

## The Modes

## Modal scales

- Before major and minor became standard, music was written in *modes*
- The six modes used in the Renaissance were:
  - Dorian (the white note scale from D to D)
  - Phrygian (the white note scale from E to E)
  - Lydian (the white note scale from F to F)
  - Mixolydian (the white note scale from G to G)
  - Aeolian (the white note scale from A to A)
  - Ionian (the white note scale from C to C)
- Music theorists actually invented another mode from B to B called Locrian, but this is never found in actual music

## Remembering the order of the modes

- One way to remember the modes is to create a sentence using the first letters of each mode as you start from C and move up to B on the piano
- C Ionian, D Dorian, E Phrygian, F Lydian, G Mixolydian, A Aeolian, and B Locrian = IDPLMAL
  - I don't play like my aunt Lucy
  - I don't particularly like my apples licked
  - In dark places lurk many angry lions
  - I don't play loud music after lectures
- Note that the Dorian mode can start on the second scale degree of *any* major scale, the Phrygian mode on the third scale degree, Lydian on the fourth, etc.

## Major and minor-based modes

- We can think of the modes in relation to our major and minor scales:
- Major-based modes:
  - The Ionian mode is the same as major
  - The Lydian mode is a major scale with a raised 4
  - The Mixolydian mode is a major scale with a lowered 7
- Minor based-modes:
  - The Aeolian mode is the same as natural minor
  - The Dorian mode is a minor scale with a raised 6
  - The Phrygian mode is a minor scale with a lowered 2

## Another way to remember the modes

- Another way to remember the modes is to organize them from brightest to darkest in the pattern LIMDAPL:
  - Lydian is the brightest (major with a raised fourth)
  - Ionian is next (major)
  - Mixolydian is next (major with a lowered seventh)
  - Dorian is next (minor with a raised sixth)
  - Aeolian is next (natural minor)
  - Phrygian is next (minor with a lowered second)
  - Locrian is last (minor with a lowered second *and* a lowered fifth)

## Modes

- What modes are these?

Aeolian

Dorian

Phrygian

- Note: you can normally identify the mode of a piece by looking at its last note (this note is called the *final*)