

Dictation

Part II: Tonal & Melodic

Chapter 3: Diatonic Steps and Tonic Triad in the Natural Minor Scale; Simple Meters, Undivided Beat

Dictation involves recognizing and translating aural vocabulary then transcribing it into notation.

Tonal Dictation: Diatonic Steps and Tonic Triad in Natural Minor Scale

Developing Aural-Oral Translation Skills

To build vocabulary and reinforce translating aural-oral vocabulary, practice singing and naming/labeling patterns (Section 3.3) using the three-step aural-oral process with your instructor or student partner, as well as via the MP3 files of the tonal patterns, Part II, Chapter 3, located on the companion website. Keep in mind that the third step is aural-oral dictation. The next step would be to notate it on an iconic graph (depicts interval quality) or a staff.

Iconic Tonal Procedure

- On the first playing/singing, write the first letter of each tonal syllable in the appropriate box. Draw a question mark if a particular pitch cannot be determined and then move forward focusing on the ensuing pitches.
- On the second playing/singing, address the missing pitch(es).

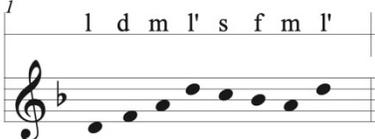
Iconic Tonal Dictation											
<i>la-based minor</i>						<i>do-based minor</i>					
l	l				l	d	d				d
s		s				te		te			
f			f			le			le		
m				m		s				s	
r						f					
d						me					
t						r					
l					l	d					d

Tonal Procedure

- On the first playing/singing, write the first letter of each tonal syllable. Draw a question mark if a particular pitch cannot be determined and then move forward focusing on the ensuing pitches.
- On the second playing/singing, address the missing pitch(es).
- Translate the tonal syllables into notation by using note heads to indicate the pitches on the staff.

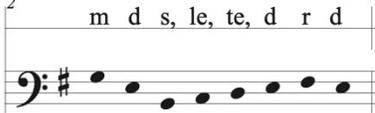
Iconic and Tonal Notation: *la-based minor*

Tonal Syllables l d m l' s f m l'

Tonal Notation 

Iconic and Tonal Notation: *do-based minor*

Tonal Syllables m d s, le, te, d r d

Tonal Notation 

*Melodic Dictation: Diatonic Steps and Tonic Triad in Natural Minor Scale;
Simple Meters, Undivided Beat*

Melodic Shorthand Procedure

Write with one hand and quietly use a down-up motion with the other hand. Following the down-up (↓↑) motion of each beat can be visual and kinesthetic aids in determining the rhythm.

Write the first letter of each tonal syllable above the beat lines and mark the appropriate rhythm shorthand on the beat lines. See Part I, Chapter 1.5 for the rhythm shorthand key that corresponds to this chapter.

- First playing: focus on only the rhythm or tonal aspect, preferably your strongest element.
- Second playing: focus on the other element.
- Third playing: address missing rhythms or pitches and make any necessary adjustments.
- Transcribe the rhythm shorthand and tonal syllables into notation on the staff.

Suggested melodic shorthand symbols for Part II, Chapter 3 are illustrated below.

Melodic Notation: la-based minor

Tonal Syllables	m, l d m r d t d m, l
Rhythm Shorthand	
Melodic Transcription	

Melodic Notation: do-based minor

Tonal Syllables	s, d me s f me r me s d
Rhythm Shorthand	
Melodic Transcription	

As skills improve, gradually increase the length of each dictation exercise. All or part of each reading exercise in Section 3.4 as well as Chapter 3 in Part II of Additional Reading Exercises located on the companion website, can be used for dictation.

Iconic Tonal Templates — Chapter 3, Part II

Iconic Tonal Dictation							Iconic Tonal Dictation						
Minor Pentachord: la-based							Minor Pentachord: do-based						
m							s						
r							f						
d							me						
t							r						
l							d						

Iconic Tonal Templates [la minor pentachord] — Chapter 3, Part II

1.						2.						3.					
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Pentachord						Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Pentachord						Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Pentachord					
m						m						m					
r						r						r					
d						d						d					
t						t						t					
l						l						l					
4.						5.						6.					
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Pentachord						Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Pentachord						Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Pentachord					
m						m						m					
r						r						r					
d						d						d					
t						t						t					
l						l						l					
7.						8.						9.					
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Pentachord						Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Pentachord						Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Pentachord					
m						m						m					
r						r						r					
d						d						d					
t						t						t					
l						l						d					
10.						11.						12.					
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Pentachord						Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Pentachord						Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Pentachord					
m						m						m					
r						r						r					
d						d						d					
t						t						t					
l						l						l					

Draw a box around *tonic chord tones*, a circle around *passing tones*, and a triangle around *upper* and *lower neighbor tones*.

Iconic Tonal Templates [do minor pentachord] — Chapter 3, Part II

1.						2.						3.					
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Pentachord						Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Pentachord						Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Pentachord					
s						s						s					
f						f						f					
me						me						me					
r						r						r					
d						d						d					
4.						5.						6.					
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Pentachord						Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Pentachord						Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Pentachord					
s						s						s					
f						f						f					
me						me						me					
r						r						r					
d						d						d					
7.						8.						9.					
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Pentachord						Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Pentachord						Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Pentachord					
s						s						s					
f						f						f					
me						me						me					
r						r						r					
d						d						d					
10.						11.						12.					
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Pentachord						Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Pentachord						Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Pentachord					
s						s						s					
f						f						f					
me						me						me					
r						r						r					
d						d						d					

Draw a box around *tonic chord tones*, a circle around *passing tones*, and a triangle around *upper* and *lower neighbor tones*.

Iconic Tonal Templates [la minor, Natural Minor Scale] — Chapter 3, Part II

1.										
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Scale										
l										
s										
f										
m										
r										
d										
t										
l										
4.										
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Scale										
l										
s										
f										
m										
r										
d										
t										
l										
7.										
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Scale										
l										
s										
f										
m										
r										
d										
t										
l										
2.										
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Scale										
l										
s										
f										
m										
r										
d										
t										
l										
5.										
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Scale										
l										
s										
f										
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d										
t										
l										
8.										
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Scale										
l										
s										
f										
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r										
d										
t										
l										
3.										
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Scale										
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m										
r										
d										
t										
l										
6.										
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Scale										
l										
s										
f										
m										
r										
d										
t										
l										
9.										
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Scale										
l										
s										
f										
m										
r										
d										
t										
l										

Draw a box around *tonic chord tones*, a circle around *passing tones*, and a triangle around *upper* and *lower neighbor tones*.

Iconic Tonal Templates [do minor, Natural Minor Scale] — Chapter 3, Part II

1.									
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Scale									
d									
te									
le									
s									
f									
me									
r									
d									
4.									
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Scale									
d									
te									
le									
s									
f									
me									
r									
d									
7.									
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Scale									
d									
te									
le									
s									
f									
me									
r									
d									
2.									
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Scale									
d									
te									
le									
s									
f									
me									
r									
d									
5.									
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Scale									
d									
te									
le									
s									
f									
me									
r									
d									
8.									
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Scale									
d									
te									
le									
s									
f									
me									
r									
d									
3.									
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Scale									
d									
te									
le									
s									
f									
me									
r									
d									
6.									
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Scale									
d									
te									
le									
s									
f									
me									
r									
d									
9.									
Iconic Tonal Dictation Minor Scale									
d									
te									
le									
s									
f									
me									
r									
d									

Draw a box around *tonic chord tones*, a circle around *passing tones*, and a triangle around *upper* and *lower neighbor tones*.

Melodic Templates — Chapter 3, Part II

The instructor will indicate the key signature.

Tonal Syllables 1. 2.

Short Hand

Notation

Tonal Syllables 3. 4.

Short Hand

Notation

Tonal Syllables 5.

Short Hand

Notation

Tonal Syllables 6.

Short Hand

Notation

Tonal Syllables 7.

Short Hand

Notation

Tonal Syllables 8.

Short Hand

Notation

Tonal Syllables 9.

Short Hand

Notation