

Modes for Moods and their Use in Improvisation

The Dorian Mode

Sacred - Grounded - Rooted- Ritualistic - Magical - Serene

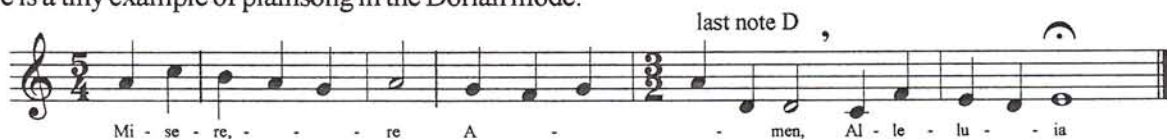
Leonard Bernstein describes the Dorian Mode:

"I'd like to introduce you to a short but marvelous piece, by the great French composer Debussy, a piece completely based on modes that are neither major or minor. This brilliant piece, which is called Festivals (Fetes), uses all kinds of modes. You can hear beautiful sounds that will seem a bit strange and ear-tickling. Imagine a splendid nighttime celebration, with many-colored lights and lanterns everywhere, gorgeous fireworks in the sky. Everyone is dancing in costumes of long ago. Suddenly, in the middle of the piece, the dance music breaks off, and a procession is heard in the far distance. This march-like music comes nearer and nearer. When it arrives in all its glory, the dance music and the march music are heard together in an exciting blend of tumultuous sounds. Finally, at the end of the piece, it grows late, the crowds thin out - as does the music - and it all ends in a whisper, with an echo or two of the night's festivities hanging in the silent air.

It is an exciting piece, positively goosefleshy. And a lot of the excitement comes from the fact that it uses those strange scales, or modes, which are neither major nor minor. It sounds like the usual minor mode until we hear a twist. The sixth note in the scale does not belong to any minor scale we know. The scale is the Dorian Mode.

The word Dorian obviously comes from the Greek; and in fact the Dorian mode, as well as the other modes we're about to discover, does come originally from the music of ancient Greece. (Kay Gardner states: "Ancient Greek modes are named for the tribes of peoples who traveled through the ancient empire. The three major tribes were the Ionians from Asia Minor, the Aeolians from the island of Lesbos, and the Dorians of the Peloponnesus.") We know that the Greek modes eventually made their way to Rome, where they were taken up by the Roman Catholic Church during the middle ages in a different form. But the Church kept the old Greek names for the modes.

Here is a tiny example of plainsong in the Dorian mode:

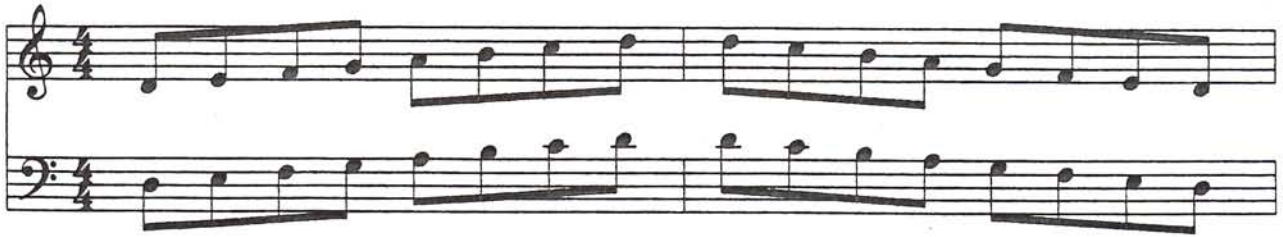


This plainsong is so stirring, so ancient as to seem timeless. The Dorian mode has a certain ancient, primitive, almost Oriental feeling to it. Popular songs such as "Along comes Mary" "Norwegian Wood" "Scarborough Fair" and "Eleanor Rigby" sound primitive and earthy compared to Debussy. Sibelius's Sixth Symphony is also in the Dorian mode. It has that same timeless, brooding, ancient, far-off quality to it."

Many bagpipe tunes are written in the Dorian Mode and were used to ground people before they went off to battle. It has a very definite quality that brings you close to the earth.

In hospital and healing areas, we use the Dorian Mode when a patient is restless and needs stabilizing. It is an introspective and reflective mode such as the minor mode (Aeolian). Kay Gardner likens the Dorian sounds as if they were spirals, hills and valleys as compared to other modes which might be more oceanic and rippling.

Dorian Mode Exercise



Play right hand first, then left, then both together. Place fingers as on videos.

How To Find the Chords For Improvisation on THE CHANTER's SONG

The last note of the piece is D

The key signature of the piece is C Major (no sharps or flats)

Chart of Degrees

1 st Degree	Ionian
2 nd Degree	Dorian
3 rd Degree	Phrygian
4 th Degree	Lydian
5 th Degree	Mixolydian
6 th Degree	Aeolian
7 th Degree	Locrian

From the Key of the piece – count UP to the ending note.

Therefore: Key of C (1) UP to ending note D (2) is the 2nd degree = Dorian Mode

Chart of Chords (as it appears in the back of the Introduction section of this series)

Key of C

Dorian Mode Chords good for Improvisation are:

Dm, C, F, G, Am

8 Bar Improvisation pattern for Dorian Mode (2 chords)

Dm Dm Dm Dm

C C Dm Dm (repeat this chord pattern)

Left Hand Patterns Dorian Mode

1st pattern - single note

2nd pattern - 5th interval



3rd pattern - broken 5th

4th pattern - octave rock



5th pattern - roving thumb

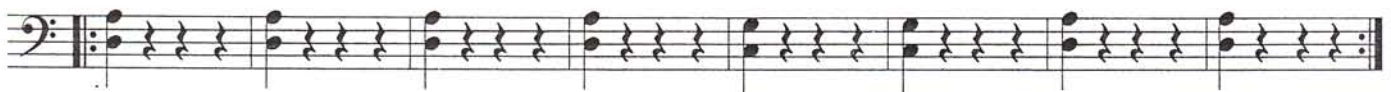
6th pattern - roving 4th



7th pattern - roving thumb and 4th



8 Bar Chord Change Phrases



mix and match



Note: Remember - the right hand needs to play along (without looking at it). If your right hand does not seem to move along, then you have attempted a left-hand pattern that is beyond your challenge point.

CREATIVE HARPING - Christina Tourin
Modes for Moods Series

The Chanter's Song

Beginner Version
arr. by C. Tourin

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time. It consists of four systems, each with a treble and bass staff. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-3 above notes. Chords are indicated by letters (Dm, C, F) above the staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

System 1:

- Measure 1: Treble (D4, E4, F4, G4), Bass (F2, C2). Chord: Dm. Fingering: 3 3 1 2 3.
- Measure 2: Treble (G4, A4, B4, C5), Bass (F2, C2). Chord: Dm. Fingering: 4 4 1 3 2.
- Measure 3: Treble (B4, A4, G4, F4), Bass (F2, C2). Chord: Dm. Fingering: 1 2 2 2 3.
- Measure 4: Treble (E4, D4, C4, B3), Bass (F2, C2). Chord: C. Fingering: 1 2 1 2 1 2.

System 2:

- Measure 5: Treble (B3, A3, G3, F3), Bass (F2, C2). Chord: Dm. Fingering: 3 3 1 2 3.
- Measure 6: Treble (E3, D3, C3, B2), Bass (F2, C2). Chord: Dm. Fingering: 4 4 1 3 2.
- Measure 7: Treble (A3, G3, F3, E3), Bass (F2, C2). Chord: Dm. Fingering: 1 2 2 2 3.
- Measure 8: Treble (D4, C4, B3, A3), Bass (F2, C2). Chord: C. Fingering: 4.
- Measure 9: Treble (G3, F3, E3, D3), Bass (F2, C2). Chord: Dm. Fingering: 4.

System 3:

- Measure 10: Treble (C4, B3, A3, G3), Bass (F2, C2). Chord: F. Fingering: 3 3 2 1 2.
- Measure 11: Treble (F4, E4, D4, C4), Bass (F2, C2). Chord: F. Fingering: 3 4 3 2 1 3 2.
- Measure 12: Treble (B4, A4, G4, F4), Bass (F2, C2). Chord: Dm. Fingering: 1 2 2 2 3.
- Measure 13: Treble (E4, D4, C4, B3), Bass (F2, C2). Chord: C. Fingering: 1 2 1 2 1 2.

System 4:

- Measure 14: Treble (A3, G3, F3, E3), Bass (F2, C2). Chord: Dm. Fingering: 3 3 1 1 2.
- Measure 15: Treble (D4, C4, B3, A3), Bass (F2, C2). Chord: Dm. Fingering: 3 3 1 3 2.
- Measure 16: Treble (G3, F3, E3, D3), Bass (F2, C2). Chord: Dm. Fingering: 1 2 2 1 2.
- Measure 17: Treble (C4, B3, A3, G3), Bass (F2, C2). Chord: C. Fingering: 3.
- Measure 18: Treble (F3, E3, D3, C3), Bass (F2, C2). Chord: Dm. Fingering: 3.

The Chanter's Song

Intermediate Version
arr. by C. Tourin

Chord progression: Dm Dm Dm C

Chord progression: Dm Dm Dm C Dm

Chord progression: F F Dm C

Chord progression: Dm Dm Dm C Dm

The image displays four systems of musical notation for 'The Chanter's Song'. Each system consists of a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a 4/4 time signature. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and bar lines. Above each system, the corresponding chord progression is listed. The first system has chords Dm, Dm, Dm, and C. The second system has chords Dm, Dm, Dm, C, and Dm. The third system has chords F, F, Dm, and C. The fourth system has chords Dm, Dm, Dm, C, and Dm. The notation is arranged in a clear, readable format, with the chords listed above the staff and the musical notation below.

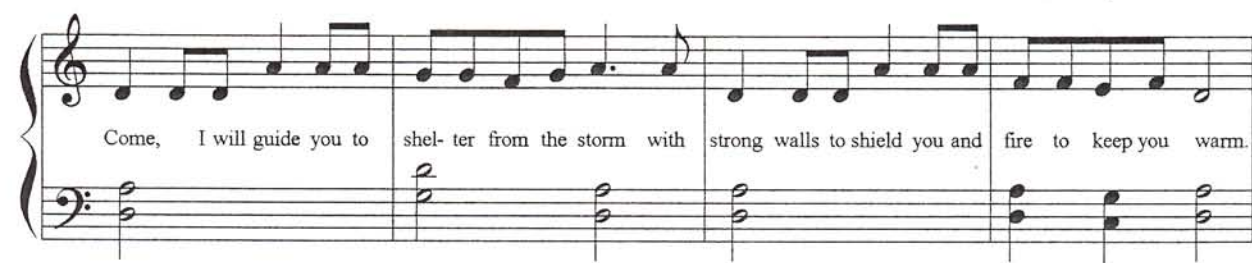
Dorian Mode - Improvise on Dm and C

The Dragon

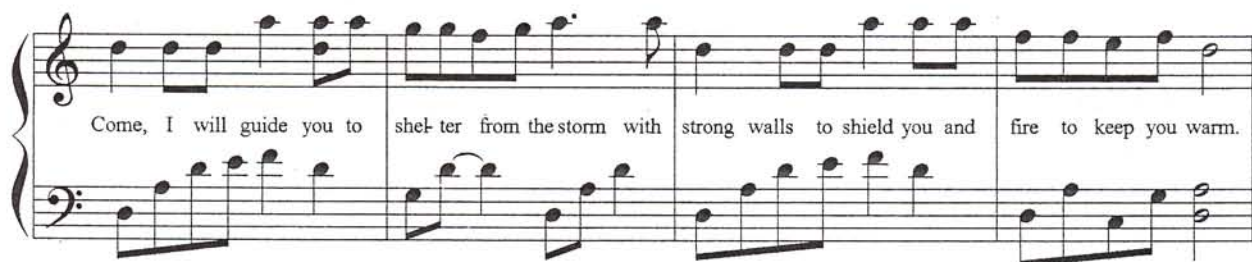
Christina Tourin



Piano introduction in 4/4 time. The right hand plays a series of chords and single notes, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment.



Vocal entry with lyrics. The right hand plays a melody, and the left hand provides harmonic support with chords. The lyrics are: "Come, I will guide you to shel- ter from the storm with strong walls to shield you and fire to keep you warm."



Piano accompaniment for the vocal line. The right hand plays a melody, and the left hand provides harmonic support with chords. The lyrics are: "Come, I will guide you to shel- ter from the storm with strong walls to shield you and fire to keep you warm."



Piano conclusion. The right hand plays a series of chords and single notes, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment.