

MUS 102 Music Fundamentals
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A Creative Approach to Music Fundamentals, 11th edition by William Duckworth
Chapter 10 Minor Scales

Vocabulary and Concepts

Forms of the minor scale:

Natural minor: no changes from the notes of the relative major.

Harmonic minor: raise the 7th degree of the scale one half-step

Melodic minor: raise the 6th and 7th degrees of the scale one half-step ascending and lower them to the natural form descending.

See the music example on pp. 205-206 to see how natural, harmonic and melodic versions look respectively. The raised notes are never part of the key signature.

Natural Minor

Scale Pattern: W-H-W-W-H-W-W

The 7th degree position is one whole step away from tonic. That position is known as the “**subtonic.**” In a major scale, the 7th degree is only a semitone away from tonic called the “**leading-tone.**”

Example: A natural minor: A-B-C-D-E-F-G-A

Harmonic Minor

Scale Pattern: W-H-W-W-H-A²-H (The sub-mediante to leading tone interval is 3 half steps)

Example: A harmonic minor: A-B-C-D-E-F-G[#]-A

Melodic Minor

Scale Pattern:

W-H-W-W-W-W-H ascending

W-W-H-W-W-H-W descending

Example: A melodic minor: A-B-C-D-E-F[#]-G[#]-A / A-G-F-E-D-C-B-A

Why three minor scales? In “tips and tools” p. 203

Singing minor key solfege

Preferred: using La as starting tonic note to preserve absolute interval relationships with the syllables used

Natural minor: La-Ti-Do-Re-Mi-Fa-Sol-La

Harmonic minor: La-Ti-Do-Re-Mi-Fa-**Si**-La

Melodic minor: La-Ti-Do-Re-Mi-**Fi-Si**-La-Sol-**Fa-Mi**-Re-Do-Ti-La

Suggested exercises:

Try the Practice Materials on pp. 209-223