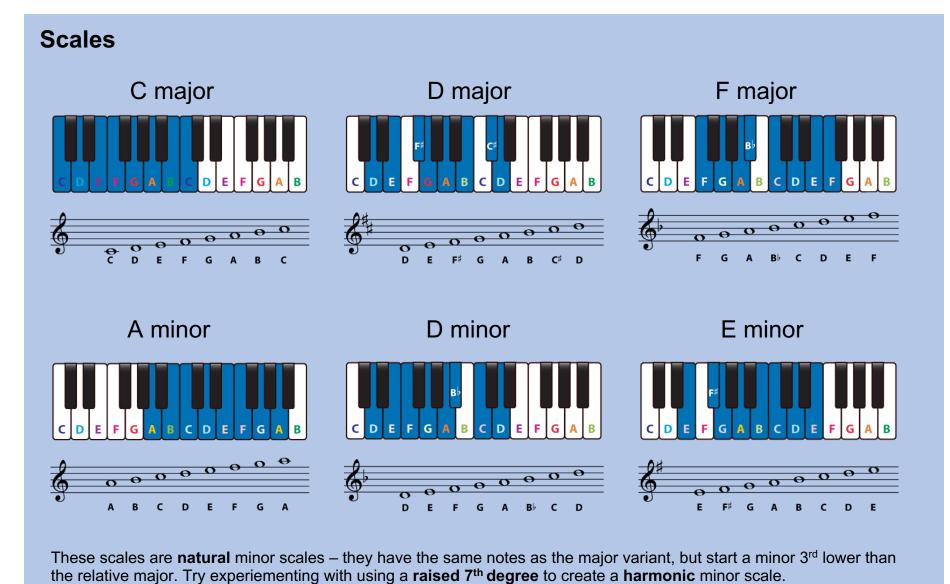
WHAT'S MY MOTIF RESOURCE MENU

MUSIC CONCEPTS



Intervals

Intervals are the distances between two notes. You can start on any note, and the distance to the one above is what we call the **interval**. It is best to learn the intervals by sound, and there are some helpful ways to remember them! Below are some songs that feature particular intervals – you can then match the song and the interval! Each interval has a particular 'quality' of sound, and this might help you reflect the ideas of your motif.

All of the intervals of our major and minor scale are below:

- Minor 2nd: Jaws, semitone, chromatic
- Major 2nd: Happy Birthday, step, scale
- Minor 3rd: Smoke on the Water
- Major 3rd: Harry Potter
- Perfect 4th: Advance Australian Fair
- Perfect 5th: Star Wars, Last Post
- Minor 6th: The Entertainer
- Major 6th: 'Dashing through the snow' (Jingle Bells)
- Minor 7th: Somewhere (West Side Story)
- Major 7th: Sounds yuck!
- Perfect Octave: Somewhere Over the Rainbow

These intervals exist in the scales to the left. See if you can identify them between each of the notes (don't forget the key signatures!).

Tones and Semitones

The scales above use a particular pattern of tones and semitones – which are intervals between each note. A semitone is a single step (S), and a tone is two steps (T).

The pattern for a major scale is: TTSTTTS

C major scale:

The pattern for a **natural minor scale** is: **T S T T S T T**



The pattern for a harmonic minor scale is: T S T T S T1/2 S



USING MUSIC ELEMENTS AND COMPOSITIONAL DEVICES

Using Pitch

Pitch relates to your melody – the notes that you use. You could use elements of pitch in the following ways:

- Tonality a major or minor sound? The scale you use will have a huge impact on the mood of the motif. Basically, major is happy; minor is sad!
- A smooth contour or shape to convey a gentle mood, or an angular contour (shape) to sound more aggressive or 'jumpy'.
- A rising melody one that progressively moves upward

 might be 'optimistic' and happy; whereas one that
 falls might sound 'sadder' or even 'depressed'.
- A small range (distance between lowest and highest note of a melody) to make the music feel 'closed in' or personal, quiet or reflective; or, a large range to suggest expressiveness, 'largeness' or 'grandness'.
- The intervals you use can reflect the ideas or themes –
 intervals such as perfect 4ths and 5ths suggest strength
 or confidence; whereas minor and smaller intervals
 might suggest softer emotions.

Using Duration

You could use elements of duration in the following ways:

- Change the speed (**tempo**) of your piece to reflect a specific idea or theme.
- Use specific rhythms to convey a particular theme or idea – say, short notes for more 'erratic', quicker, 'jumpy' music, or longer notes for slower, calmer, more gentle music.
- A **time signature** of **3/4** might sound more dance-like, whereas a **4/4** time signature might sound more balanced and 'straight'. You might even consider **6/8**, which would be more fluid and 'bouncy'.

Using Expressive Devices

Expressive devices add exactly that, **expression** to your music. You could use expressive devices in the following ways:

- Will your motif be **loud** (*f*, *mf*) or **soft** (*mp*, *p*), and will it change through use of *crescendo* or *decrescendo*?
- Smooth articulations, like tenuto, provide a connected sound; accents might offer a sense of power, force or confidence; whereas, staccato might be delicate, fragile, light or detached in sound.

Compositional Devices

Compositional devices are applied to music elements to develop ideas. They can be used to provide:

- accompaniment,
- contrast,
- development,
- themes,
- transitions,
- unity, and
- variation.

Some compositional devices that you could consider are in the purple boxes on this page.

Repetition

Sounds repeated immediately after they have occurred.



Sequence

Repetitions of a melodic idea in different pitches – usually moving up or down by step.



Riff

A short, repeated melodic idea that is characteristic of the melody. *Smoke on the Water* is a well-known riff.

Ostinato

An extension idea if you wish to add accompaniment to your motif. An ostinato is repeated musical pattern (under a melody).



Drone

An extension idea if you wish to add basic harmony to your motif. A drone is a long note held against changing pitches in the melody.

