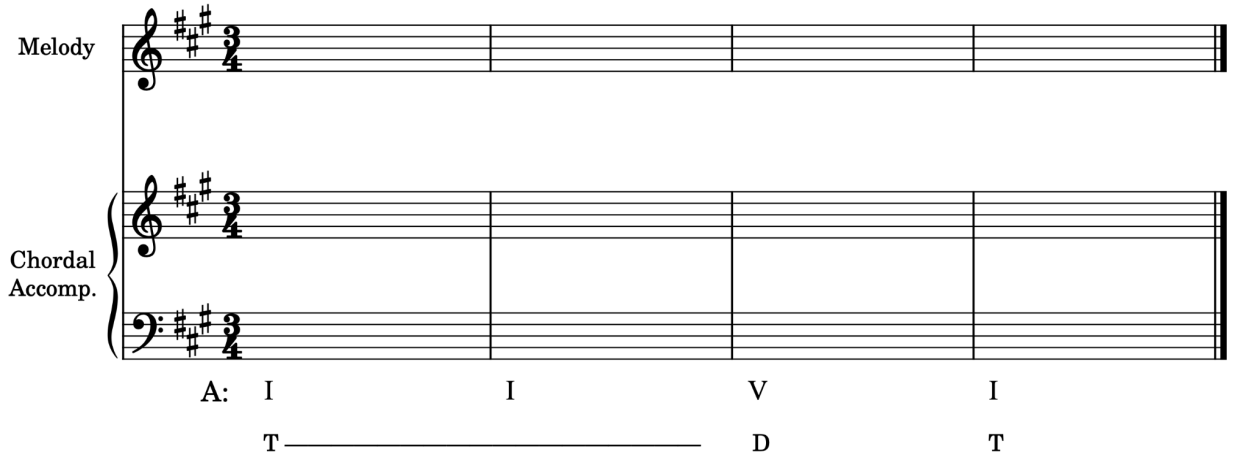
Composition Activity: Tonic & Dominant Chords

Theory & Practice II: Tonal Harmony

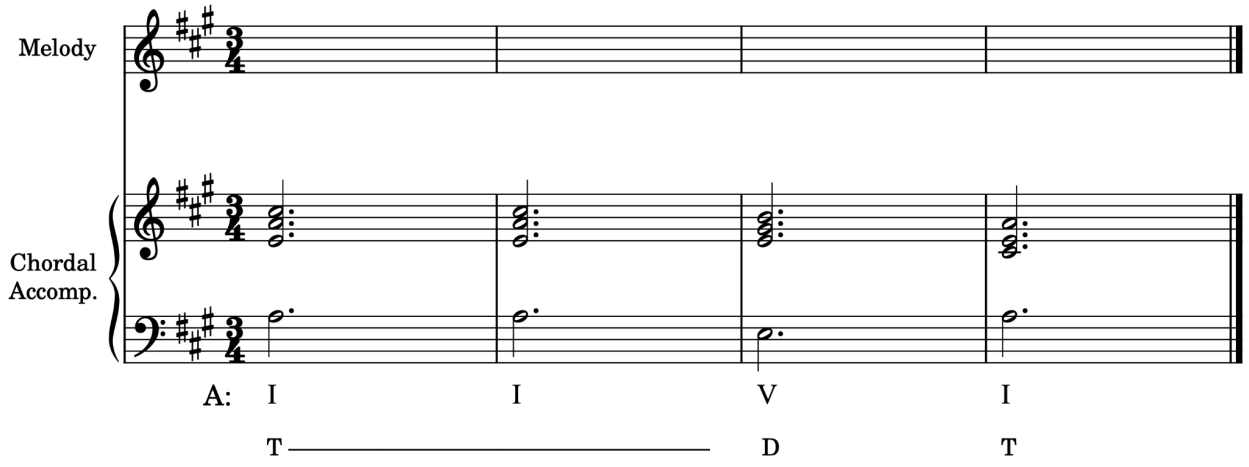
Directions: Compose a 4-bar composition, following the steps below. The MuseScore file for the model composition is available here if you would like to use it as a template.

1. **Set up the Staff:** Select a key and meter. Set up your staff paper using the model below with a grand staff on the bottom for a chordal accompaniment and a single staff above for the melody.

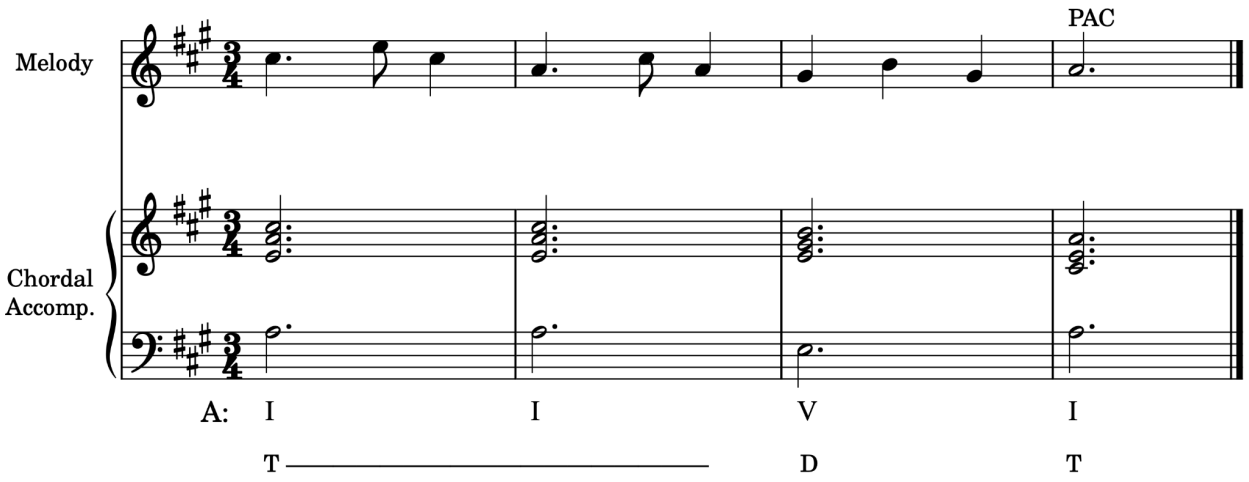
2. **Compose the Chords:** Compose a 4-bar chord progression using only I and V chords. You may have 1 chord per measure or experiment with different harmonic rhythms. Label the Roman numerals and the chord function below the staff.



3. **Partwrite your Chords:** Notate the chords in 4-part SATB or chorale style voicing using smooth voiceleading. End with a PAC, IAC, or HC. See the model below:



4. **Write a melody**: Write a melody that uses <u>only</u> chord tones. Try using a repeated rhythmic or melodic motive. Think about melodic shape, direction, singability, interest, and melodic cadence. Label the cadence by type. See the model below.



5. **Add a Rhythmic Accompaniment:** Add some rhythm to your accompaniment. Experiment with different rhythmic patterns to see what works best with your melody. The model below uses a boom-chick-chick waltz accompaniment.

