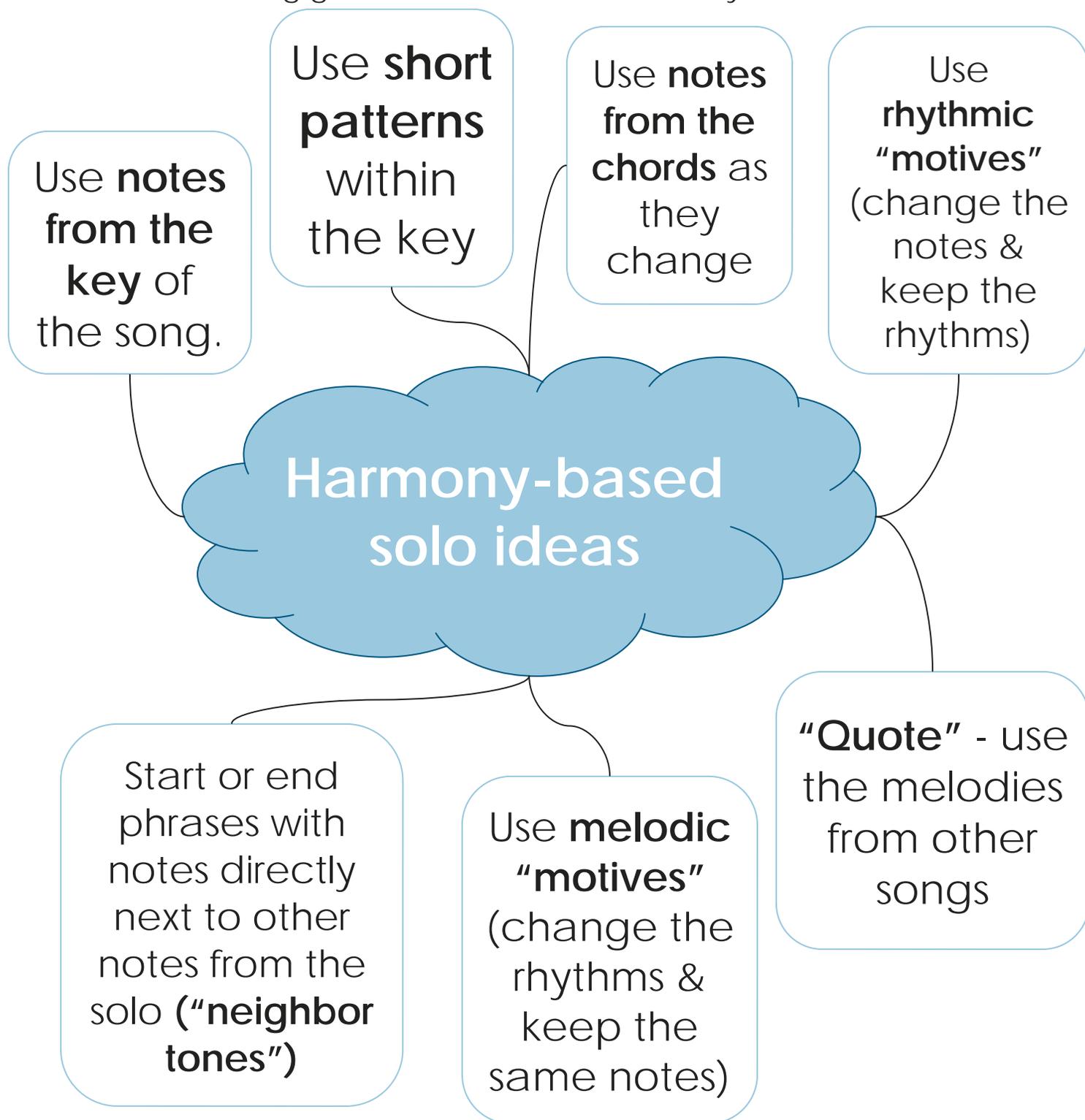


Improvising Without The Melody (1 of 2)

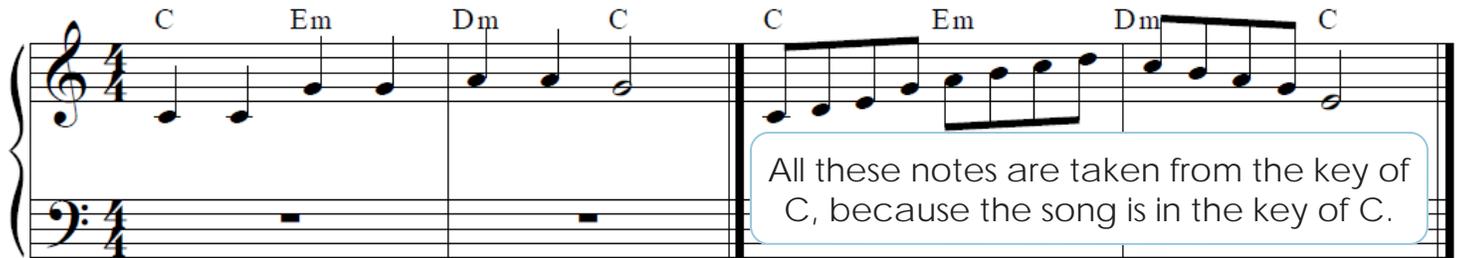
If you're not using the melody to create a solo, you're using the harmony: the chords and the key of the song. Solos that use the harmonies often sound nothing like the original melody. Here are some ideas for creating great solos without the melody:



Improvising Without The Melody (2 of 2)

Check out these examples of how to use those tools on a short phrase from "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star":

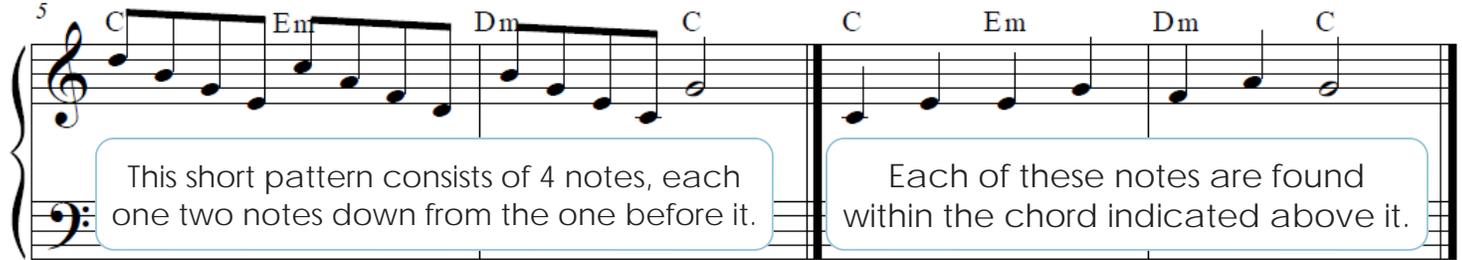
Original: Notes from the key:



The original melody is shown in 4/4 time with chords C, Em, Dm, and C. The notes from the key of C are shown as a sequence of notes: C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C.

All these notes are taken from the key of C, because the song is in the key of C.

Short patterns: Notes from the chord:

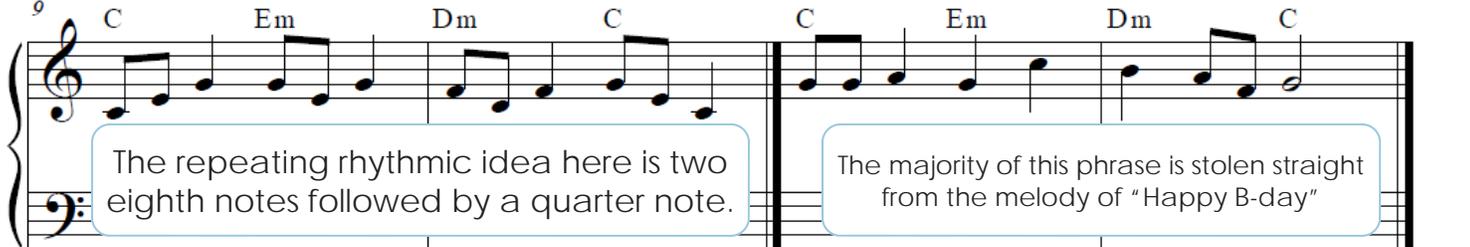


The short patterns are shown as a sequence of notes: C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C. The notes from the chord are shown as a sequence of notes: C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C.

This short pattern consists of 4 notes, each one two notes down from the one before it.

Each of these notes are found within the chord indicated above it.

Rhythmic motives: Quote: this one from "Happy B-day"

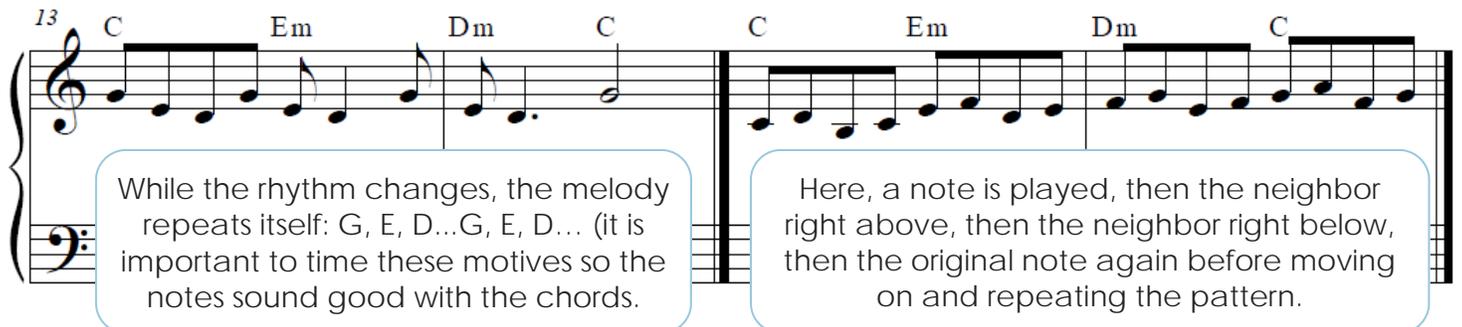


The rhythmic motives are shown as a sequence of notes: C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C. The quote from "Happy B-day" is shown as a sequence of notes: C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C.

The repeating rhythmic idea here is two eighth notes followed by a quarter note.

The majority of this phrase is stolen straight from the melody of "Happy B-day"

Melodic motives: Neighbor tones:



The melodic motives are shown as a sequence of notes: C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C. The neighbor tones are shown as a sequence of notes: C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C.

While the rhythm changes, the melody repeats itself: G, E, D...G, E, D... (it is important to time these motives so the notes sound good with the chords).

Here, a note is played, then the neighbor right above, then the neighbor right below, then the original note again before moving on and repeating the pattern.