

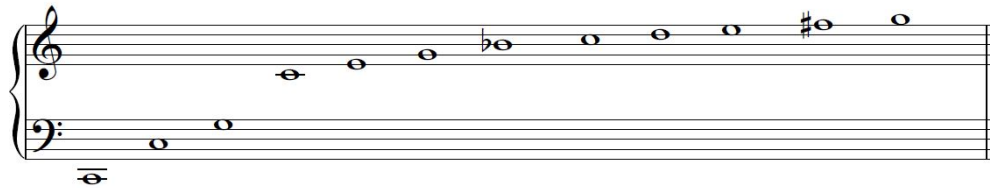
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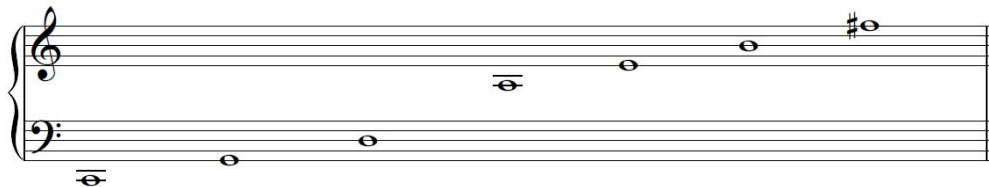
**MODES**

## Harmonic Series

The science of sound is central to understanding and working with modes. Sound can be studied using the **harmonic series**.



Jazz composer and educator George Russell states that after the Octave, the next most common interval in the **harmonic series** is the Perfect 5<sup>th</sup> – working with that idea, here is a diagram of seven notes stacked in Perfect 5<sup>th</sup>s:



If these notes are placed in order as a scale starting on C, the following is produced:



This is the first of our modes – **C Lydian** - it is the brightest sounding mode of the Major Scale.

## Modes

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Here are the modes of the Major Scale in order from bright to dark.

The image displays seven musical staves, each representing a mode of the C Major Scale. The modes are listed from top to bottom: C Lydian, C Ionian, C Mixolydian, C Dorian, C Aeolian, C Phrygian, and C Locrian. Each staff shows the scale notes in treble clef, with accidentals indicating the mode's unique character. The C Lydian mode has a sharp F (F#). The C Ionian mode is the natural major scale. The C Mixolydian mode has a flat seventh (Bb). The C Dorian mode has a flat second (Bb). The C Aeolian mode has flat second (Bb) and flat seventh (Bb). The C Phrygian mode has flat second (Bb) and flat third (Eb). The C Locrian mode has flat second (Bb), flat third (Eb), and flat seventh (Bb).

On the next page is a chart that explores the sounds of each mode, again listed from bright to dark.

The **Characteristic Note** of a mode is the note that gives that mode its own characteristic flavour and makes it unique from other modes. Emphasising a characteristic note will highlight that mode's unique flavour.

Also included on the chart is the **source** of each mode showing its derivation, and the **alteration(s) to the Major scale:**

## Modes

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Mode Name	Characteristic Note	Source	Alt to Major
<b>Lydian</b>	$\sharp 4$	<b>MAJOR</b> (4 <sup>th</sup> mode)	Major w/ $\sharp 4$
<b>Ionian</b>	$\flat 4$	<b>MAJOR</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> mode)	None
<b>Mixolydian</b>	$\flat 7$	<b>MAJOR</b> (5 <sup>th</sup> mode)	Major w/ $\flat 7$
<b>Dorian</b>	$\flat 6$	<b>MAJOR</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> mode)	Major w/ $\flat 3$ and $\flat 7$
<b>Aeolian</b>	$\flat 6$	<b>MAJOR</b> (6 <sup>th</sup> mode)	Major w/ $\flat 3, \flat 6$ and $\flat 7$
<b>Phrygian</b>	$\flat 2$	<b>MAJOR</b> (3 <sup>rd</sup> mode)	Major w/ $\flat 2, \flat 3,$ $\flat 6$ and $\flat 7$
<b>Locrian</b>	$\flat 5$	<b>MAJOR</b> (7 <sup>th</sup> mode)	Major w/ $\flat 2, \flat 3,$ $\flat 5, \flat 6$ and $\flat 7$