

A note to “La route chante...”

“La route chante...” is arranged in a circle of fourths. The Circle of Fourths is a diagram of relations between and among 12 musical pitches and the keys they form. For example, at the top is the major scale derived from the pitch of C, and the minor scale derived from the pitch of A. To the right of C is the major scale derived from the pitch of F, and F relates to C by an interval of a fourth. Likewise, D is to the right of A separated by a fourth. Continuing clockwise this way, one derives other pitches related by fourths (i.e., B-flat is a fourth away from F; C Minor is a fourth away from G Minor, etc.). Similarly, a counterclockwise motion yields pitches related by a fifth.

Sit with an instrument and sound a pitch. Sound other pitches to contextualize the initial tone. Harmonize it or deharmonize it, make a chord, make two chords, switch keys, all the while matching key or note or chords to the phrase below—perhaps even sing the lines, perhaps even better them. An example, followed by its musical setting:

O you poor fool,
little descant
staggering inside;
Lhasa's eyes, Lhasa's lips:
jewels, brief jewels.
Staggering inside,
you can only end.

"La route chante..."

1

O you poor fool, O - lit - tle des - cant!

Piano

6

O - you poor fool, you - lit - tle des - cant

Pno.

11

sta - ger ring in - si - de - in - Lha - sa's

Pno.

17

eyes Lha - sa's lips: -

Pno.

25

Jewels

Piano accompaniment for measures 25-35, featuring dense chordal textures with many accidentals.

36

Brief jewels

Piano accompaniment for measures 36-44, continuing with dense chordal textures.

45

Sta - ger - ring in - do - ors you - can

Piano accompaniment for measures 45-47, featuring a more active, rhythmic accompaniment.

48

on - ly - end

Piano accompaniment for measures 48-50, concluding with a final chord.