

## LESSON 2-4 : Keys and Scales

### Pop Piano: Playing Melody Lines

---

#### Keys

- Consists of a family of notes, upon which songs are built
- 1<sup>st</sup> note of the key is called the ROOT
- The root is also the name of the key
- Songs usually end on the root
- Each key has 7 unique notes, and can be derived as follows:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> note – Root
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> note – 1 tone above
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> note – 1 tone above
  - 4<sup>th</sup> note – 1 semitone above
  - 5<sup>th</sup> note – 1 tone above
  - 6<sup>th</sup> note – 1 tone above
  - 7<sup>th</sup> note – 1 tone above
  - 8<sup>th</sup> note – 1 semitone above (back to root but an octave higher)

#### C Major Scale

- The key of C, is also called C major, and the root is C
- Major keys sound bright and happy – a majority of songs are built on major keys
- A scale is the running ascent and descent of all notes in a particular key
- Important to practice playing scales to
  - Familiarise ourselves with a particular key
  - Improve our finger technique

#### C Major Scale



## G Major Scale

- The key of G, is also called G major, and the root is G
- G major has a key signature indicating an F#
- All Fs in the G major scale are played as F#s

### G Major Scale



## F Major Scale

- The key of F, is also called F major, and the root is F
- F major has a key signature indicating a Bb
- All Bs in the F major scale are played as Bbs

### F Major Scale



## Why So Many Keys?

- Accommodate the range of musicians – especially singers and wind instruments
- Different keys have slightly different sound qualities
  - Sharp keys sound brighter, flat keys sound darker
- Key changes are a tool that composers use to create excitement in a piece of music