

Messiaen modes

The modes of limited transposition
Fredrik Pihl

Standard tuning

♩ = 120

A Whole tone scale

S-Gt

mf

T
A
B

8 10 7 9 11 8 10 7 9 11 9 11 8 10 12

B H / W diminished scale (octatonic)

T
A
B

8 9 11 7 9 10 7 8 10 6 8 9 7 8 10 6 8 9 8

C WHH scale

T
A
B

8 10 11 7 9 10 6 7 10 7 8 9 7 8 9 11 7 8 10 11

D Mode 4

T
A
B

8 9 10 8 9 10 8 9 10 6 7 10 7 8 9 7 8

D Mode 5

T
A
B

8 9 8 9 10 9 10 11 10 11 8 12 8

F Mode 6

Musical notation for F Mode 6. The top staff shows a melodic line in 4/4 time, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F6. The bottom staff shows guitar tablature for the same notes, with fret numbers: 8-10-12, 8-9-11, 8-9-10, 7-9-10, 7-9-10, 6-7-8.

G Mode 7

Musical notation for G Mode 7. The top staff shows a melodic line in 4/4 time, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C#6, D6, E6, F#6, G6. The bottom staff shows guitar tablature for the same notes, with fret numbers: 8-9-10, 6-8-9-10, 6-7-9, 5-6-7-8, 6-7-8-9, 5-7.

Musical notation for an empty staff. The top staff shows a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bottom staff shows guitar tablature with a single fret number: 8.