

Sound, vibration, and intervals.

Sound is vibration. A specific note vibrates at a specific rate. An A (the note an orchestra tunes to) vibrates at 440 vibrations per second.

Notes higher than A vibrate at a higher rate.

Notes lower than A vibrate at a lower rate.

This is why music is mathematical. It's all about the numbers, the speed of vibration.

An octave is an interval in music - just the space between two notes.

If you double A 440, you actually hear A an octave above, which is A 880. If you want to hear A an octave lower than A 440, then you would play A 220.

There are other intervals in music as well, and they have fancy names, but they are just different intervals between notes.

You can have a perfect fifth, a perfect fourth, a major third, a minor third, a major second, and so on... These fancy names are just the distance between two notes. Each fancy name is a different amount of distance.

Let's take the note C. Count up five notes in the key of C and you land on G. That is a perfect fifth. Take the note C and count up five notes in the key of C and you land on F. That is a perfect fourth. C up a major third (count up three notes) is E. C up a minor third is up three notes and flat the note to Eb. C up a major second is C up to the second note, which is D.

Here's the cool part. You can do this with any key. Let's take the key of F major. We know the key of F major has one flat. The first flat is always going to be Bb. So, let's start on F and go up a perfect fifth. You get C.

F up a perfect fourth is Bb. Why is the B flat? Because the key of F major has a Bb in it. F up a major third is A. F up a minor third is Ab. And F up a major second is G.

You can do this in any key. Why is this important? Because, these intervals are what we use to build chords. These intervals are what we use to build scales. And these intervals are what we use to build music. This is the code, the recipe, for making music. Learn the code and you can build it all. Learn the code and you can take it all apart and figure it all out.

<http://ubalabama.weebly.com> Please come visit us! Thanks, UkeJenny