- THE SOPRANO AND BASS BOTH **END** ON THE **FIFTH SCALE DEGREE**

e: iv<sup>6</sup> V

e: iv V

A **DECEPTIVE CADENCE** IS A CADENCE WHERE THE **DOMINANT CHORD (V)** RESOLVES TO SOMETHING **OTHER THAN TONIC...** ALMOST ALWAYS THE **SUBMEDIANT CHORD (VI)**.

G: V vi

REALLY, IT'S THE **PSYCH-OUT CADENCE**, IN THAT YOU **EXPECT** IT TO RESOLVE TO TONIC, BUT IT **DOESN'T**.



AND, IN FACT, IT'S MORE COMMON TO SEE THIS IN THE **MIDDLE** OF THE PHRASE RATHER THAN THE **END...** WHERE YOU MIGHT CALL IT A **"CADENCE-LIKE STRUCTURE"**!