Men's Choir
Piano Lesson

April 17th, 2020

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Objective/Learning Target: The Student will be able to identify notes of the keyboard, whole and half steps.

Warm Up

In a previous lesson, you learned how to play the C Major scale. Open https://virtualpiano.net/ and practice playing every C, E, and G from the bottom of the piano to the top.

Watch this tutorial on the music note names:
https://youtu.be/zvuNlN9WBYc

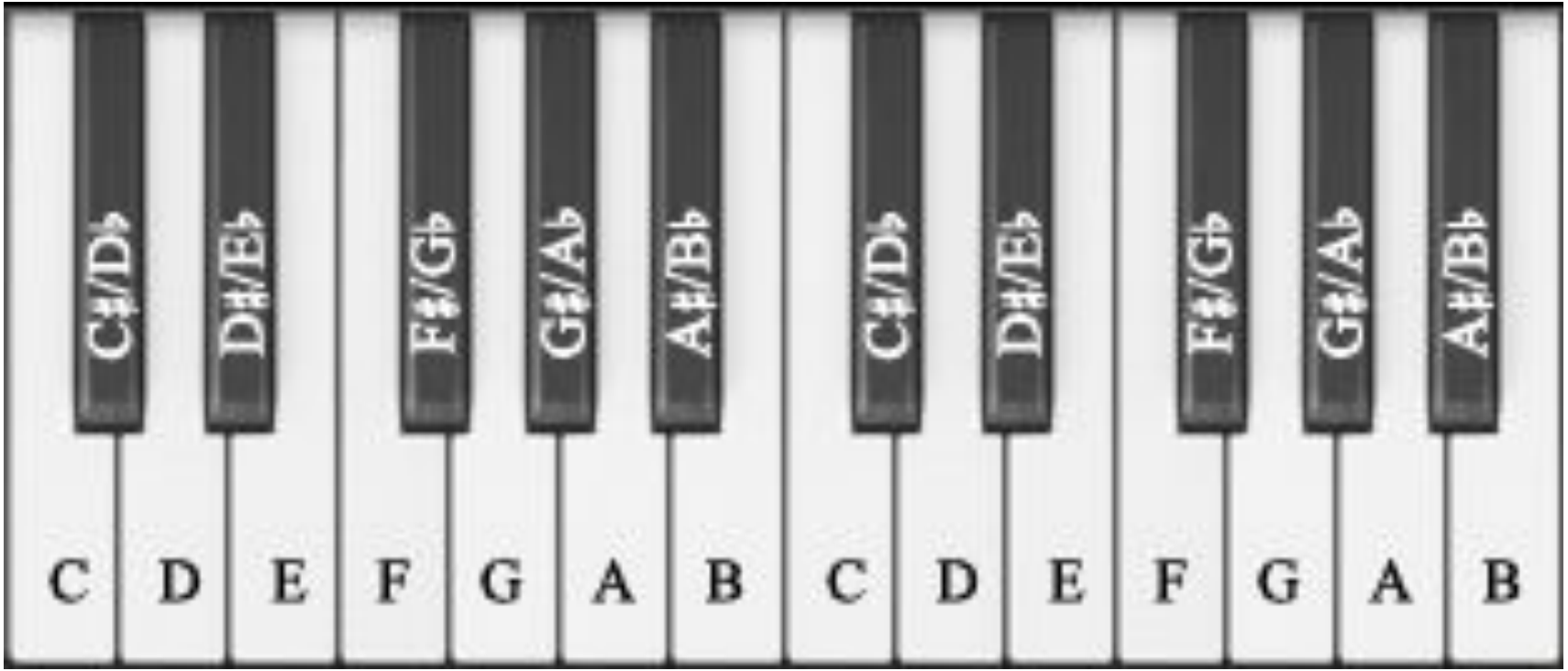
Try to label all the white keys of the piano. For help, refer to the previous slide. Remember that the musical alphabet goes from A-G and then it restarts.

Whole Steps vs Half Steps

In the lesson from Tuesday, we covered whole steps and half steps. Remember that every major scale is built on the same pattern: Whole, Whole, Half, Whole, Whole,Whole, Half.

What wasn't covered is the fact that the piano keys are built in half steps. Skipping a note in between two keys creates a whole step. The next slide will show you all the labels of the keys. B-C and E-F are special cases because there is no black key in between them, so they are natural half steps.

The Chromatic Keyboard



Why are there two names?

The reason that some keys have two names is because in different key signatures, they could be sharp or flat. For example, C# gets used in the key of D Major to create that last half step, but in the key of Ab Major, the same key is used as a Db. This is called being **enharmonic.**

Individual Practice

Now what you should to is practice playing every half step from C-C. After you get comfortable playing them, start saying the names of the keys. On the way up, use the sharp names and on the way down, use the flat names.

Ex: C C# D D# etc and on the way down C B Bb A Ab

If you need help at first, refer to slide 6

Additional Practice

For additional practice, you should go from the bottom of the keyboard to the top playing and saying each note. Put yourself on a metronome and see how fast you can get from bottom to top and back down.