

THE EMOTIONAL MAP OF MELODY

Two questions. Four zones. Complete emotional control over every note you write.

ZONE 1

SWEET GROUNDED

STABLE + CHORD TONE

- RESOLVED
- WARM
- ARRIVED

The harmony and melody fully agree. Maximum comfort. Essential for chorus arrivals and hook peaks — but overuse creates predictable, emotionally flat melody.

← STABLE

↑ CHORD TONE

ZONE 2

TENSE SUPPORTED

UNSTABLE + CHORD TONE

- FORWARD
- YEARNING
- LEANING

The chord catches the note but it still wants to move. Grounded tension with a clear direction. Soul, gospel, and R&B live heavily in Zone 2.

UNSTABLE →

ZONE 3

FLOATING MODERN

STABLE + NON-CHORD TONE

- AIRY
- COLOR
- SPACIOUS

Doesn't belong to the chord, but stable in the key — so it floats rather than clashes. The note of jazz extensions, neo-soul, and contemporary pop sophistication.

NON-CHORD TONE ↓

ZONE 4

BITTER EDGY

UNSTABLE + NON-CHORD TONE

- DARK
- RAW
- URGENT

Maximum friction — the note wants resolution and the chord gives no support. Devastatingly powerful in small doses. Blues, rock, and emotional peak moments.



DO

Rank 1
HOME



SO

Rank 2
STRONG



MI

Rank 3
SWEET



LA

Rank 4
WARM



RE

Rank 5
OPEN



TI

Rank 6
LEADING



FA

Rank 7
TENSION