

Explaining Music 9: Sharp Key Signatures – part 2

In the last lesson we learned that the order of **sharps** in a key signature is:

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

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



So how do we figure out what **key** the music is in?

If you've played a lot of **scales** you probably already know the **sharps** and **flats** in those **scales**.

We can also figure out the **key** from the **sharps** in the **key signature**
(We're looking at **major keys** only.)

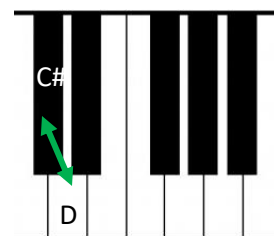
Here's the rule:

- Find the last **sharp** in the **key signature**
- Go up a **semitone** from that **sharp** – and that's your **major key**



In this example the last sharp is C#

If we go up a semitone from C# we get D – so this is the key signature for D major



Here's some examples to practice.

