

Syncopation and Chord Melody

#ChordMelodyChallenge – Day 9



Tenthumbspro.com
For educational purposes only

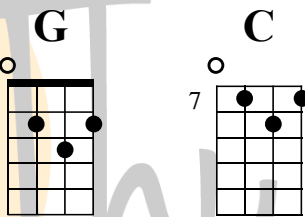
Key: G

Tempo: 75

Chords needed: G, C

Video Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSdPUfnFYuk>

Chord Shapes - [1:48](#)



Syncopation - This is an emphasis of the off beat. It can happen in both melody and harmony. Reggae is a classic example of this as all of reggae music revolves around a syncopated 8th note groove, literally the entire genre. You here syncopation in other genres though, the strumming break before the solo in "Stairway to Heaven" is given its groove by some very timely syncopated hits mixed in with 16th note strumming for example. [2:23](#)

Classic Reggae Syncopated Strum Pattern

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
D D D D |

Syncopated Strum Pattern with added mute - This helps some people with the timing because they have something to play on the 1 2 3 4

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
x D x D x D x D

16th Scratch Syncopated Strum - Keep your hand in constant motion and just squeeze the chord on the &

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
xxDxxxDxxxDxxxDx|

The melody - The areas that need the most attention are the 16th notes over the C chord and the triplet on the 4th beat of the last measure, just because up to this point we haven't done any triplet. Not too tricky, just try and get three notes over the quarter.

Also worth noting, melodies like this, that have large rests and measures with only one note at the end, are very difficult to count and play without strumming, so don't get too hung up on getting the timing just right before you harmonize it, just get a feel for it.

1st half - [3:07](#) 2nd half - [4:43](#)

Musical notation for the first half of the piece, measures 1-5 and 6-9. It includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and guitar-specific notation like fret numbers and a triplet. Chords G, C, and G are indicated above the staff.

Harmony - Full Piece The only real variation happens in the turnaround; you will see quite a bit of repetition from the first half to the second. Really take your time over the part that has the 16th note and lean on everything we did from day 6 in terms of how to approach it and learn it, it really does help to learn everything a $\frac{1}{4}$ of a measure at a time. Full play-along [15:14](#)

Musical notation for the second half of the piece, measures 10-14 and 15-18. It includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and guitar-specific notation like fret numbers and a triplet. Chords G, C, and G are indicated above the staff.