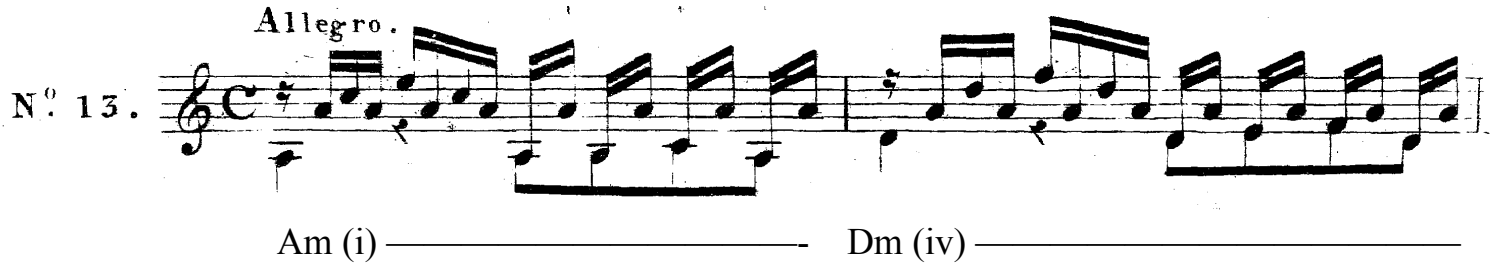
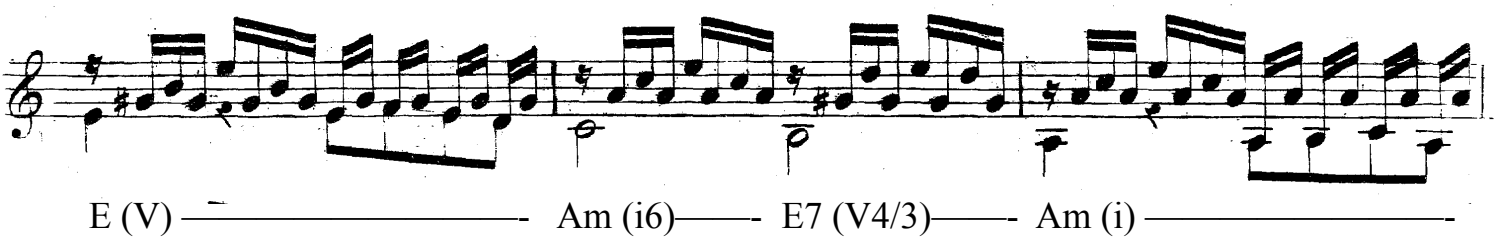
Grace Guitar Ministries

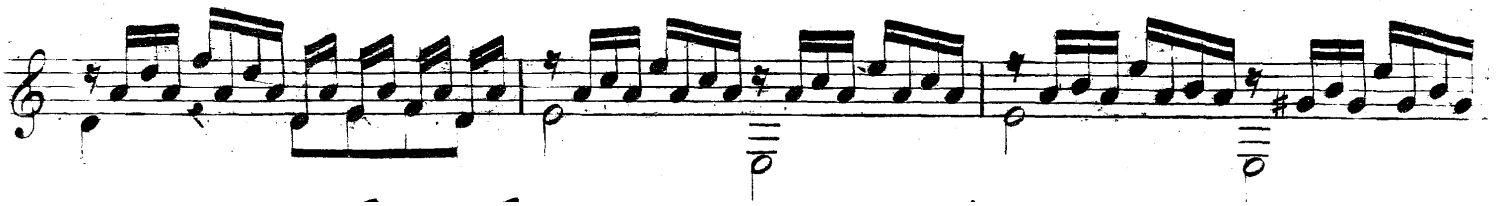
Harmony in Giuliani's Le Papillon
No. 13, Allegro



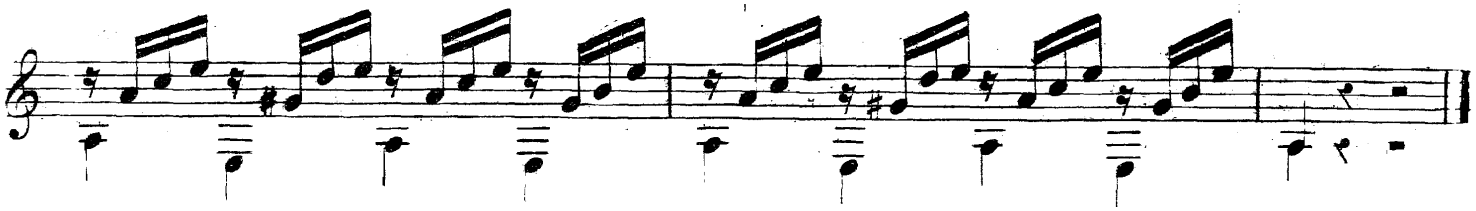
Am (i) ——————————- Dm (iv) ——————————



E (V) ——————————- Am (i6)——- E7 (V4/3)——- Am (i) ——————————-



Dm (iv) ——————————- Am (i6/4) —————————— E(sus4) (V) — E ——————



Am (i) E7 (V7) Am (i) E (V) Am (i) E7 (V7) Am (i) E (V) Am (i)

General info:

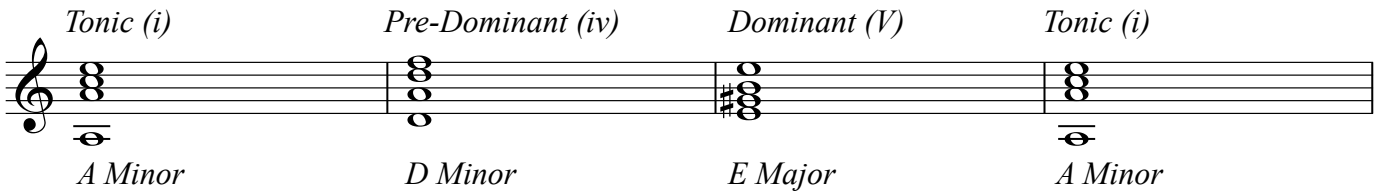
This short work is from a large collection of pieces called Le Papillon. This title translates to 'The Butterfly' and therefore should be played lightly - imagine the fluttering of a butterflies light wings.

There are 32 pieces in the collection and they're well worth studying at least from a harmonic analysis perspective.

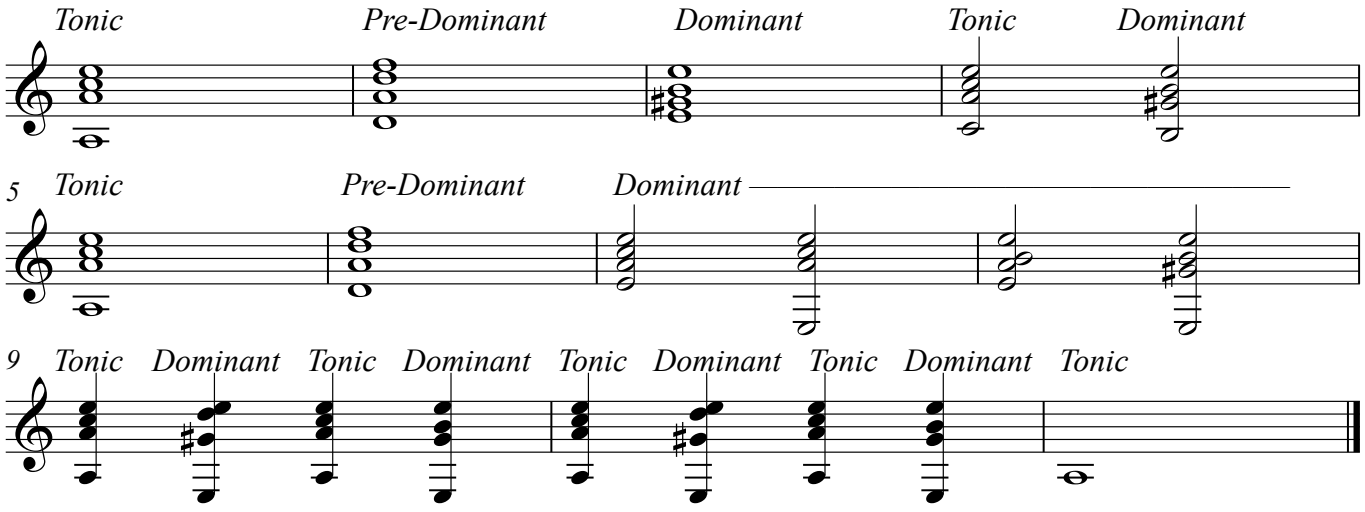
Harmony in No 13, Allegro

- This piece is in A Minor and uses only three chords, Am (i) - Dm (iv) - E (V)
- These chords are the primary chords and can also be called Tonic, Pre-Dominant, Dominant (T-PD-D-T)
- These chords form the foundation of western tonal music and can be found in virtually any piece composed in common practice harmonic principles.

T-PD-D-T in A Minor



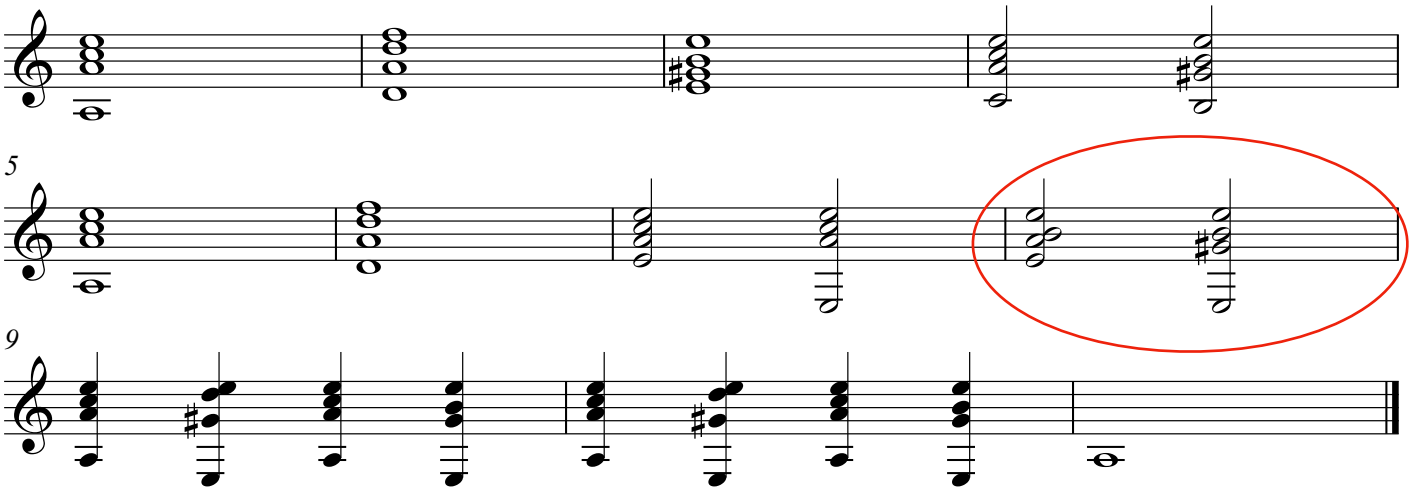
Harmonic reduction of No 13, Allegro

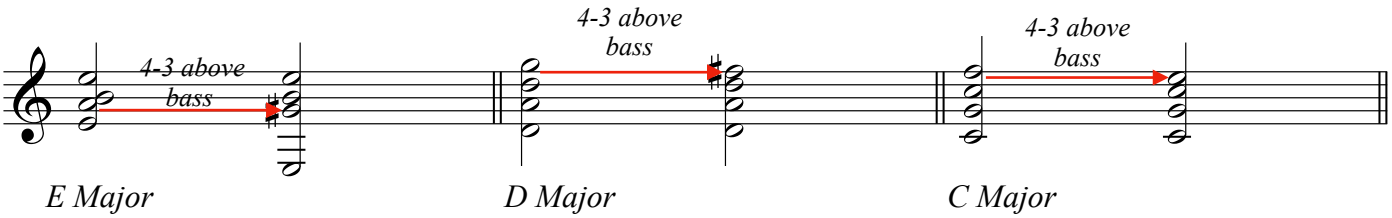


I strongly recommend that you practice harmonic reductions of the pieces you're working on.

This teaches you about the foundational harmonies behind the piece, the tension and resolution, phrasing, movement, and more.

Suspended chords



- Suspended chords occur frequently in common practice tonal music.
- A suspension is when a dissonant note (or 'non-chord tone', i.e. note that doesn't belong to the chord) is placed in one of the voices above the bass. That note then resolves to a consonant note (or chord tone).
- Typically the dissonant note is played with greater weight, emphasis and volume. The resolution is usually soft.
- One of the most common suspensions is the 4-3 (see example below)
- You could think of a suspension as 'causing suspense to the listener' by them wanting to hear the resolution.

Common suspended chords and their resolutions