Key Signatures

Ruler of the Notes
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

![Piano Keyboard Diagram]
Flats

\( b \) signs LOWERS a pitch
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.

- 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
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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

Signs in order: B E A D G C F

“BEAD ... Go Catch Fish”
Or Memorize Sharps in Order

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

“Fat Cows Gaze Dumbly At Every Body”
They’re Opposites!

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

- So here is an example with 7 sharps

\[\text{F} \quad \text{C} \quad \text{G} \quad \text{D} \quad \text{A} \quad \text{E} \quad \text{B}\]

- And an example with 7 flats

\[\text{B}_b \quad \text{E}_b \quad \text{A}_b \quad \text{D}_b \quad \text{G}_b \quad \text{C}_b \quad \text{F}_b\]
Key Signatures Affect \textbf{ALL OCTAVES}

- Example - if there is an F\# in the key signature, then HIGH F \textit{and} LOW F will be sharp.
One more example...

- All B’s and all E’s are flat.
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.

- 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