

HERE'S A MAJOR MELODY...

OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will hear and identify the *Major* and *minor* melodies and understand that each has expressive connotations.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Introduce the vocabulary *Major* and *minor*. Explain that these are two kinds of scales (or two groups of notes) that composers use as tools to create certain kinds of moods or feeling in music.
 - a. Dig in a little further to Major. Play or sing a Major scale and explain that the overall mood or feeling conveyed by Major is happy, excited, or enthusiastic. Play a few very familiar Major melodies, like *Happy Birthday* or *Twinkle, Twinkle*. A good way to remember the definition of Major's mood is to sing the following words to the tune of *Twinkle, Twinkle*:

"Here's a Major melody, joyful, bright, and happy."

- b. Now explore minor. You may select one of the same simple melodies mentioned above in item "a" and lower the third to alter the melody slightly, making it minor. Or to the tune of *Greensleeves*, sing:

"A minor tune can be sorrowful, spooky, or just thoughtful."

- c. Have a Major/minor listening party. Create Major and minor flash cards – Major has a smiley face, and minor is a sad face. Listen to a variety of music and flash whichever card you think describes the overall mood. Use suggestions from the **Emo-Meter** lesson plan or check out the [Major/minor playlist](#) in Classical MPR's Audio Backpack.



STANDARDS:

- 1) Grades K – 3. 4. Artistic process: Respond or Critique. 1. Respond to or critique a variety of creations or performances using the artistic foundations. Music. 0.4.1.3.1. Compare and contrast the characteristics of a variety of musical works or performances.
- 2) Grades 4 – 5. 4. Artistic process: Respond or Critique. 1. Respond to or critique a variety of creations and performances using the artistic foundations. Music. 4.4.1.3.1. Justify personal interpretations and reactions to a variety of musical works and performances.
- 3) Grades 6 – 8. 4. Artistic Process: Respond or Critique. 1. Respond to or critique a variety of creations or performances using the artistic foundations. Music. 6.4.1.3.1. Analyze and interpret a variety of musical works and performances using established criteria.



This project is made possible
in part by the Minnesota
Legacy Amendment's Arts and
Cultural Heritage Fund.



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