

In this chapter, b_6 in a minor key always refers to the sixth scale step of the descending form of the minor scale.

Handwritten annotations on the score include:
 - 'augmented sixth chords' with arrows pointing to the A6 chords.
 - 'G2-6' with a circled '5' and '4' below it.
 - 'D: 7/4' and 'i6' markings above the piano part.
 - 'Lento' marking at the beginning of the piano part.
 - 'Gluck, Alceste, Act I' below the score.

FIGURE 8.1

The dramatic choral opening of Gluck's 1767 opera *Alceste*, Figure 8.1, is heard immediately after the closing notes of the overture. The emotional intensity of the text, "Lord, give us our king, our father," is heightened by a type of sonority new to our harmonic studies. This is the augmented sixth chord, so named because it includes the interval of an augmented sixth (A6), an interval a half step larger than the major sixth. In Figure 8.1, D minor, the augmented sixth interval in both instances consists of B \flat (b6) in the bass and G \sharp (#4) in the alto.

Augmented Sixth Chords

8

Handwritten notes on the left side of the page:

- our intervals at b_6 and \sharp_4
- Bar 3
- a 5dim has
- our intervals at b_6 and \sharp_4
- cl a
- tercia
- b_6 and \sharp_4
- o (accords)
- with
- 50a (m)
- um
- um
- (m)

Handwritten notes at the bottom left:

- gradually
- as
- of 5dim no