

9498 - Intro to Music Theory

July 19, Week 2 - Triads

Triads

- A chord is what you hear when you play two or more notes at the same time
- A triad is formed from a major or minor third stacked on top of another third.
- A minor triad is an interval of three half steps and a major triad is an interval of four half steps.
- Triads come in four flavors:
 - Major third on bottom, minor on top: major chord
 - Minor third on bottom, major on top: minor chord
 - Major third on bottom, major on top: augmented chord
 - Minor third on bottom, minor on top: diminished chord

Chords Within a Key

- There is a chord for each note in a scale, built of notes in the scale
- Naming chords:
 - Roman numerals are used to differentiate chords from other things that use numbers (scale degrees, intervals, etc.)
 - Major and augmented: uppercase numerals, augmented has a + afterwards
 - Minor and diminished: lowercase numerals, diminished has a ° afterwards
- The quality of the chord is determined by the notes in the key that are used to build it
 - Major: I, ii, iii, IV, V, vi, vii°
 - Minor: i, ii°, III, iv, V, VI, VII
 - The V chord comes from the harmonic minor