



INTERVALS

16 Sept 2017

SCALE DEGREE NAMES

C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
^	^	^	^	^	^	^	^
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1
tonic	supertonic	mediant	sub- dominant	dominant	submediant	leading tone	tonic

B^b
^

^b7

subtonic

Intervals

- An **interval** is the measurement of the **DISTANCE** between two pitches
 - **Harmonic intervals** occur when two pitches sound simultaneously
 - **Melodic intervals** occur when two pitches sound in succession

Intervals

- Two parts to the name
 - **Distance** (unison, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, octave)
 - **Simple intervals** are smaller than an octave
 - **Compound intervals** are an octave or larger (10th)
 - **Quality** (perfect, minor, Major, augmented, diminished)

Perfect Intervals

- P1 (perfect unison) = 0 half steps
- P4 (perfect fourth) = 5 half steps
- P5 (perfect fifth) = 7 half steps
- P8 (perfect octave) = 12 half steps

Use distance above tonic pitch in scale to find perfect intervals — they are all the same

MAJOR



NATURAL MINOR



HARMONIC MINOR



MELODIC MINOR



Major and Minor Intervals

- m2 (minor second) = 1 half step = C up to D \flat
- M2 (major second) = 2 half steps = C up to D
- m3 (minor third) = 3 half steps = C up to E \flat
- M3 (major third) = 4 half steps = C up to E
- m6 (minor sixth) = 8 half steps = C up to A \flat
- M6 (major sixth) = 9 half steps = C up to A
- m7 (minor seventh) = 10 half steps = C up to B \flat
- M7 (major seventh) = 11 half steps = C up to B

IMPORTANT NOTE!

- The letter name matters.
 - C to C# would not be considered a minor 2nd
 - We need to call the 2nd above C some kind of D because D is the 2nd note of the C scale
 - e.g., in the C harmonic minor scale, A^b to B is an augmented second, not a minor 3rd, even though +2 and m3 are both 3 half steps apart
 - A^b to C^b would be a minor 3rd

Identifying intervals by ear

m2

- minor 2nd = leading tone to tonic

^

7

ti

^

1

do

- Jaws theme
- Pink Panther intro
- Classical era cadences

Identifying intervals by ear

M2

- MAJOR 2nd = subtonic to tonic

^

^b7

te

^

I

do

- Blues scale
- Whole step
- “A Love Supreme” = 5 ^b7 5 I

Identifying intervals by ear

m3

- minor 3rd
 - “A Love Supreme” = 5 ♭7 5 |
 - “Someday I’ll wish upon a star” part of “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”
 - Often heard as top third of major triad (3rd + 5th)
 - mi to sol and back

Identifying intervals by ear

M3

- MAJOR 3rd
 - often heard as tonic and 3rd in major key (do-mi)
 - Also likely to appear as 5th to LT (sol-ti)
 - Fill in the scale between pitches if you have trouble hearing the difference between m3 and M3

Identifying intervals by ear

P4

- Perfect 4th
 - Classical cadence bass line (TIMPANI!)
 - *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* (do sol do sol do sol do sol mi)
 - “A Love **Supreme**” = 5 \flat 7 **5** |
 - Fill in the scale between pitches — if you get the Addams Family theme, it’s a P4

Identifying intervals by ear

P5

- Perfect 5th
 - “O E O, Ohhhhhhhh” from *Wizard of Oz*
 - Also *Sprach Zarathustra* (do sol do...)
 - MI me!
 - me MI!
 - MI FA! la ti do re MI FA SOL! MI FA SOL! la ti do

Identifying intervals by ear

m6

- minor 6th
 - *Entertainer* (mi do mi do mi do)
 - “We Are Young” by Fun — FI-RE! (la fa)

Identifying intervals by ear

M6

- MAJOR 6th
 - *Man in the Mirror* (descending mi sol)
 - *NBC chime* (sol mi do)

Identifying intervals by ear

m7

- minor 7th
 - *Star Trek* theme (original) — do te (first two notes of melody)
 - *Somewhere* (“There’s a”) — sol fa

Identifying intervals by ear

M7

- MAJOR 7th
 - *Take on Me* (first one you hear in the chorus) — do ti do
 - *Don't Know Why* (“I wait”) — do ti

Identifying intervals by ear

P8

- Perfect octave
 - *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*
 - *Singing in the Rain*

TERMS FOR REVIEW

- Names for the scale degrees
- Interval
- Harmonic Interval
- Melodic Interval
- Simple Interval
- Compound Interval
- Quality (Perfect, Major, minor)