



Lesson Twenty Three

Gigajam Keyboard School Lesson 023 IKS MT

Minor Thirds

Lesson Objectives

- Introduce minor scale intervals.
- Develop the ability to play minor thirds as melodic intervals.

Revision

The last two lessons focused on intervals. Lesson 21 dealt with melodic intervals, and Lesson 22 dealt with harmonic intervals. The exercises towards the end of each lesson required the use of both hands and were all based on the major scale.

Lesson 22 discussed the use of both major and minor chords in songs to make the music more interesting. Mostly, we recognise major as sounding bright, happy and up, whereas minor sounds more moody, perhaps slightly darker or duller. Both sounds are useful to us as a musician. Often, it's the combination of these sounds which creates interest in a song – some major chords and some minor.

This lesson will focus on the minor scale and especially on playing melodic and harmonic thirds based on the notes of the minor scale.

An harmonic interval is two notes played simultaneously and a melodic interval is two notes played consecutively.

Minor scale

Play the G minor scale in the first exercise. The note names are

G, A, Bb, C, D, Eb, F, and G.

The note numbers are

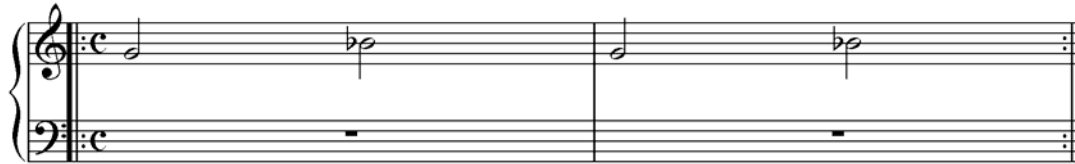
1, 2, b3, 4, 5, b6, b7, and 8.

Exercise 1 lesson023.iksmt.01



Now use this knowledge to help you understand minor scale intervals. Keep and play the G root note, the miss out the second note (A) and instead play the third note, which is Bb. At this point you are playing G and Bb - that's the first and third notes of the minor scale. This is known as a *b3rd*. This is an interval of a minor third.

Exercise 2
lesson023.iksmt.02



Practise playing this interval until you are comfortable with it. Now play the same interval using quarter notes.

Exercise 3
lesson023.iksmt.03



Leapfrog

Notice how you step over the second note (A) - play one (G), miss one (A), play one (Bb). You 'leapfrog' over the middle note.

You can do this on any note from the scale. On A for example, it would be play one (A), miss one (Bb), play one (C). That's A and C. This is also a minor third.

Exercise 4
lesson023.iksmt.04



Now play these two together as one exercise – G and Bb, A and C.

Practise playing this minor scale interval exercise until you are comfortable with it.

Exercise 5
lesson023.iksmt.05



The next exercise goes up the whole scale using this play one, miss one, play one routine. Remember, it's just the notes of the G minor scale played in a new way.

Practise playing this new exercise until you are comfortable with it. Remember to use the correct fingering.

Exercise 6
lesson023.iksmt.06



Melodic interval

Each pair of notes is an interval of a minor third. Playing each note of an interval separately like this is known as a melodic interval. This is probably because that's how melodies are played, one note at a time.

Now play that exercise again, this time coming back down the minor scale as well.

Exercise 7
lesson023.iksmt.07



So far in this lesson you have only been using your right hand to play the melodic intervals. The next exercise adds the left hand playing a G root bass note on the first beat of each bar.

Exercise 8
lesson023.iksmt.08



Left hand

Now that your left hand is in action, use it to play a G minor scale using quarter notes.

Exercise 9
lesson023.iksmt.09



Now try some of the right hand exercises you've been playing, this time an octave lower. Play with your left hand now you are down in the bass clef. The next exercise goes up the whole scale using the play one, miss one, play one routine. Remember, it's just the notes of the G minor scale played in a new way – play G (miss A), play Bb. Then, play A (miss Bb), play C – and so on.

Exercise 10
lesson023.iksmt.10



Practise playing this exercise until you are comfortable with it. Remember to use the correct fingering (watch the video).

Now play that exercise again, this time coming back down the minor scale too.

Exercise 11
lesson023.iksmt.11



Both hands

The next exercise puts both hands together. The right hand plays thirds as melodic intervals using quarter notes – you played this in exercise 7 above. The left hand plays each note of the scale using half notes. This means that your right hand plays twice as many notes.

Exercise 12

lesson023.iksmt.12



Finally, put everything together in one exercise with the right hand playing thirds and left hand playing the scale.

Exercise 13

lesson023.iksmt.13



Other keys

The exercises in this lesson (thirds played as melodic intervals) are all based on the G minor scale. It is, of course, necessary to be able to apply what you have learned to other keys. The remaining exercises will help you to develop this ability. There is no new material - you have already played all of these exercises in this lesson on G – it's just the same thing on a different note.

Exercise 14
lesson023.iksmt.14



Exercise 15
lesson023.iksmt.15



Exercise 16
lesson023.iksmt.16



Musical score for Exercise 16, measures 1-5. The score is in common time (C) and consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The melody in the treble clef starts on middle C and moves up stepwise: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. The bass clef accompaniment consists of a single note, C3, held for the entire duration of the exercise.

Exercise 17
lesson023.iksmt.17



Musical score for Exercise 17, measures 1-5. The score is in common time (C) and consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The melody in the treble clef starts on middle C and moves up stepwise: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. The bass clef accompaniment consists of a single note, C3, held for the entire duration of the exercise.