

Spring Yr 11: GCSE Music Revision: Harmony & Tonality

- **Tonality** – the *key* of the music. The piece will be built mainly from a particular scale.
- **Major** – a happy uplifting sound (play C-C to get used to the sound)
- **Minor** – a sad, more serious sound (play A-A, replacing the G with a G# to get used to the sound)
- **Harmony** – two or more notes of different pitch create harmony.
- **Drone** – 2 long held notes, usually in the bass; used in Folk and also Indian music
- **Pedal** – 1 long held on note, usually in the bass
- **Cadences** – a cadence is formed by the two chords that come at the end of a musical phrase:
- **Perfect cadence** V-I. Sounds final and complete.
- **Plagal cadence** IV-I. Also sounds complete, but not as strong. Used for the “Amen” at the end of hymns.
- **Imperfect cadence** I -V. Unfinished feel to the music.
- **Interrupted cadence** V-VI. Your ears expect it to go to the tonic as in a perfect cadence, but instead it goes to the VI chord – so it is the surprise cadence! – usually a STEP UP in the bass, and ends on Minor chord **NB don't forget - ROMAN NUMERALS to describe chords**

- **Tonal** – will have a sense of key/tonal centre.
- **Atonal** – music with no sense of fixed tonality/key. May sound rather ‘random’
- **Pentatonic** – a five note scale. Often used in Chinese, African and Celtic Folk melodies

- **Chromatic** - scale made up of **semitones** (smallest interval e.g. C-C#).
- **Diatonic** harmony uses only the notes that belong to the major or minor keys.
- **Discords** – harsh, **clashing** sounding combination of notes.
- **Modulation** – to change key/tonality. For example if the piece is in the key of C major you could **modulate** to the key of G major or A minor... It's a good way of developing a piece of music.

- **Modal** – came before major/minor scales. e.g. play D-D on the white notes-this is the Dorian mode. Often used in early church music, folk and jazz.
- **Whole tone** – a scale made up of only whole tones. (Sounds quite mysterious) C, D, E, F#, G#, A#
- **Consonance** - music/harmonies that sound nice (**consonant**).
- **Dissonance** – clashing music/harmonies (**dissonant**).
- **Close harmony** – where the notes are close together within the separate parts e.g.
- Barber shop singing
- **Tierce de Picardie** – when a piece in a minor key finishes with a major chord