

Choir Virtual Learning

Women's Choir/Intro to the Piano

April 17, 2020



Lesson: April 17, 2020

Objective/Learning Target: Students will be able to identify the notes on the keyboard, whole and half steps, play a chromatic scale.

Bell Work:

Click on this link to access a piano. <https://virtualpiano.net/>

On the piano play the following:

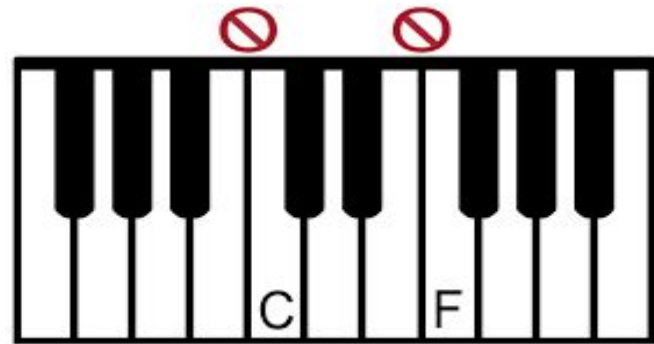
1. Play each set of 2 black keys from the bottom of the keyboard to the top.
2. Play each set of 3 black keys from the bottom of the keyboard to the top.

Getting Started!

Watch the video below for a quick tutorial on the piano.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvuNIN9WBYc>

After watching the video: Use the virtual keyboard to find all of the C's and F's on the piano.



Key Names on the Piano

We are already aware that the musical alphabet is A-G. You can see in the figure below that this is true for all of the white keys on the piano.

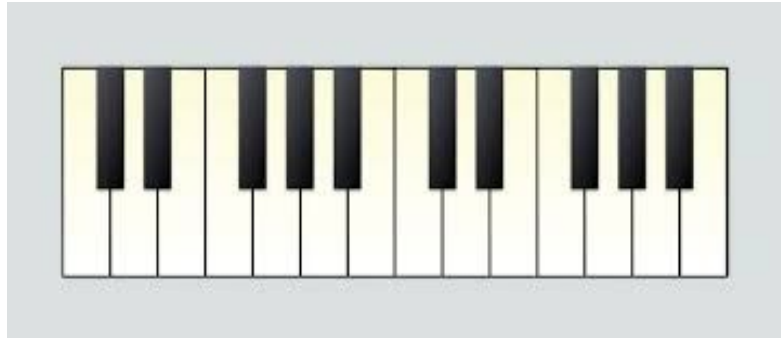


Once you reach the letter G, you start over at A and go continuously through the alphabet for all the white keys. The figure below illustrates this but starts on C instead of A. Notice where the white keys are in relation to the black keys.



Practice!

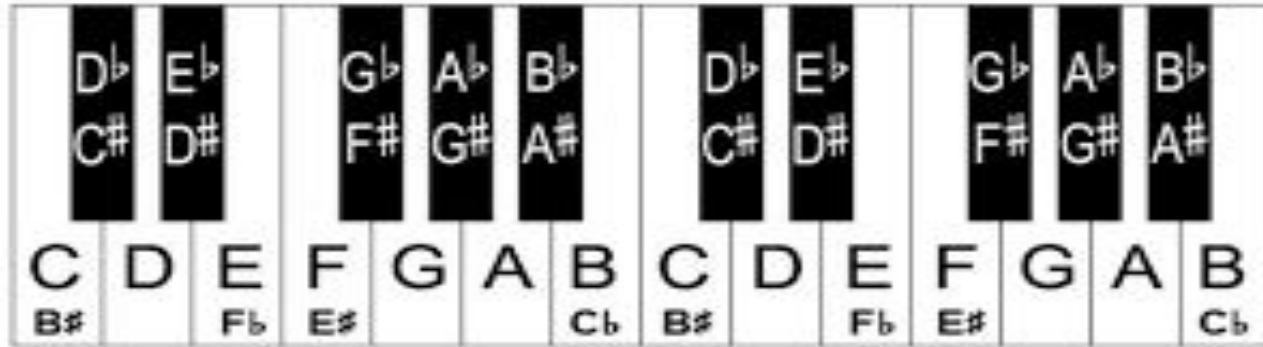
Starting with C at the far left/bottom of the keyboard, name all of the white keys on your own.



Adding Black Keys

As stated in the video, the black keys are white notes that are raised (sharped) or lowered (flatted). Each black key will have a sharp and a flat letter name depending on what note is directly above or below it. There are some cases that this applies to just white keys as well. The white notes impacted are B,C,E and F. This occurs because there are no black keys between these notes. The illustration on the next slide demonstrates this.

Piano Keys and Notes



www.Piano-Keyboard-Guide.com

What do I call them when playing?

When you **ascend** up the keyboard, you will use the **sharp** letter names.

When you **descend** down the keyboard, you will use the **flat** letter names.

***When you play all of the notes in succession from C to the next C, you are playing what is called a chromatic scale. ***

Practice!

On your virtual keyboard. Play a chromatic scale from C-C AND speak or sing the note names as you play.

Remember- sharps going up and flats coming down.

Ex for ascending. C, C#, D, D# etc

Ex for descending. C, B, Bb, A, Ab etc.

Refer to the previous slide if needed.

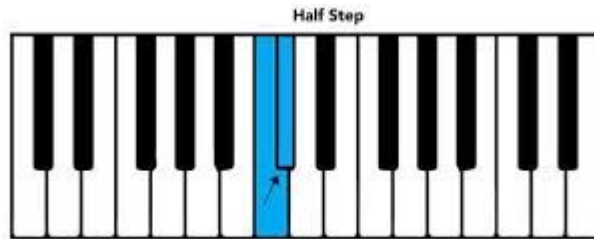
Lesson Check

Answer the following:

- Can you correctly name the white and black keys?
- Can you play a chromatic scale while naming/singing notes?
- If the keyboard was blank, could you fill in the letter names?
- Can you find all of the C's and F's?

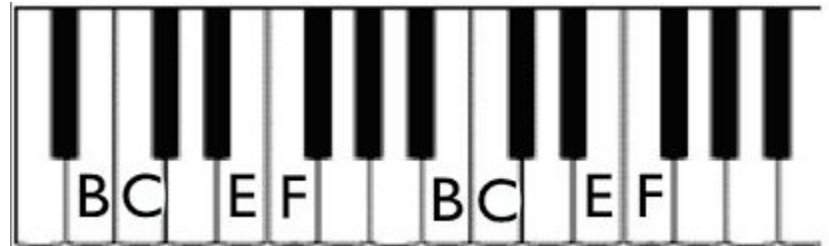
Half Steps

Half steps on the piano are notes that are directly above or below one another. When you played the chromatic scale, you played ALL half steps. Any white key to a black key directly above or below is a half step.



Half Steps Cont..

There are 2 instances on white keys where you can find half steps. Those notes are B,C and E,F.



Practice!

On your virtual piano, practice finding all of the B,C's and E,F's on the keyboard. Speak or sing the letter names as you play.

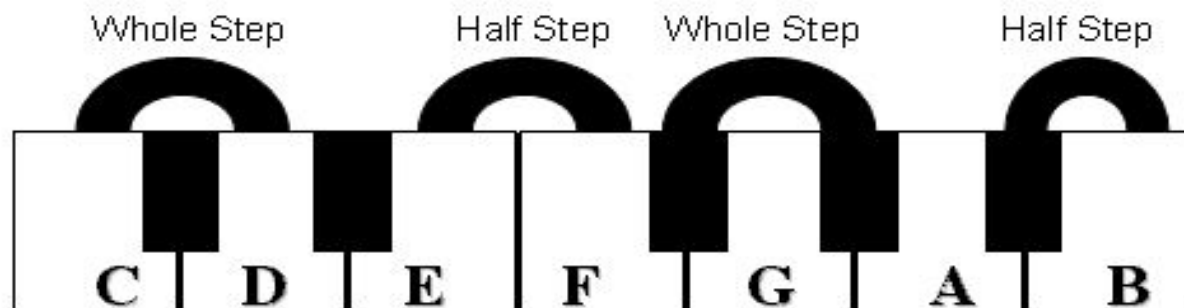
Whole Steps

Whole steps are made up of 2 half steps. With whole steps, you will skip playing one half step. See the illustration on the next slide.

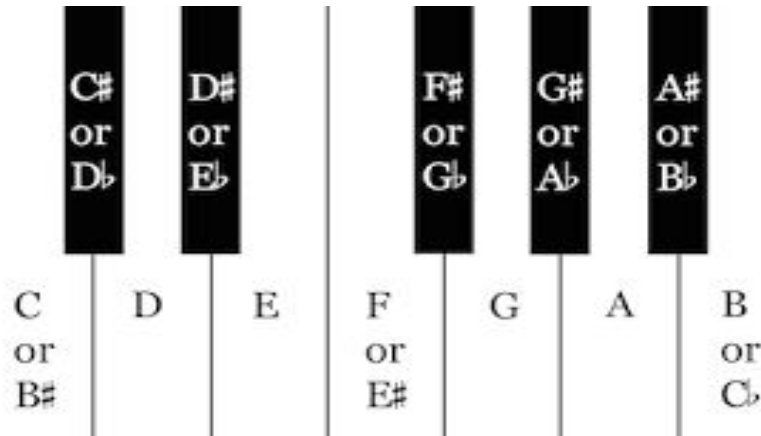
"Half Steps & Whole Steps"

A **Half Step** is from key to key
With **NO** keys in between,

A **Whole Step** always skips a key
With **ONE** key in between.



All of the black keys played with skipping one white key are whole steps. There is one white key in between each black key. Practice playing the whole steps using only black keys on the keyboard. Speak/Sing note names as you play.



When you play whole steps on white keys, there should be a black key in between.

Exceptions: B to C is a half step. B to C# is a whole step. E to F is a half step. E to F# is a whole step. Instead of skipping a black key for these examples, you will skip a white key.

You must make sure when playing whole steps that there is one half step you skip. Practice the exceptions above on your keyboard. Speak/sing the note names as you play.

Lesson Recap- I can.....

- Label the letter names of the notes on the piano.
- Play a chromatic scale
- Play a half step both up and down beginning on any note.
- Play a whole step both up and down beginning on any note.
- Find all the C's and F's on the keyboard

Extra Practice!

Label this keyboard with the correct letter names.

Play and sing a chromatic scale.

Find random half steps on the piano.

Find random whole steps on the piano.

Sing both half and whole steps.



The End!

