

SPREADING OUT THE SOUND

Spreading out the sound of your group gives the melody space and room to be recognized clearly in a song. The techniques discussed can help your group achieve this concept.

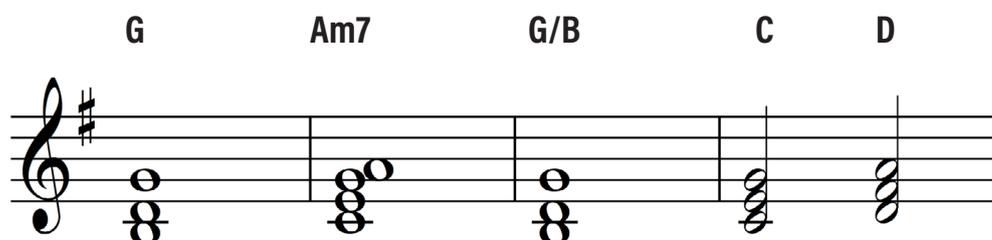
DIFFERENT REGISTERS

The register refers to the specific octave you are playing in.

It is important that the congregation is able to hear the melody line, especially in a new song. Be careful that the melody is not lost in the notes of chords that are surrounding it. The example below shows how the melody and chords can use mostly the same notes.



Musical notation in 4/4 time, G major. The melody line is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are: "No we won't we won't be sha - k - en We've got the truth and we know who we are". Chord symbols above the staff are: G, Am⁷, G/B, C, D.



Musical notation showing chord voicings for G, Am⁷, G/B, C, and D. The chords are written on a treble clef staff in G major. The G chord is a triad (G-B-D). The Am⁷ chord is a triad (A-C-E) with a low G bass note. The G/B chord is a triad (B-D-G). The C chord is a triad (C-E-G). The D chord is a triad (D-F-A).

Spreading out the notes of chords in different registers will help give clarity to a played and sung melody line.

Identify the instruments in your group that are able to play in different registers.

Choose a song that is familiar to your group. Assign each instrument you listed above to a certain register.



Layering

The number of instruments playing at one time.

Choose a piece of music and map out which instruments in your group will play during each section of the song. Remember to assign one instrument to the melody in addition to the singers.

Song: _____

Now, take the same song and rearrange the instrumentation.

What is the benefit of using different arrangements of the same song?

Playing Arpeggios

Taking a blocked chord and playing it as a broken chord (single notes played one after another instead of at the same time).

Using the example below, practice playing these chords in arpeggio form. Take note of how many beats you have before the next chord begins.

For example, G has 4 beats but C and D have only 2.

The musical notation shows five chords in a sequence on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The chords and their durations are: G (4 beats), Am7 (2 beats), G/B (2 beats), C (2 beats), and D (2 beats). Each chord is represented by a vertical line with notes placed on the staff lines to indicate pitch and duration.