

Things You Should Know

• Key Signatures

○ Sharps

- Order of Sharps: **F C G D A E B** (**F**at **C**ats **G**et **D**own **A**t **E**very **B**ar)
- Raise the last sharp in the key signature one half step to find the name of the Major key (ex. - If F# and C# are in the key signature, the key would be D Major)
- To find the number of sharps in a key whose name you already know, lower the name by a half step (ex. - A Major would have three sharps - F# C# G# - since G# is a half step lower than A)

○ Flats

- Order of Flats: **B E A D G C F** (**BEAD** Good **Cat** **Food** / Order of Sharps backwards)
- The second to last flat in the key signature is the name of the Major key (ex. - If Bb, Eb, and Ab are in the key signature, the key would be Eb major)
- You must remember that F Major has only Bb in its key signature, there is no second to last flat in this instance.
- To find the number of flats in a key whose name you already know, go one flat further than the name of the key (ex. - Ab Major would have four flats - Bb, Eb, Ab, and Db - since Db is one flat further than Ab)

• Chords

- Triads - Root, third, fifth (ex. - C, E, G)
- Seventh Chords - Root, third, fifth, seventh (ex. - C, E, G, B)
- Minor triad - Same as Major triad, but the third is lowered a half step (ex. - C, Eb, G)

• Chromatic Scale

- 12 note scale made up entirely of half steps

• Minor Keys

- Sounds dark/gloomy
- Relative minor - Shares key signature with a major key
 - The 6th scale degree of the Major scale is its relative minor (ex. - In C Major, the 6th scale degree is A, therefore a minor is the relative minor of C Major)
- Parallel minor - Shares its name with a major key, but not the same key signature
 - (ex. - C Major = no sharps or flats, while c minor = 3 flats)

• Minor Scales

- 3 Forms - Natural, Harmonic, and Melodic
 - Natural - Follow the key signature, no alterations to any notes
 - Harmonic - Follow the key signature, raise the 7th scale degree a half step both ascending and descending
 - Melodic - Follow the key signature, raise the 6th and 7th scale degree a half step ascending, but both are lowered to natural form when descending

• Counting Examples

○ Triplets and Syncopation

Musical notation in common time (C) showing triplets and syncopation. The first two measures feature triplets of eighth notes. The following measures show various syncopated rhythms with '+' signs indicating off-beats. The counting sequence below the staff is: 1 2 tri plet 3 4 tri plet 1 + + 3 + + 1 + a 2 e + 3 e a 4 e + a

○ Cut Time

Musical notation in cut time (C) showing various rhythmic patterns. The counting sequence below the staff is: 1 2 + 1 + a 2 e + 1 + - +

○ 6/8 Time

Musical notation in 6/8 time showing various rhythmic patterns. The counting sequence below the staff is: 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 6 + 1 3 4 5 1 + 3 4 + 6