Variations on I - vi - ii - V

Ted Greene, 1974-10-20

Part I

Key of D

Try adding melodic decoration and/or animation to all patterns to increase your enjoyment of them.

Common tone melody (soprano) type:
Ascending melody types:

“A B A B” melody type

Key of D:

Try resolving all V’s to I’s (some are given already, though).
Variations on I - vi - ii - V

Ted Greene, 1974-10-21

Part II

As on [Part 1], add melody decoration and/or rhythmic animation. Also try resolving V’s to I’s where not already done.

Key of D

Ascending melody “2-to-1” types

While I-vi-ii-V is an effective pattern to be familiar with, it becomes boring unless combined with other tools. The following is a “coming attraction” using other patterns for more interest – compare with the first pattern at the top of the page.

Here are some other types of I-vi-ii-V’s. Only one example of each type will be given because, by now, you should be in the swing of things and be able to make up similar examples (if you have seriously studied what has come on these two pages so far).

Now try making up melodies on I-vi-ii-V’s that don’t follow any one, specific type of pattern (most melodies of songs are like this - not one pattern only).
Chromatic or semi-chromatic melody types:
Key of G

Bm7  Bbm7  Am9  Ab9

Bm7  Bbm7/11  Am7  Ab9 or Ab13

Bm7+  Bbm7  Am7  D7/6 or Ab9

Bm7  Bbm7  Am9  D7b9

GΔ9  E7b9b5  Am9  D7b9  Bm7
Variations on I - vi - ii - V

Try adding melodic decoration(s) or animation to all patterns to increase your enjoyment of them.

COMMON TONE MELODY (SOPRANO) TYPE:

KEY OF D

TRY RESOLVING ALL I's to I's (somes are given already, though)

ASCENDING MELODY TYPES:

"ABAB" MELODY TYPE
ASCENDING MELODY "2 to 1" TYPES

While I-vi-ii-V is an effective pattern to be familiar with, it becomes boring unless combined with other tools. The following is a "coming attraction" using other patterns for more interest—compare with the I pattern at the top of the page.

Here are some other types of I-vi-ii-V's; only 1 example of each type will be given because, by now, you should be in the swing of things and be able to make up similar examples (if you have seriously studied what has come on these 2 pages so far).

Now try making up melodies on I-vi-ii-V's that don't follow any one specific type of pattern (most melodies of songs are like this—not one pattern only).

CHROMATIC OR SEMI-CHROMATIC MELODY TYPES: