



Finding The Found Harmonium

One of the great disappointments of my life is that I never got to see Simon Jeffes and his Penguin Café Orchestra perform. In fact, I was not even aware of his music while he still walked on the earth. Sadly he died at the age of 48. He was an amazing musician!

My band DayBreak started performing "Music For the Found Harmonium" after we became aware of the tune from watching the movie "Napoleon Dynamite". The piece is used quite effectively as the movie climaxes. The Celtic band "Patrick Street" covers the tune in the movie. The whole soundtrack is great!

A harmonium is a type of pump organ. The story goes the Jeffes found the instrument in a back alley in Japan while on tour there. He was inspired to write a musical composition for that instrument and he integrated into his band's performance. The YouTube link of The "Penguin Café Orchestra" performing it is below.

The tune is in the form of a Celtic Reel. There is a fun transitional chord where a "tritone" or "augmented fourth" chord is used to bridge two sections of the song (B-Section to C-Section). The tritone is often referred to as the "Devil's Interval". It's a common chord found in blues music, but was avoided by classical composers. The Tritone will be demonstrated in the workshop.

Jeffes wrote many other great Compositions including "Perpetuum Mobile", which was also used in soundtracks and commercials.

Penguin Café Links:

Music for The Found Harmonium

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGmlWILyEK8>

History of the band:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penguin_Cafe_Orchestra#:~:text=Another%20famous%20tune%20featured%20in,ensemble's%20first%20tour%20of%20Japan.

<https://thesession.org/tunes/346>

Tachyonmetry Links: Cliff Cole-HD Brian Pearson-Guitar Studio Recording:

<https://open.spotify.com/track/1HII4YsKA0XxaYLiBdTUQu>

Live Performance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYOCgqnQtas>

Wikipedia Entry for Tritone:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tritone>



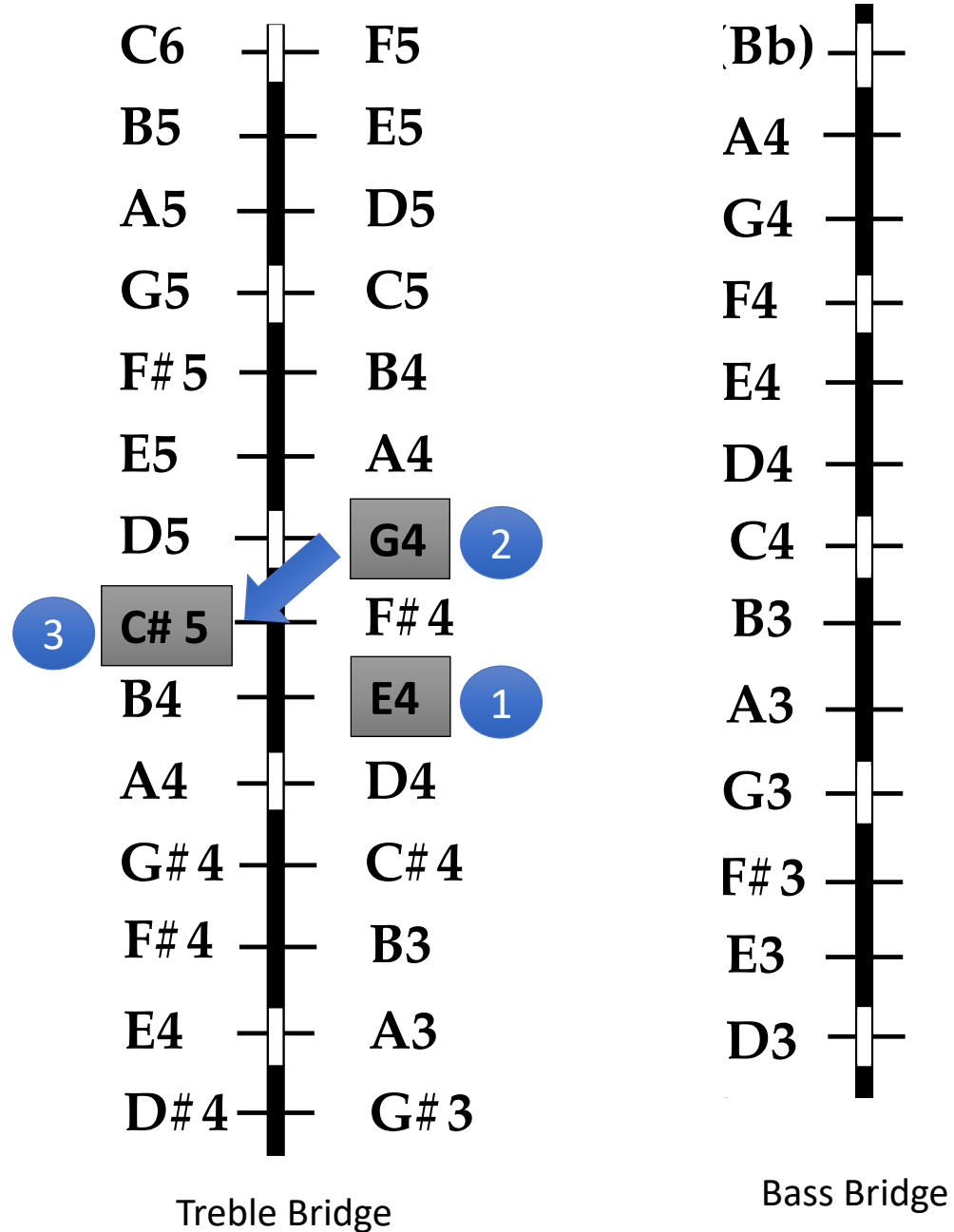
In "Music for a Found Harmonium" Jeffes uses a transitional chord with a "tritone" to bridge two sections of the song: B-Section to C-Section



A harmonium or pump organ

Example: Tritone or Devil's Interval or Augmented-Fourth
G4 to C#5

The Transitional Chord is Shown
E4-G4-C#5



Treble Bridge

Bass Bridge



Music For the Found Harmonium

Simon Jeffes

The musical score is written for a Found Harmonium and consists of seven staves of music. The first staff is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time, starting with a treble clef and a repeat sign. The second staff continues in G major and includes first and second endings. The third staff changes to D major (two sharps) and includes first and second endings. The fourth staff changes to D minor (two flats) and continues with a steady eighth-note pattern. The fifth staff changes to G major (one sharp) and continues with a steady eighth-note pattern. The sixth staff changes to G major (one sharp) and includes a repeat sign. The seventh staff continues in G major and includes first and second endings.



This material and other workshops Cliff has presented are on “Cliff’s Dulcimer Page”

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Also, Please Visit: Tachyonmetry.com



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