

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: A Galactic Blueprint: Decoding Harmonic Structures for College Musicians

Scholars clarify foundational tonal relationships and pitch categorization to strengthen their analytical framework for advanced undergraduate musicology.

1. Which interval is colloquially referred to as 'The Devil in Music' (Diabolus in Musica) due to its dissonant, unstable quality containing three whole steps?

Answer: B) Tritone

The tritone (augmented fourth or diminished fifth) consists of three whole tones and was historically avoided in early ecclesiastical music due to its high level of dissonance.

2. In tonal music theory, the 'Leading Tone' is the seventh scale degree and typically has a strong melodic tendency to resolve upward to the tonic.

Answer: A) True

The leading tone (subtonic in natural minor, but specifically the major seventh degree) creates significant tension that pulls toward the tonic (I) to provide a sense of resolution.

3. A musical texture consisting of a single melodic line without any harmonic accompaniment or additional voices is known as _____.

Answer: C) Monophony

Monophony refers to a single, unaccompanied melodic part, such as a solo flute line or a Gregorian chant performed in unison.

4. The key of B Major contains how many sharps in its standard key signature?

Answer: C) Five

The key signature for B Major includes F#, C#, G#, D#, and A# (five sharps total) following the circle of fifths.

5. Which specific scale degree functions as the 'Dominant' in a standard diatonic major scale?

Answer: C) Fifth degree

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Fifth degree is called the Dominant; it is the second most important note in tonal music after the tonic.

6. An 'Enharmonic' equivalent refers to two notes that have different names but sound the same pitch in twelve-tone equal temperament.

Answer: A) True

Notes like C# and Db are enharmonically equivalent because they represent the same key on the piano keyboard despite different notations.

7. In a piece of music, which rhythmic term describes a temporary shifting of the accent to a weak beat or an off-beat?

Answer: B) Syncopation

Syncopation involves placing emphasis or accents on beats that are usually unaccented, creating a rhythmic 'surprise' or 'swing' feel.

8. The Relative Minor of E-flat Major is _____.

Answer: A) C minor

The relative minor starts on the sixth degree of the major scale. For Eb Major (Eb, F, G, Ab, Bb, C, D), the sixth degree is C.

9. A diminished triad consists of a root note, a major third, and a diminished fifth.

Answer: B) False

A diminished triad consists of a root note, a minor third, and a diminished fifth (two stacked minor thirds).

10. Which of these represents the correct interval pattern for a Natural Minor scale starting from the root (W = Whole Step, H = Half Step)?

Answer: B) W-H-W-W-H-W-W

The natural minor scale pattern (Aeolian mode) follows the sequence of steps: Whole, Half, Whole, Whole, Half, Whole, Whole.