

MASTER CHEAT SHEET

EMOTIONAL MAP OF MELODY

1

Key relationship

Stable or unstable scale degree?

2

Chord relationship

Chord tone or non-chord tone?

ZONE 1
SWEET
GROUNDED

Stable note + chord tone

SO over C · resolved, warm

ZONE 2
TENSE BUT
SUPPORTED

Unstable note + chord tone

FA over Dm · grounded tension

ZONE 3
FLOATING
MODERN

Stable note + non-chord tone

DO over Dm · airy, surprising

ZONE 4
BITTER
EDGY

Unstable note + non-chord tone

TI over Dm · maximum tension

↑ CHORD TONE

NON-CHORD TONE ↓

← STABLE

UNSTABLE →

DO

HOME

SO

STRONG

MI

SWEET

LA

WARM

RE

OPEN

TI

LEADING

FA

TENSION

FOCUS ON THESE NOTES

- Notes at chord changes
- Repeated notes
- Longer held notes
- Starting notes
- Ending / arrival notes

These carry the emotional weight — passing notes matter far less.

FAST ANALYSIS

- 1 Find the key
- 2 Label the note: DO – TI
- 3 Identify the chord underneath
- 4 Chord tone or non-chord tone?
- 5 Place it on the map — read its zone

WRITING & REVISION

- Need arrival? → **stable + chord tone**
- Need modern color? → **stable + non-chord tone**
- Need supported tension? → **unstable + chord tone**
- Need raw edge? → **unstable + non-chord tone**
- Too safe / generic? → **add non-chord tones**
- Too harsh? → **resolve unstable NCTs sooner**