

## Effects of Major and Minor Modes to Emotional Perceptions of 'Happy' and 'Sad' in Piano Music among Students Aged 9-17

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**Abstract :** This quantitative study investigates the effects of major and minor modes, and contributing musical parameter of tempo, to the emotional perceptions of 'happy' and 'sad' in piano music among subjects aged 9-17 years old. The study was conducted in two phases; survey-questionnaire, and listening activity. Subjects (N=31) were sampled from piano music students' population in Bangi, Selangor. In the survey-questionnaire, subjects answered 20 questions on demographic characteristics, music listening and preference, and understanding of emotional perception in music. In the listening activity, subjects listened to 20 untitled piano music excerpts and rated the emotion perceived for each excerpt, whether 'happy' or 'sad'. Results from survey-questionnaire show that most percentage of subjects are 11 years old, in Grade 1, of 3 years of learning piano, prefer classical music, always listen to music, prefer both major and minor modes' music, and find it easy to understand emotion in music, as well as major and minor modes. Results from listening activity show that 60 % of major mode music are perceived as 'major-happy', while 60 % too, of minor mode music are perceived as 'minor-sad'. However, Chi-square test of independence statistical analysis indicates that there are no association and significant relationship between modes (major and minor) and 'happy', as well as 'sad' perceptions ( $\chi^2(1, N = 20) = 0.80, p = 0.371$ ), at the significance level of  $p \leq 0.05$ . Contrastingly, there are association and significant relationship between tempo (fast and slow), and 'happy', as well as 'sad' perceptions ( $\chi^2(1, N = 20) = 9.899, p = 0.005$ ). Therefore, it is concluded that tempo plays an important role in effects of major and minor mode to 'happy' and 'sad' emotional perceptions in piano music among subjects aged 9 to 17 in this study.

**Keywords :** effects, emotional perceptions, major and minor modes, piano music

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