

Key Signatures

Ruler of the Notes

+ Disclaimer Page

- We are a TEAM
- It is my goal to have 100% of our team understanding these concepts.
- If you already know this stuff, pat yourself on the back, and find someone you can help.
- Don't assume you have ALL information, listen with the intention of learning something new.



+ We are Key Signatures

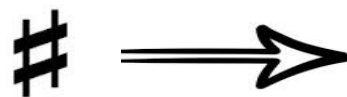
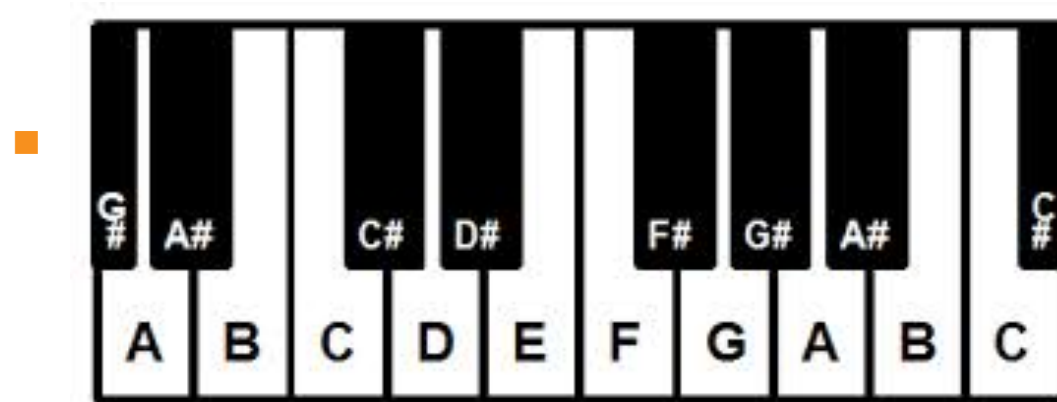
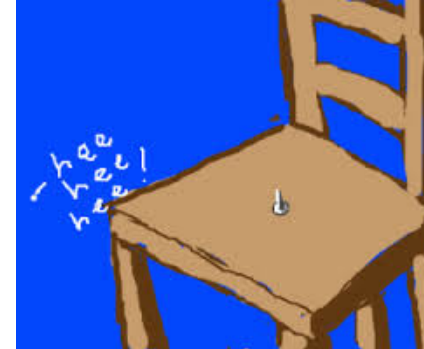


Key Signatures show you
which notes to play sharp or flat.



+ SHARPS

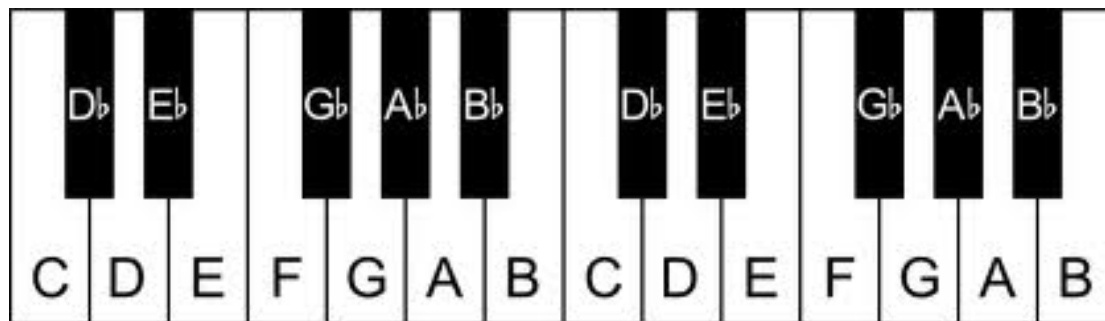
- # signs RAISE a pitch up higher ↑



+ Flats



b signs *LOWERS* a pitch ↓



← *b*

+ Reading a Key Signature

- 2 Ways to read it...

- Method # 1 – Know your Note Names

- Method # 2 – Memorize the Order of b & $\#$



+ Know it by Note Name

- Look at WHERE on the staff the sharp or flat is placed to determine which notes are affected.

G major (E minor) Key Signatures



• Sharp is placed where the note F is, so all F's are sharp



• Sharp is placed where the note F is, so all F's are sharp

+ Know it by Note Name

- This time with flats...



- Flat is placed where the note B is, so all B's are flat

- Flat is placed where the note B is, so all B's are flat

+ Know it by Note Name



- Sharps are placed where the notes F, C, & G are, so all F's, C's, & G's are sharp



- Sharps are placed where the notes F, C, & G are, so all F's, C's, & G's are sharp



- Flats are placed where the notes B, E, A, & D are, so all B's, E's, A's, & D's are flat



- Flats are placed where the notes B, E, A, & D are, so all B's, E's, A's, & D's are flat

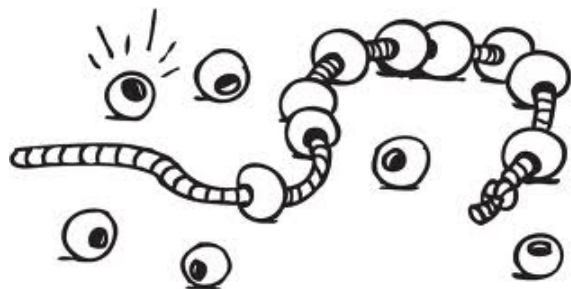


+ Memorize Flats in Order



b signs in order: **B E A D G C F**

“BEAD ...



Go Catch Fish”



+ Or Memorize Sharps in Order

- # signs in order: **F C G D A E B**

“**F**at **C**ows **G**aze **D**umbly **A**t **E**very **B**ody”



+ They're Opposites!

- The sharps & flats in order are EXACT OPPOSITES! You only really need to memorize one of them!

b **B** **E** **A** **D** **G** **C** **F**

F **C** **G** **D** **A** **E** **B**



+ All Possible Sharps and Flats

- So here is an example with 7 sharps



- And an example with 7 flats





Key Signatures

Affect **ALL** OCTAVES



- Example - if there is an F# in the key signature, then HIGH F *and* LOW F will be sharp.

A musical notation example in F# major, 4/4 time. The piece is written for piano on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody in the treble clef is marked with fingerings (1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 5) and has two downward-pointing arrows above it, indicating that both the high F# and the high F natural are sharp. The bass line is marked with fingerings (5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 3, 1, 4, 3, 2, 1, 3, 1) and has two upward-pointing arrows below it, indicating that both the low F# and the low F natural are sharp.

+ One more example...

- All B's and all E's are flat.

B-flat major

The image shows a musical score for B-flat major, consisting of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The score includes various fingerings (numbers 1-4) and arrows pointing to specific notes. Red arrows point to notes that are flats (B-flat and E-flat), while blue arrows point to notes that are not flats (F, G, A, B-natural, C, D). The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines.

+ Questions?

- Worksheet due at end of class



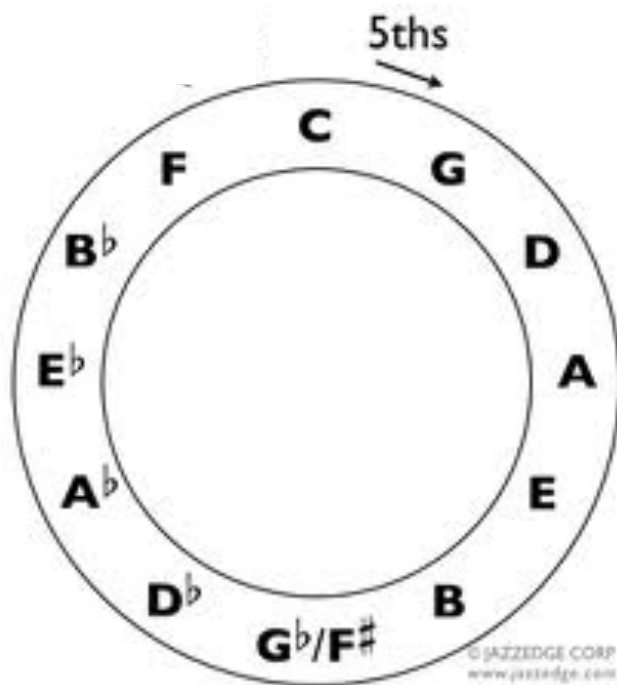
+ Circle of 5ths

- Used to organize Scales and Key Signatures



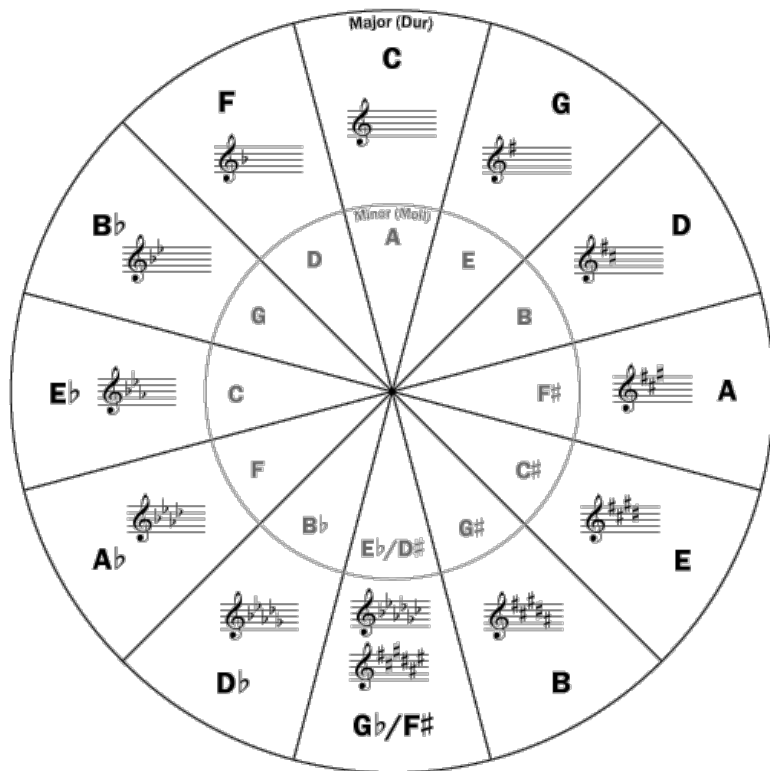
+ Circle of 5ths

- The **Letter** on the Circle indicates the **NAME OF THE SCALE!**



+ The Scale Name = What KEY You're Playing In

- Notice the notes that are sharp or flat are **not** the same as the name of the scale – or THE KEY!



+ Awesome Tricks to help figure out the name of your Key Signature.

- For KEYS with SHARPS: Look at your LAST SHARP (the one farthest right) and go up a half step.

The diagram shows two musical staves, treble and bass clef, illustrating the rule for keys with sharps. Each staff is divided into two sections by a double bar line. In the treble clef, the first section has four sharps (F#, C#, G#, D#) and an arrow points to the last sharp (D#) with the text: "Last sharp is E sharp; key is F sharp major (one half step higher than E sharp)". The second section has two flats (Bb, Eb) and an arrow points to the second-to-last flat (Eb) with the text: "Second-to-last flat is E flat; key is E flat major". In the bass clef, the first section has two sharps (F#, C#) and an arrow points to the last sharp (C#) with the text: "Last sharp is C sharp; key is D major (one half step higher than C sharp)". The second section has two flats (Bb, Eb) and an arrow points to the second-to-last flat (Bb) with the text: "Second-to-last flat is A flat; key is A flat major".

- For KEYS with FLATS: Look at your SECOND TO LAST FLAT and that is the NAME of the KEY.

+ Questions?

- Do you want me to go back and review anything?
- Any tricks you know that I didn't share?



+ Practice

- Worksheet due at the end of the hour

