

Composition Project, Step 7: Complete the Phrase that Ends with a PAC in a Contrasting Key

Follow the usual steps to complete the phrase that ends with a PAC in a contrasting key (Phrase 2), writing a skeletal harmonization and then a real bass line.

The one aspect that requires more comment is finding where to put the pivot. You already expect that the pivot chord (or chords) will be found in the middle of the phrase, in the part that corresponds to the second phase of the improvisation process. Use your ear to figure out how soon you are hearing in the new key – by the time you know you're in the new key, the pivot segment is over.

I V^{4/3} I⁶ 5/³ IV I V I 6 V 6
 D: IV 6 I 6 IV V I

i V⁶ i VI ii⁶ V I
 C: IV ii⁶ V I

i V⁶ i VI ii⁶ V I
 C: IV ii⁶ V I