

## Monteverdi Gloria for 8 voices M 8

### Learn an important difference between major and minor scales

1. Monteverdi's Gloria is in the key of A minor, so you need to learn about the minor key or scale. All major scales stick to the same template. Minor scales can vary at the top. This activity focusses on what happens lower down, which defines the difference between major and minor and is always the same.

It's interesting that we're often told that minor key music is sadder. Do you think that applies to the Gloria?

Here's a pattern you recognise -  
the first 5 notes of a C major scale

Here are the first 5 notes of a C minor scale



It's obvious that one note has been changed and how. Notes 1, 2 4 and 5 are the same in both patterns. Note 3 has been changed - it has been lowered by 1 semitone. Work out the tone and semitones in the minor scale. That gives you the template for every minor scale.

Play and sing the two patterns to get them into your ears.

The "major", "minor" terminology relates to the changed note. In the major scale it is further away from the starting note of the scale - the gap is bigger - major. In the minor scale the gap is smaller - minor.

All the answers to the questions below are on the sheet for Activity 9

2. Use what you know about the major and minor patterns to work out which each of these is. The first (lowest) note each time is the key or home note. Play, sing, work out the gaps



3. Here are some fragments from the Gloria. Use what you know to work out whether each is major or minor. They've all been written out in the treble clef. The key note is identified each time. You might want to use the empty bars to write the notes out in scale order to make it easier to check the tone, semitone pattern. Do play and sing the fragments as well as doing the maths, to help you get the sounds into your ears.

