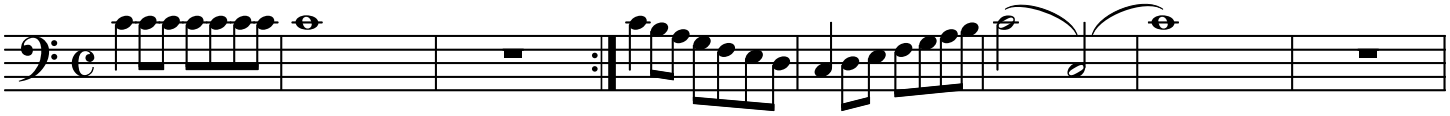
Leuba
arr. Herrick
trans. Johnston

MODAL SCALES

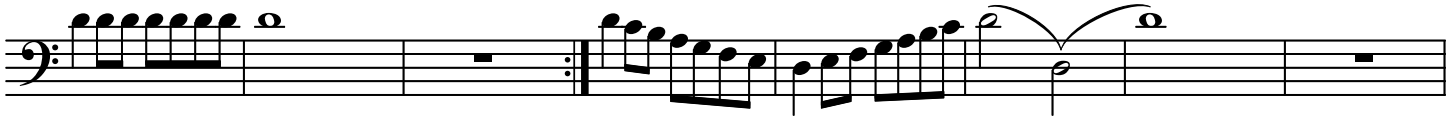
LEUBA SCALES ~ This exercise, patterned by Chris Leuba, introduces the player to the various compositional modes. The medieval modes are scales which evolved throughout the centuries in Western Europe and the land which borders the Mediterranean. The modes formed the basis for a large body of monophonic music known as plainsong, or Gregorian chant. By the eleventh century, the modal system consisted of eight scales.

This study will focus on seven of those scales and they are outlined below in a scalar pattern. There are several ways to properly determine the specific characteristics of each mode presented. All modes will fall into one of two categories; Major mode or Minor mode, meaning the scale in question can be compared to a major or minor scale with a distinct "flavor" (altered half steps) that makes it a particular mode. Examples are detailed below. Since this particular study is in C, the scalar pattern below is based on a C major key signature.

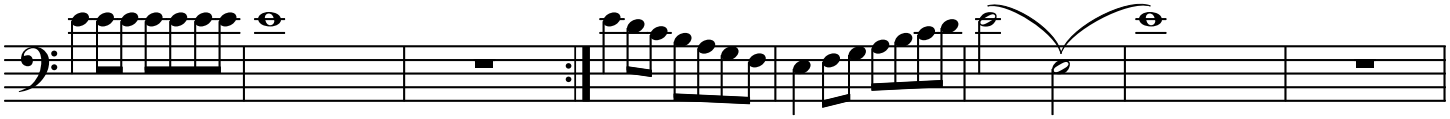
Ionian ~ Is considered your everyday major scale (ww1/2www1/2), therefore a Major mode.



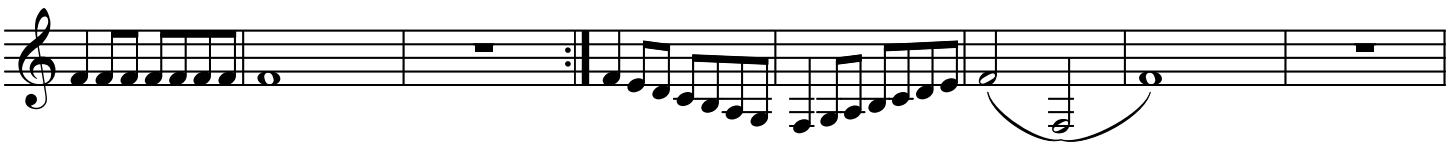
Dorian ~ is based on the 2nd scale degree; D, and is considered a Minor mode. Adding 1 sharp to the tonic minor key (D minor) or adding 2 flats to tonic major key (D major) will result in a D Dorian scale/key signature. Another way of determininig the Dorian mode would be to raise the 6th scale degree of any natural minor scale.



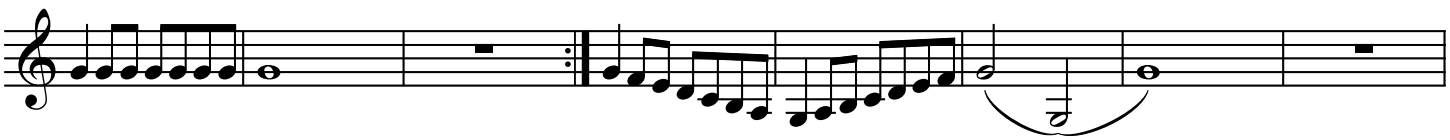
Phrygian ~ is based on the 3rd scale degree; E and is considered a Minor mode. Adding 1 flat to the tonic minor key (E minor) or adding 4 flats to the tonic major key (E major) will result in an E Phrygian scale/key signature. Another way of determininig the Phrygian mode would be to lower the 2nd scale degree of any natural minor scale.



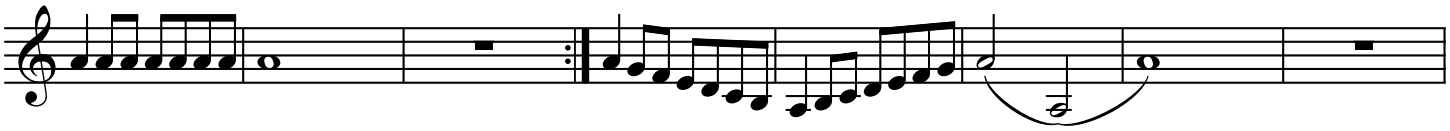
Lydian ~ is based on the 4th scale degree; F, and is considered a Major mode. Simply add 1 sharp to the tonic major key to determine the proper key signature, resulting in a F Lydian mode. Another way of determining the Lydian mode would be to raise the 4th scale degree of any major scale. Lydian is considered the brightest modal color.



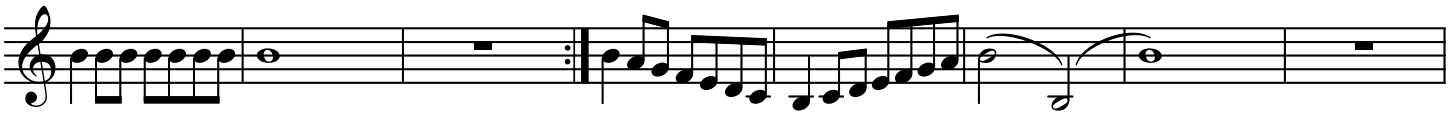
G Mixolydian ~ is based on the 5th scale degree; G, and is considered a Major mode. Simply add 1 flat to the tonic major key to determine the proper key signature, resulting in a G Mixolydian mode. Another way of determining the Mixolydian mode would be to lower the 7th scale degree of any major scale.



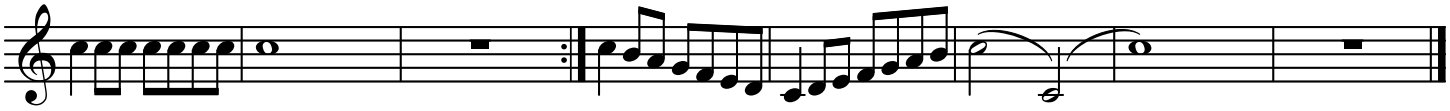
Aeolian ~ is a natural minor scale (w1/2ww1/2ww) based on the 6th scale degree; A. Adding 0 sharps or flats to the tonic minor key (in this case A minor) or adding 3 flats to the tonic major key (A major) will result in an A Aeolain scale/key signature.



Locrian ~ is based on the 7th scale degree; B, and is considered a Minor mode. Because there are no sharps or flats in the key signature we can determine that it will take an additional 3 flats to the tonic minor key (B minor) or 5 flats to the tonic major key (B major) to properly play a B Locrian scale. Locrian produces the darkest modal color.



Ionian



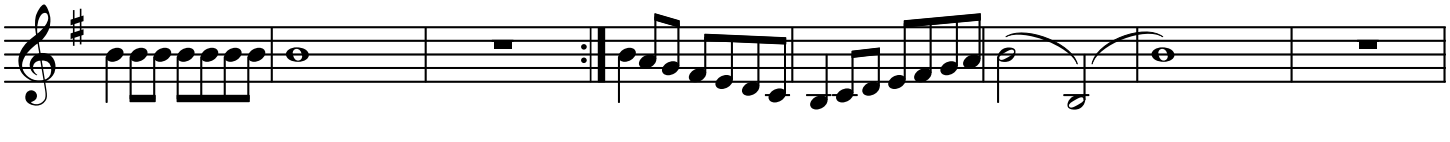
The following scalar patterns are based on the key signature of the first scale.

C Major (above)
G major
D Major
A Major
E Major
B Major
F# Major
Db Major
Ab Major
Eb Major
Bb Major
F Major

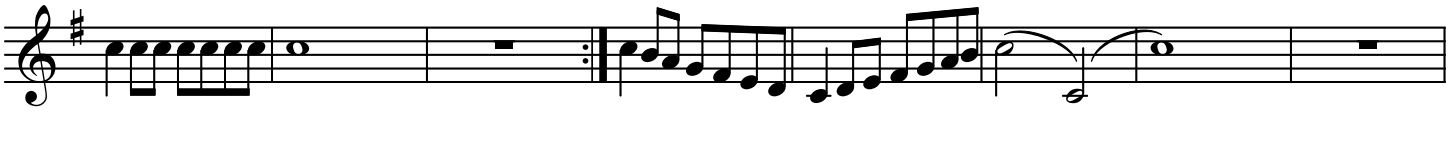
G Ionian

A Dorian

B Phrygian



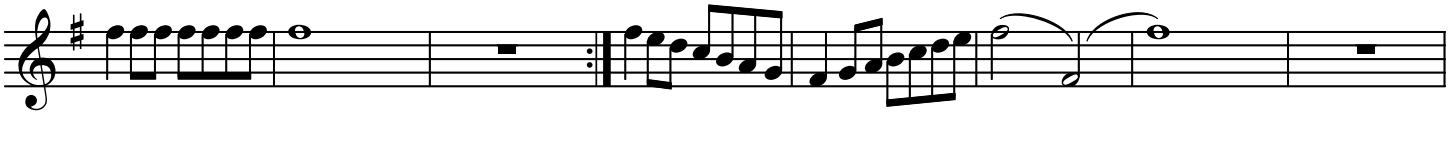
C Lydian



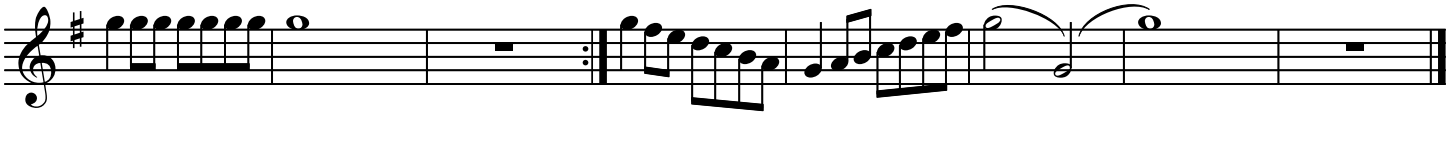
D Mixolydian

E Aeolian

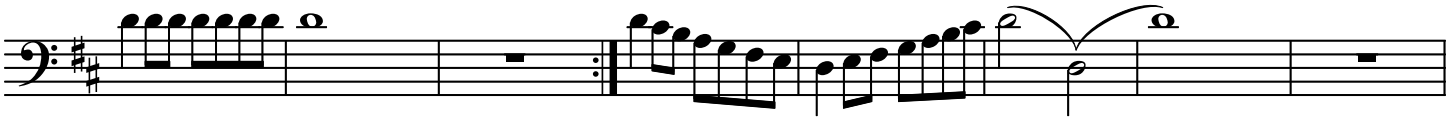
F# Locrian



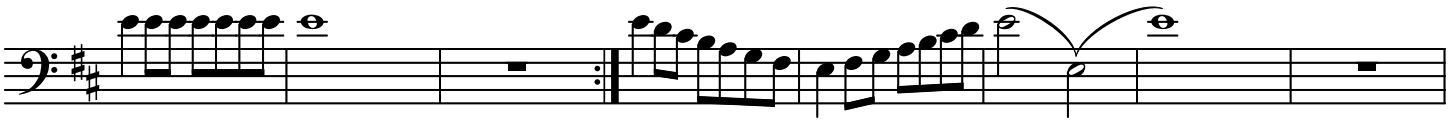
G Ionian



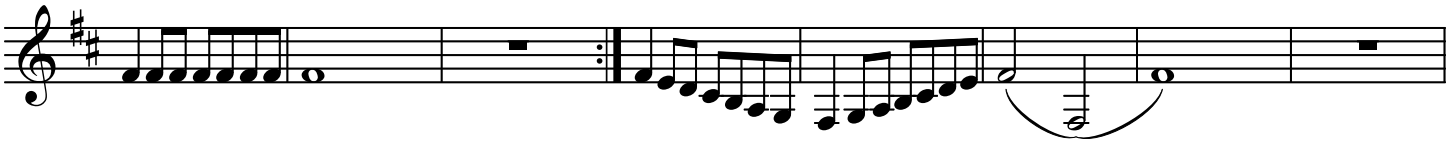
D Ionian



E Dorian

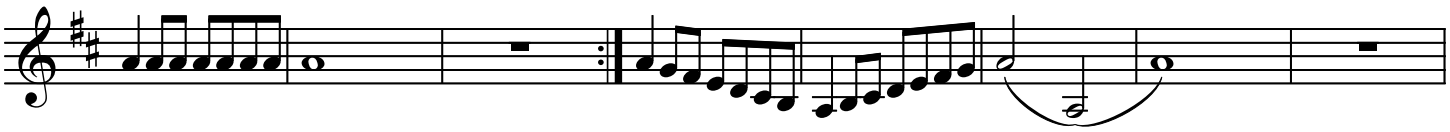


F# Phrygian

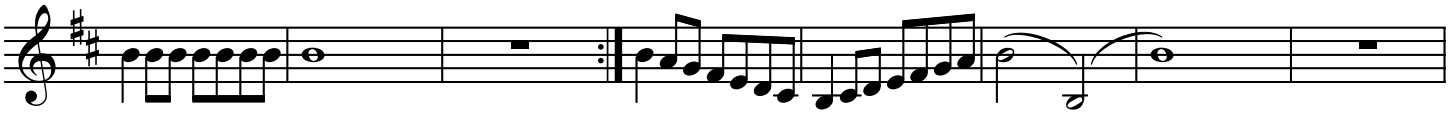


G Lydian

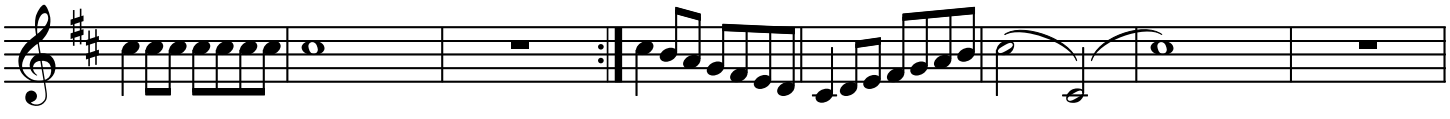
A Mixolydian



B Aeolian

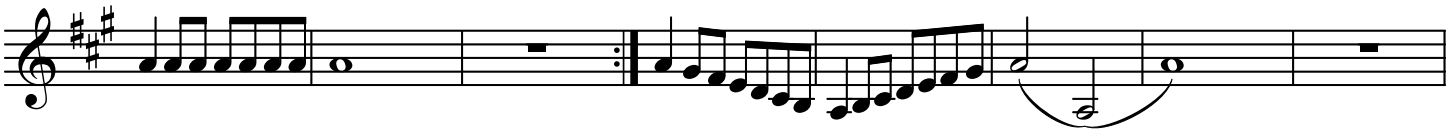


C# Locrian

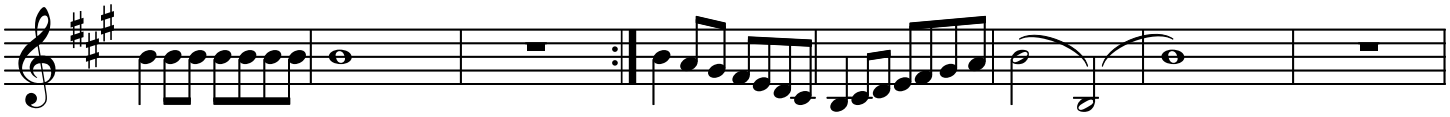


D Ionian

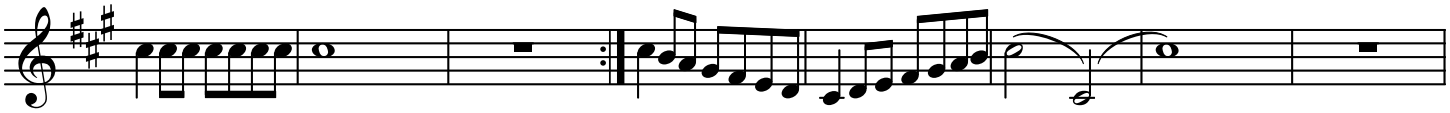
A Ionian



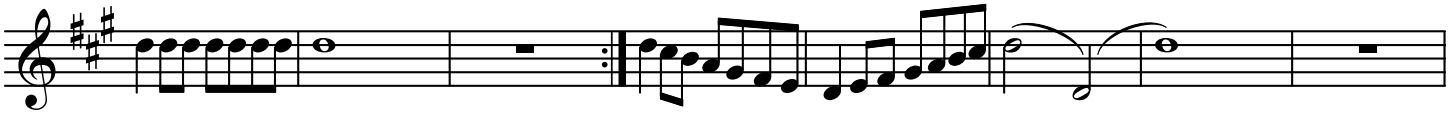
B Dorian



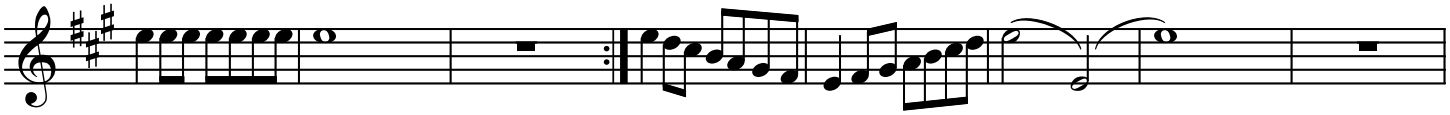
C# Phrygian



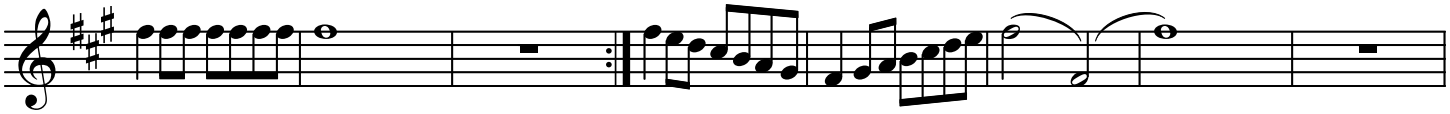
D Lydian



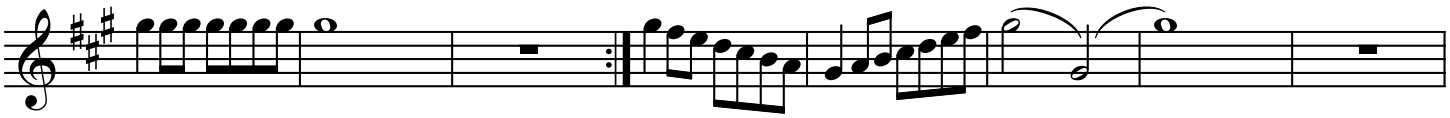
E Mixolydian



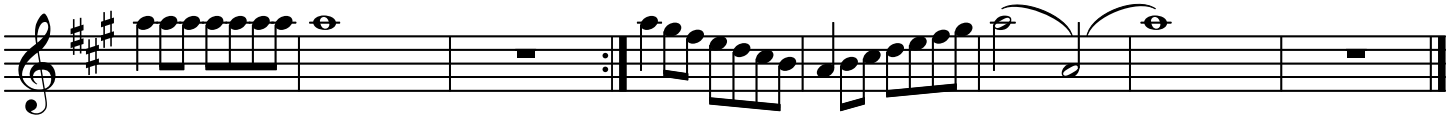
F# Aeolian



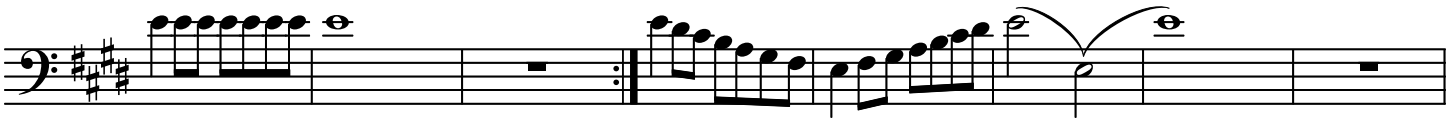
G# Locrian



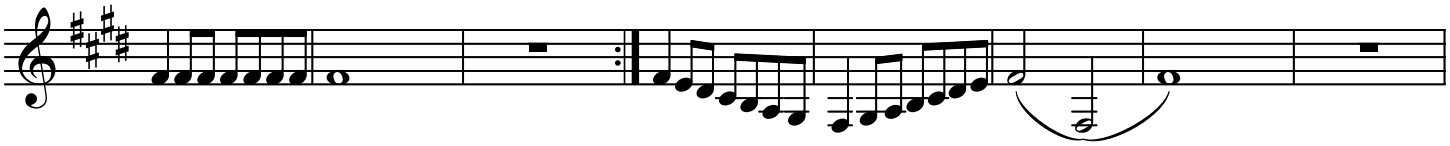
A Ionian



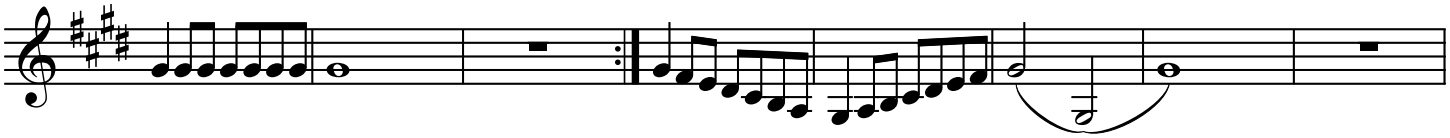
E Ionian



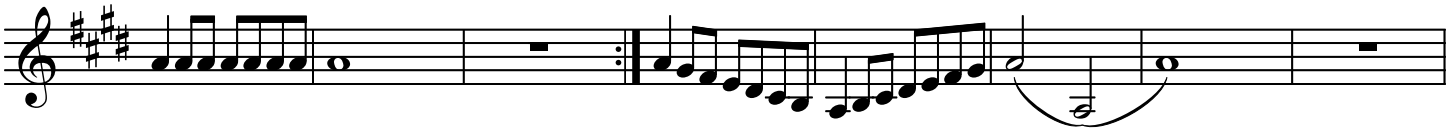
F# Dorian



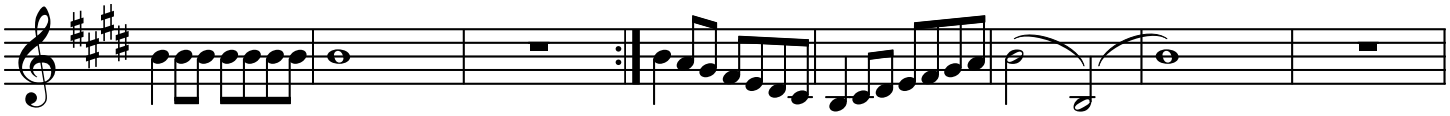
G# Phrygian



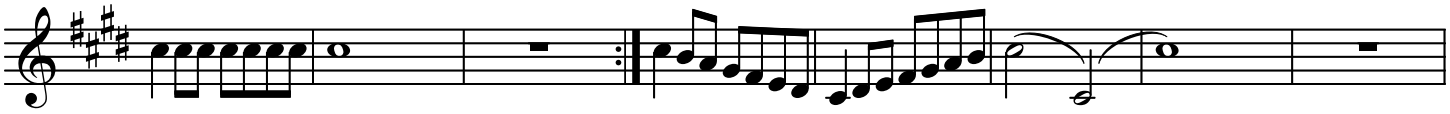
A Lydian



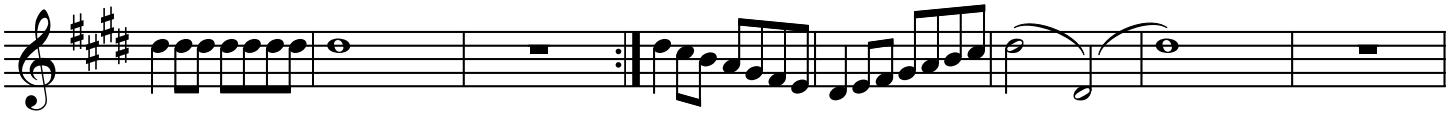
B Mixolydian



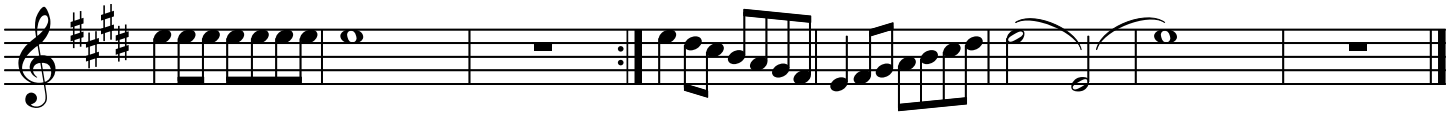
C# Aeolian



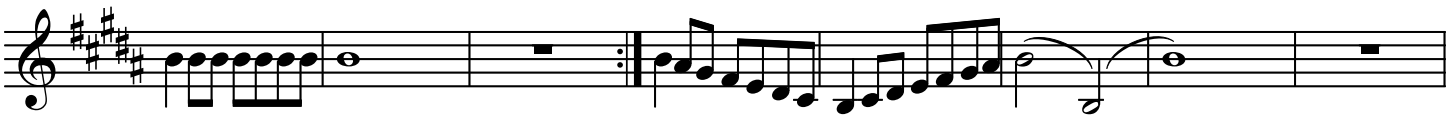
D Locrian



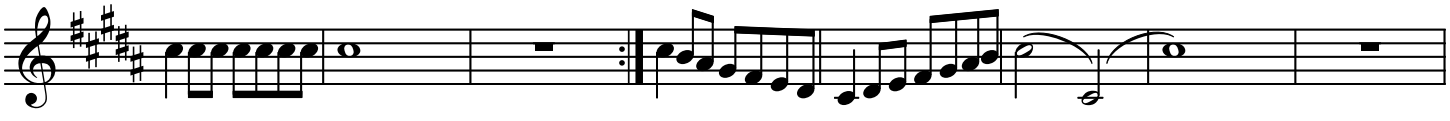
E Ionian



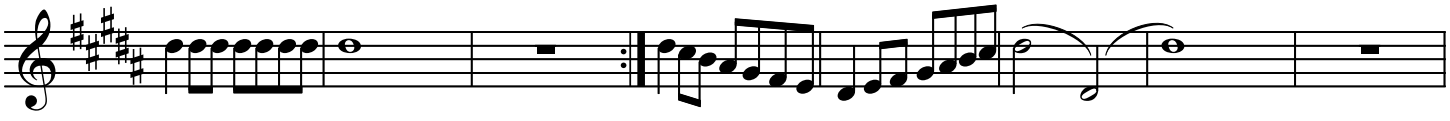
B Ionian



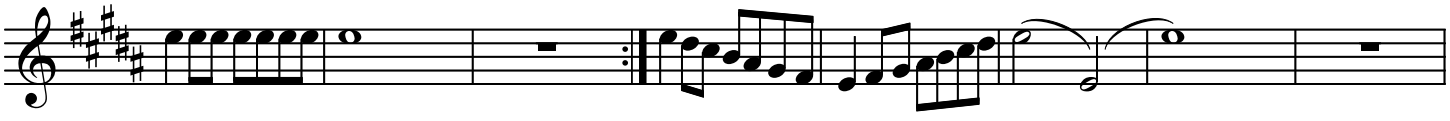
C# Dorian



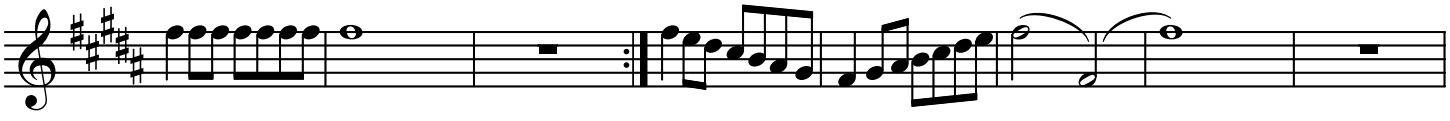
D# Phrygian



E Lydian

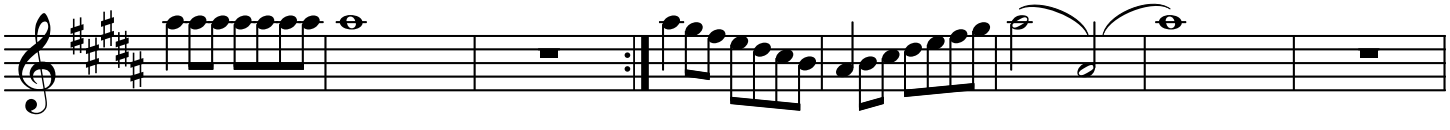


F# Mixolydian

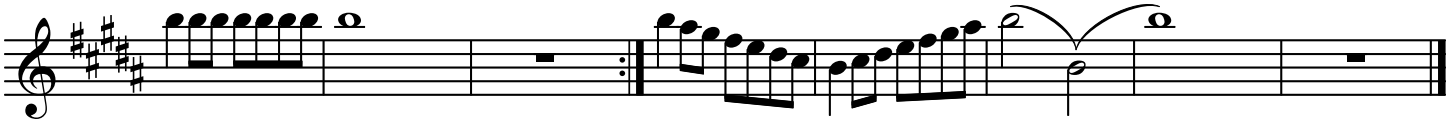


G# Aeolian

A# Locrian

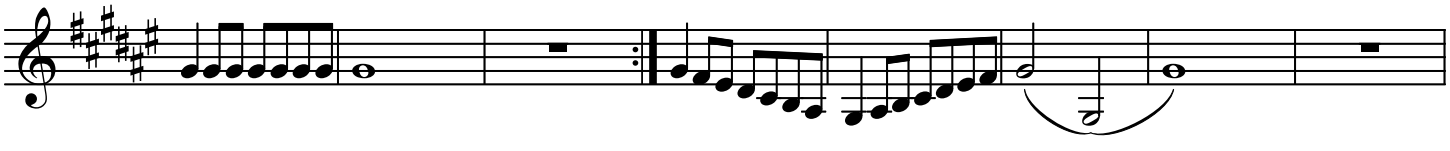


B Ionian

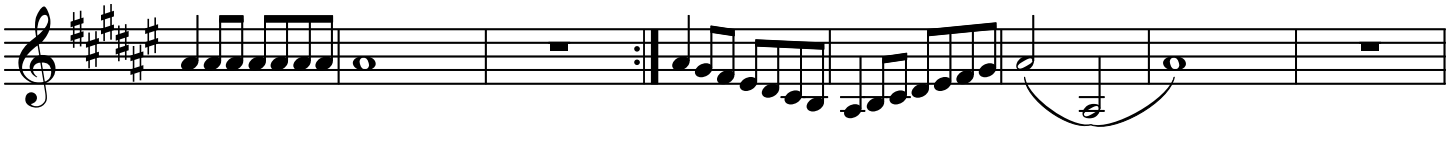


F# Ionian

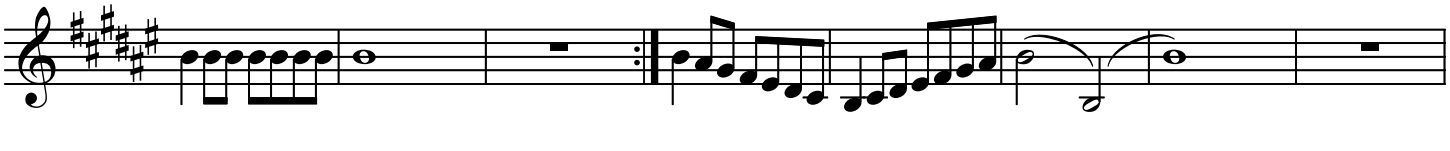
G# Dorian



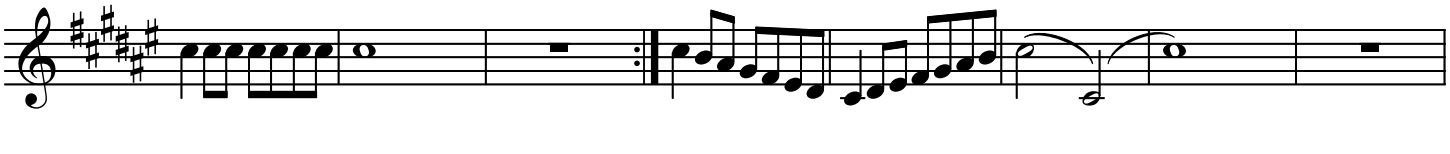
A# Phrygian



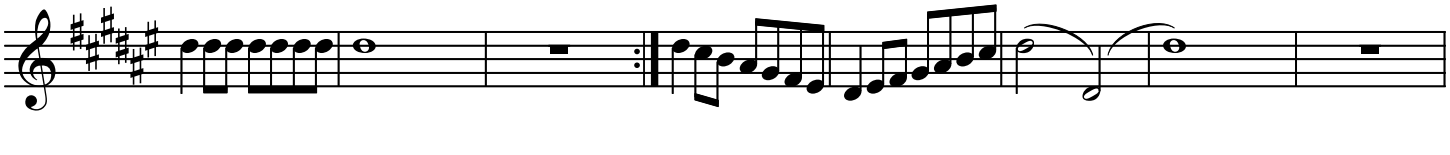
B Lydian



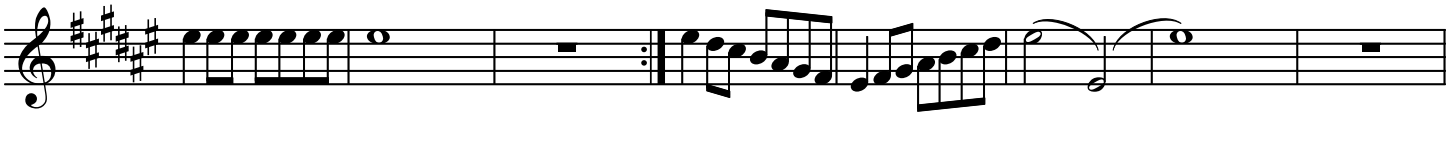
C# Mixolydian



D# Aeolian

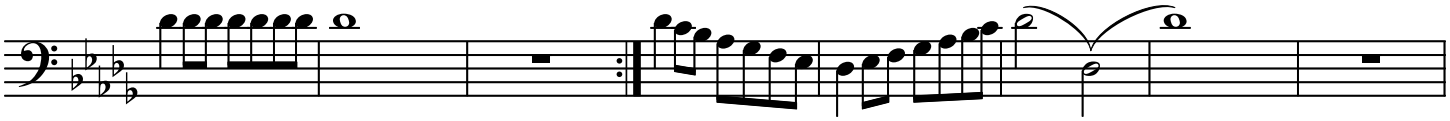


E# Locrian

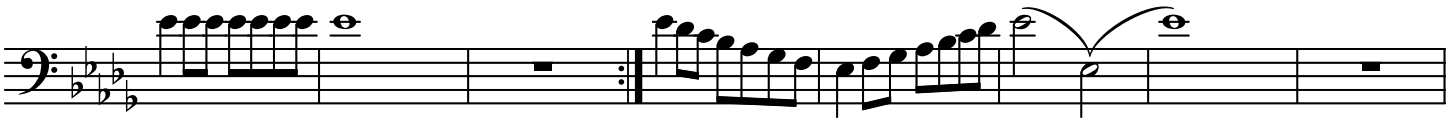


F# Ionian

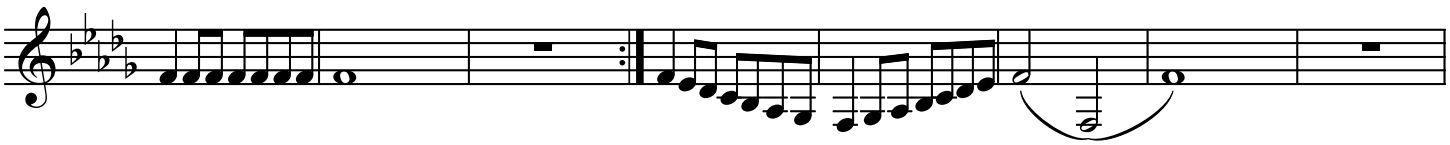
Db Ionian



Eb Dorian

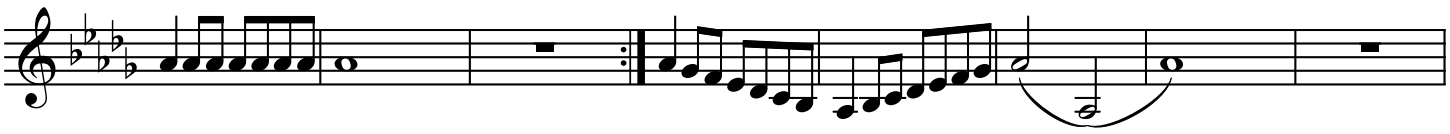


F Phrygian



Gb Lydian

Ab Mixolydian



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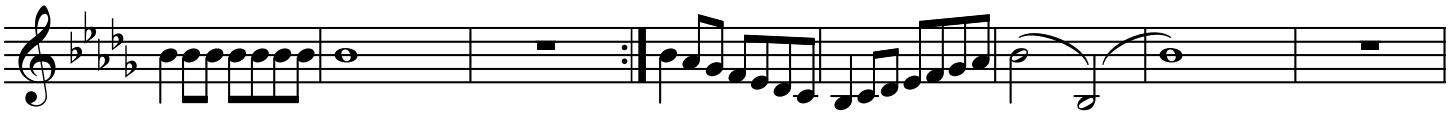

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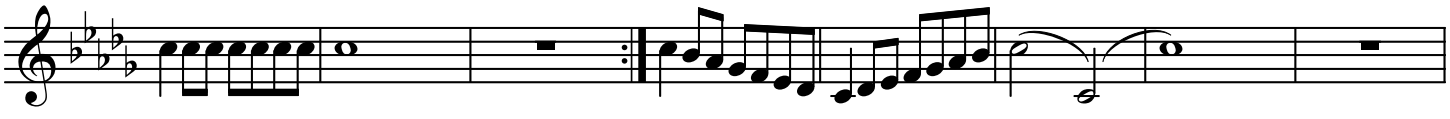

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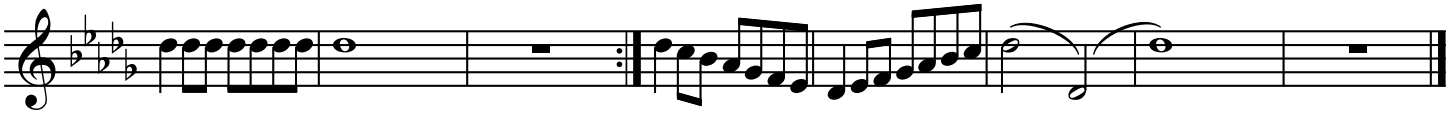

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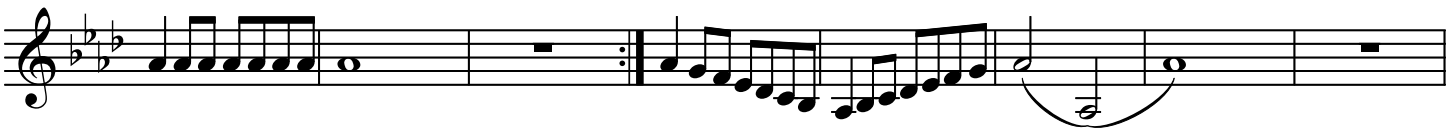

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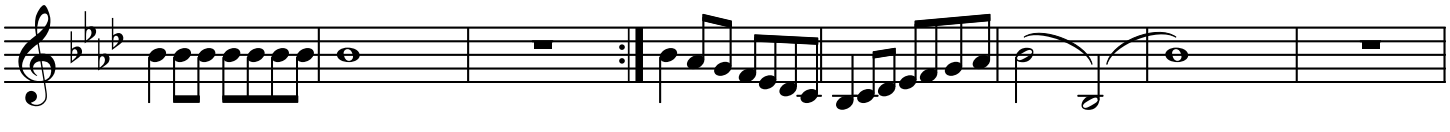

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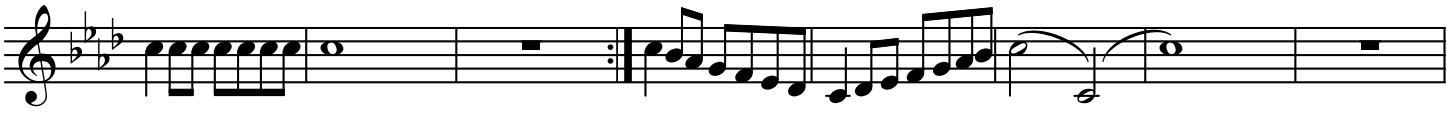

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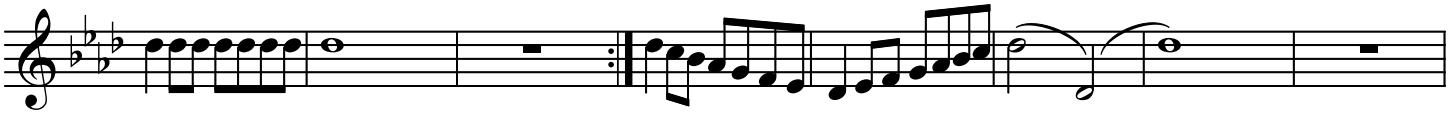
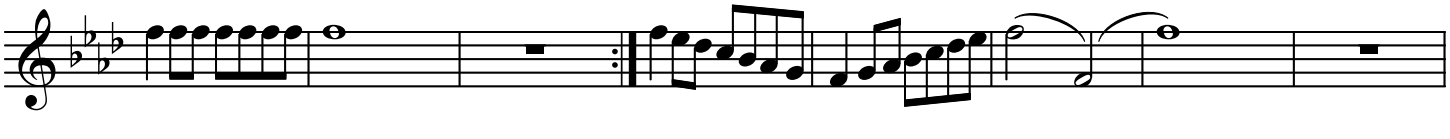
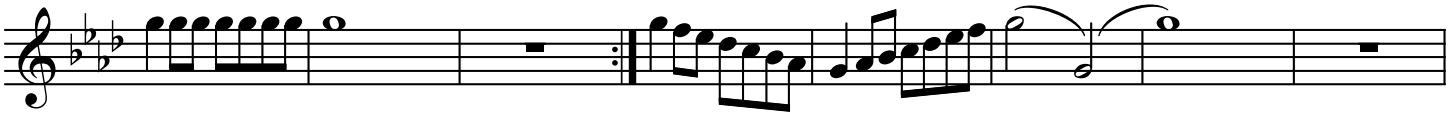


Eb Mixolydian

F Aeolian



G Locrian



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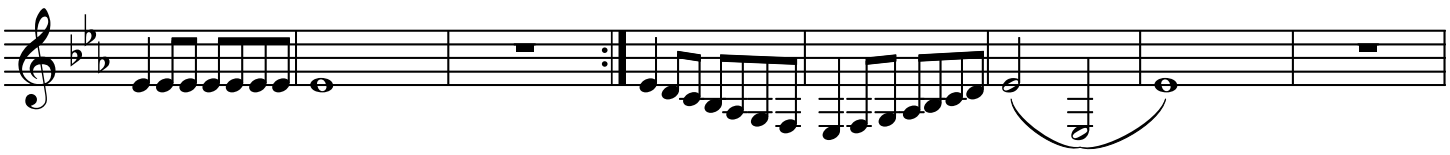

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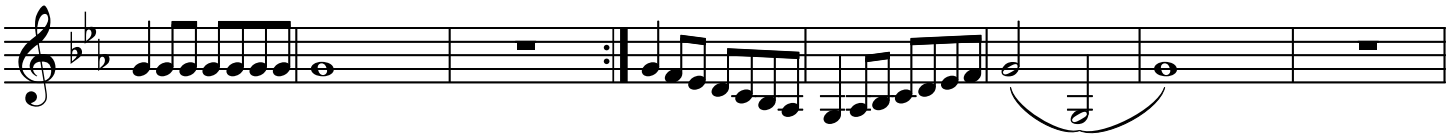

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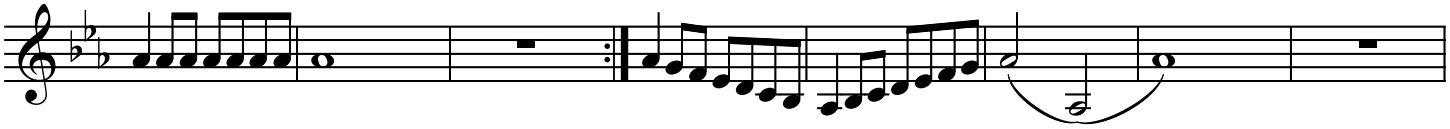

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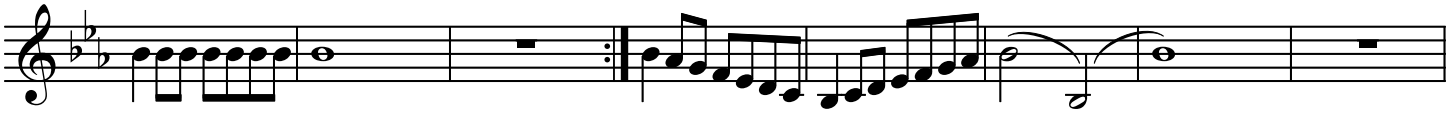
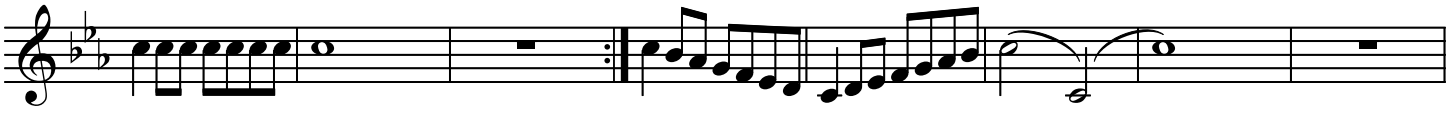
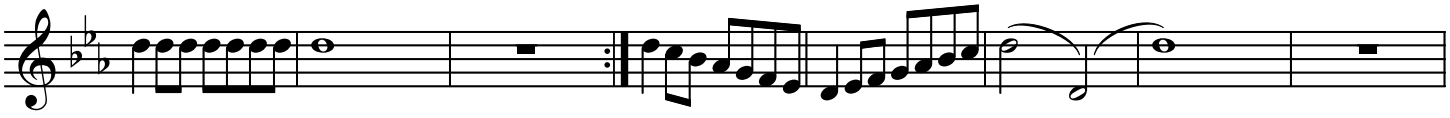


C Aeolian



D Locrian



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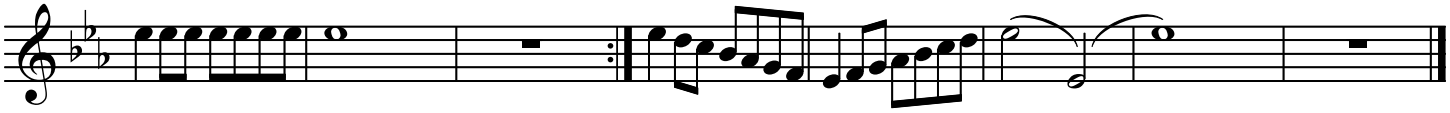

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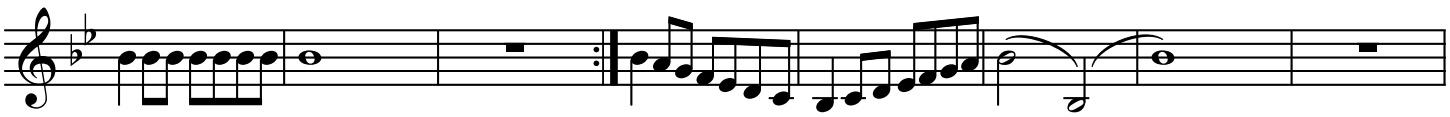
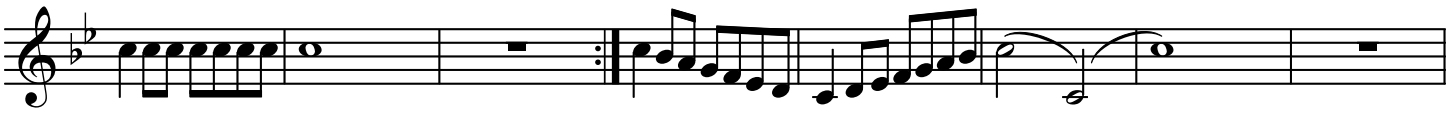


C Dorian



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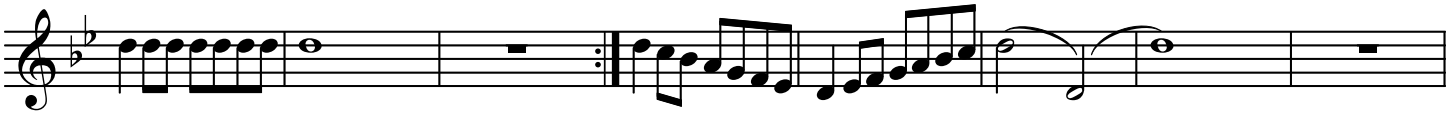

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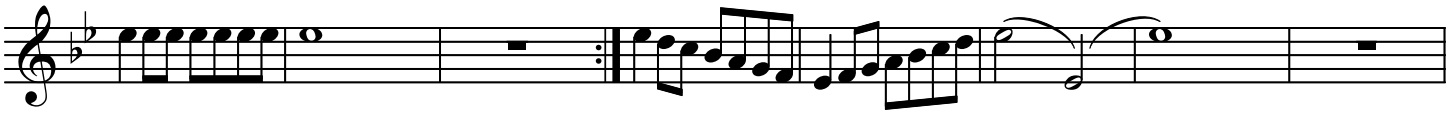
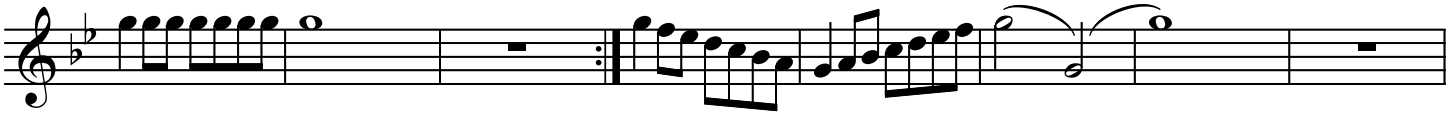
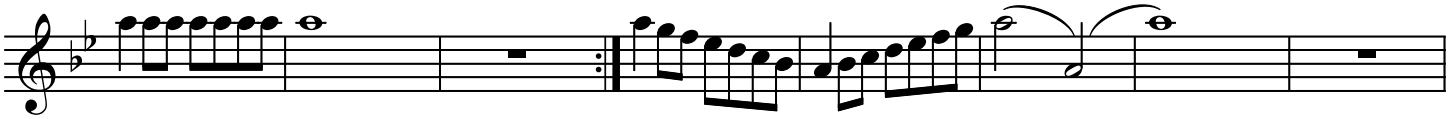


F Mixolydian

G Aeolian



Ab Locrian



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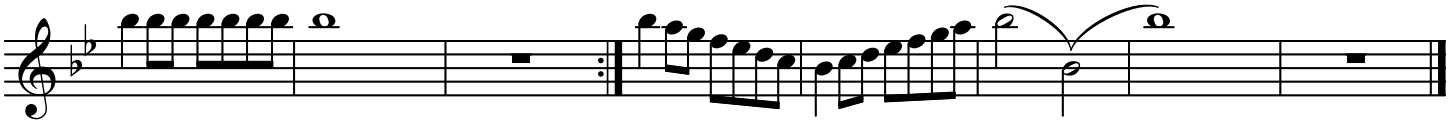
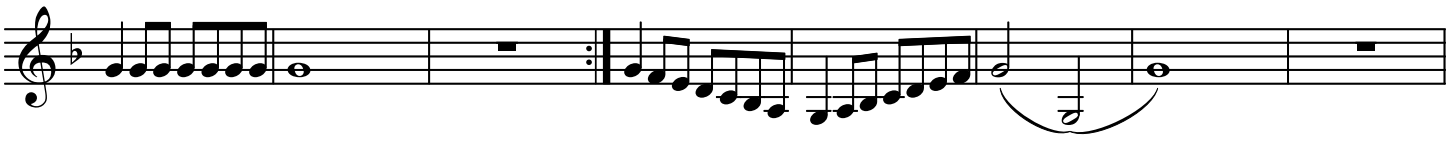


F Ionian

G Dorian



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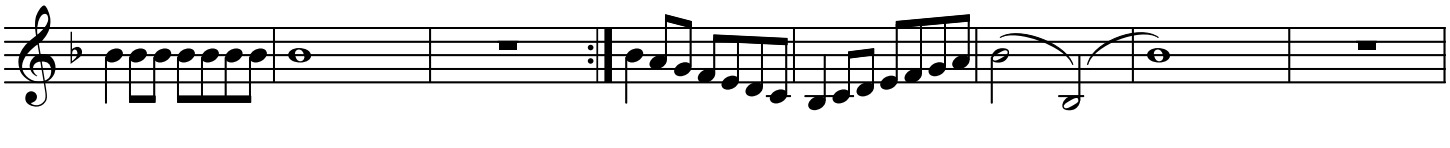
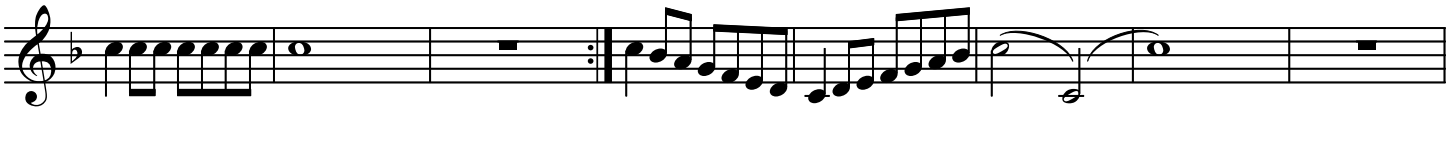
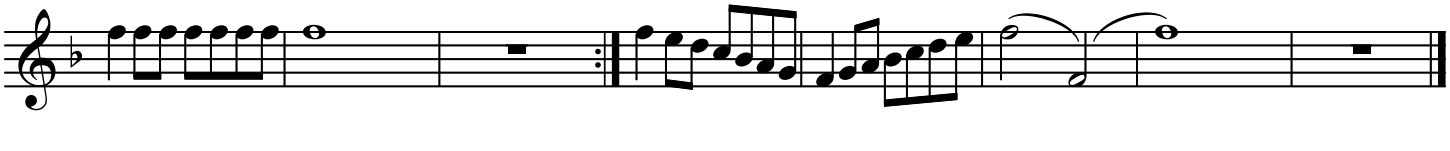
Bb Lydian



C Mixolydian



D Aeolian

Eb Locrian

F Ionian