

from page 145, *Sweet Expectations*, David Huron, MIT Press, 2006

**Table 9.1**

Scale tone	Common descriptors	Sample responses
tonic	stable, pleasure, home, contentment	stable, extremely satisfying, centered, foundational, solid, resolved, strong
raised tonic	strong, upward, bold	edgy, unstable, uncertain, upwardly mobile, mildly precarious
lowered supertonic	surprise, abruptness, pause	somewhat dark, a sense of almost inevitable further descent, murky, unexpected richness, mild surprise
supertonic	solid, movement, resolve	hanging, dangling, transitory, moderate expectance of more to come, part of a flow
raised supertonic	longing, unstable	needling, moderately harsh, jarring, unstable, off-balance
mediant	bright, love, warmth, beauty	light, lifted, bright, point of many possible departures, yet also strongly restful, peaceful and calm
subdominant	descending	awkward, tentative, strong sense of being unfinished, "Now what?" no clear expectation of the future, hanging feeling, would be happy to fall by a half step
raised subdominant	intentional, motivated	moderately anxious, interrupted flow to dominant, somewhat curious about possibilities, fluidity, transitory
dominant	strong, muscular, balance, possibility, pleasant	strong, towering, height, sense of looking down from a tall building and being comfortable, but knowing you'll eventually take the elevator back to the street level
raised dominant	leading, aspiring	leading to something, sense of implication, unfinished, leaning, mildly uncomfortable
submediant	balance, open, lightness	air and open, temporary suspendedness, neutral, evokes mild curiosity in regard to direction
subtonic	falling, lightness drifting downward, shifting	heavy, like walking with a limp, unexpected, open new possibilities, sheds a new light on things
leading tone	unstable, pointing, restless	sense of inevitability, highly unstable, uncomfortable, squirmy, itching, restless