

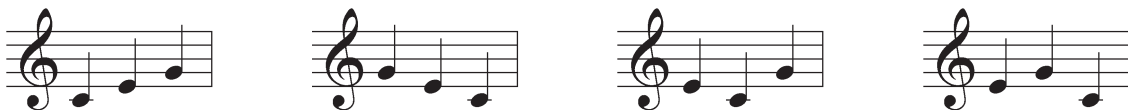
Our Basic Eight Cells

You may have noticed that I don't spend a lot of time talking about intervals in class. Other instructors will teach little memorization tricks for each interval by associating them with specific tunes - a perfect fourth is related to "Here Comes the Bride," for example. (The reason I don't like this is that the same interval can sound different in different tonal contexts. "Here Comes the Bride" is *sol-do-do-do* - that won't necessarily help you leap from *do* to *fa* or from *sol* to *re*, I don't think.)

Instead, I like working with very small units I call "cells." I even have a computer program on davesmey.com called Singing Cells that will help you drill them (on a PC or a mac running "PC emulation.")

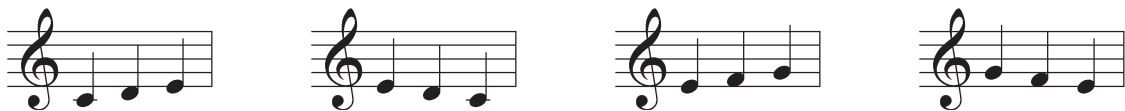
This semester I became particularly enamored of a set of 8 cells that I want you to try and memorize. I think if you can execute these cells you are competent to sing basic melodies that stick to the tonic or "one" chord. The converse is also true - if you can't do them, you are definitely not ready.

The Triad Cells



As I've mentioned before, there are two more logical members of our triad set. If you are a real completist you might want to figure them out and add them.

The Step Cells



I figure that this set of eight might be easy to do from memory during any spare moment of time you might have. Practice shuffling them around in random order, and be sure to sing them in the minor mode as well as major (by adding an imaginary E-flat to each cell.)