

UNDERSTANDING VOICE LEADING and VOICE SPLITTING

Because much music evolved from people's VOICES (i.e. singing), the separate harmony parts in chords were & are still often referred to as "voices" or when played instead of sung. Some of us also call them "lines".

even A line may move down

A line may move up

A line may do both at the same time

I call this a "SPLITTING VOICE" because the line or voice splits into 2 lines now.

It's as if there were 2 people playing or singing the same note already

And then they moved from this singing in unison to

Two notes may move to two others, thereby creating 2 lines:

2 voices may become 3 or even more!!!

2 voices may become 4 or more split

2 voices could have 5 split into a different sound if the lower one only had done the split

Sound like A7 to D, right?

Study the **voicing following**

STARTS ON BEAT 4 in 4 TIME, ALL ARE QUARTER NOTES

(Since) One voice may split into 3

STARTS ON BEAT 1

All of this type of stuff may happen in the top end of larger chords:

This voice just disappears in 2 and reappears here.

Some would say that there are voice splits in the low-end here. I find it easier in such cases to go with what I seem to hear, namely just a varying of the number of voices in the bottom, not so much that they are splitting.

* Absorb & be able to play all of the above. A page of exercises will follow..... when you are ready.