

Heart and Soul - Primary Chords

Chords on scale degrees

You can build a chord on every note of a scale. Play these chords in C Major saying the chord names out loud.

Chord "one" Chord "two" Chord "three" Chord "four" Chord "five" Chord "six" Chord "seven" Chord "one"
I ii iii IV V vi vii dim I

Primary chords are the chords used the most in music.

- chords I (one), IV (four) and V (five) are the most common chords. Play only them
- notice that I, IV and V are the three Major chords (with a bright, happy sound)
- notice that I, IV and V (the Major chords) are written with upper case Roman numerals
- the other chords are minor or diminished and are beautiful and played a lot, but aren't the 'main players.'

Heart and Soul chord progression

In Heart and Soul, three of the chords are the primary chords in the key of C:

I vi IV V

Play the Heart and Soul chord progression above, saying the chord names aloud as you go:

I (one), vi (six), IV (four), V (five)

This will help you learn:

- the sounds of the primary chords
- where to play them on the piano
- how the primary chords can work together to make a strong chord progression

Challenge: Do you know other scales and key signatures? Try playing Heart and Soul in other keys to figure out their primary chords. Even if you don't know other keys, try playing Heart and Soul in other places on the piano (beginning on different letter names) and see if you can figure out the primary chords by ear.