

AoS 2 – Harmony & Tonality

Tonality – the *key* of the music. The piece will be built mainly from a particular scale.

Major – a happy uplifting sound (play C-C to get used to the sound)

Minor – a sad, more serious sound (play A-A, replacing the G with a G# to get used to the sound)

Harmony – two or more notes of different pitch create harmony.

Drone – 2 long held notes, usually in the bass; used in Folk and also Indian music

Pedal – 1 long held on note, usually in the bass

Cadences – a cadence is formed by the two chords that come at the end of a musical phrase: **Perfect cadence** V-I. Sounds final and complete.

Plagal cadence IV-I. Also sounds complete, but not as strong. Used for the “Amen” at the end of hymns.

Imperfect cadence I -V. Unfinished feel to the music.

Interrupted cadence V-VI. Your ears expect it to go to the tonic as in a perfect cadence, but instead it goes to the VI chord – so it is the surprise cadence! – usually a STEP UP in the bass, and ends on Minor chord

NB don't forget - ROMAN NUMERALS to describe chords

Tonal – will have a sense of key/tonal centre.

Atonal – music with no sense of fixed tonality/key. May sound rather ‘random’

Pentatonic – a five note scale. Often used in Chinese, African and Celtic Folk melodies

Chromatic - scale made up of **semitones** (smallest interval e.g. C-C#).

Diatonic harmony uses only the notes that belong to the major or minor keys.

Discords – harsh, **clashing** sounding combination of notes.

Modulation – to change key/tonality. For example if the piece is in the key of C major you could **modulate** to the key of G major or A minor... It's a good way of developing a piece of music.

Modal – came before scales. e.g. play D-D on the white notes-this is the Dorian mode. Often used in early church music, folk and jazz.

Whole tone – a scale made up of only whole tones. (Sounds quite mysterious) C, D, E, F#, G#, A#

Consonance - music/harmonies that sound nice (**consonant**).

Dissonance – clashing music/harmonies (**dissonant**).

Close harmony – where the notes are close together within the separate parts e.g. Barber shop singing

Tierce de Picardie – when a piece in a minor key finishes with a major chord

TOP TIPS

Harmonic Device = drone, pedal, ostinato, basso continuo