Chapter 4

Minor Keys and the Diatonic Modes

BASIC ELEMENTS

I. Writing minor scales: Relative major and minor

A. For each major key below, write out the major scale on the left-hand side of the staff, using the correct key signature. Circle scale-degree 6. Now, on the right-hand side, write out a new scale that begins on the pitch class you circled (you may have to move it down an octave), with the same key signature. Write the name of this relative-minor scale on the line indicated.

\[\text{F major: } \quad \text{Relative key: } \quad \]

\[\text{A major: } \quad \text{Relative key: } \quad \]
B. Beginning on the pitch given, build a (natural) minor scale by determining the key signature of its relative major. Add flats or sharps in front of the remaining pitches, according to that key signature. (Remember: The relative major’s tonic lies three half steps—and three letter names—above the minor-key tonic.) On the right-hand side of the staff, write the key signature of the relative major and name the key.

G♯ minor
Relative major: ___________________

D♯ minor
Relative major: ___________________
C. Fill in the blanks with the missing information.

The relative major of G minor has how many flats? _____________

The parallel major of C minor has how many flats? _____________

The relative minor of E Major is . . . _____________

The parallel minor of C# Major has how many sharps? _____________

The relative minor of A♭ Major is . . . _____________

The parallel major of D minor has how many sharps? _____________

The relative major of G# minor is . . . _____________

The relative minor of B♭ Major has how many flats? _____________
II. *Forms of the minor scale*

On the blank staves below, write the correct key signature for each minor key indicated. (Place the sharps and flats in the correct order and octave!) Then write out that scale, ascending or descending, altering scale-degrees 6 and 7 as needed.

B harmonic, descending

F harmonic, ascending

A melodic, ascending

G♯ harmonic, descending
III. Scale degrees in minor

A. Given the scale degree notated and labeled below, write the rest of the minor scale to which the pitch belongs. Use natural minor, unless the raised submediant or leading tone is given. Begin by writing whole notes on the lines and spaces above and below the given pitch, then fill in the necessary accidentals. Do not change the given pitch.
B. For each key listed in the left column, write the pitch-class name of the scale degree given in the middle column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key</th>
<th>Scale Degree</th>
<th>Pitch-Class Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F♯ minor</td>
<td>dominant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B minor</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C minor</td>
<td>subtonic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F minor</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C♯ minor</td>
<td>leading tone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A minor</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B♭ minor</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D minor</td>
<td>dominant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Writing melodies from scale degrees

A. The sequence of solfège syllables below represents a minor-key melody. An underlined syllable shows a pitch below the tonic. On the staff, in the key requested, write out the melody (rhythm is optional). If you know the name of the tune, write it in the blank provided. Then indicate one of the following: P, P+, PT, or TP.


\[\text{G minor}\]

Name of melody: _____________________________________________________________

Circle one: \( \text{P} \quad \text{P}+ \quad \text{PT} \quad \text{TP} \)

B. Write out another minor-key folk tune in solfège or scale-degree notation. Trade with your classmates and ask them to guess which tune you have written.
ANALYSIS

Brief analysis

A. Major, minor, or modal?
Play or sing the traditional folk-song melody below. Then, on the blank provided, indicate the major key, minor key, or mode that is used in the melody. Include the letter name of the first scale degree (for example, G Dorian).

“Scots Wha Hae” (ignore the bagpiper’s grace notes!)

Name of key or mode: ___________________________
B. Scale and key identification

The following piece features a prominent scale or scale segment as part of its melody. Name the key. If it’s minor, be sure to name the form of minor scale used in the passage.

Henry Purcell, “Music for a While,” final measures

Key and scale type: ________________________________