

Tritone Resolution in Major Keys

Lesson Objective

Teach students to hear the dissonance of the tritone and how it should resolve in major keys.

Lesson Plans

- Have students play the tritone resolution patterns on a piano or keyboard, even if it is not their primary instrument. This helps the student hear the resolution and visually see the motion of the voices.
- Divide the class into SAB voice parts and have the students sing the tritone resolution patterns. This will help the students internalize the sound of the motion.
- Ask students to analyze a song, having them point out each tritone resolution through sheet music or listening. If you are looking for songs to use, the Great American Songbook (American popular songs from the early 20th century) is a good place to start.