

Knowing your **KEY SIGNATURES**

The Circle of Fifths

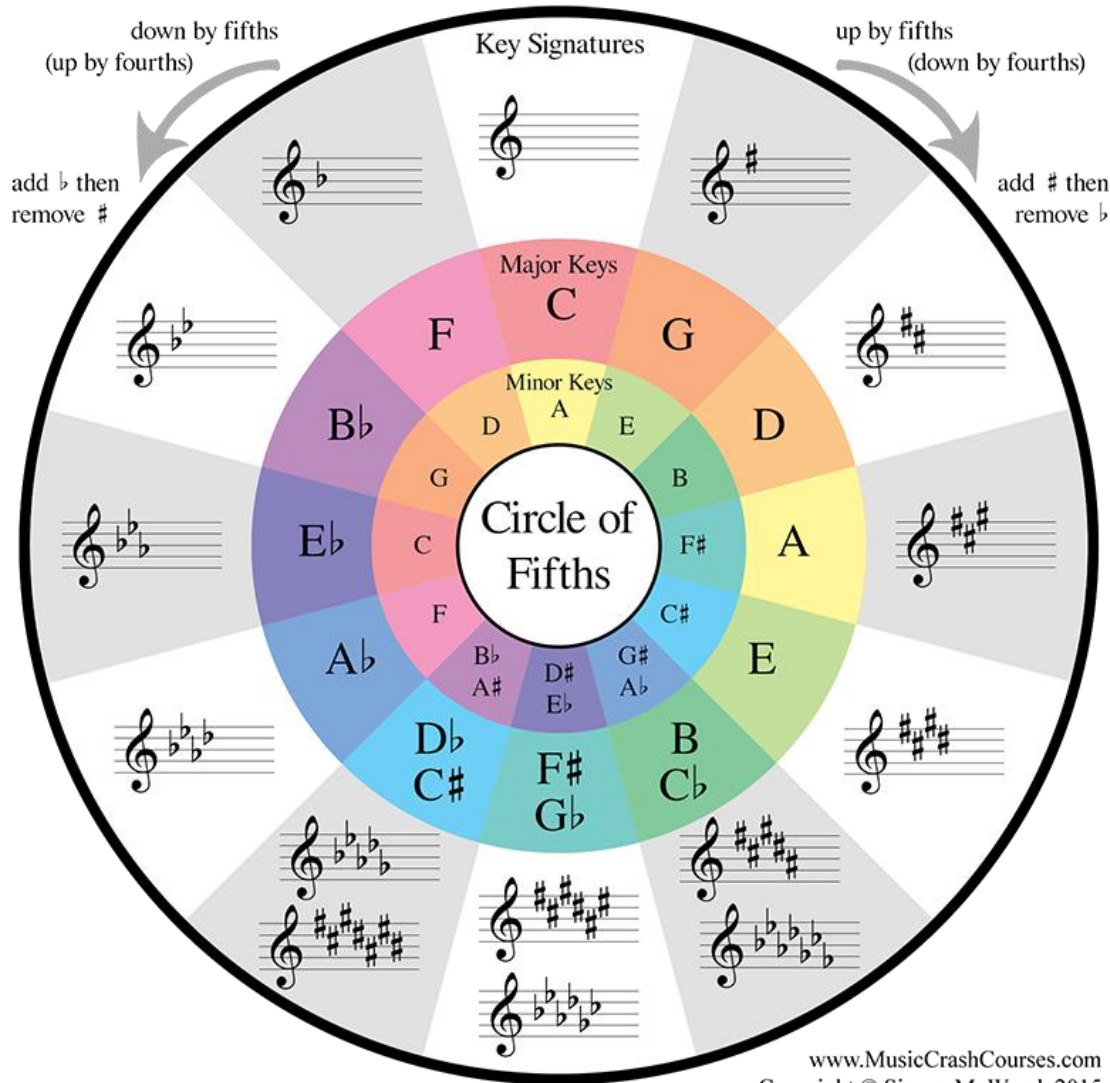
Major Key Signatures

Key Signatures

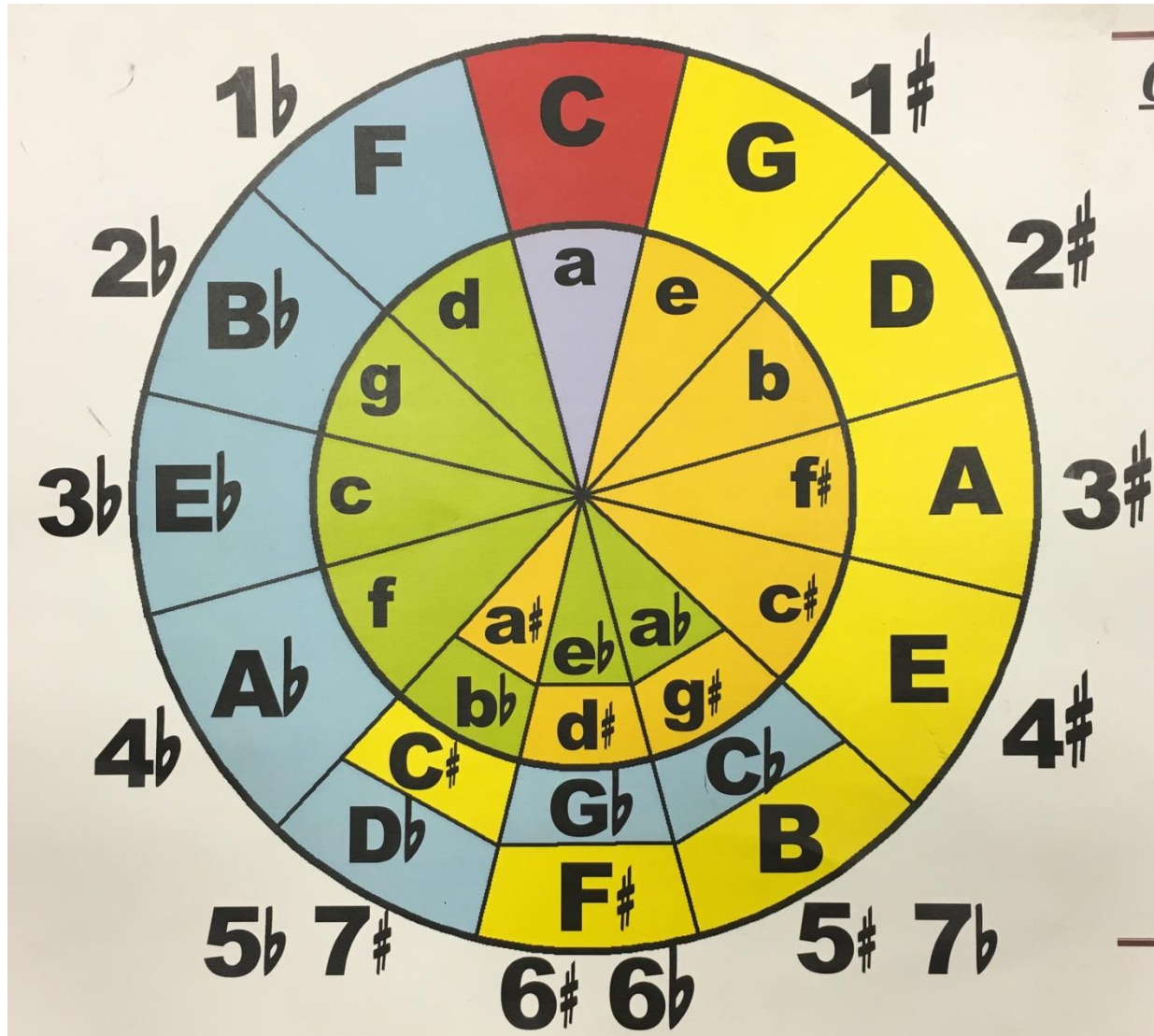
- At the beginning of every song are three important things:
 - Clef
 - Treble
 - Bass
 - Alto
 - Time Signature
 - 3/4
 - 4/4
 - 2/4
 - Key Signature
 - The sharps and flats that affect the notes you play

Musical score snippet for piano. The tempo is marked "Lento tranquillo" with a quarter note equal to 56 (♩ = 56). The dynamics are marked "Piano" and "pp". The score consists of two staves, both in treble clef. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature is 4/4. The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more complex eighth-note pattern in the left hand. Three colored arrows point from the text on the left to the score: a red arrow points to the treble clef, a blue arrow points to the 4/4 time signature, and a purple arrow points to the three sharps in the key signature.

The Circle of Fifths



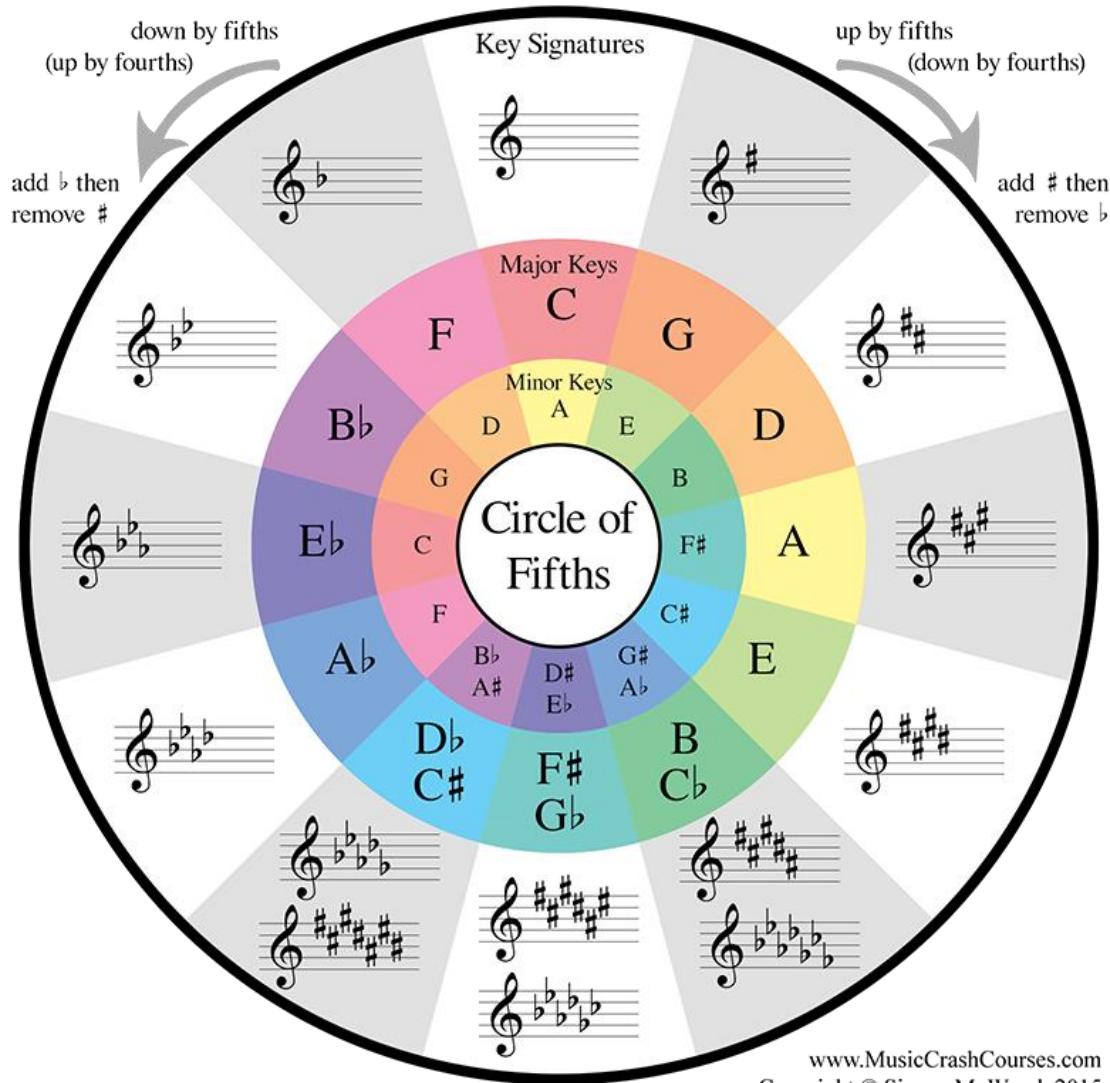
Mine



The Circle of Fifths

- Is a handy pattern by which we keep track our key signatures and the number of sharps and flats
- Counterclockwise on the following image we are exploring the flats and the pattern is descending by fifths (five notes)
 - C, F, Bb, Eb, etc...
- Clockwise we have our sharps and the pattern ascends by fifths
 - C, G, D, A, E, etc...

The Circle of Fifths



On your paper...

- Put C and 0 at the top of your paper in the space provided.
- Moving to the left, label your first four blanks F, Bb, Eb, and Ab. Also label them 1, 2, 3, 4
- Moving to the right, label those G, D, A, E. Also label them 1, 2, 3, 4

Adding sharps and flats

- The flats, in order of appearance on our staff are:
B, E, A, D, G, C, F
- The sharps are the opposite: F, C, G, D, A, E, B

A handy sentence you can memorize to help you remember these is:

Battle **E**nds **A**nd **D**own **G**oes **C**harles' **F**ather
Father **C**harles **G**oes **D**own **A**nd **E**nds **B**attle

The first letter in each word is the flat or sharp you draw in your key signature

Key Signatures

Musical notation for major key signatures. The top staff shows the treble clef and the bottom staff shows the bass clef. The key signatures are indicated by sharps (#) on the notes. The notes are: C, G, D, A, E, B, F#, C#.

C	G	D	A	E	B	F#	C#
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Musical notation for minor key signatures. The top staff shows the treble clef and the bottom staff shows the bass clef. The key signatures are indicated by flats (b) on the notes. The notes are: F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, Cb.

F	Bb	Eb	Ab	Db	Gb	Cb
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Key Signatures

Musical notation for major key signatures. The top staff shows the treble clef and the bottom staff shows the bass clef. The key signatures are indicated by the number of sharps in the key signature: C (no sharps), G (one sharp), D (two sharps), A (three sharps), E (four sharps), B (five sharps), F# (six sharps), and C# (seven sharps). The notes are written in a sequence that illustrates the key signature for each key.

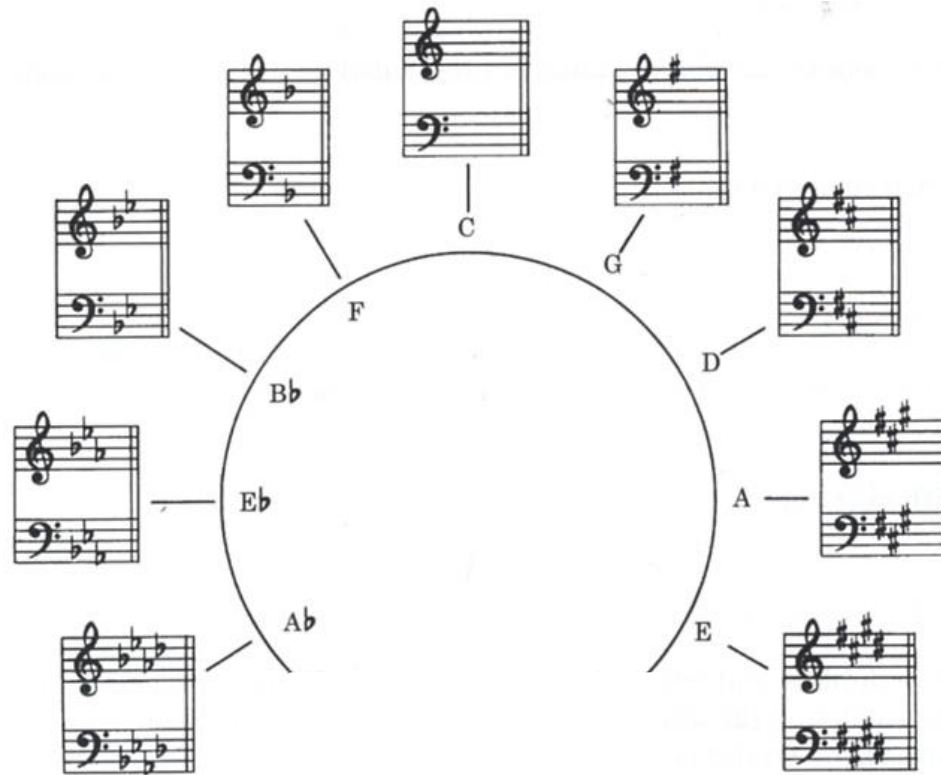
Key Signature	Notes (Treble)	Notes (Bass)
C	C4	C3
G	G4	G2
D	D4	D2
A	A4	A2
E	E4	E2
B	B4	B2
F#	F#4	F#2
C#	C#4	C#2

Musical notation for minor key signatures. The top staff shows the treble clef and the bottom staff shows the bass clef. The key signatures are indicated by the number of flats in the key signature: F (one flat), Bb (two flats), Eb (three flats), Ab (four flats), Db (five flats), Gb (six flats), and Cb (seven flats). The notes are written in a sequence that illustrates the key signature for each key.

Key Signature	Notes (Treble)	Notes (Bass)
F	F4	F3
Bb	Bb4	Bb2
Eb	Eb4	Eb2
Ab	Ab4	Ab2
Db	Db4	Db2
Gb	Gb4	Gb2
Cb	Cb4	Cb2

Add the sharps and flats

- Add the first four key signatures to the left and right on the wheel



Enharmonics

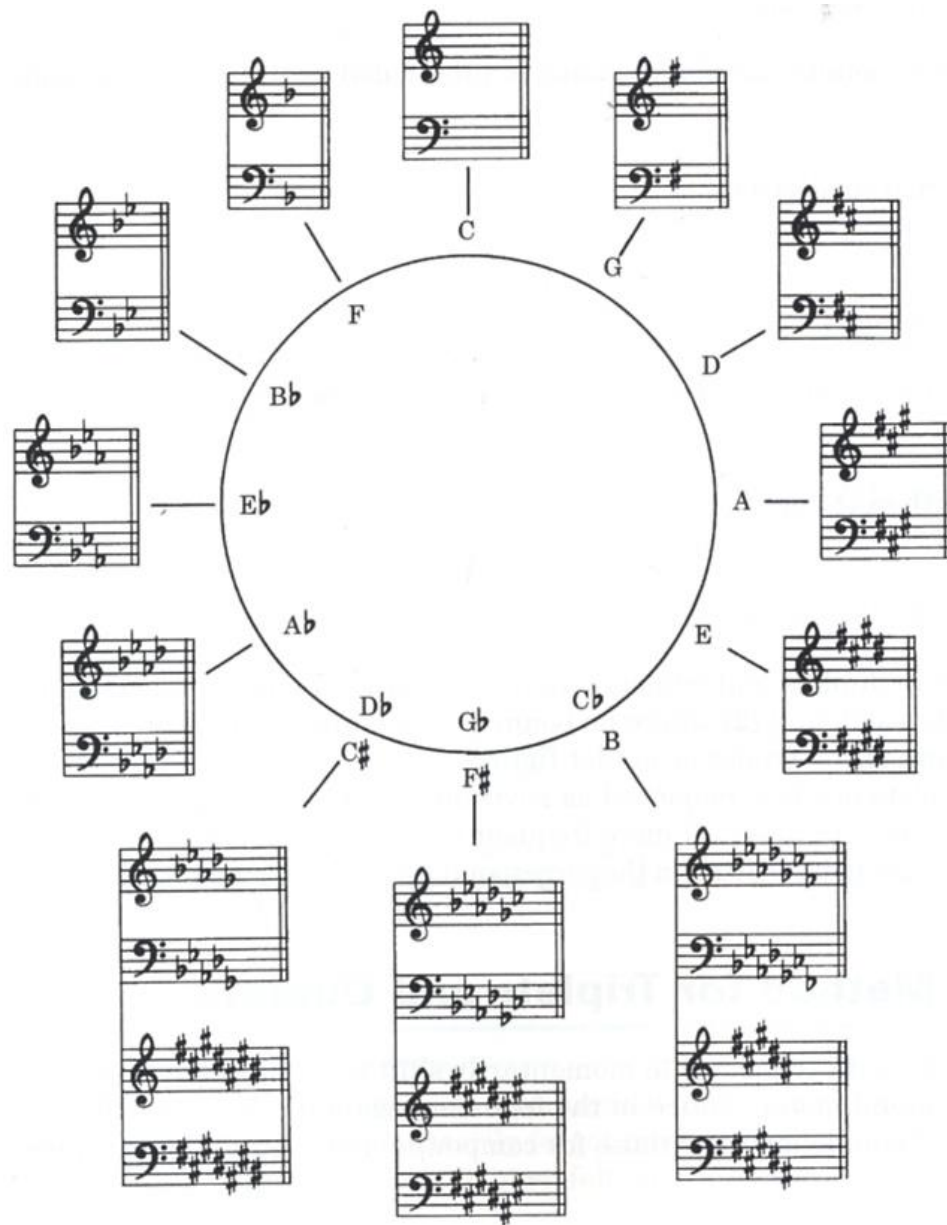
- Enharmonic notes are notes with the same pitch but with different names, i.e. Db/C#
- The bottom three spaces are for these most common key signatures where this occurs.
 - Label theses, from left to right,

Db/C#	F#/Gb	B/Cb
5 7	6 6	5 7

Add the remaining sharps and flats

- Now add the remaining sharps and flats to these enharmonic key signatures.

The diagram illustrates the relationship between enharmonic key signatures. At the top, a curved line contains the notes Db, Gb, and Cb. Below this line, three lines of musical notation are shown, each consisting of a treble and bass clef staff. The first line of notation is for the key signature of C major (no sharps or flats). The second line of notation is for the key signature of F major (one sharp, F#). The third line of notation is for the key signature of C minor (three flats, Bb, Eb, Ab). Lines connect the notes Db, Gb, and Cb to the first line of notation, and the notes C#, F#, and B to the second line of notation. This indicates that Db is enharmonic to C#, Gb is enharmonic to F#, and Cb is enharmonic to B.



Key signatures in order

- Start with G and fill in the sharp key signatures at the bottom of the page – in order, then do the flats starting with F.

Musical notation showing the sharp key signatures in order: G, D, A, E, B, F#, C#. The notation consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a series of notes corresponding to the key signature.

Musical notation showing the flat key signatures in order: F, B \flat , E \flat , A \flat , D \flat , G \flat , C \flat . The notation consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of one flat (B \flat) and a series of notes corresponding to the key signature.

Knowing your **KEY SIGNATURES**

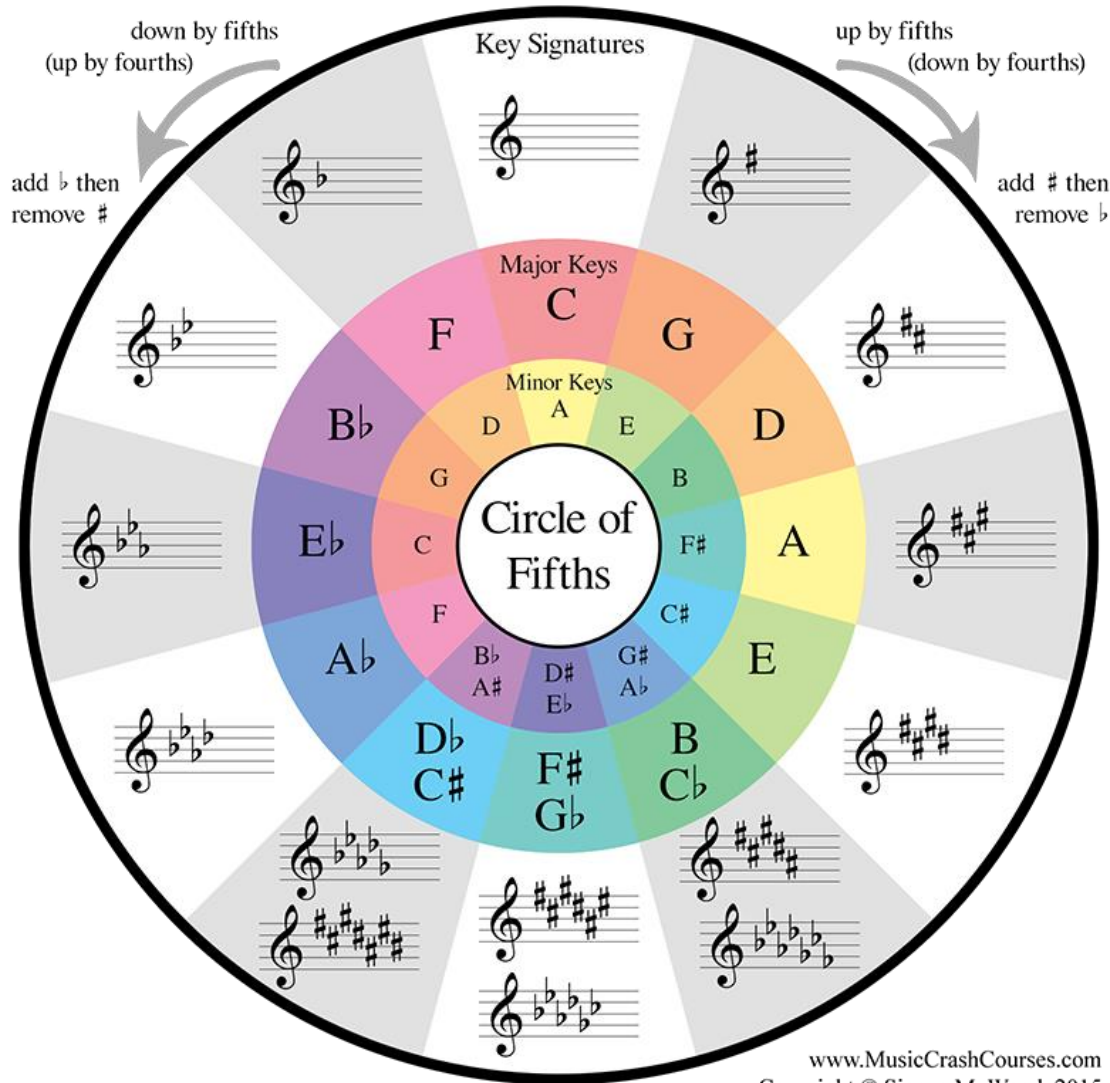
The Circle of Fifths

Minor Key Signatures

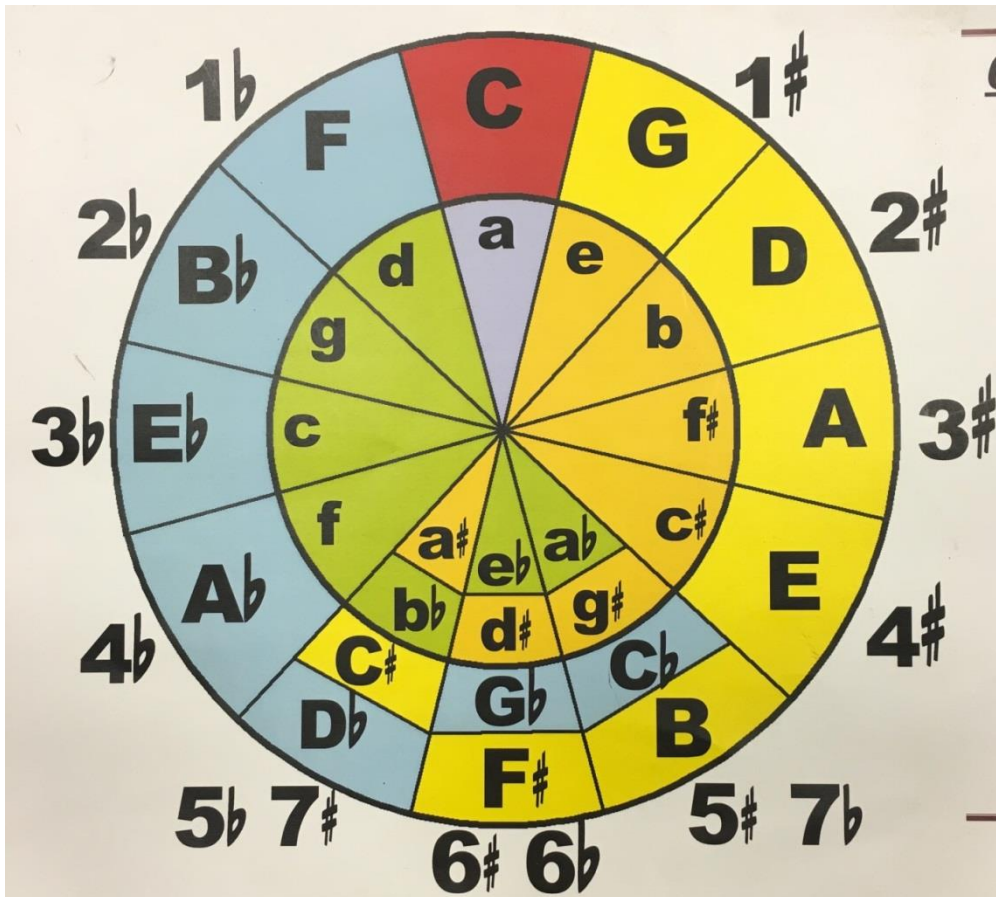
Learning the Minor Key Signatures

- There are two ways to describe minor key signatures as they relate to major key signatures.
 - Parallel Minor: Where the major and minor keys share the same NAME.
 - **C Major** and **c minor**
 - Relative Minor: Where the major and minor keys share the same KEY SIGNATURE.
 - **C Major** and **a minor**
- Let's look at that same wheel again...

The Circle of Fifths



Parallel vs. Relative



- **C Major** and **c minor** are different places on the wheel and so have different key signatures but the fact that they share the same starting note [name/tonic] we call them **PARALLEL** keys.
- **C Major** and **a minor** are directly adjacent and share the same key signature so they are **RELATED** in that way.

How do we find the Relative minor Tonic/Starting Note?

- The way we figure this out is that you go down a m3 (minor 3rd) or three ½-steps and that's its name.
 - Starting note is \emptyset . B is 1st, B \flat is 2nd, A is the 3rd

G G# A A# B C C# D D# E F F# G

