

# Ear Training & Audiation

Training your ear is something that will occur naturally as you play your instrument, learn musics, listen to musics and more. It is a capability that will grow as you keep practicing playing an instrument over years.

However, knowing that this actually is a competency that you can study and work on, will make you a better musician if you are aware of it. This is especially true if you dedicate some of your time to work on ear training.

Why ear training & audiation is important :

- it allows you to **internalize music**
- play what you have in your mind
- learn musics way faster and learn them by ear
- get better at improvising
- play more easily and more naturally with other musicians
- get better as a musician as a whole and much more !

Typically, ear training will allow you to recognize and **label musical elements**. You will be able to decompose rhythms, melodies or harmonies to finally understand the underlying structure of any music.

We generally start practicing ear training by **focusing on intervals**. If you have followed my courses and worked on the interval course, you may now understand that most exercices in the intervals lesson were actually ear training exercises. However ear training is a much wider concept !

When trying to find a note thanks to a reference note using the quality of the interval and the second note, we use a skill that we call **relative pitch**. This is because, from a reference note, we are able to identify another one.

If you are able to tell the name of a note without reference or context, we call it absolute or **perfect pitch**. This ability is rare and you are born with it or not !

You can then work on ear training by **focusing on chords**. The goal for you is to try to be able to label any chord so that when you hear any chord in any music, you can say its quality (major, minor, minor major 7th, diminished etc...).

Then, you can work to identify **cadences** (minor plagal cadence, perfect cadence etc...), **scales, modes and rhythms** (3/4, 4/4, 5/4), polyrhythm and really anything.

If most of the things you have seen in this lesson do not make sense to you, that is totally normal ! This means that you still have plenty of musical knowledge you need to learn, and this should be exiting !

This lesson is voluntarily vague because ear training and audiation are wide concepts. They are connected to so many musical concepts that you will learn later on and throughout your musical journey.

I created this lesson so that you know these wide concepts exist as early as possible. I did this because so many musicians do not get the chance to know these key concepts that are important to get better in music. Now you are aware that this is part of the knowledge you will need to acquire in order to become a complete musician.

In order to practice ear training and audiation, here are some advice I can give you :

- open your musical registry by listening to more different genres (even ones you do not like). This will expand your musical knowledge and vocabulary. That may seem strange but this is actually a great exercise and it is easy to do
- download a mobile application for ear training and try to work a little on it everyday
- learn musics by ear
- find a scale that fits well to improvise on a music you do not know
- predict the next note or chords in a musical progression
- I strongly encourage you to find other contents over the internet if you wish to enhance a specific aspect related to ear training or audiation