

# The “Goodenkauf\*” Key Signature Identification System

## MUS 102, Pima Community College

1. Use the order of flats (and sharps in reverse) to determine the amount of sharps or flats:

-----→ Flats

**B E A D G C F**  
                    0 (minor)      0 (major)

Sharps ←-----

2. Count towards the direction of either flats or sharps from “0” in either a major (C) or minor (A) key until you arrive at the name of the key to determine the actual number of accidentals in the key signature.
3. The order of either flats or sharps are then used with that number to determine which sharps or flats are used in the key signature.

### Example 1: Eb major

- a. Flats go to the right. Start with C as “0” flats and then count to the right F (1), B (2), E (3).
- b. Use the 3 number as the amount of flats in order from left to right: Bb, Eb, Ab which is the key of Eb major

### Example 2: F# minor

- a. Sharps go to the left. Start with A as “0” sharps and then count to the left E (1), B (2), F (3).
- b. Use the 3 number as the amount of sharps in order from right to left: F#, C#, G# which is the key of F# minor.

\*named after Erich Goodenkauf, a student in MUS 102 Spring 2005, who devised this system.