

Basic INTERVAL Concepts

- Intervals are always between 2 notes
- Intervals are either melodic (in succession) or harmonic (simultaneous)
- The lowest tone of any interval should always be counted mentally as 1; the basic interval is simply a stepwise count from the lowest to the highest note of the interval.
- Any interval greater than an octave is considered compound; its generic twin can be found by subtracting 7 from the actual interval (an 11th is generically identical to a 4th, for example)

Major Scale Intervals:

- The interval from the first scale degree to the first scale degree is always a PERFECT UNISON
- The interval from the first scale degree to the fourth scale degree is always a PERFECT FOURTH
- The interval from the first scale degree to the fifth scale degree is always a PERFECT FIFTH
- The interval from the first scale degree to the eighth scale degree is always a PERFECT OCTAVE
- The interval from the first scale degree

Modified Intervals:

- Interval types are either Major, Minor, Perfect, Augmented, or Diminished)
- Any major interval increased by $\frac{1}{2}$ step becomes augmented
- Any major interval decreased by $\frac{1}{2}$ step becomes minor
- Any minor interval decreased by $\frac{1}{2}$ step becomes diminished
- Any perfect interval increased by $\frac{1}{2}$ step becomes augmented
- Any perfect interval decreased by $\frac{1}{2}$ step becomes diminished
- Any augmented interval increased by $\frac{1}{2}$ step becomes doubly-augmented
- Any diminished interval decreased by $\frac{1}{2}$ step becomes doubly-diminished

Inversions:

- An inverted interval is created by placing the lowest note of the interval above the highest note (by adding the distance of an octave).
- Any interval and its inversion will always equal 9; therefore, the inversion of a second would be a 7th (or, $9-2=7$).
- Any major interval inverted becomes minor, and vice-versa
- Any augmented interval inverted becomes diminished, and vice-versa
- Perfect intervals, when inverted, remain perfect

ODD FACT:

- It is NOT possible to create a diminished unison, because you always measure from the lowest note to the highest; therefore, it IS possible to create an augmented unison!

MUSICAL APPLICATIONS:

- Every interval has a unique sound which can be easily recognized with listening practice
- Thirds and Sixths are generally considered consonant intervals; perfect intervals have a “hollow” sound; seconds and sevenths have a dissonant sound