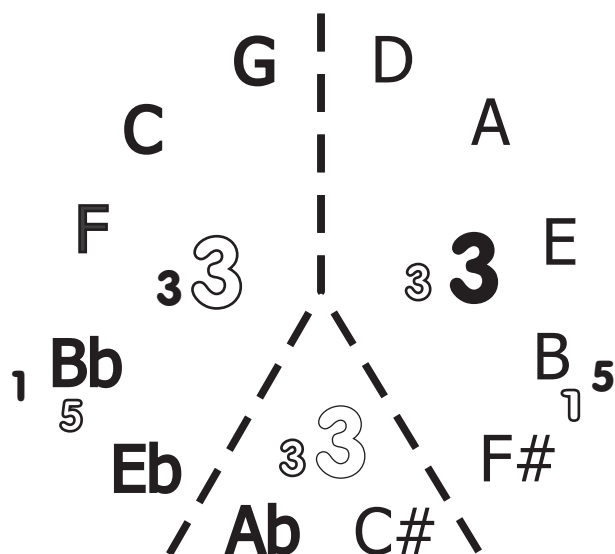


A space odyssey through major and minor triads



On the piano triads fall into three groups.

The group from G to E^b have white major thirds and black minor thirds.

The group from D to F[#] have black major thirds and white minor thirds.

The pair at the base of the diagram have both major and minor thirds white.

For most notes a white root will have a white fifth and a black root will have black fifth.

The exceptions are B^b which has a white fifth and B which has a black fifth.

Play this pattern starting on G then build it on each note on the circle.

		5th	5th
		major 3rd	minor 3rd
		root	root

This pattern is adapted from *Also sprach Zarathustra* by Richard Strauss. It became associated with space travel after Stanley Kubrick chose it for the opening of his film *2001: A Space Odyssey*. See YouTube link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-QFj59PON4> The theme is based on the “chord of nature” that is the harmonic series and climbs up to the 5th harmonic before the sudden blast of the minor chord symbolising the appearance of humans on earth. Strauss’s original is in C. In this adaptation the 1st harmonic is omitted and the 5th harmonic is an octave higher within the triad.