



# INTERVALS

16 Sept 2016

# 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<sup>b</sup>  
^

<sup>b</sup>7

subtonic

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- Sing scale degree numbers
- Sing solfège
- Letter names
  - Naturals = sing the letter — C
  - Sharps inflected with “EEs” — C# = CIS
  - Flats inflect with “es” — C<sup>b</sup> = CES

# 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
  - **Quality** (perfect, minor, Major, augmented, diminished)
  - **Distance** (unison, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, octave)
    - **Simple intervals** are smaller than an octave
    - **Compound intervals** are an octave or larger (10<sup>th</sup>)

# 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 2<sup>nd</sup>
    - We need to call the 2<sup>nd</sup> above C some kind of D because D is the 2<sup>nd</sup> note of the C scale
  - e.g., in the C harmonic minor scale, A<sup>b</sup> to B is an augmented second, not a minor 3<sup>rd</sup>, even though they are both 3 half steps apart
    - A<sup>b</sup> to C<sup>b</sup> would be a minor 3<sup>rd</sup>

# Identifying intervals by ear

## m2

- minor 2<sup>nd</sup> = leading tone to tonic

^

7

ti

^

1

do

- Jaws theme
- Pink Panther intro
- Classical era cadences

# Identifying intervals by ear

## M2

- MAJOR 2<sup>nd</sup> = subtonic to tonic

^	^
$\flat 7$	I
te	do

- Blues scale
- Whole step
- “A Love Supreme” = 5  $\flat 7$  5 I

# Identifying intervals by ear

## m3

- minor 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - “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 (3<sup>rd</sup> + 5<sup>th</sup>)
    - mi to sol and back

# Identifying intervals by ear

## M3

- MAJOR 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - often heard as tonic and 3<sup>rd</sup> in major key (do-mi)
  - Also likely to appear as 5<sup>th</sup> 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 perfect 4

# 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 perfect 4

# Identifying intervals by ear

## P5

- Perfect 5th
  - “O wee oh, 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 6<sup>th</sup>
  - *Entertainer* (mi do mi do mi do)
  - “We Are Young” by Fun — FI-RE! (mi do, again)

# Identifying intervals by ear

## M6

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

# Identifying intervals by ear

## m7

- minor 7<sup>th</sup>
  - *Star Trek* theme (original) — do te
  - *Somewhere* (There's a) — sol fa

# Identifying intervals by ear

## M7

- MAJOR 7<sup>th</sup>
  - *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

- Interval
- Harmonic Interval
- Melodic Interval
- Simple Interval
- Compound Interval
- Quality (Perfect, Major, minor)