

Monteverdi's Gloria for 8 voices M 1 Semitones and Tones – the notes between the notes

Learn that there are pitches between the notes of a major scale, be able to find them on a keyboard, and learn what a semitone and a tone are

You need access to a keyboard, real or virtual. There are lots on line. I tried a few and found the sound on this one <https://virtualpiano.net/> less jangly than others. There are also 'phone apps.

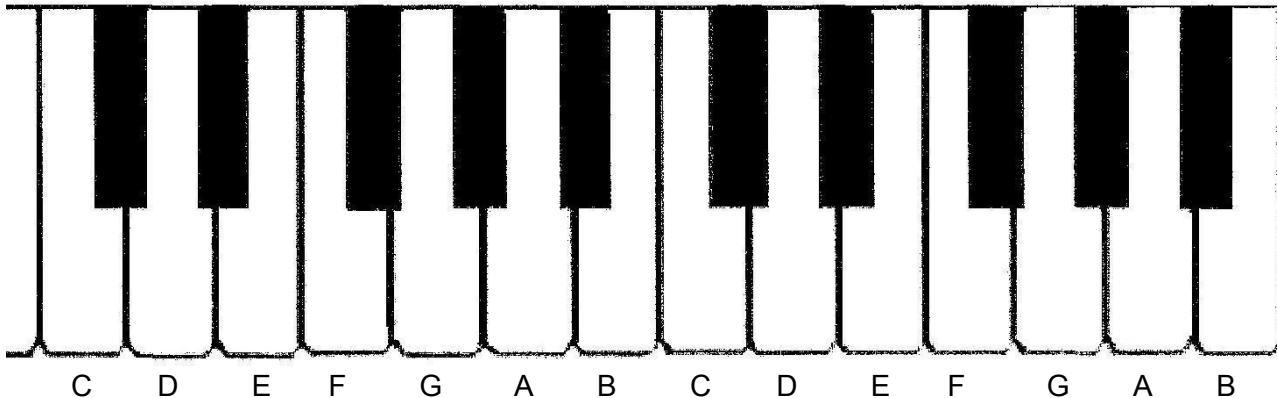
1. Get the sound of a major scale into your ears

If you aren't sure you can sing a major scale correctly, think of "Doe a Deer" from "The Sound of Music". At the end of the verse, the song goes up the major scale: do ray me fah so la ti do. Another useful tune is the start of the "Eastenders" theme. That goes up the first 6 notes of the scale before it drops back to the the fourth one.

We are very used to the sound of a major scale. We know it goes by step. It can seem ridiculous that there are notes between the ones we're singing. But there are.

2. Play a major scale on the keyboard

Here's a diagram of part of a music keyboard



Use your virtual keyboard or a real one, and find the white note C. Use the diagram to help you find C if your keyboard doesn't have letter names. You need to look at the groupings of the black notes to find C – it's a note to the left of a pair (as apart from a trio) of black notes. Play C, and then go by step to the right up the white notes until you get to the next C. You've played a C major scale. Sound familiar? All keyboards do go up in pitch as you move right.

3. Explore the notes between the major scale notes

Find your starting note, C, again and play it. Then play the D to its right. There's a black note tucked between them. Play that one. You're a good enough musician to hear that its pitch lies between the C and the D. Check out the other black notes in relation to the white notes they lie between.

4. Semitones and Tones

The distance between one note and the note directly adjacent to it **in sound** is a **semitone**. From C to the black note on its right is a jump of a semitone. The distance from that black note to D is another semitone. From C to D is a **tone** – two semitone jumps.