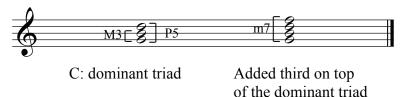


## **HARMONY**

## I, IV, V, and V<sup>7</sup> in Root Position

The emphasis in this chapter on singing 1–5–1, combined with the practice of hearing I–V–I in the previous chapter, will provide you with a solid basis for moving on to one of the most significant harmonies in tonal music, the **dominant seventh chord** ( $V^7$ ). This chord is important because it introduces a new concept to harmony, **dissonance**. You will recall that major and minor triads are made up of thirds and perfect fifths above the root. These are wholly consonant. You also know that in both major and minor keys, the dominant triad is major: we build this harmony with scale degrees 5–7–2. With **tertian harmonic** structures, we can build another third on top, 5–7–2–4.

**Example 2-15** Adding another third to the top of the dominant triad



As Example 2–15 illustrates, adding this extra note creates a seventh between the root and the top note of the chord, a dissonant interval. We use  $V^7$  to indicate a dominant seventh: the Roman numeral V represents the dominant chord, and the number 7 (from figured bass notation) represents the interval of a seventh in the chord.

Listen carefully as your instructor plays both the triad and the seventh chord. The latter should sound denser as a harmonic structure with more harmonic tension. The dominant (V) is simply a triad and is stable; the dominant seventh ( $V^7$ ), with its added dissonance, should create in your hearing a strong desire to hear a **resolution** to its tonic chord. This strong desire is created because 5 in the bass supporting a V harmony pulls strongly back to 1. The leading tone (7) and supertonic (2) also pull melodically to 1. The dissonant seventh in the chord—scale degree 4—requires stepwise resolution down to a consonance, scale degree 3.4