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Vocal Pitch Exercises

Vocal pitch exercises (intervals, scales, chords, and so on) are designed to aid in the development of tonal vocabulary skills. Consistent practice will be necessary if the ability to hear the tones as scale degrees in relation to the tonic pitch and tonic chord tones (Reference Tones) is to be mastered.

To visually aid in the development of tonal vocabulary skills, graphs depicting the appropriate tonal sequence were created. Please notice that whole and half steps are represented spatially (not evident on a staff) and background or letter colors are frequently used to indicate quality (major, minor, augmented, and diminished). Each graph should be practiced using the indicated exercise variations. The graphs may be used on individual student computers or in the classroom setting.

Please note that pitches below the tonic are shown by a subscript prime on the syllable (so_{l}) and the octave above the tonic and all subsequent pitches above the octave are shown by a superscript prime on the syllable (do^{l}). The exercises should also be sung using a variety of rhythm patterns to facilitate aural/oral preparation before visually integrating tonal and rhythm patterns in symbolic notation.

Consistent practice will be necessary if skills are to be mastered.

Vocal Pitch Exercise 01F: Directions

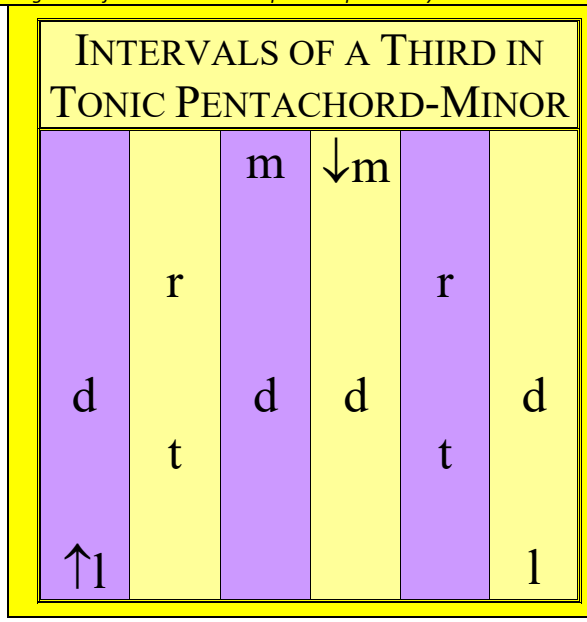
Minor Pentachord Scale: Major and Minor Thirds *[Graph 01F]*

Interval: distance in pitch between two tones; all intervals are identified numerically by counting both of the tones and the pitches spanned by the two tones.

a. **Basic Thirds:** [*la-based Minor, Graph 01F*]
Ascending: la–do; ti–re; do–mi;
Descending: mi–do; re–ti; do–la;
- Variation: Verbally label the quantity of each interval prior to singing the interval. Begin to recognize these intervals by sound.
- Variation: Vary the order in which the patterns are sung. Remember to speak the interval label prior to singing.
- Variation: Integrate appropriate rhythm patterns.

b. **Alternating Interval Direction 1**: [*la-based Minor, Graph 01F*]
Ascending: la–do; re–ti; do–mi;
Descending: mi–do; ti–re; do–la;
- Variation: Verbally label the quantity of each interval prior to singing the interval. Begin to recognize these intervals by sound.
- Variation: Integrate appropriate rhythm patterns.

c. **Alternating Interval Direction 2**: [*la-based Minor*, *Graph 01F*]
Ascending: do–la; ti–re; mi–do;
Descending: do–mi; re–ti; la–do;
- Variation: Integrate appropriate rhythm patterns.
- Variation: Verbally label the quality of each interval prior to singing the interval. Begin to recognize these intervals by sound.



Part-Singing

[Minor, Graph 01F]

a. Basic Thirds:
Group/Individual A sings Ascending-Descending Thirds while Group/Individual B sings Descending-Ascending Thirds.

Group/Individual A
Ascending: la–do; ti–re; do–mi;
Descending: mi–do; re–ti; do–la;
- Exchange tasks.

Group/Individual B
Descending: mi–do; re–ti; do–la;
Ascending: la–do; ti–re; do–mi;
- Variation: Integrate appropriate rhythms.

b. Alternating Interval Direction 1:
Group/Individual A sings Ascending-Descending while Group/Individual B sings Descending-Ascending Triads.

Group/Individual A
Ascending: la–do; re–ti; do–mi;
Descending: mi–do; ti–re; do–la;
- Exchange tasks.

Group B
Descending: mi–do; ti–re; do–la;
Ascending: la–do; re–ti; do–mi;
- Variation: Integrate appropriate rhythms.

c. Alternating Interval Direction 2:
Group/Individual A sings Ascending-Descending while Group/Individual B sings Descending-Ascending.

Group/Individual A	Group/Individual B
Ascending: do–la; ti–re; mi–do; *Descending:* do–mi; re–ti; la–do; • Exchange tasks.	*Descending:* do–mi; re–ti; la–do; *Ascending:* do–la; ti–re; mi–do; • Variation: Integrate appropriate rhythms.

Vocal Pitch Exercise 01F: Directions

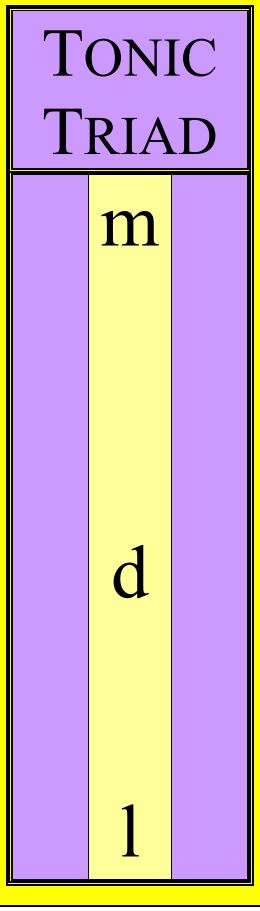
[Minor - Pentachord and Tonic Triad, Graph 01F]

Tonic Triad: a combination of three tones arranged in thirds (tertian) and built on the home tone or keynote;
The lowest note is called the *root*; the middle note is called the *third* of the triad; the top note is called the *fifth* of the triad.

a. Basic Tonic Triad, Root Position: [*la based Minor*, *Graph 01F*]
Ascending: la–do–mi;
Descending: mi–do–la;
- Variation: Integrate appropriate rhythm patterns.

b. Tonic Triad Arpeggio: Tonic-Dominant-Tonic
Ascending/ Descending: la–do–mi–do–la;
- Variation: Integrate appropriate rhythm patterns.

c. Reverse Tonic Triad Arpeggio: Dominant-Tonic-Dominant
Descending/Ascending: mi–do–la–do–mi;
- Variation: Integrate appropriate rhythm patterns.



Part-Singing

[*Minor Tonic Triad, Graph 01G]*

a. Tonic Triad Arpeggio: Tonic-Dominant-Tonic *Ascending/ Descending:* la–do–mi–do–la;	Group/Individual A: Sings Arpeggio Group/Individual B: Sings tonic drone; Exchange tasks; Change drone to 3rd and/or 5th
b. Reverse Tonic Triad Arpeggio: Dominant-Tonic-Dominant *Descending/Ascending:* mi–do–la–do–mi;	Group/Individual A: Sings Reverse Tonic Arpeggio Group/Individual B: Sings tonic drone; Exchange tasks; Change drone to 3rd and/or 5th
c. Combined Arpeggios: Tonic-Dominant-Tonic and Dominant-Tonic-Dominant	Group/Individual A: do–mi–so–mi–do; Group/Individual B: so–mi–do–mi–so; Exchange Tasks; Variation: Add Group/Individual C: Sing tonic drone and/or drone on 3rd or 5th;

la based Minor Pentachord: Sing Thirds from Label

M3 up from do ↑ Ascending	m3 up from ti ↑ Ascending	m3 up from la ↑ Ascending
M3 down from mi ↓ Descending	m3 down from re ↓ Descending	m3 down from do ↓ Descending

la based Minor Pentachord: Sing Thirds from Solfege and Give Label

do up to mi Ascending	Quality of 3rd	Label	
ti up to re Ascending	Quality of 3rd	Label	
la up to do Ascending	Quality of 3rd	Label	
mi down to do Descending	Quality of 3rd	Label	
re down to ti Descending	Quality of 3rd	Label	
do down to la Descending	Quality of 3rd	Label	

Flashcards: la-based Minor - Tonic Pentachord and Triad

1. Sing Pattern						
		m				
	d			d		
					t	
l			l			l

2. Sing Pattern						
				m		
		d			d	
	t					
l			l			l

3. Sing Pattern						
	m		m			
				r		
		d			d	
l						l

4. Sing Pattern						
			m		m	
		r				
	d			d		
l						l

5. Sing Pattern						
m						m
	d			d		
			t			
		l			l	

6. Sing Pattern						
m						m
		d			d	
			t			
	l			l		

7. Sing Pattern						
m				m		m
			r			
		d			d	
	l					

8. Sing Pattern						
m		m				m
			r			
	d			d		
					l	

9. Sing Pattern						
		m				
d			d			d
				t		
	l				l	

10. Sing Pattern						
				m		
d			d			d
		t				
	l				l	

11. Sing Pattern						
	m			m		
		r				
d			d			d
					l	

12. Sing Pattern						
		m			m	
				r		
d			d			d
	l					

13. Sing Pattern						
m						
		r				
	d		d		d	
				t		
						l

14. Sing Pattern						
						m
				r		
	d		d		d	
		t				
l						

15. Sing Pattern						
					m	
			r			
d		d				
	t			t		
					l	

16. Sing Pattern						
	m					
			r			
				d		d
		t			t	
l						