Hangin' with the Harp Series - with Felice Pomeranz

April 20, 2021
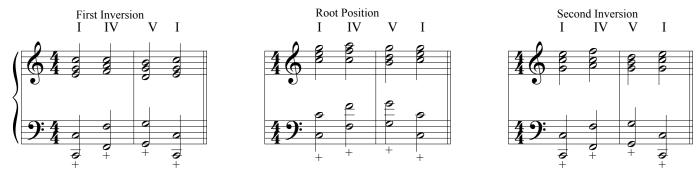
Virtual Class - It Takes Three!

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The I IV V I Progression

Here is the I IV V I progression in major, using smooth voice leading and left-hand octaves in the bass. Practice all three inversions until they become familiar and automatic.

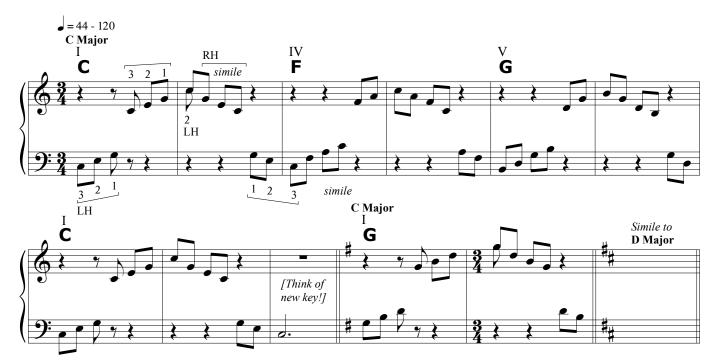You may need to change the octave of the left hand due to range restrictions of your harp.

I IV V I in Major with Octave Roots in the Bass

Inversion Practice

Play these I IV V I progressions in all three inversions in a new key each day. Keep common tones and use smooth voice leading. Use open-hand left-hand octaves (+) to isolate the sound of each chord. Open-handed octaves are played by placing the left hand flat against the strings to muffle extra vibrating strings. Then the octave is played with the thumb and left fourth finger.

Once you are able to play the I IV V I progression as chords, play the chords as arpeggios. Play a new key each day as an arpeggio. Once you have mastered moving easily from key to key, try playing one key and modulating to the next key in time.
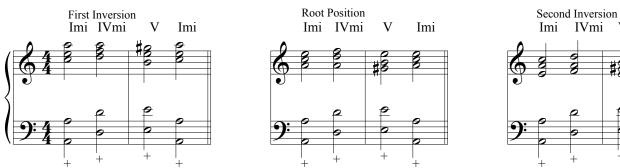

From Berklee Harp, 2016. Used by permission.

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The I IV V I in Minor with Octave Roots in the Bass

Here is the I IV V I progression in minor, using smooth voice leading and left-hand octaves in the bass.

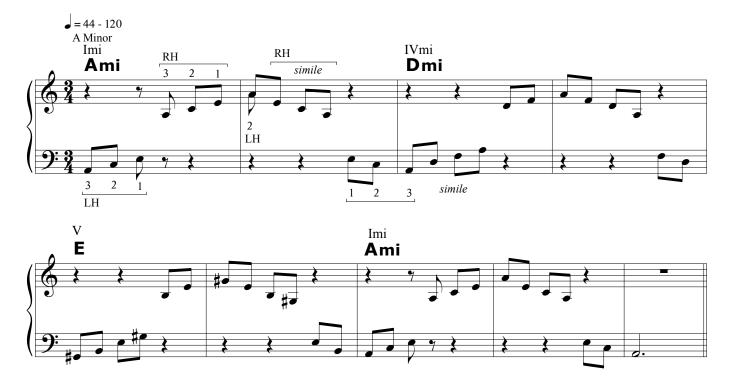I IV V I in Minor with Octave Roots in the Bass

* Pedal harps can also play LH 8va basso

Play these progressions in all three inversions in a new key each day. Keep common tones, and use smooth voice leading. Use open-hand left-hand octaves (+) to isolate the sound of each chord.

A minor I IV V I Progression With Arpeggios

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