

RELATING SCALE NOTES TO CHORDS - NON-CHORD TONES

Non-Chord Tone (NCT) = a note in the melodic line that is not a member of the chord. They create interest by being dissonant, some require preparation, ALL require resolution (resolving). Sometimes the note starts as being a chord tone, but then the chord underneath changes and it makes the note a NCT.

can be either:

- diatonic (on tonality/scale notes)
- chromatic (notes not belonging to the tonality)

Non-Chord Tones can occur

- on Strong beats (or subdivisions of beats)
- on Weak beats (or subdivisions)

Legend:

- - chord tone
- - non-chord tone
- S - strong beat
- w - weak beat

NTC (and abbrev.)	Approached by	Left by	Example
Passing Tones ¹ (PT)	Step	Step in same direction	
Neighbor Tone (NT)	Step	Step in opposite direction	
Suspension (SUS)	Same tone, held	Step down	
Retardation ² (RET)	Same tone, held	Step up	
Appoggiatura (APP)	Leap	Step	
Escape Tone (ET)	Step	Leap in opposite direction	
Changing Tones ³ (CT) or Neighbor group or Cambiata	??	Setp	
Anticipation (ANT)	Step or leap	Same tone ⁴	
Pedal point (ped)			

¹ A passing tone occurring on a strong beat can be seen as an appoggiatura.

² Retardation is actually a Suspension resolving in the other direction

³ Can also be regarded as an ET followed by APP

⁴ Anticipation left by leap is also called a "free anticipation"