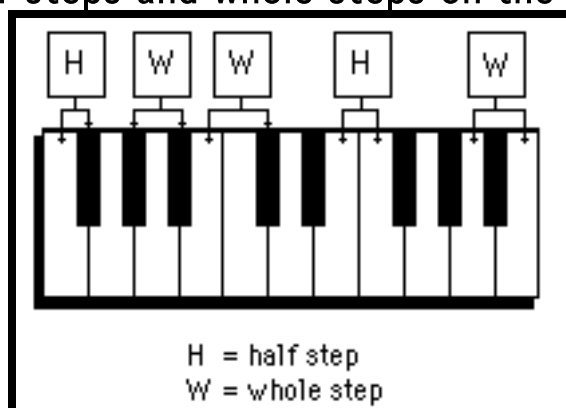


Chapter 4. Major Scales and the Circle of Fifths

In this chapter you will:

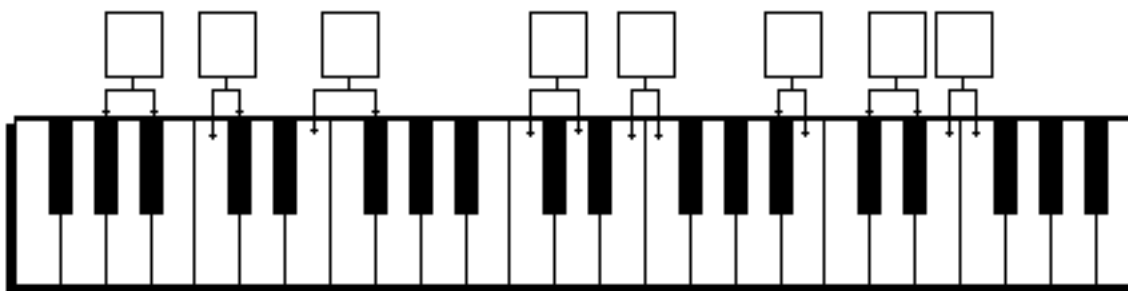
1. Identify half steps and whole steps on the keyboard
2. Identify half steps and whole steps on the staff
3. Write half steps and whole steps on the staff
4. Mark the notes of major scales on the keyboard
5. Mark the notes of major scales on a keyboard in the circle of fifths
6. Write phrases to memorize keynotes in the circle of fifths
7. Fill in the keys, in order, on the circle of fifths.
8. Write major scales on the staff
9. Write the sharp scales on a staff in the circle of fifths
10. Write the flat scales on a staff in the circle of fifths

4.1 Identify half steps and whole steps on the keyboard

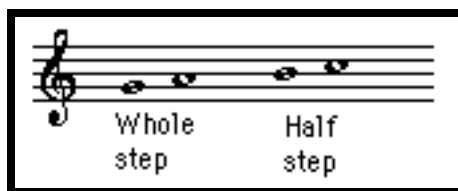


- A half step is the closest possible distance between two notes. There can be no notes in between two notes which are separated by a half step.
- A whole step is a distance between two notes such that there is one and only one other note between those two notes.

IDENTIFY the distances on the keyboard below as “H” for half step or “W” for whole step.



4.2 Identify half steps and whole steps on the staff



- The staff by itself does not show half step and whole step relationships. See the illustration above. To find half steps and whole steps on the staff, refer to the keyboard.

1. *FILL IN* the letter names for the white keys on this keyboard.



2. *IDENTIFY* the pairs of notes as separated by either a half step (H), or a whole step (W), or as being enharmonic equivalents (E).

Example

W

4.3 Write half steps and whole steps on the staff

- A sharp or flat applies to the note which follows it AND to all the following notes of the same letter name in the measure.

1. . *IDENTIFY* the bracketed pairs of notes as separated by either a half step (H), or a whole step (W). Refer to the keyboard.



A musical staff in bass clef with the following notes: F2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4. Brackets connect the following pairs of notes: (F2, G2), (G2, A2), (A2, B2), (B2, C3), (C3, D3), (D3, E3), (E3, F3), (F3, G3), (G3, A3), (A3, B3), (B3, C4). A box labeled "still sharp" points to the B3 note. The lyrics "Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth re-ceive her king." are written below the staff.



2. *WRITE* notes which are a half step up or down, or a whole step up or down from the given note.

Example



Two musical staves showing intervals. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The notes and intervals are as follows:

Staff	Interval	Notes
Treble	half step up	C4, C#4
Treble	half step down	D4, C#4
Treble	whole step up	E4, D4
Treble	whole step down	F4, E4
Treble	half step up	G4, F#4
Bass	half step down	F3, F#3
Bass	whole step up	G3, F3
Bass	whole step down	A3, G3
Bass	half step up	B3, A#3
Bass	half step up	C4, B#3

2. *GO ONLINE* to www.gmajormusictheory.org

- CLICK* "Music Fundamentals"
- CLICK* in the "Virtual Flash Cards" column:
 - 4.1 Half, whole or Enharmonic?
- PRACTICE* the durations you have learned.

4.4 Mark the notes of major scales on the keyboard

J. S. Bach: Minuet in G

key note

key note

W W H W W W H

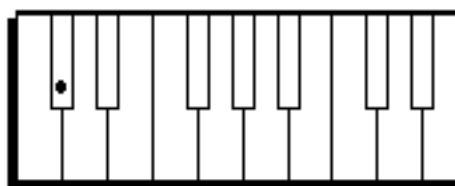
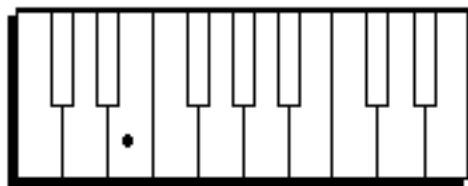
W W H W W W H

W = whole step
H = half step

- A key note is the most important note of a piece of music. Pieces almost always end on the key note.
- If eight notes of a piece are arranged in order without skipping lines or spaces and if the first note is the key note, then the notes form a scale.
- A major scale is eight notes in ascending order which are separated from each other according to this pattern:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
whole	whole	half	whole	whole	whole	half	
step	step	step	step	step	step	step	

DRAW dots on the following keyboards for each note of a major scale. The key note is given.



4.5 page 1 Mark scale degrees on a keyboard in the circle of fifths
TURN THE BOOK (OR PAGE 7) UPSIDE-DOWN!

- Each note of a scale is called a scale degree. Scale degree 1 is the key note.
 - If scales are written clockwise on a circular keyboard or staff, and if the keynote of each scale begins on scale degree 5 of the previous scale, then the keynotes follow an order called the circle of fifths.
-

DRAW dots for the notes of every scale on the circular keyboard on the next page. The C major scale has already been marked where it says “START HERE.” Notice that if the key note is C, then the major scale pattern

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
W	W	H	W	W	W	H	

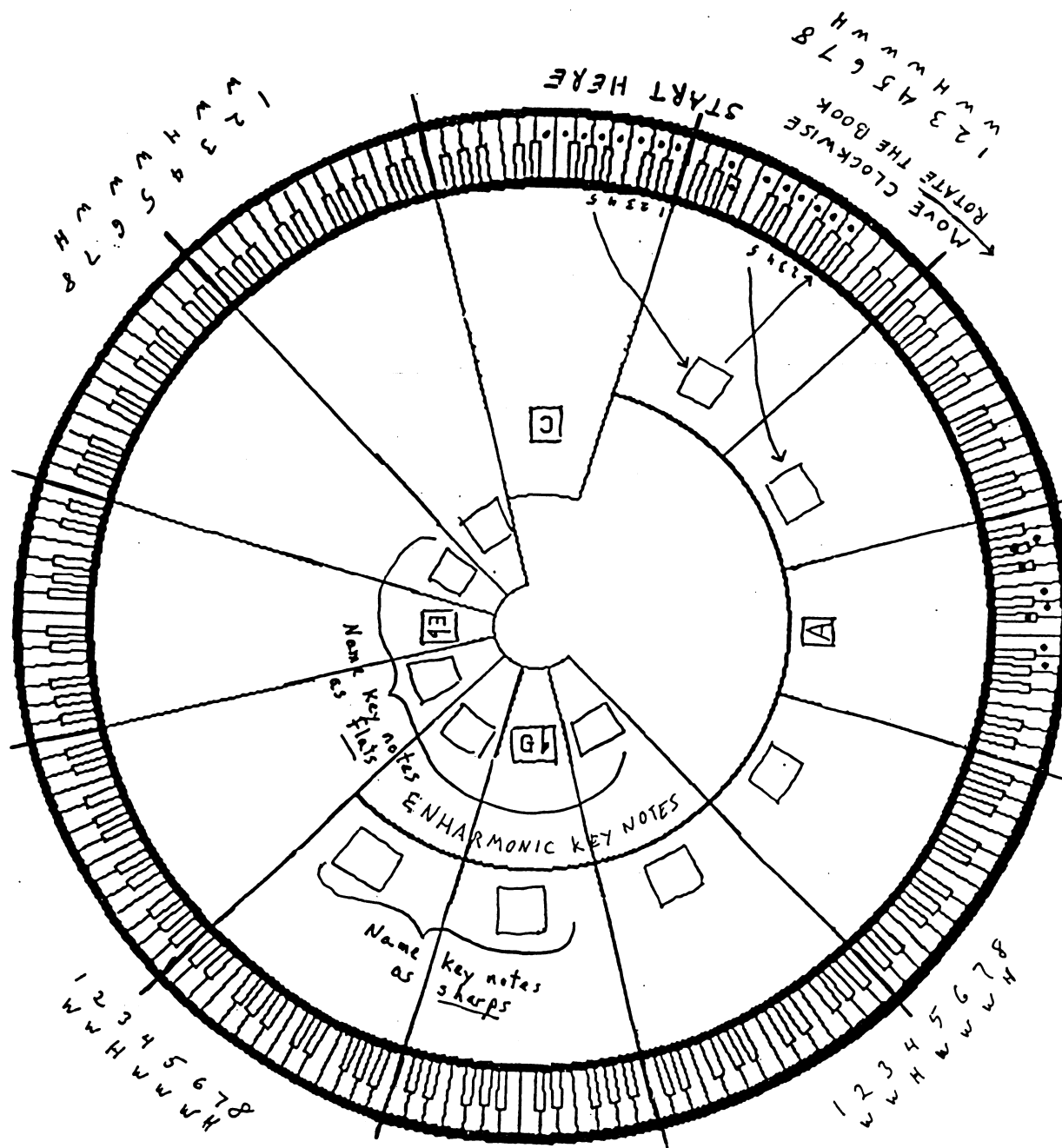
results in all white keys.

1. The key note of the next scale to the left (be sure you have turned the page upside-down) is scale degree 5 of the C major scale. *WRITE* the letter name for this note in the box in the next section to the left. Its scale has also already been filled in.
2. *COUNT* to the fifth note in the new scale, *WRITE* its letter name in the next box and *MARK* the notes of its scale with dots on the keyboard. *CHECK* to see that the first note is the same as the last.
3. *PROCEED* in this way until you have gone all the way around the circle and arrived at the C scale again. *ROTATE* the book as you work. When you reach sections of the circle with two boxes for key notes, *FILL IN* enharmonically equivalent key notes.

Incredibly all 12 different notes on the keyboard will have been used once and only once as key notes, and the original key note, C, will be the fifth note of the previous scale, In this way you will have completed a true circle—the circle of fifths.

4.5 page 2

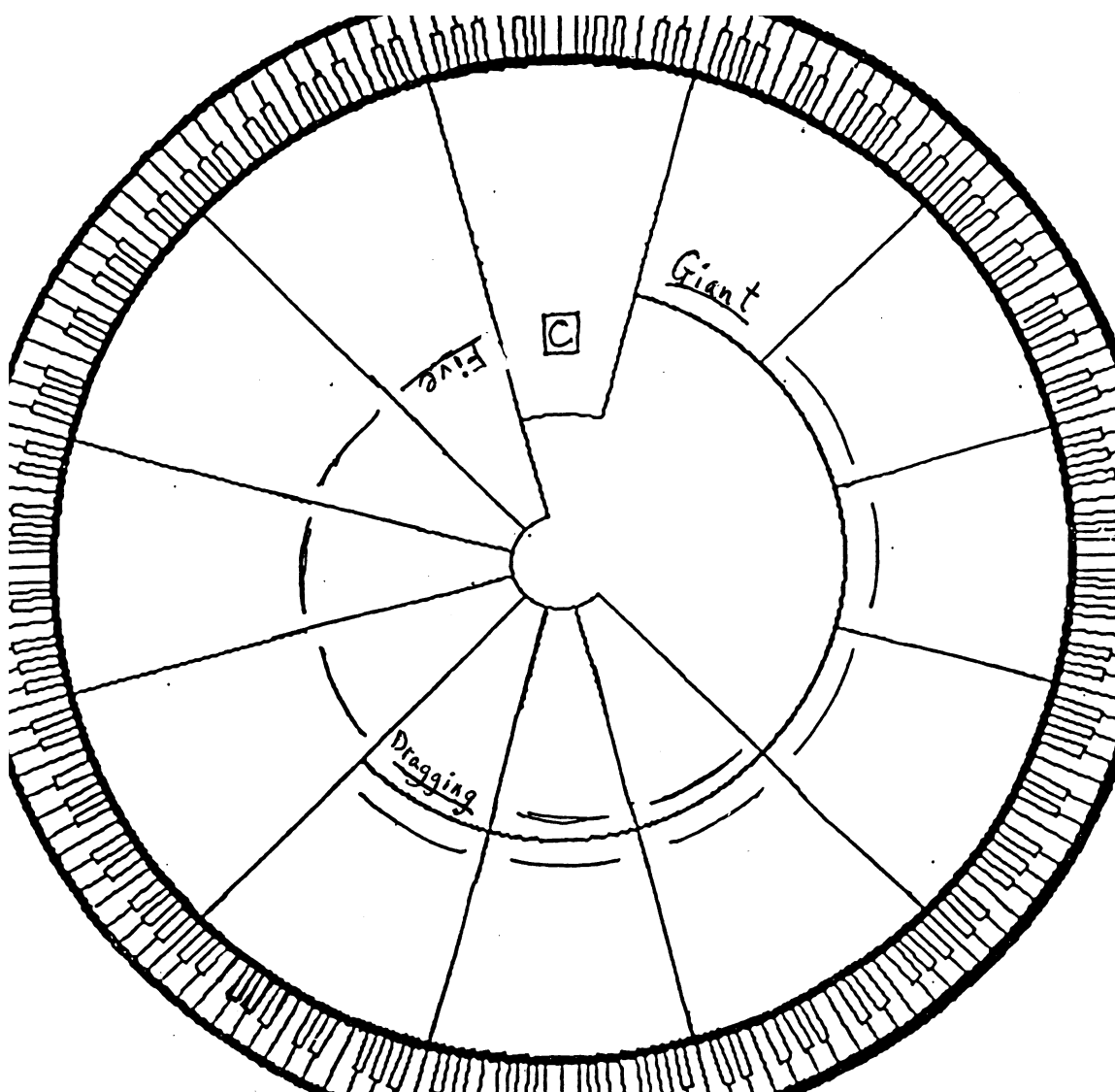
TURN THE PAGE UPSIDE -DOWN!



4.6 Write phrases to memorize keynotes in the circle of fifths

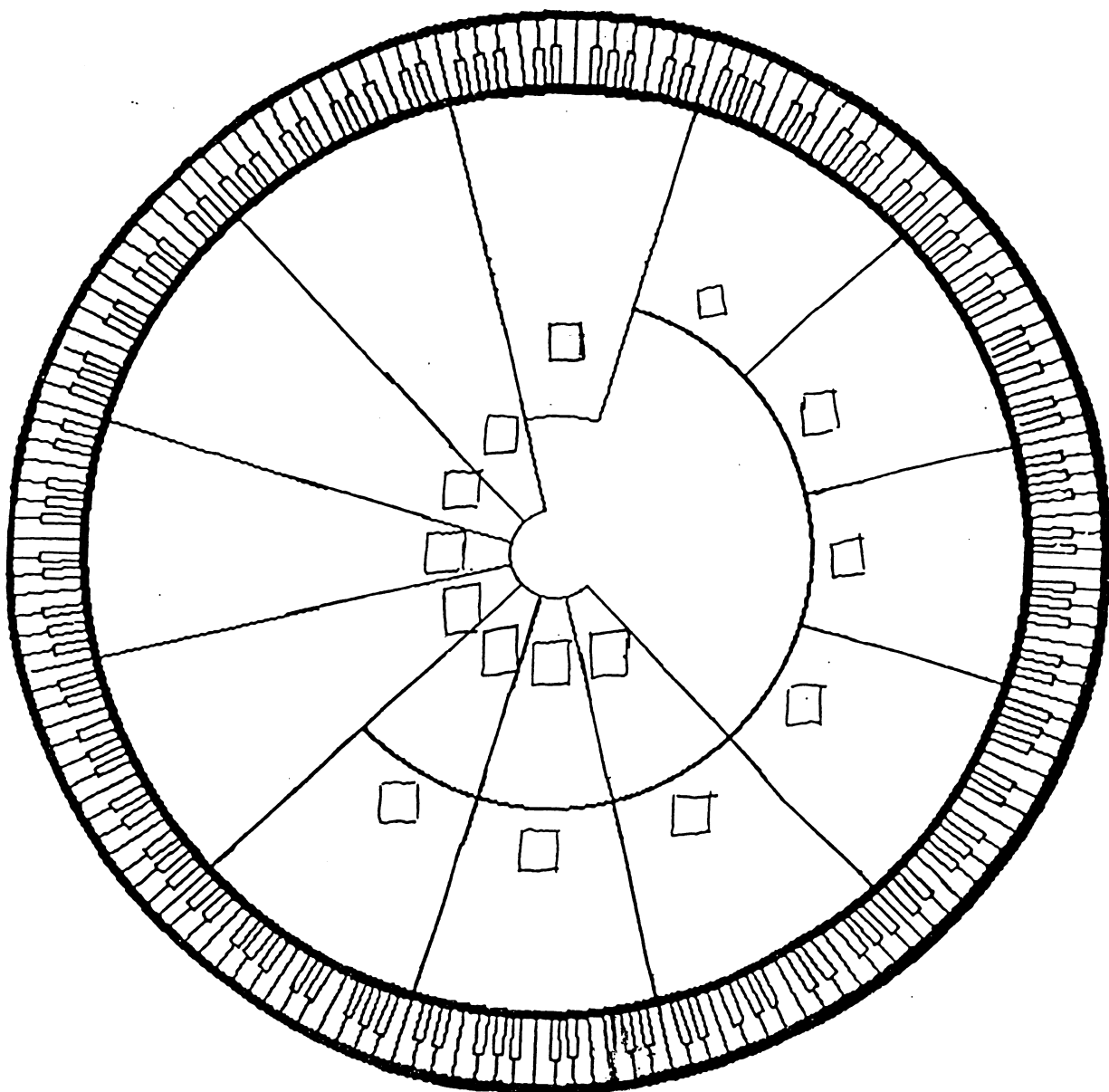
- A piece based on a certain scale and key note is said to be in a certain key. The terms “key” and “key note” are often interchangeable.
- Memorize the order of keys in the circle of fifths by remembering the two phrases below. The first letter of each word is the letter of a key.

1. *COMPLETE* the phrases, “Giant Dogs Always Eat Before Furry Cats” and “Five Big Elephants Are Dragging Garbage Cans” which begin in the top right and left portions of the circle below. DO NOT DRAW dots on the circular keyboard.



4.7 Fill in the keys, in order, on the circle of fifths

REWRITE the keys in the circle of fifths as you did on worksheet 4.5. This time use the phrases on worksheet 4.6 to help. Also remember that many keys have flats or sharps next to them.



4.8 Write major scales on the staff

Writing a D \flat Major scale

Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

Step 4

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

W W H W W W H

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

W W H W W W H

- Given a key note, be able to write its major scale on a staff.

- DRAW* eight note heads in ascending order beginning with the key note. Do not skip any lines or spaces. Leave enough room between notes to insert sharps or flats.
 - CHECK* that the first note has the same letter name as the last.
 - If the key note has a sharp or flat, *DRAW* a sharp or flat to the left of the first and last notes.
- WRITE* the numbers 1 to 8 below the notes.
- WRITE* W's and H's between the numbers in the pattern of whole and half steps which you have learned for major scales.
- DRAW* a sharp or flat in front of each note, if needed, to correspond to the pattern of whole and half steps between the numbers.

WRITE these scales.



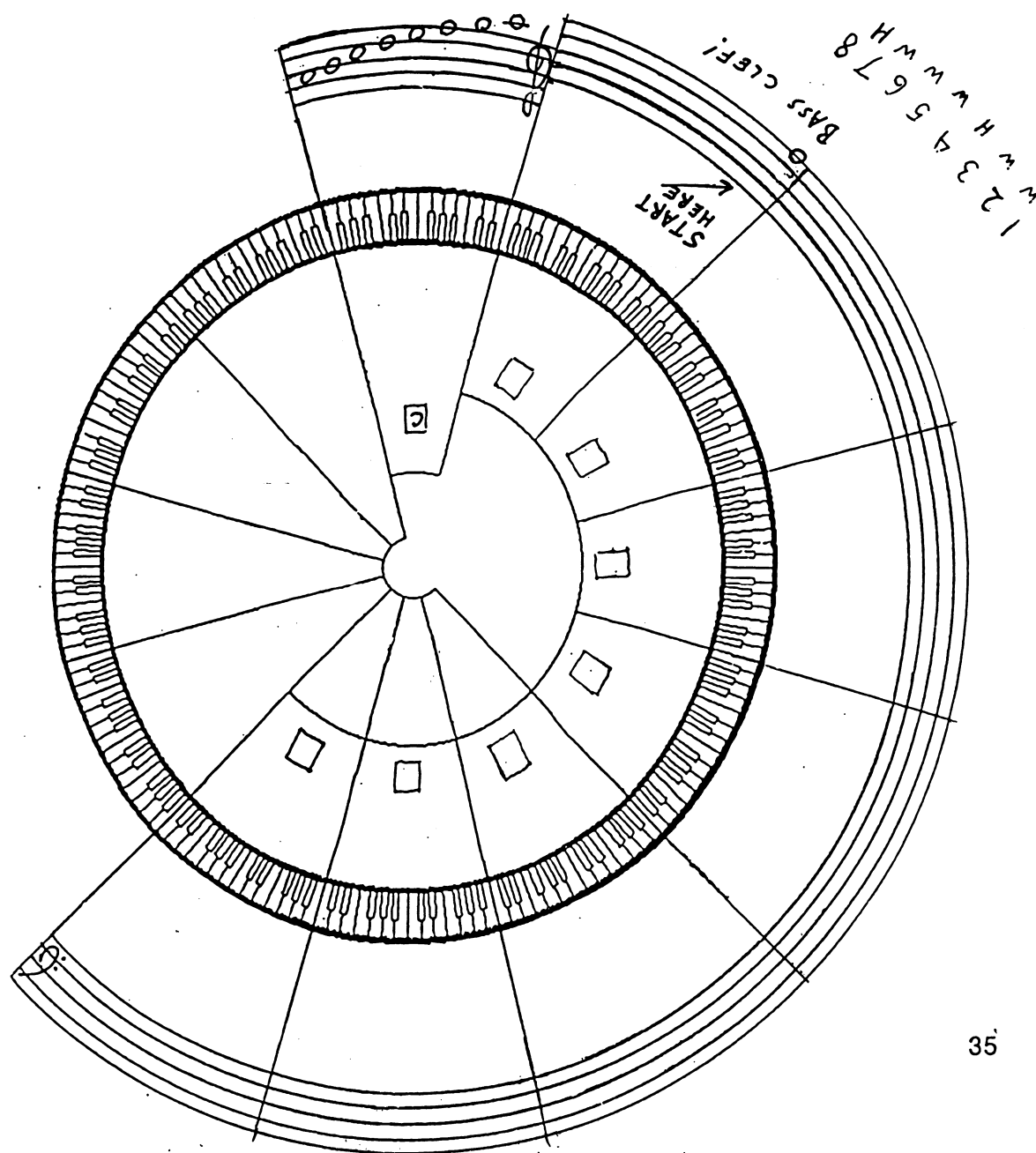
4.9 Write the sharp scales on a staff in the circle of fifths

- The scales on the right and bottom of the circle of fifths have sharps.

TURN the book upside-down.

WRITE scales on the circular staff. Scales should be arranged according to keys on the circle of fifths. It may be helpful to use dots on the keyboard.

NOTICE how many sharps are in each scale.



4.10 Write the flat scales on a staff in the circle of fifths

- The scales on the left and bottom of the circle of fifths have flats.

WRITE the scales which have flats on the circular staff.

BEGIN on the bottom. Scales should be arranged according to keys on the circle of fifths.

NOTICE how many flats are in each scale.

