

Preparing to use composecreate.com Web Rewards Music Progressions Level Nine

Writing Scales – Major, minor

Major and minor scale writing is just a matter of being 1) familiar with the Circle of 5ths or 2) knowing the whole and half step patterns. I think the Circle of 5ths approach is more useable, since anticipating the sharps and flats as you read music is more practical. I will, however, include both methods of review here.

1. Using the Circle of 5ths to write scales:

- Use the ascending-5ths or descending-5ths pattern you've used to name the Major Sharp or Flat Keys as well as to note the number of sharps and flats in those keys. (Assuming you know the names of the sharps & flats!)
- Use the "UP three letter names" or "UP three half steps" from names of minor keys to find the Major key signatures to borrow for those relative minors that you are asked to write.
 - Remember: natural minor scales are unchanged from their key signatures; harmonic minors have a raised 7th; melodic minors have a raised 6th & 7th going up, and use a natural minor going down.

Quiz: Write the number of sharps or flats for each of these scales:

G-flat Major ____; C# minor ____; F# Major ____; F minor ____; G# Major ____

2. Using the scale patterns to write scales:

- Major scales: W W H (connecting W) W W H
- Natural minor: W H W (connecting W) H W W
- Harmonic minor: W H W (connecting W) H WH H
- Melodic minor ascending: W H W (connecting W) W W H
 - descending: natural minor

Writing Modes

If you don't know the answers, look at your MP notebook for the page "Help with Modes." You do **not** need to transpose these modes.

- Write the silly sentence that helps you remember the names of the modes. Below each word in the sentence, write the Major scale degree of the starting note of that mode, as well as the letter name of the C Major scale you use to begin "white key modes."

____/____ ____/____ ____/____ ____/____ ____/____ ____/____ ____/____

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- Now write the Greek names of those modes (I've used the scale degree numbers to help you remember how you can think of their construction):

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____
7. _____

Identifying Scales

1. You can use the Circle of Fifths and relative minor hints for identifying Major & minor scales. (Remember to check for the raised steps of Harmonic & Melodic minors!)
2. Use the silly sentence to help you identify the starting note of the C scale that is used at this level for Modes.
3. Think of groups of black keys to identify a Pentatonic scale: Black keys are a whole step apart, with a WH (1 1/2 steps) in the middle. Check out any WH step to see if it's part of a harmonic minor scale, or a pentatonic scale.
4. How far apart would the notes in a whole tone scale be? a _____ step

Write Major, minor, Perfect Intervals

See the "Interval Qualities" pages in your Music Progressions notebook. Using the formula for that page, fill out this chart:

M2 = _____	m2 = _____	Perfect intervals: both black or both white, except for the combination of the letters _____ & _____, for a P_____, P_____ & P_____
M3 = _____	m3 = _____	
M6 = _____	m6 = _____	
M7 = _____	m7 = _____	

Write Augmented and Diminished Intervals

Thinking plan:

Augmented means made _____. We augment _____ intervals.

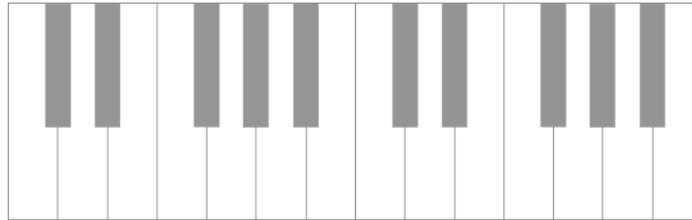
Diminished means made _____. We diminish _____ intervals.

Just think of the distance of a Major or minor interval, and then add or subtract a 1/2 step.

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Identify Tritones

“Tritones” are another name for Augmented 4ths, and Diminished 5ths. Mark these intervals with Xes on the keyboard: An Augmented 4th up from E, then a diminished fifth up from D. Now count the whole steps from the bottom note to the top of each interval.



How many whole steps does each interval contain? _____ Does that give you a clue to the meaning of “Tritone”?

Listening

You will be asked to describe these qualities in a series of pieces. Please define the terms so you will be prepared to listen for them.

- Meter _____
- $3/4$ _____
- $4/4$ _____
- $6/8$ _____
- multi-metric _____
- Tempo _____
- Adagio
- Andante,
- Vivace,
- Allegro
- Tonality _____
- Major _____
- minor,
- atonal
- modal
- Texture _____
- Monophonic _____

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- Homophonic _____
- Polyphonic _____
- Form _____
- Binary _____
- Ternary _____
- Fugue _____
- Rondo _____
- Sonata-Allegro, _____
- Through-composed _____
- Give a few descriptive adjectives for the kinds of harmonies, the kinds of articulations, and some forms in the styles of these historical genres:
- Baroque _____
- Classical _____
- Romantic _____
- 20th Century _____

Identify Key Signature of a Musical Excerpt

Working it out:

1. Make a list of the sharps and flats you observe.
2. Especially note any WH (1 1/2 step) patterns you find to clue you into one of two kinds of scales: _____ or _____
3. Check out how whole steps are used.

Melodic Dictation

Here are the things to keep in mind for Level 9:

- Each example will begin on the tonic
- Some examples may be in minor and will incorporate the use of melodic minor. Be sure to raise the 6th and 7th note when ascending.
- The examples may use 2 sixteenths
- The examples will use intervals through 8ths

BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

- WRITE THE COUNTING NUMBERS, evenly spaced, between the bar-lines where you will be writing.
- COUNT AS YOU LISTEN, FOR CLUES; rhythms, where big or unusual melodic jumps occur,