Hearing intervals

a song or a trick for every interval, going up and coming down

Two questions name any interval by ear: did the second note go up or down, and how far? Songs you already know are the quickest ruler: match the leap to a song, and you have its name. (On paper: Handouts 04, 05, 13, 14 and 65.)

LISTEN
Scan to hear every interval
tissimo.co/worksheets/hearing-intervals

FOUR STEPS TO NAME AN INTERVAL

1 Up or down?
Hum the two notes. Did your voice climb or drop?

2 Near or far?
Next-door letters make a **2nd** (C to D); skip a letter for a **3rd** (C to E).

3 Sing its song.
Start a song from the table on the first note. Does it land on the second?

4 Count to check.
Hum up the scale, counting letters. Six letters = a **6th**.

C 1 · D 2 · E 3 · F 4 · G 5 · A 6
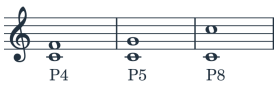
A SONG FOR EVERY INTERVAL

INTERVAL	HALF STEPS	↑ GOING UP	↓ COMING DOWN
m2 minor 2nd	1	**Jaws** the shark theme: its first two notes	**Für Elise** E→D♯
M2 major 2nd	2	**Frère Jacques** C→D	**Mary Had a Little Lamb** E→D
m3 minor 3rd	3	**Greensleeves** A→C	**Rain, Rain, Go Away** G→E
M3 major 3rd	4	**When the Saints** C→E	**Swing Low, Sweet Chariot** E→C
P4 perfect 4th	5	**Here Comes the Bride** C→F	**Eine kleine Nachtmusik** G→D
TT tritone	6	**Maria** *West Side Story*: "Ma-ri-"	*turn it around ↑*
P5 perfect 5th	7	**Twinkle, Twinkle** C C→G	**Minuet in G** D→G
m6 minor 6th	8	**The Entertainer** D D♯ E→C	**The Entertainer** E C→E
M6 major 6th	9	**My Bonnie Lies over the Ocean** G→E	*turn it around ↑*
m7 minor 7th	10	**G7 chord** G→F a whole step under the octave	*turn it around ↑*
M7 major 7th	11	**Cmaj7 chord** C→B a half step under the octave	*turn it around ↑*
P8 octave	12	**Take Me Out to the Ball Game** "Take me"	*turn it around ↑*

Turn it around: no song for a falling interval? Sing the second note first; now it climbs, and its up-song works. **Cyan** = major, **coral** = minor. Half steps: Handout 353.
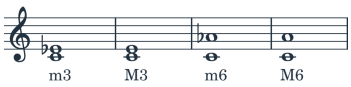
HEARD TOGETHER: FOUR FAMILIES

Open P4 · P5 · P8
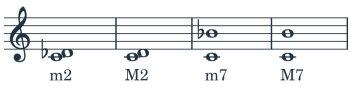


Hollow and plain: the two notes almost melt into one.

Sweet m3 · M3 · m6 · M6
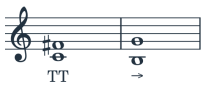


Full and warm, like two voices singing in harmony.

Clashing m2 · M2 · m7 · M7



The notes rub and buzz; m2 and M7 clash hardest.

Restless tritone



It wants to move: C slips to B, F♯ to G, and it settles (Handout 209).

Try it **One song a day.** Pick a row, play its two notes, then sing the song from the first one, going up and coming down. After a week, turn your back, have a friend play intervals (or scan the code), and name them. Then test yourself with Exercise 65.

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