

## Monteverdi Gloria for 8 voices M 20

### Learn that there are major and minor chords and how to hear and work out the difference.

As in Activity 19, you must use a keyboard for this so you can hear the difference between the two types of chord. You'll be referring to Activity 8, so have that sheet to hand. If you like referring to the keyboard diagram to calculate tones and semitones, find Activity 2.

Answers to the questions in Activity 19: 2i. E chord 2ii. Db chord 4i. A chord 4ii. F chord 4iii. D chord 4iv. B chord

1. In Activity 8 you learned the main difference between the major and the minor scale - that the third note of the scale is a semitone lower in the minor scale than in the major. That's what makes the difference between a major and a minor chord.

Look at the first music line in Activity 8. The first 5 notes of a C major scale compared with the the first 5 notes of a minor scale. To make a C chord you use a C, an E and a G. If you use an E natural, the chord is C major. If you use an Eb, the chord is C minor.

Here are C major and C minor chords set out with different notes taking the lowest position.

Play the first two chords, slowly and carefully, checking you can really hear the difference between them. Sing each note of the C major chord, then sing each note of the C minor chord, noticing how you the changed note. Once you are happy that you can play, hear and sing the first two chords, play the others, deciding whether each is C major or C minor.



2. Work out the difference between major and minor chords. Here are two chords, used a lot in the Gloria. They are both A chords (if you are not sure why they are, revise Activity 19). One of them is A major and one is A minor. You going to find out how to work out which is which.

First of all, notice it's only the C that is different between the two chords. The A and the E stay the same. That's normal for major and minor chords. You're going to have to work out how many semitones there are between the A and the C, and the A and the C#.

**A ST A#/Bb ST B ST C ST C#/Db**

There are 3 semitones between A and C. There are 4 semitones between A and C#.

Unsurprisingly, the smaller gap - A to C belongs to the minor chord, and the larger gap - A to C# to the major chord.



3. Help your ear recognise the difference between major and minor chord patterns.

Lots of tunes are based on the notes of a chord - another good reason for getting to know more about them.

All three tunes starts here use D chords. Play and sing them and check you are clear about the

Sound of Silence - D minor chord in bar 1

(C major chord in bar 3)



Z Cars - D major chord in bar 1

Decide whether this one needs the F to be sharpened



4. Work out whether each of these chords is major or minor as well as its letter name. Answers on Activity Sheet 21

