

2.11 Nonchord Tones

Nonchord tones = notes that aren't part of the chord. Nonchord tones always embellish/decorate chord tones. Keep in mind that many authors use the term "consonance" for a chord tone, and "dissonance" for a nonchord tone.

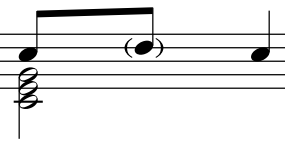
passing tone (PT)

PTs are approached and left by *step* in the *same direction*.



neighbor tone (NT)

NTs are approached and left by *step* in *different directions*.

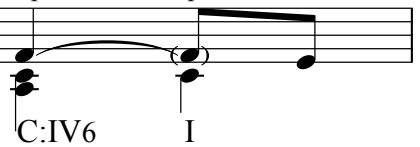


suspension (S) = "delayed step down"

- Starts as chord tone, then becomes...
- Nonchord tone metrically accented,
- ...then resolves *down by step*

Common types: 7-6, 4-3, 9-8, 2-3

Preparation Suspension Resolution

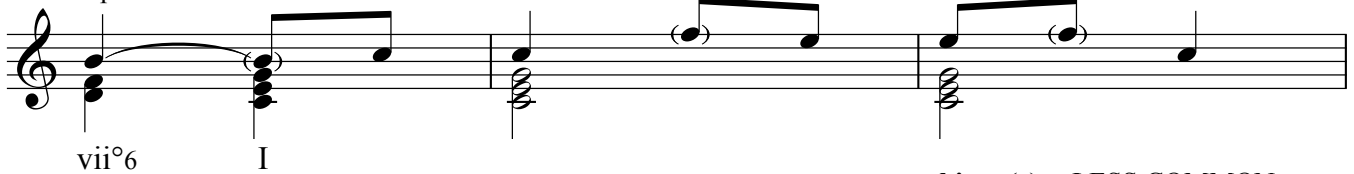


retardation (R)

- Starts as chord tone, then becomes...
- Nonchord tone metrically accented
- ...then resolves *up by step*

"**DELAYED STEP UP**"

Preparation Retardation Resolution



appoggiatura (app.)

- "**leap-step**"
- may be metrically accented or unaccented
- sometimes called "incomplete neighbor tone"

escape tone (esc.)

- "**step-leap**"
- to escape, you "*step to window, leap out*"
- may be metrically accented or unaccented
- also sometimes called "incomplete neighbor tone"

anticipation (ant.)

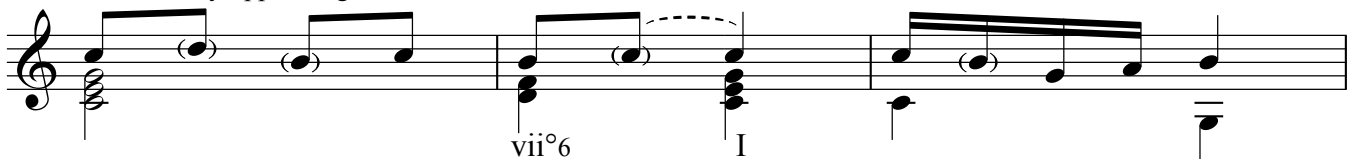
- approached by leap or step from either direction
- **unaccented**
- must be a *chord tone in the next harmony*
- may or may not be tied into the resolution note

cambiata (c) -- LESS COMMON

- also called "changing tone"
- connect 2 consonances a 3rd apart (i.e. C-A in this example)
- only the 2nd note of the pattern is a dissonance
- specific pattern shown below
- common in 15th and 16th centuries

neighbor group (n gr.)

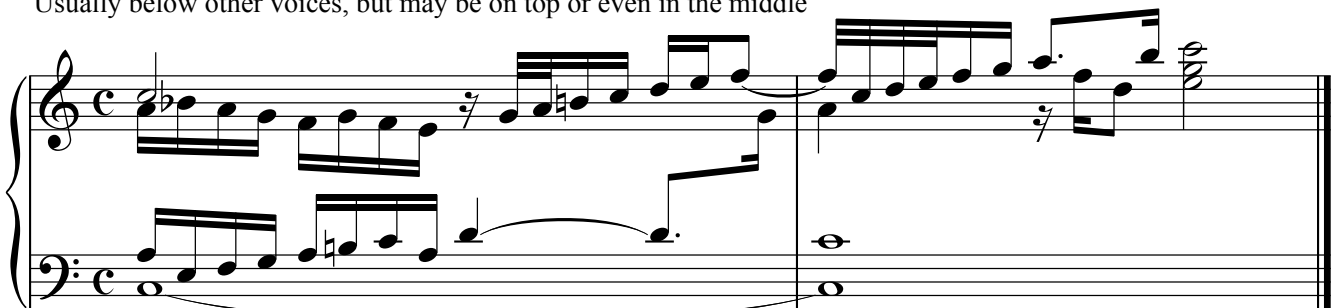
- upper and lower neighbor together
- can also be lower neighbor followed by upper neighbor



pedal point or pedal tone (bottom C in left hand) from Bach, WTC, Fugue I in C, m. 26-27

- Starts as a chord tone
- ...becomes nonchord tone as other voices change harmonies
- ...then becomes a chord tone again when the other voices change harmonies again.

Usually below other voices, but may be on top or even in the middle



C is consonant → C is dissonant → C is consonant