

## What is the VMS?

The Virtual Music School is a revolutionary program for anyone who is interested in the construction of music and in improvisation. It comes on DVD, the program runs in a browser like Explorer, Firefox or Safari, the language is (simple) English. The backbone consists of movies in which audio, chord symbols, analysis and tone supply (scales) are shown simultaneously. This dynamic integration makes complex music theory much easier to comprehend. The VMS uses multimedia to the max: movies, pdfs, mp3s, animations and midi-files are brought together in a highly transparent interface.

The structure:

**BASICS:** cover main musical vocabulary, the basic forces in harmony, and essentials about phrasing.

**SECTIONS:** cover all main harmonic subjects, and come with an affiliated song demonstrating all possible constructions with a specific type of chord progression.

**SERVICES:** provide a Glossary, FAQs, a Library and three different 'workout rooms' for in-depth training.

The VMS is made for self study, but it offers many possibilities to support teachers.

1. All explanations focus on practical applicability. The student can use it to become a better player right away.
2. Ear training exercises have never been more organized. Basic progressions, dictations, mp3s with intervals, scales, triads, seventh chords and bigger are offered in a state-of-the-art practice facility.
3. The systematic approach to crack the code of each specific type of chord progression is a goldmine for teachers.
4. Finally there are concrete exercises to improve one's groove. The Rhythm Gym is a fantastic microscope for students of any level.

On [www.virtualmusicschool.org](http://www.virtualmusicschool.org) you can watch an introduction movie, and step inside the program itself.

# VMS

HOME BASICS SECTIONS SERVICES

Virtual

The four main menus of the VMS

Introduction  
Using the VMS  
System requirements  
Practical tips  
About improvising  
About scales  
About copying  
Acknowledgements  
About Bart  
Utrecht Conservatory  
Contact

Vocabulary  
Basic Forces  
Phrasing

Sequence of descending fifths  
Secondary dominants and II-Vs  
Modal interchange  
Diminished chords  
Tritone substitutions  
Blues  
Rhythm changes  
Thematic solos  
Clave

Glossary  
Library  
General FAQ  
Ear training center  
II-V-I facilities  
Rhythm gym



- ORIGIN** - Treats the origin and functions of diminished chords.
- SCALES** - About the possible scales in these progressions.
- OVERVIEW** - Functions and scales summarized on one page.

Setup of the Sections of the VMS

- Explanation
- Diminished Diversity (Song)
- Play Along
- FAQ
- Exercises
- Analyze / Harmonize
- Ear training

- Melody and solos, analyses and scales.
- SCORES**
- C instr.
- Bb instr.
- Eb instr.
- Bass Clef

*Diminished Diversity, Swing, tempo 140*

Choose what you want to play:

- With all
- Melody
- Harmony
- Bass
- Drums

- ▶ I always play octatonic when I see a d
- ▶ The auxiliary chords that were introdu
- ▶ Which other songs can you recommen

- Solve these puzzles with Scale Degrees
- Analyze these songs
- Harmonize these melodies

You can go to the ear training center (in the SERVICES colu played randomly. All other ear training exercises can be fo

**BASIC PROGRESSIONS:**

B701 B702 B703 B704 B705 B706 B707

**ANSWERS**

**DICTATIONS:**

- General exercises**
- Play the *Diminished Diversity* movie several times and study study the colored notes. Try to understand every remark, ea
- During playback of this movie, name the function of each g E.g. when it shows an F on Dm7, you call "three!"
- Print *Diminished Diversity* for your instrument, on the song page. After that, go to the play-along page and apply the techniques that
- Play the melody, and vary it. Take risks, see how far you can go. Wr

## The VMS Movie Concept

Chord symbols      Use of colors      Tone supply      Analysis

(F) II<sup>md</sup>      V/I      I      IV      IV<sup>md</sup>  
G<sup>m7b5</sup>      C<sup>7</sup>      F<sup>Δ</sup>      B<sup>b</sup>Δ      B<sup>b</sup>m<sup>6</sup>

**A1**

1 3 2 3

*Implied scale possibilities*

G-locrian      C-mixolydian b9      Bb-mel.  
G-locrian nat.9      C-mixolydian      F-ionian (major)      Bb-lydian



Player buttons

## SERVICES - Ear training center



- |                    |                                     |                                    |                                     |            |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Basic progressions | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 100 series: Diatonic major         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Dictations |
|                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 200 series: Diatonic minor         | <input type="checkbox"/>            |            |
|                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 300 series: Secondary V7s in major | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |            |
|                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 400 series: Secondary V7s in minor | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |            |
|                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 500 series: Modal interchange      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |            |
|                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 600 series: Neapolitan 6 and bII   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |            |
|                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 700 series: Diminished chords      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |            |
|                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 800 series: Tritone substitutions  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |            |
|                    |                                     | 900 series: Combinations           | <input type="checkbox"/>            |            |
|                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | SELECT / DESELECT ALL              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |            |

**The ear training center:**  
Basic Progressions and Dictations  
played randomly in various levels  
of difficulty



LOAD NEW EXERCISE

SHOW ANSWER

tr. 33

308

I	V/II	II	V/I	I
C	A7	Dm7	G7	C



### Summary

#### Features:

- Explanatory movies show audio, notes, analyses and scale material at the same time
- Detailed explanation of musical vocabulary, basic forces and phrasing issues
- Sections covering all main harmonic subjects, each with an affiliated song
- Music is played by excellent musicians, demonstrating many powerful concepts
- Play-along mp3s for all instruments, with dozens of practical exercises
- PDFs with crystal clear summaries, transparent essays, and many tips for practicing
- Exercises: Puzzles with Scale Degrees, Tunes to Analyze, Melodies to Harmonize
- Ear training material with intervals, chords, scales, dictations and progressions
- II-V-I facilities and Rhythm Gym available for in-depth training

#### The VMS in numbers:

- 46 movies
- 3.5 hours of video
- 75 exercise pages
- 11 original songs
- 174 ear training mp3s
- Over 70 FAQs with answers
- A glossary with over 70 items
- More than 750 hyper links
- 2 GB data.

#### System requirements:

- DVD drive
- 2.2 GB Hard Disk space, 128 MB RAM
- Internet browser with Flash plug-in v8 or higher
  - Windows: Intel Pentium II 450MHz or faster processor (or equivalent)
  - Macintosh: PowerPC G3 500MHz or faster processor running OS-X

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