

Project for Further Study & Discussion

■■■■■■■■■■ CHAPTER 3 ■■■■■■■■■■

DISCUSSION –

Pick a favorite song that has a prominent repeated riff. If nothing comes to mind, you may pick a song from any of the following “Additional Listening” lists - “Harmonic Function Riffs” (in Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5), “Melodic Function Riffs” (in Chapter 4), or “Other Signature Riffs” (in Chapter 7). Discuss the following questions:

- What instrument is playing the riff ?
- Does the riff have mainly a supporting harmonic function (occurring underneath the vocal melody) ? Or, does the riff usually have a melodic role (standing alone, without vocals) ?
- In your opinion, which is more important and memorable - the repeated riff or the vocal melody ?
- Does this riff remind you of any other famous song / riff (maybe one that we have discussed in the first three chapters) ?