

Key Signature

The sharps or flats at the start of a piece of music, showing what key the music is in.

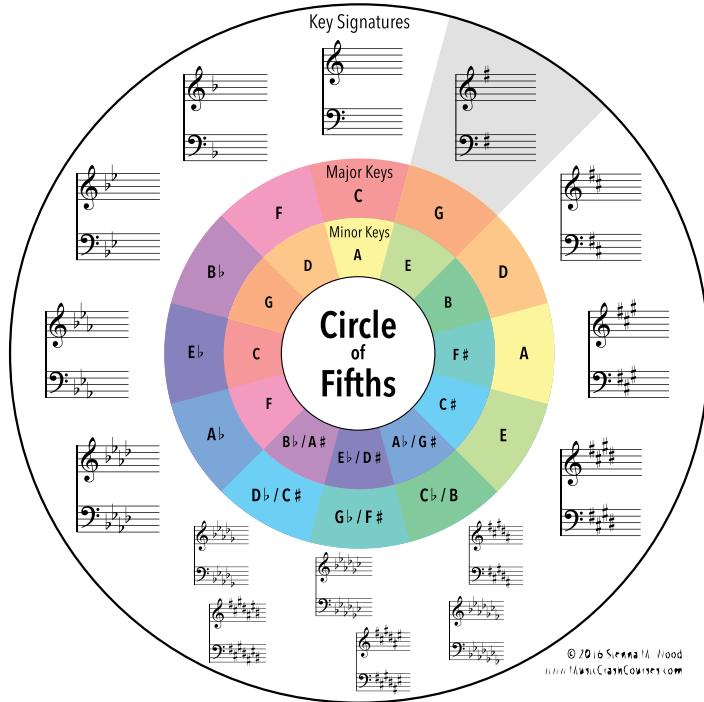
HARMONY & TONALITY

(The chords and keys used in the music)

Modulation

Musical word for key change. Most common changes: to **Dominant** or **relative Major/Minor**.

Major and Minor Key Signatures



*When you write music in a minor key you also need to raise the 7th note (leading note) up one small step - e.g. A minor uses G#, not Gs.

Identifying The Tonality...

- Tonal** - In a major or Minor Key
- Atonal** - There is no sense of key
- Modal** - Uses 'old-fashioned' scales called modes
- Pentatonic** - The music only uses 5 notes

Chords

- Triad** - A chord with three notes (See below)
- Power Chord** - Only playing the Root and Fifth of a triad (used in Rock music)
- Dissonance** - Clashing notes played together
- Consonance** - Notes that fit / sound nice together
- Primary Chords** - The three most commonly used chords used in music: I, IV, V
- Secondary Chords** - The other chords: II, III, VI, VII
- Chord Sequence** - The order the chords in a piece of music follow (containing cadences at the ends of phrases)

Cadences

The last two chords in a phrase. Only sounds 'complete' if ends on chord I.

Sounds Complete		
Perfect Cadence	V <i>Dominant</i>	I <i>Tonic</i>
Plagal Cadence	IV <i>Subdominant</i>	I <i>Tonic</i>
Sounds Incomplete		
Imperfect Cadence	I <i>Tonic</i>	V <i>Dominant</i>
Interrupted Cadence	V <i>Dominant</i>	<i>*Not chord I</i> Minor Chord

*Sometimes the final cadence of a piece in a minor key ends with a major chord instead of the expected minor chord. This effect is known as a **Tierce de Picardie**.

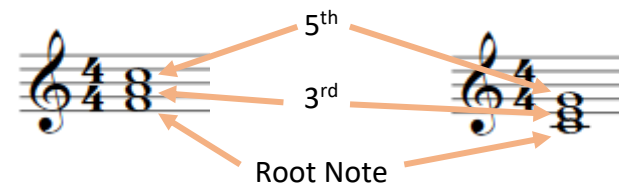
Diatonic

Music only uses notes that are found in the key signature of the piece

Chromatic

Music uses the notes found in the key of the piece but also adds in extra accidentals (# / b)

Triad A Chord with three notes:



Inversions Changing which note of a chord is the lowest sounding:

