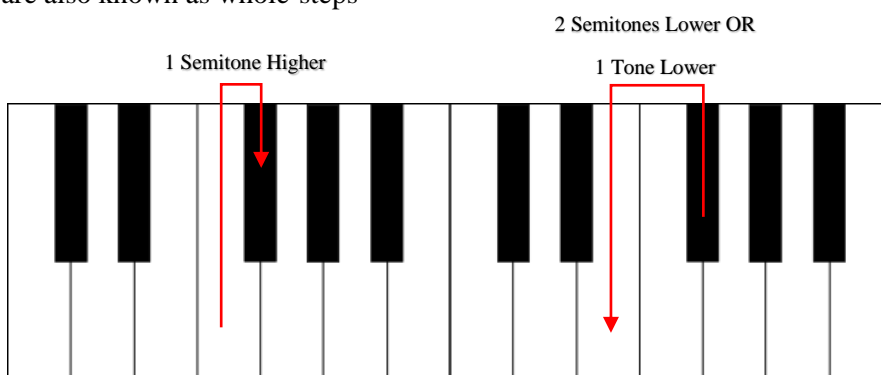


# LESSON 1-5 : Key Signatures and Accidentals

## Pop Piano: The Basics

### Tones and Semitones

- SEMITONES describe a 1 key jump on the keyboard (including black keys)
- Semitones are also known as half-steps
- TONES describe a 2 key jump on the keyboard (2 semitones)
- Tones are also known as whole-steps



### Accidentals

- Symbols found on the left of notes
- Indicates an upward or downward shift of the note

| Symbol | Name         | Interpretation                        |
|--------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| 𝄌      | Double Sharp | Shift Original Note 1 Tone Higher     |
| ♯      | Sharp        | Shift Original Note 1 Semitone Higher |
| ♮      | Natural      | Play Original Note                    |
| ♭      | Flat         | Shift Original Note 1 Semitone Lower  |
| 𝄍      | Double Flat  | Shift Original Note 1 Tone Lower      |

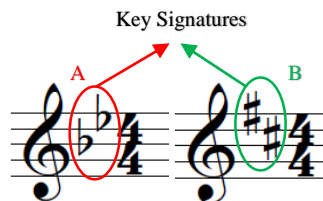
- An example of notes with accidentals are shown below



- Accidentals apply to the note for the duration of a bar unless explicitly stated otherwise
- Study 4<sup>th</sup> bar of the above piece of music:
  - E5 is given a flat, hence all other E5s are played as Eb5s unless stated otherwise
  - On the 3<sup>rd</sup> beat, E5 is given a natural, hence we play it as E5 natural
  - All other E5s following that, are then played as E5 natural

## Key Signatures

- Found at the start of the staff
- Consists of a number of sharps or flats
- Tells us which notes in the music, should always be sharpened or flattened unless explicitly indicated otherwise



- Example A:
  - 2 flats in the key signature
  - 1 occupies B4 position, the other occupies E5 position
  - This indicates **all** Bs and **all** Es (regardless of octave position) are to be played as Bbs and Ebs respectively
- Example B:
  - 2 sharps in the key signature
  - 1 occupies F5 position, the other occupies C5 position
  - This indicates **all** Fs and **all** Cs are to be played as F#s and C#s respectively

- Attempt to play the following excerpt
- If played correctly, it will sound like 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star'

