

Natural Minor Scales in 3rds

As well as Harmonic and Melodic Minor

1 A Minor



3 E Minor



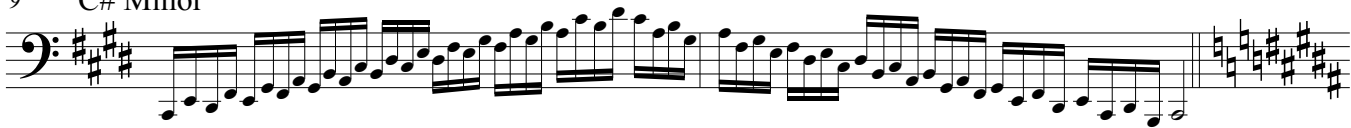
5 B Minor



7 F# Minor



9 C# Minor



11 G# Minor



13 Eb Minor



15 Bb Minor



17 F Minor

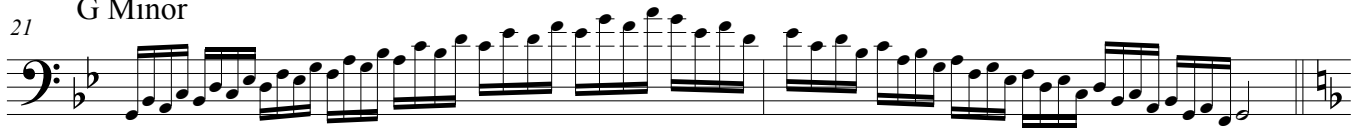


19 C Minor

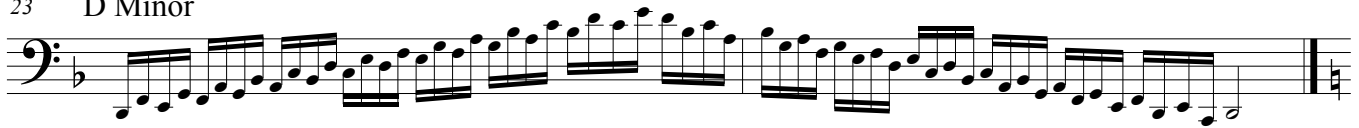


Detailed description: The image displays nine musical staves, each representing a different natural minor scale. Each staff begins with a bass clef and a key signature. The scales are: 1. A Minor (one sharp, F#), 3. E Minor (two sharps, F# and C#), 5. B Minor (three sharps, F#, C#, and G#), 7. F# Minor (three sharps, F#, C#, and G#), 9. C# Minor (four sharps, F#, C#, G#, and D#), 11. G# Minor (four sharps, F#, C#, G#, and D#), 13. Eb Minor (three flats, Bb, Eb, and Ab), 15. Bb Minor (four flats, F, Bb, Eb, and Ab), 17. F Minor (two flats, Bb and Eb), and 19. C Minor (no sharps or flats). Each scale is written in a single line of music, starting on the second line of the staff and ascending in thirds until it reaches the octave. The notation includes various note values (eighths, sixteens, and quarter notes) and rests to indicate the rhythm of the scale.

21 G Minor



23 D Minor



Minor Scales - Simplified?

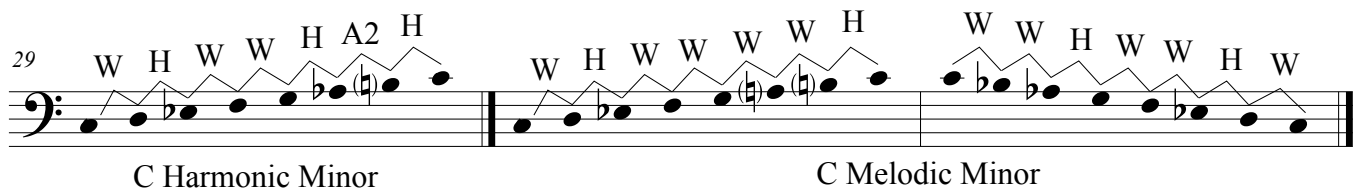
25 C Natural Minor

C Harmonic Minor

C Melodic Minor



Natural minor, also known as the aeolian mode, uses the same structure of whole-step and half-step intervals in a major scale. Notice that the 3rd, 6th, and 7th scale degrees in the above figure are altered; the **3rd scale degree in minor is ALWAYS LOWERED!!** To switch between parallel major and minor keys (C major to C minor) add 3 flats in a major key to make it minor, and add 3 sharps to a minor key to make it major. When adding flats or sharps to a key signature, the accidental notes become natural notes (ie. F minor + 3 sharps = F major, Db major + 3 sharps = C# minor*).



Harmonic minor has a distinct sound to its harmonic function. The quality of the scale is the same as the natural minor, until the end with the **RAISED 7th SCALE DEGREE**. The interval between the 6th & 7th is an augmented 2nd (A2), which has the distance of 3 half steps. By western notation, the harmonic minor scale is the closest to replicating scales in Middle East music theory.

The **Melodic minor** scale has had fairly inconsistent uses since its addition to western music theory. the practice of melodic minor includes **RAISED 6th & 7th SCALE DEGREES** on its way **UP**, and **NATURAL MINOR** going **DOWN**. The ascending melodic minor is most common in jazz music, and the descending is used by composers and music theorists to avoid part writing errors.

* - Db and C# are the same harmonic pitch, but have enharmonic spelling. When adding sharps or flats to a key loaded with accidentals, we flip the spelling even though the pitches are the same.