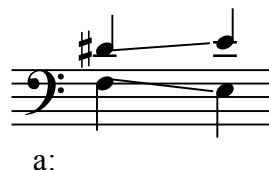
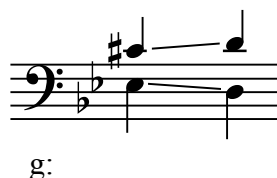


MUS 233
The Augmented 6th Chord (part I)

General

- The augmented 6th interval (+6) emphasizes the approach to a tone from a half step below (like the familiar leading tone) and from a half step above
- This effect can be thought of as a **contrapuntal** gesture: two voices (natural-minor/flat-6th & raised 4th) creating a dissonance and resolving by **contrary** motion



Some Specifics

- Such is the case with the augmented 6th chord: it emphasizes the approach to the **dominant** (it goes/resolves to the dominant (V, or vii° indirectly)—and dominant harmony, meaning that it might pass through a 6/4 chord first)
 - More specifically, the typical pre-dominants that approach the augmented 6th chord are:
 - IV/iv
 - I/i
 - N⁶
 - This is considered a **strong** approach to the dominant (unlike the more subtle Neapolitan detour)
 - Accomplished by using a lowered 6th scale degree (if not already “lowered” in minor) and raising the 4th scale degree
 - Goes to the dominant
 - If in minor mode, the 6th scale degree (or lowered 6th in major) appears in the bass the raised 4th scale degree appears in an upper part
 - The lower part resolves down to the dominant, the upper part resolves up to the dominant (an octave or compound octave apart)
 - These two parts make the +6th interval, which is enharmonic with a minor 7th (but remember the upper part of a minor 7th tends to resolve **down**...we want this voice to resolve **up**).
 - Having said this, sometimes the upper note in the +6th I resolve down to make a V⁷ chord
- Do not notate as: “+IV” but as “+6” with the appropriate prefix (see below)

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The Augmented 6th Chord (part I)

As seen in stacked 3rds:

Minor: Major:

c: Italian (It.) French (Fr.) German (Ger.) C: It. Fr. Ger. Enharmonic Ger.

Position: (note the sixth scale-degree in Bass)

C: It+6 Fr.+6 Ger.+6 En Ger.+6

Function: Secondary Dominant of V (note doubled root in Italian chord):

C: vii°_6/V V It.+6 V vii°_5/V V Ger.+6 V

c: It V It $\frac{6}{4}$ Ger V Ger $\frac{6}{4}$ En. Ger $\frac{6}{4}$ only

c: It+6 V⁶ F+6r V⁶ Ger+6 V Ger+6 $\frac{6}{4}$ Ger+6 V