

Key Signatures — The Sharp Keys

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

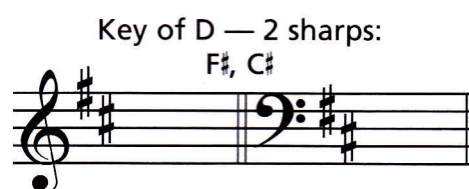
In the **G** scale, you added a sharp sign before each F; in the **D** scale, you added sharp signs before each F and C.

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

- Write the order of the first two sharps in a key signature. _____
- If C# is the last sharp in the key signature, the major key name would be _____.

- Name the following major key signatures.



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

- 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:

B \flat



Key of B \flat — 2 flats:

B \flat , E \flat



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

Unit 7 ACTIVITY 3 Name/Class _____

Scales and Key Signatures—C, G and D

1 For each example, name the key and write the scale using quarter notes.

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Key of: _____ | Key of: _____ |
| a. | b. |
| Key of: _____ | Key of: _____ |
| c. | d. |
| Key of: _____ | Key of: _____ |
| e. | f. |

| |
|------|
| Key |
| 5-30 |

| |
|-------|
| Notes |
| 8-48 |

2 Draw a line connecting the 1st tetrachord on the left with the 2nd tetrachord on the right to complete a major scale.

1st Tetrachord

D
C
G

2nd Tetrachord

G
D
A

| |
|-----|
| 2-6 |
|-----|

3 Circle the incorrect note in each scale, then write the correct letter name below it.

| | |
|----|----|
| a. | b. |
| c. | |

| |
|-----|
| 2-6 |
|-----|

4 Draw a line matching each key signature on the left with the letter names of the corresponding major scale on the right.

| |
|--|
| |
| |
| |

D E F# G A B C# D
G A B C D E F# G
C D E F G A B C

| |
|-----|
| 2-6 |
|-----|

| |
|-----|
| 2-4 |
| 100 |

5 The first two sharps in a key signature are _____ and _____.

Unit 7 ACTIVITY 4 Name/Class _____

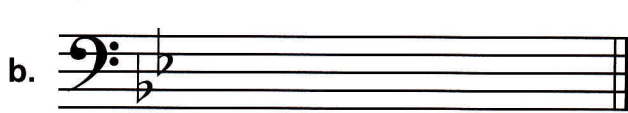
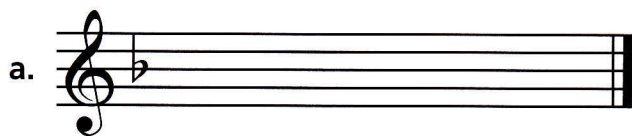
Use after completing page 47.

Scales and Key Signatures—F and B \flat

- 1**
- For each example, name the key and write the scale using quarter notes.

Key of: _____

Key of: _____

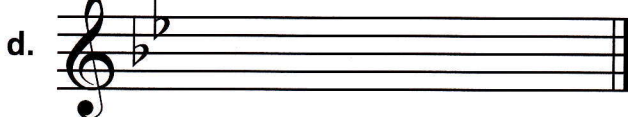
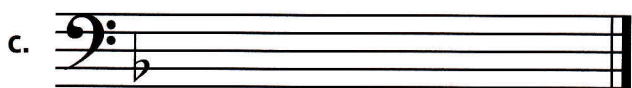


Key

5–20

Key of: _____

Key of: _____



Notes

8–32

- 2**
- Draw a line connecting the 1st tetrachord on the left with the 2nd tetrachord on the right to complete a major scale.

1st Tetrachord2nd Tetrachord

F

F

B \flat

C

5–10

- 3**
- Circle the incorrect note in each scale, then write the correct letter name below it.



5–10

- 4**
- Draw a line matching each key signature on the left with the letter names of the corresponding major scale on the right.

F G A B \flat C D E F

5–10

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

- 5**
- Using the accidentals from the notes on the right, identify the key of each scale and write the key signature on the staff provided.

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

5–10

A B \flat C D E F G A

- 6**
- The first two flats in a key signature are _____ and _____.

4–8

100