

FOREWORD



Most people think of music as an art form, and while this is true, through the study of Music Theory we see that it is much more than that. If we consider the music that we hear to be art, then Music Theory is the language and science of music. The study of Theory begins with simple analysis of basic music elements such as pitch, rhythm, and harmony, then continues on to the very core and make-up of each of these elements to expose the beauty beyond what we simply hear.

The origin of Music Theory may be traced to the dawn of civilization itself, and later to the ancient people of Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, and India. Evidence suggests that these early people had at least a basic understanding of the elements of music, which they passed down throughout the eons, often by way of oral transmission. It seems clear that many great cultures throughout the world devoted a significant amount of time and thought to creating and understanding music.

Some of the earliest examples of written music theory were inscribed by the people of Mesopotamia. From these records, Musicologists have been able to reconstruct aspects of these ancient music tonal and tuning systems. These early systems gave birth to the naming and writing of notes, and various music terms including the description of the important intervals (the distance between notes) of the fourth and fifth.

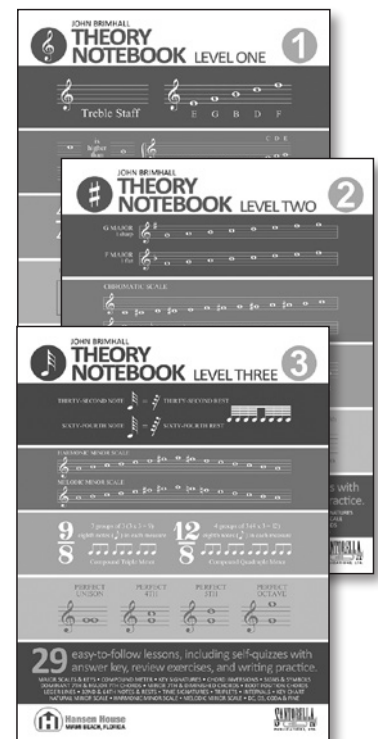
The sacred texts of India contain theoretical discussions of music, including different classes of melodic structure, which included intervals, rules for consonance and dissonance, and other theoretical aspects such as the least perceivable difference between two pitches.

The Greek philosopher and mathematician, Pythagoras, observed that when a hammer struck an anvil, different notes were produced according to the weight of the hammer. Using strings of various lengths, he worked out the mathematical ratios between pitches of different frequencies, including the infinite number of “hidden” tones (called “Overtones”) which sound simultaneously with every pitch.

As western music influence spread throughout the many regions of the world from the time of the Middle Ages to the periods which followed, musicians generally adopted Western Theory as the standard, but many other systems still remain in use in various parts of the world today.

The Theory Notebook Series (Books 1, 2, 3, and the Complete) starts at the very beginning and takes the student to a high level of proficiency in many advanced concepts of Music Theory. The lessons within are concise and clear, each giving the student a thorough understanding of the concept at hand. Through carefully chosen lessons and exercises, as well as well-timed reviews and quizzes, steady progress and success is assured for the motivated musician.

The student who completes this series with a firm understanding of these concepts is poised to succeed in most any area of music, be it pure theory, performance, composition, or teaching.



Jonathon Robbins, Editor

JOHN BRIMHALL

THEORY NOTEBOOK Complete

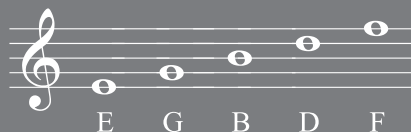


THEORY NOTEBOOK LEVEL ONE

1



Treble Staff



E G B D F



THEORY NOTEBOOK LEVEL TWO

2

G MAJOR
1 sharp



F MAJOR
1 flat



THEORY NOTEBOOK LEVEL THREE

3

THIRTY-SECOND NOTE  =  THIRTY-SECOND REST

SIXTY-FOURTH NOTE  =  SIXTY-FOURTH REST



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Level 1

The Staff

The Lines of the Treble Staff

The Spaces of the Treble Staff

The Double Bar

The Lines of the Bass Staff

The Spaces of the Bass Staff

The Grand Staff

Writing Clefs and Braces

Leger Lines

Review of the Grand Staff

Notes and Rests

Writing Notes

Note and Rest Values

Relative Note and Rest Values

Dotted Notes

The Measure & Time Signatures

The 3/4 Time Signature

The 2/4 Time Signature

Note and Rest Review

Note Stems

Half Steps and Sharps

Flats

More Sharps and Flats

Whole Steps

The Major Scale

Step, Skip, or Repetition

The Natural Sign & Accidentals

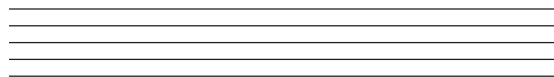
Writing Rests & Accidentals

Review Quiz

Lesson 1

THE STAFF

The STAFF is a group of lines and spaces on which music is written.



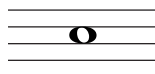
NOTES are placed on both the LINES and SPACES of the Staff to indicate PITCH. The higher the Note on the Staff, the higher the Pitch (the sound).



This is a Note on a Line:



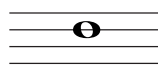
This is a Note on a Space:



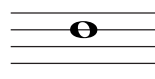
is higher than



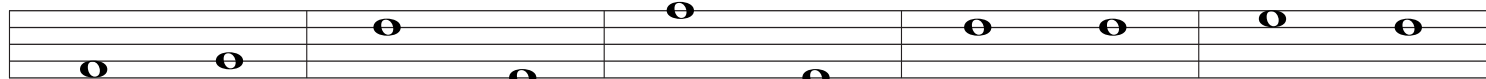
is lower than



is the same as



Indicate whether the second note is higher (H), lower (L), or the same (S) as the first note in each set:



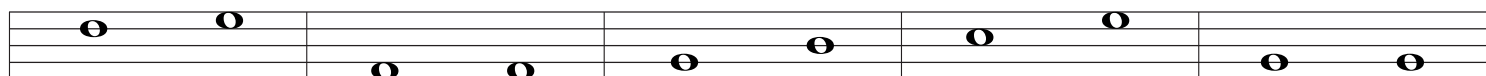
1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____



6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

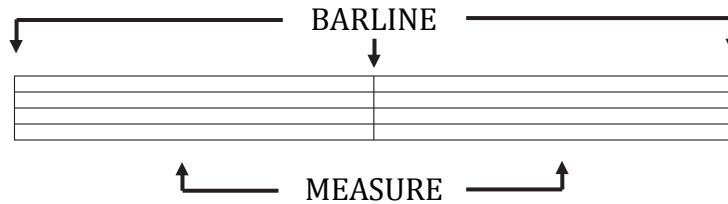
9. _____

10. _____

THE MEASURE & TIME SIGNATURES

THE MEASURE

Groups of beats are organized on the staff in units called MEASURES. Measures are separated by BARLINES.



TIME SIGNATURES

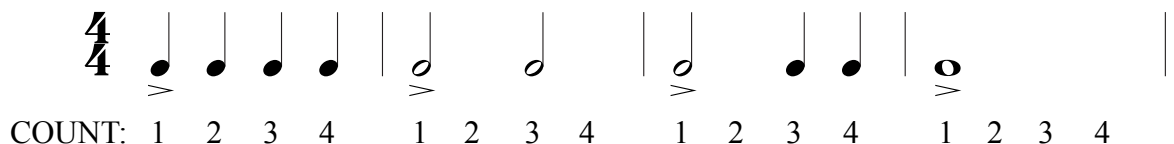
The grouping of beats into Measures is indicated by the TIME SIGNATURE, which appears at the beginning of each piece of music. The Time Signature contains a top number and a bottom number. The top number of the Time Signature indicates how many beats are contained within each Measure, while the bottom number tells you which kind of note is to receive one beat (or count). Sometimes, an abbreviation is used for some of the more common Time Signatures. Let's start with the Time Signature which you'll see quite often.

THE 4/4 TIME SIGNATURE

The 4/4 Time Signature is commonly referred to as 4/4 Time (pronounced, "four-four time"). Let's take a look at how we interpret the numbers in the 4/4 Time Signature.

- 4** The top "4" is the number of beats per Measure; there are 4 beats (or counts) in each Measure.
4 The bottom "4" stands for the Quarter Note, so in 4/4 Time the Quarter Note receives one beat.

Here are a few measures written in 4/4 Time with each of the beats counted below the notes:



C = COMMON TIME. This is a frequently used abbreviation for the 4/4 Time Signature.

THE ACCENT SIGN

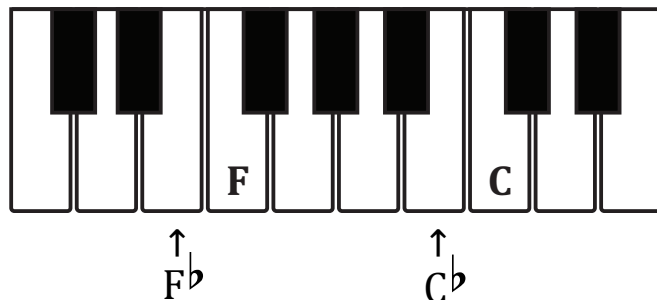
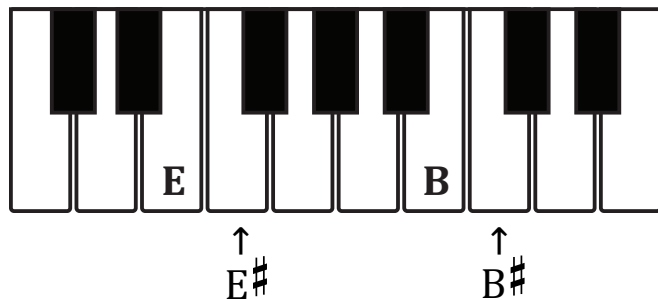


The ACCENT SIGN is placed either above or below the note, depending upon where the note is placed on the staff or which direction the stem is pointed.

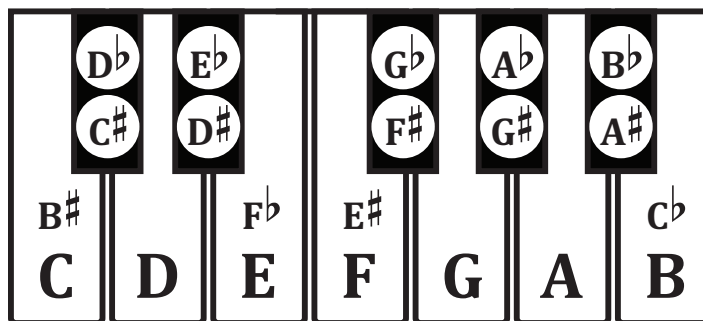
The Accent Sign directs the player to give special emphasis to the note, for example, when playing the piano you should strike the note a little harder. In 4/4 Time it is common to give the 1st beat in each Measure a slight emphasis even if the Accent Sign is not present. This helps to identify the first beat in the Measure.

MORE SHARPS AND FLATS

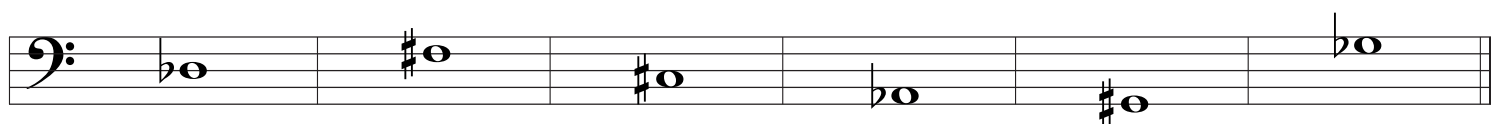
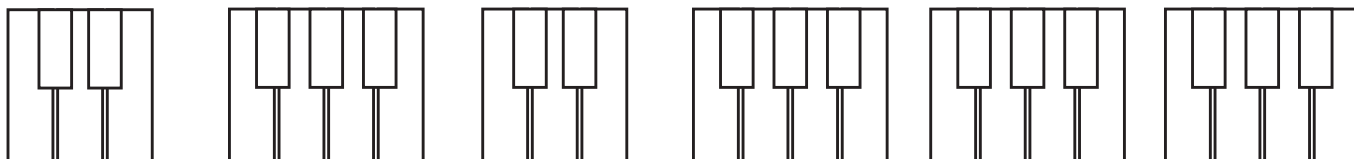
As we have learned, a sharp raises the pitch of a note by one Half Step, while a flat lowers the pitch of a note by one Half Step. On the Piano keyboard, this does not necessarily mean that all sharps and flats are played on the black keys, as you can see below:



Most notes have two possible names. While some are more common than others, each of the two letter names printed on the same key on the diagram to the right refers to the same note or pitch. Two different note names which sound the same are called ENHARMONIC EQUIVALENTS, or simply, ENHARMONICS.



Write the letter names of the following sharped or flatted notes on the line below and darken in the correct black key on the keyboard:



Level 2

Review of Pitch

Review of Relative Values

Major Scales & Key Signatures, The Sharp Keys

Major Scales & Key Signatures, The Flat Keys

Review of Major Key Signatures

Major Scale Review

Spelling & Key Identification

The 2/2 & 3/2 Time Signatures

The 6/8 Time Signature

More about 6/8 Time

Review of Time Signatures

Time Signature Quiz

Ties

Slurs

The Repeat Sign

1st & 2nd Endings

Intervals

Melodic & Harmonic Intervals

Major and Minor Thirds

Major and Minor Triads

Augmented and Diminished Triads

Review of Triads

Inversion of Triads

Inversion Quiz

Dynamic Markings

Tempo Markings

The Chromatic Scale

The Circle of Fifths

Review Quiz

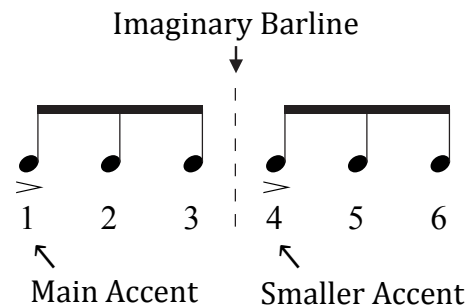
Lesson 9

THE 6/8 TIME SIGNATURE

This new Time Signature has an "8" as the bottom number. Let's take a look at how we interpret this.

- 6** There are 6 beats in each measure.
- 8** The Eighth Note receives one beat.

6/8 Time is different from the other Time Signatures we have seen so far in that the measure is divided into two equal parts. Think of the measure as having an IMAGINARY BARLINE in the middle. For this reason, you will often see Eighth Notes beamed in groups of three. Generally, the first beat of the measure is given a slight emphasis, while the third beat (the beat after the Imaginary Barline) is given a smaller emphasis. Take a look at the diagram to the right.



RELATIVE NOTE VALUES IN 6/8 TIME

= 1/2 Beat

= 1 Beat

= 2 Beats

= 3 Beats

= 4 Beats

= 6 Beats

TEMPO & THE IMAGINARY BARLINE

In 6/8 Time, when the Tempo is faster, you can really only feel 2 Beats per Measure. When the piece has a slower Tempo, then you can feel and comfortably count 6 Beats in the Measure. In either case, a note may never be used which extends across the Imaginary Barline. Of course, as with most rules, there is an exception. It is permissible to use a Dotted Half Note, which will fill the entire Measure. Take a look below:

The following measures are correctly notated.
No notes (except the dotted half note) extend across the Imaginary Barline.

6/8

COUNT: 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6

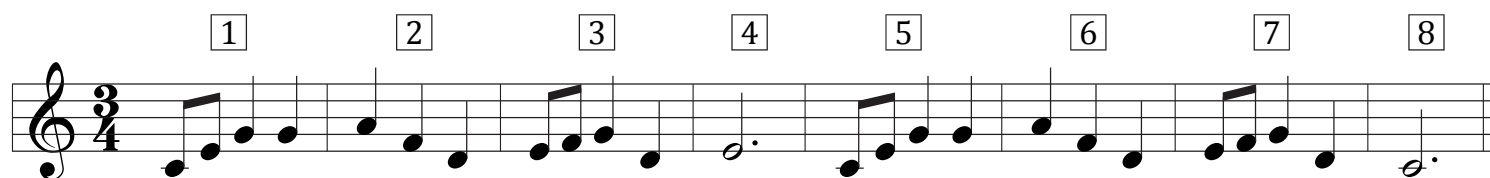
The following measures, however, are *NOT* correctly notated.
As you can see, the beats for many of the notes extend over the Imaginary Barline.

6/8

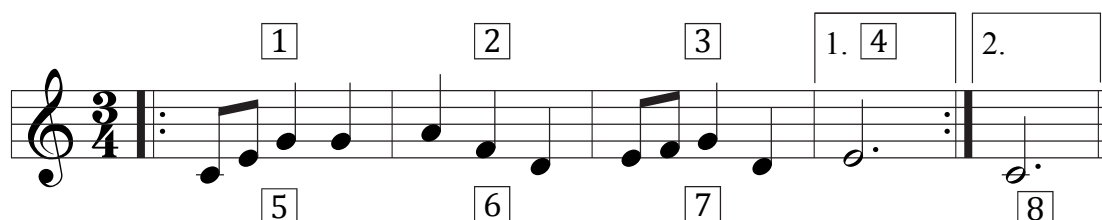
COUNT: 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6

1ST & 2ND ENDINGS

Many times when a passage will be repeated, the last measure on each pass will be different. Rather than having to write the passage twice, it is possible to use a variation of the Repeat Sign which tells you to repeat the passage, but to use a different ending for each pass. This type of Repeat uses a 1ST & 2ND ENDING which clearly notates which measures are to be played at the end of each pass. Consider the following example:



As you can see, measures 1, 2, and 3 are exactly the same as measures 5, 6, and 7. It would be nice to repeat the first 4 measures, but unfortunately the last measure in each group of 4 is different. This problem is easily solved by using the 1st and 2nd Ending Repeat. We simply repeat the 4 measure passage, except that the last measure for each pass is different. Now, take a look at the same line written with a 1st and 2nd Ending:



Here's how the line above is played. We play measures 1 through 4. Now, we get to the repeat sign, which tells us to go back to the nearest Forward Repeat Sign (or the beginning), and play the passage again. However, unlike the basic repeat which we discussed in the previous lesson, this time we skip over the 1st Ending and proceed directly to the 2nd Ending. Compare the measure numbers above with the original passage.

Re-write examples 1 and 2 using a 1st and 2nd ending repeat:

1.

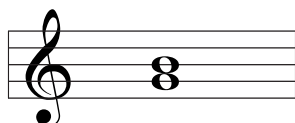
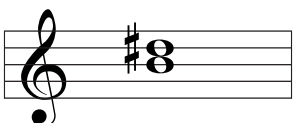
2.

HINT: Try playing each passage to see if they sound the same.

AUGMENTED AND DIMINISHED TRIADS

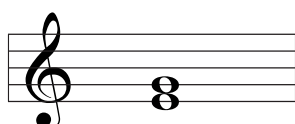
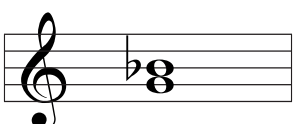
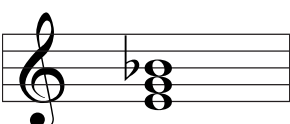
So far, we've look at two ways in which the Major 3rd and the Minor 3rd can be combined to create a Triad. Since there are actually four different ways to stack these two Intervals, this means that we can create four different types of Triads. The other two combinations create the AUGMENTED and DIMINISHED TRIADS.

An Augmented Triad has a Major 3rd on the Bottom with a Major 3rd on Top


 plus
 
 equals
 

Major 3rd Major 3rd Augmented Triad

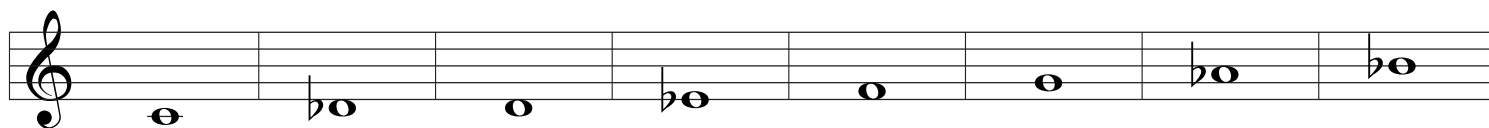
A Diminished Triad has a Minor 3rd on the Bottom with a Minor 3rd on Top


 plus
 
 equals
 

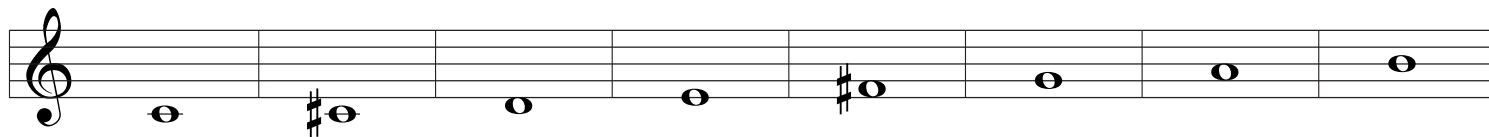
Minor 3rd Minor 3rd Diminished Triad

As always, the three notes of an Augmented or Diminished Triad must all be on either lines or spaces.

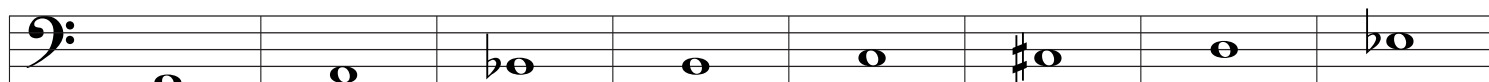
Build an Augmented Triad on each of the supplied notes below:



Build a Diminished Triad on each of the supplied notes below:



Build an Augmented (aug) or Diminished (dim) Triad as indicated below:



G aug A dim B^b aug B dim C aug C[#] dim D dim E^b aug

Level
3

Advanced Leger Lines
32nd & 64th Notes
Compound Time Signatures
Triplets
Advanced Time Signatures
Perfect Intervals
Major & Minor Intervals
Augmented & Diminished Intervals
Inversion of Intervals
Interval Review
Triad Review
Triad Inversion Review
Altering Triads
Dominant 7th & Major 7th Chords
Minor 7th & Diminished 7th Chords
Advanced Chord Theory Quiz
Advanced Chord Notation Quiz
Review of Major Scales and Keys
The Relative Minor
Minor Scales
The Natural Minor
The Harmonic Minor
The Melodic Minor
Circle of Fifths Review
Scale Review Quiz
Repeats
Signs and Symbols
Review Quiz Scale
Review Quiz

MAJOR & MINOR INTERVALS

An Interval is a MAJOR INTERVAL if the upper note may be found in the Major Key (or Major Scale) of the lower note. SECONDS, THIRDS, SIXTHS, and SEVENTHS may be Major Intervals.

MAJOR SECOND	MAJOR THIRD	MAJOR SIXTH	MAJOR SEVENTH
M2	M3	M6	M7

A MINOR INTERVAL is one half step smaller than a Major Interval. This may be accomplished by lowering the top note, or by raising the bottom note, however, the letter names of the notes **must remain the same**. For instance, the Interval from C to E is a Major 3rd. If we lower the note "E" to "E-flat" that Interval becomes a Minor 3rd, but, if we change the note "E" to "D-sharp" that Interval is **not** a Minor Third since we have changed the letter name of the note, and consequently the size of the Interval itself. Just because notes may sound the same, it does not mean that the Interval is the same. We'll talk more about this as we continue.

MINOR SECOND	MINOR THIRD	MINOR SIXTH	MINOR SEVENTH
m2	m3	m6	m7

Build the following major intervals above the supplied note:

M3	M6	M2	M7	M3	M6

Change the following intervals from major to minor by lowering the top note:

M3	M6	M2	M7	M3
m3	m6	m2	m7	m3

Change the following intervals from major to minor by raising the bottom note:

M6	M2	M3	M6	M7
m6	m2	m3	m6	m7

Change the following intervals from minor to major by altering one of the notes:

--	--	--	--

Indicate whether each of the following intervals is major (M), minor(m), or perfect (P):

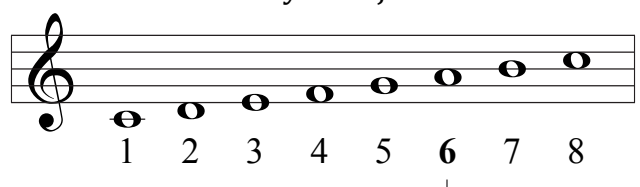
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

THE RELATIVE MINOR

At this point, you should know all of the Major Keys and Key Signatures quite well. All Key Signatures, however, have two possible keys, the Major Key and its RELATIVE MINOR. A Relative Minor is a scale or key which has the same Key Signature as its RELATIVE MAJOR. The difference between the two scales or keys is its starting note, or TONIC NOTE. In music theory, Tonic refers to the first note, or DEGREE, of the scale which is played according to the Key Signature. It is the tonal center of the key and the Triad based on that note is the most significant chord of the key. Most pieces of music tend to resolve to the Tonic note or chord.

To find the Relative Minor of a Major Key, go to the Sixth Degree of the Major Scale. That note is the starting note of the Relative Minor Scale and the Tonic Note of the Relative Minor Key.

Key C Major

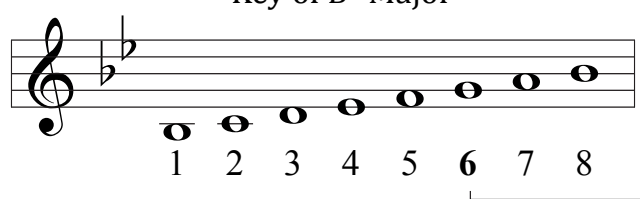


Key A Minor

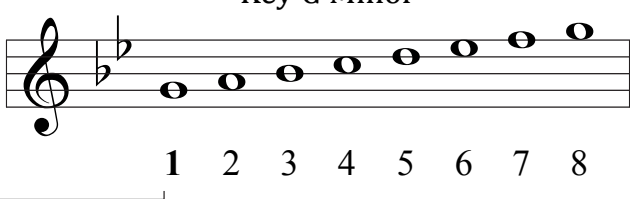


If we begin in the Key of C Major with the C Major Scale and go up to the sixth degree of the scale, we arrive at the note, A, which is the Tonic Note of the Relative Minor. If we build a DIATONIC SCALE (a scale which is played according to the Key Signature) on that note, we end up with the basic form of the A Minor Scale. We'll discuss minor scales in more detail soon, but right now, let's look at another example of Relative Keys.

Key of B^b Major



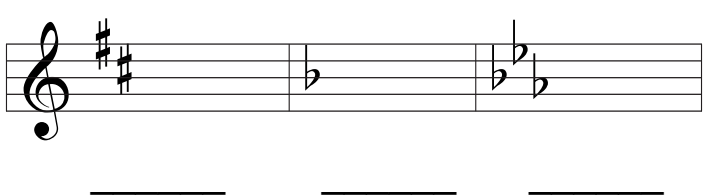
Key G Minor



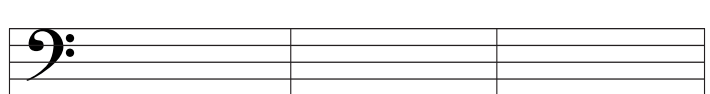
In the example above, we can see that the note, G, is the sixth degree of the B-flat Major Scale. That note becomes the Tonic Note of the Relative Minor, so the Relative Minor of B-flat Major is G Minor.

Identify the following minor key signatures:

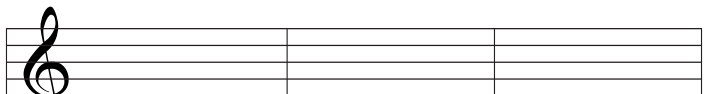




Write the following minor key signatures on the staff:



G Minor A^b Minor A Minor

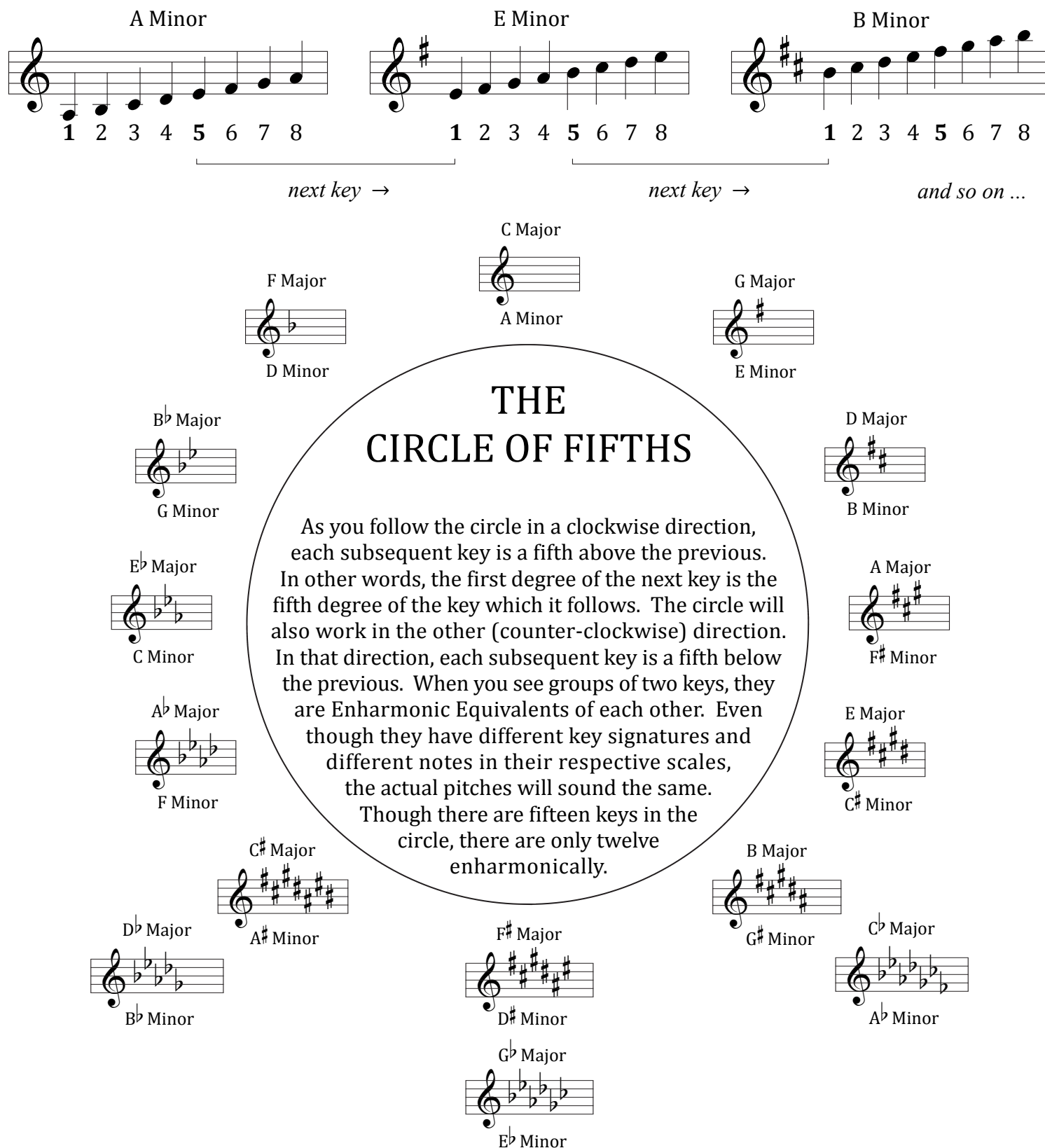


G[#] Minor B^b Minor E Minor

Lesson 25

CIRCLE OF FIFTHS REVIEW

Do you remember when we discussed the Circle of Fifths in the Major Keys? Since each Relative Minor is based on the Sixth Degree of its Relative Major Scale, the Circle of Fifths also works with all of the Minor Keys, as well. If you progress around the circle, you can see that each Major Key, along with its Relative Minor which shares the same Key Signature, is a Perfect Fifth above the previous key. You'll also remember that in the opposite direction, each key is a Perfect Fifth below the previous key. The Circle of Fifths is an important concept, so if you need to refresh your memory, take a moment to review the text inside the circle below.



APPENDIX

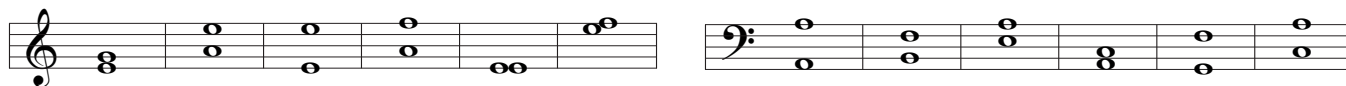
ANSWER KEYS

LEVEL 1 • LESSONS 1 - 9	96
The Staff • The Lines of the Treble Staff • The Spaces of the Treble Staff • The Double Bar	
The Lines of the Bass Staff • The Spaces of the Bass Staff • The Grand Staff	
Writing Clefs and Braces • Leger Lines	
LEVEL 1 • LESSONS 10 - 17	97
Review of the Grand Staff Notes and Rests • Writing Notes • Note and Rest Values	
Dotted Notes • The Measure & Time Signatures • The 3/4 Time Signature	
LEVEL 1 • LESSONS 18 - 20	98
The 2/4 Time Signature • Note and Rest Review • Note Stems	
LEVEL 1 • LESSONS 21 - 29	99
Half Steps and Sharps • Flats • More Sharps and Flats • Whole Steps • The Major Scale	
Step, Skip, or Repetition • The Natural Sign & Accidentals	
Writing Rests & Accidentals • Review Quiz	
LEVEL 2 • LESSONS 1 - 7	100
Review of Pitch • Review of Relative Values • Major Scales & Key Signatures, The Sharp Keys	
Major Scales & Key Signatures, The Flat Keys • Review of Major Key Signatures	
Major Scale Review • Spelling & Key Identification	
LEVEL 2 • LESSONS 8 - 16	101
The 2/2 & 3/2 Time Signatures • The 6/8 Time Signature • Review of Time Signatures	
Time Signature Quiz • Ties • Slurs • The Repeat Sign • 1st & 2nd Endings	
LEVEL 2 • LESSONS 17 - 22	102
Intervals • Harmonic & Melodic Intervals • Major and Minor Thirds • Major and Minor Triads	
Augmented and Diminished Triads • Review of Triads	
LEVEL 2 • LESSONS 23 - 29	103
Inversion of Triads • Inversion Quiz • Dynamic Markings • Tempo Markings	
The Chromatic Scale • The Circle of Fifths • Review Quiz	
LEVEL 3 • LESSONS 1 - 9	104
Advanced Leger Lines • 32nd & 64th Notes • Compound Time Signatures • Triplets	
Advanced Time Signatures • Perfect Intervals • Major & Minor Intervals	
Augmented & Diminished Intervals	
LEVEL 3 • LESSONS 10 - 16	105
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Dominant 7th & Major 7th Chords • Minor 7th & Diminished 7th Chords	
LEVEL 3 • LESSONS 17 - 22	106
Advanced Chord Theory Quiz • Advanced Chord Notation Quiz • Review of Major Scales and Keys	
The Relative Minor • Minor Scales • The Natural Minor	
LEVEL 3 • LESSONS 23 - 29	107
The Harmonic Minor • The Melodic Minor • Circle of Fifths Review • Scale Review Quiz	
Repeats • Signs & Symbols • Review Quiz	
CHORD REFERENCE GUIDE	108
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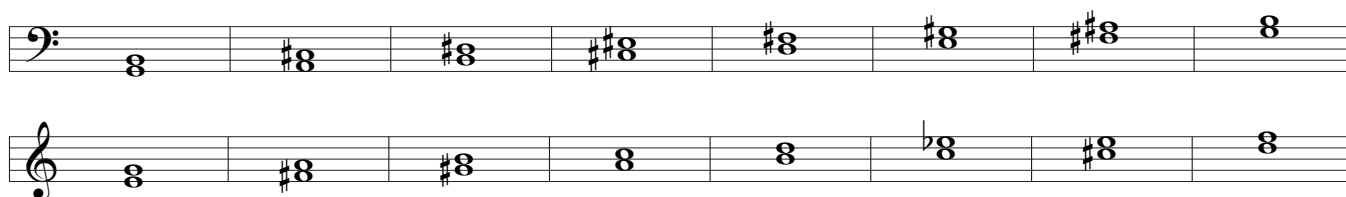
ANSWER KEY

Lesson 17. 4th, 2nd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 3rd
5th, 6th, 3rd, 4th, 4th, 7th

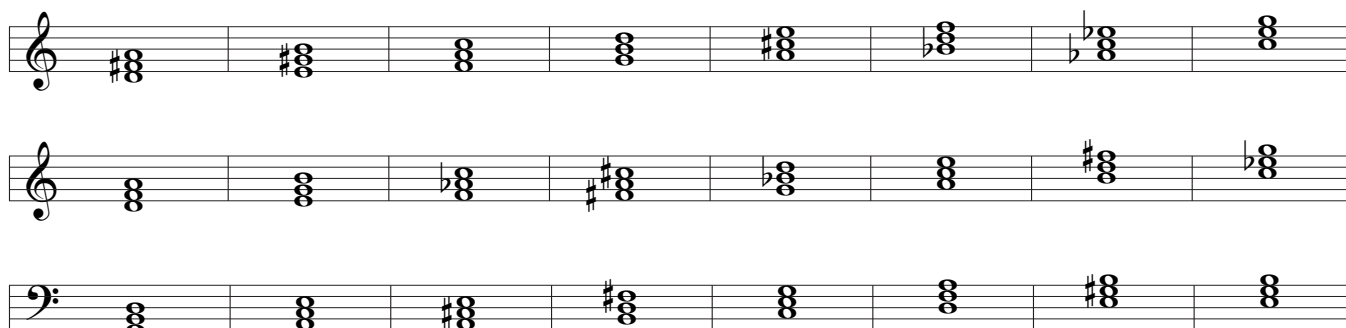
Lesson 18.



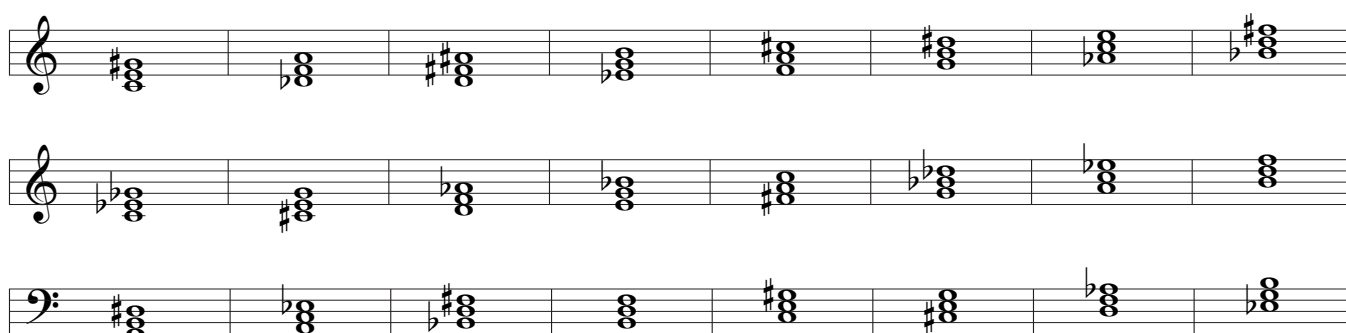
Lesson 19. m3, m3, M3, M3, m3, m3, M3, m3



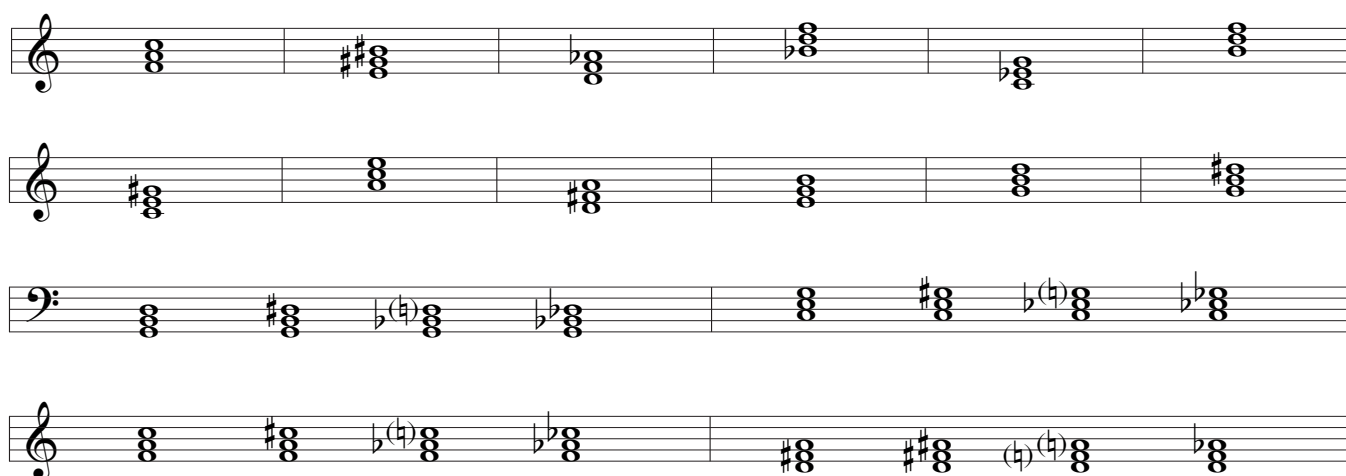
Lesson 20.



Lesson 21.



Lesson 22. G maj, A min, B^b maj, B dim, C aug, D min
D min, E maj, F aug, F[#] dim, G min, A maj



ANSWER KEY

Level

3

Lesson 23.

Lesson 24.

Lesson 26. A Major, F# Natural Minor G Natural Minor, F Natural Minor

B Harmonic Minor, A Melodic Minor, D Major, D Harmonic Minor or D Melodic Minor

Lesson 27. 1. Fine, 2. end, 3. Φ , 4. beginning.

Lesson 28. 1. b, 2. g, 3. e, 4. c, 5. h, 6. d, 7. f, 8. a.

Lesson 29. 1. x, 2. p, 3. f, 4. j, 5. o, 6. k, 7. n, 8. d, 9. s, 10. r 11. g, 12. q, 13. b, 14. a, 15. h, 16. t, 17. l, 18. c 19. i, 20. y, 21. z, 22. u, 23. v, 24. w, 25. e, 26. m

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