

The C Chord Family

Also Known as the Key of C

Now that you know the **F** and **Dm** chords, we can talk about the **C Chord Family**, where the **C** chord is the boss. Let's figure out which chords are which by doing what we did back on page 19 for the **Key of G**, only starting with the **C** note: Begin by laying out the 7 letters of the Musical Alphabet in order, starting with the key note, looping back from **G** to **A** when you need to. For the **Key of C**, you get:

C	D	E	F	G	A	B
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

*The 1st, 4th and 5th letters indicate Major chords. Here, we get C, F and G. The 2nd, 3rd and 6th letters indicate Minor chords. Here, it's Dm, Em and Am. Once again, don't worry about the 7th note, B. (The chord that corresponds to the 7th note in any key has a **Diminished** Chord Quality, and I can't think of a single reason why you should be concerned about Diminished chords right now.)*

Let's look at the same examples that we saw before in the **Key of G**, translated here into the **Key of C**. As before, these are **1, 4 and 5 chords**:

^C ^C ^F ^F
 Oh, give me a home where the buffalo roam
 ^C ^C ^G ^G
 Where the deer and the antelope play
 ^C ^C ^F ^F
 Where seldom is heard a dis-couraging word
 ^C ^G ^C
 And the skies are not cloudy all day

Again, these first 5 examples all have a common Starting Note: 6/3 or 3/0.

^C ^C ^C ^C ^G ^G ^C ^C
 Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
^F ^F ^C ^C ^F ^F ^C ^C
 'Round yon virgin mother and child, holy infant so tender and mild
^G ^G ^C ^C ^C ^G ^C
 Sleep in heavenly pea - eace, sleep in heavenly peace

