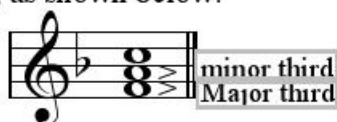


CHAPTER 3: ANALYZING MINOR AND MODAL MUSIC

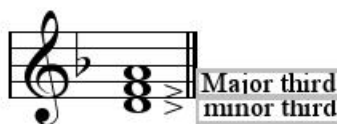
LESSON 1: Minor Music



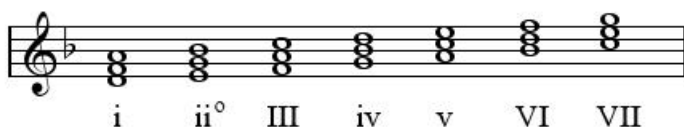
analyzing minor music* is much the same as analyzing music in a major key. The primary difference is with the modality of the chords. The chords in minor music are based upon the minor scale, and their modality is not the same as in a major key. The tonic chord in the key of F Major is the F Major triad, composed of the notes *Do*, *Mi*, and *So*—a major third and a minor third, as shown below:



A chord built upon *La*, however, is a minor chord, having a minor chord on the bottom and a major third on the top.



Since the tonic chord is no longer major, a minor tonic chord is labeled with a lower case "i" instead of capitalized as with the tonic chord in a major key (I). Note the rest of the chords built upon notes in the minor scale. Which chords are major? Which ones are minor? Which one is neither?



The same tonic-dominant relationship applies as with music in a major key. The v chord still tends toward the i chord. How to tell if the music is in a major or minor key? The use of the minor chord at the beginning and/or end of the piece is the best clue. Also, chord progressions that keep returning to the i chord.

READ the exercise below with your classmates.

Analyze the chord progressions and identify nonharmonic tones.



* Note: In this chapter we are dealing with natural minor (aeolian) only. Minor keys with altered notes will be dealt with in a later chapter.

LESSON 2: Modal Music



Examine and label all of the chords built on each of the modal scales, below.

Locrian:

Aeolian:

Mixolydian:

Lydian:

Phrygian:

Dorian:

Ionian:

Since only a few of the natural modes are used with any kind of frequency, we will analyze music in only three other modes: dorian, phrygian, and mixolydian.



ANALYZE the following examples. Identify the mode, and analyze the chords and nonharmonic tones. Sightsing with your classmates.

1.

2.

3.

4.



Write ACROSS THE CURRICULUM:

Write a descriptive essay about modal harmonies.

How are the harmonies different from major keys?

How are they similar? What patterns/relationships do you see between the chords of the different modal scales?



Pencil Time--Theory II: Activity sheet 20: Minor analysis
Activity sheet 21: Modal analysis

