

Exercises

Your instructor will play two harmonic dictations for review. Transcribe the chords and soprano melody in four hearings or less. For the adventurous student who wishes to try his or her hand at adding inner voices, the starting alto and tenor notes are provided in addition to the bass and soprano.

Harmonic Dictation 16-1

$E\flat$: I V^6_5 I⁹⁻⁸ 6 IV ii⁶₅ V^6 ₄ 5 7 I⁴⁻³

Harmonic Dictation 16-2

b : i i^6 $V^{\#4}_2$ i^6 $vii^{\circ 6}$ i i^6 $IV^{\#}$ $V^{\#7}$ $I^{\#}$



Audio files for these transcription exercises may be found online at www.oupcanada.com/Ethier and on the CD accompanying this textbook.

Modal Mixture

One of the most recognizable sounds in the literature of tonal music appears in **Harmonic Dictation 16-2**: the major tonic at the end of a minor-key piece. Known as the **tièrce de Picardie** (Picardy third), this familiar gesture comes about in this excerpt as the composer “borrows” the third scale degree from B major and inserts it into the key of B minor to create a brighter ending. This leads us to an important harmonic construct: **modal mixture**, the borrowing of chords from **parallel keys**.

Harmonic Dictation 16-2 also uses a major IV chord because stepping up to the leading tone in minor keys requires the use of raised scale degree 6 to avoid the augmented second that would otherwise result from $b6-\#7$. This is also a case of mixture since the $G^{\#}$ does not normally occur as the sixth step of B minor, but it does appear in that position in the key of B major.⁵ There are two ways composers traditionally draw on modal borrowing:

- changing from tonic major to tonic minor (complete mode change for all harmonies)
- using chords from parallel keys to effect a colour change and imply a musicodramatic change of emotional state

While it is theoretically possible to borrow any harmony from a parallel major or minor key, some are more common than others. **Figure 16-3** lists the possible borrowings of single chords between major and minor keys, the most common of which are indicated by an asterisk.