

Harmonizing with Diatonic Intervals

In this way of harmonizing, you pick a diatonic interval and harmonize all the notes based on that interval.

For example, If I was in A minor (A B C D E F G A), and I wanted to harmonize with the interval of a third, it would look like this:

A C
B D
C E
D F
E G
F A
G B

There are major and minor third intervals present. For example, the distance between A and C is three half steps, or a minor third. The distance between C and E is four half steps, or a major third.

EX. 8 - Seconds

EX. 9 - Thirds

EX. 10 - Fourths

EX. 11 - Fifths

EX. 12 - Sixths

EX. 13 - Sevenths

Thirds and sixths tend to be very melodic intervals, while seconds and sevenths are less melodic. Fourths and fifths tend to have a relatively neutral sound, since they give less information about the tonality of the key than thirds and sixths.