

## LESSON 1: KEY SIGNATURES

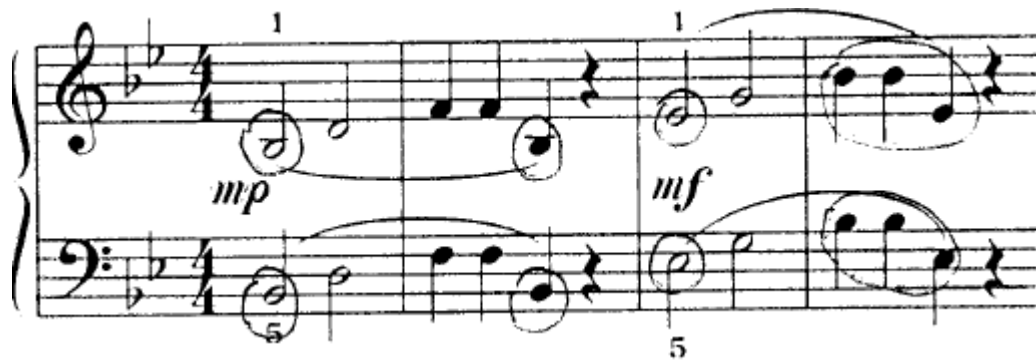
Classical Piano: More Fundamentals

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**KEY SIGNATURE** - sharps or flats shown after the clef signs.



The key signature indicates which notes are to be sharpened or flattened in the piece.



**In this piece, all the Bs and Es are to be flattened (shown in circles).**

## HOW TO DETERMINE THE KEY

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**A sharp major key can be determined by locating the last sharp of the key signature, then move up a half step.**



A half step up from A# is B. The key is B major.

**A flat major key can be determined by locating the next to the last flat, which is the key.**



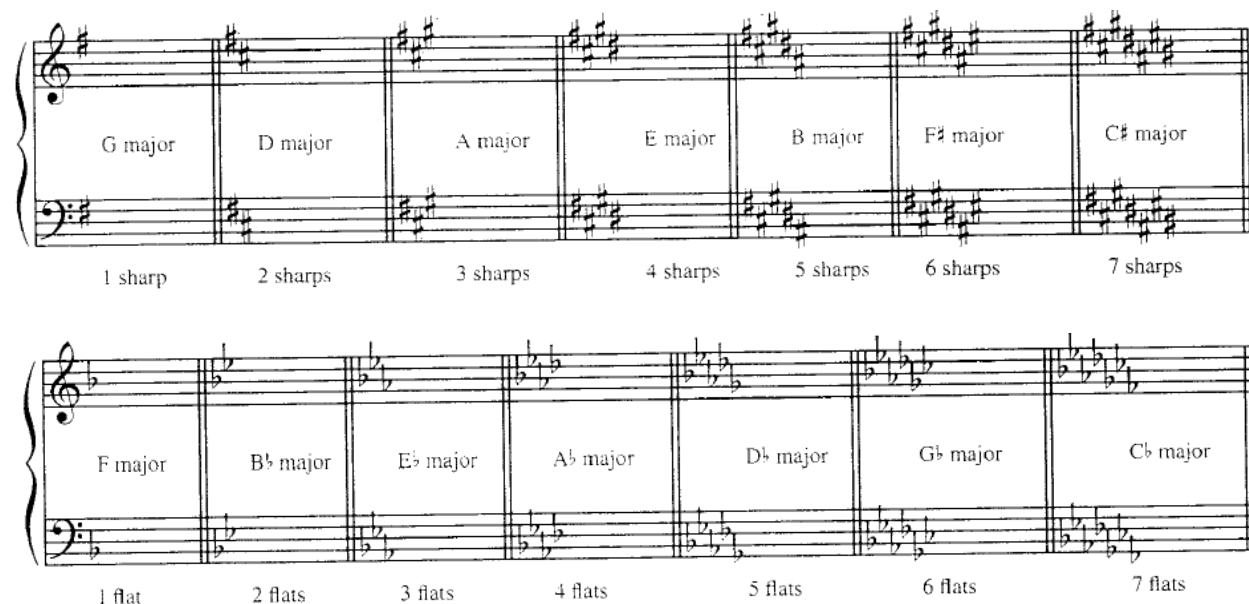
The next to the last flat is A-flat. The key is A-flat major.

There are two exceptions to these rules:

C major - no sharps or flats

F major - one flat (B-flat)

## MAJOR KEY SIGNATURES



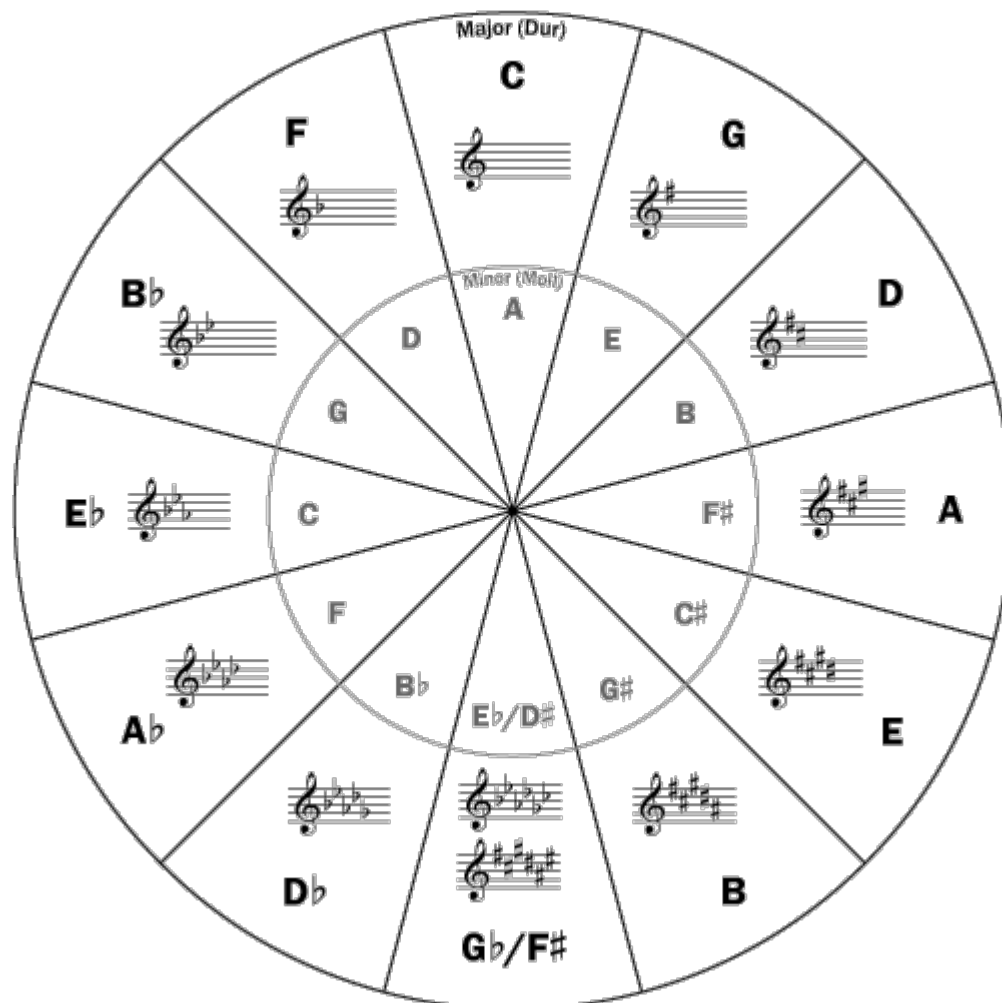
**Sharps:**

- G major (1 sharp)
- D major (2 sharps)
- A major (3 sharps)
- E major (4 sharps)
- B major (5 sharps)
- F# major (6 sharps)
- C# major (7 sharps)

**Flats:**

- F major (1 flat)
- B $\flat$  major (2 flats)
- E $\flat$  major (3 flats)
- A $\flat$  major (4 flats)
- D $\flat$  major (5 flats)
- G $\flat$  major (6 flats)
- C $\flat$  major (7 flats)

## CIRCLE OF FIFTHS



## KEY SIGNATURE EXCERPT



- Determine the note that is to be flatted throughout the piece
- Circle all the notes that are to be flatted
- Determine the key (look at the last note of the piece in the left hand)
- Prepare the fingers that will be playing the B flats by raising the wrist a bit to play the black key
- Clap and count 1+2+3+4+
- Play and count

## MINIATURE WALTZ

- What is the meter - how many measures in a beat
- What is the key signature - what notes will be sharped or flatted
- What is the key - half a step up from the last sharp, refers to the circle of 5ths, or look at the last note of the piece in the left hand
- **Rit. (ritardando)** - gradually slowing down
- Waltz - more emphasis on the first beat of every measure
- Tap out the rhythms hands together and count
- Play right hand first and count, play legato (all notes are played connected)
- Add dynamics



- Play left hand and count, harmonic intervals as accompaniment
- Playing hands together, slow down the tempo, right hand has the melody (play louder), left hand has the accompaniment (play softer),
- Lift the left hand slightly right before playing the next chord