Beyond Major and Minor

Mixolydian

Major

Minor

Major

Minor

Dorian

Aeolian

Aeolian

Dorian

Phrygian

Dororian

Lydian

Lydian

Locrian

Locrian

An Examination of the Tonalities and Meters in 21st-Century Elementary Music Textbooks
by Diane M. Lange

Example: Grade 1

163 songs total

87% Major

7% Minor

5% Pentatonic


WARNING!

Rather than beginning to learn/audiate tonalities through theoretical explanation, FIRST give students an opportunity to:

Listen to songs in the tonality

Audiate tonal context (“home”/resting tone) of the tonality

Sing songs in the tonality

Learn to audiate harmonic progression in the tonality

Improvise in the tonality

Learn to label the tonality and its main harmonic functions

Read/write notation in the tonality

THEN develop theoretical understanding of the tonality!
MAJOR TONALITY

Composed Song:
“Seasons Round”

Folk Song:
“Molly Ban” (Irish)

Pop Tunes?
“Uptight” (Stevie Wonder)
“Royals” (Lorde)
“Sweet Child of Mine” (GnR)
“Born This Way (Lady Gaga)

LYDIAN TONALITY

Composed Song:
“These Are My Two Hands”

Folk Song:
“W Murowanej Piwnicy” (Polish)

Pop Tune?
“The Simpsons” theme song (sort of…)
“Hey Jealousy” (not really…)

MINOR TONALITY
AEOLIAN TONALITY

- Composed Song: “Good-bye”
- Folk Song: “Wayfaring Stranger”
- Pop Tune? “Somebody That I Used to Know” (Gotye) “Shape of You” (Ed Sheeran)

DORIAN TONALITY

- Composed Song: “Dorian Swing”
- Folk Song: “The Flower of Hsin-Jang”
- Pop Tune? “Stayin’ Alive” (Bee Gees) “Mad World” (Andrews/Jules) “Radioactive” (Imagine Dragons)

PHRYGIAN TONALITY

- Composed Song: “Whisper a Secret”
- Folk Song: “Numi Numi”
- Pop Tune? “Hot in Herre” (Nelly) “Gin & Juice” (Snoop Dogg)

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- Learn to audiate harmonic progression in the tonality
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- THEN develop theoretical understanding of the tonality!
PRÁCTICE IDENTIFING TONALITY?

➤ Find “home!”
➤ “Major-ish” or “minor-ish”?
➤ Subtonic or leading tone?
➤ Other characteristic tones? (“Sequence of tones” as a tool!)
  ➤ 6th scale degree?
  ➤ 4th scale degree?
  ➤ 2nd scale degree?

LOCRIAN TONALITY

➤ Composed Song: “Heather”
➤ Folk Song: “Dust to Dust” (John Kirkpatrick)
➤ Pop Tune? “Started from the Bottom”? (Drake)