## Types of Modulation

**COMMON CHORD MODULATION** occurs when the shift from one key to another is made via a chord common to both keys. These “pivot” chords include diatonic chords, as well as secondary V and leading tone chords. Pivot chords can be **respelled** to facilitate movement to a foreign key!!!

Process for finding a common chord modulation:

1. Listen to the passage carefully.
2. Find the first chord that seems to be functioning more naturally in the second key than in the first one. (This step is often open to differing interpretations.)
3. Back up one chord. If the chord is found in BOTH OLD and NEW keys, it becomes your PIVOT CHORD. This is EASIER to find if you are moving between two CLOSELY RELATED keys. Analyze the modulation with a pivot chord step.

**COMMON TONE MODULATION** involves a single pitch that provides the hinge between one key and the next. Common tone modulations allow the composer to venture to more distantly related keys and are achieved by creative, and often dramatic, placement of the common tone. Common tone modulations are often used when a composer wants to modulate a M/m 3rd away from the previous key. Common tone modulations are often used with enharmonic spellings to facilitate movement to a foreign key.

**The following three modulations are easy to spot:**

**MONOPHONIC MODULATION** is carried out by a single line of music. Recognizing the key in a melodic context is important in identifying shifts of this type.

1. Look for accidentals, scales, and other patterns that point to a change of key.

**DIRECT MODULATION** often occurs in conjunction with phrase endings/beginnings. In the chorale harmonizations of Bach, for example, it is common to end one phrase in one key and then begin the next phrase in an entirely new key.

1. Direct modulation, or **phrase modulation**, should be considered only after the common chord/common tone varieties have been ruled out.

**SEQUENTIAL MODULATION** is achieved by repeating a motive or phrase up or down a step or third. Each repetition is a SEGMENT in the SEQUENCE.