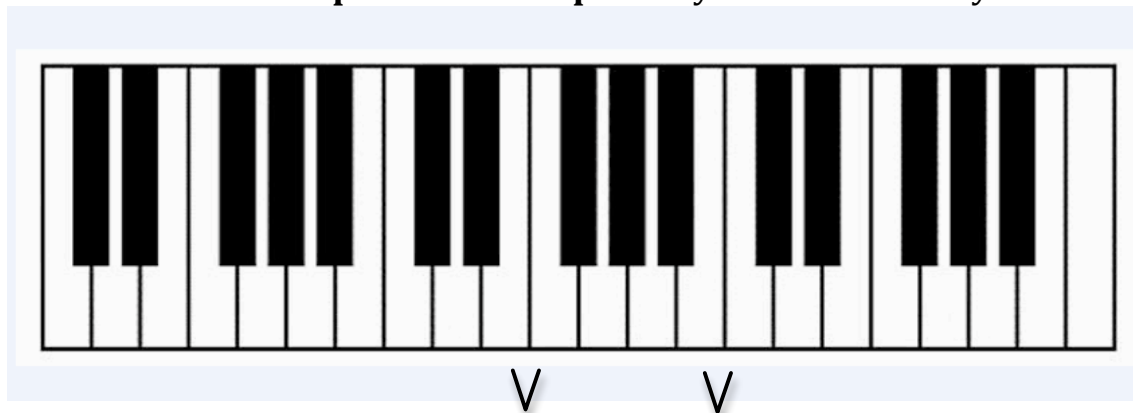


Major Scales

from the studio of Barbara Cooper

Group 1 – C, G, D, A, E (all use the same fingering)

Pattern of **whole steps** and **half steps** easily shown in the key of C



W W H W W W H

Right Hand

1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5

Left Hand

5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1

Two-octave fingering:

Right Hand

1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5

Left Hand

5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1



C Major – begin on C, end on C, all white notes



G Major – begin on G, remember F#

Major Scales

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D Major – begin on D, remember F# & C#



A Major – begin on A, remember F#, C#, & G#



E Major – begin on E, remember F#, C#, G#, & D#

Order of Sharps

Perhaps you've noticed that each key gets one more sharp in the key signature. The sharps are always added to the key signature in the same order. Therefore, if you have only one sharp in the key signature, it will always be F#; if you have two, they will be F# & C#; three will be F#, C#, & D#. It helps with key recognition to realize that there is an order of sharps.

F C G D A E B

A silly phrase that might help you remember the order of sharps:

Fat Cows Graze Daily And Eat Barley

To determine the key of a song in major mode with sharps, look at the last sharp in the key signature. From there, go up one note name on the staff. That will be the name of the key. For instance if there are four sharps in the key signature, they will be F#, C#, G#, and D#. Since D# is the last sharp, you go up one note on the staff to find the note above D. The note above D is E, so a major key signature with four sharps tells you that the name of the key is E Major.