

BURNETT METHOD OF DEVELOPING PRACTICAL FACTORS OF MUSICAL COMPETENCY

LESSON PLAN: Learning To Perform Major Scales Using Tetrachords
by Chris Burnett

Grade Level: Middle School, Junior High School and High School

I. Objectives:

- A. Understand the concept of intervals in terms of the distance between musical notes, specifically whole and half steps.
- B. Construct a Major Tetrachord on any given tone
- C. Perform a Major Scale using combined Major Tetrachords on any given tone

II. Materials needed:

- A. staff paper or classroom dry erase/chalk board or smart board
- B. pencil with eraser or dry erase board marker/chalk or iPad
- C. Handout Tetrachord Sheet or Major Tetrachord Application or iPad

III. Procedure:

- A. Introduction Anticipatory set- All 12 Major Tetrachords written out on the board or provided as a document within the iPad App. Ask the students to identify the 2 whole step and 1 half step relationships that exist between the four notes of each tetrachord.
- B. Review the theoretical constructs of half steps, whole steps, sharps, flats, as well as the circle of fourths and fifths as needed.
- C. Explain what the objectives are for the day.

IV. Enabling Activities:

- A. Instructional Input - What are intervals? What makes up a major and minor interval? How do sharps and flats relate? What intervals make up a major scale? Use this pattern to show how to build a major scale- w=whole step - 1/2=half step - major scale is made of w-w-1/2-w-w-w-1/2. Starting on C, build a major scale using the formula. Incorporate a major triad into the lesson as well
- B. Modeling and Demonstrating - Use the staff on the board to show the notes so students can count the lines and spaces between the intervals. Let them try on the board to build a major scale using tetrachords on a note that you give them.
- C. Practice / Group Work - Give each group 2 notes to build a major scale using major tetrachords on.
- D. Comprehension - Go over the group work in class. Ask each student to explain a certain part about the activity.

V. Follow-up activities:

Apply this lesson to their playing. Start the full band competency by students learning to collectively play the Major Tetrachords only around the circle of fifths. In 6 weeks the collective group of students will be technically competent to play all of the 12 Major Scales by connecting subsequent Major Tetrachords. Upon reaching competency, Major Scales can be effectively and successfully studied using the numerous and various technical methods published for band.