

Music and Communication

Using Musical Intervals

- Using two notes in a major scale...
- Octave Purity, peace, unity
- Fifth Harmony, obvious change
- Fourth Harmony, gentle change
- Third Harmony, something interesting
- Flatted Third Darker, sad
- Second Tension
- Flatted Second Discord, real problems

2

More Intervallic Relationships

Table 6-6. Harmonic intervals and emotional characteristics

Interval	Emotional Quality
Perfect octave	Completeness, openness, unity
Major seventh	Spooky, eerie, off-center, strange
Minor seventh	Expectant, suspenseful, full but unbalanced
Major sixth	Peaceful, balanced
Minor sixth	A bit sad, soothing
Perfect fifth	Power, centering, strength, victory
Tritone	Horror, terrifying, scary
Perfect fourth	Ethereal, lightness, transparent, clarity
Major third	Neutral, hopeful, resolved, nonabrasive
Minor third	Uplifting, relaxed, positive feelings
Major second	Unresolved, unsettled, unpredictability
Minor second	Unclear, tense, anxious, uneasiness
Perfect unison	Peace, strength, calmness, security

3

More Semiotics*

- Low Frequency Tones
 - Heavier, more important
- Rising Tones
 - Something is about to happen
- Dropping Tones
 - About to end, about to come to completion

* *The study of "signs,"*

or what something signifies or communicates to us.

4

- Major Scale
 - Solid, Positive
- Minor Scale
 - Bluesy, complex, sad, countercultural
- Suspended Chord: Root +4th +5th
 - Imminent change, like a coiled spring
 - “Resolves” to major chord for sense of relief
 - Root +3rd +5th
- 3/4 Time
 - Graceful

5

- Leitmotif
 - A little musical theme that is heard whenever a particular character enters
 - Shark theme in Jaws (flatted 2nd alternating notes)
 - Associated with many characters in Lord of the Rings
 - Hitchcock’s high-pitched flatted 2nd fading in
- Resolving
 - Bringing music back to the 1st (*tonic*) at the end
 - For instance, if we start in C, at the end we come back to C.
 - Signals that the conflict is over, completed.
 - Life is good.

6

Other Typical Form Options

- Moving back and forth from 1st to 2nd
 - Keeps it with the same feeling but not boring
- Using a minor scale for 2nd, 3rd, 6th chords or transposed loops
 - Typical in pop music, adds interest, variety
- Moving in 5ths
 - From 1st to 5th, then to *it’s* 5th, and so on
 - Typical in jazz

7