

## Key Signature

The sharps or flats at the start of a piece of music, showing what key the music is in.

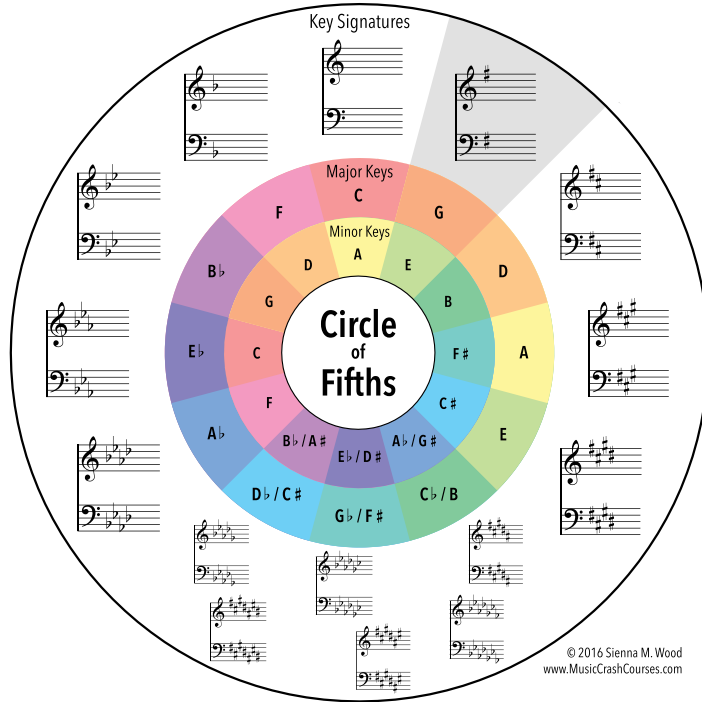
# HARMONY & TONALITY

(The chords and keys used in the music)

## Modulation

Musical word for key change. Most common changes: to **Dominant** or **relative Major/Minor**.

## Major and Minor Key Signatures



\*When you write music in a minor key you also need to raise the 7<sup>th</sup> note (leading note) up one small step - e.g. A minor uses G#, not Gs.

## Identifying The Tonality...

- Tonal** - In a major or Minor Key
- Atonal** - There is no sense of key
- Modal** - Uses 'old-fashioned' scales called modes
- Pentatonic** - The music only uses 5 notes

## Chords

- Triad** - A chord with three notes (See below)
- Power Chord** - Only playing the Root and Fifth of a triad (used in Rock music)
- Dissonance** - Clashing notes played together
- Consonance** - Notes that fit / sound nice together
- Primary Chords** - The three most commonly used chords used in music: I, IV, V
- Secondary Chords** - The other chords: II, III, VI, VII
- Chord Sequence** - The order the chords in a piece of music follow (containing cadences at the ends of phrases)

## Cadences

The last two chords in a phrase. Only sounds 'complete' if ends on chord I.

Sounds Complete		
Perfect Cadence	V <i>Dominant</i>	I <i>Tonic</i>
Plagal Cadence	IV <i>Subdominant</i>	I <i>Tonic</i>
Sounds Incomplete		
Imperfect Cadence	I <i>Tonic</i>	V <i>Dominant</i>
Interrupted Cadence	V <i>Dominant</i>	<i>*Not chord I</i> Minor Chord

\*Sometimes the final cadence of a piece in a minor key ends with a major chord instead of the expected minor chord. This effect is known as a **Tierce de Picardie**.

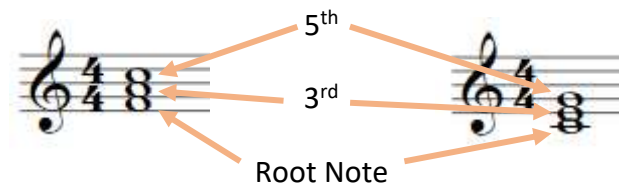
## Diatonic

Music only uses notes that are found in the key signature of the piece

## Chromatic

Music uses the notes found in the key of the piece but also adds in extra accidentals (# / b)

## Triad A Chord with three notes:



## Inversions Changing which note of a chord is the lowest sounding:

