

## VII. CHROMATIC TONES

In tonal music (e.g. of the common practice period), chromatically altered tones do not exist independently. That is, whether or not they are functional (e.g. the secondary leading tones) or simply decorative, they are always employed as *tendency tones*, gravitating toward the nearest diatonic tone. Therefore, the raised tone will resolve up by semitone and the lowered tone will resolve down by semitone. The following exercises are designed to reinforce this concept of chromatically altered tones as dependent and linear tendency tones and, at the same time, strengthen students' perceptual understanding of tonal relationships within the context of tonal music. The accuracy of singing and hearing chromatically altered tones is dependent on the accurate retention of diatonic tones which in turn are related to the tonic. Therefore, if students show weakness in singing or hearing chromatically altered tones, they should be asked to sing the diatonic tone to which the chromatically altered tone is to resolve.

Syllables for chromatically altered tones are illustrated in Appendix I. If a number system is used, the altered tone can be sung either with the appropriate adjective (e.g. "flat-three," "sharp-four," etc.) or simply with the diatonic numbers while mentally and vocally altering the tone with an accidental.

### Chromatic Syllable Exercises

27(a)

The image shows two musical staves for exercise 27(a). The first staff is in 12/8 time and the second staff is in 4/4 time. Both staves show a sequence of notes with chromatic alterations (sharps and flats) and accidentals.

Staff 1 (12/8): C4, C#4, D4, D#4, E4, E#4, F4, F#4, G4, G#4, A4, A#4, B4, C5.

Staff 2 (4/4): C4, B3, Bb3, A3, Ab3, G3, Gb3, F3, F#3, E3, Eb3, D3, Db3, C3.

# Chromatic Syllable Exercises (continued)

27(b)

Exercise 27(b) consists of four staves of music in treble clef with a common time signature (C). The first three staves contain a continuous chromatic scale starting on middle C (C4) and ascending to G5. The notes are: C4, C#4, D4, D#4, E4, E#4, F4, F#4, G4, G#4, A4, A#4, B4, B#4, C5, C#5, D5, D#5, E5, E#5, F5, F#5, G5. The fourth staff is empty, showing only the five-line staff and a treble clef.

27(c)

Exercise 27(c) consists of four staves of music in treble clef with a 12/8 time signature. The first three staves contain a chromatic scale starting on middle C (C4) and ascending to G5. The notes are: C4, C#4, D4, D#4, E4, E#4, F4, F#4, G4, G#4, A4, A#4, B4, B#4, C5, C#5, D5, D#5, E5, E#5, F5, F#5, G5. The fourth staff is empty, showing only the five-line staff and a treble clef.

# Basic Interval Exercises (to be memorized)

ASI

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



ASI