

## The Major Modes and II-V-I

The basic chords played in jazz harmony come from the major scale. Figure 2-1 shows the C major scale and all of its modes. Each mode starts on a different note of the the major scale. The Greek names for these modes, in use for over two thousand years, are shown on the right. The Roman numerals I through VII are on the left, and correspond to the modal names on the right. In other words, Ionian is always the I mode, Dorian is always II, Phrygian is always III, and so on, the same in every major key.

Figure 2-1

**The C Major Scale and Its Modes**

The figure displays seven musical staves, each representing a mode of the C major scale. The modes are listed on the left as Roman numerals I through VII, and on the right as their Greek names. Each mode is shown as a sequence of notes on a treble clef staff, with the notes color-coded to show their position in the C major scale: C (red), D (orange), E (yellow), F (green), G (blue), A (purple), and B (brown). The modes are: I C Ionian (C-D-E-F-G-A-B), II D Dorian (D-E-F-G-A-B-C), III E Phrygian (E-F-G-A-B-C-D), IV F Lydian (F-G-A-B-C-D-E), V G Mixolydian (G-A-B-C-D-E-F), VI A Aeolian (A-B-C-D-E-F-G), and VII B Locrian (B-C-D-E-F-G-A).

Mode	Scale Name
I	C Ionian
II	D Dorian
III	E Phrygian
IV	F Lydian
V	G Mixolydian
VI	A Aeolian
VII	B Locrian