Chapter 8 Intervals

In this chapter you will:

1. Identify intervals by general names
2. Review key signatures in bass clef
3. Review key signatures in treble clef
4. Identify major intervals by writing scales
5. Write major intervals by remembering key signatures
6. Identify 2nds, 3rds, 6ths and 7ths
7. Write 2nds, 3rds, 6ths and 7ths
8. Identify 4ths, 5ths and 8ves
9. Write the top notes of intervals
10. Identify intervals whose bottom notes are not key notes
11. Identify intervals in musical phrases

Date: __________

8.1 Identify intervals by general names

- An interval is the relationship between two notes.
- Intervals have two names, a general name and a specific name.
- The general name is usually an ordinal number (2nd, 3rd, 4th and so on).
- To find the general name of an interval, call the bottom note “one” and count the lines and spaces to the top note. Remember to count both the bottom and the top notes.
- A distance of 8 notes counted in this way is called an octave (8ve).
- The notes of a 2nd are written beside each other, not on top of each other.

WRITE letter names for the top and bottom notes. Then write the interval’s general name.
8.2 Review key signatures in bass clef

1. **NAME** the major keys in the boxes according to the circle of fifths.
2. **WRITE** the key signatures for all major keys on the staffs.
   - Use the key signatures for C sharp and C flat as a guide (see above).
8.3 Review key signatures in treble clef

FOLLOW directions for the previous page except write the key signatures in treble clef.
A major interval is an interval of a 2nd, 3rd, 6th or 7th in which the top note is in the scale (or key) of the bottom note.

In the illustration above E to G♯ is a major interval because G♯ occurs in the E scale. E to D♭ is not a major interval because D♭ does not occur in the E scale. D natural occurs in that scale instead.

1. WRITE the key signature for the bottom note of each interval.
2. WRITE a shortened major scale for the bottom note. Write the scale only up to the letter name of the top note of the interval.
3. Under the interval, WRITE “M”, for major, if the top note of the shortened scale matches the top note of the interval, OR WRITE “NM”, for not major, if the top note of the shortened scale does not match the top note of the interval.
8.5 Write major intervals by remembering key signatures

- To quickly find if an interval is major, remember the sharps and flats in the key signature of the bottom note. Then decide if the top note of the interval occurs in that scale.
- Only 2nds, 3rds, 6ths and 7ths can be major. Fourth, 5ths and octaves are never major.

1. IDENTIFY these intervals as major (M) or not major (NM).

Example

\[ \text{NM} \quad \text{NM} \quad \text{NM} \quad \text{NM} \quad \text{NM} \]

2. WRITE major intervals above the given note.

Example

Maj. 3rd Maj. 3rd Maj. 7th Maj. 6th Maj. 2nd Maj. 6th

Maj. 7th Maj. 6th Maj. 3rd Maj. 7th Maj. 6th Maj. 2nd
Identify 2nds, 3rds, 6ths and 7ths

Compared to a major interval with the same letter names...
• an augmented interval is a half-step larger
• a minor interval is a half-step smaller, and
• a diminished interval is two half-steps smaller.

IDENTIFY the interval on the right side of each problem:
1. WRITE a major interval above the note on the left.
2. COMPARE the interval on the right to the major one you just wrote.

Sample Problem

STEP 1.

STEP 2.

Maj. 7th ________ Maj. 7th ________ Maj. 7th ________

Maj. 6th ________ Maj. 3rd ________

Maj. 7th ________ Maj. 2nd ________

Maj. 6th ________ Maj. 3rd ________
8.7 Write 2nds, 3rds, 6ths and 7ths

To write an augmented, minor or diminished interval above a 2nd, 3rd, 6th or 7th:
1. find the major interval above the note
2. adjust the top note, without changing the letter name, to make the interval larger or smaller.

1. REVIEW this vocabulary:
   a. An interval one half-step larger than major is _____________
   b. An interval one half step smaller than major is _____________
   c. An interval two half-steps smaller than major is _____________

2. REVIEW IDENTIFYING intervals:
   Example
   
   2. WRITE the top note of these intervals.

2. WRITE the top note of these intervals.

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8.8 Identify 4ths, 5ths and 8ves

- A perfect interval is a 4th, 5th or 8ve in which the top note is in the scale (or key) of the bottom note.
- Compared to a perfect interval with the same letter names...
  - an augmented interval is a half-step larger than the perfect interval
  - a diminished interval is a half-steps smaller than the perfect interval

Notice from the above chart that:
- “diminished” means one half step smaller than perfect, BUT
- “diminished” means two half steps smaller than major.
- “perfect” is never used for 2nds 3rds 6ths and 7ths AND
- “major” and “minor” are never used for primes, 4ths, 5ths and 8ves.
- “perfect” means the same as “major” except “perfect” is only used for 4ths, 5ths and 8ves.

1. IDENTIFY these 4ths 5ths and 8ves:

2. IDENTIFY these intervals:
   - Example

   Perf. 8ve
8.9 Write the top notes of intervals

1. FILL IN the blanks in this interval chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2nds 3rds</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Primes, 4ths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6ths &amp; 7ths</td>
<td>one half-step larger than major or perfect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the top note is in the scale of the bottom note</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>one half step smaller than major or perfect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>two half-steps smaller than major or perfect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. WRITE the top notes of these intervals:

Example

\[ \text{dim 6th} \quad \text{dim 5th} \quad \text{aug 3rd} \quad \text{dim 3rd} \quad \text{aug 4th} \quad \text{perf 5th} \]

\[ \text{aug 4th} \quad \text{dim 8ve} \quad \text{min 3rd} \quad \text{dim 7th} \quad \text{dim 3rd} \quad \text{aug 8ve} \]
8.10 Identify intervals whose bottom notes are not key notes

When intervals occur in music, they do not usually have bottom notes which are the key notes of the piece. That is, the key signature of the piece is not usually the key signature of the bottom note.

To identify an interval whose bottom note is not a key note:
1. Write a new key signature—the key signature of the bottom note. Remember that notes may be sharp or flat as a result of the key signature.
2. Find the major or perfect interval above the bottom note.
3. Compare the intervals and name the original interval.

IDENTIFY these intervals:
8.11 Identify intervals in musical phrases

- When intervals appear in a piece of music, identify the intervals by using the key of the bottom note, not the key of the piece.
- Specific names of intervals may be abbreviated as follows:
  - A = augmented
  - M = major
  - P = perfect
  - m = minor
  - d = diminished

1. IDENTIFY the intervals in this version of “Silent Night.”

   Silent Night! Holy Night! All is calm, All is bright.

   _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______

2. IDENTIFY the intervals in this version of “The Battle Hymn of the Republic.”

   Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.

   _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______

3. IDENTIFY the intervals in this version of “America the Beautiful.”

   O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain.

   _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______