

# Lydian Mode

The Lydian mode is somewhat problematic because the tonic chord of the Lydian mode is the IV chord of the Ionian mode. If a melody makes extensive use of the IV chord it is easy for a listener to think that the melody is in the major key of that chord. For example, F-Lydian shares the key signature with C-Ionian. The F chord is the IV chord of C. If a melody is built around the F chord and the raised 4<sup>th</sup> of the Lydian mode does not occur often, listeners will think the tune is in the key of C. This fact makes the relationship between Ionian mode and Lydian mode somewhat ambiguous. Lydian mode can be a nightmare for a guitarist. It can be nearly impossible to recognize the chord structure of a Lydian mode tune in a jam session.

Lydian mode appears frequently in Celtic music. But, more often than not the tune is identified as an Ionian mode melody. This can result in inappropriate chord choices.

## The Scale of the Lydian Mode

<b>Solfege</b>	<i>re</i>		<i>me</i>		<i>fa</i>		<i>so</i>		<i>la</i>		<i>ti</i>		<i>do</i>	
<b>F-Lydian</b>	F		G		A		B		C		D		E	
<b>G-Lydian</b>	G		A		B		C#		D		E		F	
<b>C-Lydian</b>	C		D		E		F#		G		A		B	
<b>Step</b>		<i>whole</i>		<i>whole</i>		<i>whole</i>		<i>half</i>		<i>whole</i>		<i>whole</i>		<i>half</i>

## Chords Characteristic of the Lydian Mode

Primary harmonic definition is given by this rule of thumb: *The important chords of a mode are the tonic chord (the one that names the mode) and any chord that includes the most recently added altered tone of the mode. But not any diminished chords, please.*

The most recently altered tone in the Lydian mode is #4. So the characteristic chord is I (chord built on the tone that names the mode). However many also accept II and viim as characteristic chords.

## F-Lydian

The key signature is the same as "C". The most recent altered tone of this mode is the b2nd. So any chords that contain F natural are characteristic of this mode. The characteristic chords are: F, G, Dm

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### **G-Lydian**

The key signature is the same as “D”. The most recent altered tone of this mode is the b2nd. So any chords that contain F natural are characteristic of this mode. The characteristic chords are: G, A, Em

### **C-Lydian**

The key signature is the same as “G”. The most recent altered tone of this mode is the b2nd. So any chords that contain F natural are characteristic of this mode. The characteristic chords are: C, D, Am

### **Mode Relations.**

The relative minor of the Lydian mode is the Dorian Mode.