

# CHANGE A CHORD TO END THE SONG

As you learned earlier, most songs end on the chord that has the same letter name as the key the song is written in (C chord/key of C, for example). The chord just before this is most often a seventh chord. The following provides a bit of background to help you create other endings for your songs.

If you start on the C key and count the next five keys (black AND white) to the left, you'll be on the G key. More often than not, when a song is in the key of C, and ends on some kind of C chord, the chord just before it will be a G7.

In the key of F, count down the next five from the F key (of that chord) and you'll decide the second last chord is likely to be a C7. You can do this same thing starting on any key, whether black or white.

The next song you'll play is CLIMB EV'RY MOUNTAIN, from "The Sound of Music." The example shows the two final chords to be G7 and C, as discussed above.

Musical notation for the original ending of "Climb Ev'ry Mountain". The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The notes are E (quarter), E (quarter), D (quarter), D (quarter), C (half), and C (half). Above the staff, chords are indicated in boxes: C above E, E7 above E, F above D, G7 above D, and C above C. The lyrics "till you find your dream!" are written below the staff. A double bar line is at the end of the piece.

To get a different effect for the final ending of this song, which creates a quasi-religious mood, you can substitute the major chord located two keys to the left of G (F) for the C chord – then, in the very last measure, go from F to the C chord. Some musicians call this a "church" ending. Try it.

Musical notation for the "church" ending of "Climb Ev'ry Mountain". The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The notes are E (quarter), E (quarter), D (quarter), D (quarter), C (half), and C (half). Above the staff, chords are indicated in boxes: C above E, E7 above E, F above D, G7 above D, F above C, and C above C. The lyrics "till you find your dream!" are written below the staff. A double bar line is at the end of the piece.

Because the melody note C is also part of the F chord, this works very nicely

Another interesting way to treat this song, and any other that ends similarly, is to use what might be called a "fresh," or "surprise" ending. Substitute the C chord with the major chord located at the next key to the right of G – the A $\flat$  chord – and then go to the C in the very last measure. You'll like this one!

Musical notation for the "fresh" ending of "Climb Ev'ry Mountain". The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The notes are E (quarter), E (quarter), D (quarter), D (quarter), C (half), and C (half). Above the staff, chords are indicated in boxes: C above E, E7 above E, F above D, G7 above D, A $\flat$  above C, and C above C. The lyrics "till you find your dream!" are written below the staff. A double bar line is at the end of the piece.

Try these endings when you play the complete arrangement of CLIMB EV'RY MOUNTAIN. Fragments you can use for an introduction are marked. Then apply what you've learned to MY FUNNY VALENTINE.