



Skill Builder:

A+ Major/Minor Chord Warm-up

OVERVIEW

Students will play scales in various ways, learning to change it from major to minor and identify the difference between the two.

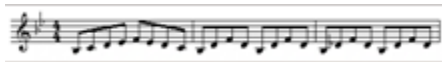
LEARNING GOALS

Students will learn to perform and identify major and minor chords and scales.

PROCESS

Activity #1

1. Pick a concert key signature with which the band is familiar and play the pentachord of that key together, ascending and descending in 8th notes. Now add the arpeggio by playing scale degrees 1, 3, 5, 3, 1 in 8th notes after playing the pentachord (i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 3, 5, 3, 1).



2. Explain how lowering the 3rd scale degree by a half-step changes the chord to minor. Now try playing the pentachord and the arpeggio with the 3rd scale degree lowered.
3. Once the band becomes proficient, students may be individually assessed by playing the Bb concert minor arpeggio.

Activity #2

1. Divide the band into three sections. Direct each section to play scale degree 1, 3, or 5 of any concert key with which they are familiar.
2. Ask the students who are playing the third of the pentachord to lower their note by a half step to compare the sound of the chord.
3. Repeat the activity several times with each section of the band being reassigned a new scale degree each time a new concert key is selected (i.e. "This time, for Eb concert, group 3 take the first scale degree, group 1 take the third scale degree, and group 2 take the fifth scale degree.")

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Individual students may be asked to perform the major and minor arpeggio in any familiar key.
2. Play both arpeggios and block major and minor chords and asks to students to identify which kind of chord is being performed.