


Music – Year 9, Term 2 – Semitones, Intervals and Triads

<p>Musical Alphabet: names given to pitches used in musical notation : A-B-C-D-E-F-G, the WHITE NOTES on a keyboard called NATURALS. You go up in pitch (ABCDEFG) then when you reach G you start all over again.</p> <p>Sharps and Flats: BLACK NOTES on keyboard: SHARPs raise pitch one step. The SHARP: #. FLATs lower pitch to the nearest left note. The FLAT sign: <i>b</i>.</p>		<p>Keyboard Layout: keyboards have same layout, in blocks of 12 notes: 7 white, 5 black.</p> <p>C is Left of 2 black keys F is Left of 3 black keys</p>
<p>Interval: the distance (or gap) between two different pitches counting inclusively, so for example A to C is a third (count A-B-C makes three), D to G is a 4th (D-E-F-G makes a count of 4)</p>	<p>Octave: an interval of an 8th, i.e. from A to A, B to B etc. The keyboard is laid out in octaves (the 12 notes as in the diagram above).</p>	
<p>Semitone- the smallest step from any white or black note the exact next door note (which could be either black or white).</p>	<p>Parallel movement- this is where two pitches move together by the same interval at the same time and in the same direction.</p>	
<p>Tone- two small steps (semi-tones) make a TONE (or whole tone).</p>	<p>Pedal: a sustained bass note, against which the music moves, chords change.</p>	
<p>Triad: A chord of THREE notes. If using white notes only these can be counted as 1-3-5 (e.g. A-C-E). There are four different types of triad (see below).</p>	<p>Drone: like a pedal but a sustained interval of a 5th</p>	
<p>Home note- also called the KEY NOTE or the TONIC- the first note of a scale and the first note (or root) of a triad.</p>	<p>Scale: a series of notes usually within an octave, moving up and down by measured steps which are usually combinations of Tones (T) and Semitones (ST)</p>	
<p>Major Triad: Home note plus 4 semitones plus 3 semitones. “Happy” <i>Easy major triads are those starting on C or F or G as they are all white notes.</i></p>	<p>Major Scale: All tones except semitones from note 3 to 4 and 7 to 8. <i>The easiest one to find on a keyboard is the white notes from C to C.</i></p>	
<p>Minor Triad: Home note plus 3 semitones plus 4 semitones “Sad” <i>Easy major triads are those starting on D or E or A as they are all white notes.</i></p>	<p>Minor Scale: All tones except semitones from note 3 to 4, 5 to 6 and 7 to 8 <i>The top part (notes 5-6-7-8) are often described as sounding Egyptian.</i></p>	
<p>Augmented Triad: Home note plus 4 semitones plus 4 semitones – “Stretched” <i>This is has a magical feel, often used for the fairy in pantomimes, especially if played on a glockenspiel type of sound.</i></p>	<p>Chromatic Scale: All semitones! That means 12 notes before landing back home. <i>Often used for a twisty, turning effect, to create a dizzy, uneasy feel.</i></p>	
<p>Diminished Triad: Home note plus 3 semitones plus 3 semitones – “Squashed” <i>Often used in scary music, especially if played on an church organ sound!</i></p>	<p>Pentatonic Scale: Take notes 1-2-3-5-6 of any major or minor scale.</p>	
<p>Triad Techniques: Notes all at once BLOCKS; one note at a time BROKEN.</p>	<p>Modal Scale: Dorian is white notes D to D, Aeolian is white notes A to A.</p>	
<p>Triad Inversions: The triad has the notes repositioned- first inversion has the middle note at the bottom, second inversion has the original top note at the bottom.</p>	<p>Atonal: This is where a piece does not use notes of any given scale. It is usually combined with dissonant harmony (clashing notes) and is more common in music from the 20th century onwards.</p>	
<p>CHORD – all TRIADS are chords, i.e. notes played together</p>	<p>DISSONANCE- the sound when notes “clash”, i.e. don’t sound as if they “fit”</p>	
<p>CHORD SEQUENCE - Fixed arrangement of chords repeated as a structural unit, especially in popular songs</p>	<p>THREE CHORD TRICK: A piece of music that uses only the three PRIMARY CHORDS (on notes 1, 4 and 5 of the scale)</p>	

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