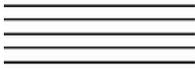


## Lesson One: Rudiments of music.

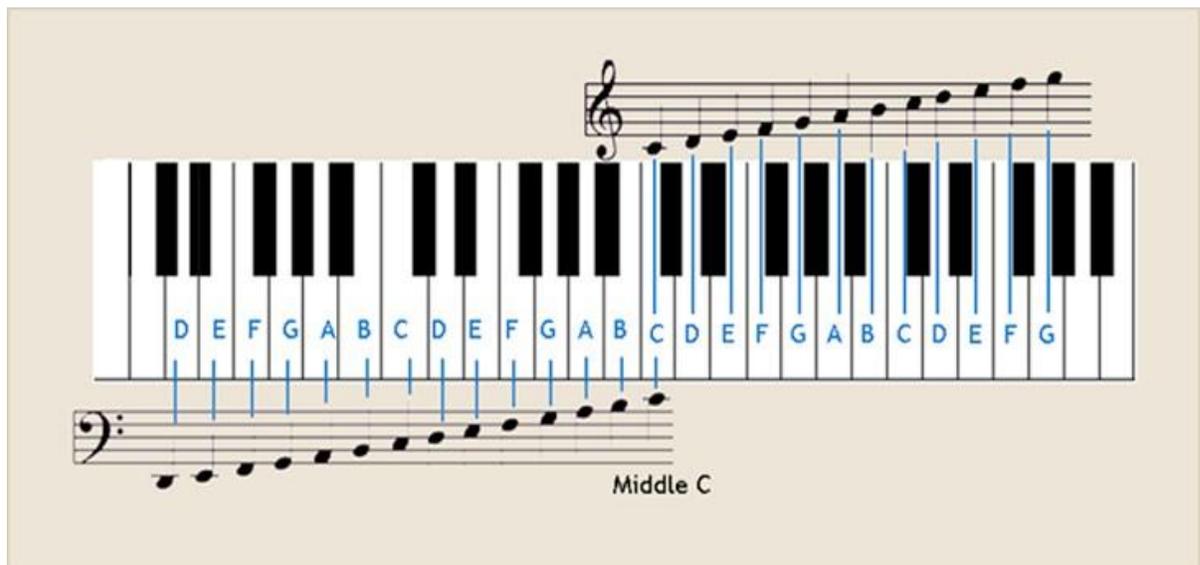
**Staff**—a set of five parallel horizontal lines and four intervening spaces that each represents a musical pitch.



**Grand staff**—the combination of the treble and bass clefs joined together by a brace.

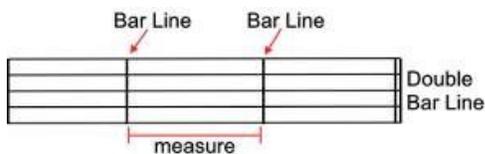


**Middle C**—the name given to the pitch C which is near the middle of the piano keyboard.

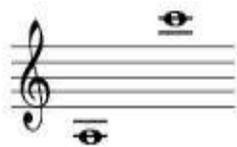


**Bar line**—a symbol used to organize music into groupings or patterns.

**Double bar line**—a symbol used to mark the end of a composition or the end of a major section of a composition.



**Ledger lines**—short lines equidistant from each other used to extend the staff above or below the written staff.



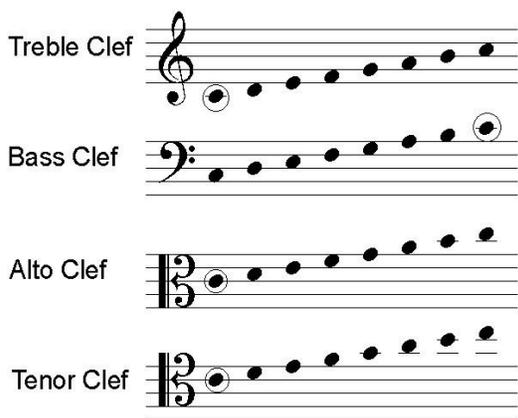
**Clef**—indicates where the pitch letter names are placed on the staff.

**Treble clef**—also called the G clef, it designates the pitch g with a lower loop.

**Bass clef**—also called the F clef, it designates the pitch f with two dots.

**Alto clef**—a specific kind of C clef, it designates the Middle C pitch with an indentation.

**Tenor clef**—a specific kind of C clef, it designates the Middle C pitch with an indentation.



(Middle C is circled on each of the scales above.)

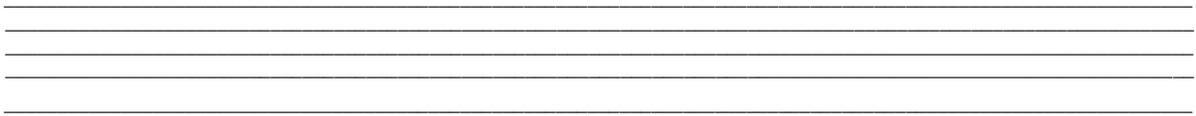
**Accidentals**—chromatic alterations placed directly before the affected note and on the same line or space as the note head (flat, sharp, double flat, double sharp, double flat, natural). A flat lowers the pitch by one half step and a sharp raises the pitch by one half step. A double flat lowers the pitch by one whole step and a double sharp raises the pitch by one whole step.



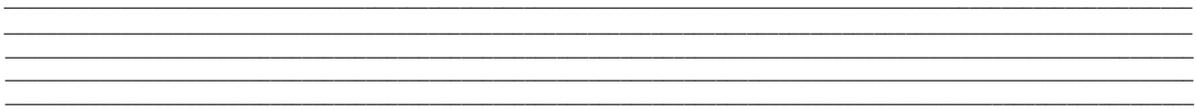
**Note:** It is important to make sure that you carefully notate each accidental so that the middle of each accidental is centered on either the line or the space that it is marking.

**Lesson One: Rudiments of music**  
**Practice Questions**

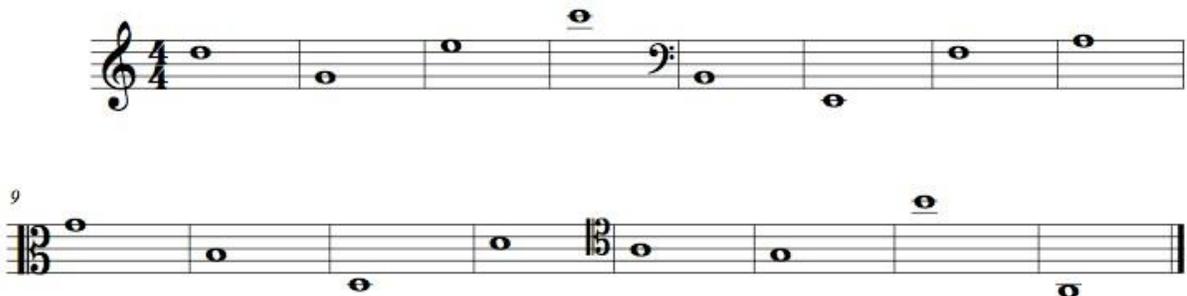
1) Write one of each of the four clefs (treble, bass, alto, tenor) on the staff below.



2) Write one of each accidental (flat, sharp, double flat, double sharp, natural) on the staff below.



3) Identify the following pitches in various clefs by placing the correct pitch letter name below each pitch.



4) Notate the requested pitches in the various clefs on the staff below.

g eb f# c ab d gb c#

9

b f a# g d# b e a

## Lesson Two: Key Signatures & Scale Degree Names

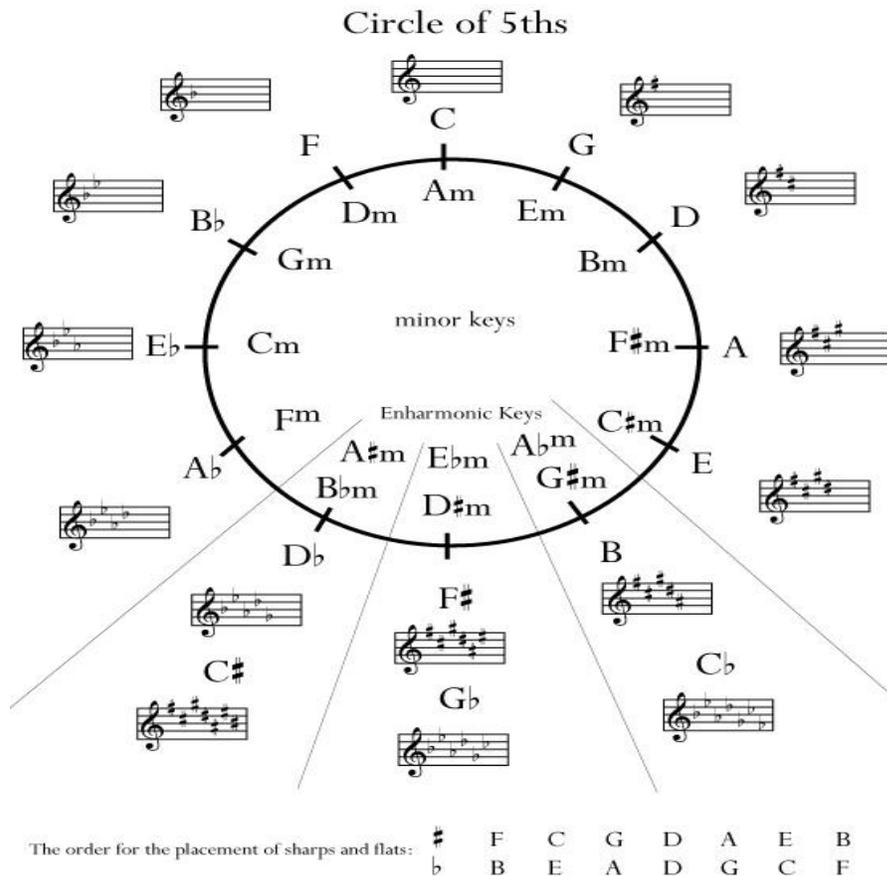
**Key signature**—accidentals written at the beginning of a composition (which can be changed throughout the work) used to designate the key or tonality of a work.

The **order of flats** is always: Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, Cb, Fb

The **order of sharps** is always: F#, C#, G#, D#, A#, E#, B#

V

**Circle of fifths**—a diagram that illustrates the order of keys from the least to the greatest number of sharps (clockwise), and the least to the greatest number of flats (counterclockwise)



**Note:** It is best to just memorize both the major and minor key signatures! There are just 15 major keys and 15 minor keys to learn for a total of 30 keys. While there are all sorts of clever methods to use to figure out the keys, it is in your best interest to have all the keys memorized without using aids to “figure out the keys.” For example, when you see a key signature of 4 sharps, 2 keys should IMMEDIATELY pop into your head—E major and c# minor. Using tricks and other clever methods will ultimately slow you down and potentially increase the possibility for error for more complicated theory problems.

**Note:** The flats and sharps appear in the same order and pattern for key signatures written in both the alto and tenor clefs).

**Relative Keys**—the pair of major and minor keys that share the same key signature (e.g., G major and e minor both share the same key signature of 1 sharp).

**Parallel Keys**—the pair of major and minor keys that share the same tonic note (e.g., C major and c minor both share the same c tonic pitch).

**Enharmonic Keys**—the pair of major keys or pair of minor keys that share the same tonic note in sound, but are written with a different key signature. (e.g., C# major and Db major both share the same tonic note in sound, but are written as 7 sharps and 5 flats respectively).

**Scale degree names**—the traditional names given to the pitches of a scale as represented by their order.

1<sup>st</sup> scale degree—**tonic**

2<sup>nd</sup> scale degree—**supertonic**

3<sup>rd</sup> scale degree—**mediant**

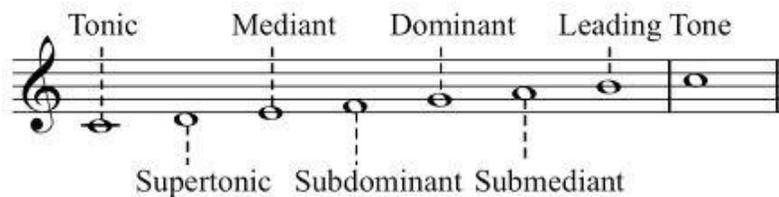
4<sup>th</sup> scale degree—**subdominant**

5<sup>th</sup> scale degree—**dominant**

6<sup>th</sup> scale degree—**submediant**

7<sup>th</sup> scale degree—**leading tone** or **subtonic**

(The term leading tone is used for a raised 7<sup>th</sup> and the term subtonic is used for a lowered 7<sup>th</sup>)

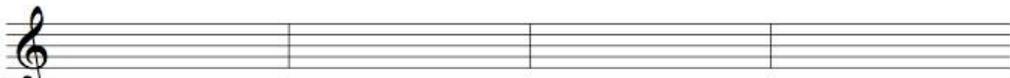


**Lesson Two: Key Signatures & Scale Degree Names**  
**Practice Questions**

- 1) List the correct order of flats: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) List the correct order of sharps: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) What is the relative key of f minor? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) What is the relative key of B major? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) What is the parallel key of c# minor? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) What is the parallel key of Eb major? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) What is the enharmonic key of B major? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) What is the enharmonic key of F# major? \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) Name the following keys with both a major and minor key for each key signature:



- 10) Write the key signature for the requested keys:



D Major                      Eb Major                      c# minor                      bb minor



F# Major                      Ab Major                      g minor                      E Major

- 11) Name all 7 scale degrees in order:

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_

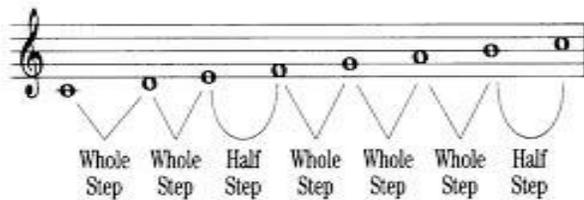
### **Lesson Three: Major and Minor Scales**

**Half step**—the shortest interval traditionally used in Western music, represented by two adjacent keys on the piano (e.g., B—C, D—Eb, F—F#, etc.).

**Whole step**—the combination of two half steps (e.g., G—A, B—C#, D—E, G#—A#).

**Major scale**—a series of seven consecutive letter-name pitches found diatonically in its major key with a pattern of whole steps and half steps as follows: W W H W W W H.

#### *C Major Scale*



**Natural minor scale**—a series of seven consecutive letter-name pitches found diatonically in its minor key with a pattern of whole steps and half steps as follows: W H W W H W W.

**Harmonic minor scale**—a natural minor scale with the seventh scale degree raised one half step. Note that this scale creates the interval of an augmented 2<sup>nd</sup> between the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> scale degrees.

**Melodic minor scale**—a natural minor scale with the sixth and seventh scale degrees raised one half step in the ascending part of the scale, and a return (or re-lowering of the sixth and seventh scale degrees one half step) of the natural minor scale in the descending part of the scale.