Mastering Aural Skills:

A Comprehensive Method for Eartraining and

Sightsinging


Isidore L. Rudnick

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# For Shelly, Nathan and Joshua 

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# About the Author 

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An accomplished composer, Dr. Rudnick's published works for jazz ensembles, symphony orchestra and various chamber groups are regularly performed and recorded by student and professional ensembles throughout the U.S. and Europe. As a professional jazz trombonist, he has performed and recorded at international jazz festivals in the United States, England, Switzerland, Poland, Germany and Italy. Currently, he performs in the Yakima Valley Community College Faculty Jazz Quintet and leads the Yakima Jazz Collective.

Dr. Rudnick's teaching honors include the Gold Medallion Award from the Ministry of Culture of Poland (1992), the University of Maine Faculty Award (1994), and recognition in Who's Who of America's Teachers (1996, 2004).

## Preface

In my over ten years of teaching aural skills classes to college students from all walks of life, I seem to encounter the same questions and comments over and over from students.

How will this help me become a better musician?
Why do we need to learn solfege, can't we just sing on the syllable la?
Don't you need perfect pitch to accurately sightsing?
Why is it that I can sing familiar songs like Happy Birthday and The Star Spangled Banner but I can't write out the notes to these melodies?
Is there some way to better hear and recognize chords than to just guess?

How can I improve my sightreading skills?
I can't read rhythms, help me !!!
Practicing with a metronome throws me off, so do I really have to use one?

This text is an attempt to answer all these questions and to provide a flexible, practical and comprehensive system for learning to hear and notate common melodic, harmonic and rhythmic structures in tonal music. While the concepts and material in this book are fairly simple and are presented in a straightforward manner, they will not be mastered unless the student works diligently on them daily. With careful practice and patience, any serious student can use the aural skills concepts presented in this text to unlock their artistic and technical potential as a musician.

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## CHAPTER 1

## Pitch Recognition Systems



## TOPICS

- Solfege (Moveable Do)
- Kodály Hand Signs


## APPLICATION

Pitch Recognition Systems such as Solfege and Kodály Hand Signs enable the student to associate individual pitches with musical syllables and visual hand signs which aid in hearing, singing and notating tonal melodies.

## Introduction

The most effective way of accurately recognizing and reproducing pitches, intervals, melodies and harmonic formulas is through the study and mastery of a pitch recognition system. By quickly and accurately recognizing pitches and their relationship to one another in a tonal setting, musicians can sing and play music at sight, transcribe music from recordings, compose music away from the piano or computer, create counterpoint or harmony to an existing melody, and effectively improvise melodies over an harmonic setting. All of these tasks are crucial to your artistic and financial success as a musician.

## Solfege

Musicians have been studying and teaching pitch recognition systems for over a thousand years. The most common systems today involve the use of solmization syllables or what we know today as solfeggio or solfege. Solfege is the singing of pitches, intervals, melodies and melodic outlines of harmony with the aid of individual syllables such as do, re, mi, etc. Although several variations of solfege exist, perhaps the most effective one for tonal music is moveable do with do being the root for major and la being the root for minor. This particular solfege system is the only one that does all of the following:

- uses universally recognized syllables
- follows the major and relative minor scale model
- employs unique syllables for each scale tone
- allows for chromatic alterations of scale tones
- allows for the transposition of syllables to new keys

Example 1.1 illustrates the major do minor la concept as applied to a Bb major and G minor scale. Notice that when you change to a relative minor key you don't employ new syllables. Instead, you simply start with the solfege syllable la rather than do.

## Example 1.1 Major Do, Minor La



As mentioned in the previous page, one of the advantages of using the moveable do solfege system, is that you can transpose the tonic pitch syllable, do, to new keys. Example 1.2 illustrates a simple scalar melody first in the key of $C$, then transposed to three other major keys.

Example 1.2 Moveable Do, Major Keys


Example 1.3 demonstrates the same procedure with a minor melody.
Example 1.3 Moveable Do, Minor Keys


## Kodály Hand Signs

Many teachers and musicians, this author included, use an additional pitch recognition system to visually emphasize the solfege system. This visual system is known as the Kodály hand signs and it employs a unique hand symbol for each solfege degree of the scale. This system was actually invented by John Spencer Curwin of England but it was popularized by Zoltan Kodály, a very influential Hungarian music educator and composer of the first half of the $20^{01 \text { h }}$ century. In this system, the student begins with the first hand sign, do, a few inches in front of and level with their bellybutton, and proceeds to raise the height of each successive hand signal until they reach the upper do which is at eye level. Advantages of using this system include:

- students can visualize the solfege system as they sing it
- both a note's pitch quality and register are represented
- the physical activity of using the hand signs increases focus and decreases the anxiety of singing in class
- students who are occasionally unable to sing can still work on their pitch recognition skills
- students gain a more thorough knowledge of pitch recognition through visual reenforcement of aural concepts

Example 1.2 illustrates the Kodály hand signs as applied to a G major and E minor scale.

## Example 1.2 Kodály Hand Signs



The chart on the next page shows all the diatonic solfege syllables and the commonly used chromatic alteration syllables and their corresponding hand signs.

## Solfege Syllable and Kodály Hand Sign Chart



## Solfege Exercises 1.1

A. Write in the correct solfege syllable beneath each note.

6.

B. Write in the number that corresponds with the correct hand sign in the first blank beneath each note. Then, write in the correct solfege syllable in the second blank.


## Student Notes



## CHAPTER 2

# Diatonic and Altered Diatonic Scales 

## TOPICS

- Major Scales
- Pentatonic Scales
- Natural Minor Scales
- Harmonic Minor Scales
- Melodic Minor Scales
- Blues Scales


## APPLICATION

Diatonic and altered diatonic scales provide the source material from which many melodic and harmonic structures in tonal music are created. By linking solfege application to various scale formations, we train our ears to recognize a vast amount of melodic material.

## Introduction

In this chapter we will explore hearing and singing some of the more common diatonic and altered diatonic scales that are used in Western classical and popular music.
Since there are several similarities among these scales, it is helpful to categorize them according to the following elements: (1) number of different pitches present, (2) modality, (3) presence of chromatic alterations and (4) interval pattern. The following table should prove helpful for quick reference.

## Table 2.1 Scale Elements

| Scale | No. of <br> Pitches | Modality | Alterations | Interval Pattern |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Major <br> Pentatonic | Five | Major | None | $\mathrm{W}, \mathrm{W}, 1^{1 / 2}, \mathrm{~W}, 1^{1 / 2}$ |
| Minor <br> Pentatonic | Five | Minor | None | $1^{1 / 2}, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, 1^{1 / 2}, \mathrm{~W}$ |
| Major | Seven | Major | None | $\mathrm{W}, \mathrm{W}, 1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, 1 / 2$ |
| Natural Minor | Seven | Minor | None | $\mathrm{W}, 1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, 1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}$ |
| Harmonic <br> Minor | Seven | Minor | Raised 7th (si) | $\mathrm{W}, 1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, 1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}$ |
| Melodic Minor | Seven | Minor | Asc: Raised $6^{\text {th }}$ <br> Raised $7^{\text {th }}($ fi) <br> (si) | $\mathrm{W}, 1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, 1 / 2$ <br> $\mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, 1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, 1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}$ |
| Blues | Six | Minor | Raised 4th (ri) | $1^{1 / 2}, \mathrm{~W}, 1 / 2,1 / 2,1^{1 / 2}, \mathrm{~W}$ |

In order to successfully recognize and reproduce each of these scales, use the following four step process. Repeat several times if necessary.

Step 1 - Play the scale several times slowly on piano (or your instrument) and listen carefully to the sound of each scale degree.

Step 2 - Practice matching each pitch by first playing the scale degree on piano and then singing the scale degree with the appropriate solfege syllable. Using a chromatic tuner during this step will enable you to see exactly how sharp or flat you are on each degree of the scale.

Step 3 - Play do on the piano and sing up the ascending part of the scale until you reach the upper do. Play that upper do on piano to check the accuracy of your pitch. Now sing down the descending part of the scale and check your lower do on piano when you reach tonic.

Step 4 - Sing the entire scale ascending and descending and when you reach the final do, check your pitch accuracy with the piano and/or a tuner.

## Unaltered Diatonic Scales

A diatonic scale is one that is constructed and organized around the presence of a tonal center (tonic) and key signature. Diatonic scales can occur in both an unaltered and altered form. An unaltered diatonic scale is one that contains no pitches outside the key signature.

The major pentatonic scale, perhaps the simplest of the unaltered diatonic scales, is made up of five pitches starting on the tonic of the key (solfegge syllable do), and moving up through the second (re), third (mi), fifth (so), and sixth (la) degrees of a major scale. Example 2.1 shows a major pentatonic scale written in the keys of $C$ and $B b$. Remember, we are using a moveable do system and each tonic pitch of a new key is do.

Example 2.1 Major Pentatonic Scale


The major scale is made up of seven adjacent pitches starting on the tonic of the key (do), and moving up through the second (re), third (mi), fourth (fa), fifth (sol), sixth (la) and seventh ( $t i$ ) degree of the scale.

## Example 2.2 D Major Scale



The minor pentatonic scale, related to the major pentatonic scale a minor third above, is made up of five pitches starting on the tonic of the minor key (la), and moving up through the third (do), fourth (re), fifth (mi) and seventh (sol) degrees of the natural minor scale.

Example 2.3 F Minor Pentatonic Scale


The natural minor scale, related to the major scale a minor third above, is made up of seven adjacent pitches starting on the tonic of the minor key (la), and moving up through the second ( ti$)$, third (do), fourth ( re ), fifth (mi), sixth (fa) and seventh (sol) degree of the scale.

## Example 2.4 E Natural Minor Scale



## Altered Diatonic Scales

An altered diatonic scale is one that contains at least one note that has been chromatically altered (raised or lowered) from the key signature. The harmonic minor scale, perhaps the most common of the altered diatonic scales, contains a raised seventh scale degree which is represented by the solfegge syllable si and functions as the leading tone of the scale. This scale is made up of seven adjacent pitches starting on the tonic of the minor key (la), and moving up through the second ( $t i$ ), third ( $d o$ ), fourth (re), fifth (mi), sixth (fa) and raised seventh (si) degree of a natural minor scale.

## Example 2.5 D Harmonic Minor Scale



The melodic minor scale has both an ascending and descending form. The ascending form of the scale has two chromatically altered notes, the raised sixth degree of the scale (represented by the solfege syllable fi) and, like the harmonic minor scale, the raised seventh degree of the scale (represented by the solfege syllable si). The descending form of the scale is identical to the natural minor scale.

## Example 2.6 Melodic Minor Scale



The blues scale, used extensively in jazz and popular music, is very similar to the minor pentatonic scale. This scale features an added raised fourth scale degree which is represented by the solfegge syllable ri.

Example 2.7 Blues Scale


## Solfege Exercises 2.1

Play each of the following scale exercises slowly on piano first, then sing using the correct solfege syllables. Check your intonation with the piano and/or a tuner during each exercise. Transpose each example to at least three different keys.


## Solfege Exercises 2.2

Sing the indicated scale (ascending and descending) above the given tonic note using the correct solfege syllables. Check your intonation with the piano and/or a tuner during each scale.


A Major Pentatonic
Db Major


## Solfege Exercises 2.3

Play each of the following scale exercises slowly on piano first, then sing using the correct solfege syllables. Check your intonation with the piano and/or a tuner during each exercise. Transpose each example to at least three different keys.


## Solfege Exercises 2.4

Sing the indicated scale (ascending and descending) above the given tonic note using the correct solfege syllables. Check your intonation with the piano and/or a tuner during each scale.


G Minor Pentatonic


## Solfege Exercises 2.5

Play each of the following scale exercises slowly on piano first, then sing using the correct solfege syllables. Check your intonation with the piano and/or a tuner during each exercise. Transpose each exercise to at least three different keys.


## Solfege Exercises 2.6

Sing the indicated scale above the given tonic note (ascending and descending) using the correct solfege syllables. Check your intonation with the piano and/or a tuner during each scale.


## Ear Training Exercises 2.1 CD 1, Track 1

Identify each of the following diatonic scales played on the accompanying CD by writing the name of the scale in the blank. Then, write in the scale notes above the given tonic pitch and provide the correct key signature.

3. $\qquad$

5. $\qquad$

7. $\qquad$ 8. $\qquad$

$\qquad$
9.

11. $\qquad$ 12. $\qquad$


## Ear Training Exercises 2.2 CD 1, Track 2

Identify each of the following diatonic and altered diatonic scales played on the accompanying CD by writing the name of the scale in the blank. Then, provide the correct key signature, write in the scale notes above the given tonic pitch, and make any needed chromatic alterations.

3. $\qquad$
4. $\qquad$
$\qquad$
7.

5.

6. $\qquad$
9. $\qquad$
11. $\qquad$ 12.

## Student Notes


$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$


$\qquad$

# CHAPTER 3 

## Intervals



## TOPICS

- Perfect Intervals
- Major Intervals
- Minor Intervals
- Augmented and Diminished Intervals


## APPLICATION

Intervals form the building blocks used to create the melodic and harmonic ideas and formal structure in music. An aural mastery of intervals provides both a technical and emotional understanding of music.

## Introduction

Now that we have a general understanding of diatonic scales, we can further break down each scale into separate pairs of notes called intervals. Intervals are classified according to their quality (major, minor, perfect, etc.) and size ( $4^{\text {th }}, 5^{\text {th }}$, etc.) Table 3.1 illustrates each interval and its size and location in both the major and harmonic minor scale.

Table 3.1 Interval Grid

| Interval | Size | Scale Source and Location |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Minor 2nd | 11/2 Step | Major: Mi - Fa, Ti - Do <br> Harmonic Minor Ti-Do, Mi-Fa, Si-La |
| Major 2nd | Whole Step | Major: Do - Re, Re-Mi, Fa - Sol, Sol - La, La - Ti Harmonic Minor: La - Ti, Do - Re, Re-Mi |
| Augmented 2nd | 1 Whole Step <br> $+1 / 2$ Step | Major: Not Present Harmonic Minor: Fa-Si |
| Minor 3rd | 1 Whole Step <br> $+1 / 2$ Step | Major: Re - Fa, Mi-Sol, La - Do, Ti-Re Harmonic Minor: La - Do, Ti-Re, Re-Fa, Si-Ti |
| Major 3rd | 2 Whole Steps | Major: Do - Mi, Fa - La, Sol - Ti <br> Harmonic Minor: Do - Mi, Mi-Si, Fa - La |
| Perfect 4th | 2 Whole Steps <br> $+1 / 2$ Step | Major: Do - Fa, Re - Sol, Mi - La, Sol - Do, La - Re, Ti - Mi Harmonic Minor: La - Re, Ti-Mi, Do - Fa |
| Augmented 4th | 3 Whole Steps | Major: Fa - Ti <br> Harmonic Minor: Re-Si, Fa - Ti |
| Diminished $5^{\text {th }}$ | 3 Whole Steps | Major: Ti-Fa <br> Harmonic Minor: Ti-Fa, Si-Re |
| Perfect $5^{\text {th }}$ | 3 Whole Steps $+1 / 2$ Step | Major: Do - Sol, Re - La, Mi - Ti, Fa - Do, Sol - Re, La - Mi Harmonic Minor: La - Mi, Re - La, Mi-Ti, Fa - Do |
| Augmented $5^{\text {th }}$ | 4 Whole Steps | Major: Not Present Harmonic Minor: Do - Si |
| Minor $6^{\text {th }}$ | 4 Whole Steps | Major: Mi - Do, La - Fa, Ti-Sol <br> Harmonic Minor: La - Fa, Mi - Do, Si-Mi |
| Major $6^{\text {th }}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 4 \text { Whole Steps } \\ & +1 / 2 \text { Step } \end{aligned}$ | Major: Do-La, Re - Ti, Fa - Re, Sol - Mi, Harmonic Minor: Ti-Si, Do - La, Re - Mi, Fa - Re |
| Diminished $7^{\text {th }}$ | 4 Whole Steps $+1 / 2 \text { Step }$ | Major: Not Present Harmonic Minor: Si-Fa |
| Minor $7^{\text {th }}$ | 5 Whole Steps | Major: Re-Do, Mi-Re, Sol - Fa, La - Sol, Ti-La <br> Harmonic Minor: Ti-La, Re-Do, Mi-Re |
| Major $7^{\text {th }}$ | 5 Whole Steps <br> $+1 / 2$ Step | Major: Do - Ti, Fa - Mi <br> Harmonic Minor: La - Si, Do - Ti, Fa - Mi |
| Perfect 8ve | 6 Whole steps | Major: Do - Do Harmonic Minor: La - La |

Although somewhat arbitrary, other descriptors may prove helpful in identifying these intervals by ear. Table 3.2 lists descriptors such as relative consonance and aural perception of interval size. Note that these descriptors apply most effectively when the interval is played harmonically.

Table 3.2 Interval Descriptors

| Interval | Description |
| :---: | :---: |
| Minor ${ }^{\text {nd }}$ | Very dissonant - sounds very close and has a tense, harsh and biting quality |
| Major ${ }^{\text {nd }}$ | Dissonant - sounds close but not nearly as harsh and tense as a minor 2nd |
| Minor $3^{\text {rd }}$ | Consonant - sounds somewhat close and has a sad, mellow and calming quality |
| Major $3^{\text {rd }}$ | Consonant - sounds somewhat open and has a joyous and triumphant quality |
| Perfect 4 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ | Very consonant - sounds somewhat open and has a stately quality |
| Augmented $4^{\text {th }}$ Diminished $5^{\text {th }}$ | Very dissonant - sounds open but has a dark and tense quality |
| Perfect $5^{\text {th }}$ | Very consonant - sounds open and has a pure, regal, and fanfarelike quality |
| Augmented $5^{\text {th }}$ <br> Minor Sixth | Consonant - sounds very open and has a gentle, sad, reflective quality |
| Major $6^{\text {th }}$ | Consonant - sounds very open and has a brave, glorious quality |
| Minor 7th | Dissonant - sounds very open and has an unresolved, searching quality |
| Major $7^{\text {th }}$ | Dissonant - sounds very open and has a harsh, suspenseful quality |
| Perfect 8ve | Very consonant - sounds very open and has a pure, placid quality |

## Perfect Intervals

A perfect interval is the label that is used to classify the consonant 4ths, 5 ths and octaves that occur in both major and minor scales. Example 3.1-3.3 illustrates these intervals and their solfege syllables in addition to a brief excerpt of a familiar theme that features the interval in its ascending form.

## Example 3.1 Perfect $4^{\text {th }}$ Interval



## Example 3.2 Perfect $5^{\text {th }}$ Interval



## Example 3.3 Perfect 8ve Interval



Over the Rainbow


As we did with scales, use the following four step process to learn each interval. Repeat several times if necessary.

Step 1 - Play the interval several times slowly on piano (or your instrument) and listen carefully to the overall sound (consonance, size, etc.) of the interval.

Step 2 - Practice matching the first and second pitch of the interval by first playing the note on piano and then singing the pitch with the appropriate solfege syllable. Using a chromatic tuner during this step will enable you to see exactly how sharp or flat you are on both notes of the interval.

Step 3 - Play the interval on the piano and then sing the interval using the appropriate solfege syllables. Play the interval again on piano to check the accuracy of your pitch.

Step 4 - Sing the interval in at least 3 other keys.

## Major Intervals

A major interval is the label that is used to classify the distances of a 2nd, 3rd, 6th and 7th that occur in the major scale above the tonic do and other scale degrees.
Examples 3.4-3.7 illustrate these intervals and their solfege syllables in addition to a brief excerpt of a familiar theme that features the interval in its ascending form.

## Example 3.4 Major $\mathbf{2}^{\text {nd }}$ Interval



Example 3.5 Major 3rd Interval


Example 3.6 Major 6th Interval


Example 3.7 Major $7^{\text {th }}$ Interval

d Note: Major intervals occur several places in the scale, not just above the root so different combinations of solfege syllables do exist for the same interval.

## Minor Intervals

A minor interval is the label that is used to classify the distances of a 2nd, 3rd, 6th and 7th that occur in the natural minor and harmonic minor scales above the tonic la and other scale degrees. (They can also be found in the major scale above scale degrees other than the tonic.) Examples 3.8-3.11 illustrate these intervals and their solfege syllables, in addition to a brief excerpt of a familiar theme that features the interval in its ascending form.

Example 3.8 Minor $\mathbf{2}^{\text {nd }}$ Interval


Example 3.9 Minor $3^{\text {rd }}$ Interval


Example 3.10 Minor $6^{\text {th }}$ Interval


Example 3.11 Minor $7^{\text {th }}$ Interval


There's a Place for Us


## Augmented and Diminished Intervals

Augmented and diminished intervals are derived from the colorful 2nds, 4ths and 5ths that occur in both minor and diminished scales. The augmented $2^{\text {nd }}$ interval is the characteristic interval in the harmonic minor scale and can be found between scale degrees six (fa) and raised seven (si) of that scale. This interval provides an exotic quality to a melody as is demonstrated in folk tunes such as Hava Nagila.

Example 3.12 Augmented $2^{\text {nd }}$ Interval


The augmented $4^{\text {th }}$ interval (enharmonically spelled also as a diminished $5^{\text {th }}$ ) is especially common in the works of jazz composers such as Thelonious Monk as well as many jazz influenced symphonic scores such as West Side Story. The augmented $4^{\text {th }}$ interval can be found in the melodic minor scale between scale degrees three (do) and raised six (fi). The interval has a dissonant, mysterious quality that makes it attractive to composers of all genres.

Example 3.13 Augmented 4 $^{\text {th }}$ Interval


## Solfege Exercises 3.1

Play each of the following interval exercises slowly on piano first, then sing using the correct solfege syllables. Check your intonation with the piano and/or a tuner during each exercise. Transpose each example to at least three different keys.


## Solfege Exercises 3.2 Major Scale Intervals

Play each of the following interval exercises slowly on piano first, then sing using the correct solfege syllables. Check your intonation with the piano and/or a tuner during each exercise. Transpose each example to at least three different keys.


## Solfege Exercises 3.3 Harmonic Minor Scale Intervals

Play each of the following interval exercises slowly on piano first, then sing using the correct solfege syllables. Check your intonation with the piano and/or a tuner during each exercise. Transpose each example to at least three different keys.


## Solfege Exercises 3.4 Melodic Minor Scale Intervals

Play each of the following interval exercises slowly on piano first, then sing using the correct solfege syllables. Check your intonation with the piano and/or a tuner during each exercise. Transpose each example to at least three different keys.

2. Fourths


## Solfege Exercises 3.5

For each example, play the given pitch on piano and sing the indicated interval using the correct solfege syllable. (Use do for the given note except where noted.) Adjust an octave higher or lower if needed.

Perfect Intervals (ascending)


Major Intervals (ascending)


## Solfege Exercises 3.6

For each example, play the given pitch on piano and sing the indicated interval using the correct solfege syllable. Use an appropriate starting syllable for the given note. Adjust an octave higher or lower if needed.

Major Intervals (descending)


Minor Intervals (ascending)


Minor Intervals (descending)


## Solfege Exercises 3.7

For each example, play the given pitch on piano and sing the indicated interval using the correct solfege syllable. Use an appropriate starting syllables for the given note. Adjust an octave higher or lower if needed.

Perfect and Major Intervals (ascending)


## Perfect and Major Intervals (descending)



Minor and Tritone Intervals (ascending)


## Solfege Exercises 3.8

For each example, play the given pitch on piano and sing the indicated interval using the correct solfege syllable. Use an appropriate starting syllable for the given note. Adjust an octave higher or lower if needed.

Minor and Tritone Intervals (descending)


All Intervals (ascending)


All Intervals (descending)


## Solfege Exercises 3.9

For each example, play the given pitch on piano and sing the indicated interval using the correct solfege syllable. Use an appropriate starting syllable for the given note. Adjust an octave higher or lower if needed.

All Intervals (ascending and descending)


## Ear Training Exercises 3.1

## CD 1 Tracks 3-15

Identify each of the following intervals played on the accompanying CD by writing the name of the interval (use abbrev.) in the blank and filling in the second note of the interval.

## CD 1, Track 3 - Perfect Intervals (ascending)

1. $\qquad$ 2. $\qquad$ 3. $\qquad$
2. 


$\qquad$
5. $\qquad$
6.
7. $\qquad$ 8.

-

Track 4 - Perfect Intervals (ascending)
2. $\qquad$ 3. $\qquad$ 4. $\qquad$

5. $\qquad$

6. $\qquad$

7. $\qquad$

8. $\qquad$

Track 5 - Major Intervals (ascending)


## Ear Training Exercises 3.1 (continued)

Track 6 - Major Intervals (descending)


Track 7 - Minor Intervals (ascending)


Track 8 - Minor Intervals (descending)


## Ear Training Exercises 3.1 (continued)

Track 9 - Perfect and Major Intervals (ascending)


## Track 10 - Perfect and Major Intervals (descending)



Track 11 - Minor and Tritone Intervals (ascending)


## Ear Training Exercises 3.1 (continued)

Track 12, Minor and Tritone Intervals (descending)


Track 13, All Intervals (ascending)


## Track 14 - All Intervals (descending)



## Ear Training Exercises 3.1 (continued)

Track 15 - All Intervals (ascending and descending)


## Student Notes

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# CHAPTER 4 

Modes



## TOPICS

- Modes of the Major Scale
- Modes of the Harmonic Minor Scale



## APPLICATION

Modes of the major and harmonic minor scale have been used as an important source of material in Western classical music, jazz, European folk songs and other musics of the world. A thorough knowledge of modal structures will enable the student to recognize and reproduce a much broader and more colorful range of melodies.

## Modes of the Major Scale

Modes of the major scale date back to medieval times and are still commonly used today in contemporary classical music and jazz. Since there are seven modes of the major scale, it is helpful to categorize each mode according to some of their distinguishing elements: (1) mode name, (2) mode number, (3) overall modality, (4) presence of any chromatic alterations from the major or natural minor scale and $(5)$ interval pattern. The following table should prove helpful for quick reference.

Table 4.1 Elements of the Modes of the Major Scale

| Mode Name | Mode \# | Modality | Alterations | Interval Pattern |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| lonian | Mode 1 | Major | None | $\mathrm{W}, \mathrm{W}, 1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, 1 / 2$ |
| Dorian | Mode 2 | Minor | Raised $6^{\text {th }}$ | $\mathrm{W}, 1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, 1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}$ |
| Phrygian | Mode 3 | Minor | Lowered $\mathrm{2}^{\text {nd }}$ | $1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, 1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}$ |
| Lydian | Mode 4 | Major | Raised 4th | $\mathrm{W}, \mathrm{W}, \mathrm{W}, 1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, 1 / 2$ |
| Mixolydian | Mode 5 | Major | Lowered 7th | $\mathrm{W}, \mathrm{W}, 1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, 1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}$ |
| Aeolian | Mode 6 | Minor | None | $\mathrm{W}, 1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, 1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}$ |
| Locrian | Mode 7 | Minor | Lowered nd $^{\text {nd }}$ and $5^{\text {th }}$ | $1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, 1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}$ |

As in the previous chapter on scales, use the four step process to master the recognition and reproduction of each of these modes. Repeat several times if necessary.

Step 1 - Play the mode several times slowly on piano (or your instrument) and listen carefully to the sound of each note of the mode.

Step 2 - Practice matching each note of the mode by first playing it on piano or your instrument and then singing it with the appropriate solfege syllable and hand signal. Using a chromatic tuner during this step will enable you to see exactly how sharp or flat you are on each note of the mode.

Step 3 - Play the tonic note of the mode on the piano and sing up the entire mode using the appropriate solfege syllables and hand signals. When you reach the upper tonic note, play that note on piano to check the accuracy of your intonation. Then, sing down the entire mode and when you reach the lower tonic, check your pitch accuracy with the piano.

Step 4 - Sing the entire mode ascending and descending and when you reach the final tonic, check your pitch accuracy with the piano and/or tuner.

The lonian mode is a major scale (the parent scale) and uses do as its tonic pitch. It has a bright and cheerful quality. (You should already be adept at recognizing and singing this scale from your work in chapter three.)

## Example 4.1 Ionian Mode



The Dorian mode is the second mode of the major scale and is similar to a natural minor scale with a raised $6^{\text {th }}$ scale degree. It has a somewhat dark and pensive quality and uses re as its tonic pitch.

## Example 4.2 Dorian Mode



The Phrygian mode is the third mode of the major scale and is also similar to a natural minor scale with a lowered $2^{\text {nd }}$ scale degree. It has an exotic, mysterious quality which many listeners identify with Spanish melodies. The Phrygian mode uses mi as its tonic pitch.

## Example 4.3 Phrygian Mode



The Lydian mode is the fourth mode of the major scale and is similar to a major scale with a raised $4^{\text {th }}$ scale degree. It has the brightest sound of any of the modes and has an aggressive, piercing quality. The Lydian mode uses fa as its tonic pitch.


The Mixolydian mode is the fifth mode of the major scale and is similar to a major scale with a lowered $7^{\text {th }}$ scale degree. It has a somewhat bright and suspended quality and uses sol as its tonic pitch.

## Example 4.5 Mixolydian mode



The Aeolian mode, the sixth mode of the major scale, is a natural minor scale and uses la as its tonic pitch. It has a dark and somber quality.

## Example 4.6 Aeolian Mode



The Locrian mode is the seventh mode of the major scale and can be constructed by taking a natural minor scale and lowering the $2^{\text {nd }}$ and $5^{\text {th }}$ scale degrees. It has the darkest sound of any of the modes and uses $t i$ as its tonic pitch.

## Example 4.7 Locrian Mode



## Modes of the Harmonic Minor Scale

Used abundantly in European folk music and contemporary jazz, the modes of the harmonic minor scale are exotic and very colorful. There are seven modes and each one contains chromatic alterations of the major modes. Again, it is helpful to categorize each mode according to some of their distinguishing elements: (1) mode name (quality), (2) mode number, (3) overall modality, (4) presence of chromatic alterations from major mode and (5) interval pattern. Notice that as you move up the modes of the harmonic minor scale (from 1-7) the chromatic alteration (si) goes down from the $7^{\text {th }}$ degree. As mentioned in Chapter 2, the augmented second interval gives these modes their unique quality. Many students successfully identify the modes of the harmonic scale by simply listening for the exact location of the augmented $2^{\text {nd }}$ interval.

Table 4.2 Modes of the Harmonic Minor Scale and Their Elements

| Mode Name | Mode \# | Modality | Alterations | Interval Pattern |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Aeolian $\# 7$ | Mode 1 | Minor | Raised 7th | $\mathrm{W}, 1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, 1 / 2,11 / 2,1 / 2$ |
| Locrian $\# 6$ | Mode 2 | Minor | Raised $6^{\text {th }}$ | $1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, 1 / 2,11 / 2,1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}$ |
| lonian $\# 5$ | Mode 3 | Major | Raised 5th | $\mathrm{W}, \mathrm{W}, 1 / 2,11 / 2,1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, 1 / 2$ |
| Dorian $\# 4$ | Mode 4 | Minor | Raised 4th | $\mathrm{W}, 1 / 2,11 / 2,1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, 1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}$ |
| Phrygian $\# 3$ | Mode 5 | Minor | Raised 3rd | $1 / 2,11 / 2,1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, 1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}$ |
| Lydian $\# 2$ | Mode 6 | Major | Raised 2 nd | $1112,1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, 1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, 1 / 2$ |
| Locrian $b 4$, b7 | Mode 7 | Minor | Lowered 4th and 7th | $1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, 1 / 2, \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{~W}, 1 / 2,11 / 2$ |

As with modes of the major scale, use the four step process to master the recognition and reproduction of each of these modes. Repeat several times if necessary.

Step 1 - Play the mode several times slowly on piano (or your instrument) and listen carefully to the sound of each note of the mode.

Step 2 - Practice matching each note of the mode by first playing it on piano or your instrument and then singing it with the appropriate solfege syllable and hand signal. Using a chromatic tuner during this step will enable you to see exactly how sharp or flat you are on each note of the mode.

Step 3 - Play the tonic note of the mode on the piano and sing up the entire mode using the appropriate solfege syllables and hand signals. When you reach the upper tonic note, play that note on piano to check the accuracy of your intonation. Then, sing down the entire mode and when you reach the lower tonic, check your pitch accuracy with the piano.

Step 4 - Sing the entire mode ascending and descending and when you reach the final tonic, check your pitch accuracy with the piano and/or tuner.

The Aeolian \#7 mode is a harmonic minor scale (the parent scale) and as the first mode, uses la as its tonic syllable. It has a darker quality but with a bright edge and the interval of the augmented $2^{\text {nd }}$ is between scale degrees six and seven.

## Example 4.8 Aeolian \#7 Mode



The Locrian \#6 mode is the second mode of the harmonic minor scale and uses $t i$ as its tonic syllable. It has a dark and tense quality and the augmented $2^{\text {nd }}$ is between scale degrees five and six.

Example 4.9 Locrian \#6 Mode


The lonian \#5 mode is the third mode of the harmonic minor scale and uses do as its tonic syllable. It has a bright and noble quality and the augmented $2^{\text {nd }}$ is between scale degrees four and five.

Example 4.10 Ionian \#5 Mode


The Dorian \#4 mode is the fourth mode of the harmonic minor scale and uses re as its tonic syllable. It has a mellow yet searching quality and the augmented $2^{\text {nd }}$ is between scale degrees three and four.

## Example 4.11 Dorian \#4 Mode



The Phrygian \#3 mode is the fifth mode of the harmonic minor scale and uses mi as its tonic syllable. It has a dark, exotic quality and the augmented $2^{\text {nd }}$ is between scale degrees two and three.

## Example 4.12 Phrygian \#3 Mode



The Lydian \#2 mode is the sixth mode of the harmonic minor scale and uses fa as its tonic syllable. It has a bright, piercing quality and the augmented $2^{\text {nd }}$ is between scale degrees one and two.

## Example 4.13 Lydian \#2 Mode



The Locrian b 4, b 7 mode is the seventh and final mode of the harmonic minor scale and uses si as its tonic syllable. It has an extremely dark and mysterious quality and the augmented $2^{\text {nd }}$ is between scale degrees seven and one.

## Example 4.14 Locrian b 4, b 7 Mode



## Solfege Exercises 4.1

Play the following mode exercises on piano (or your instrument), then sing using the correct solfege syllables. As you work through each exercise, check your intonation periodically with the piano and/or a tuner.

B. $\quad d=60-80$


Solfege Exercises 4.1 (continued)


## Solfege Exercises 4.2

A. Sing the indicated mode of the major scale above the given tonic note (ascending and descending) using the correct solfege syllables. Periodically, check your intonation with the piano and/or a tuner.


D Locrian
A lonian


> F Mixolydian E Dorian


Bb Phrygian
F\# Mixolydian

G Locrian
D Lydian


## Solfege Exercises 4.2 (continued)

B. Sing the indicated mode of the harmonic minor scale above the given tonic note (ascending and descending) using the correct solfege syllables. Periodically, check your intonation with the piano and/or a tuner.


C Aeolian \#7


## G Phrygian \#3



## Ear Training Exercises 4.1

CD 1, Track 16
A. Identify each of the following modes of the major scale played on the accompanying CD by writing in the mode name in the blank. Then, fill in the correct notes above the given root and write in the correct key signature for the mode.
$\qquad$ 2. $\qquad$

3. $\qquad$
4. $\qquad$

5. $\qquad$ 6. $\qquad$

7. $\qquad$ 8. $\qquad$

9. $\qquad$ 10. $\qquad$

11. $\qquad$

$\qquad$

14. $\qquad$

## Ear Training Exercises 4.1 (continued)

CD 1, Track 17
B. Identify each of the following modes of the harmonic minor scale played on the accompanying CD. Fill in the mode name in the blank and write in the correct notes above the given root and write in the correct key signature for the mode. Be sure to include appropriate accidentals.

1. $\qquad$
2. $\qquad$

3. $\qquad$
4. $\qquad$

5. $\qquad$
6. $\qquad$

7. 
8. $\qquad$
9. $\qquad$

10. 


13. $\qquad$ 14. $\qquad$


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## Student Notes



# CHAPTER 5 

# Melodic Dictation 

## TOPICS

- Dictation Procedures
- Dictation Exercises


## APPLICATION

A melodic dictation routine will increase a student's ability to hear and notate all melodic aspects of music. The routine will also assist the development of identifying harmonic and rhythmic aspects of music.

## Introduction

Melodic dictation is the skill of hearing a melody played live or on recording and being able to rapidly and accurately notate it on paper or into a music notation program.
Because melody is such an important part of the musical landscape, one of the most important skills a musician can possess is the ability to quickly recognize and reproduce melodic material. Once we become adept at notating melodies, other musical elements such as harmony and rhythm will come much easier. As we did with the singing of scales, intervals and modes, we will break down our melodic dictation routine into a series of short steps.

Step 1 - Listen to the entire melody once. Answer questions such as: (1) Is it in major or minor key? (2) Is it largely stepwise or does it skip frequently? (3) Is the prevailing rhythm based on quarter notes or eighth notes? (4) Does it start and end on tonic or another chord tone? If so, notate the starting and ending pitch.

Step 2 - Listen to the melody a second time and begin to notate pitches from the melody. You should do this by moving your pencil across the staff paper in tempo and marking a notehead or slash (no stem) for each pitch you recognize. This allows you to move quickly by just focusing on the melodic aspect of the music. Identify rhythmic values by placing eighth notes close together, quarter notes farther apart, half notes even farther, etc. (See example below.) It is OK to skip parts of bars or entire bars where you are not sure of pitches. The important thing is to keep your pencil moving to the end of the melody. Be sure to silently use solfege syllables to ensure pitch accuracy.

Step 3 - Listen to the melody a third time. Notate pitches that you missed in step 2. Fill in stems and beams to complete the rhythmic aspect of the music.

Step 4 - Listen to the entire melody a fourth time and silently sing along with the melody using solfege syllables. Correct any last melodic or rhythmic errors in your dictation.

Points to keep in mind: (1) Many students come up with successful variations on these steps that work particularly well for them, so feel free to experiment; (2) Depending on the difficulty of a melody, you may be able to combine steps or you may need additional hearings to complete the notation; (3) Like other aspects of music, the more you practice taking melodic dictation both in and outside the classroom, the more adept at it you will become.

## Example 5.1 Step 2 of Melodic Dictation Routine



## Level 1 Dictation Melodies CD 1, Tracks 18-28

Write out each of the following melodies exactly as played on the accompanying CD.
Melody \#1, Track 18


Melody \#3, Track 20


Melody \#4, Track 21


Melody \#7, Track 24


Melody \#8, Track 25


## Level 2 Dictation Melodies CD 2, Tracks 1-11

Write out each of the following melodies exactly as played on the accompanying CD.
Melody \#1, Track 1


Melody \#2, Track 2


Melody \#3, Track 3


Melody \#4, Track 4


Melody \#6, Track 6


## Level 2 Dictation Melodies (continued)

Melody \#7, Track 7


Melody \#8, Track 8


Melody \#9, Track 9


Melody \#10, Track 10


Melody \#11, Track 11


## Level 3 Dictation Melodies CD 2, Tracks 12-23

Write out each of the following melodies exactly as played on the accompanying CD.
Melody \#1, Track 12


Melody \#3, Track 14


Melody \#4, Track 15


Melody \#5, Track 16


Melody \#6, Track 17


## Level 3 Dictation Melodies (continued)

Melody \#8, Track 19


Melody \#9, Track 20


Melody \#10, Track 21


Melody \#11, Track 22


Melody \#12, Track 23


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## Level 4 Dictation Melodies CD 2, Tracks 24-33

Write out each of the melodies exactly as played on the accompanying CD.
Melody \# 1, Track 24


Melody \# 2, Track 25


Melody \# 4, Track 27


## Level 4 Dictation Melodies (continued)

Melody \# 6, Track 29


Melody \# 7, Track 30


Melody \# 8, Track 31


Melody \# 10, Track 33


## Level 5 Dictation Melodies CD 2, Tracks 34-43

Write out each of the melodies exactly as played on the accompanying CD.
Melody \# 1, Track 34


Melody \# 2, Track 35


Melody \# 3, Track 36


Melody \# 5, Track 38


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## Level 5 Dictation Melodies (continued)



Melody \# 7, Track 40


Melody \# 8, Track 41


Melody \# 9, Track 42


## Level 6 Dictation Melodies CD 2, Tracks 44-48

Write out each of the melodies exactly as played on the accompanying CD.
Melody \#1, Track 44


Melody \#2, Track 45


Melody \#3, Track 46


Melody \#4, Track 47


Melody \#5, Track 48


## Level 7 Dictation Melodies CD 2, Tracks 49-53

Write out each of the melodies exactly as played on the accompanying CD.


Melody \#2, Track 50


Melody \#3, Track 51


Melody \#4, Track 52


Melody \#5, Track 53



## Student Notes



## CHAPTER 6

## Sightsinging

## TOPICS

## - Ability Levels and Descriptions

- Repertoire Examples

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## APPLICATION

The ability to scan a musical line (or combination of lines), hear the individual pitches in your head and sing them accurately is a vital skill for any serious student of music. The development of this skill will increase the student's artistic and technical capabilities and prepare them for professional work in the music field.

## Introduction

Professional musicians often make their living by reading an enormous variety of ensemble music they have little or no time to prepare. Their success depends on their ability to instantly recognize melodic, harmonic and rhythmic elements as well as musical indications of style, tempo and volume. By breaking down pitch and rhythm elements to their simplest foundation and methodically building on that foundation using the solfege system discussed in this text, any musician can prepare themselves to successfully read a variety of musical excerpts at sight.

It is the opinion of this author and many other music educators that the most effective way of teaching sightsinging is by using excerpts taken from the standard classical, jazz and folk song repertoire of the past three hundred years. Not only will this method present the kind of melodies, rhythms and other elements students will encounter in all of their musical activities, but it will also familiarize the student with a sampling of the important repertoire every serious musician must know. The following tables take well over 100 important pieces in American and European tonal literature (symphonic themes, jazz standards, chamber music themes, children's songs, patriotic songs, American and European folk songs) and arrange them into 10 skill levels of increasing difficulty.

## Sightsinging Checklist

When practicing each one of these melodies, it is important to use a short sightreading checklist before you sing. This checklist will help you recognize and process vital information that will increase your accuracy in sightreading.

Step 1: Identify clef, key signature and time signature and note any changes that may occur throughout the melody. Determine whether the melody is in major or minor key by looking at the key signature, starting note, final note and any accompanying harmony.

Step 2: Identify tempo and style and note any changes that may occur throughout the melody. Silently hum the first two bars of the melody to get a feel for tempo and style.

Step 3: Identify rhythmic patterns and groupings and subdivide down to the smallest (quickest) note value present in the melody.

Step 4: Identify accidentals, articulations, and dynamics that occur throughout the melody.

Now that you have a checklist, you are ready to begin singing through each of the melodies in level one. Set your metronome at least 20 beats slower than the tempo marked and sing through the entire melody (using solfege syllables and hand signs) without stopping. (Mistakes are to be expected at first but will diminish as you get more proficient.) After reading through the melody at least twice, you can isolate difficult passages at slower tempos.

## SIGHTSINGING EXCERPTS

## Level 1 Musical Elements

- Key: Major
- Melody: diatonic and largely stepwise
- Range: less than an octave
- Meter: simple
- Tempo: moderate
- Rhythmic division: half notes, quarter notes, dotted quarter notes


## Table 6.1 Repertoire Excerpts - Level 1

| TITLE | COMPOSER | GENRE | *SOURCE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| America (My Country Tis' of Thee) | Traditional | Anthem | A.A.F.S. page 148 |
| Are You Sleeping? (Frère Jacques) | Traditional | Children's Song | P.P.Y.C. page 20 |
| Bye, Bye Blackbird | Henderson | Jazz Standard | T.N.R.B. Vol. 2, page 35 |
| Eine Kleine Nachtmusik ( $3^{\text {rd }}$ Movement) | Mozart | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 245 |
| Give My Regards to Broadway | Cohan | Show Tune | A.A.F.S. page 296 |
| New World Symphony No. 9 ( $2^{\text {nd }}$ Movement) | Dvořák | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 152 |
| Oh! Susanna | Foster | Folk Song | P.P.Y.C. page 30 |
| Symphony No. 9 (Ode to Joy) (4 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ Movement) | Beethoven | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 84 |
| Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star | Traditional | Children's Song | Instructor Handout |
| Yankee Doodle | Traditional | Patriotic Song | A.A.F.S. page 12 |

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## Level 2 Musical Elements

- Key: Major
- Melody: diatonic, stepwise and skips (up to an octave)
- Range: up to one octave
- Meter: simple
- Tempo: moderate
- Rhythmic division: quarter notes, dotted quarter notes, eighth notes


## Table 6.2 Repertoire Excerpts - Level 2

| TITLE | COMPOSER | GENRE | SOURCE |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| German National <br> Anthem | Haydn | Anthem | T.C.F. page 200 |
| Happy Birthday to <br> You | Hill | Children's Song | Instructor Handout |
| I Got Rhythm | Gershwin | Jazz Standard | Instructor Handout |
| Londonderry Air | Traditional | Folk Song | A.A.F.S. page 18 |
| Lullaby | Brahms | Children's Song | T.C.F. page 97 |
| Marine's Hymn | *Offenbach | Patriotic Hymn | A.A.F.S. page 136 |
| Minuet in G Major | Bach | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 38 |
| My Little Suede <br> Shoes | Parker | Jazz Standard | J.C.F.B. page 327 |
| My Romance | Rodgers | Jazz Standard | T.N.R.B. page 229 |
| Old Folks at Home | Foster | Folk Song | A.A.F.S. page 58 |
| The Way You Look <br> Tonight | Kern | Jazz Standard | T.N.R.B. page 395 |
| Water Music <br> (Allegro Maestoso) | Handel | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 187 |
| When the Saints | Traditional | Jazz Standard | A.A.F.S. page 292 |

## Level 3 Musical Elements

- Key: Minor
- Melody: diatonic, stepwise and skips
- Range: one octave
- Meter: simple and compound
- Tempo: slow to moderate
- Rhythmic division: quarter notes, dotted quarter notes, eighth notes, dotted eighth notes

Table 6.3 Repertoire Excerpts - Level 3

| TITLE | COMPOSER | GENRE | SOURCE |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Bag's Groove | Jackson | Jazz Standard | J.C.F.B. page 34 |
| Full House | Montgomery | Jazz Standard | J.C.F.B. page 172 |
| Hatikva | Imber | Anthem (Israel) | Instructor Handout |
| In a Little French <br> Village | Tchaikovsky | Classical Work | P.P.Y.C. page 81 |
| L'Arlesienne | Bizet | Classical Work | Instructor Handout |
| Moldau | Smetana | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 320 |
| Poor Wayfaring <br> Stranger | Traditional | Spiritual | A.A.F.S. page 126 |
| Softly as a Morning <br> Sunrise | Romberg | Jazz Standard | Instructor Handout |
| St. James Infirmary | Traditional | Jazz Standard | A.A.F.S. page 262 |
| Summertime | Gershwin | Jazz Standard | Instructor Handout |
| Swan Lake | Tchaikovsky | Ballet Theme | T.C.F. page 379 |
| When Johnny <br> Comes Marchin' <br> Home Again | Gilmore | Folk Song | A.A.F.S. page 96 |

## Level 4 Musical Elements

- Key: Minor
- Melody: diatonic with one chromatic alteration, stepwise and skips
- Range: approx. one octave
- Meter: simple and compound
- Tempo: slow to moderate
- Rhythmic division: quarter notes, dotted quarter notes, eighth notes, dotted eighth notes, quarter note triplets

Table 6.4 Repertoire Excerpts - Level 4

| TITLE | COMPOSER | GENRE | SOURCE |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Ase's Death <br> (Peer Gynt) | Grieg | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 180 |
| Black Orfeus | Bonfa | Jazz Standard | T.N.R.B. Vol. 2, page 197 |
| Greensleeves | Traditional | Folk Song | A.A.F.S. page 14 |
| Go Down Moses | Traditional | Spiritual | A.A.F.S. page 345 |
| Mr. P.C. | Coltrane | Jazz Standard | T.N.R.B. Vol. 2, page 234 |
| Pavane | Faure | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 160 |
| Piano Sonata No. 8 <br> (3rd Movement) | Beethoven | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 62 |
| Symphony No. 40 <br> (First Movement) | Mozart | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 264 |
| Work Song | Adderly | Jazz Standard | J.C.F.B. page 535 |
| $*$ |  |  |  |

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## Level 5 Musical Elements

- Key: Major
- Melody: diatonic with chromatic alteration, stepwise and skips
- Range: up to an octave + a fifth
- Meter: simple and compound
- Tempo: slow, moderate, fast
- Rhythmic division: quarter notes, dotted quarter notes, eighth notes, dotted eighth notes

Table 6.5 Repertoire Excerpts - Level 5

| TITLE | COMPOSER | GENRE | SOURCE |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Amazing Grace | Traditional | Hymn | A.A.F.S. page 114 |
| Don't Get Around <br> Much Anymore | Ellington | Jazz Standard | T.N.R.B. page 432 |
| Everything <br> Happens to Me | Dennis | Jazz Standard | T.N.R.B. page 91 |
| Great Gate of Kiev | Mussorgsky | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 271 |
| Memories of You | Blake | Jazz Standard | T.N.R.B. page 202 |
| My Shining Hour | Arlen | Jazz Standard | T.N.R.B. page 230 |
| Piano Sonata No. 8 <br> (2nd Movement ) | Beethoven | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 62 |
| Pomp and <br> Circumstance | Elgar | March (Classical) | T.C.F. page 154 |
| Samba De Orfeo | Bonfa | Jazz Standard | Instructor Handout |
| Speak Low | Jeil | Jazz Standard | T.N.R.B. page 435 |
| St. Thomas | Jollins | T.N.R.B. page 340 |  |
| There Will Never <br> Be Another You | Warren | Folk Song | P.P.Y.C. page 57 |
| Turkey in the Straw | Traditional | Jazz Standard | T.N.R.B. Vol. 2 page 479 |
| Without a Song | Youmans |  |  |

## Level 6 Musical Elements

- Key: Major
- Melody: diatonic, stepwise and skips
- Range: up to an octave + a fifth
- Meter: simple and compound
- Tempo: slow, moderate, fast
- Rhythmic division: quarter notes, dotted quarter notes, eighth notes, dotted eighth notes, sixteenth notes, eighth note triplets

Table 6.6 Repertoire Excerpts - Level 6

| TITLE | COMPOSER | GENRE | SOURCE |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| All I Ask of You | Webber | Show Tune | Instructor Handout |
| Bolero | Ravel | Classical Work | Instructor Handout |
| Carmen <br> (Entrance to Act III) | Bizet | Opera Theme | T.C.F. page 88 |
| Eine Kleine <br> Nachtmusik <br> $\left(1^{\text {st }}\right.$ Movement) | Mozart | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 244 |
| Emperor Waltz | Strauss, Jr. | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 335 |
| Jesu, Joy of Man's <br> Desiring | Bach | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 36 |
| Misty | Garner | Jazz Standard | T.N.R.B. page 434 |
| Nutcracker March | Tchaikovsky | Ballet Theme | T.C.F. page 375 |
| Semper Fidelis <br> $\left(2^{\text {nd }}\right.$ Theme) | Sousa | March | T.C.F. page 324 |
| Star Spangled Banner | Smith/ Key | Anthem | A.A.F.S. page 138 |
| Trumpet Concerto <br> $\left(1^{\text {st }}\right.$ Movement) | Haydn | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 202 |
| Trumpet Concerto <br> $\left(3^{\text {rd }}\right.$ Movement) | Haydn | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 203 |

## Level 7 Musical Elements

- Key: Minor
- Melody: diatonic with several chromatic alterations, stepwise and skips
- Range: up to an octave + a fifth
- Meter: simple and compound
- Tempo: slow, moderate, fast
- Rhythmic division: quarter notes, dotted quarter notes, eighth notes, dotted eighth notes, sixteenth notes

Table 6.7 Repertoire Excerpts - Level 7

| TITLE | COMPOSER | GENRE | SOURCE |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Autumn Leaves | Kosma | Jazz Standard | T.N.R.B. page 12 |
| Beautiful Love | Young | Jazz Standard | T.N.R.B. page 16 |
| Für Elise | Beethoven | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 37 |
| Little Fugue in G <br> Minor | Bach | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 37 |
| The Promise | Coltrane | Jazz Standard | T.N.R.B. page 292 |
| Two-Part Invention <br> in D Minor | Bach | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 55 |
| Yesterdays | Kern | Jazz Standard | T.N.R.B. page 409 |
| $*$ |  |  |  |
| $*$ |  |  |  |
| $*$ |  |  |  |

[^2]Level 8 Musical Elements:

- Key: Major and Minor with modulations
- Melody: stepwise and skips
- Range: up to an octave + a fifth
- Meter: simple and compound
- Tempo: slow, moderate, fast
- Rhythmic division: all types

Table 6.8 Repertoire Excerpts - Level 8

| TITLE | COMPOSER | GENRE | SOURCE |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| America, the <br> Beautiful | Ward | Patriotic Song | P.P.Y.C. page 29 |
| Blue Bossa | Dorham | Jazz Standard | T.N.R.B. page 25 |
| Bridal Chorus <br> (Lohengrin) | Wagner | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 398 |
| Cherokee | Noble | Jazz Standard | T.N.R.B. page 47 |
| Little Sunflower | Hubbard | Jazz Standard | T.N.R.B. page 189 |
| Morning (Peer Gynt) | Grieg | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 183 |
| Stars and Stripes <br> Forever | Sousa | March | T.C.F. page 325 |
| The Swan <br> (Carnival of the <br> Animals) | Saint-Saëns | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 306 |
| Trumpet Tune | Purcell | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 288 |
| Waltz for Debby | Evans | Jazz Standard | J.C.F.B. page 514 |
| Peace | Silver | Jazz Standard | T.N.R.B. page 280 |

## Level 9 Musical Elements:

- Modality/ Key: Various Modes of the Major and Harmonic Minor Scale
- Melody: diatonic to mode
- Range: up to an octave $+a$ fifth
- Meter: simple and compound
- Tempo: various
- Rhythmic division: various


## Table 6.9 Repertoire Excerpts - Level 9

| TITLE \& MODE | COMPOSER | GENRE | SOURCE |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Andalucia (Phrygian) | Rudnick | Jazz Work | Instructor Handout |
| Footprints (Dorian) | Shorter | Jazz Standard | J.C.F.B. page 163 |
| Hava Nagila (Phrygian \#3) | Traditional | Folk Song | A.A.F.S. page 172 |
| Gastineau Dawn <br> (Mixolydian) | Rudnick | Jazz Work | Instructor Handout |
| Impressions (Dorian) | Coltrane | Jazz Standard | J.C.F.B. page 216 |
| Leaning Towers (Locrian) | Rudnick | Jazz Work | Instructor Handout |
| New Age (Aeolian \#7) | Rudnick | Jazz Work | Instructor Handout |
| Rake Break (Lydian) | Rudnick | Jazz Work | Instructor Handout |
| Scarborough Fair <br> (Dorian) | Traditional | Folk Song | A.A.F.S. page 138 |
| * |  |  |  |

[^3]
## Level 10 Musical Elements:

- Key: Major and Minor
- Melody: diatonic with chromatic alterations
- Range: up to an octave + a fifth
- Meter: odd and alternating
- Tempo: various
- Rhythmic division: various

Table 6.10 Repertoire Excerpts - Level 10

| TITLE \& MODE | COMPOSER | GENRE | SOURCE |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Candide (Overture) | Bernstein | Classical Work | Score Excerpt |
| Decoupage | Levy | Jazz Standard | Score Excerpt |
| Pictures at an <br> Exhibition | Mussorgsky | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 271 |
| Rite of Spring <br> (Opening) | Stravinsky | Classical Work | T.C.F. page 352 |
| Take Five | Desmond | Jazz Standard | J.C.F.B. page 470 |
| Take Ten | Desmond | Jazz Standard | J.C.F.B. page 472 |
| Time for a Change | Levy | Jazz Standard | Score Excerpt |
| $*$ |  |  |  |
| $*$ |  |  |  |
| $*$ |  |  |  |

[^4]
## Abbreviation Key to Sightsinging Source Material

A.A.F.S. America's All Time Favorite Songs AMSCO publications
T.C.F. The Classical Fakebook Hal Leonard Corporation
J.C.F.B. Real Jazz Classics Fake Book Hal Leonard, publisher
P.P.Y.C. Piano Pieces for Young Children AMSCO publications
T.N.R.B. The New Real Book Sher Music Company
T.N.R.B. Vol. 2 The New Real Book Volume 2 Sher Music Company

## Student Notes



## CHAPTER 7

# Triads and Seventh Chords 

## TOPICS

- Triads in Root Position
- Triads in Inversion
- Seventh Chords in Root Position
- Seventh Chords in Inversion


## APPLICATION

Applying solfege to the melodic outlining of triads and seventh chords enables the student to recognize and reproduce virtually all common harmonic structures in a tonal setting.

## Introduction

The most common way of establishing tonality in classical and popular music is through the use of triads and seventh chords. These triads and seventh chords form the basis for most harmonic formulas that we encounter in Western tonal music. In this chapter we will master the hearing and singing of all four types of triads (major, minor, diminished and augmented) and seven types of seventh chords (major, dominant, minor, half-diminished, fully diminished, augmented-major and minor-major). We will examine triads and seventh chords in both root position and inversions.

## Root Position Triads

All four types of root position triads can be constructed by stacking thirds up from each note of the major and harmonic minor scale. Using the moveable do solfege system helps us distinguish between two of the same triad types that are built off of different scale degrees and therefore have different functions and syllables.

The root position major triad consists of the root (do), third (mi) and fifth (sol) degrees of a major scale. Example 7.1 illustrates a D major triad in root position.

Example 7.1 D Major triad in root position


The root position minor triad consists of the root (la), third (do) and fifth (mi) degrees of a minor scale (any form). Example 7.2 illustrates a B minor triad in root position.

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Example 7.2 B Minor triad in root position
```



The root position diminished triad consists of the seventh ( $t i$ ), second (re) and fourth (fa) degrees of a major scale. Example 7.3 illustrates a $\mathrm{C} \#$ diminished triad in root position.

Example 7.3 C\# Diminished triad in root position


The root position augmented triad consists of the third (do), fifth (mi) and raised seventh (si) scale degrees of a harmonic minor scale. Example 7.4 illustrates a D augmented triad in root position.

## Example 7.4 D Augmented triad in Root Position



Example 7.5 illustrates where all the triad types occur in the major and three forms of the minor scale.

Example 7.5 Diatonic Triads in the Major and Three Forms of the Minor Scale

Major Scale


Natural Minor


Melodic Minor


Triads In Inversion
The major triad in $1^{\text {st }}$ inversion consists of the third (mi), fifth (sol) and root (do) of a major scale. The major triad in $2^{\text {nd }}$ inversion consists of the fifth (sol), root (do) and third (mi) of a major scale. Example 7.6 illustrates a $1^{\text {st }}$ and $2^{\text {nd }}$ inversion major triad in the key of $D$. Practice singing this example in at least three different keys.

Example 7.6 D Major Triad in Inversions


The minor triad in $1^{\text {st }}$ inversion consists of the third (do), fifth (mi) and root (la) of a minor scale. The minor triad in $2^{\text {nd }}$ inversion consists of the fifth (mi), root (la) and third (do) of a minor scale. Example 7.7 illustrates a $1^{\text {st }}$ and $2^{\text {nd }}$ inversion minor triad in the key of $b$ minor. Practice singing this example in at least three different keys.

Example 7.7 B Minor Triad in Inversions


The diminished triad in $1^{\text {st }}$ inversion consists of the second (re), fourth (fa) and seventh (ti) degrees of the major scale. The diminished triad in $2^{\text {nd }}$ inversion consists of the fourth ( $f a$ ), seventh ( $t i$ ) and second (re) scale degrees of a major scale. Example 7.8 illustrates a $1^{\text {st }}$ and $2^{\text {nd }}$ inversion $C \#$ diminished triad. Practice singing this example in at least three different keys.

## Example 7.8 C\# Diminished Triad in Inversions



2nd inversion


The augmented triad in $1^{\text {st }}$ inversion consists of the third (mi), raised fifth (si) and root (do) of the major scale. The augmented triad in $2^{\text {nd }}$ inversion consists of the raised fifth (si), root (do) and third (mi) of a major scale. Example 7.9 illustrates a $1^{\text {st }}$ and $2^{\text {nd }}$ inversion D augmented triad. Practice singing this example in at least three different keys.

Example 7.9 D Augmented Triad in Inversions


## Root Position Seventh Chords

The root position major seventh chord consists of the root (do), third (mi), fifth (sol) and seventh ( $t i$ ) degrees of a major scale. Example 7.10 illustrates an Eb Major Seventh Chord in root position.

Example 7.10 Eb Major Seventh Chord, Root Position


The root position dominant seventh chord consists of the fifth (sol), seventh (ti), second (re) and fourth (fa) degrees of a major scale. Example 7.11 illustrates a Bb Dominant Seventh Chord in root position.

Example 7.11 Bb Dominant Seventh Chord, Root Position


The root position minor seventh chord consists of the root (la), third (do), fifth (mi) and seventh (sol) degrees of a minor scale. Example 7.12 illustrates an C Minor Seventh Chord in root position.

Example 7.12 C Minor Seventh Chord, Root Position


The root position half-diminished seventh chord consists of the seventh ( $t i$ ), second (re), fourth (fa) and sixth (la) degrees of a major scale or second, fourth, sixth and root of a minor scale. Example 7.13 illustrates an D Half-Diminished Seventh Chord in root position.

Example 7.13 D Half-Diminished Seventh Chord, Root Position


The root position diminished seventh chord consists of the seventh (si), second (ti), fourth (re) and sixth (fa) degrees of a harmonic minor scale. Example 7.14 illustrates a B Diminished Seventh Chord in root position.

Example 7.14 B Diminished Seventh Chord, Root Position


The root position minor-major seventh chord consists of the root (la), third (do), fifth ( $m i$ ), and seventh degrees of a harmonic minor scale. Example 7.15 illustrates a C Minor-Major Seventh Chord in root position.

Example 7.15 C Minor-Major Seventh Chord, Root Position


The root position augmented-major seventh chord consists of the third (do), fifth (mi), seventh (si) and second (ti) degrees of a harmonic minor scale. Example 7.16 illustrates an Eb Augmented-Major Seventh Chord in root position.

Example 7.16 Eb Augmented-Major Seventh Chord, Root Position


Example 7.17 illustrates where all the seventh chord types occur in the major and three forms of the minor scale.

## Example 7.17 Seventh Chords in the Major and Three Forms of the Minor Scale



Natural Minor


Harmonic Minor


Melodic Mınor (ascendıng)


## Seventh Chords in Inversion

The major seventh chord in $1^{\text {st }}$ inversion consists of the third ( $m i$ ), fifth (sol) seventh (ti) and root (do) of a major scale. The major seventh chord in $2^{\text {nd }}$ inversion consists of the fifth (sol), seventh (ti), root (do) and third (mi) of a major scale. The major seventh chord in 3rd inversion consists of the seventh (ti), root (do), third (mi) and fifth (sol) of a major scale. Example 7.18 illustrates the Bb Major Seventh Chord in all inversions. Practice singing this example in at least three different keys.


The dominant seventh chord in $1^{\text {st }}$ inversion consists of the seventh (ti), second (re), fourth (fa) and fifth (sol) of a major scale. The dominant seventh chord in $2^{\text {nd }}$ inversion consists of the second (re), fourth (fa), fifth (sol) and seventh ( $t i$ ) of a major scale. The dominant seventh chord in 3rd inversion consists of the fourth (fa), fifth (sol), seventh ( $t i$ ) and second (re) scale degrees of a major scale. Example 7.19 illustrates the $F$ Dominant Seventh Chord in all inversions. Practice singing this example in at least three different keys.

Example 7.19 F Dominant Seventh Chord in Inversions


3rd inversion


The minor seventh chord in $1^{\text {st }}$ inversion consists of the third (do), fifth (mi), seventh (sol) and root (la) of a natural minor scale. The minor seventh chord in $2^{\text {nd }}$ inversion consists of the fifth (mi), seventh (sol), root (la) and third (do) of a natural minor scale. The minor seventh chord in 3rd inversion consists of the seventh (sol), root (la), third (do) and fifth (mi) of a natural minor scale. Example 7.20 illustrates the $G$ Minor Seventh Chord in all inversions. Practice singing this example in at least three different keys.

Example 7.20 G Minor Seventh Chord in Inversions


The half-diminished seventh chord in $1^{\text {st }}$ inversion consists of the fourth (re), sixth (fa), root (la) and second ( $t i$ ) of a natural minor scale. The half-diminished seventh chord in $2^{\text {nd }}$ inversion consists of the sixth (fa), root (la), second ( $t i$ ) and fourth (re) of a natural minor scale. The half-diminished chord in 3rd inversion consists of the root (la), second ( $t i$ ) fourth (re) and sixth (fa) of a natural minor scale. Example 7.21 illustrates the A HalfDiminished Seventh Chord in all inversions. Practice singing this example in at least three different keys.

Example 7.21 A Half-Diminished Seventh Chord in Inversions


The diminished seventh chord in $1^{\text {st }}$ inversion consists of the second ( $t i$ ), fourth (re), sixth (fa) and seventh (si) of a harmonic minor scale. The diminished seventh chord in $2^{\text {nd }}$ inversion consists of the fourth (re), sixth (fa), seventh (si) and second (ti) degrees of a harmonic minor scale. The diminished seventh chord in 3rd inversion consists of the sixth (fa), seventh (si), second ( $t i$ ) and fourth (re) of a harmonic minor scale. Example 7.22 illustrates the F\# Diminished Seventh Chord in all inversions. Practice singing this example in at least three different keys.

Example 7.22 F\# Diminished Seventh Chord in Inversions


The minor-major seventh chord in $1^{\text {st }}$ inversion consists of the third (do), fifth (mi), seventh(si) and root (la) of a harmonic minor scale. The minor-major seventh chord in $2^{\text {nd }}$ inversion consists of the fifth (mi), seventh (si), root (la) and the third (do) of a harmonic minor scale. The minor-major seventh chord in 3rd inversion consists of the seventh (si), root (la), third (do) and fifth (mi) of a harmonic minor scale. Example 7.23 illustrates the G Minor-Major Seventh Chord in all inversions. Practice singing this example in at least three different keys.

Example 7.23 G Minor-Major Seventh Chord in Inversions


The augmented-major seventh chord in $1^{\text {st }}$ inversion consists of the fifth (mi), seventh (si) second ( $t i$ ) and third (do) of a harmonic minor scale. The augmented major seventh chord in $2^{\text {nd }}$ inversion consists of the seventh (si), second ( $t i$ ), third (do) and fifth (mi) of a harmonic minor scale. The augmented major seventh chord in 3rd inversion consists of the second ( $t i$ ), third (do), fifth (mi) and seventh (si) of a harmonic minor scale. Example 7.24 illustrates the Bb Augmented-Major Seventh Chord in all inversions. Practice singing this example in at least three different keys.

## Example 7.24 <br> Bb Augmented Major Seventh Chord in Inversions



## Solfege Exercises 7.1

Play each of the following exercises slowly on piano first, then sing using the correct solfege syllables. Check your intonation with the piano and/or a tuner at the conclusion of each triad. Transpose each exercise to at least three different keys.


## Solfege Exercises 7.2

A. Sing the indicated triad above the given root note using the correct solfege syllables. Check your intonation with the piano and/or a tuner at the conclusion of each triad.


## Solfege Exercises 7.2 (continued)

B. Sing the indicated triad below the given root note using the correct solfege syllables. Check your intonation with the piano and/or a tuner at the conclusion of each triad.


## Solfege Exercises 7.3

Play each of the following exercises slowly on piano first, then sing using the correct solfege syllables. Check your intonation with the piano and/or a tuner at the start and conclusion of each exercise. Transpose each exercise to at least three different keys.


## Solfege Exercises 7.4

A. Sing the indicated triad in 1 st inversion above the given note. Be sure to use the correct solfege syllables and check your intonation with the piano and/or a tuner at the conclusion of each triad.

B. Sing the indicated triad in 2 nd inversion above the given note. Be sure to use the correct solfege syllables and check your intonation with the piano and/or a tuner at the conclusion of each triad.


## Solfege Exercises 7.5

A. Play each of the following exercises slowly on piano first, then sing using the correct solfege syllables. Check your intonation with the piano and/or a tuner at the conclusion of each seventh chord. Transpose each exercise to at least three different keys.


## Solfege Exercises 7.5 (continued)

B. Play each of the following exercises slowly on piano first, then sing using the correct solfege syllables. Check your intonation with the piano and/or a tuner at the conclusion of each seventh chord. Transpose each exercise to at least three different keys.

6. minor-major seventh


## Solfege Exercises 7.5 (continued)

C. Sing the indicated seventh chord above the given root note using the correct solfege syllables. Check your intonation with the piano and/or a tuner at the conclusion of each seventh chord.


## Solfege Exercises 7.6

Play each of the following exercises slowly on piano first, then sing using the correct solfege syllables. Check your intonation with the piano and/or a tuner at the start and conclusion of each exercise. Transpose each exercise to at least three different keys.


## Solfege Exercises 7.6 (continued)



## Ear Training Exercises 7.1 CD 2, Track 54

Identify each of the following root position triads played on the accompanying $C D$ by writing in the triad quality in the blank and filling in the correct notes above the indicated root.


## Ear Training Exercises 7.2 CD 2, Track 55

Identify each of the following triads played on the accompanying CD by writing in the triad quality in the first blank and the inversion in the second blank. Then, fill in the correct notes above the given root.
 $\qquad$ 3. $\qquad$

$\qquad$

6. $1 b 8$

8. $\qquad$ 9. $\qquad$

$\qquad$ .

10. $\qquad$

12. $\qquad$ ${ }^{*} 8$


## Ear Training Exercises 7.3 CD 2, Track 56

Identify each of the following root position seventh chords played on the accompanying CD by writing in the seventh chord quality in the blank and filling in the correct notes above the indicated root.

4. $\qquad$
5. $\qquad$ 6. $\qquad$


10. $\qquad$ 11. $\qquad$ 12. $\qquad$



## Ear Training Exercises 7.4 CD 2, Track 57

Identify each of the following seventh chords played on the accompanying CD by writing in the seventh chord quality in the first blank and the inversion in the second blank. Then, fill in the correct notes above the given root.


## Student Notes

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$\qquad$

$\qquad$


## CHAPTER 8

## Harmonic Progressions

## TOPICS

- Common Harmonic Progressions in Major Key
- Common Harmonic Progressions in Minor Key



## APPLICATION

Applying solfege to the melodic outlining of harmonic progressions enables the student to accurately hear and reproduce every chord in a diatonic progression.

## Introduction

Now that we have examined how to recognize and reproduce triads and seventh chords, we can now study them in musical contexts known as harmonic progressions. An harmonic progression can be defined as the systematic unfolding of chords that make up a complete idea, phrase, section or entire piece. By learning to melodically outline harmonic progressions in major and minor keys using solfege, we can gradually master the ability to recognize and reproduce the harmonic aspect of varied styles of tonal music.

Common Harmonic Progressions - Triads in Major Key
In this section, we will examine common major key harmonic progressions that employ triads. The simplest harmonic progressions in this category are the IVI progression or tonic - dominant - tonic (authentic cadence) and the I IVI or tonic - subdominant - tonic progression (plagal cadence). Example 8.1 illustrates both of these progressions in the key of C , first in their chordal form and then as a melodic outline. Play through the example on piano and then sing using solfege syllables.

## Example 8.1 I V ${ }^{6}$ I and I IV ${ }^{6} /{ }^{4}$ I Progression



Perhaps the most common progression in Western tonal music is I IV V I. Example 8.2 illustrates this progression in the key of Bb. First, play through the example on piano and then sing using solfege syllables.

Example 8.2 I IV ${ }^{6} /^{4}$ V $^{6}$ I Progression


A common variation on the preceding progression is I IVIV I. The V chord is often found in first inversion as either a triad or seventh chord. Example 8.3 illustrates this progression in the key of F. First, play through the example on piano and then sing using solfege syllables.

Example 8.3 I IV $6 / 4$ I V $^{6 / 5}$ I Progression


One of the most common and basic progressions found in popular music is I vi ii V. Entire songs have largely been based on this progression such as Heart and Soul and Gershwin's I Got Rhythm. Example 8.4 illustrates this progression in the key of G. First, play through the example on piano and then sing using solfege syllables.

Example 8.4 I vi ${ }^{6}$ ii V $6 / 5$ Progression


Progressions that contain three or more $1^{\text {st }}$ inversion triads are called parallel sixth chord sequences and are extremely common in Western classical pieces. One of the most common examples of this type of sequence is I vii ${ }^{6} \mathrm{I}^{6} \mathrm{ii}^{6}$. Example 8.5 illustrates this progression in the key of D. First, play through the example on piano and then sing using solfege syllables.

Example 8.5 I vii ${ }^{06} \mathrm{I}^{6} \mathrm{ii}^{6}$ Progression


One of the most common cadential progressions in classical music also uses the supertonic chord in $1^{\text {st }}$ inversion in addition to a cadential $6 / 4$ chord on the dominant. It is the $\mathrm{ii}^{6} \mathrm{I}^{6 / 4} \mathrm{~V}$ I progression. Example 8.6 illustrates this progression in the key of Eb. First, play through the example on piano and then sing using solfege syllables.

Example $8.6 \quad \mathrm{ii}^{6} \mathrm{I}^{6} / 4 \mathrm{~V}$ I Progression


One of the more common progressions in jazz is the iii vi ii V progression. Known as the turnaround, this progression (and many variants) is found in many jazz standards of the 30 s and 40 s as well as the bebop compositions of Charlie Parker and his contemporaries. Example 8.7 illustrates this progression in the key of Bb. First, play through the example on piano and then sing using solfege syllables.

Example 8.7 iii vi $6 / 4 i^{6} \mathrm{~V}^{4} /{ }^{2}$ Progression


The deceptive cadence features the unusual resolution of V to vi rather than the more expected I chord resolution. This cadence, found abundantly in classical music, is present in many progressions including the iii IVV vi progression. Example 8.8 illustrates this progression in the key of C . First, play through the example on piano and then sing using solfege syllables.

Example 8.8 iii $^{6}$ IV $^{6}$ V vi ${ }^{6} / 4$ Progression


Common Harmonic Progressions - Triads in Minor Key
Common minor key harmonic progressions, with a few exceptions, are largely the same harmonic patterns we have explored with the major keys. The difference, of course, is that they are all in the minor mode. Examples 8.9-8.15 illustrate minor key progressions (triadic) that fall into this category. Play through each of the examples on piano and then sing the example using solfege syllables.

Example $8.9 \quad \mathrm{i} \mathrm{V}^{6} \mathrm{i}$ and $\mathrm{i} \mathrm{iv}^{6} /{ }^{4} \mathrm{i}$ Progression


## Example 8.10 i iv $\mathbf{V}^{4} \mathrm{~V}^{6} \mathrm{i}$ Progression



Example 8.11 i iv6/4 i V6/5 i Progression


Example $8.12 \mathrm{i}^{\mathrm{V}} \mathrm{II}^{6} \mathrm{ii}^{0} \mathrm{~V}^{6} / 5$ Progression


Example 8.13 i vii ${ }^{06} \mathbf{i}^{6} \mathbf{i i}^{06}$ Progression


Example $8.14 \mathrm{ii}^{06} \mathrm{i}^{6} /{ }^{4} \mathrm{~V} \mathrm{i}^{6}$ Progression


Example 8.15 III VI ${ }^{6}{ }^{4}$ ii $^{06}$ V Progression


The next example is unique when compared to the major progressions as it contains the Phrygian half cadence. This half cadence, used only in the minor mode, features a move from the subdominant chord in first inversion to the dominant chord. Example 8.16 illustrates the commonly used III iv V progression which features this cadence.

## Example 8.16 III $^{6}$ iv $^{6}$ V Progression



Progressions that include a deceptive cadence in the minor mode, although not as common as the major mode examples, do occur. Example 8.17 illustrates the i ii ${ }^{0} \mathrm{~V}$ VI progression which features a deceptive cadence in minor.

Example 8.17 $\mathbf{i}^{6} \mathbf{i i}^{06} \mathrm{~V}^{4} /{ }^{2} \mathrm{VI}^{6} /{ }^{4}$ Progression


As you will discover in the solfege exercises on the next few pages, many of these shorter progressions we have just examined are combined to make longer and more complete harmonic phrases.

## Solfege Exercises 8.1

Fill in the blanks with a roman numeral analysis of each chord. Then, using the correct solfege syllables, sing the given outline of the harmonic progression.


## Solfege Exercises 8.2

Fill in the blanks with a roman numeral analysis of each chord. Then, using the correct solfege syllables, sing the given outline of the harmonic progression.


## Solfege Exercises 8.3

Play each of the following major progressions on piano then sing the melodic outlines using the correct solfege syllables.


## Solfege Exercises 8.4

Play each of the following minor progressions on piano then sing the melodic outlines using the correct solfege syllables.


## Ear Training Exercises 8.1 CD 2, Tracks 58-67

Write out each of the following major chord progressions exactly as played on the accompanying CD. Be sure to fill in a roman numeral analysis beneath each chord.
Each progression will be played twice with the top note of each triad being emphasized during the second playing.


I

Progression \#5, Track 62


## Ear Training Exercises 8.1 (continued)



I

$I^{6}$


Progression \#10, Track 67


## Ear Training Exercises 8.2 CD 2, Tracks 68-77

Write out each of the following minor chord progressions exactly as played on the accompanying CD. Be sure to fill in a roman numeral analysis beneath each chord. Each progression will be played twice with the top note of each triad being emphasized during the second playing.

Progression \#1, Track 68

i

i
Progression \#4, Track 71

$\mathbf{i}^{6}$
Progression \#5, Track 72

$\mathbf{i}^{6}$
Progression \#6, Track 73


## Ear Training Exercises 8.2 (continued)



Progression \#8, Track 75


$$
V^{6} / 5
$$

Progression \#9, Track 76


V

Progression \#10, Track 77


III $+{ }^{6}$

## Student Notes



## CHAPTER 9

## Simple Duple, Triple and Quadruple Meter

## TOPICS

- Durational Symbols
- Beat Division and Subdivision
- Common Rhythmic Patterns and Groupings



## APPLICATION

Dividing up the bar into equal divisions and subdivisions and attaching rhythm syllables to those subdivisions will enable the student to master the intricacies of rhythm. A knowledge of common rhythmic patterns and groupings that occur in simple duple, triple and quadruple meter will firmly provide the student with a foundation for understanding rhythm structures in more complex settings.

## Introduction

Simple duple, triple and quadruple meters are meters that have two, three or four beats per bar and feature a division of the beat into two parts. In these meters, any of the following notes can receive the beat: (1) whole, (2) half, (3) quarter, (4) eighth, (5) sixteenth, (6) thirty second, etc.

Example 9.1 Simple Duple, Triple and Quadruple Meters


The ability to accurately read rhythmic patterns in these meters can be reduced to the following skills:

- Recognize durational symbols
- Recognize divisions and subdivisions of the beat
- Accurately and evenly divide and subdivide the beat
- Recognize common 1 beat rhythm patterns
- Recognize larger rhythmic groupings

In order to do all of the above with consistency and accuracy, the student needs the assistance of a digital metronome, drum machine, or enhanced electronic metronome such as the Korg Dr. Beat. This author highly recommends one of the latter two because they can easily be run through an amplifier and they offer many different division and subdivision settings that an ordinary metronome does not include. With the added benefit of volume adjustment and other features, these devices can, with daily practice, help dramatically improve the student's rhythmic skills.

## Durational Symbols

The study of rhythm is largely about recognizing and notating duration or the amount of time a note lasts in music. The following table lists the most common durational symbols in the simple quadruple meter of $4 / 4$ and provides their durational values.

Table 9.1 Simple Quadruple Meter Durational Symbols

| SYMBOL NAME | SYMBOL |  |
| :--- | :---: | :--- |
| DURATIONAL VALUE |  |  |
| Whole Note | $\mathbf{O}$ | 4 beats |
| Dotted Half Note | $d$. | 3 beats |
| Half Note | $\delta$ | 2 beats |
| Dotted Quarter Note | $d$. | $11 / 2$ beats |


| Quarter Note | , | 1 beat |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Dotted Eighth Note | d. | $3 / 4$ of a beat |
| Eighth Note | 0 | 1/2 of a beat |
| Dotted Sixteenth Note | d | $3 / 8$ of a beat |
| Sixteenth Note | , | 1/4 of a beat |
| Dotted Thirty Second Note | \% | $3 / 16$ of a beat |
| Thirty Second Note | d | $1 / 8$ of a beat |

For a time signature of $4 / 8$ all of the durational values in this table would be twice as long, and for a time signature of $4 / 16$, the values would be four times as long. The first step in mastering rhythm is to be able to quickly and accurately identify note durations in any meter and time signature.

## Beat Division and Beat Subdivision

Beat refers to the basic pulse of a bar of music and involves the audible separation of the bar into two or more equal parts. For example, in $3 / 4$ time the bar consists of three equal beats of quarter note duration and, in 2/8 time, the bar consists of two equal beats of eighth note duration. Each of these beats can be represented by a number.

Example 9.2 Beat


In time signatures such as $4 / 4,2 / 8$ and $3 / 16$, division of the beat refers to the separation of the beat into two equal parts. The first part, as above, is represented by the beat number and the second part by the symbol \& (and) which occurs on the up part of the beat.

Example 9.2 Beat Division


In time signatures such as $4 / 4,2 / 8$ and $3 / 16$, subdivision of the beat refers to the further separation of the beat into four equal parts. The first two parts are represented by the beat number and by the syllable ee and the last two parts are represented by the symbol \& and the syllable ah.

Example 9.3 Beat Subdivision


Notice how we beam subdivisions together to show they are all part of one beat. Also notice that we use a rhythm recognition system of numbers and letters (syllables) to vocally show us where we are in the subdivision of the beat. The following example illustrates the beat division and beat subdivision for two bars of $4 / 4$ time. Set your metronome to quarter note $=90$ and speak through the rhythm syllables in tempo. Then, clap the rhythm in tempo and be sure to evenly divide and subdivide the beat.

Example 9.4 Beat Division and Subdivision


## Common Rhythmic Patterns and Groupings

In simple duple, triple and quadruple meter, there are a limited number of one beat rhythm patterns that are most commonly found in Western tonal music. Learning these patterns will increase your rhythmic abilities exponentially. Using the principle of beat division and subdivision and other devices such as syncopation, we can arrive at 8 different one beat patterns every aspiring musician must master. Practice these patterns at 4 different tempos, quarter note $=60$, quarter note $=90$, quarter note $=120$ and quarter note $=180$. Be sure to speak through the syllables first, then clap or tap the rhythms.
d) Note: One important key for rhythm patterns \#2 - \#8 is to count out a bar or two of sixteenth note subdivisions before you begin. This will help you evenly and accurately count the rhythms.

## Common 1 beat rhythm patterns in simple quadruple meter

Pattern \#1 (2 eighth notes)


Pattern \#2 (1 eighth, 2 sixteenths)


Pattern \#3 (2 sixteenths, 1 eighth)


Pattern \#4 (1 sixteenth, 1 eighth, 1 sixteenth)


Pattern \#5 (4 sixteenths)


Pattern \#6 (dotted eighth, sixteenth)


Pattern \#7 (sixteenth, dotted eighth)


Pattern \#8 (syncopated sixteenths)


After becoming familiar with the 1 beat rhythm patterns, the next challenge is to begin combining different patterns into a bar of music. Start with two different 1 beat patterns in a bar and gradually work up to four different patterns. Use the same process that was outlined in the previous page. (Practice the rhythms at four different tempos.) Example 9.5 illustrates some of the possible combinations.

Example 9.5 Combinations of 1 beat rhythm patterns


Now that we have covered some of the basic concepts of rhythm recognition in simple time signatures, lets apply these concepts to rhythm reading and rhythmic dictation.

## Rhythm Exercises 9.1

Set a metronome to the indicated tempo. In tempo, speak through each of the following exercises using rhythm division syllables and then clap (or tap) each exercise.

B. $d=110$

C. $d=130$

D. $d=130$

E. $d=140$


## Rhythm Exercises 9.2

Set a metronome to the indicated tempo. In tempo, speak through each of the following exercises using rhythm division syllables and then clap (or tap) each exercise.

B. $d=100$

C. $d=110$

D. $d=120$

E. $d=130$


Rhythm Exercises 9.2 (continued)
F. $d=100$

G. $d=130$

H. $d=120$

I. $d=140$

J. $d=150$


## Rhythm Exercises 9.3

Set a metronome to the indicated tempo. In tempo, speak through each of the following exercises using rhythm division syllables and then clap (or tap) each exercise.
A. $\quad d=100$

B. $\quad d=110$

c. $d=100$

D. $\quad d=110$

E. $\quad d=120$


## Rhythm Exercises 9.4

Set a metronome to the indicated tempo. In tempo, speak through each of the following exercises using rhythm division syllables and then clap (or tap) each exercise.

E. $d=110$


## Rhythm Exercises 9.5

Set a metronome to the indicated tempo. In tempo, speak through each of the following exercises using rhythm division syllables and then clap (or tap) each exercise.

H. $\quad d=100$

I. $d=100$

J. $d=110$


## Rhythm Exercises 9.6

Set a metronome to the indicated tempo. In tempo, speak through each of the following exercises rhythm division syllables and then clap (or tap) each exercise.
A. $d=80$

B. $d=90$

C. $d=90$

D. $d=100$

E. $d=110$


## Rhythm Exercises 9.7

Set a metronome to the indicated tempo. In tempo, speak through each of the following exercises using rhythm division syllables and then clap (or tap) each exercise.
A. $d=80$

B. $d=85$

H. $\quad d=80$

I. $d=85$

J. $d=90$


## Level 1 - In Class Dictation Examples

Notate the following rhythm dictation examples exactly as played in class.

Dictation Example \#1


Dictation Example \#2


Dictation Example \#3


Dictation Example \#4


Dictation Example \#5


## Level 2 - In Class Dictation Examples

Notate the following rhythm dictation examples exactly as played in class.


Dictation Example \#2


Dictation Example \#3


Dictation Example \#4


Dictation Example \#5


## Level 2 - In Class Dictation Examples (continued)

Dictation Example \#6


Dictation Example \#7


Dictation Example \#8


## Student Notes



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## CHAPTER 10

# Compound Duple, Triple and Quadruple Meter 

## TOPICS

- Durational Symbols
- Beat Division and Subdivision
- Common Rhythmic Patterns and Groupings



## APPLICATION

Through systematic division and subdivision of the compound beat, complex rhythmic groups can be broken down into shorter and simpler rhythm patterns. These smaller patterns make up the foundation for most compound rhythmic material found in standard literature.

## Introduction

Compound duple, triple and quadruple meters can be defined as meters that have more than four beats per bar with the top number of the time signature being divisible by three such as $6 / 8$ or $9 / 16$. In these meters, the dotted quarter note (or less frequently the dotted eighth note) receives the compound beat while the eighth note (or less frequently the sixteenth note) receives the simple beat.

## Example 10.1 Compound Duple and Triple Meters



The ability to read rhythmic patterns in compound time signatures can be reduced to the following skills:

- Recognize durational symbols
- Recognize divisions and subdivions of the compound beat
- Accurately and evenly divide and subdivide the compound beat
- Recognize common simple and compound beat rhythm patterns
- Recognize larger rhythmic groupings


## Durational Symbols

The following table lists most of the common durational symbols in the compound duple meter of $6 / 8$ and provides their durational values.

Table 10.2 Compound Duple Meter Durational Symbols

| SYMBOL NAME | SYMBOL | DURATION Compound Beat | DURATION Simple Beat |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Dotted Half Note | $d$. | 2 beats | 6 beats |
| Dotted Quarter Note | d. | 1 beat | 3 beats |
| Dotted Eighth Note | d. | 1/2 of a beat | $11 / 2$ beats |
| Eighth Note | $\delta$ | $1 / 3$ of a beat | 1 beats |
| Dotted Sixteenth Note | d? | 1/4 of a beat | 3/4 of a beat |
| Sixteenth Note | d | (not practical) | 1/2 of a beat |


| Dotted Thirty Second <br> Note | d. | (not practical) | $3 / 8$ of a beat |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- |
| Thirty Second Note | d | (not practical) | $1 / 4$ of a beat |

As this chart illustrates, counting the compound beat is only really helpful when you are working with longer durations (dotted half note, dotted quarter note and eighth note). The reason why we use compound beat so frequently is that in many musical settings which feature compound time signatures (such as marches), the tempo is quick and it becomes fairly cumbersome to count out nine to twelve simple beats every bar.

## Beat Division and Subdivision

In compound time signatures the beat is already divided when you count the simple beat because it has been broken down from the larger compound beat. As with simple time signatures, beat numbers and rhythm syllables can be extremely helpful in accurately visualizing and placing your divisions and subdivisions of the beat.

Example 10.3 Beat Division of Compound Duple and Triple Meter


Example 10.4 Beat Subdivision of Compound Duple and Triple Meter


## Common Rhythm Patterns

As with simple time signatures, there are also a limited number of 1 beat compound rhythm patterns found frequently in Western tonal music. Example 10.4 illustrates eight of them.

Example 10.5 Common 1 Beat Compound Rhythm Patterns in Compound Duple Meter

Pattern \#1


Pattern \#2


Pattern \#3


Pattern \#4


Pattern \#5


Pattern \#6


Pattern \#7


Pattern \#8


## Rhythm Exercises 10.1

Set a metronome to the indicated tempo. In tempo, speak through each of the following exercises using rhythm division syllables and then clap (or tap) each exercise.
A. $\quad d=50$

B. $d=50$

C. $\quad d=60$

D. $\quad d=60$

E. d. $=70$


## Rhythm Exercises 10.2

Set a metronome to the indicated tempo. In tempo, speak through each of the following exercises using rhythm division syllables and then clap (or tap) each exercise.
A. $\quad d=50$

B. $d=60$

C. d. $=50$

D. $\quad d=60$

E. d. $=70$


## Rhythm Exercises 10.3

Set a metronome to the indicated tempo. In tempo, speak through each of the following exercises using rhythm division syllables and then clap (or tap) each exercise.

B. $d=60$

C. $d=50$

D. $\quad d=60$

E. d. $=60$


## Rhythm Exercises 10.4

Set a metronome to the indicated tempo. in tempo, speak through each of the following exercises using rhythm division syllables and then clap (or tap) each exercise.

B. $\quad d=60$

C. $\quad d=50$

D. $\quad d=60$


## Student Notes


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## APPENDIX A

## Rhythm Trees



## Rhythm Tree for Simple Quadruple Meter



2 half notes



24 sixteenth note triplets


## Rhythm Tree for Compound Duple Meter



## Tuplet Rhythm Tree for Simple Quadruple Meter



## Tuplet Rhythm Tree for Simple Quadruple Meter (cont.)



11 eighth note tuplets


12 eighth note triplets


## Appendix B

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[^0]:    * Abbreviation key to source material is located on page $\mathbf{8 6}$ of this text.

[^1]:    * denotes this title will be selected by students

[^2]:    * denotes this title will be selected by students

[^3]:    * denotes this title will be selected by students

[^4]:    * denotes this title will be selected by students

