Relationships Among the Modes

Leaving out the Locrian Mode as a special case, the remaining 6 modes exhibit relationships among them that are important in understand how modes are perceived.

The relationship of a relative minor to a major key is easy to hear and most musicians know this connection. The relative minor chord is built upon the 6^{th} of a scale. So the relative minor of a C chord is an Am chord.

This relationship works for the modes too:

Major Mode	Relative Minor Mode
lonian	Aeolian
Lydian	Dorian
Mixolydian	Phrygian

The modes on the C scale have these relationships:

Major Mode	Relative Minor Mode
C Ionian	A Aeolian
F Lydian	D Dorian
G Mixolydian	E Phrygian

For more information: www.billtroxler.com and BillTroxler@verizon.net