





# ATTENDANCE



# SYLLABUS

## CLASS A - BREAKING IT DOWN

- WHAT IS MUSIC THEORY
- TOOLS AND REFERENCES
- THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF MUSIC

## CLASS B - BUILDING HORIZONTALLY

- WHAT ARE NOTES AND SCALES
- USING NOTES AND SCALES
- WHAT IS RHYTHM AND HOW IS IT NOTATED
- USING RHYTHM
- BUILDING MELODY USING NOTES AND RHYTHM

## **CLASS C - BUILDING VERTICALLY**

- **MELODY REVIEW**
- **STACKING NOTES: CHORDS**
- **TENSION AND RELEASE: INTERVALS**
- **CADENCES AND NOTE TENDENCIES**

## **CLASS D - BUILDING STRUCTURES**

- **SYNTHESIS OF BUILDING BLOCKS**
- **COMMON STRUCTURES**
- **UNCOMMON STRUCTURES**
- **LET'S GET BUILDING!**



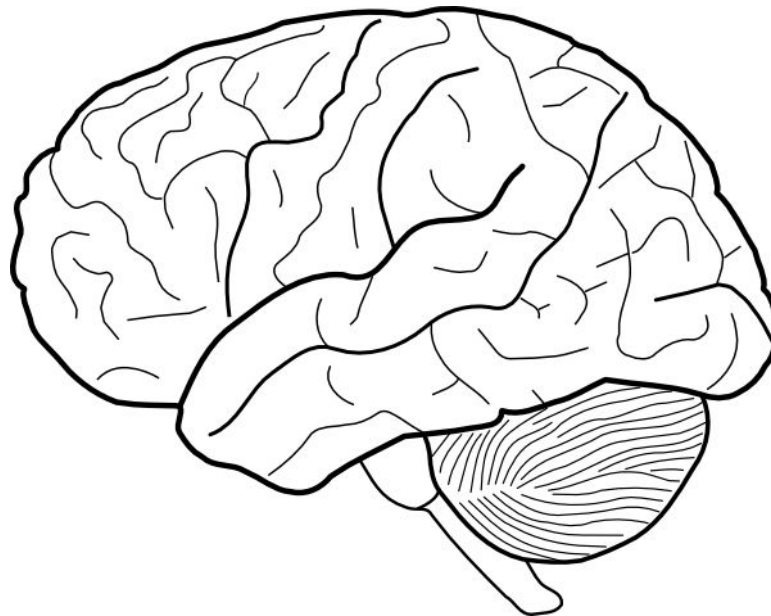
# BRIEF INTRODUCTIONS

- Your name
- Musical Experience
  - Beginner, Pro, Expert, Master
- One Major Goal



# DISCUSSION: WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- What is music?
- What comes to mind when you hear, “music theory?”



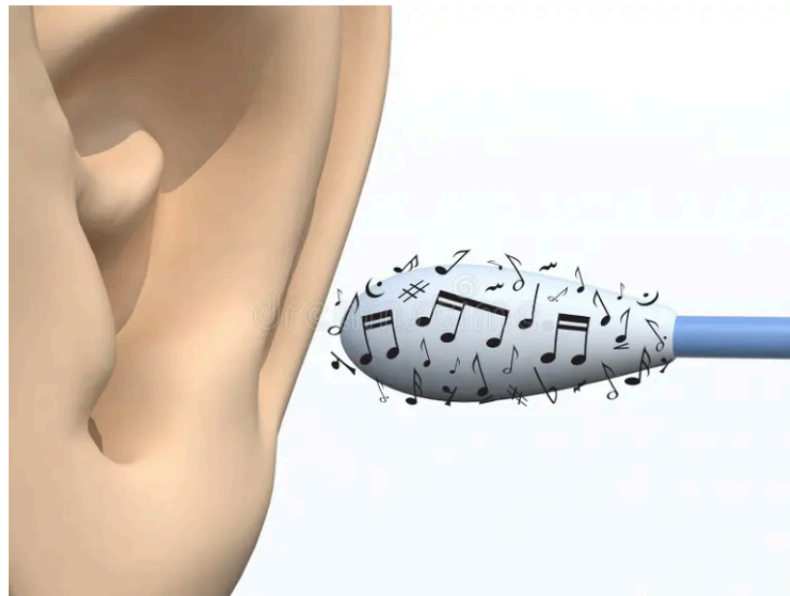
# OXFORD DEFINITIONS

- Music: vocal or instrumental sounds (or both) combined in such a way as to produce beauty of form, harmony, and expression of emotion.
- Music Theory: the study of the practices and possibilities of music. Rudiments that are needed to understand music notation.



# CONCERNS:

- Will learning music theory affect how I hear music?



# MYTH

- Some musicians are afraid that by becoming savvy with theory, it changes or even ruins the way they listen to music. Lucky for all of us, this is just a myth. You will always hear music the way you've always enjoyed it! Music theory adds another layer and dimension on top of what you already know and feel. After all, humans have the incredible ability of having selective hearing. I'm sorry, did you say something?

# THE BIG PICTURE

- Music theory is fun, fascinating, and easy to learn.
- Music is a language.
- Everything is made out of simple building blocks.
- This ABCD Music course is designed to focus on the bigger picture.



# LISTENING EXAMPLES: IS THIS MUSIC?

- “4’33” by John Cage

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=AWVUp12XPpU](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=AWVUp12XPpU)

“Rite of Spring” - Igor Stravinsky

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=YOZmlYgYzG4](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=YOZmlYgYzG4)

“In Praise of Genghis” - Batzorig Vaanchig

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=6Wll24rv\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=6Wll24rv_g)

- Shakuhachi Flute

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=0tZo2aysjMg](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=0tZo2aysjMg)

“Drums of Passion” – Babatunde Olatunji

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=WvWzAgMABx0](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=WvWzAgMABx0)

# AND OF COURSE...

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=kfVsfOSbJY0](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=kfVsfOSbJY0)



# DO I NEED TO KNOW HOW TO READ MUSIC?

- Music theory is NOT the study of how to read music. You do NOT need to know how to read music in order to understand music theory. Learning music theory is NOT about learning how to play your instrument. In fact, you don't even have to play an instrument at all in order to learn or understand music theory.

- While knowing how to read music and how to play an instrument certainly helps, music theory is more about broader concepts; such as what constitutes music, how music is made, the mechanisms of music, how we communicate music, the anatomy of music, and the essence of music.

- By the end of this curriculum, you will have the tools to begin the life-long study of music theory, and a clearer path towards learning how to read music.
- Music is one of the most infinite artistic endeavors and beginning to be able to understand the study of music theory will open your world to incredible possibilities.



**AVOID LUMPING**  
Like a minuet

from the frog *mf* *p*

What's a minuet?

If you can't play this, why don't you call your Mommy

**As a minuet**

There is no wrong way to play this

**Like a rolling stone**

Return instrument if it says "Mutter"  $\text{Mutter}$

perpendicular to the frog

Lean forward

is being recorded?

far away from the frog

Play real zippy-like

**Like (or as) the Rolling Stones**

Damelle, did you have a pumpin' saxophone?

**Cajun-style**

Swirls

Move those chubby little fingers!!

Swirls

**With pesto**  
Credenza

**A**

Pass the pesto, please

Beethoven this ain't

in the frog

Use smooth side of Violin

Slippery when wet

**W**

ACTIVATE GERMAN HAND PEDAL

Everyone rotate one chair

**WET REED**  
SLEEP FOR TWO BARS

Notice: if you are a 2nd Violin, please do not use a 1st Violin. Use the 2nd Violin you were issued.

**START OVER**

Play a little faster than the others

return to the schwitzstenger

SWITCH TO ALUMINUM BOW

Use a semi-full pitching wedge in back of grain

**GLISSANDO** using tip of nose

Use a semi-full pitching wedge in back of grain

**SHOCK THERAPY** may be necessary to finish

More faster

**TURN MUSIC UP SIDE-DOWN**

Phonicians must leave the set pit soon

**Without the frog**

Finger with right hand and bow with left hand

**CODA**

(Spoken:) When will all the jack-in-the-pulpits be hand-cancelled?

**PUBLISHERS NOTE:**  
The composer was born under a blue Aurore sky in a small far trading village in northern Lapland. There he learned the art of shagadel mulling.

My brain hurts even more

Canadians pronounce

**APPLY BROWN LIQUID NOW!**

Change to your Sears® Violin

This is actually unpleasant

Whistle high note

Remove Culture from us

Thank God that's over with! Let's get to Taco Bell!

**INFLATE THE CIRCUS CLOWNS**

the frog has left the building

These frog jokes are getting lame

**USE THE CAT HANDLE**

Real big notes do not exist

Players may not fly above the audience during performance

Musically, this is not very challenging

**LIKE A FAIRIE'S OIRE**

Any players from Wisconsin are free to roam among the audience members and look for Mr. Horvath

**Am I ever playing this thing again?**

**Fine**

**D. S. al CODA**

Only felons may kill the selfish audience members

- For now, the closest we get to learning how to read music when studying music theory in these first four courses is understanding how music is conveyed and communicated from one human to another. That is it.
- If you are more interested in analyzing and reading music, we will be offering Master Classes in the near future.

- In order to navigate the obstacle of not learning or knowing how to read music in this course, we created a tool belt for you to use as a reference.
- This tool belt will guide you through your journey, and we will go over each tool in-depth later on in the course.

# TOOLS

- Much like a hammer or a drill in an engineer's toolbox, music theory is simply a tool.



# YOUR TOOL BELT (AT THE END OF THE COURSE)

- Glossary
- Laminated Piano
- Staff Paper/Manuscript/Acronyms
- Circle of Fifths
- Key Signatures
- Scales and Modes
- Tendency Chords
- Beat Divisions Key
- Intervals
- Common Song Structures



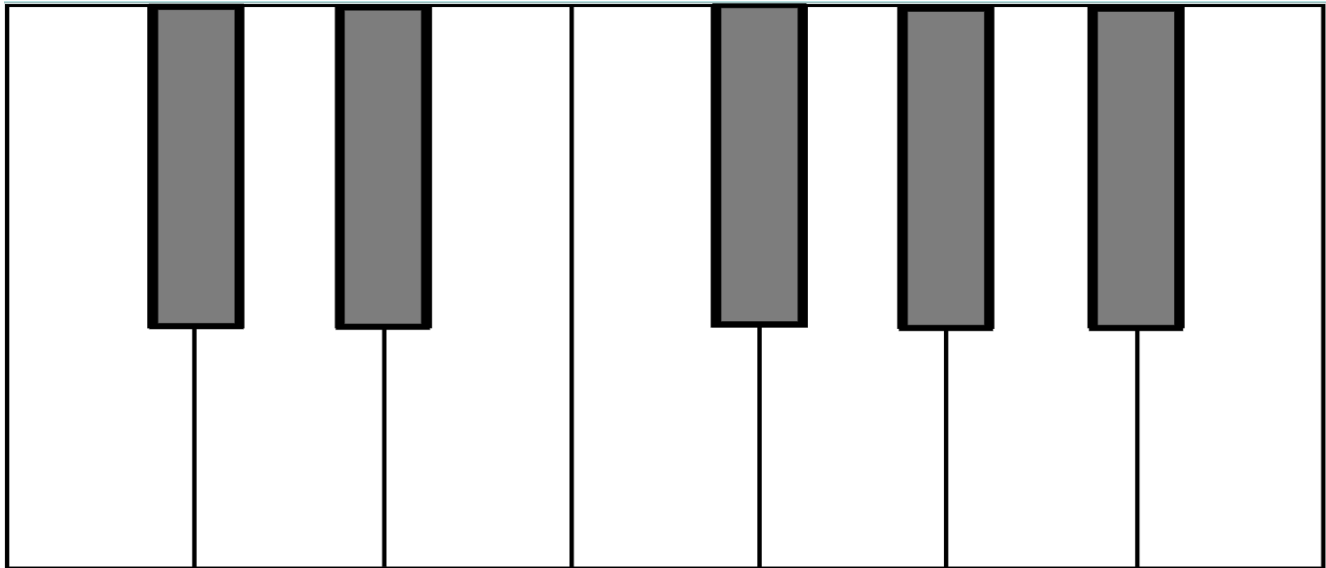
# THERE ARE MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM!

- But today, we are going to hand out seven of them:
  - Class A Glossary
  - Laminated Piano & Staff
  - Alphabetical Notes on the Piano
  - Notes on the Staff/Acronyms (ex. EGBDG)
  - Rhythm Notation/Beat Divisions/Whole & Half Steps
  - Scales & Modes
  - Circle of Fifths
- As you progress through the course, you will be introduced to more and more tools.
- We will also be discussing how to use the tools and apply them.

# CLASS A GLOSSARY

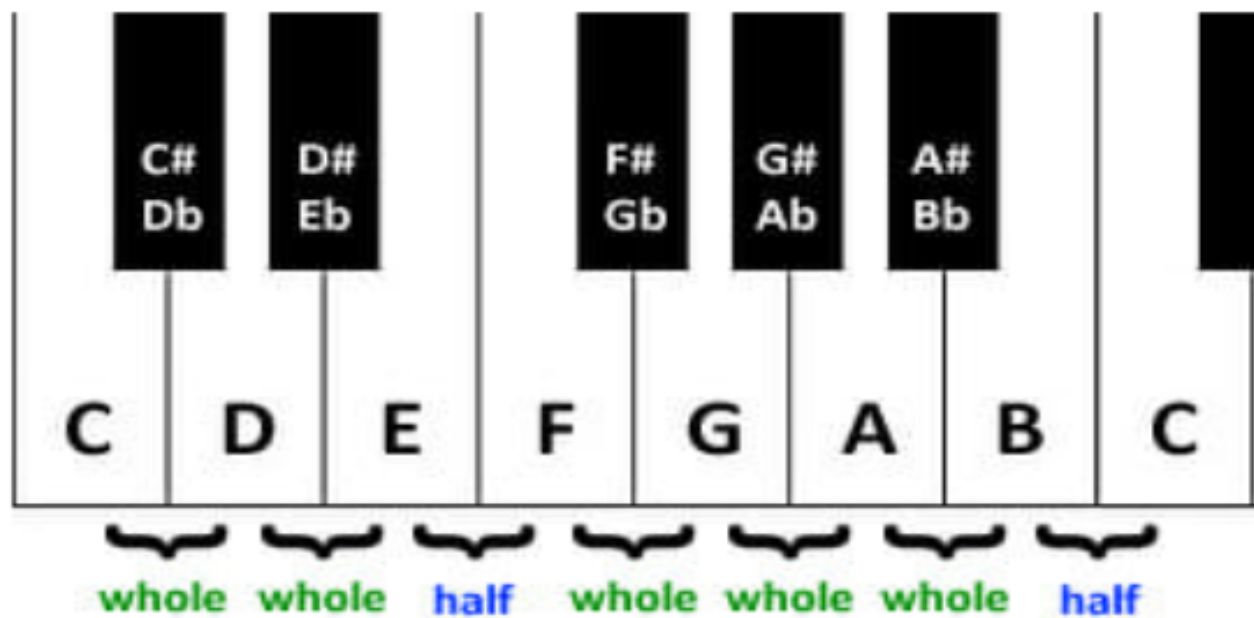
- Music Theory frequently used terms and their definitions.
- Alphabetical Order.
- Music Theory has a lot of jargon, meaning special words that most normal humans do not use. We will try to minimize this as much as we can for the sake of a clearer understanding.

# LAMINATED PIANO & STAFF

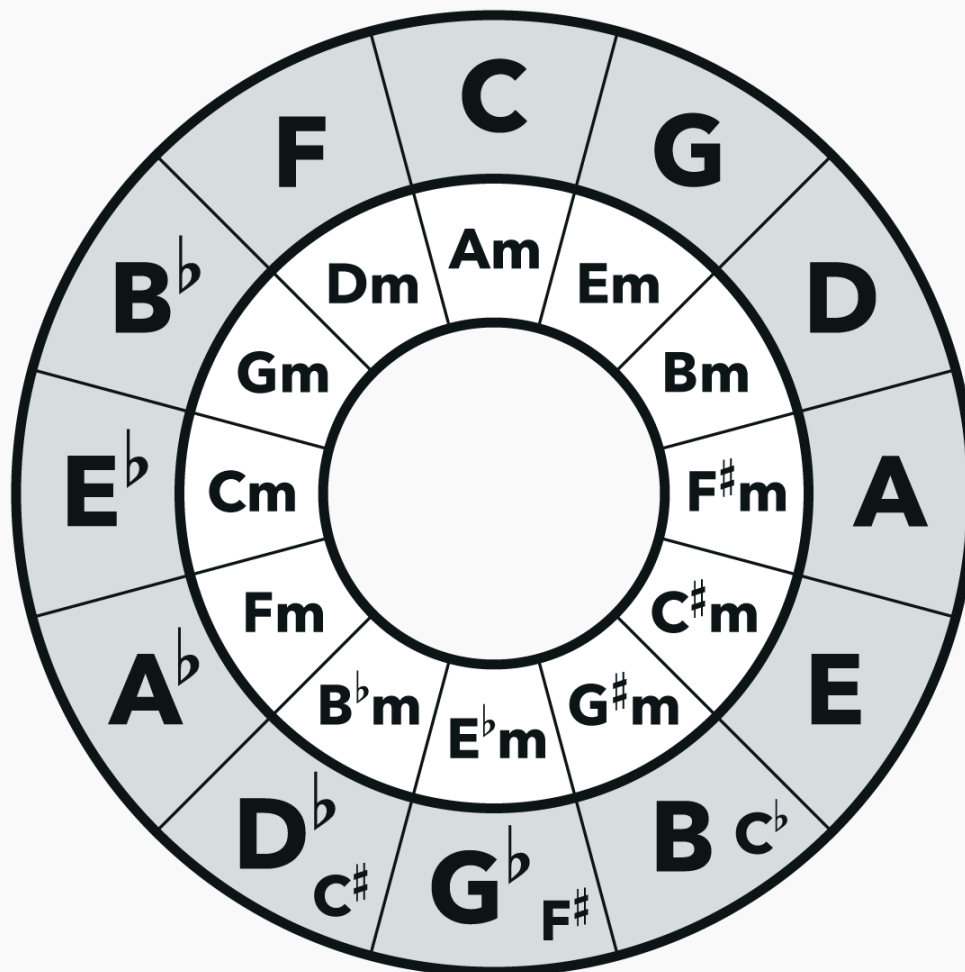




# ALPHABETICAL PIANO NOTE GUIDE



# CIRCLE OF FIFTHS



# KEY SIGNATURES

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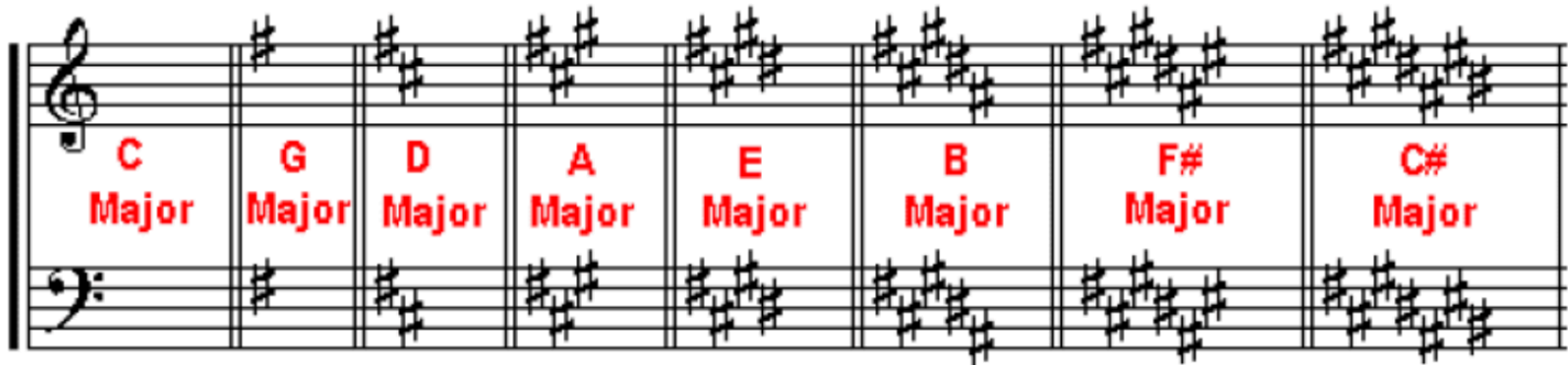


Diagram illustrating the major key signatures with sharps (F# and C#) for the first eight major keys. Each key is shown on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with its corresponding key signature (sharps) and the key name in red text.

Key Signature	Key Name
C	C Major
G	G Major
D	D Major
A	A Major
E	E Major
B	B Major
F#	F# Major
C#	C# Major

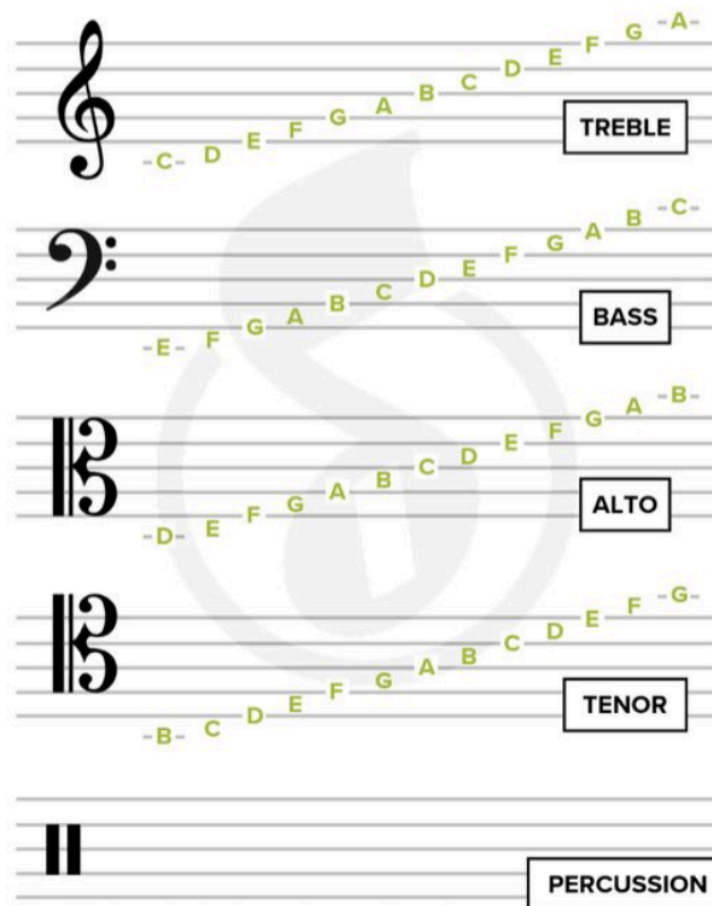


Diagram illustrating the major key signatures with flats (Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, and Cb) for the last six major keys. Each key is shown on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with its corresponding key signature (flats) and the key name in red text.

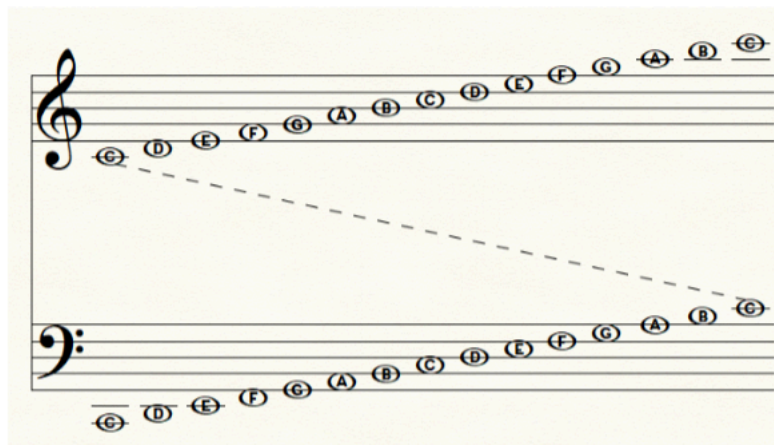
Key Signature	Key Name
F	F Major
Bb	Bb Major
Eb	Eb Major
Ab	Ab Major
Db	Db Major
Gb	Gb Major
Cb	Cb Major

# SCALES AND MODES

- **Ionian**
- **Dorian**
- **Phrygian**
- **Lydian**
- **Mixolydian**
- **Aeolian**
- **Locrian**



This clef indicates that the lines and spaces of the staff are each assigned to a percussion instrument with no precise pitch.



## MODES IN THEIR WHOLE STEP/HALF STEP FORM

Ionian (I)	W	W	H	W	W	W	H												
Dorian (II)	W	H	W	W	W	W	H	W											
Phrygian (III)		H	W	W	W	W	H	W	W										
Lydian (IV)			W	W	W	W	H	W	W	H									
Mixolydian (V)				W	W	W	H	W	W	H	W								
Aeolian (VI)					W	H	W	W	H	W	W								
Locrian (VII)						H	W	W	H	W	W	W							

# BEAT DIVISIONS/DURATIONS KEY

Whole



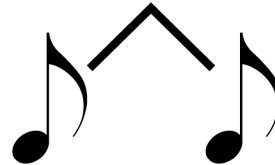
Half



Quarter



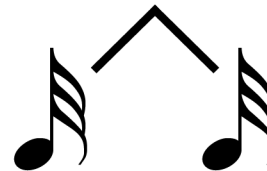
Eighth



Sixteenth



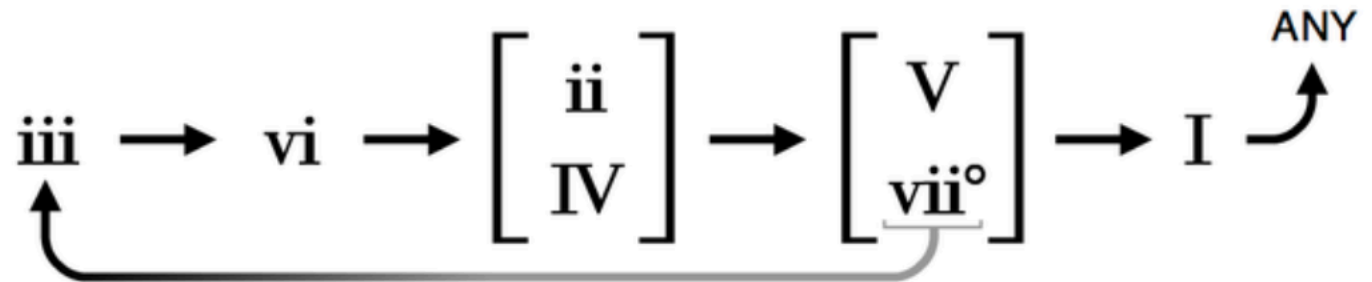
Thirty-second



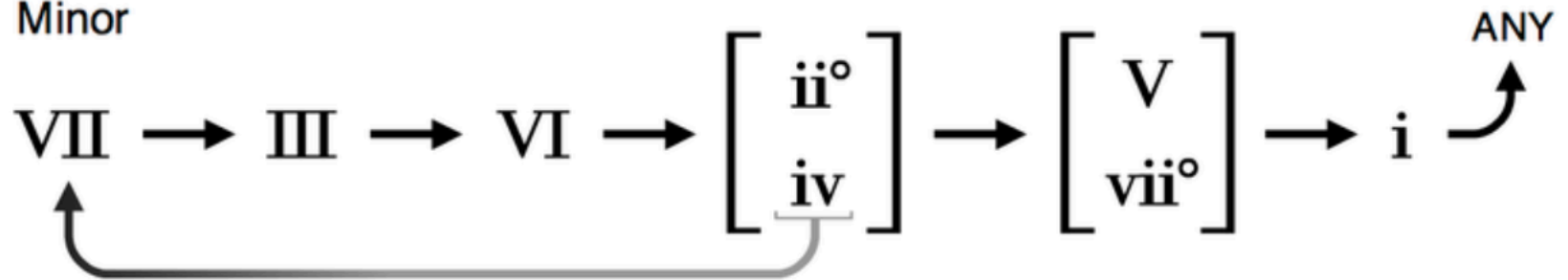
**EXAMPLES OF SOME MORE TOOLS TO COME:**

# CHORD PROGRESSIONS/DIATONIC TENDENCY

Major

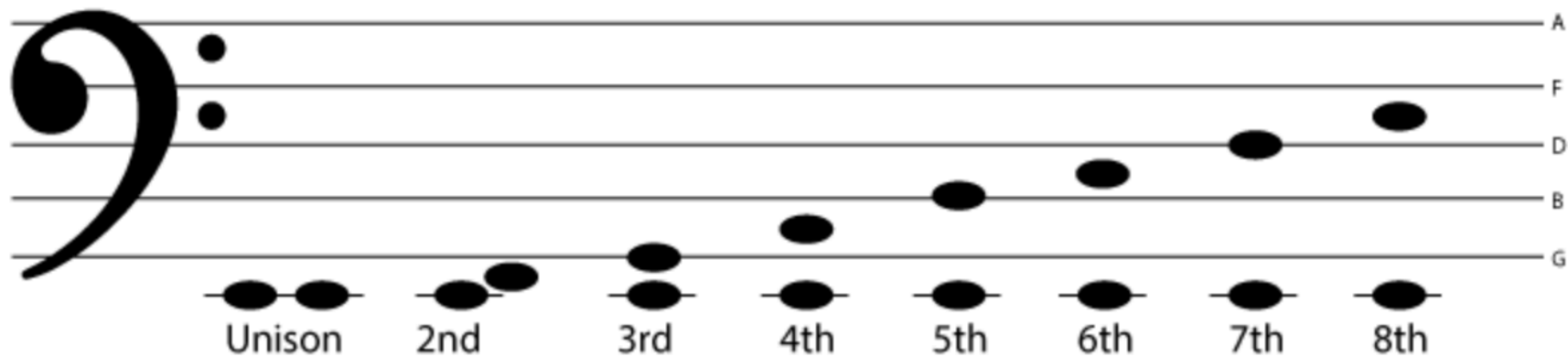
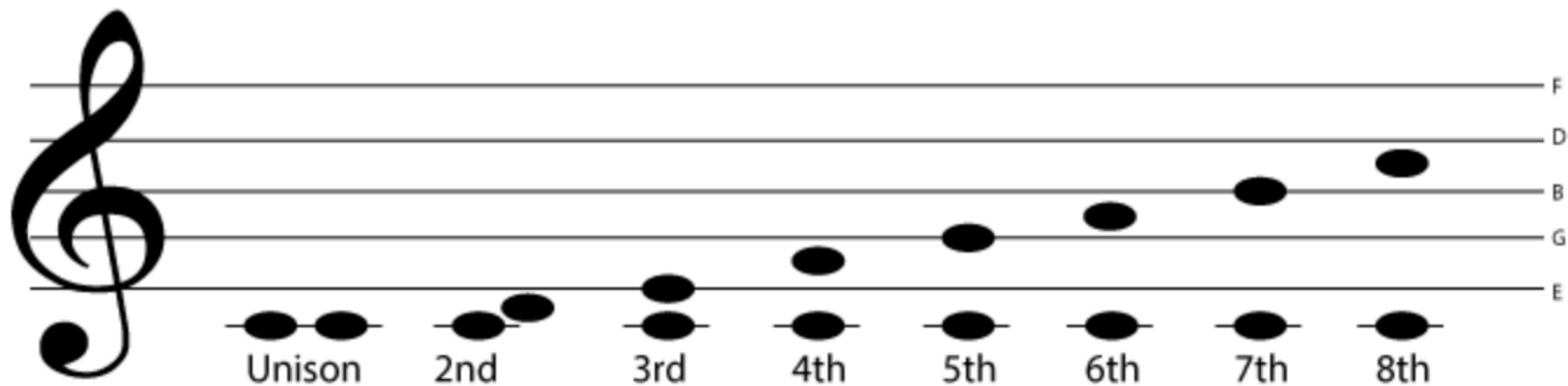


Minor





# INTERVALS



# COMMON SONG STRUCTURES





5-10 Minute Break!

# HANDS-ON CLASS EXERCISE/DISCUSSION

- How many ways can we break down the song, “The Thrill Is Gone” by BB King?
  - You don’t have to use any fancy words.
  - Feel free to make up a word (as long as it makes sense).
  - What makes this tune “move?”

# YOU PROBABLY MENTIONED...

- Melody or Contour
- Chords or Harmony
- Rhythm or Meter
- Groove
- Emotional Sensation
- Lyrics
- A Story or Narrative
- If you are an anthropologist, Culture.



# KEEP IT SIMPLE

- Music is simpler than that.
- There are only three building blocks that create music:
  - Melody (Horizontal)
  - Harmony (Vertical)
  - Rhythm (Horizontal)

# THE ESSENCE OF MUSIC THEORY

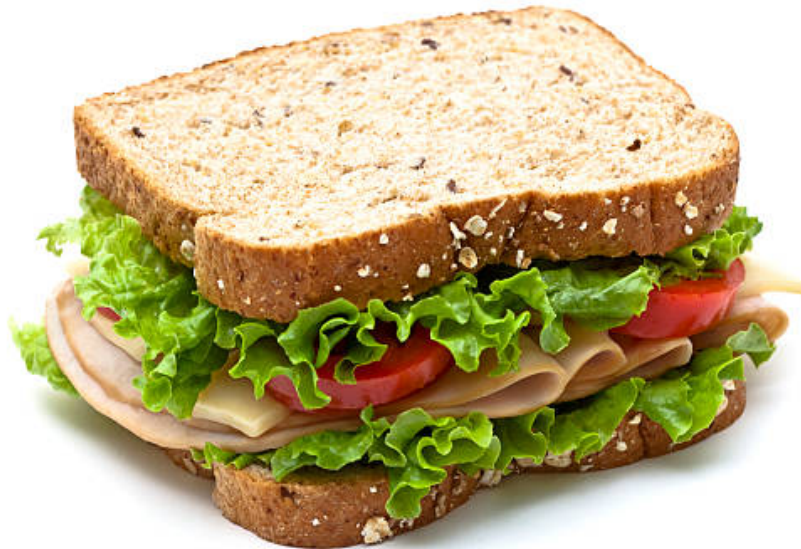
- What we've just done in the past exercise is a shortened version of what has happened over the centuries since prehistoric times to develop music theory.
- Pitch systems date back to the Paleolithic Era (50,000 – 12,000 years ago)!
- Music is something that has developed naturally amongst humans and just like literature and architecture we simultaneously invent, evaluate and innovate.

# APPLICATION

- How do we apply music theory to our daily lives?
  - Theory can be applicable or used for personal enjoyment or growth.
  - You may nerd-out about the mathematical mechanics of music and the history of music creation (hence the definition “possibilities and practices”).
  - The building blocks that we will be learning and understanding will open the door to applicable music theory. These building blocks will help us create music and understand how music that has already been created was put together.
  - We can also look at things such as influence, time Periods, Culture, etc... which are DEFINATELY applicable to our daily lives. Though these topics will be covered in future master classes.



**BUT FOR NOW, WE CANNOT BUILD A SANDWICH  
WITHOUT BREAD.**

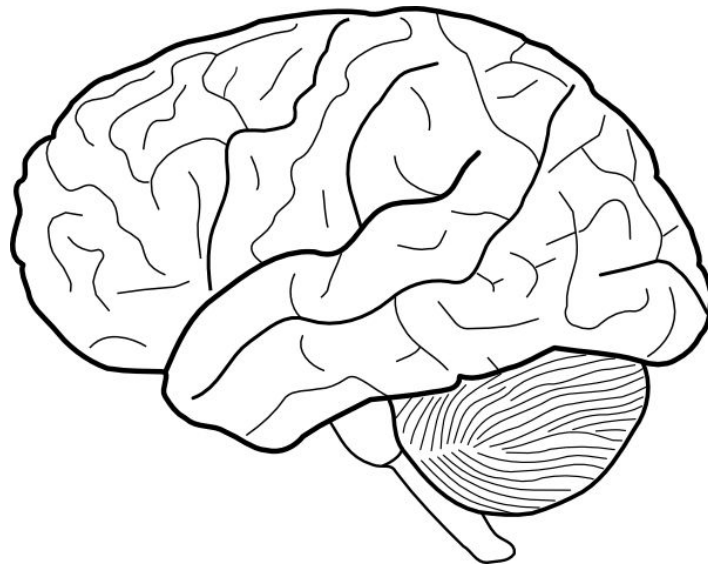


**LET US START WITH THE BASICS!**

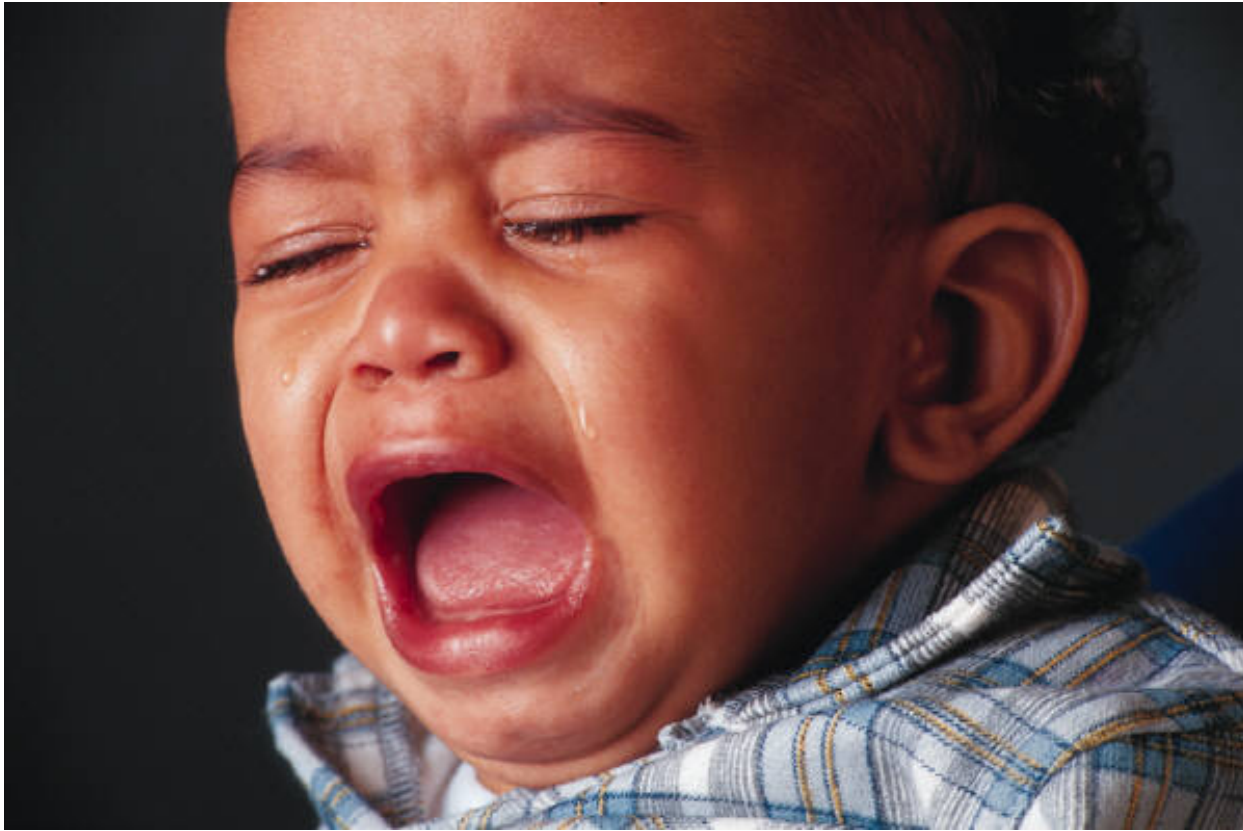
# RULES

- Fortunately, we have centuries of information to help us understand music and music theory.
- Since there is so much information to take in, we must break it down into “rules.”
- Like most human endeavors, music had rules very early on.
- Rules constantly change, and rules are also meant to be broken.

What do you think is  
the biggest rule in music?



IT NEEDS TO SOUND PLEASING!



# DISCUSSION: OBJECTIVE VS. SUBJECTIVE

- Rule #1: The music must sound pleasing. (objective).
  - It is objective because no one likes pain or discomfort (unless you are a masochist).
  - Bad music invokes pain or discomfort. (Rebecca Black).
  - We are anatomically designed to enjoy pleasant sounds. Don't burst an eardrum!
- Who ultimately decides if the music sounds pleasing or doesn't?. (subjective).

# CULTURE

- Besides our anatomy, culture is what ultimately shapes whether a song is aesthetically pleasing (in good taste) or not.
- What is “popular” vs. “unpopular”



**WHAT MUSICAL WORK IS THE MOST FAMOUS OF  
THEM ALL TO BREAK THIS RULE?**

(Cue class' shouting of terrible songs).

# THE RITE OF SPRING

- You just heard it!
- When first performed at the Theatre des Champs-Elysees on May 29, 1913, the avant-garde nature of the music and choreography caused a riot. Literally, a riot.
- The audience, who were once used to hearing diatonic, consonant, tonal, organized, sanctified, holy, “sanitized,” mathematically calculated music were outraged over Stravinsky’s non-diatonic, dissonant, atonal, disorganized, demonic, unholy, “infected,” random music.



- The Rite of Spring was not in-line with the culture at the time, and therefore, was not considered “aesthetically pleasing” to the masses.
- It wasn't until years later that people began appreciating The Rite of Spring, since their culture evolved.

# THE PLEASERS OF THE KING GOT TO WRITE THE RULES

- Game of thrones
- The winners write the history books.
- Music is also rebellion:
  - The losers were pioneers.

# RECAP

- We talked about what constitutes as music, and what the definition of music is.
- We talked about what music theory is and how it applies.
- We broke down what we think are the basic building blocks of music.
- We provided tools.

**REMINO ME AGAIN WHAT THE THREE BUILDING  
BLOCKS OF MUSIC ARE?**

MELODY – Horizontal  
HARMONY – Vertical  
RHYTHM – Time

There have been many changes to the way we view music, but these three core building blocks have remained consistent, regardless of culture or popularity. This is why we must study them carefully.

# FOR OUR NEXT CLASS, CLASS B...

- In Class B, we will learn what creates music from horizontal standpoint.
- Melody is the relationship of notes in time.
- For next time, we will discuss:
  - What is a note? How are notes like coordinates on a map?
  - What is a scale? How is it like a script for notes?
  - What is rhythm?



# CLASS Q AND A

- That pretty much wraps up this first lesson!
- We hope you enjoyed it and we look forward to getting started!
- Questions?
  - Feel free to ask us anything about music!
  - We will be taking questions for the next half hour.

# SOME LOGISTICS:

- This presentation is available online!
- We will also post all Tools online.
- CLASS B WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 24, 2023 FROM 3PM TO 5PM AT SOUTH OF THE NORTH.
- SAME PLACE. SAME TIME.
- WE DON'T GIVE OUT HOMEWORK, BUT STILL, WORK HARD OUT THERE!





# OPEN MIC TONIGHT!

- @ Slice of Sierra Pizzeria
- 7:00PM – 10:00PM
- This course was planned right before each open mic so that you may apply what you just learned!
- Talk to Thomas Brandelino if you want to participate.

