

From Hip Harp Academy

It's a Numbers Game

Deborah Henson-Conant at Zoomerset June 5th

Why play by Numbers?

- Numbers immediately get you **off the page** – and you can easily communicate them to others, even on the fly!
- They make it easy to modulate to a different key (because the numbers are all the same!)
- What other reasons do you discover today?

What numbers will we use today:

- **Numbers #1: Melody** Scale tones: Learn the Melody by numbers
- **Numbers #2: Rhythm** - Count the RHYTHM. All beats are not created equal – the most important is beat 1, next is beat 3 (yes even in 3/4). In 6/8 Beats 1 & 4 – in other words: The DOWNBEAT is most important & then Half-way through the measure.
- **Numbers #3: Intervals** – For instant harmony: a 6th below - play a 6th below the melody on the DOWNBEAT (Then try on the Downbeat and half-way through. 6th doesn't sound good? Then try a 3rd)
- **Numbers #4: the CHORD NUMBER in the progression.** Learn the numbers of the *progression* – those numbers tell you the bass notes AND the accompaniment notes.
- **Numbers #5: The notes in the CHORD** (1-3-5-7-9...)
 - When in doubt, leave all (but the root) out.
 - Add the 5th next

ADVANCED CONCEPTS:

- **Numbers #6: Special Numbers:** the 5 (V) chord is VERY special – you can not only *extend it* (add higher numbers to the chord) but *alter it* – try:
 - **Altering the 9** (flat or sharp it)
 - **Altering the 5** (flat or sharp it)
 - **Creating a “Sus” chord** (play a 7th chord, ‘suspend’ the 3rd one step so it’s a fourth; OR more complicated but beautiful: play the chord one whole step below the dominant while keeping the dominant bass note, LH G – RH FAC)

INTERLUDE PROGRESSIONS WE MIGHT USE:

||: 1-6-2-5 :|| ||: 2-5-1-6 :|| ||: 3-6-2-5 1-4-2-5 :|| ||: 6-3-6-3 6-3-2-5 :||

Hip Harp Academy

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