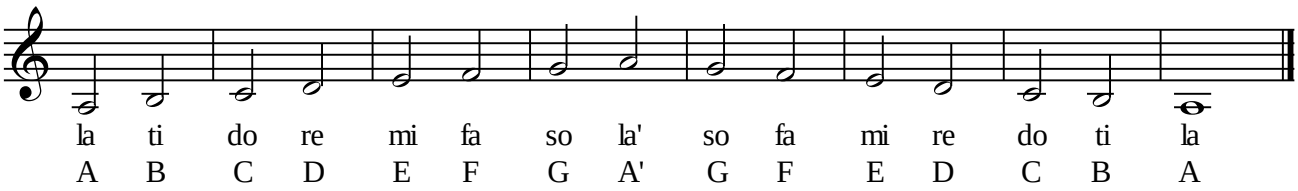
Scales Part 3 - The Natural Minor Scale

The **natural minor scale** is the closest relative minor to the Major scale and can most easily be seen if you sing the Major scale but begin and end on the “la” below “do” and sing one octave ascending and descending.

For example, in C Major “A” is “la”. Begin on this note and sing or play one octave ascending and descending, using the notes from C Major, and you will have sung the A natural minor scale.

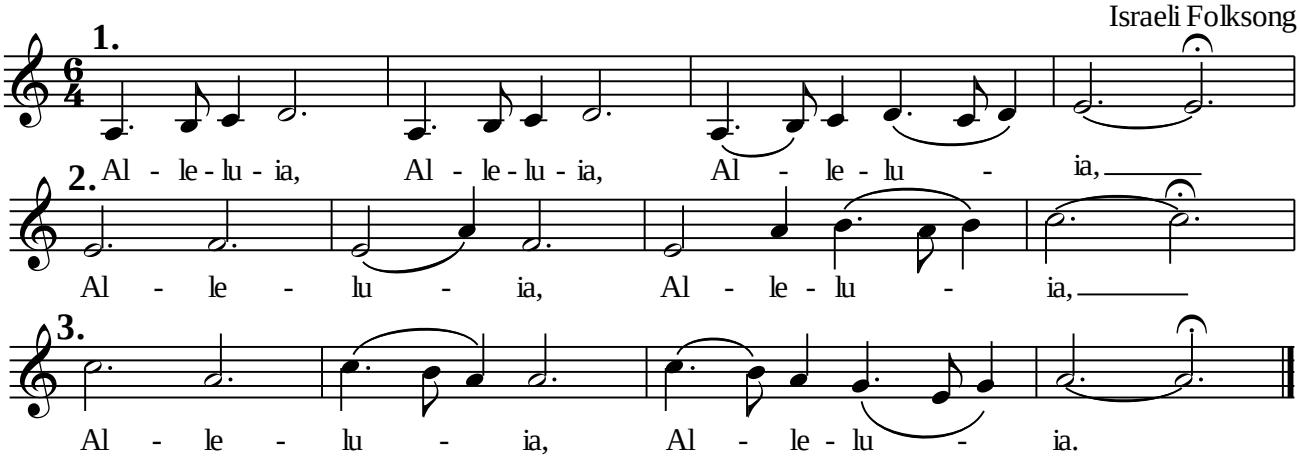
A natural minor



This is why C Major and A minor are related keys and share the same key signature. There are many ways to work out the relative Major and minor keys. The simplest method is to find “la” in a Major scale, as this is the tonic of the relative minor key. For example, to find the relative minor of D Major, find “la” when D is “do”. (In the scale of D Major “B” is “la” therefore B minor is related to D Major and shares the same key signature). The following Israeli folksong (canon) is in A natural minor (beginning on “la” in solfa).

Alleluia

Israeli Folksong

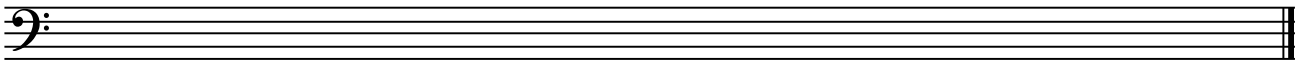


Note that the natural minor scale is no longer in common usage except as the descending form of the melodic minor (see page 62). This scale was originally a mode called the Aeolian mode (see page 70).

Scales - Worksheet 3

Scales Question 11

On the given staff, write one octave, ascending and descending, in quarter notes, of the natural minor scale with 2 sharps in the key signature.



Scales Question 12 – Scale Recognition (Aural)

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Three scales will be played twice each. Name each scale as Major or natural minor.

1. 2. 3.

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