

Intervals as 2-Part Chords: The Evolving Terminology

The DISCRETE ENTITY version. Summary Sheet)

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1. Our first Discussion of Intervals left off with this simple math for interval location:

A musical staff in 4/4 time showing intervals from the root. The notes are: Root (C), +1 (D), +2 (E), +3 (F), +4 (G), +5 (A), +6 (B), +7 (C), +8 (D), +9 (E), +10 (F), +11 (G), +12 (A). The notes are written as pairs of eighth notes on a treble clef staff.

2. The Interval names looked something like this:

KEY: PU=Perfect Unison, m=minor, M=major, P=Perfect, PO=Perfect Octave

A musical staff in 4/4 time showing interval names. The notes are: P.U. (C), m2 (D), M2 (E), m3 (F), M3 (G), P4 (A), Aug4 (B), P5 (C), m6 (D), M6 (E), m7 (F), M7 (G), PO (A). The notes are written as pairs of eighth notes on a treble clef staff.

Observation: These names, while familiar to music students and educators aren't actually used in real music scores!!
Now---Drum Roll: Try These names??! Look familiar? This is what many composers use to denote some 2-part chords.

A musical staff in 4/4 time showing chord names. The notes are: C (C), Cb2 (D), C2 (E), Cb3 (F), C3 (G), C4 (A), C#4 (B), C5 (C). The notes are written as pairs of eighth notes on a treble clef staff.

A musical staff in 4/4 time showing chord names. The notes are: Cb6 (D), C6 (E), Cb7 (F), C7 (G), C (A). The notes are written as pairs of eighth notes on a treble clef staff.

3. These names transpose easily to other roots. Here they are in D major. Major scale-formed intervals take simple numbers, while the other tones use flats (b) or sharps (#)

A musical staff in 4/4 time showing chord names in D major. The notes are: D (D), Db2 (E), D2 (F), Db3 (G), D3 (A), D4 (B), D#4 (C), D5 (D). The notes are written as pairs of eighth notes on a treble clef staff.

A musical staff in 4/4 time showing chord names in D major. The notes are: Db6 (E), D6 (F), Db7 (G), D7 (A), D (B). The notes are written as pairs of eighth notes on a treble clef staff.

4. NOW, YOU TRY IT. WRITE OUT THE INTERVALS AND 2-PART NAMES FROM THE GRID ABOVE:

A musical staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The staff contains a sequence of notes: Bb, C, D, E, F, G, A, Bb. The notes are written as quarter notes on a treble clef staff.

A musical staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The staff contains a sequence of notes: Bb, C, D, E, F, G, A, Bb. The notes are written as quarter notes on a treble clef staff.