

Lydian

Music

Major with a raised fourth — the floating, cinematic one.

The fourth mode of the major scale: identical to major except the fourth degree is raised a semitone, which removes the pull of the subdominant and leaves the scale suspended.

DEGREE
4th

RAISED
the 4th

CHORDS
I – II

- Formula: 1 2 3 $\sharp$ 4 5 6 7.
- F Lydian is the white keys from F.
- The $\sharp$ 4 forms a tritone with the tonic.
- The II chord becomes major instead of minor.
- Brightest of all seven modes.
- Used constantly in film scores for wonder and scale.

LOOK FOR IT

The Simpsons theme opens on a Lydian $\sharp$ 4. So does most of John Williams.

Major and Lydian differ by one note. That note is why one sounds settled and the other sounds like flying.