



Choir Virtual Learning

# Men's Choir Music Theory

April 28th, 2020



# Men's Choir

Lesson: Music Theory

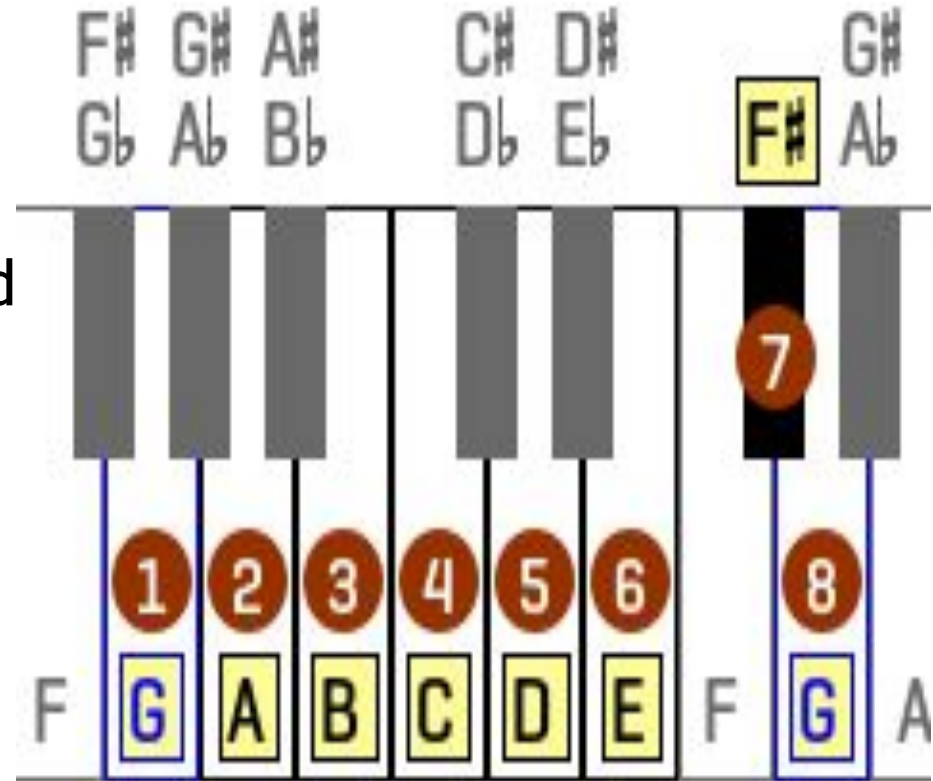
## **Objective/Learning Target:**

Students will be able to sight read a passage, and learn to identify the key of G on a piano keyboard

## Warm Up/Bellwork

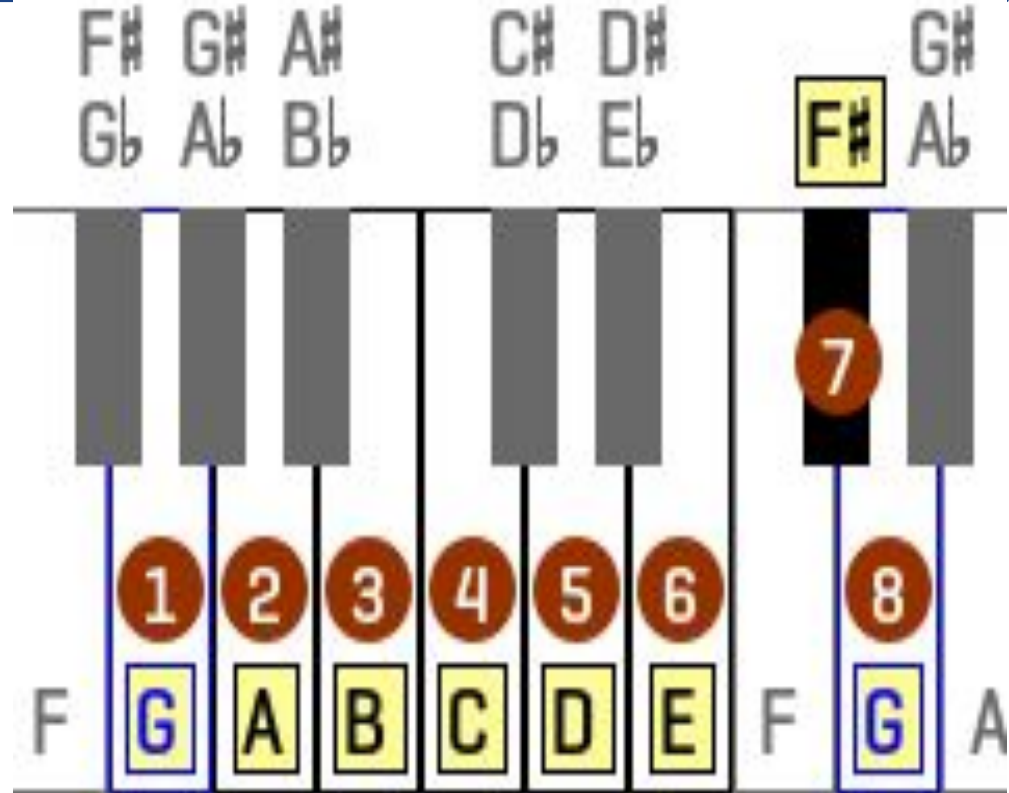
1. Pick one or two warm ups that are your favorite from class and try to sing them to warm yourself up vocally.
2. Practice finding the following notes on the piano found at: <https://virtualpiano.net/> G, B, D, F#(Answers at the end) If you need help, there is a diagram on the next slide that will guide you.

These are the notes, in order, of the G Major scale. You should take time and use the virtual piano app to make sure that you get a good feel for how the scale is layed out.



## How is the Scale Built?

Every scale is built on  $\frac{1}{2}$  and whole steps. In the diagram, you can see that between G and A, there is a note in between (the black key). This makes it a whole step. Between B and C, in contrast, there is no note in between. This is a  $\frac{1}{2}$  step.



## What is the Pattern?

Now it's your turn to practice! Using the diagram on the previous page, find out where the  $\frac{1}{2}$  steps and where the whole steps are.

Answer: G-A Whole, A-B Whole, B-C Half, C-D Whole, D-E Whole, E-F# Whole, F#-G Half.

That pattern will be the same for every major key going forward. It also helps if you think about this solfege diagram.



## G Major Lesson

The key of G Major is on the opposite side side of the spectrum from the F Major scale. In its key signature, there is 1 sharp. The rule for sharp keys is that we look for the last sharp and move up to the next note in the scale. How do we remember the last sharp names? There is an acronym: Fat Cats Go Down Alleys Eating Bugs. The beginning letters of each word are the last sharps in every sharp key. Fat is the first word. The note after F is G, so we are in the key of G. Here is a video that explains the G Major Scale (Note: He uses Tone and semitone instead of whole and  $\frac{1}{2}$  step):

<https://youtu.be/Z7MOfK6Bzh0?t=23>



## G Major Practice

On a separate piece of paper, list out the notes, in order, of the the G Major scale. (You can refer to the image on slide 4)

After doing this, assign the proper solfege syllables to each note. (Ex. G would be “Do”, A would be “Re”, B=”Mi”)

Now play a “G” on the piano app and try to sing the scale



## Practice

The image shows a musical score for a practice passage. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. Both staves are in 4/4 time and the key signature has one sharp (F#), indicating D major. The music begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking. The melody in the treble staff starts on D4, moves to E4, then F#4, and continues with a sequence of notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5. The bass staff provides a simple accompaniment, starting on D3 and moving up stepwise to D4, with some notes held for two beats. The passage ends with a double bar line.

Try sight-reading this passage. Use these steps:

1. Chant (Don't sing) the solfege in the tempo you will sing it Hint: It starts on "Do" (2 min)
2. Try singing it with solfege from start to finish.
3. Find out what to fix from step 2 and chant it. (2 min) Repeat step 2.

## Warm Up/Bellwork Answers

Answers to 2.



C Major Practice: G, A, B, C, D, E, F#, G  
Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti Do



Solfège answers:

Do, Mi, Sol, Sol, Mi, Re, Do, Ti, Do