

Consonance & Dissonance

Music

Which intervals settle and which ones pull, ranked.

Roughly from most restful to most tense.

Perfect consonance

Unison

Octave

Perfect 5th

Imperfect consonance

Major 3rd

Minor 3rd

Major 6th

Minor 6th

Dissonance

Perfect 4th (context-dependent)

Major 2nd

Minor 7th

Major 7th

Minor 2nd

Tritone

In practice

Dissonance resolves by step

The tritone in V7 resolves inward to I

A piece of pure consonance has no shape

The perfect 4th is consonant between upper voices and dissonant against the bass. Context decides.