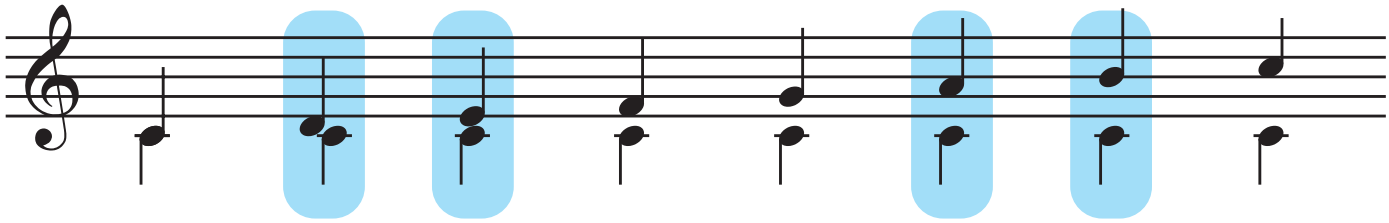
Imperfect Intervals

WE'VE TALKED ABOUT ***UNISONS, FOURTHS, FIFTHS*** AND ***OCTAVES***, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE REST? ARE THESE OTHER INTERVALS SOMEHOW ***IMPERFECT?***

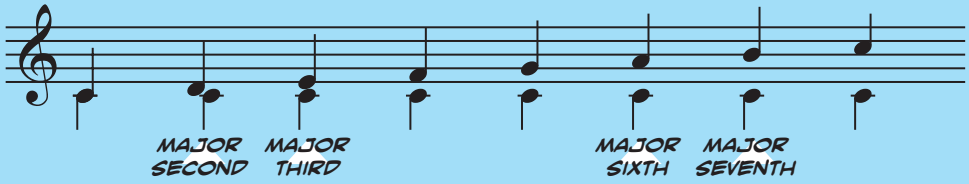


WELL, YES, BUT NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE SOMEHOW ***INFERIOR*** TO PERFECT INTERVALS... ***SECONDS, THIRDS, SIXTHS*** AND ***SEVENTHS*** JUST WORK A LITTLE ***DIFFERENTLY!***

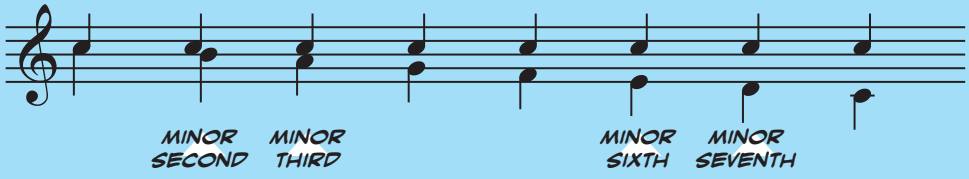
A AUGMENTED
M MAJOR
m MINOR
d DIMINISHED

FOR ONE THING, THE ***INFLECTION*** FOR THESE INTERVALS IS NEVER ***PERFECT;*** IT WILL BE EITHER ***MAJOR*** OR ***MINOR.*** MINOR INTERVALS ARE A SEMITONE SMALLER THAN MAJOR INTERVALS. LIKE PERFECT INTERVALS, THOUGH, THEY CAN ALSO BE ***AUGMENTED*** OR ***DIMINISHED;*** AUGMENTED INTERVALS ARE A SEMITONE LARGER THAN MAJOR, AND DIMINISHED INTERVALS ARE A SEMITONE SMALLER THAN MINOR.

HOW DO WE KNOW IF AN INTERVAL IS ***MAJOR*** OR ***MINOR?*** WE CAN ACTUALLY USE THE ***MAJOR SCALE*** TO FIND OUT. NOTICE THAT, IN THE MAJOR SCALE, INTERVALS FROM THE ***TONIC*** UP TO ANOTHER SCALE DEGREE ARE ***MAJOR.***

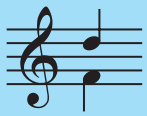


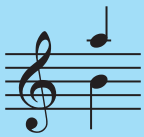
LIKEWISE, INTERVALS FROM THE TONIC ***DOWN*** TO ANOTHER SCALE DEGREE ARE ***MINOR.***



KNOWING THIS, WHEN YOU ARE CONFRONTED WITH A ***SECOND, THIRD, SIXTH*** OR ***SEVENTH,*** YOU CAN FIND ITS INFLECTION BY THINKING ABOUT THE KEY SIGNATURE OF THE TOP AND/OR BOTTOM NOTE.

WE KNOW THIS IS A ***MAJOR SIXTH*** BECAUSE ***D,*** THE TOP NOTE, IS IN THE KEY OF ***F MAJOR*** (THE BOTTOM NOTE).

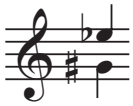




AND THIS IS A ***MINOR SEVENTH*** BECAUSE ***B,*** BOTTOM NOTE, IS IN THE KEY OF ***A MAJOR*** (THE TOP NOTE).

IF THE ***TOP NOTE*** IS IN THE MAJOR KEY OF THE ***BOTTOM NOTE,*** THE INTERVAL IS ***MAJOR.*** IF THE ***BOTTOM NOTE*** IS IN THE MAJOR KEY OF THE ***TOP NOTE,*** THE INTERVAL IS ***MINOR.***

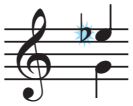
WHEN THE NOTES OF THE INTERVAL HAVE ***ACCIDENTALS,*** THE ASSOCIATED KEY SIGNATURES CAN BE MORE ***COMPLICATED...*** SO IT'S EASIEST TO ***TEMPORARILY IGNORE*** THE ACCIDENTALS, DETERMINE THE INTERVAL, AND THEN ***ADD THE ACCIDENTALS BACK ONE AT A TIME*** AND TRACK HOW THE INTERVAL CHANGES!



ACK! WHAT IS ***THAT?*** LET'S FIRST HIDE THE ACCIDENTALS...

M6

E IS IN THE KEY OF ***G,*** SO WE KNOW THIS IS A ***MAJOR*** SIXTH.



m6

ADDING BACK THE ***FLAT*** MAKES THE INTERVAL ***SMALLER,*** SO IT'S NOW A ***MINOR*** SIXTH...

d6

ADDING BACK THE ***SHARP*** MAKES IT EVEN ***SMALLER...*** A ***DIMINISHED SIXTH!***