

Explaining Music 9: Sharp Key Signatures – part 1

We've been looking at how to build **major scales** using their pattern of **tones** and **semitones**.

Another way to make a **major scale** is using a **key signature**. A **key signature** is the group of **sharps** or **flats** just after the **clef** that tells us what notes are always **sharp** or **flat** in the music.



To be able to do this we need to learn about how **sharps** work in **key signatures**.

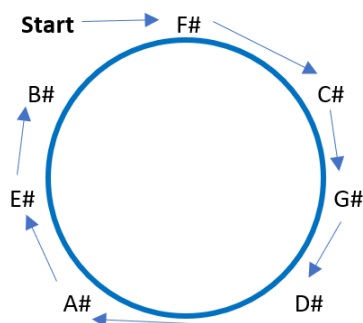
Sharps *always* go in the same order in a **key signature**.

F C G D A E B

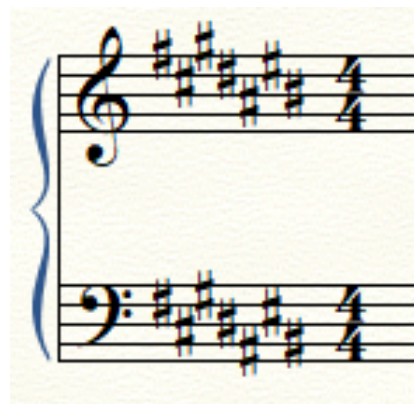
The common mnemonic to help remember this order is:

Father **C**harles **G**oes **D**own **A**nd **E**nds **B**attle

Another way to figure out the order is that each **sharp** is a **perfect fifth** above the one before



The **sharps** always appear like this on the **grand staff**



Watch this video for a great explanation of how this works:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkP_RhM_pX8

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1. Make your own saying to help you remember the order of the **sharps**:

F _____ C _____ G _____ D _____ A _____ E _____ B _____

2. Write the **sharps** on the empty **grand staff** below.
Be careful to place them exactly as in the picture.

Notice that the empty centre of the cross-hatch is centered over the line or space that is to be made sharp.

