
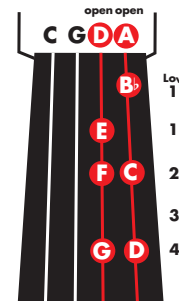


**Key Signature D Minor** =  = One flat in the key signature. D minor has the same key signature as F major.

Here is the **D Minor Scale**. The D minor scale starts and ends on D.

The first note of the D minor scale begins on your open D string and ascends to the 4th finger D on your A string. This scale uses the backward extension on the A string with a low first finger on B $\flat$ .



**Practice!**

- Write in the letter names under the notes. Then, color in the corresponding place of each note on the fingerboard. Silently practice the fingerings to check your work.

- Look at these lines of music and name their keys. Notice that both lines have something that is exactly the same! One is in a major key and the other is in a minor key. Play each line on your instrument to check your answers.

Key of \_\_\_\_\_                      Key of \_\_\_\_\_

**Ear Training J**



Go to **Ear Training J** and listen to exercises 42-46. In each, you will hear either an interval of a major 3rd or a minor 3rd. Write your response on the blanks below.

42. \_\_\_\_\_ 43. \_\_\_\_\_ 44. \_\_\_\_\_ 45. \_\_\_\_\_ 46. \_\_\_\_\_

Go to **Ear Training J** and listen to exercises 47-49. Each example will feature music that uses a major or minor scale. Determine if each example is in a major or minor key and write your response in the blanks below.

47. \_\_\_\_\_ 48. \_\_\_\_\_ 49. \_\_\_\_\_

## Music of Mongolia: Morin Khuur



Another instrument that moved along the Silk Road is the **morin khuur**. Just by looking at the instrument, it is easy to guess that horses were very important to this nomadic culture! The magnificent scroll of a morin khuur (to the left) is hand carved.

What do you notice about the morin khuur that is similar to your string instrument?



Label parts of the morin khuur by drawing a line from each bullet to the correct part in the picture:

- Scroll – carved in the shape of a horse’s head
- Small Bridge
- Low string – originally made of 130 hairs from a stallion’s tail
- High string – originally made from 105 hairs from a mare’s tail
- Large Bridge
- Sound box – now made of wood, but traditionally it was a wood frame covered with the hide of a camel, goat or sheep

The high string is tuned to B $\flat$ . If the low string is tuned a 4th below the high string, to what pitch is it tuned? \_\_\_\_\_

Melodies on the morin khuur are played in only a few keys, including F Major and B $\flat$  Major. Draw your clef, then write the key signature and notes of each scale.

F Major

B $\flat$  Major


For many centuries, the morin khuur has been important to the people of Mongolia. It is played all the time — while they watch their herds of sheep, to relax at the end of the day, and in celebrations through the year. Melodies played on the morin khuur also seem to have a magical effect on camels. For example, when a mother camel has died after the birth of her baby, melodies played on the morin khuur have encouraged another mother camel to adopt the new calf. A documentary about this special power, *The Story of the Weeping Camel*, was nominated for an Academy Award in 2005.

Sadly, many of the traditional morin khuur melodies — and most other parts of Mongolian culture, too — were all but forgotten during the 1900s, when Mongolia was part of the Soviet Union. Once the Soviet Union dissolved and Mongolia became an independent country, the Mongolian people began to bring back parts of their own culture. Support for the revival of the morin khuur was strong!

Today in Mongolia, the morin khuur is found in many homes as a symbol of peace and happiness. Instrument makers have updated the technology and materials they use, more and more people are taking lessons, and composers are writing new music for the morin khuur.

**Bonus!** Research one of these other bowed string instruments related to the morin khuur and also found along the Silk Road: igil, gusle, kobyz, or rebab. Make a poster or multimedia slides to share what you learned.

*Top horsehead scroll image: Musical Instrument Museum (Phoenix, AZ)  
Full image of morin khuur: photo courtesy of Rowan Lee Hartsuiker*