

## **Intro to World Music**

- What is Pitch?
  - the perceived “highness” or “lowness” of a sound or musical tone measured in terms of frequency:
    - hertz (Hz) = measurement unit of cycles per second of a periodic phenomenon
    - Sound wave at 261.1 Hz = "middle C"
- Intervals: The Octave
  - Interval = distance between two pitches
  - Unison = 1:1 ratio between frequencies
  - Octave = 2:1 ratio between frequencies, thus...
    - A pitch of 440 Hz is one octave higher than a pitch at 220 Hz.
    - What is the frequency of a pitch an octave higher than a pitch at 440 Hz?
- Tuning Systems
  - Method by which musicians decide which frequencies will be used in a musical system
  - Examples:
    - Western music: standardized twelve-tone equal tuning
    - India: flexible tuning
    - Bali: fixed, ensemble- specific tuning
- Tonality
  - a system in music in which specific hierarchical pitch relationships are based on a central “home base,” or tonic pitch.
- Modes & Scales
  - Mode = collection of unique pitches within an octave
  - Scale = arrangement of the pitches of the mode, usually from low to high
  - Examples:
    - 5-note mode/scale: pentatonic
    - 6-note mode/scale: hexatonic
    - 7-note mode/scale: heptatonic
    - Other possibilities (e.g. 24-note “microtonal” scale)
- Modes in the West
  - Major mode & minor mode most common
  - Key refers to the specific pitch where the tonic of the mode is situated
  - Thus, the key of "F minor" means the minor mode is built upon the tonic note of "F"
- Melody
  - a succession of pitches  
that makes sense when heard as a group
  - Descriptors:
    - Contour: “wavy,” “jagged,” “static”
    - Motion: “conjunct” vs. “disjunct”
    - Range (interval between highest and lowest pitch in the melody)
    - Tessitura (where the bulk of the melody's pitches lie)
- Phrases & Cadences
  - Melodies can be broken up into smaller, sentence-like units called phrases
  - Phrases are “punctuated” by brief resting points called cadences
- Ornamentation
  - quick “decorative” notes added to a melody to embellish it
  - They don’t change the character of the melodic line, but simply stylistically enhance it
  - Western example: the trill (audio: bassoon trills)