

# Pitch

## ◆ More About Minor

A **minor scale** is a scale that has *la* as its home tone, or *keynote*. It is made up of a specific arrangement of whole steps and half steps in the following order: W + H + W + W + H + W + W.

Sometimes, altered pitches are used in minor keys. A **sharp** (#) is a symbol that raises the pitch of a given note one half step. A **flat** (b) is a symbol that lowers the pitch of a given note one half step. A **natural** (♮) is a symbol that cancels a previous sharp or flat, or a sharp or flat in a key signature. An **accidental** (another name for an altered pitch) is any sharp, flat or natural that is not included in the key signature of a piece of music.

## ◆ The Natural Minor Scale

The **natural minor scale** is a minor scale that uses no altered pitches or accidentals. Play the A natural minor scale on the piano, and sing the scale using solfège syllables.

The diagram shows a piano keyboard with notes A through A. Below the keyboard, a series of boxes and arrows indicate the intervals: a whole step (□) between A and B, a half step (∨) between B and C, a whole step (□) between C and D, a half step (∨) between D and E, a whole step (□) between E and F, a half step (∨) between F and G, and a whole step (□) between G and A.

Below the keyboard is a musical staff with two staves (treble and bass clef). The notes are A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A. Solfège syllables are written below the notes: la, ti, do, re, mi, fa, sol, la.

To the right of the musical notation is a vertical column of circles containing the solfège syllables: la, sol, fa, mi, re, do, ti, la.

Legend:  
 □ = whole step  
 ∨ = half step

## ◆ The Harmonic Minor Scale

The **harmonic minor scale** is a minor scale that uses a raised seventh note, *si* (raised from *sol*). The seventh note is also known as the *leading tone*, since it creates a strong feeling of motion toward the tonic, or *la*. Play the A harmonic minor scale on the piano, and sing the scale using solfège syllables.

The diagram shows a piano keyboard with notes A through A. The G note is circled and labeled with a sharp symbol (#). Below the keyboard, a series of boxes and arrows indicate the intervals: a whole step (□) between A and B, a half step (∨) between B and C, a whole step (□) between C and D, a half step (∨) between D and E, a whole + half step (∩) between E and F#, a half step (∨) between F# and G#, and a whole step (□) between G# and A.

Below the keyboard is a musical staff with two staves (treble and bass clef). The notes are A, B, C, D, E, F, G#, A. Solfège syllables are written below the notes: la, ti, do, re, mi, fa, si, la.

To the right of the musical notation is a vertical column of circles containing the solfège syllables: la, si, fa, mi, re, do, ti, la.

Legend:  
 □ = whole step  
 ∨ = half step  
 ∩ = whole + half step

