Chapter 6

Pitch Intervals

BASIC ELEMENTS

I. Writing generic intervals

Write a whole note on the correct line or space to make each interval specified below. Do not add sharps or flats.

(a) Write the generic harmonic interval above the given note.

(b) Write the generic harmonic interval below the given note.
II. Writing perfect and major pitch intervals

To write an interval above a given pitch, first write out the generic interval. Now imagine the major-key signature associated with the bottom pitch, and add a flat or sharp, if necessary, to the upper pitch to make the correct interval quality. When writing an interval below the given note, first write the generic interval. Does the upper note fit in the major-key signature of the lower note? If not, add an accidental to the bottom note (which will change the key signature you are using to spell the interval). Do not change the given pitch.

(a) Begin by writing some major and perfect intervals above the same note: D₄. Write melodic intervals. Imagine a key signature of two sharps.

(b) Now write some major and perfect intervals below the same note: F♯₃. Write melodic intervals.
III. Writing perfect, major, and minor pitch intervals

For the exercises below, first write out major or perfect intervals. When a minor interval is requested, add an accidental to the major interval you have just spelled, in order to make it smaller in size. As before, do not change the given pitch.

(a) Write the specified melodic interval \textit{above} the given note.

\begin{center}
\begin{tabular}{cccccc}
P8 & M2 & m3 & P5 & m6 & m7 \\
\end{tabular}
\end{center}

\begin{center}
\begin{tabular}{cccccc}
M6 & m3 & m6 & P4 & M6 & m2 \\
\end{tabular}
\end{center}

(b) Write the specified melodic interval \textit{below} the given note.

\begin{center}
\begin{tabular}{cccccc}
P5 & M7 & m6 & P8 & m2 \\
\end{tabular}
\end{center}

\begin{center}
\begin{tabular}{cccccc}
m2 & M2 & m7 & P5 & M6 \\
\end{tabular}
\end{center}
IV. Writing diminished and augmented pitch intervals

For the exercises below, first write out major, minor, or perfect intervals. When an augmented interval is requested, start with a perfect or major interval, then add an accidental to make it a half step larger. When a diminished interval is requested, start with a perfect or minor interval, then add an accidental to make it a half step smaller. As always, do not change the given pitch.

A. Melodic intervals

1. Write the specified melodic interval above the given note.

2. Write the specified melodic interval below the given note.

B. Harmonic Intervals

1. Write the specified harmonic interval above the given note.
2. Write the specified harmonic interval below the given note.

V. Enharmonically equivalent intervals

For each interval shown below, write another interval beside it that is enharmonically equivalent. There may be several correct answers for each given interval—see how many you can identify.
VI. Interval inversion

A. Identify each interval shown below. In the empty measure beside it, invert each given interval by rewriting the second note, followed by the first note transposed up an octave (as shown in the example). Then identify the new interval you have written.

B. Identify each interval shown below. In the empty measure beside it, invert each given interval by rewriting the second note, followed by the first note transposed down an octave (as shown in the example). Then identify the new interval you have written.