

My Third Intervals

Now that you are almost certainly a musical maestro this is when intervals get really interesting!

You know your perfect 4ths and 5ths, your major and minor intervals and your good old octave but there are a few more exciting intervals and interval names to be thrown into the mix.

Keep an eye on this keyboard, we're about to enjoy a brain teaser!



It's time to start thinking about our octave as 12 semitones. This will make counting intervals much clearer!

The Tritone

Our first new interval sits **between our perfect 4th and 5th**. It was known as the Devil's chord or "diabolus in musica" ("the Devil in music") in the early 18th century.

It is known more commonly as a TRITONE ("three tones") and is made up of 6 semitones e.g: C - F#.

A Tritone is exactly half an octave.

Try and find a few tritones on the keyboard starting on different notes.

Augmented and Diminished intervals

Here are two big scary words but funnily enough they simply describe something you already know! Let me explain...

Now we know that major intervals are bigger and minor intervals are smaller, right?

Well, the word **augmented** simply means “made bigger” and the word **diminished** means “made smaller”. So augmented and diminished are just another way of describing the size of the interval.

If an interval is **augmented** you **ADD** a semitone. If an interval is **diminished** you **TAKE AWAY** a semitone.

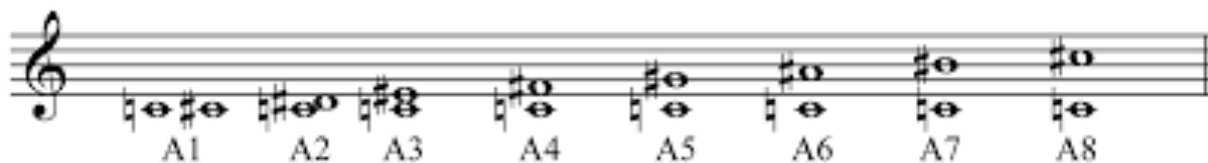
For example...

We know C - Eb is a minor 3rd.

But using our new words we could also call a minor 3rd a diminished (“made smaller”) 3rd! Or if we were feeling very clever we could call it an augmented (“made bigger”) 2nd!

Try and work out what interval C-Ab. Can describe it as an augmented interval and then a diminished interval?

Here are the **Augmented** Intervals written out for you - see if you can play some.



And here are the **Diminished** ones!



And finally here is a list of all of our intervals, including their new names, and some songs to help you remember how they sound!

- Ascending Intervals -

Minor 2nd, Augmented 1st - *Jaws* or *Pink Panther*

Major 2nd, Diminished 2nd - *Happy Birthday*

Minor 3rd, Augmented 3rd - *Greensleeves* or *So Long, Farewell* (Sound of Music)

Major 3rd, Diminished 4th - *Oh When the Saints*

Perfect 4th, Augmented 3rd - *Amazing Grace* or *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*

Tritone, Augmented 4th, diminished 5th - *Maria* (West Side Story) or *The Simpsons*

Perfect 5th, Diminished 6th - *Twinkle Twinkle* or *Star Wars*

Minor 6th, Augmented 5th - *The Entertainer* (Scott Joplin) *3rd and 4th note this time!

Major 6th, Diminished 7th - *Dashing Through the Snow*

Minor 7th, Augmented 6th - *Somewhere* (West side story) or *The Winner Takes It All* (ABBA - the chorus)

Major 7th, Diminished 8th - *Somewhere over the Rainbow* *1st and 3rd note this time!

8th/8ve - Somewhere over the Rainbow *1st and 2nd note again!

- Descending Intervals -

Minor 2nd, Augmented 1st - Fur Elise (Beethoven)

Major 2nd, Diminished 2nd - Yesterday (The Beatles) and "sound of" from "the hills are alive with the sound of music"

Minor 3rd, Augmented 3rd - Hey Jude (The Beatles)

Major 3rd, Diminished 4th - Swing Low, Sweet Chariot (Gershwin)

Perfect 4th, Augmented 3rd - O Come, All Ye Faithful

Tritone, Augmented 4th, diminished 5th - Close Every Door ("Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat" - the interval between "door" and "to")

Perfect 5th, Diminished 6th - "The Flintstones" theme song

Minor 6th, Augmented 5th - "Love Story" theme

Major 6th, Diminished 7th - "Sweet Caroline"

Minor 7th, Augmented 6th - White Christmas (The interval in the word "Christmases")

Major 7th, Diminished 8th - Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas (the last "Have your")

8th/8ve - My Funny Valentine (between "stay" and "each" at the end of the song)

- It is important to also consider intervals in relation to the tonic of the key;

For example, in "Sweet Caroline", the interval between "Sweet" and Ca(roline)" is a diminished 6th, but context, "Sweet" is the major 3rd of the key and "Ca" is the perfect 5th.

One of our pupils discovered that the Perfect 5th going to minor 6th is the Skype sound. Why not see what intervals you can find in context?