

Chapter 6 Major Key Signatures

Vocabulary

Key signatures

Sharp keys: F-C-G-D-A-E-B (Fat Crabs Go Down and Eat Bugs) or (Fried Chicken Goes Down Awful Easy, Brother) or (Fat Cats Go Down Alleys Eating Bugs)

To find a sharp key: take the last sharp, go up one diatonic semitone to name the key.

Flat keys: B-E-A-D-G-C-F (Big Elephants And Dinosaurs Go Catch Food)

To find a flat key: the second to the last flat names the key in the key signature.

Key of F: one flat: Bb

Key of C: no flats or sharps

Enharmonic keys:

B (5#) sounds the same as Cb (7 flats)

F# (6#) sounds like Gb (6 flats)

C# (7#) sounds like Db (5 flats)

Circle of fifths, p. 119

Start with top (C major) go to the right, each new key picks up one sharp five notes away.

Circle of 4ths: Start at top (C major) go to left, each new key picks up one flat four notes away.

Constructing major scales:

Sharps: go back one-half step to the last sharp from the Key note, write key signature in the order of sharps until you reach the last sharp.

Flats: Construct the key signature in the order of flats until you go one beyond the name of the Key note.

Key of C and F: memorize the key signature

“Goodenkauf” Key Identification System – see separate handout on class web page

Suggested exercises:

Try Practice Materials on pp. 121-123