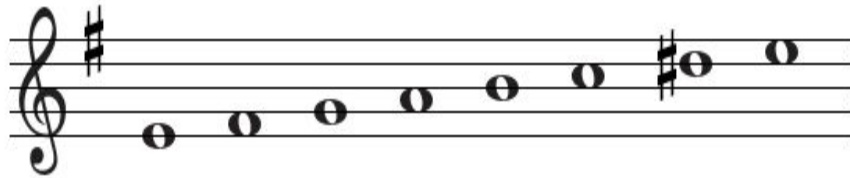


Kyrene Instrumental Ensemble Enrichment for Middle School At-Home Learning

ENRICHMENT:

Building Minor Scales



SHORT

DESCRIPTION:

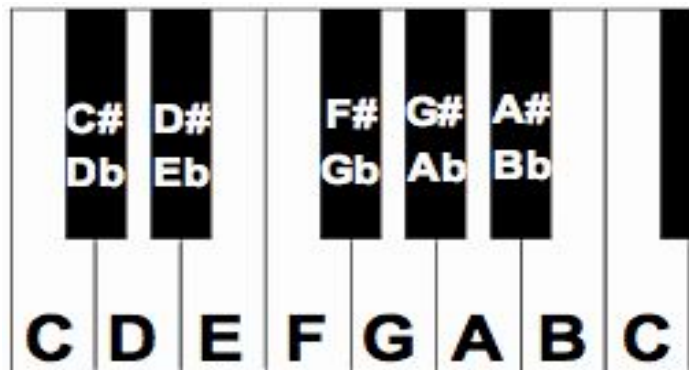
A minor scale is a generalized term that may refer to a major scale's relative natural minor scale, harmonic minor scale, or melodic minor scale.

MATERIALS:

Worksheet (attached), pencil

OPTIONAL:

Instrument, recording device (such as a camera or phone)



INSTRUCTIONS:

- Review the “Terms to Know”
- Complete the attached worksheet: *Building Minor Scales*
- OPTIONAL: Perform your major scales for a friend or family member.
 - Share the video of your performance with your teacher!

TERMS TO KNOW:

Natural Minor Scale - built by starting on the sixth note of a major scale

Harmonic Minor Scale - uses the same notes as the natural minor scale AND raises the seventh note one half step, or semitone

Melodic Minor Scale - uses the same notes as the natural minor scale AND raises the *sixth and seventh* notes one half step on the ascent *only* (descent uses the original natural minor notes)

Whole Step - equivalent to two half steps; sometimes called a whole tone

Half Step - smallest distance between two notes commonly used in Western music; it is also the smallest distance between two keys on a piano; sometimes called semitone

LINKS TO LEARN MORE AND EXPLORE:

Check out Brad Harrison's video lesson about minor scales!

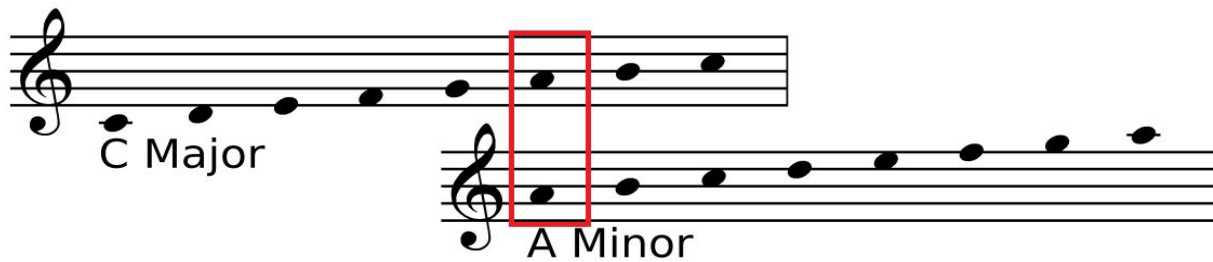
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rxaNn1gXg-E>

No instrument? Need to check your work? Try playing your minor scales using this online piano!

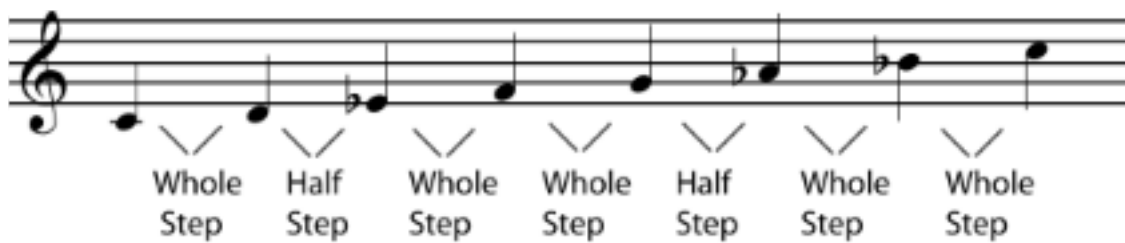
<https://virtualpiano.net/>

Building Minor Scales

All major scales have a relative minor scale that shares the same key signature. It begins on the 6th note of the major scale. This is called natural minor.



The pattern to create a natural minor scale is:



The relative minor for C major scale is A minor because “A” is the 6th note of our C major scale. Using our concert B minor scale, try labeling the whole and half steps below:



Bonus! What is the relative *major* scale for B minor? _____

If we raise the 7th note of any natural minor scale it becomes harmonic minor. Here is the A harmonic minor scale. Name the note modified by the accidental: _____



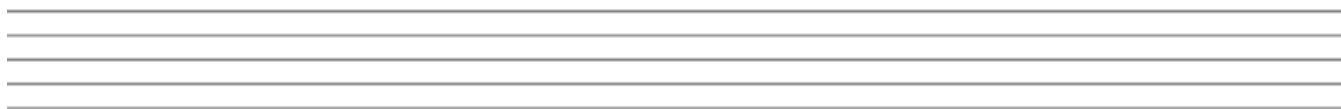
If we raise the 6th and 7th notes of any natural minor scale on the ascent, but not the descent, it becomes melodic minor. Here is A melodic minor. See how the accidentals change on the way down the scale. The notes are modified by a (*circle one*) half step / whole step.



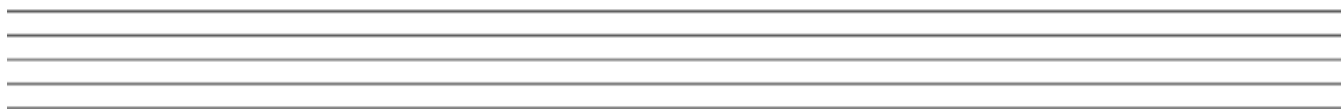
Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Now, build the following minor scales. Include the ascent and descent.
Make sure to draw your clef at the beginning of each staff and put any accidentals
(sharps or flats) to the left of the note they adjust. Challenge: play each scale when finished!

E Natural Minor

A set of five horizontal lines for handwriting practice, consisting of a top line, two middle lines, and a bottom line.

C Harmonic Minor

A set of five horizontal lines for handwriting practice, consisting of a top line, two middle lines, and a bottom line.

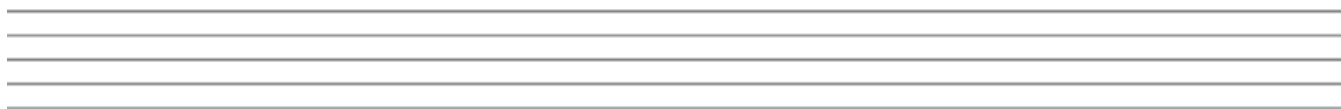
G Melodic Minor

A set of five horizontal lines for handwriting practice, consisting of a top line, two middle lines, and a bottom line.

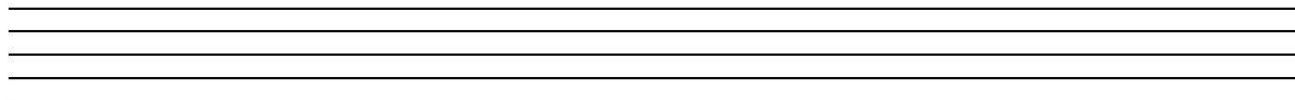
E^b Natural Minor

A set of five horizontal lines for handwriting practice, consisting of a top line, two middle lines, and a bottom line.

B Harmonic Minor

A set of five horizontal lines for handwriting practice, consisting of a top line, two middle lines, and a bottom line.

F Natural Minor

A set of five horizontal lines for handwriting practice, consisting of a top line, two middle lines, and a bottom line.

Project: Choose your favorite minor scale: natural, harmonic, or melodic.
Notate the scale ascending and descending. Then, mark the pattern of half and whole steps below
the notes.

A set of five horizontal lines for handwriting practice, consisting of a top line, two middle lines, and a bottom line.