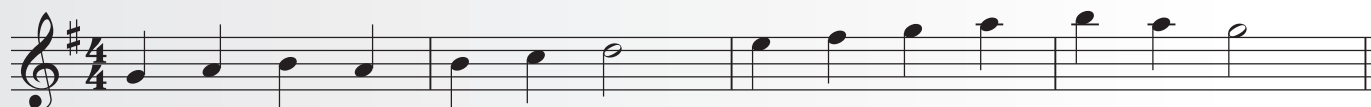


Exercise

Your instructor will play scalar melodies in simple meter using quarter notes and half notes only. Try to transcribe the melodies in three hearings or less.

Melodic Dictation 1-1



G major

Melodic Dictation 1-2



F major



online

Audio files for these transcription exercises may be found online at www.oupcanada.com/Ethier

Singing Simple Scalar Melodies Using Solfège

Familiarity with the melodic motions listed above (2–1, 7–1, 4–5, 6–5, and 5–1) contributes to success in sight-singing tonal melodies because those gestures serve the same purpose as in transcription: reinforcement of tonic and dominant notes. Here is where the movable-do system of singing is valuable. Given any key, scale degree 1 is *do* and scale degree 5 is *sol*. As solfège, these five scale-degree gestures become *re–do*, *ti–do*, *fa–sol*, *la–sol*, and *sol–do* respectively in major keys. Recognizing tonic and dominant on a staff and being able to remember their sounds and sing them from anywhere in the scale will solidly root you in a key and ensure that you never get too far off track in singing a melody at sight. Do not forget to look for—and hear inside your head—the tonic and dominant notes when singing any tonal melody.

Exercises

1. Your instructor will improvise a simple scalar melody in a major key and stop on any note of the scale. Sing back *do–sol–do*.
2. Your instructor will play an ascending or descending major scale and end on the tonic. Sing the following scale-degree patterns after hearing each scale: 1–2–1, 1–7₁–1, 5–4–5, or 5–6–5.
3. Your instructor will play an ascending or descending major scale and end on the tonic. Without any prompts, sing 1–5–1. Explore why you were able to do this without prior instruction or practice!
4. Sing the scale-degree exercises and solfège melodies provided in the repertoire section of this chapter.

TRIADS

A **triad** is a pair of thirds (major or minor) stacked one on top of the other.

The Major Triad

The **major triad** is one of two basic chords that must be mastered in order to sing and hear more complex harmonies. Corresponding to steps 1, 3, and 5 of a major scale, the major triad yields a major third on the bottom with a minor third on top.

The three notes of the triad are referred to as the root, third, and fifth and may be arranged in any order; when the root is the lowest sounding note, we say the triad is in **root position**.