

MCMASTER MUSIC EDUCATION *NOTEBOOK*

Number 6

Tunes for Learning Intervals

The ability to recognize and sing musical intervals is an essential skill for any practicing musician. Interval recognition is also one of the components of all university auditions.

Students have always used the first two notes of familiar tunes as a means of learning intervals. The chart below is a reference list of tunes that can be used for this purpose, and includes well-known folk melodies, pop tunes, TV themes, jazz standards, classical melodies, and tonic *sol-fa* syllables. Obviously, this chart does not include every melody that might be employed. Students are encouraged to personalize the list by adding to it tunes that are especially familiar, or particularly attractive, to them. We also recommend that students sing, play and listen to all intervals, both in their melodic form (notes sounding in sequence) and their harmonic form (both notes sounding simultaneously).

Ascending Intervals:

Minor 2nd	Pink Panther; Jaws; Nice Work If You Can Get It; <i>ti ↗ do</i>
Major 2nd	Frère Jacques; O Susanna; People; <i>do ↗ re</i>
Minor 3rd	O Canada; Greensleeves; Brahms' Lullaby; minor triad; <i>la ↗ do</i>
Major 3rd	O When the Saints; I Can't Get Started; major triad; <i>do ↗ mi</i>
Perfect 4th	Amazing Grace; Here Comes the Bride; O Tannenbaum; All The Things You Are; Taps; <i>sol ↗ do</i>
Augmented 4 th ; Diminished 5 th ; Tritone	Maria (from West Side Story); The Simpsons; <i>ti ↗ fa; fa ↗ ti</i>
Perfect 5th	Star Wars; Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star; God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen; Georgy Girl; <i>do ↗ sol</i>
Minor 6th	The Entertainer; Because (Beatles); <i>la ↗ fa</i>
Major 6th	My Bonny Lies Over the Ocean; Dashing Through the Snow; It Came Upon a Midnight Clear; Take the "A" Train; <i>do ↗ la</i>
Minor 7th	There's A Place For Us (West Side Story); Star Trek Theme; <i>sol ↗ fa</i>
Major 7th	Superman Theme; Fantasy Island Theme; <i>do ↗ ti</i>
Perfect Octave	Somewhere Over the Rainbow; Paper Moon; <i>do ↗ do</i>

Descending Intervals:

Minor 2nd	Für Elise; Button Up Your Overcoat; Stella By Starlight; <i>do ♭ ti</i>
Major 2nd	Mary Had A Little Lamb; M.A.S.H. Theme; Three Blind Mice; Satin Doll; <i>re ♭ do</i>
Minor 3rd	Star Spangled Banner; Hey Jude; Misty; Somewhere Over the Rainbow (Bridge); <i>sol ♭ mi; do ♭ la</i>
Major 3rd	Beethoven's Fifth Symphony; Swing Low Sweet Chariot; Summertime; <i>mi ♭ do</i>
Perfect 4th	Born Free; Eine Kleine Nachtmusik; <i>do ♭ sol</i>
Augmented 4 th ; Diminished 5 th ; Tritone	Even Flow (Pearl Jam); YYZ (Rush); Blues Seven (Sonny Rollins); <i>fa ♭ ti</i>
Perfect 5th	Feelings; Flintstones Theme; Best Things in Life Are Free; <i>sol ♭ do</i>
Minor 6th	Love Story Theme; <i>fa ♭ la; do ♭ mi</i>
Major 6th	Nobody Knows the Trouble I See; Bye Bye Blues; <i>la ♭ do; mi ♭ sol</i>
Minor 7th	Watermelon Man (Herbie Hancock); <i>fa ♭ sol; do ♭ re</i>
Major 7th	I Love You (Cole Porter); <i>ti ♭ do</i>
Perfect Octave	Willow Weep for Me; <i>do ♭ do</i>