

# Interval Lesson

- Intervals are found both in horizontal (melodic) and vertical (harmonic) structures in music.
- An interval is simply the *distance* between two notes.
  - This *distance* is measured by the number of whole and/or half steps between the two notes involved.
- There are basically two kinds of intervals:
  - Melodic
    - Melodic intervals are those that involve two successive tones.
      - ◆ See Example 01
  - Harmonic
    - Harmonic intervals consist of two tones that occur simultaneously.
      - ◆ See Example 02
- Another way of conceiving intervals is to relate them to some portion of a major or minor scale.
  - For example, a major 3<sup>rd</sup> is composed of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> notes of a major scale.
    - See Example 03
- The following chart displays the most common major, minor and perfect intervals. They are described in three ways:
  - By number of whole and half steps
  - By combining two smaller intervals
  - By locating them in a major or minor scale

<u>Interval</u>	<u># of Steps</u>	<u>Location</u>
Minor 2 <sup>nd</sup>	½ Step	Closest of All Intervals
Major 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 Whole Step	1 & 2, Major
Minor 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1½ Steps	1 & 3, Minor
Major 3 <sup>rd</sup>	2 Whole Steps	1 & 3, Major
Perfect 4 <sup>th</sup>	2½ Steps	1 & 4, Major or Minor
Perfect 5 <sup>th</sup>	3½ Whole Steps	1 & 5, Major or Minor
Minor 6 <sup>th</sup>	4 Whole Steps	1 & 6, Minor
Major 6 <sup>th</sup>	4½ Steps	1 & 6, Major
Minor 7 <sup>th</sup>	5 Whole Steps	1 & 7, Minor
Major 7 <sup>th</sup>	5½ Steps	1 & 7, Major
Octave	6 Whole Steps	1 & 8, Major or Minor

- When spelling intervals it is essential to make sure that the intervals are spelled correctly and enharmonically.
  - o Enharmonic Tones are those tones derived from different degrees, but practically identical in pitch such as G# and Ab. These two notes sound practically identical but are spelled differently.
    - See Example 04
  - o Technically, an interval that is misspelled enharmonically should be relabeled as another type of interval.
    - See Example 05