

Lesson Plan for recognizing and performing shifting modalities and tonalities, namely to the parallel and relative major/minor

## Students Will Be Able To:

- I. The student will be able to recognize and perform a shift in the tonality of a piece of music.  
Students will master shifts in the following examples:
  - a. Major to parallel minor
  - b. Major to relative minor
  - c. Minor to parallel major
  - d. Minor to relative major

## Prerequisites

- II. Students should have a working knowledge of the following before attempting this lesson:
  - a. Key signatures of both major and minor keys.
  - b. Able to identify tonic
  - c. Relations of relative keys
  - d. Relations of parallel keys

## Procedure

- III. Begin by singing a familiar song in a major key. Ie. Happy Birthday
  - a. First tonicize by singing 1358564251 or a major scale.
  - b. Identify the tonic and the scale degree of the starting pitch of your song
  - c. Sing the song Happy Birthday on “la”
  - d. Now sing it in the parallel minor
  - e. Identify any difficulties making adjustments for wrong notes
  - f. Review procedure of creating a parallel minor
  - g. Sing it again in the parallel minor.
  - h. Play several excerpts from [www.gmajormusictheory.com](http://www.gmajormusictheory.com)  
to test students' ability to hear major vs. minor
    1. Handel's *Hornpipe from Water Music*
    2. Albinoni: Adagio
    3. Beethoven's Symphony #9
    4. Beethoven's Turkish March
  - i. Next sing the tune Greensleeves , 1<sup>st</sup> section only on “la”
  - j. Identify the modality as major or minor (minor)
  - k. Now sing the refrain or b section
  - l. Identify the modality as major or minor (major)
  - m. Finally, using the choices in section 1 of this lesson plan, choose the one that best describes the song Greensleeves. The answer would be D.

- n. Now play excerpt from Bizet's *Carmen* "Habenera". Each excerpt can be found at [www.Gmajormusictheory.com](http://www.Gmajormusictheory.com)
- o. Students choose the answer from section I above, that best describes this piece
- p. Next play Haydn's Symphony #94, "Surprise" II (Major to parallel minor)
- q. Students choose the answer from section I above that best describes this piece.
- r. Next Play Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto #1 (minor to relative major)
- s. Next Play Orff's Carmina Burana (Picardy third)
- t. Evaluate student response