



# Choir Virtual Learning

## Women's Choir/Building Scales

April 21, 2020

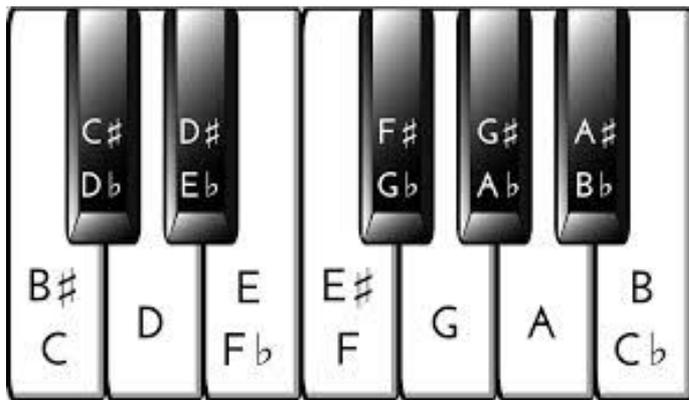


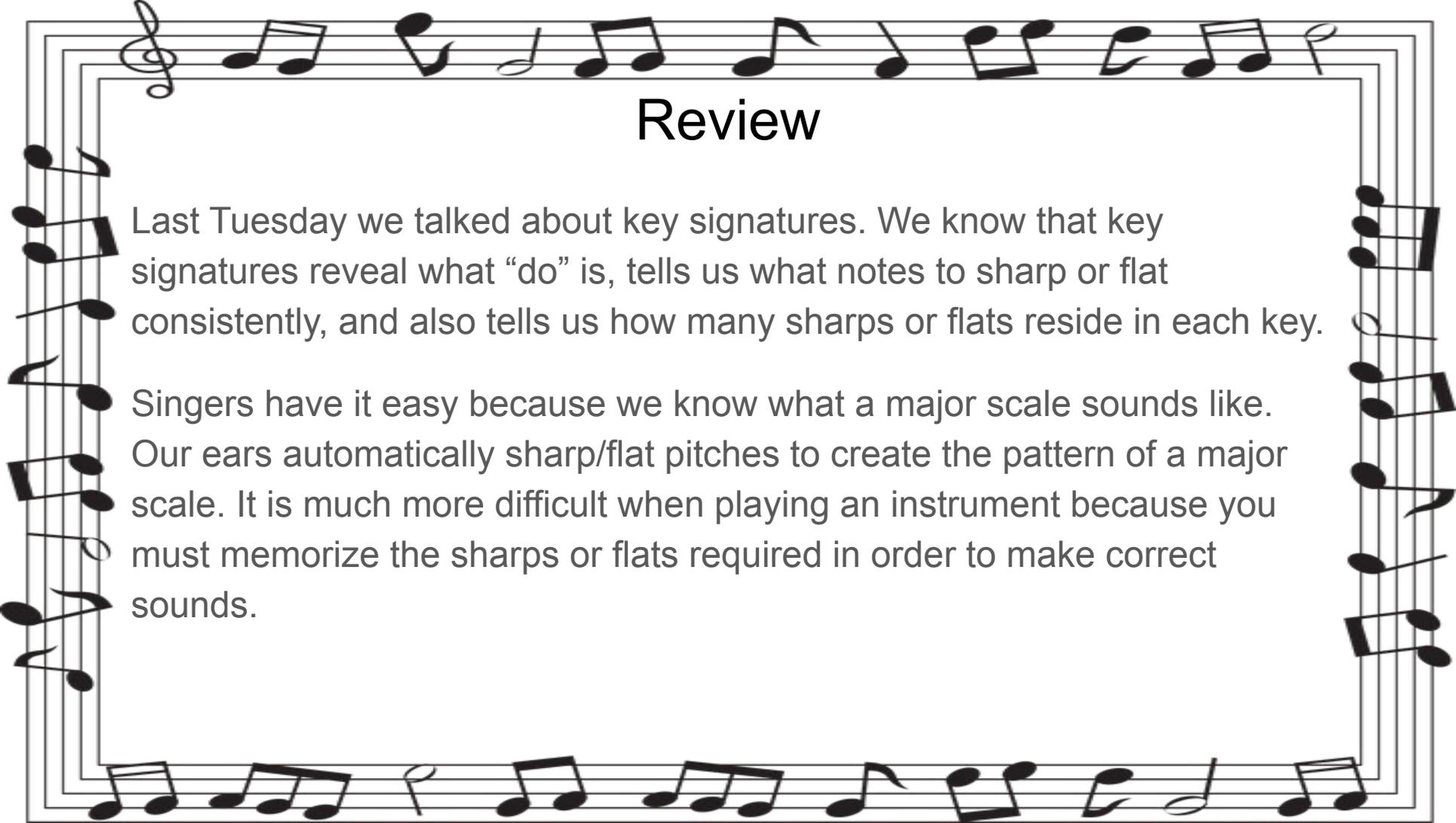
Lesson: April 21, 2020

**Objective/Learning Target: Students will be introduced to the pattern for building major scales, be able to apply that pattern to the key of C, F and G, and play/sing on the piano.**

# Bell Work:

1. Access the virtual piano here: <https://virtualpiano.net/>
2. Name 25 correct key signatures here:  
<https://www.musictheory.net/exercises/keysig>
3. Review the names of the notes on the keyboard below:



A decorative border of musical notation surrounds the text. It features a treble clef at the top left, a bass clef at the bottom left, and various notes, rests, and stems arranged in a rectangular frame.

## Review

Last Tuesday we talked about key signatures. We know that key signatures reveal what “do” is, tells us what notes to sharp or flat consistently, and also tells us how many sharps or flats reside in each key.

Singers have it easy because we know what a major scale sounds like. Our ears automatically sharp/flat pitches to create the pattern of a major scale. It is much more difficult when playing an instrument because you must memorize the sharps or flats required in order to make correct sounds.

# Proving That Theory (no pun intended)

Perform the experiment below:

1. Play a B on the keyboard and call that “Do.” Sing that pitch so it is established as “Do” in your head.
2. Sing a major scale acapella without the piano.
3. Now try to play the major scale on the piano starting on B.

What are your findings?

Chances are you nailed the scale when singing and made several mistakes when playing. Why?

# The Answer is in the Pattern

In order for one to play a scale with as much ease as you sing one, you must know the following:

1. How many sharps or flats are in that key? In the key of B there are 5 sharps.
2. What are those sharps or flats? The 5 sharps required in the key of B are C#, D#, F#, G# and A#. aka. All of the black keys.
3. But why those? It's a pattern of whole and half steps that can be applied to any note on the keyboard to create the major scales we sing every day in class.
4. Try playing the scale again knowing the correct notes. B, C#, D#, E, F#, G#, A#, B.

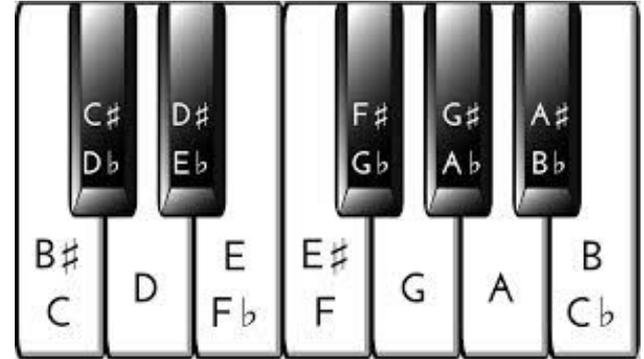
# Review of Half and Whole Steps

Before we look at the pattern, review quickly playing half and whole steps on the piano. Remember, half steps are notes that are directly above or below each other and as close as you can get on the piano. Wholes steps are made up of two half steps, so you will skip a white or black key when playing whole steps.

Ex. C to Db is a half step.

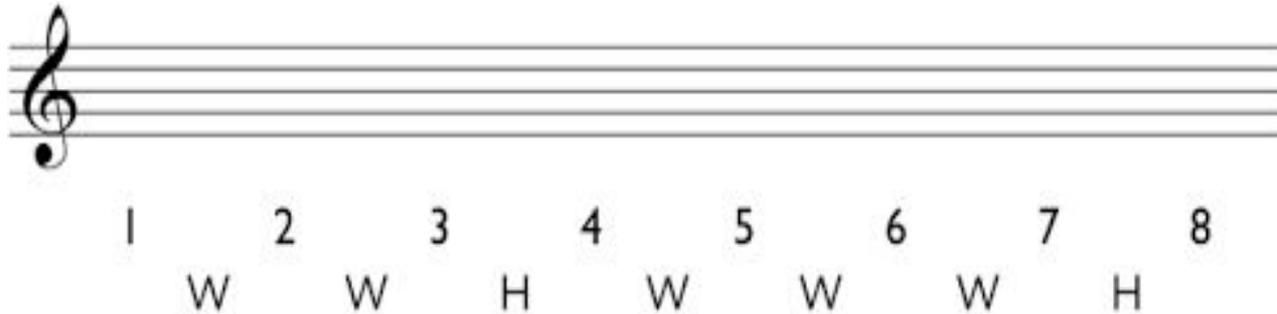
Ex. C to D is a whole step.

Take a minute to practice other half and whole steps.



# The Pattern of a Major Scale

Once you have a handle on half/whole steps and key signatures, the pattern will make sense and you can begin building scales beginning on any note. Here is the pattern. The numbers indicate notes in the scale and correspond with Do, Re, Mi, Fa, So, La, Ti, Do. Ex. 1=Do, 2=Re, 3=Mi. W=whole step and H= Half Step



# Memorize

Please memorize the pattern by chanting, “whole, whole, half, whole, whole, whole, half” 5 times.

Let’s go back to our B Major Scale. Instead of looking at note names, let’s play it again and look at half and whole steps. Starting on B, play the major scale speaking the pattern you just memorized as you play.

Note: There are only two half steps in every major scale. They are located between scale degrees 3 and 4 (mi, fa), and 7 and 8 (ti, do). The rest are whole steps.

Once you have this pattern memorized, you can play any major scale.

# Practice!

Using the pattern, let's see if you can spell 3 other major scales. By spell, we mean to write out or speak aloud the notes of the scale. Do not use the piano for this activity. Also, think about the key signature of each key? How many sharps/flats does this key have? That will help you when spelling the scale.

Key of C



Key of F

Key of G

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
W W H W W W H

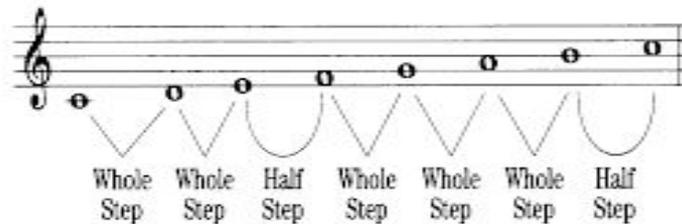
# Key of C

How did it go? Compare your answers with mine.

Correct Spelling= C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C

If you look at the key signature for the key of C, you will notice there are NO sharps or flats in this key. This means you will play all white keys from C to C and that there are no accidentals needed to create the pattern in this key. Play and sing the note names as you play.

## *C Major Scale*

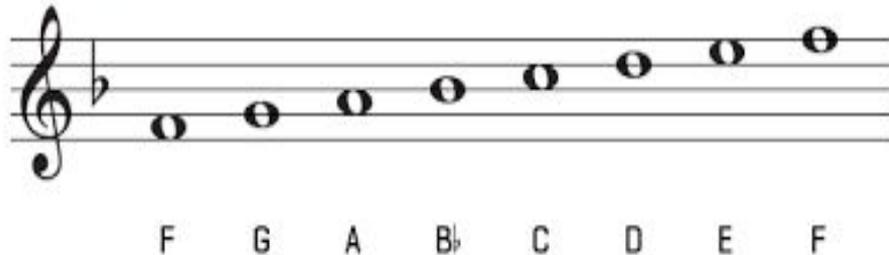


# Key of F

Correct Spelling: F, G, A, B $\flat$ , C, D, E, F

The key of F requires us to utilize one flat to create the half step between A and B $\flat$  and the whole step from B $\flat$  to C. That matches the key signature of one flat and that flat is on the B line. Play and sing the note names for the key of F. If it gets to high, you can drop the octave to make it more comfortable to sing.

**F major scale (treble clef)**



# Key of G

Correct Spelling= G, A, B, C, D, E, F#, G

The key signature for G has one sharp, which is F#. We need to sharp the F to create a whole step from E to F# and also create the half step from F# to G. Play and sing the note names of this scale. Again, if it gets to high you can drop the octave.



The image shows the G major scale written on a treble clef staff. The notes are G, A, B, C, D, E, F#, and G. The F# is indicated by a sharp sign (#) next to the note. Below the staff, the note names are written: G, A, B, C, D, E, F#, G. A vertical watermark 'basicmusictheory.com' is visible on the left side of the staff.

**G major scale**

basicmusictheory.com

G A B C D E F# G

# Practice

Continue to practice playing scales for the keys of C, F, G. If you are mostly using your right hand to play scales, try your left.

Note: There are specific finger numbers that are used to play scales. That is more advanced than we need to get for our purposes here. If you would like to learn the correct finger patterns for the scales, you can look that up on your own.

# Further Application

Let's apply what we know about key signatures and the major scale pattern to other scales.

Spell these scales using your knowledge of key signatures and the pattern:

D Major:

Bb Major:

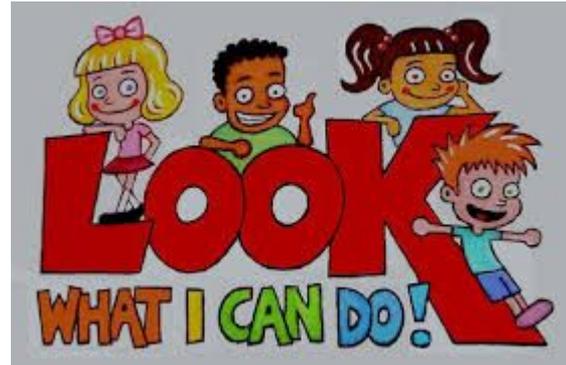
Once you have spelled them, try to play and sing them.

Answers to this slide will be at the end of this presentation.

# Lesson Review

Things I can do:

- Recite the pattern of whole and half steps for major scales by memory
- Spell a C, F, G major scale
- Play and sing a C, F, G major scale using the piano
- Experiment with using the pattern for other major scales not practiced specifically in this lesson.



Answers to slide 15:

D Major Spelling= D, E, F#, G, A, B, C# D

Bb Major Spelling= Bb, C, D, Eb, F, G, A, Bb



THANK  
YOU