

Melodic References

Here is a list of associations between intervals and triads and famous pieces/songs. You may not be familiar with some of the pieces listed, so there are plenty of options for each interval and triad. If you DO recognise and use these, it makes life so much easier!

ASCENDING INTERVALS:

Minor 2nd

The Entertainer, start of chromatic scale.

Major 2nd

Happy Birthday, start of major and minor scales.

Minor 3rd

Greensleeves, Romeo & Juliet, Supercalifragilistic, Smoke on the Water.

Major 3rd

Blue Danube, When the Saints Go Marching In, Kumbaya.

Perfect 4th

Away in a Manger, Advance Australia Fair, Amazing Grace, Star Wars, Love Me Tender, Auld Lang Syne.

Augmented 4th

The Simpsons (opening vocal), Maria (West Side Story).

Perfect 5th

Twinkle Twinkle, The Last Post, Lavender's Blue.

Minor 6th

Love Story (descending then ascending), third interval in The Entertainer, Chopin Waltz op. 64 no.2.

Major 6th

My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean, Jingle Bells verse.

Minor 7th

Somewhere (West Side Story), Star Trek.

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Major 7th

There are no famous melodies that begin like this. It is extremely dissonant!

Perfect 8ve

Somewhere Over the Rainbow, Stranger on the Shore, Lonely Goat-herd (Sound of Music).

DESCENDING INTERVALS:

N.B. Descending Major and Minor 7ths are the only intervals not listed below. The best way to identify these is that they are very large and very awkward sounding intervals!

Minor 2nd

Fur Elise.

Major 2nd

Mary had a Little Lamb, Three Blind Mice, Yesterday (The Beatles).

Minor 3rd

Girl from Ipanema, This Old Man, Morning (Peer Gynt), Little Brown Jug, Hey Jude, Baby Face, Oranges and Lemons.

Major 3rd

Summertime, Swing Low Sweet Chariot, Goodnight Ladies, Beethoven's 5th Symphony, Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto no. 1.

Perfect 4th

Born Free, Old McDonald, I've been working on the Railroad, Clementine, Food Glorious Food.

Augmented 4th

'Mistake' sound in game shows

Perfect 5th

Bach's Minuet in G, Feelings, Flinstones, Swan Lake

Minor 6th

Love Story, Arthur's Theme.

Major 6th

Music of the Night (Phantom), Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen

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Perfect 8ve

The Young and the Restless

TRIADS (MAJOR):

Root position (ascending)

The Blue Danube, Kumbaya, Morning Has Broken.

Root position (descending)

Oranges and Lemons, Silent Night, This Old Man.

1st inversion

Born Free, Chopin Military Polonaise, first descending chord from Clocks (Coldplay).

2nd inversion

My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean, Liebestraume, My Way, sustained chord at beginning of Simpsons theme.

TRIADS (MINOR):

Root position

Swan Lake, Summertime, Scarborough Fair, Feelings, third descending chord from Clocks (Coldplay).

1st inversion

Theme from Phantom of the Opera, Pathetique Sonata (Beethoven), Funeral March (Chopin).

2nd inversion

Love Story, second descending chord from Clocks (Coldplay).