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Basic Elements of Reading and Writing Music

Stephen Hill

K-12 Band and Orchestra

Whittier Christian Schools and California High School


SARAHTIM Music Publishing




This series of 40 videos and accompanying worksheets was designed to introduce my students to the basic vocabulary and fundamental elements of reading and writing music. It is not intended as an in-depth study of all that Music Theory entails.

Though written with my students in mind and from the perspective of how I presented the concepts, the videos and worksheets are available to anyone who may find them helpful.

You can view the video tutorials and download the PDF worksheets from my website at www.stephenhillcomposer.com under *Resources*. The videos are also viewable on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@stephenhillcomposer>.

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About the Composer...**Stephen Hill** (b. 1958) was born and raised in Southern California. He studied composition with Philip Westin at Cerritos College (CA), W. Francis McBeth at Ouachita Baptist University (Arkansas), and Byong Kon Kim at California State University, Los Angeles. Stephen's studies with these composers connect him to a lineage that includes their teachers, Roy Harris, Ingolf Dahl, Clifton Williams, Bernard Rogers, Bernhard Heiden, and Howard Hanson. Stephen composes for the simple joy of it.

For over 40 years, Stephen taught K-12 instrumental music in the Private Christian School (Whittier Christian) and Public School (California High School) settings. Although semi-retired, Stephen continues to work with students by teaching part-time at California High School and maintaining his private music studio, where he plays and teaches Woodwinds, Brass, Strings, and Piano. Stephen also plays with the church orchestra where he attends. When teaching full-time, he was primarily a "summer" composer. No longer teaching full-time, Stephen has the privilege of composing beyond just the summer months and publishes through his company, SARAHTIM — a title that comes from simply combining the names of his daughter, Sarah, and son, Timothy. (*Notes by Dr. John Burdett, Azusa Pacific University*)

“Where there is devotional music, God is always at hand with His gracious presence.” J.S.Bach

“The Lord is my shepherd...” (Psalm 23)

To listen to Stephen's music, view pdf and video scores visit:
www.stephenhillcomposer.com


SARAHTIM Music Publishing


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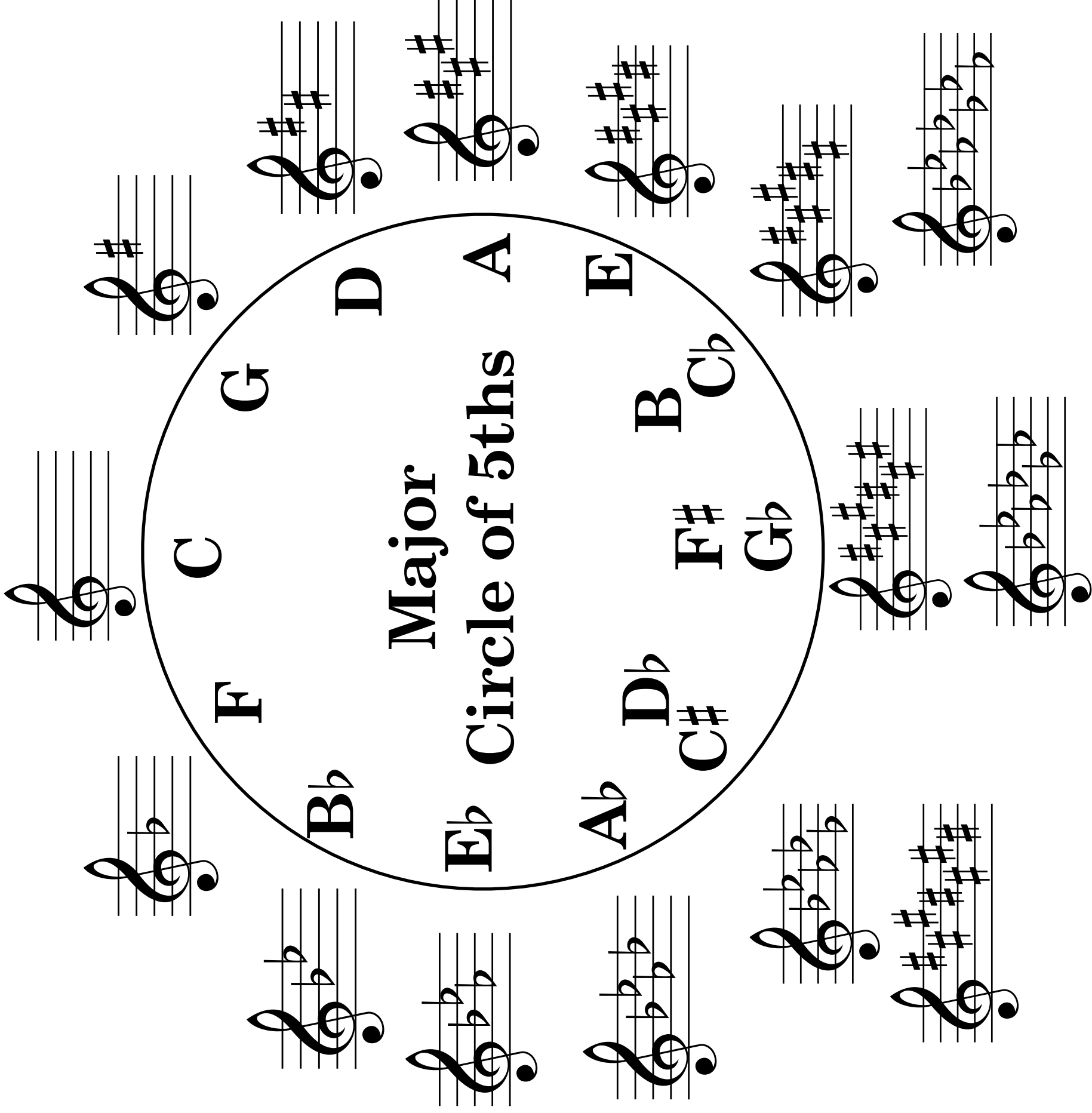
Basic Elements of Reading and Writing Music

36.

Introducing the Circle of Fifths
(Line of Fifths)

Stephen Hill
K-12 Band and Orchestra
Whittier Christian Schools and California High School

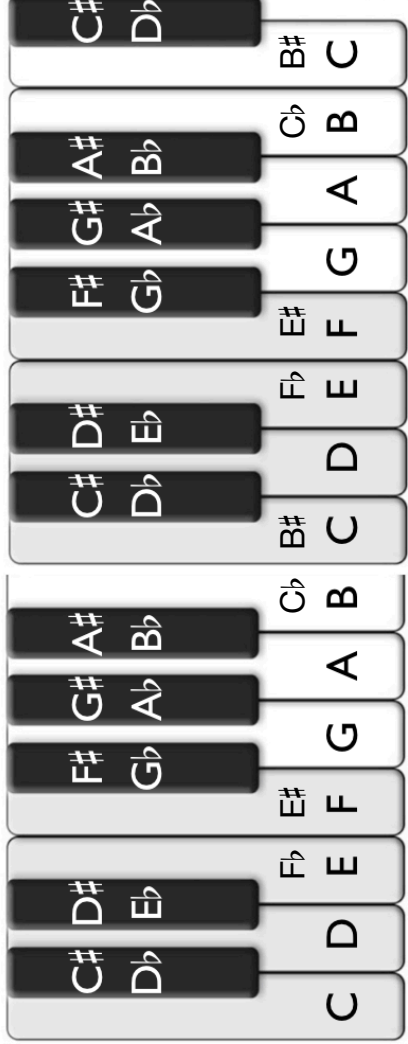

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Major Keys

Flats

If you can remember everything is just “5” letter names away, all you have to remember is the letter “C”. Once you have “C”, go 5 letter names to the left and add 1 flat. The order of flats start with “B $\flat$ ”.



Sharps

If you can remember everything is just “5” letter names away, all you have to remember is the letter “C”. Once you have “C”, go 5 letter names to the right and add 1 sharp. The order of sharps start with “F $\sharp$ ”.

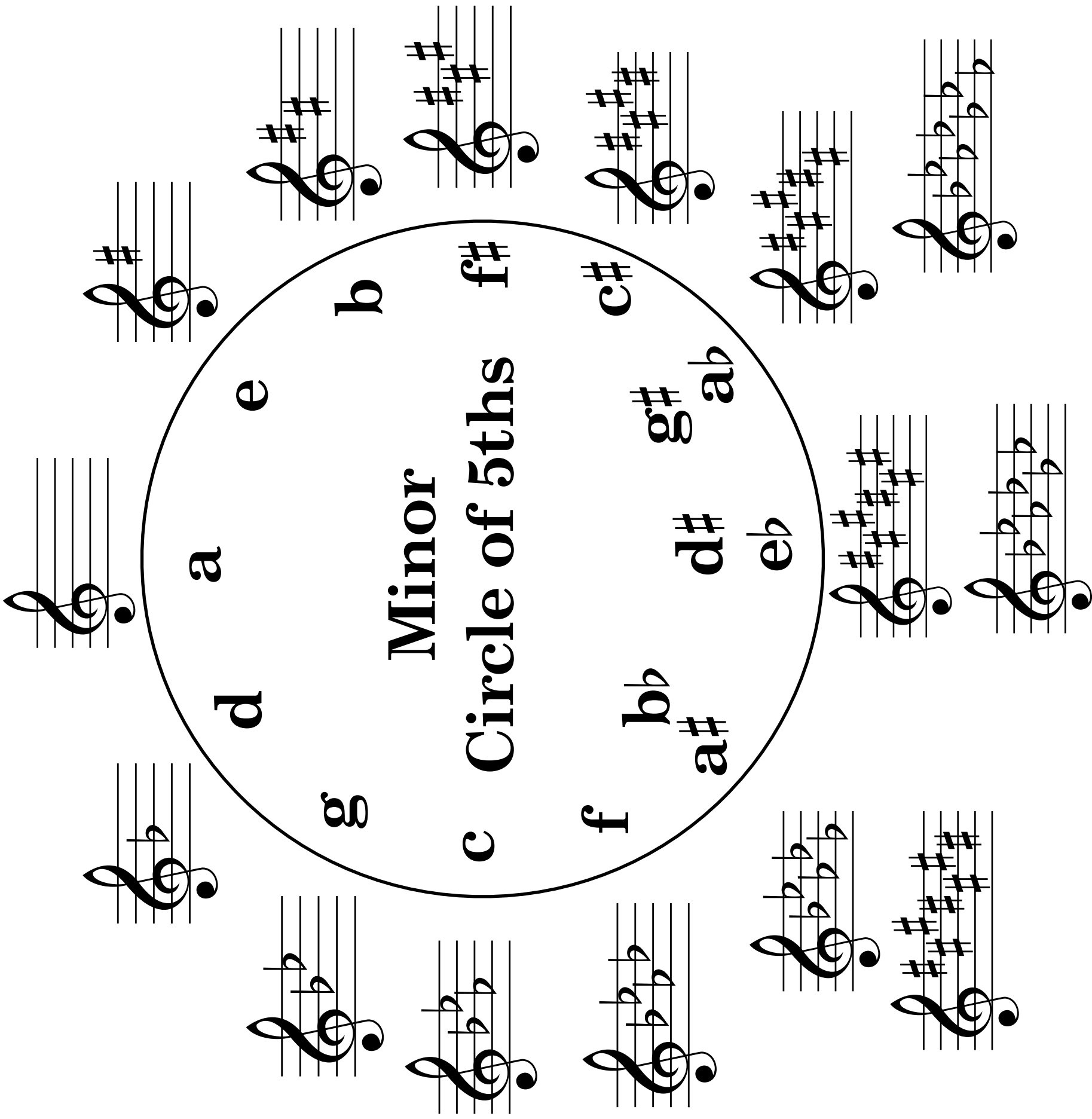
Number of Flats

7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
C $\flat$	G $\flat$	D $\flat$	A $\flat$	E $\flat$	B $\flat$	F $\flat$	C	G	D	A	E	B	F $\sharp$	C $\sharp$

B $\flat$	B $\flat$	B $\flat$	B $\flat$	B $\flat$	B $\flat$	B $\flat$	B $\flat$	B $\flat$	B $\flat$	B $\flat$	B $\flat$	B $\flat$	B $\flat$	B $\flat$
E $\flat$	E $\flat$	E $\flat$	E $\flat$	E $\flat$	E $\flat$	E $\flat$	E $\flat$	E $\flat$	E $\flat$	E $\flat$	E $\flat$	E $\flat$	E $\flat$	E $\flat$
A $\flat$	A $\flat$	A $\flat$	A $\flat$	A $\flat$	A $\flat$	A $\flat$	A $\flat$	A $\flat$	A $\flat$	A $\flat$	A $\flat$	A $\flat$	A $\flat$	A $\flat$
D $\flat$	D $\flat$	D $\flat$	D $\flat$	D $\flat$	D $\flat$	D $\flat$	D $\flat$	D $\flat$	D $\flat$	D $\flat$	D $\flat$	D $\flat$	D $\flat$	D $\flat$
G $\flat$	G $\flat$	G $\flat$	G $\flat$	G $\flat$	G $\flat$	G $\flat$	G $\flat$	G $\flat$	G $\flat$	G $\flat$	G $\flat$	G $\flat$	G $\flat$	G $\flat$
C $\flat$	C $\flat$	C $\flat$	C $\flat$	C $\flat$	C $\flat$	C $\flat$	C $\flat$	C $\flat$	C $\flat$	C $\flat$	C $\flat$	C $\flat$	C $\flat$	C $\flat$
F $\flat$	F $\flat$	F $\flat$	F $\flat$	F $\flat$	F $\flat$	F $\flat$	F $\flat$	F $\flat$	F $\flat$	F $\flat$	F $\flat$	F $\flat$	F $\flat$	F $\flat$

Number of Sharps

F $\sharp$	F $\sharp$	F $\sharp$	F $\sharp$	F $\sharp$	F $\sharp$	F $\sharp$	F $\sharp$	F $\sharp$	F $\sharp$	F $\sharp$	F $\sharp$	F $\sharp$	F $\sharp$	F $\sharp$
C $\sharp$	C $\sharp$	C $\sharp$	C $\sharp$	C $\sharp$	C $\sharp$	C $\sharp$	C $\sharp$	C $\sharp$	C $\sharp$	C $\sharp$	C $\sharp$	C $\sharp$	C $\sharp$	C $\sharp$
G $\sharp$	G $\sharp$	G $\sharp$	G $\sharp$	G $\sharp$	G $\sharp$	G $\sharp$	G $\sharp$	G $\sharp$	G $\sharp$	G $\sharp$	G $\sharp$	G $\sharp$	G $\sharp$	G $\sharp$
D $\sharp$	D $\sharp$	D $\sharp$	D $\sharp$	D $\sharp$	D $\sharp$	D $\sharp$	D $\sharp$	D $\sharp$	D $\sharp$	D $\sharp$	D $\sharp$	D $\sharp$	D $\sharp$	D $\sharp$
A $\sharp$	A $\sharp$	A $\sharp$	A $\sharp$	A $\sharp$	A $\sharp$	A $\sharp$	A $\sharp$	A $\sharp$	A $\sharp$	A $\sharp$	A $\sharp$	A $\sharp$	A $\sharp$	A $\sharp$
E $\sharp$	E $\sharp$	E $\sharp$	E $\sharp$	E $\sharp$	E $\sharp$	E $\sharp$	E $\sharp$	E $\sharp$	E $\sharp$	E $\sharp$	E $\sharp$	E $\sharp$	E $\sharp$	E $\sharp$
B $\sharp$	B $\sharp$	B $\sharp$	B $\sharp$	B $\sharp$	B $\sharp$	B $\sharp$	B $\sharp$	B $\sharp$	B $\sharp$	B $\sharp$	B $\sharp$	B $\sharp$	B $\sharp$	B $\sharp$

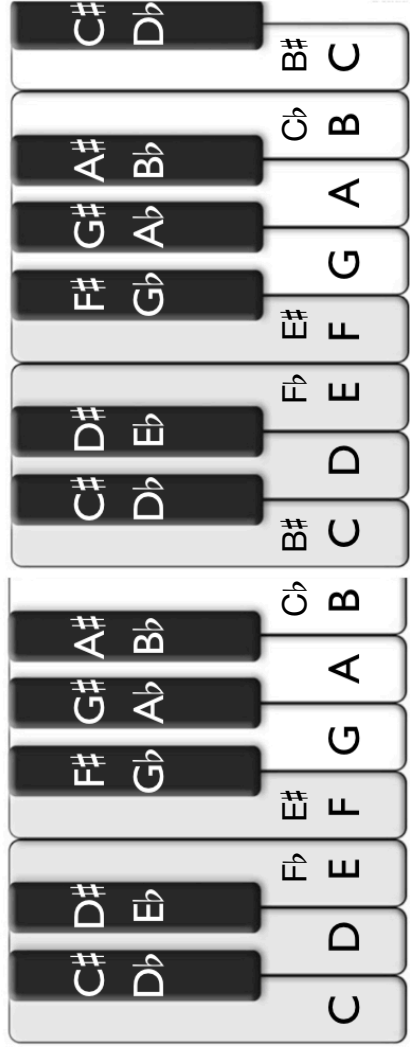


Minor Keys

Remember the minor key is 3 letter names below the major

Flats

If you can remember everything is just “5” letter names away, all you have to remember is the letter “a”. Once you have “a”, go 5 letter names to the left and add 1 flat. The order of flats start with “B”.



Sharps

If you can remember everything is just “5” letter names away, all you have to remember is the letter “a”. Once you have “a”, go 5 letter names to the right and add 1 sharp. The order of sharps start with “F”.

Number of Flats

7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
a^b e^b b^b f c g d a e b f[#] c[#] g[#] d[#] a[#]

Number of Sharps

