

## unit 3:

# MELody AND HARmony

### 3.1. mElody

3.1.1. MUSICAL PHRASES

3.1.2. SCALeS

3.1.3. ACCIDENTALS

3.1.4. iNTERVALS

### 3.2. HARmony

## Basic Vocabulary

Accidentals: alteraciones accidentales.

Cadence: cadencia.

Chord: acorde.

Consonant: consonancia.

Disonance: disonancia.

Harmony: armonía.

Interval: intervalo.

Melody: melodía.

Minor/Major: menor/mayor

Phrase: frase.

Scale: escala.

Whole/Half step: tono y semitono.

### 3.1. MELODY

In music, a **melody** is a succession of sounds, normally with different pitches and durations, that express a musical idea.



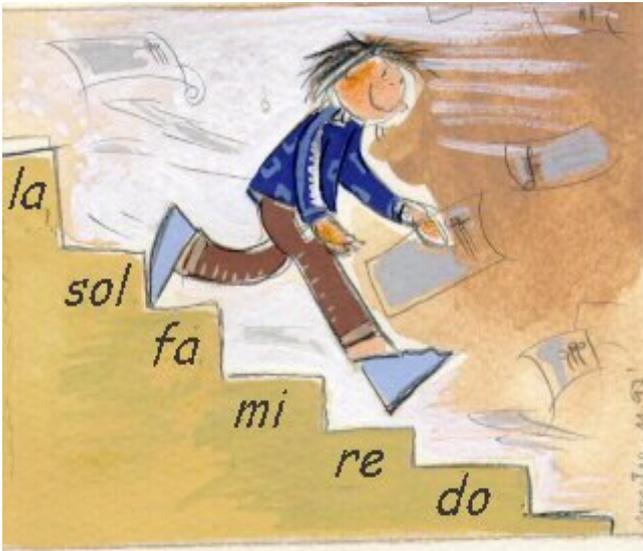
#### 3.1.1. MUSICAL PHRASES



Melodies are structured in sections called phrases. Phrases are separated by cadences as linguistic phrases are separated by punctuation marks. A phrase will end with a weaker or stronger cadence depending on if it is an antecedent (when the musical

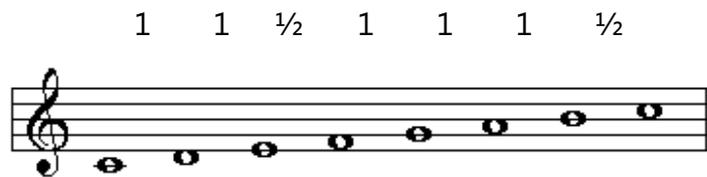
idea is not finished) or consequent phrase (when the musical idea is finished).

### 3.12. scales

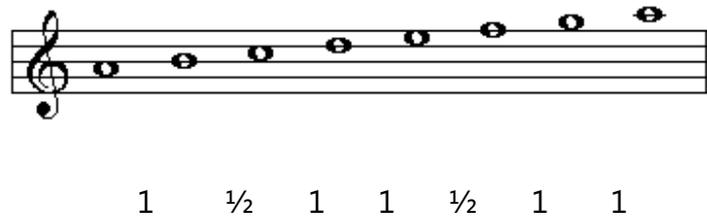


A **scale** is a series of notes arranged from low to high or vice versa. Most of the music written since the XVII century uses two types of scales: the **major scale** and the **minor scale**. What really defines the type of scale is not its first note but the intervals used to create it.

Major scales have the following sequence of whole and half stops:



This is the natural minor scale. Can you see the differences?



### 3.13. accidEntals

Accidentals are symbols that modify the pitch. The sharp (#) symbol raises a note by a half-step, while the flat (*b*) symbol lowers the note, also by a half-step. The becuadro cancels the effect of the sharp or the flat.

Sharp



Flat



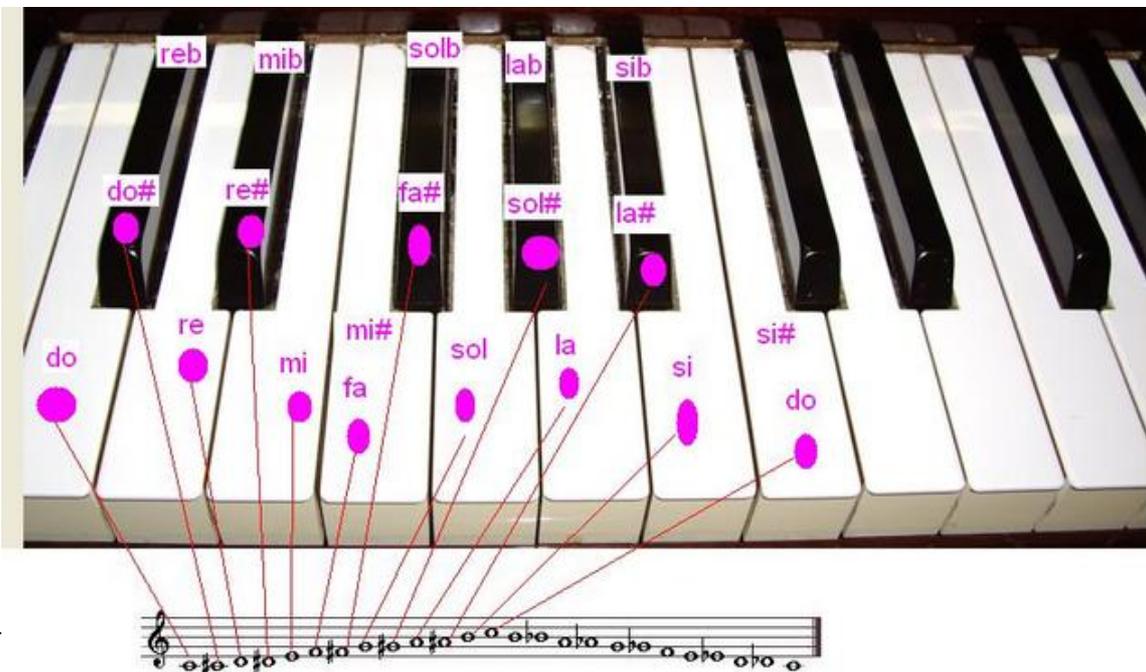
Becuardo



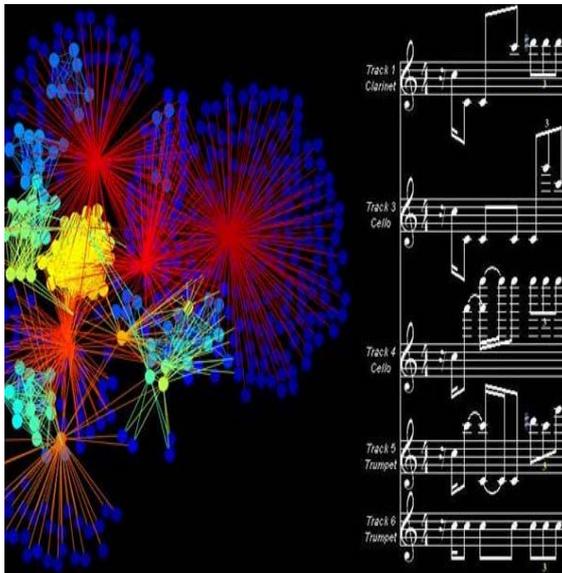
### 3.14. iNTERvals

An interval measures the distance between two notes. We obtain its name by counting the number of notes. The first and last note must be counted and you must know the order of the musical notes to be able to count the notes.

However, not all intervals of the same numerical classification are of the same size. That is why we need to specify the quality by finding the exact number of **whole** and **half steps** in the interval.



## 2. HARMONY



In Western music, **harmony** is the use of different pitches simultaneously and often refers to the "vertical" aspects of music, distinguished from ideas of melodic line, or the "horizontal" aspect.

Three or more notes simultaneously sounded form a chord. We can feel different sorts of feelings when we hear a chord. Normally, we differentiate between consonant (relax) and dissonance (tension). Typically, a dissonant chord (chord with a tension) will become in a consonant chord. A good harmonization usually sounds pleasant to the ear when there is a balance between the consonant and dissonant sounds. To simplify, that occurs when there is a balance between "tension" and "relax" moments. Due to this, tensions are usually 'prepared' and then 'resolved'.

