

# Theory and Application



## Scales 4: Intervals

An *interval* is simply the distance between two notes. It's quite common in music to talk about intervals - e.g. thirds, fourths, etc - and it's all based on the scale. In the chart I've dealt with most intervals in the scales, but some are easier to discover than others (e.g. the major 7th is fairly rare). I've tried to give some example tunes for the more common ones.

The minor seventh is not used very much. One example would be the *Star Trek Theme*, or there's a Scots tune called *The Grey Old Lady*.



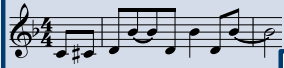
minor 7th

The major 6th is used more often than the minor 6th. Tunes such as *Sarah's Song*, *Massacre of Glencoe* or *My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean* all use the major 6th.



major 6th

One popular tune which uses the minor 6th is *The Entertainer* by Scott Joplin. I can't think of any traditional tunes which use it.



minor 6th

The major 7th is hardly ever found.

perfect 5th

A very strong interval which can be heard in tunes like *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*, *Bach's Little Fugue*, *Star Wars Theme*, and trad tunes such as *Road to Lisdoonvarna* and *Harvest Home* (below).



perfect 4th

Very common. Think *Auld Lang Syne*, *Amazing Grace*, *Ye Banks and Braes*, *Here Comes the Bride*, etc.



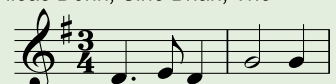
major 3rd

A very strong interval, much used in all forms of music. It might suggest, for example, the *Z Cars Theme*, *When the Saints Go Marching In*, *The Banks of the Allan*, *Fear a Figue*, *Gillie Calum*, *Green Grow the Rashes*, and *The Galway Hornpipe* (below);



major 2nd

*Happy Birthday* is a song sung every day. Scots tunes which use the major 2nd include *My Love Is Like a Red, Red Rose*, *Mo Chaillein Dileas Donn*, *Sine Bhan*, *The Drunken Piper* and *The Skye Boat Song*.



The octave is very common in Scots Music, e.g. *Pulling Bracken*.

