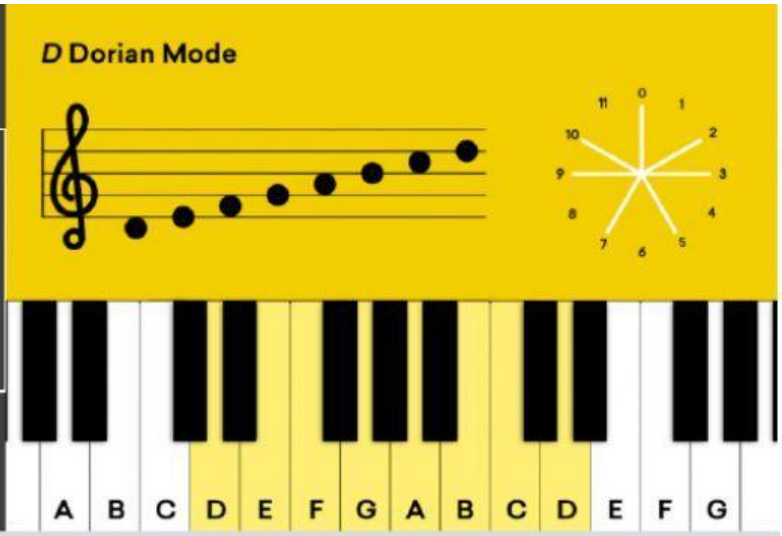
MODES

I Don't Particularly Like Modes A Lot
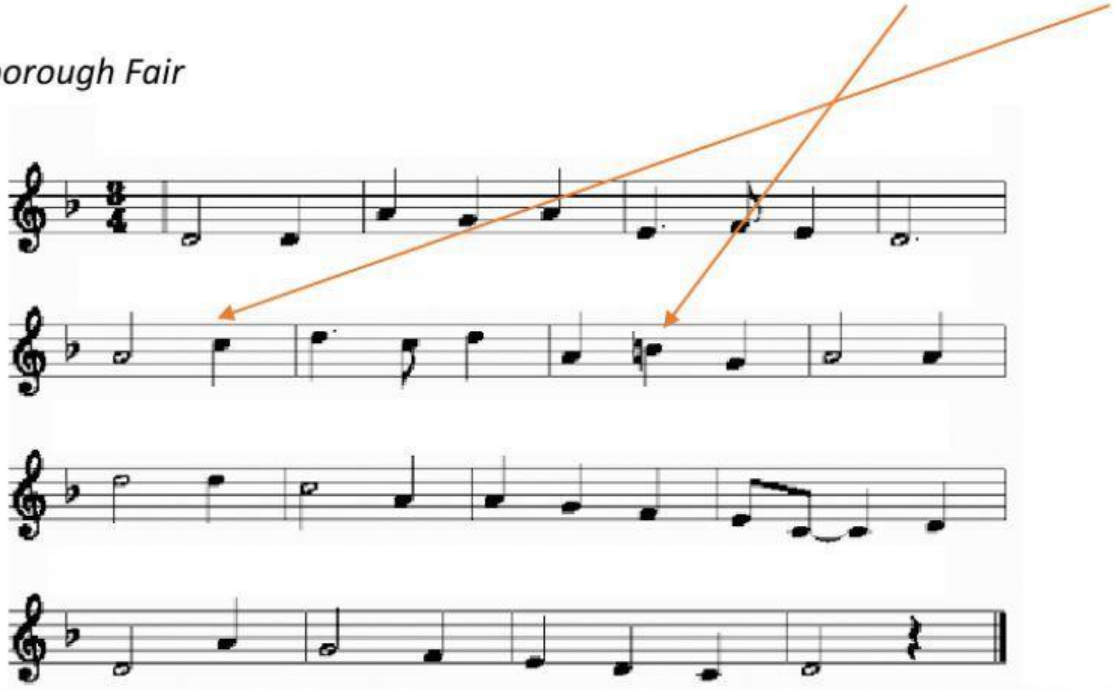
(The first mode is the Ionian Mode and is just the major scale)

Dorian Mode



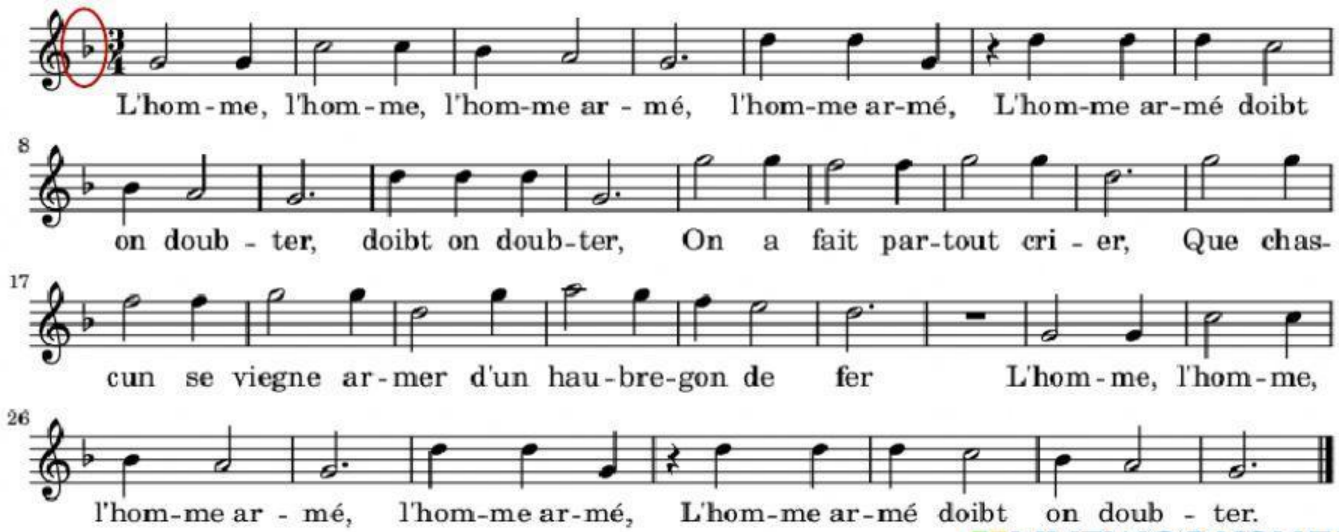
The **Dorian mode** *(e.g. used in the song Drunken Sailor)* is the minor key but with a raised 6th and lowered 7th
ie D minor would have a Bb and C# as 6th and 7th but this has a B natural and C natural

e.g. *Scarborough Fair*



You can build the Dorian mode on any starting note. It is the minor key but with raised 6th & lowered 7th.

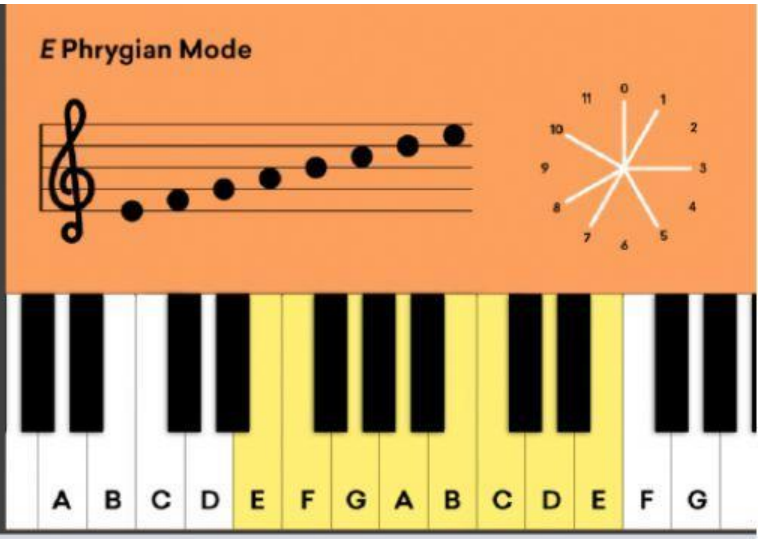
e.g. *L'homme armee* melody – *this is G Dorian. It is basically G minor (with a Bb) but with the 6th note raised From Eb to E and the 7th staying an F (instead of F# as in Gm)*



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Phrygian Mode

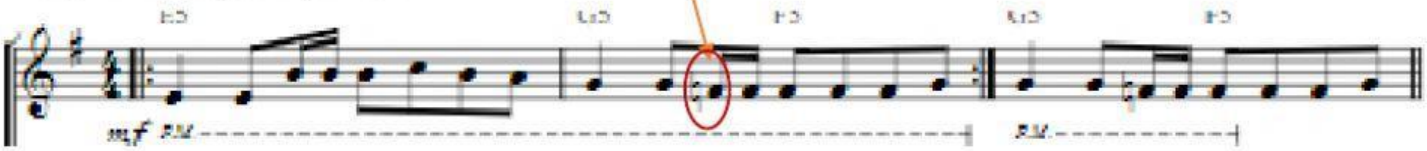
I Don't Particularly Like Modes A Lot
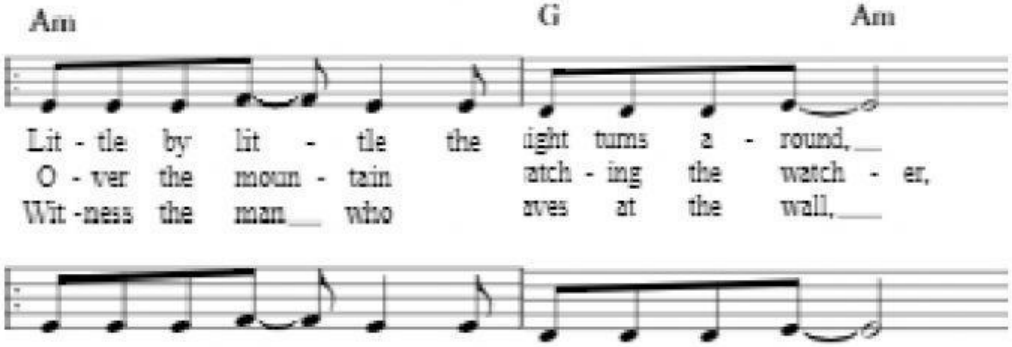


The **Phrygian mode** is similar to the minor key but with a lowered 2nd as well as lowered 6th &7th

ie E Lydian is like E minor but with an F natural as well as C and D natural– it sounds very dark. It is the flattened 2nd that gives it its particularly dark quality

e.g. *A Place for my Head*
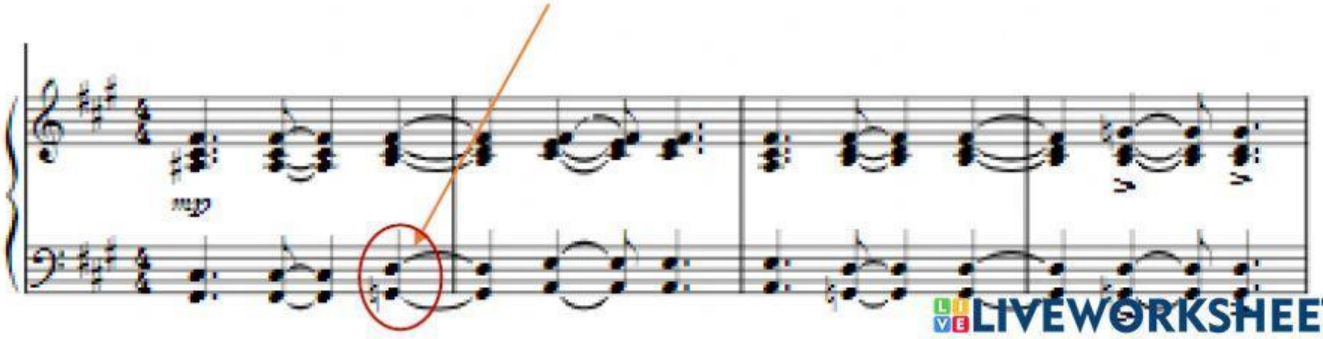


e.g. Set the controls for the heart of the sun – Pink Floyd



You can build the Phrygian mode on any starting note.
Remember it is the minor key but with lowered 2nd, 6th and 7th

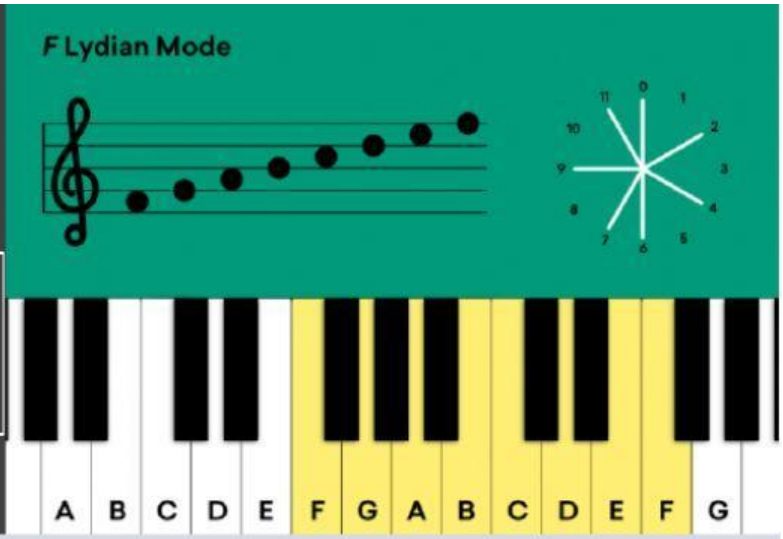
e.g. Opening chord progression of *Pyramid Song – Radiohead –*
In F# minor but 2nd chord is built on the Phrygian flattened 2nd – G natural



LIVEWORKSHEETS

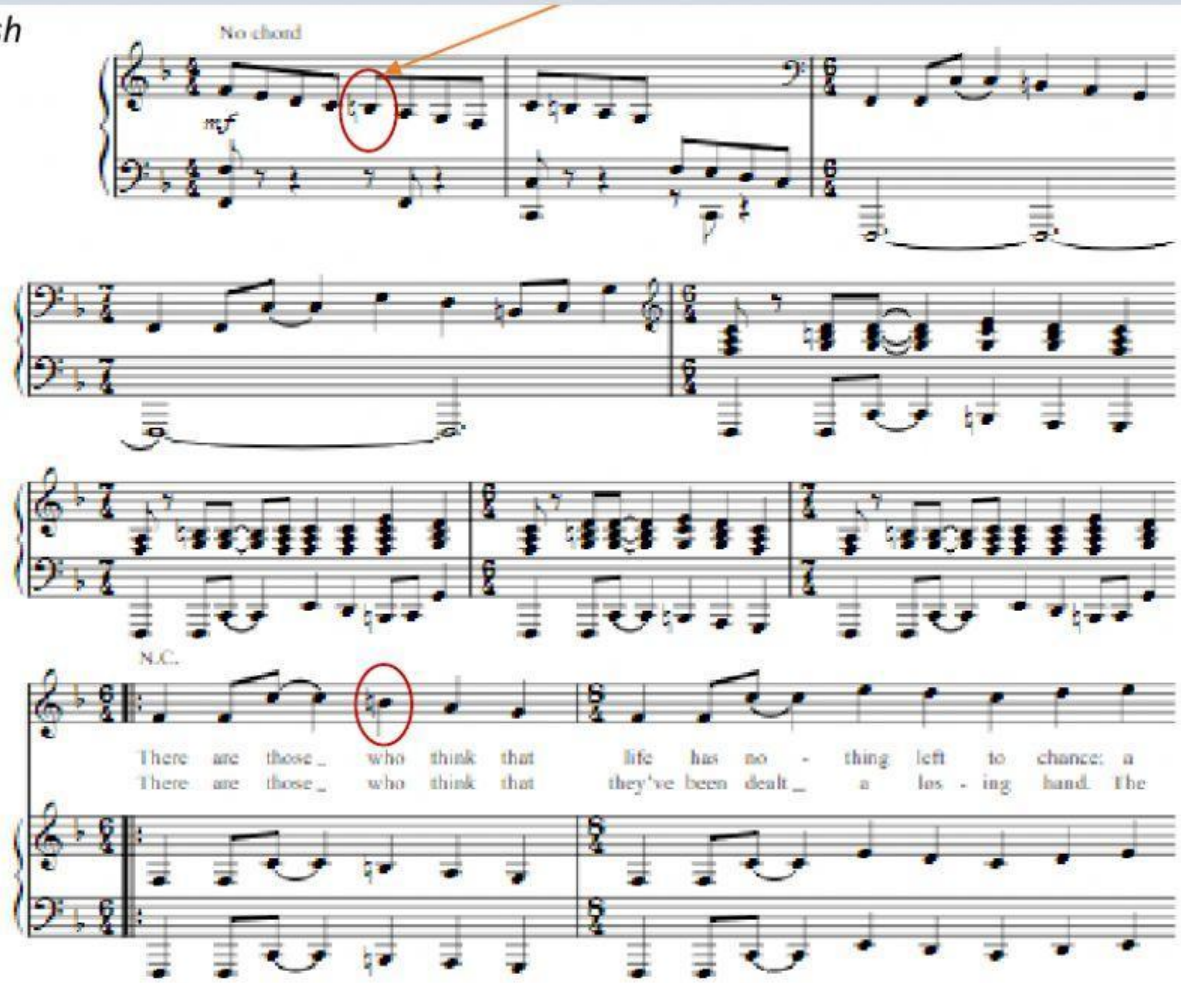
Lydian Mode

I Don't Particularly Like Modes A Lot
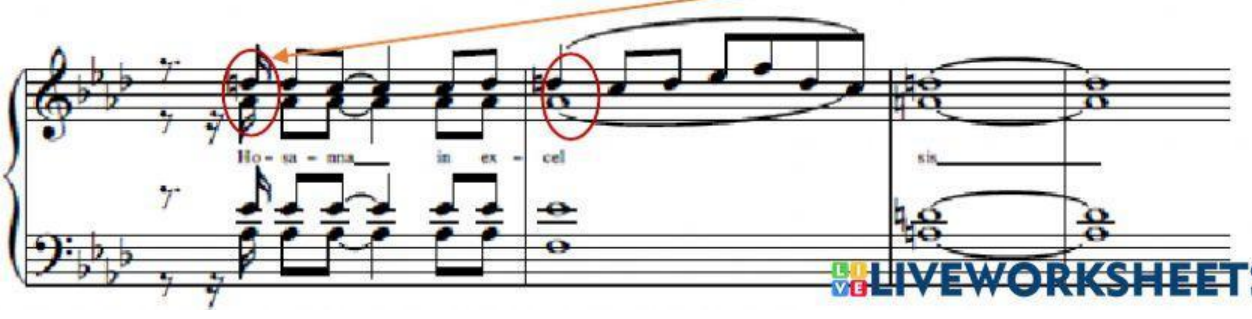


The **Lydian mode** is the major key but with a raised 4th
ie F Lydian is like F major but with a B natural instead of a Bb – it sounds very bright

e.g. *Freewill –Rush*



You can build the Lydian mode on any starting note.
Remember it is the major key but with raised 4th

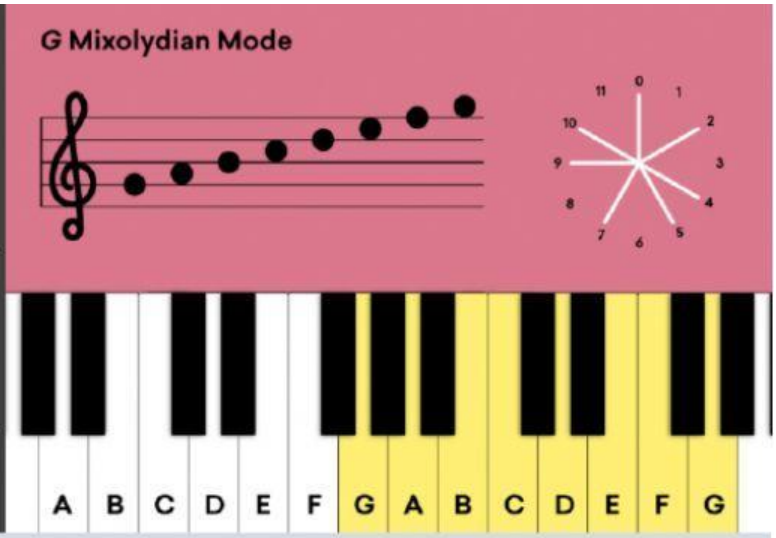
e.g. Hosanna in excelsis (Sanctus – The Armed Man). In this movement the basic key is D minor. At this suddenly loud section the music dramatically transposes to Ab major but with a ***raised D natural****, giving it great impact and brightness.*



LIVEWORKSHEETS
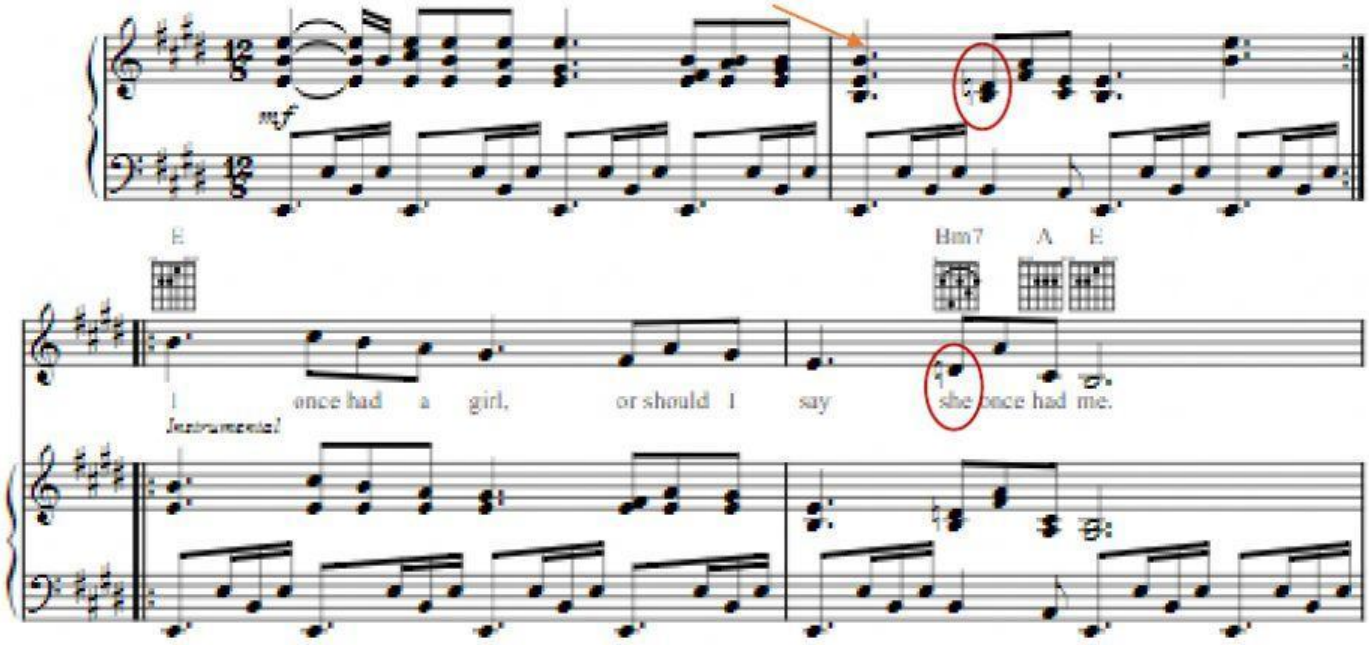
Mixolydian Mode

I Don't Particularly Like Modes A Lot

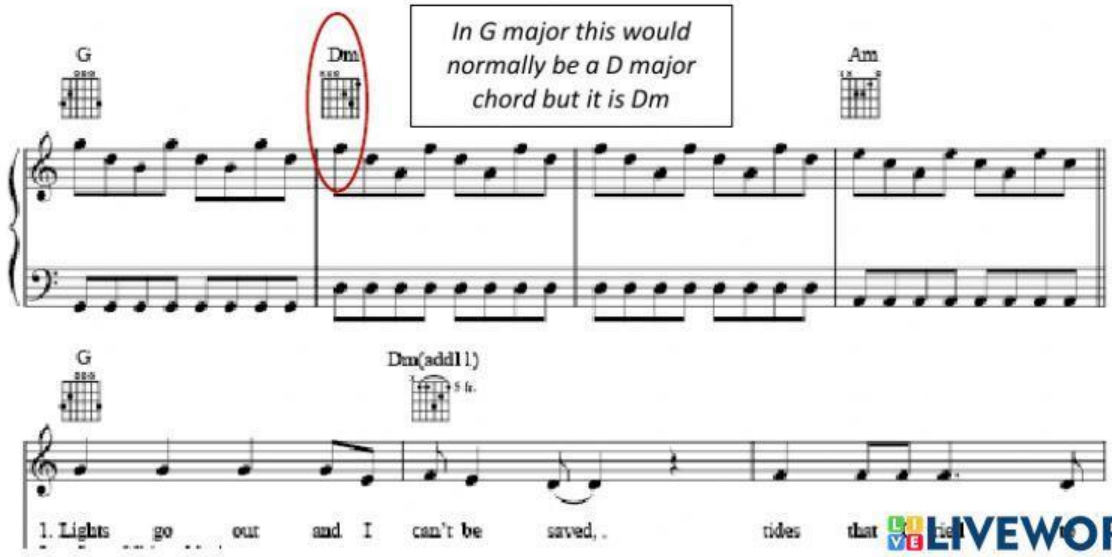


The **Mixolydian mode** is the <u>major key but with a lowered 7th</u>
ie G Lydian is like G major but with an F natural instead of an F#
You can build the Phrygian mode on any starting note.
Remember it is the <u>minor key but with lowered 7th</u>

e.g. *Norwegian Wood (This bird has flown)- Beatles*
This is in E major but with lowered 7th – ie D natural instead of D#



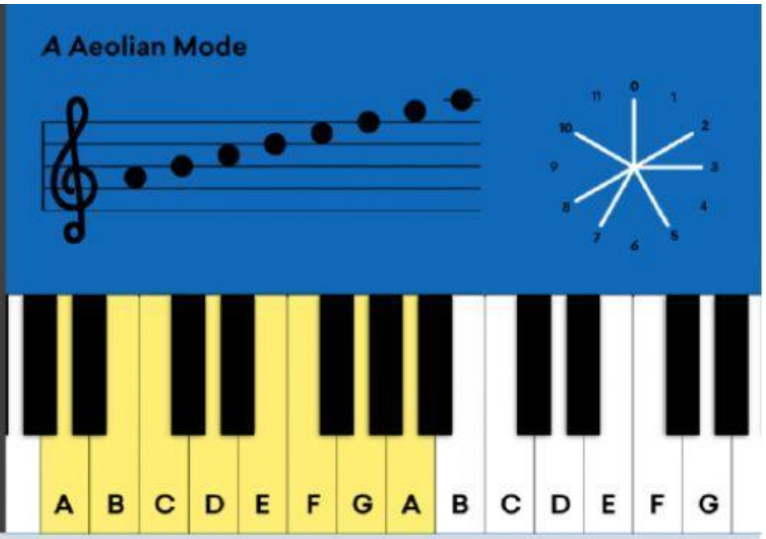
e.g. Clocks – Coldplay. This is in G major but with lowered 7th – ie F natural instead of F



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Aeolian Mode

I Don't Particularly Like Modes A Lot
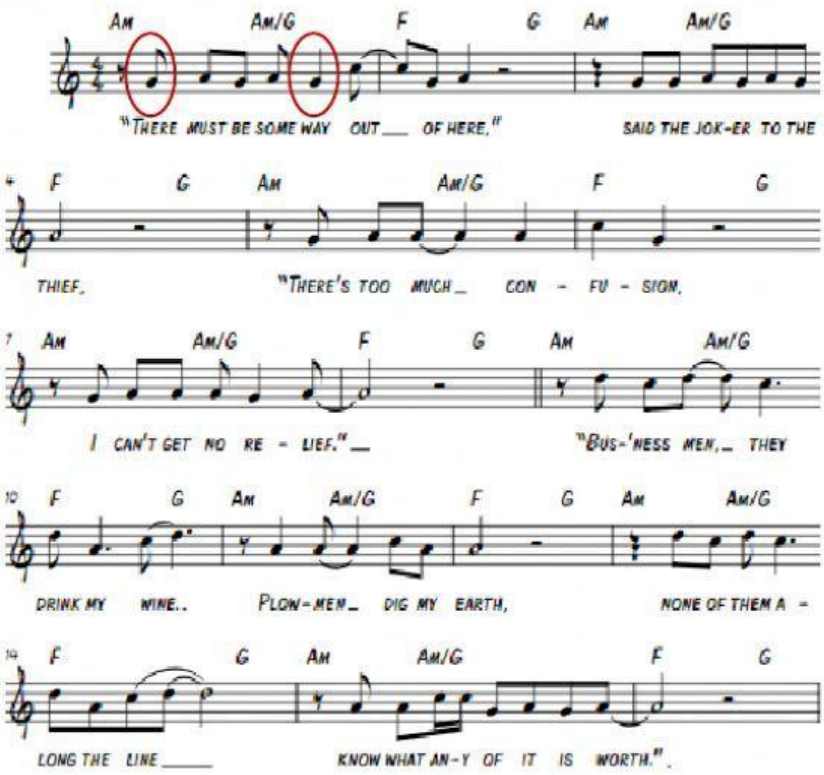


The **Aeolian mode** is the natural minor – ie the minor key but without the raised 6th or 7th degree of harmonic or melodic minor

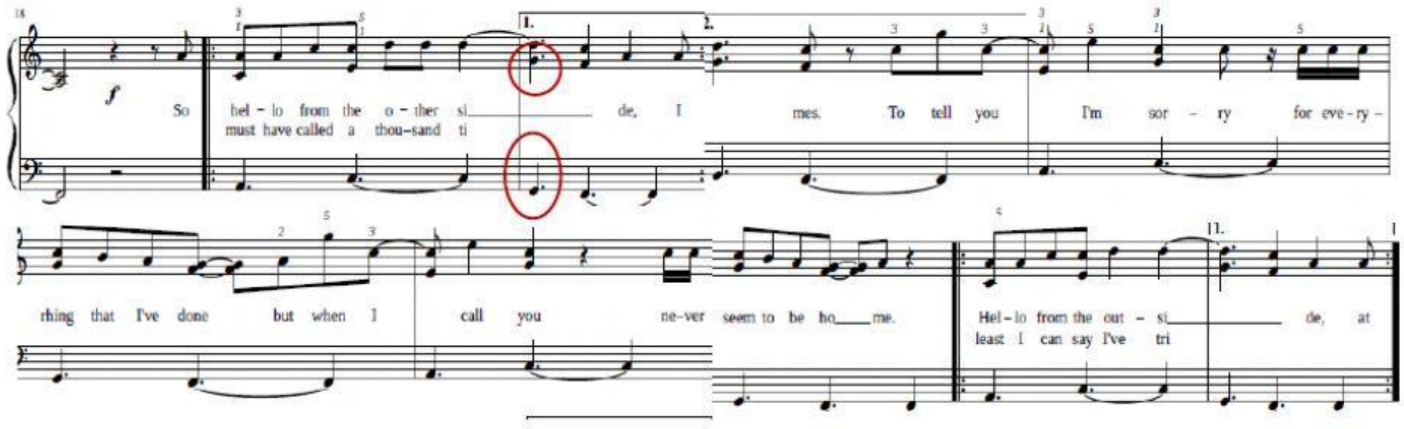
*ie A Aeolian is like A minor but **no** F# or G#*

You can build the Phrygian mode on any starting note. It is the minor key with lowered 7th

e.g. *All along the watchtower – Bob Dylan*



e.g. Hello - Adele



LIVEWORKSHEETS

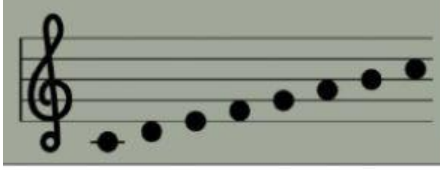
Composing using modes

Experiment with writing a melody in one or more of these modes
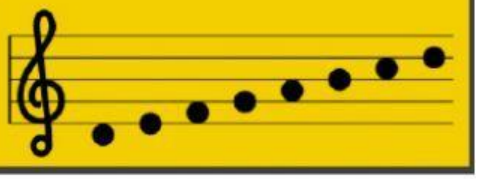
Choose one of the texts from the Mass and set a melody to the words

- *Kyrie eleison*
- *Gloria*
- *Sanctus/ Hosanna*
- *Agnus Dei*
- *Benedictus*

C Ionian Mode



D Dorian Mode



Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

Possibly start with a **single line plainsong melody in E Phrygian mode.** Then resolve this into **A Aeolian mode**. At some of the cadences you could use a **Tierce de Picardie** by adding a G# to *the final Am chord*

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Et in terra pax
hominibus bonæ voluntatis.
Laudamus te; benedicimus te;
adoramus te; glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi
propter magnam gloriam tuam.

Bright text – possibly **use F Lydian mode** (e.g. F with raised 4th) as well as **Ionian** (C major)

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Osanna in excelsis.

Possibly use **D Dorian mode** and then brighten by going into **C Ionian mode** at Hosanna (or even **F Lydian mode**)

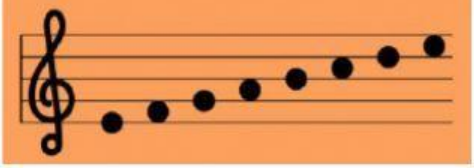
Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei.
Dona nobis pacem.

or
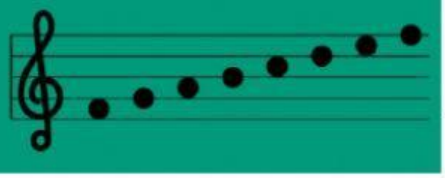
Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Osanna in excelsis.

Calm text – possibly use **G Mixolydian** and **C Ionian** or add an F# in places to go to G major for 'Osanna in excelsis'

E Phrygian Mode

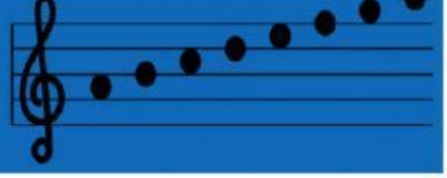


F Lydian Mode

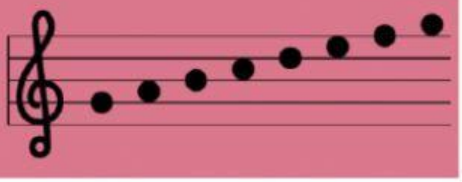


I Don't Particularly Like Modes A Lot

A Aeolian Mode



G Mixolydian Mode



LIVEWORKSHEETS