

KEY SIGNATURES

A Study Guide

HARP KEYS

SHARPS (#) always appear in a key signature in the following order:

F C G D A E B

The NAME of a sharp key is found by going one-half step above the last sharp in the key signature.

Only the number of sharps determine the name of the key; not the clef sign. EXAMPLE: A key signature with two sharps (F# & C#) is the key of D Major. It does not matter if it is written in treble clef, alto clef or bass clef.

EXAMPLES:

Handwritten musical notation showing four examples of sharp key signatures. Each example consists of a staff with a clef and a key signature of sharps. Below each staff is the name of the key underlined. The examples are: 1. Treble clef, one sharp (F#), labeled G. 2. Alto clef (C-clef on the third line), two sharps (F# and C#), labeled D. 3. Treble clef, three sharps (F#, C#, and G#), labeled A. 4. Bass clef, four sharps (F#, C#, G#, and D#), labeled E.

FLAT KEYS

FLATS (b) always appear in a key signature in the following order:

B E A D G C F

The NAME of a flat key is found by backing up one flat from the last flat in the key signature. (Next to the last flat is the name of the key.)

Only the number of flats determine the name of the key; not the clef sign. EXAMPLE: A key signature with two flats (B^b & E^b) is the key of B^b Major. It does not matter if it is written in treble clef, alto clef or bass clef.

EXAMPLES:

Handwritten musical notation showing four examples of flat key signatures. Each example consists of a staff with a clef and a key signature of flats. Below each staff is the name of the key underlined. The examples are: 1. Treble clef, one flat (Bb), labeled F. 2. Alto clef (C-clef on the third line), two flats (Bb and Eb), labeled B^b. 3. Treble clef, three flats (Bb, Eb, and Ab), labeled E^b. 4. Bass clef, four flats (Bb, Eb, Ab, and Db), labeled A^b.

REMINDER

All flat keys will have the name FLAT in their name except "F" which has one flat. All other keys are sharp keys except "C" which has no flats or sharps in its key signature (sometimes called the natural key).

TEST - KEY SIGNATURES

FILL IN THE BLANK

1) SHARPS always appear in a key signature in the following order:

2) The NAME of a SHARP KEY is found by going _____ above the last sharp in the key signature.

NAME THE SHARPS & THE KEY

3&4) # #	5&6) #, # # #	7&8) #	9&10) # # #
#'s _____	_____	_____	_____
Key _____	_____	_____	_____

FILL IN THE BLANK

11) FLATS always appear in a key signature in the following order:

12) The NAME of a FLAT KEY is found by _____ from the last flat.

NAME THE FLATS & THE KEY

13&14) b b	15&16) b b b b	17&18) b b b	19&20) b
b's _____	_____	_____	_____
Key _____	_____	_____	_____

BONUS

NAME THE KEY



YOUR NAME _____ PERIOD _____