

Dynamic Signs

DYNAMIC SIGNS indicate the volume, or how *soft* or *loud* the music should be played. Most musical terms are written in Italian since Italian composers were among the first to write such instructions in their manuscripts.

The word *piano* in Italian means soft; the word *forte* means loud.
The most commonly used dynamic signs are:

ITALIAN	SIGN	ENGLISH
<i>piano</i>	<i>p</i>	soft
<i>forte</i>	<i>f</i>	loud
<i>mezzo piano</i>	<i>mp</i>	moderately soft
<i>mezzo forte</i>	<i>mf</i>	moderately loud
<i>pianissimo</i>	<i>pp</i>	very soft
<i>fortissimo</i>	<i>ff</i>	very loud

Mezzo means moderately; *issimo* means very.

Dynamic signs arranged in order from very soft to very loud, are: *pp, p, mp, mf, f, ff*

A Gradual Change in Dynamics

Terms used to indicate a gradual change in volume, from *soft* to *loud* or *loud* to *soft* are:

ITALIAN	SIGN	ENGLISH
<i>crescendo</i> or <i>cresc.</i>		gradually louder
<i>diminuendo</i> or <i>dim.</i> or <i>decrescendo</i> or <i>decresc.</i>		gradually softer

Exercises

1 Write the Italian word for the following dynamic signs:

<i>f</i> _____	<i>pp</i> _____
<i>mp</i> _____	<i>ff</i> _____
_____	<i>mf</i> _____
<i>p</i> _____	_____

2 Clap the following line, observing the dynamic signs indicated.

3 Use every dynamic sign learned above at least once to mark the appropriate dynamic signs on the lines beneath the following story.

"Wake up!" whispered Ron to his brother Steven. The boys walked softly out the door. They heard

a. _____ b. _____

the moderately soft sound of a distant airplane, which became gradually louder and roared very loudly as it

c. _____ d. _____ e. _____

flew over head, then faded away gradually. Steven said, "Let's play basketball," in a

f. _____

moderately loud voice. They shouted a loud "Yes!" as they ran to the park.

g. _____ h. _____

Tempo Marks

TEMPO is an Italian word meaning "rate of speed." Tempo marks tell how *fast* or *slow* the music should be played. Tempo marks are also written in Italian.

ITALIAN	ENGLISH
<i>Largo</i>	Very slow
<i>Adagio</i>	Slow
<i>Andante</i>	Moving along (walking speed)
<i>Moderato</i>	Moderately
<i>Allegro</i>	Quickly, cheerfully
<i>Vivace</i>	Lively and fast

Moderato may be combined with other words:

Allegro moderato = slightly slower than *Allegro* but quicker than *Moderato*

A Gradual Change of Tempo

Terms used to indicate a gradual change in tempo are:

ITALIAN	TERM	ENGLISH
<i>ritardando</i>	<i>ritard.</i> or <i>rit.</i>	gradually slower
<i>accelerando</i>	<i>accel.</i>	gradually faster

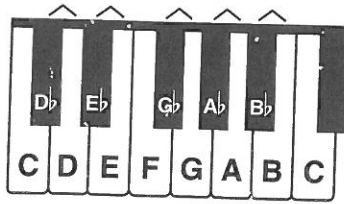
Exercises

- 1 In writing music, tempo marks tell the _____.
- 2 A very slow tempo marking is _____.
- 3 A lively and fast tempo marking is _____.
- 4 Match the Italian term to its English meaning by writing the correct letter in each blank.

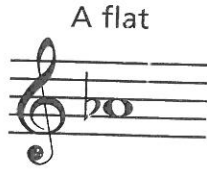
_____ Quickly, cheerfully	a. <i>Moderato</i>
_____ Gradually slower	b. <i>Vivace</i>
_____ Lively and fast	c. <i>Adagio</i>
_____ Moderately	d. <i>Ritardando</i>
_____ Moving along (walking speed)	e. <i>Accelerando</i>
_____ Very slow	f. <i>Largo</i>
_____ Gradually faster	g. <i>Andante</i>
_____ Slow	h. <i>Allegro</i>

Flats

The FLAT sign (\flat) before a note lowers the pitch of that note. On the keyboard, play the next key to the left, whether black or white.



When speaking of flatted notes, the word "flat" comes after the letter name, as in **A flat**. However, in written music, the flat sign comes before the note.



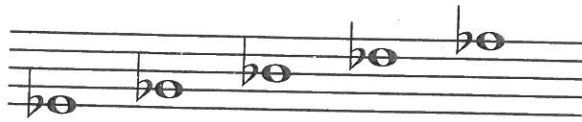
To draw a flat sign, first draw a vertical line:



then add the heavier curved line:



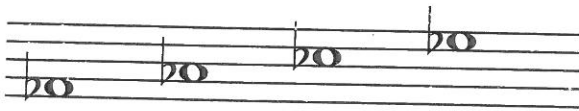
When a flat sign is attached to a line note, the flat is centered on the line.



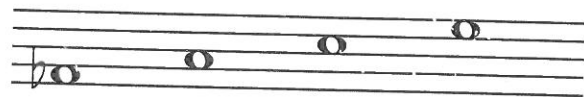
Add flat signs to the line notes below.



When a flat sign is attached to a space note, the flat is centered in the space.

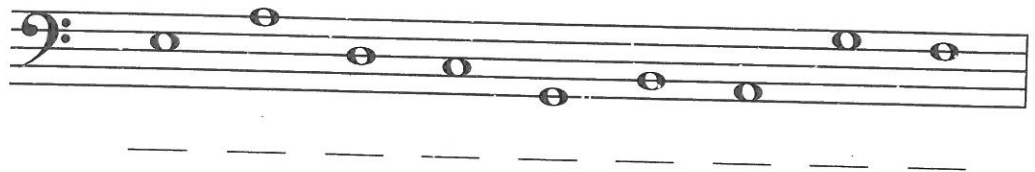


Add flat signs to the space notes below.

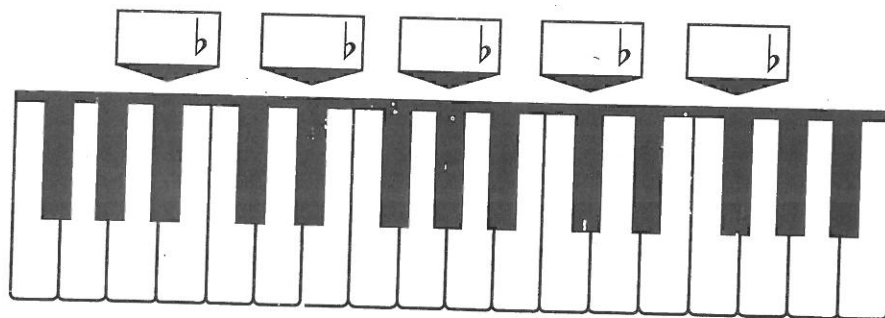


Exercises

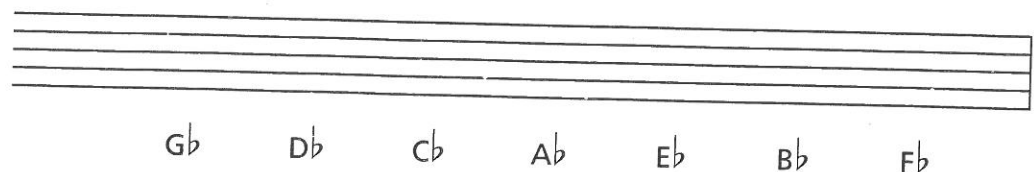
- 1 In the example, write flat signs before each note, then name the notes.



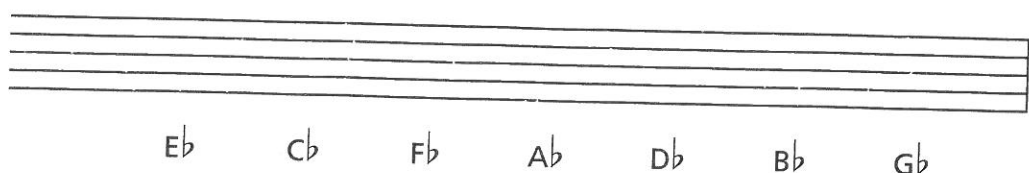
- 2 Write the names of the piano keys in the boxes.



- 3 Write a treble clef and the notes indicated on the staff using half notes.

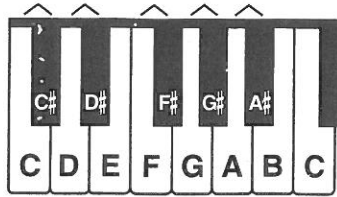


- 4 Write a bass clef and the notes indicated on the staff using quarter notes.



Sharps

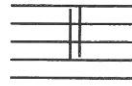
The SHARP sign (#) before a note raises the pitch of that note. On the keyboard, play the next key to the right, whether black or white.



When speaking of sharped notes, the word "sharp" comes after the letter name, as in **C sharp**. However, in written music, the sharp sign comes before the note.



To draw a sharp sign, first draw two vertical lines:



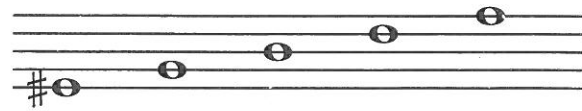
then add the heavier slanting lines:



When a sharp sign is attached to a line note, the sharp is centered on the line.



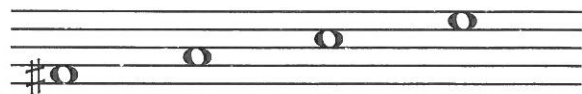
Add sharp signs to the line notes below.



When a sharp sign is attached to a space note, the sharp is centered in the space.

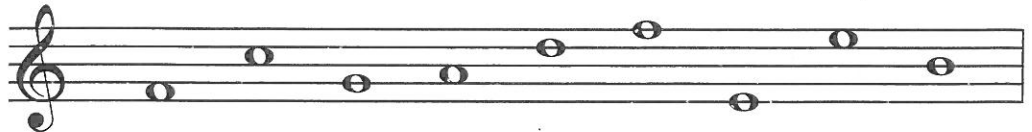


Add sharp signs to the space notes below.

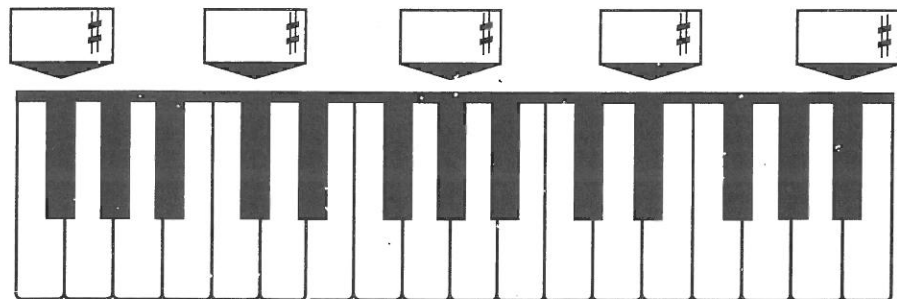


Exercises

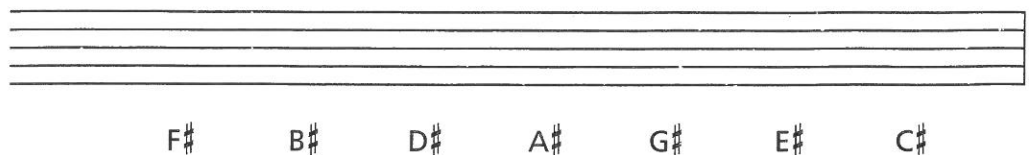
- 1 In the example, write sharp signs before each note, then name the notes.



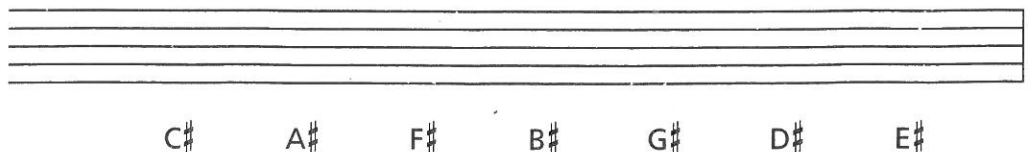
- 2 Write the names of the piano keys in the boxes.



- 3 Write a treble clef and the notes indicated on the staff using single 8th notes.



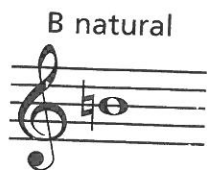
- 4 Write a bass clef and the notes indicated on the staff using dotted half notes.



Naturals

The NATURAL sign (♮) before a note cancels a previous sharp or flat. On the keyboard, a note after a natural is *a/ways* a white key.

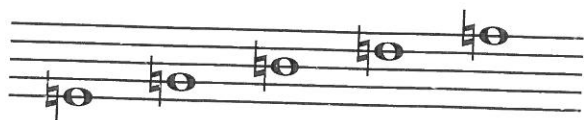
When speaking of natural notes, the word "natural" comes after the letter name, as in **B natural**. However, in written music, the natural sign comes before the note.



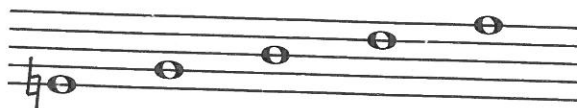
To draw a natural sign, first draw the left half: then draw the right half:



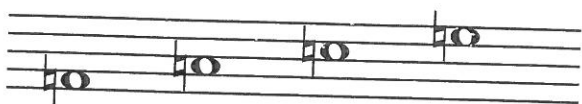
When a natural sign is attached to a line note, the natural is centered on the line.



Add natural signs to the line notes below.



When a natural sign is attached to a space note, the natural is centered in the space.



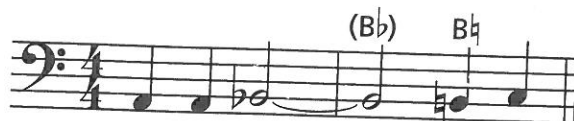
Add natural signs to the space notes below.



When *b*, *#* or *♮* signs appear within a musical piece, they are called ACCIDENTALS. An accidental sign affects the notes written on the same line or space following it *for that measure only*.

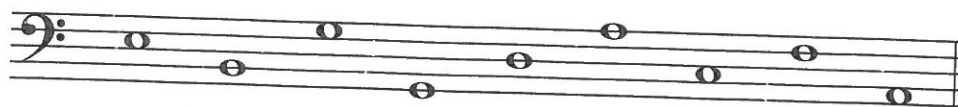


A bar line cancels all accidentals in the previous measure, except if a note is tied across the bar line.



Exercises

- In the example, write natural signs before each note, then name the notes.



- Write the names of the notes on the lines below the staff.

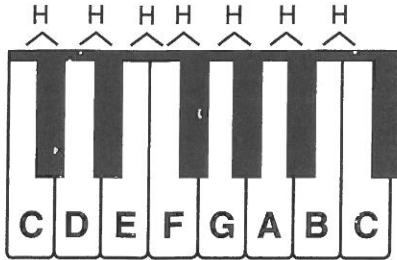
Circus March (from "Entry of the Gladiators")

Julius Fučik (1872–1916)

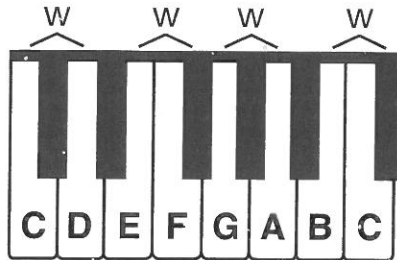


Whole Steps, Half Steps and Enharmonic Notes

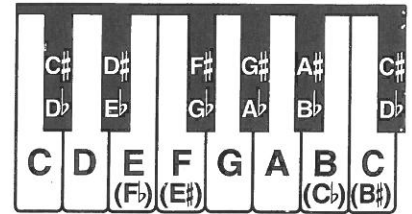
The distance from any key on the keyboard to the very next key above or below, whether black or white, is a HALF STEP (H).



The distance from any key to two keys above or below, is a WHOLE STEP (W).



The key a half step up from C is C#. This key is also a half step down from D, and is also known as Db.

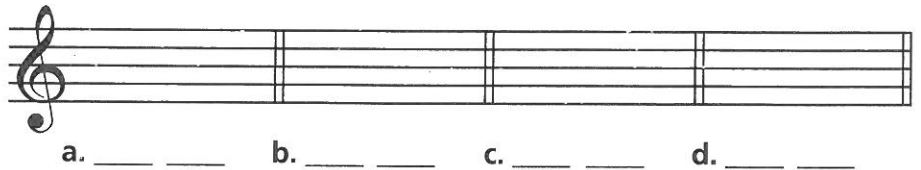


Many notes sound the same but are written differently. These notes are called ENHARMONIC NOTES.

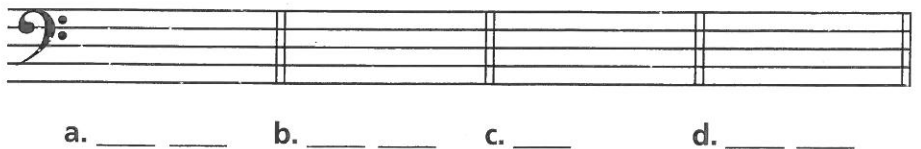
Exercises

- 1 The enharmonic note for F \flat is _____. The enharmonic note for E \sharp is _____.
The enharmonic note for C \flat is _____. The enharmonic note for B \sharp is _____.

- 2 Write the 2 indicated enharmonic notes on the staff and name the notes in the spaces below:
- one half step above G
 - one half step below F
 - one half step below B
 - one half step above D



- 3 Write the indicated notes on the staff and the name of the note in the spaces below. If there are enharmonic notes, write both.
- one whole step above G \sharp
 - one whole step below F
 - one whole step below A
 - one whole step above E



- 4 Name the notes and indicate whether the distance between each pair of notes is a whole step (W) or a half step (H).



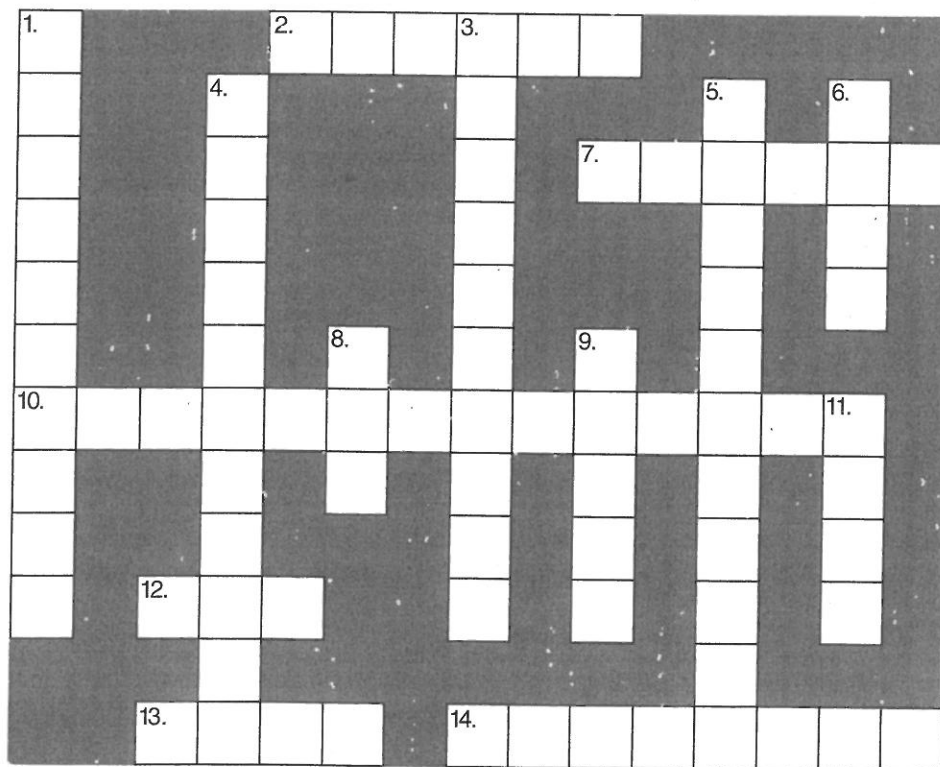
- 1 Circle one: The flat sign (\flat) raises or lowers the pitch.
- 2 Circle one: The sharp sign (\sharp) raises or lowers the pitch.
- 3 A natural sign _____ a previous sharp or flat.
- 4 An accidental is in effect for _____ measure(s) only.
- 5 Write the following notes on the staff below. Write the notes in two places, one above the other.

E \flat G \sharp C \sharp B \flat A \flat F \sharp D \flat

- 6 The note F is _____ half step(s) above E.
- 7 The note D is _____ whole step(s) above C.
- 8 The note F is _____ whole step(s) below G.
- 9 Name 2 notes that are a half step away from A. _____
- 10 The enharmonic note for:
 E \sharp is _____.
 B \sharp is _____.
 F \flat is _____.
 C \flat is _____.

Music Crossword

Fill in the boxes with the correct answers. Do not leave a space between words.



ACROSS

2. Smoothly connected
7. The name of the staff used for higher pitches
10. $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{4}{4}$
12. This symbol increases the value of the note by half
13. Musical silence
14. On a keyboard, the distance from one key to the next key (either right or left)

DOWN

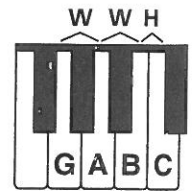
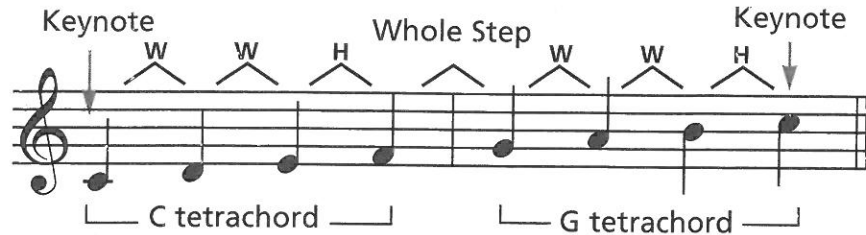
1. Treble and Bass staves together
3. Flat, Sharp or Natural
4. What receives one beat in $\frac{3}{4}$ time
5. Lines added to a staff to extend the range
6. Lowers the pitch by a half step
8. Curved line connecting 2 or more notes of the same pitch
9. 5 lines and the spaces between
11. Curved line connecting 2 or more notes of different pitches

Tetrachords and Major Scales

The word TETRA means four. A TETRACHORD is a series of four notes having a pattern of whole step, whole step, half step. The four notes of a tetrachord must be in alphabetical order.



C Major Scale



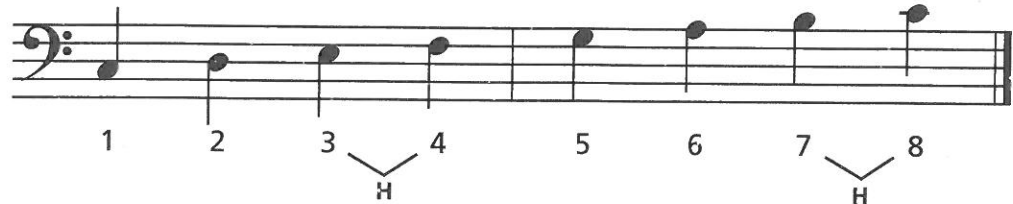
The MAJOR SCALE consists of eight notes—two tetrachords joined by a whole step.

Each scale begins and ends on a note of the same name, called the KEYNOTE.

A scale can begin on any note.

The tones of a scale are also called the DEGREES (or steps) of the scale.

There are eight degrees in a major scale:

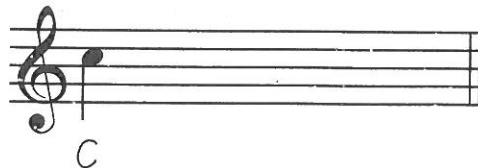
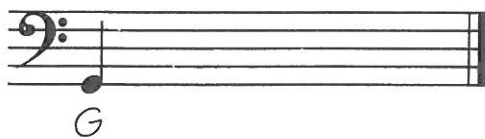


In all major scales, half steps occur between the 3rd and 4th and the 7th and 8th scale degrees.

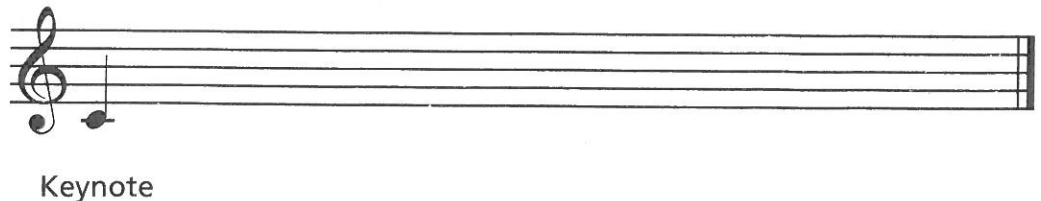
The distances between all other scale degrees are whole steps.

Exercises

- 1** Write tetrachords starting on the following notes, then add the note names under the staff. The notes must be in alphabetical order. Write where the whole (W) and half (H) steps occur above the staff.



- 2** Write a C major scale. Add the scale degrees under each note and indicate where the whole and half steps occur above the staff.

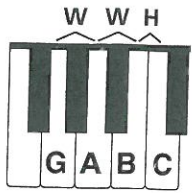


- 3** Write whether the distance between each note is a whole step (W) or half step (H).



The Sharp Scales — G and D Major

Using the same pattern for tetrachords of whole step, whole step, half step, you can build the sharp scale of G major with the G and D tetrachords. G is the 2nd tetrachord of the C major scale.



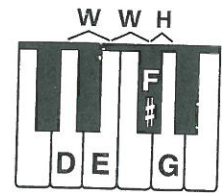
G Major Scale

Keynote

W W H Whole Step W W H

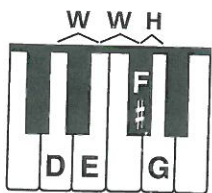
Keynote

G tetrachord D tetrachord



The F must be raised to F# to create a whole step.
An F# is used instead of Gb to stay in alphabetical order.

Using the same pattern for tetrachords, you can build the sharp scale of D major with the D and A tetrachords. D is the 2nd tetrachord of the G major scale.



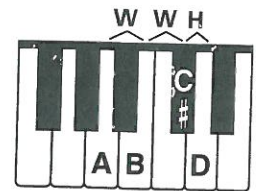
D Major Scale

Keynote

W W H Whole Step W W H

Keynote

D tetrachord A tetrachord



The C must be raised to C# to create a whole step.
A C# is used instead of Db to stay in alphabetical order.

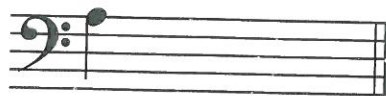
Important!

- The 2nd tetrachord of the C major scale is the 1st tetrachord of the G major scale.
- The 2nd tetrachord of the G major scale is the 1st tetrachord of the D major scale.

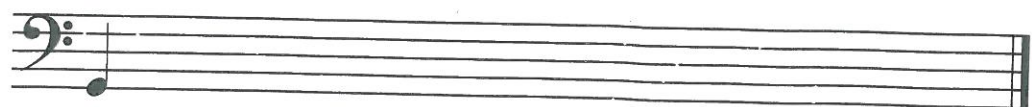
Starting with the C major scale, the 2nd tetrachord is always the 1st tetrachord of the following sharp scale. This overlapping pattern continues through all the major sharp scales.

Exercises

- 1 Write tetrachords starting on the following notes, then add the note names below the staff. The notes must be in alphabetical order. Remember to include the necessary accidentals. Write where the whole and half steps occur above the staff.

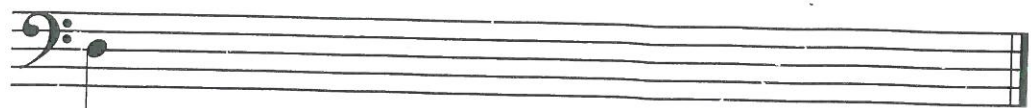


- 2 Write a G major scale. Add the scale degrees and indicate where the whole and half steps occur.



Keynote

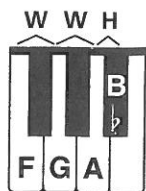
- 3 Write a D major scale. Add the scale degrees and indicate where the whole and half steps occur.



Keynote

The Flat Scales — F and B \flat Major

Using the same pattern for tetrachords, you can build the flat scale of F major with the F and C tetrachords. C is the 1st tetrachord of the C major scale.

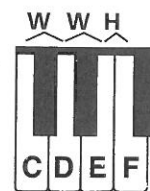


F Major Scale

Keynote

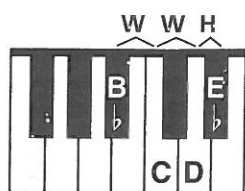
W W H Whole Step W W H

F tetrachord C tetrachord



The B must be lowered to B \flat to create a half step.
A B \flat is used instead of A \sharp to stay in alphabetical order.

Using the same pattern for tetrachords, you can build the flat scale of B \flat major with the B \flat and F tetrachords. F is the 1st tetrachord of the F major scale.

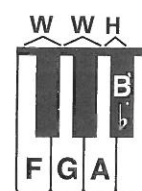


B \flat Major Scale

Keynote

W W H Whole Step W W H

B \flat tetrachord F tetrachord



The E must be lowered to E \flat to create a half step.
An E \flat is used instead of D \sharp to stay in alphabetical order.

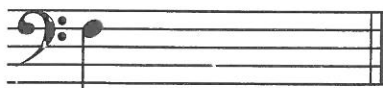
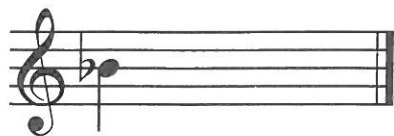
Important!

- The 4th scale degree of the C major scale (F) is the 1st scale degree of the F major scale.
- The 4th scale degree of the F major scale (B \flat) is the 1st scale degree of the B \flat major scale.

Starting with the C major scale, the 4th scale degree is always the 1st scale degree (keynote) of the following flat scale. This pattern continues through all the major flat scales.

Exercises

- 1 Write tetrachords starting on the following notes, then add the notes names below the staff. The notes must be in alphabetical order. Remember to include the necessary accidentals. Write where the whole and half steps occur above the staff.

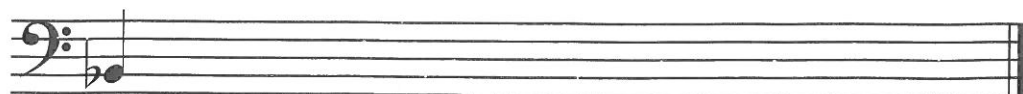


- 2 Write an F major scale. Add the scale degrees and indicate where the whole and half steps occur.



Keynote

- 3 Write a B \flat major scale. Add the scale degrees and indicate where the whole and half steps occur.



Key Signatures — The Sharp Keys

When writing the scales on page 44, you added sharp signs before the appropriate notes.

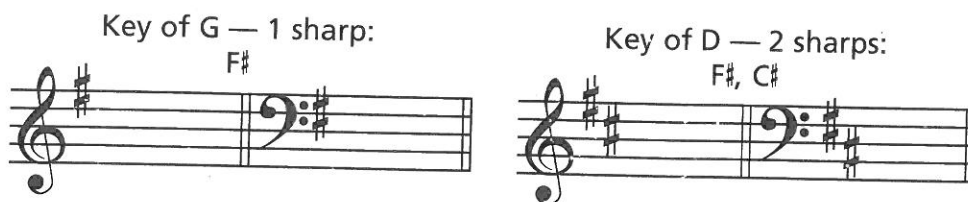
In the **G** scale, you added a sharp sign before each F; in the **D** scale, you added sharp signs before each F and C.

To make writing and reading music easier, you can place all of the sharps used in a scale or piece immediately after the clef sign. This is called the **KEY SIGNATURE**. It indicates the notes that will be sharped each time they appear for the *entire* piece.



In this case, any F will always be played sharp (unless there is a natural sign before the F).

Sharps written in the key signature always appear in a specific order. Here are the sharp key signatures of the scales you know:



The order of sharps in the key signature for up to two sharps is **F C**.

Important!

To figure out the name of a major key from the key signature, go up a half step from the last sharp. As an example: a key signature of F# would be the key of G major; a key signature of F# and C# would be the key of D major.

Exercises

1 Write the order of the first two sharps in a key signature. _____

2 If C# is the last sharp in the key signature, the major key name would be _____.

3 Name the following major key signatures.



a. _____ b. _____ c. _____ d. _____

4 Write the following major key signatures.



a. D major b. G major c. G major d. D major

Key Signatures — The Flat Keys

When writing the scales on page 45, you added flat signs before the appropriate notes.

In the F scale, you added a flat sign before each B; in the B \flat scale, you added flat signs before each B and E.

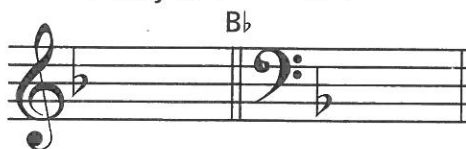
Just like sharp signs, you can place all of the flats used in a scale or piece in the KEY SIGNATURE. It indicates the notes that will be flatted each time they appear for the *entire* piece.



In this case, any B will always be played flat (unless there is a natural sign before the B).

Flats written in the key signature always appear in a specific order. Here are the flat key signatures of the scales you know:

Key of F — 1 flat:



Key of B \flat — 2 flats:



The order of flats in the key signature for up to two flats is B E.

Important!

To figure out the name of a major key from the key signature, remember that one flat is the key of F; for two or more flats, the next-to-last flat is the name of the key. As an example, a key signature of B \flat and E \flat would be the key of B \flat major.

Exercises

- 1 Write the order of the first two flats in a key signature. _____

- 2 If B \flat is the next-to-last flat in the key signature, the major key name would be _____.

- 3 Name the following major key signatures.



a. _____ b. _____ c. _____ d. _____

- 4 Write the following major key signatures.



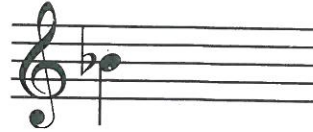
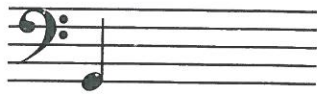
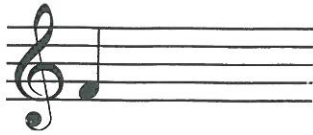
a. F major b. B \flat major c. B \flat major d. F major

1 Indicate whether the distance between each note is a whole step (W) or half step (H).



2 The pattern of a tetrachord is whole step, _____, _____.

3 Write tetrachords below starting on the following notes. Remember to include the accidentals.



4 Draw a line to match each of the following:

The 2nd tetrachord of:

D major

G major

C major

Is the 1st tetrachord of:

D major

G major

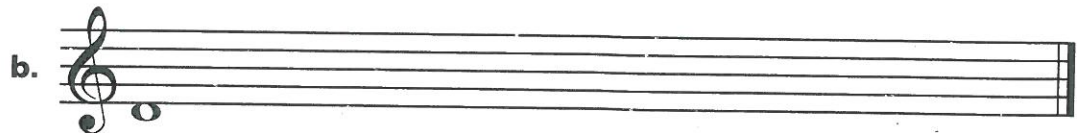
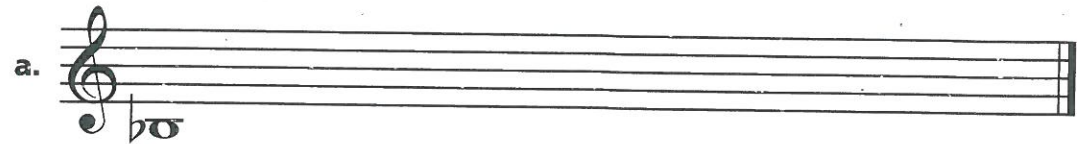
A major

5 The major scale is made up of _____ tetrachords joined by a _____.

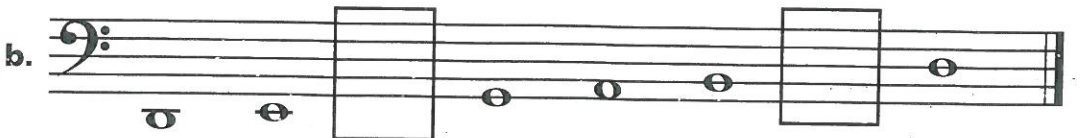
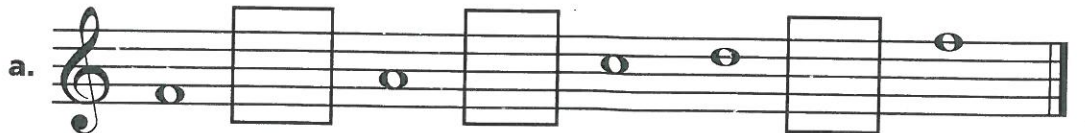
6 How many notes are in a major scale? _____

7 In a major scale, half steps occur between the _____ & _____ and _____ & _____ scale degrees.

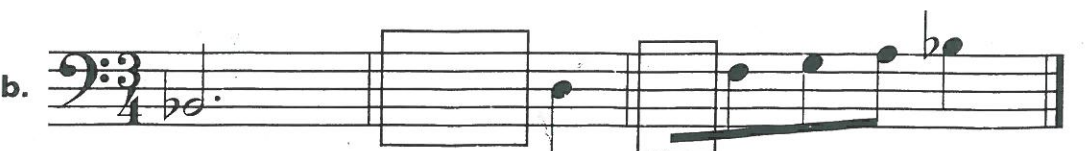
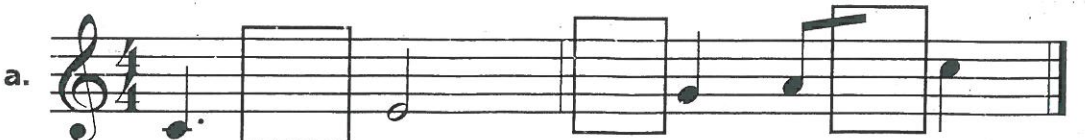
8 Write major scales (without key signatures) beginning on the following notes using whole notes.



9 Fill in the missing notes in the major scales and indicate with an H above the staff where the half steps occur.



10 Fill in the missing notes and note values in the major scales.



The Remaining Major Scales with Key Signatures

Once you are familiar with how to build tetrachords, it is easy to build any major scale. Altogether, there are 15 major scales: 7 sharp keys, 7 flat keys, and the key of C, which has no sharps or flats.

You are already familiar with the scales and key signatures of five of the 15: C, G (F#), D (F#, C#), F (Bb) and Bb (Bb, Eb). Here are the remaining 10.

A Major (3 #s: F#, C#, G#)



Eb Major (3 bs: Bb, Eb, Ab)



E Major (4 #s: F#, C#, G#, D#)



Ab Major (4 bs: Bb, Eb, Ab, Db)



B Major (5 #s: F#, C#, G#, D#, A#)



Db Major (5 bs: Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb)



F# Major (6 #s: F#, C#, G#, D#, A#, E#)



Gb Major (6 bs: Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, Cb)



C# Major (7 #s: F#, C#, G#, D#, A#, E#, B#)



Cb Major (7 bs: Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, Cb, Fb)



The complete order of sharps in the key signature is:

F C G D A E B.

A helpful reminder:

Fat Cats Go Down Alleys Eating Bread.

The complete order of flats in the key signature is:

B E A D G C F.

A helpful reminder: **BEAD + G C F.**

There are, however, only 12 unique *sounding* major scales. The following are ENHARMONIC SCALES; they sound the same but are written differently:

B major sounds the same as **Cb major**

F# major sounds the same as **Gb major**

C# major sounds the same as **Db major**

Exercises

- 1** Name the following major key signatures.



a. _____ b. _____ c. _____ d. _____ e. _____ f. _____

- 2** Write the following key signatures.

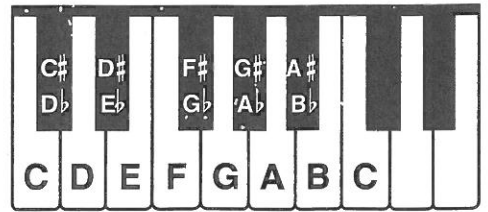


a. Eb major b. E major c. Ab major d. C# major e. Cb major f. A major

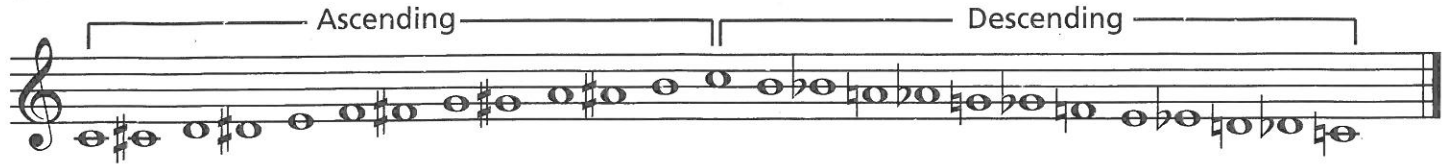
Chromatic Scale

The CHROMATIC SCALE is made up entirely of half steps in consecutive order. On a keyboard, therefore, it uses every key, black and white. When the scale goes up, it is called *ascending*; when the scale goes down, it is called *descending*.

The chromatic scale may begin on any note. In a chromatic scale, there are 12 tones.



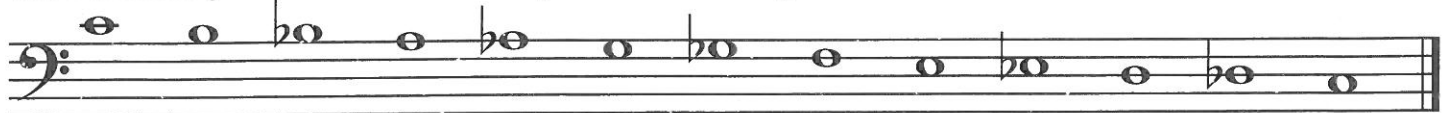
C Chromatic Scale



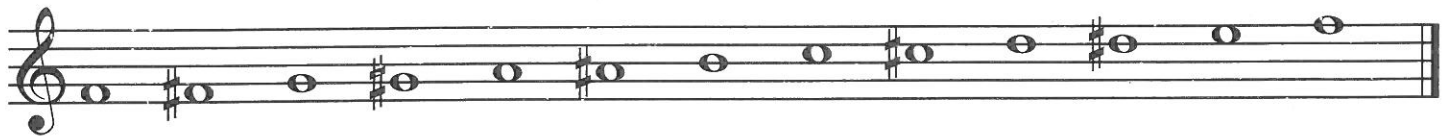
The ascending chromatic scale starting on C uses sharp signs.



The descending chromatic scale starting on C uses flat signs.



An ascending chromatic scale starting on F looks like this:



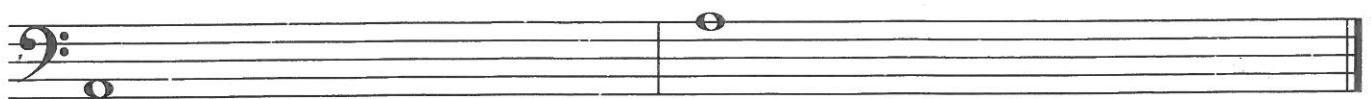
A descending chromatic scale starting on G looks like this:



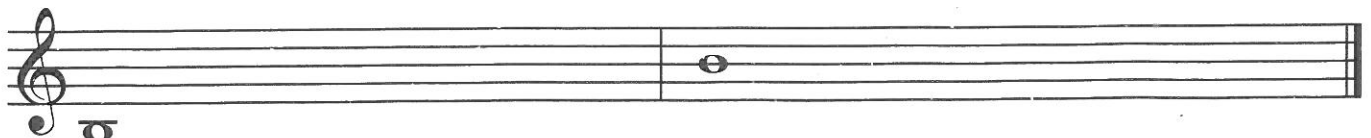
Exercises

1 What is the distance between each pitch in a chromatic scale? _____

2 Write an ascending and descending chromatic scale starting on A.

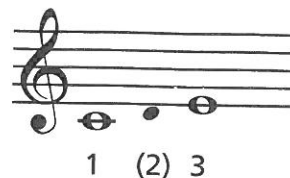
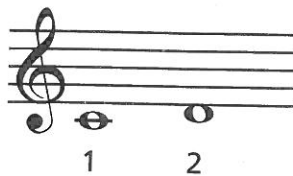


3 Write an ascending and descending chromatic scale starting on B.

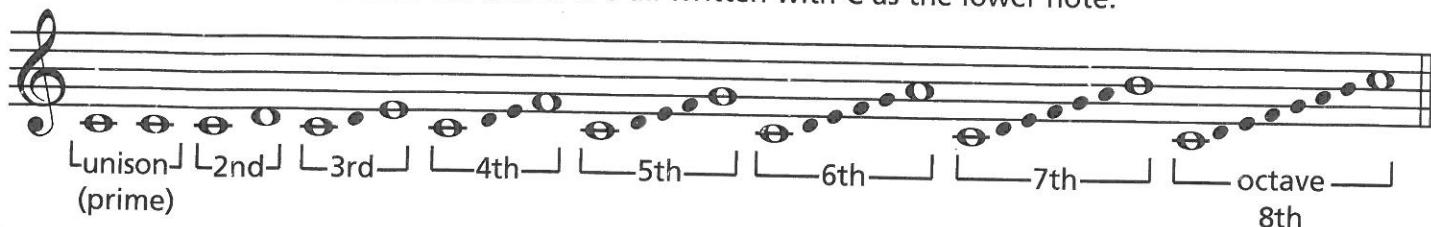


Intervals

An INTERVAL in music is the distance in pitch between two notes. The interval is counted from the lower note to the higher one, with the lower note counted as 1.



Intervals are named by the number of the upper note (2nds, 3rds, etc.) with two exceptions. The interval between notes that are identical is called a UNISON (also called a PRIME INTERVAL); the interval of an 8th is called an OCTAVE. The intervals below are all written with C as the lower note.

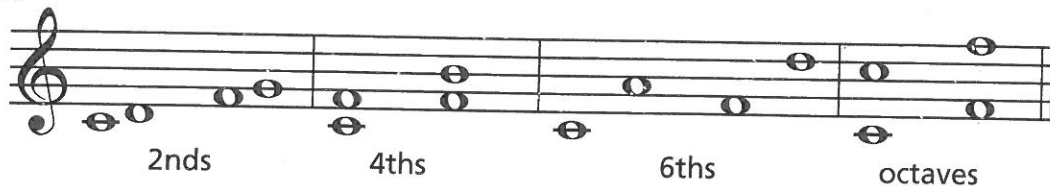


Intervals are called MELODIC INTERVALS when they are sounded separately and HARMONIC INTERVALS when they are sounded together.



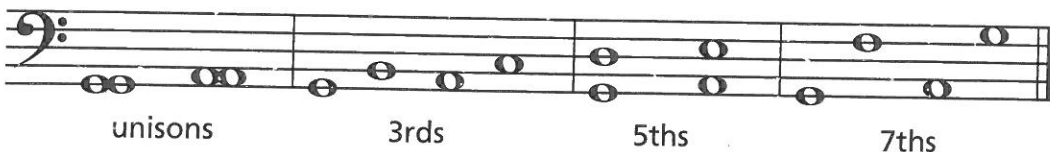
EVEN NUMBERED INTERVALS

of 2nds, 4ths, 6ths and octaves are written from line to space or space to line.



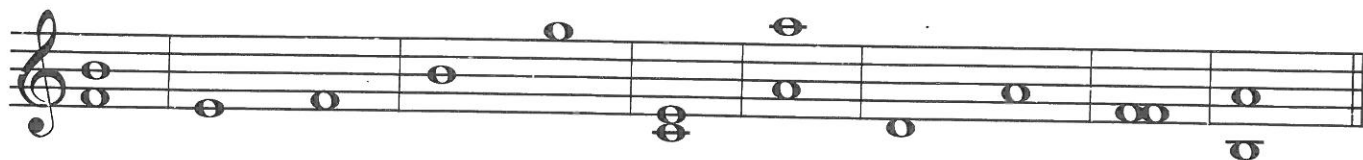
ODD NUMBERED INTERVALS

of unisons, 3rds, 5ths and 7ths are written from line to line or space to space.



Exercises

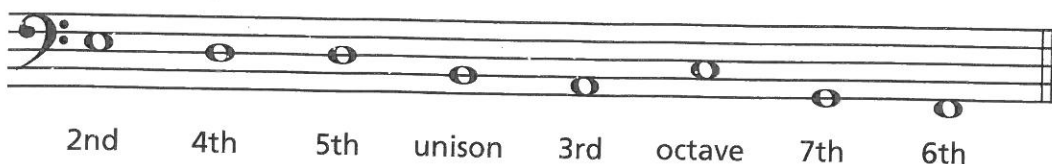
1 Name the intervals.



2 Indicate whether the following are melodic (M) or harmonic (H) intervals.



3 Write the harmonic interval indicated above the following notes.



Circle of Fifths

The CIRCLE OF FIFTHS is useful in understanding scales and key signatures. It shows the relationship of one key to another by the number of sharps or flats in the key signature and the order in which the sharps or flats occur.

SHARP KEYS

Start with C and go clockwise in ascending tetrachord order.

FLAT KEYS

Start with C and go counterclockwise in descending tetrachord order.

The sharp keys *ascend* by 5ths (W W H W);* the flat keys *descend* by 5ths (H W W W).

SHARP SCALES

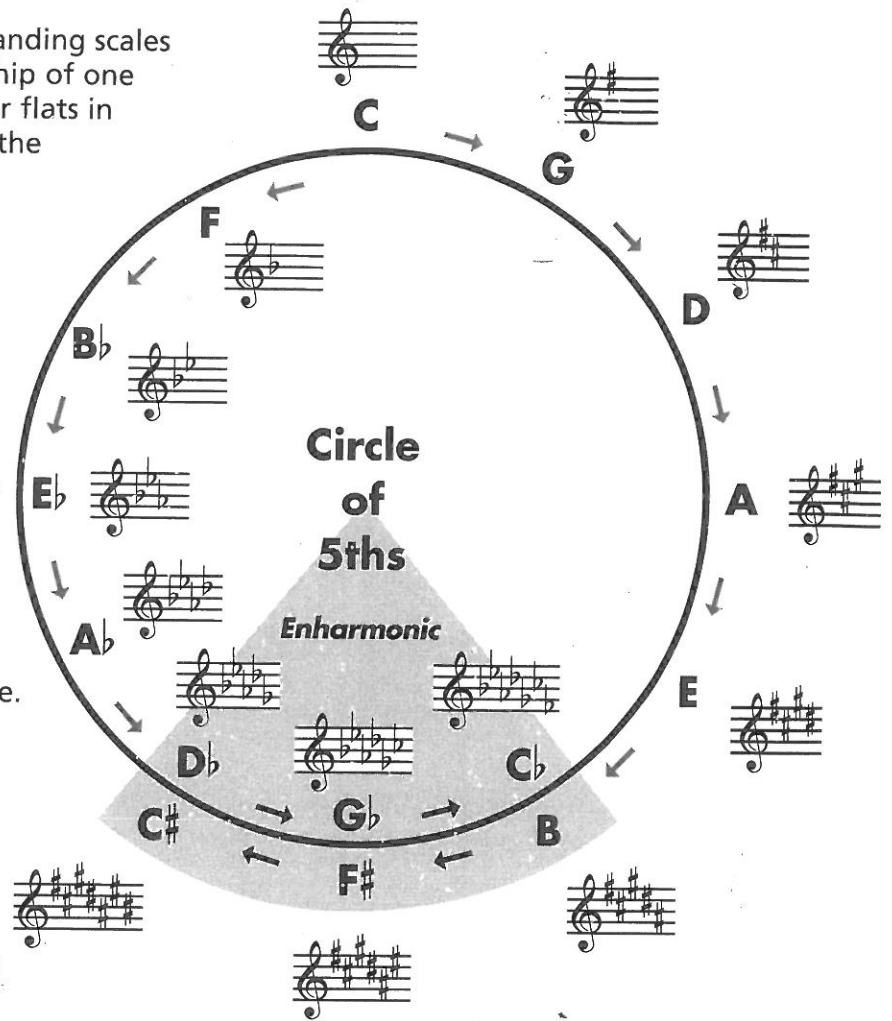
Starting with C, the 2nd tetrachord of the ascending major scale becomes the 1st tetrachord of the following ascending scale. The scale's name is derived from the 1st note of that tetrachord, and one sharp is added to the key signature.

FLAT SCALES

Starting with C, the 2nd tetrachord of the descending major scale becomes the 1st tetrachord of the following descending scale. The scale's name is derived from the 1st note of that descending tetrachord, and one flat is added to the key signature.

OPTIONAL

Another way to determine the order of the flat keys is to ascend by 4ths (W W H). Starting on C: C to F, F to B \flat , B \flat to E \flat , etc.



The order of sharps in the key signature:

F C G D A E B.

The order of flats in the key signature:

B E A D G C F.

OVERLAPPING TETRACHORD PATTERNS

Sharp scales

Flat scales

*W=Whole Step. H=Half Step.

1. What is the complete order of sharps in a key signature? _____

2. Name the following major key signatures.



a. _____



b. _____

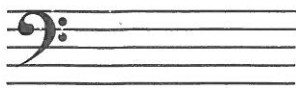


c. _____

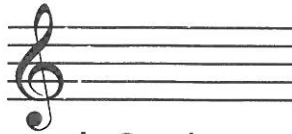


d. _____

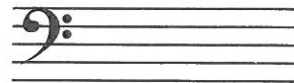
3. Write the following key signatures.



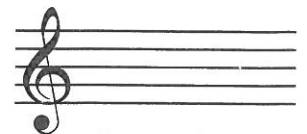
a. A major



b. G major



c. E major



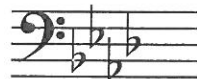
d. D major

4. What is the complete order of flats in a key signature? _____

5. Name the following major key signatures.



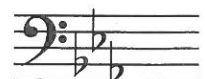
a. _____



b. _____

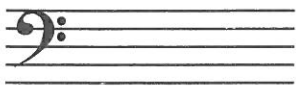


c. _____

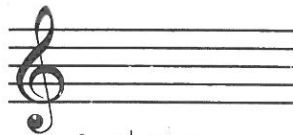


d. _____

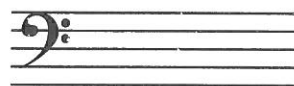
6. Write the following key signatures.



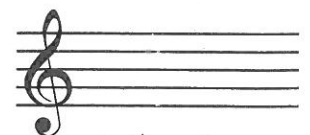
a. E \flat major



b. B \flat major



c. F major



d. A \flat major

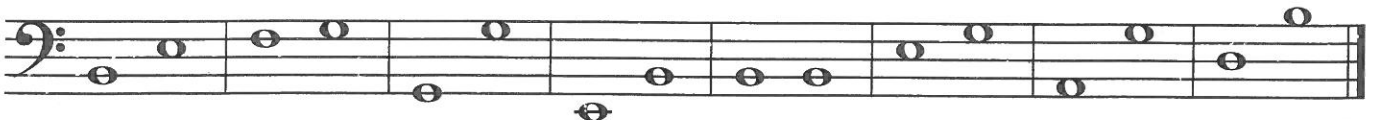
7. The C \flat major scale sounds the same as which other major scale? _____

8. The G \flat major scale sounds the same as which other major scale? _____

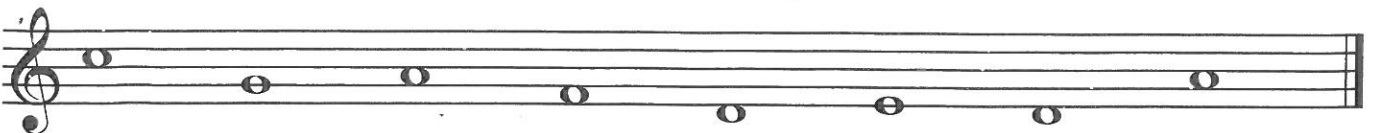
9. The D \flat major scale sounds the same as which other major scale? _____

10. The chromatic scale is made up entirely of _____ in consecutive order.

11. Name the melodic intervals.



12. Write the indicated harmonic interval above the following notes.



2nd 6th 3rd octave 5th 7th 4th unison

13. In the circle of fifths, go clockwise and ascend by 5ths for the _____ keys, and counterclockwise and descend by 5ths for the _____ keys.