HOW TO LISTEN FOR HARMONY

Harmony: In music, a pleasing combination of pitches or different musical parts heard simultaneously.

- **Chords**: three or more pitches grouped together. Chord types:

  o **Major chord -** Root -> Major third -> Perfect 5th (P5)
  o **Minor chord -** Root -> Minor third -> P5
  o **Diminished chord -** Root -> Minor third ->Diminished (flat) 5th
  o **Arpeggio** - or an arpeggiation, is the "sounding of the notes of a chord in succession rather than simultaneously . . . **the breaking or spreading of a chord."**
     # Example, the accompaniment of Franz Schubert's "*Ellens Gesang III*," D. 839, Op. 52, No. 6, is arpeggiated piano chords. Or **Schubert - Ave Maria.**

- **Consonance**: A combination of two (or more) tones of different frequencies that results in a musically *pleasing* sound. Stable, free of tension, releases tension.
- **Dissonance:** A combination of two (or more) tones of different frequencies that results in a musically displeasing sound. Tense, unstable, discordant; produces tension.

  o **NOTE: Ideal compositions have combination of consonant and dissonant harmonies**

Pitch Hierarchy: Within each piece of music, some pitch(es) more important than others
- **Tonic**: tonal center

- **Key:** tonal center named after specific pitch (e.g., Eb is the tonic of a song/piece in Eb minor)

- **Atonality**: music without a tonal center (specific music that you will not fully encounter in popular music) – **Anton Webern - 6 Bagatelles, Op. 9.**

<u>**Chord/Harmonic Progression**</u>: "A succession of chords or chord-like constructions having coherence as an expression of harmony.

- You will most often see chords in a progression written as either a Roman Numeral
    - o upper case for major chords;
    - o lower case for minor chords) or the letter of the root and quality.

example: the third chord in a C major chord progression is an E minor chord, so it would be "iii" or "Em."

A standard 12-bar Blues progression (I-IV-V-I), exemplified by Chuck Berry's "Johnny B. Goode" **Johnny B. Goode** looks something like the image below (do not worry, more on this in the following in another module)