

## *learning the circle of fifths*

beginning at one note and moving up (or down) by perfect fifths (seven half-steps), one will pass through every other note once and only once before returning to the starting note

there are a zillion things to say and notice about the circle of fifths and it is a lifelong friend to the musician

suffice it for here to learn a few ways of internalizing the relationships by grouping them in various ways

spanning the keyboard

A musical staff in bass clef and common time. It starts with a C note, followed by a series of notes moving up by perfect fifths: E, G, B, D, F#, A, C. Above the staff, there are two labels: "8va-----," above the higher notes, and "8vb-----" below the lower notes.

groups of two

Two musical staves in bass clef and common time. The top staff shows pairs of notes: (C, E), (G, B), (D, F#), (A, C). The bottom staff shows pairs of notes: (C, E), (G, B), (D, F#), (A, C).

groups of three

Two musical staves in bass clef and common time. The top staff shows triplets of notes: (C, E, G), (G, B, D), (D, F#, A), (A, C, E). The bottom staff shows triplets of notes: (C, E, G), (G, B, D), (D, F#, A), (A, C, E).

up a fifth, down a fourth

A musical staff in treble clef and common time. It shows a repeating pattern of eighth notes: (C, E, G, B), (G, B, D, F#), (D, F#, A, C). The first measure is labeled "up a fifth, down a fourth" and the second measure is labeled "down a fifth, up a fourth".