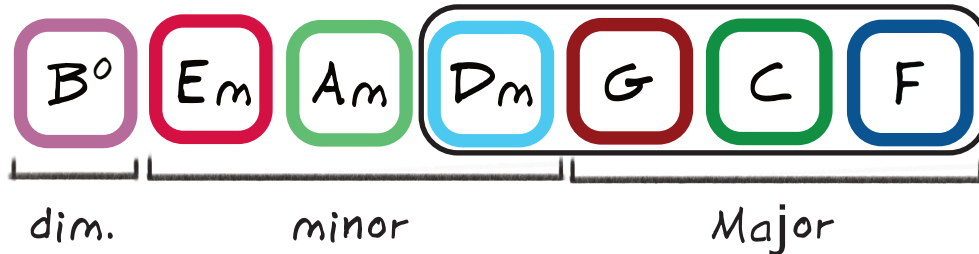


B E A D Guides Chord Flow

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David Bowie's "Young Americans," much like The Cure's "Just Like Heaven" from a couple weeks ago, focuses on the three major chords in a key and a neighbor of one of those chords, Dm in this case.



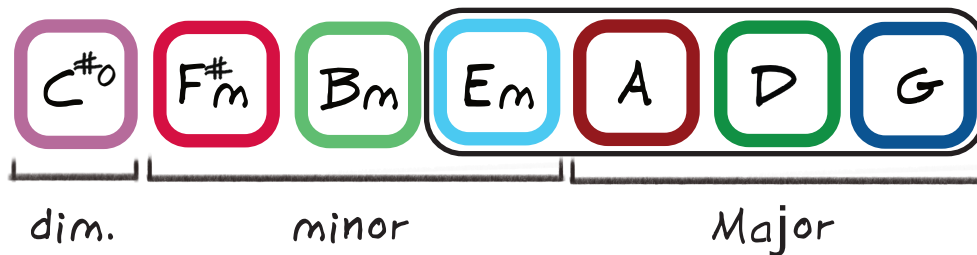
The chords are switched to alphabetical order and loop. The verse starts on the C chord

In the chorus the loop order remains the same, but is started on the F chord instead of C



While this sounds great, especially in the hands of Bowie and the musicians he assembled for the track, over the course of a five minutes song, this might start to feel repetitive. There are a lot of things Bowie does with the lyrical pacing and phrasing you could look at to change things up. (Take a look at the length of both the verses and choruses for instance).

We're focused on the chords here though, so check out what happens right after the bridge. He takes all the chords and shifts them all into the key of D. This is called a modulation, and it's a classic tactic of songwriters who want to add interest to a song:



Chords in the 2nd half verse:



Chords in the 2nd half chorus:

