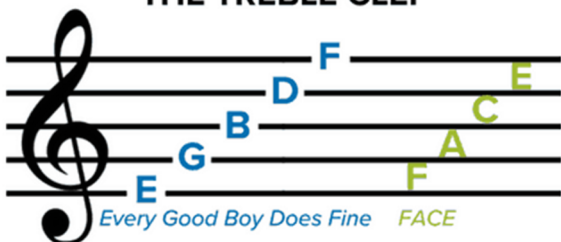


Basic Music Notation Commonly Used in Barbershop Harmony

THE TREBLE CLEF



THE BASS CLEF



NOTE VALUES



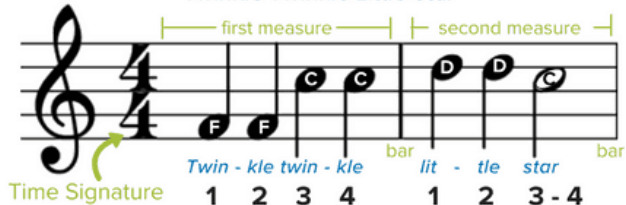
REST VALUES



The duration of a note or rest depends on the time signature of the song; most barbershop music is written in a time signature that assigns the quarter note one beat. A dot after a note adds $\frac{1}{2}$ of the time of that note. So—a dotted half note in 4/4 time would get 3 beats; a dotted quarter note would get $1\frac{1}{2}$ beats.

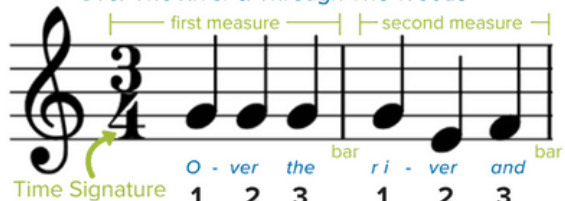
4/4 TIME SIGNATURE

"Twinkle Twinkle Little Star"



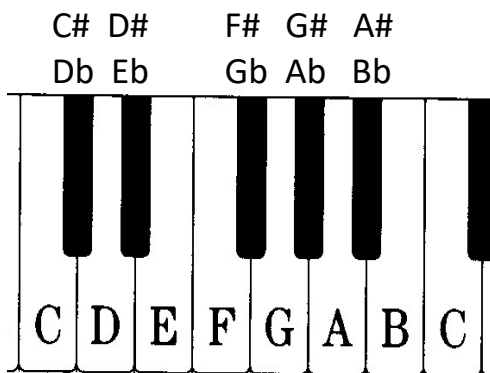
3/4 TIME SIGNATURE

"Over The River & Through The Woods"



Music is divided by **BAR LINES** into **MEASURES** of equal duration, based on the time signature of the song.

- "common time," is the same as 4/4
- "cut time," is the same as 2/2 and is sung at a much faster pace than 4/4

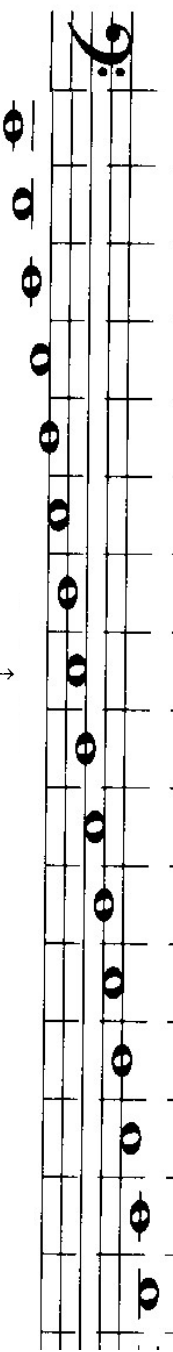
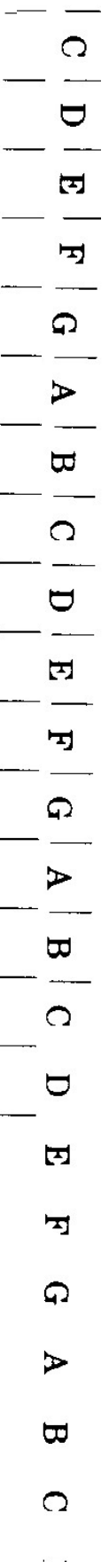
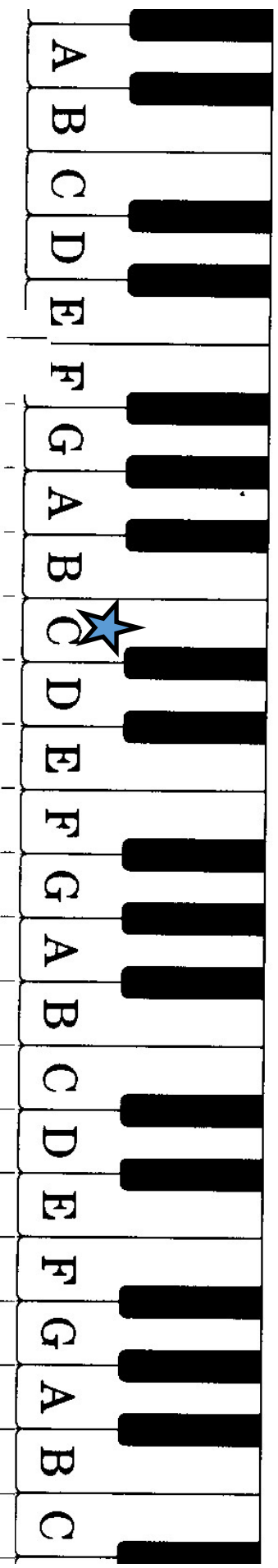


- flat Lowers note by 1/2 step
- sharp Raises note by 1/2 step
- natural Cancels a sharp or flat in force

The distance (interval) between any two adjacent notes on a piano keyboard, whether they are black or white, is $\frac{1}{2}$ step. For example, C to C# is $\frac{1}{2}$ step; E to F is also $\frac{1}{2}$ step.

How to Read Music and Play a Keyboard for Female Barbershop Singing

C# D# F# G# A# C# D# F# G# A# C# D# F# G# A#



↑
Middle C

The bass clef notes are sung as shown for female barbershop; this is an octave higher than standard music notation.

RHYTHM GUIDE



HOT DOG



GRAPE SODA



APPLE PIE



HOT FUDGE
SUNDAE



COCONUT
SHRIMP



RICE KRISPIE
TREAT



CHOCOLATE
STRAWBERRY



CINNAMON
OATMEAL



MILK AND
CEREAL



AVOCADO
TOAST



CHEESE
RAVIOLI



STRAWBERRY
ICE CREAM



CHIPS AND
GUACAMOLE



TATER TOT
CASSEROLE



PEPPERONI
PIZZA



A couple of tricky ones here! Be sure to say “RA-violi” and “GUAC-amole” on the downbeats!

Scales Commonly Used in Barbershop Harmony

The MAJOR scale is the one most often used for barbershop harmony—it is the one we associate with the “Doe, a deer” song from Sound of Music. It can be identified by using the scale step number or the “solfege” name:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1
do re mi fa sol la ti do

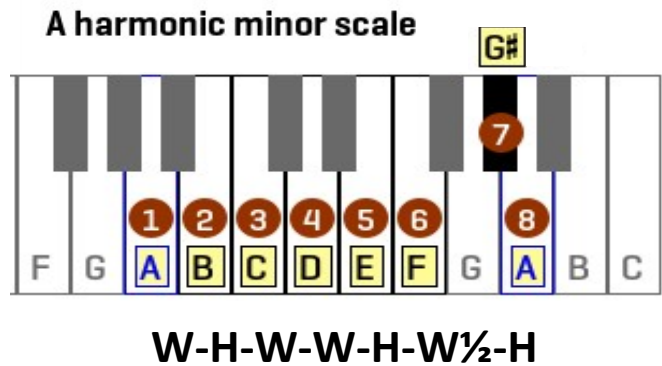
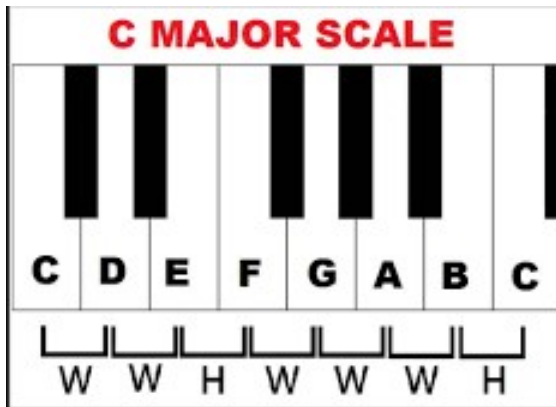
The MAJOR scale is defined by the intervals between the scale steps: W-W-H-W-W-W-H

Each MAJOR scale has a relative MINOR scale, which uses the same key signature. The relative minor scale is always built on scale step 6 (la) of the major scale. There are several kinds of MINOR scales, but in barbershop harmony, we use the HARMONIC MINOR scale.

The intervals that define the HARMONIC MINOR are W-H-W-W-H-W ½-H

How can you tell if a song is in a MAJOR or MINOR key? It can be tricky, but one of the easiest ways is to look at the first chord of the song—is it the major chord or the relative minor? The last chord is also a good clue—look at the bass note. Some songs shift between minor and major keys.

A scale can be built using any note as its “do” or first scale step, and is built using the interval definitions above.



Key signatures: major and relative minor

C major	G major	D major	A major	E major	B major	F# major	C# major
A minor	E minor	B minor	F# minor	C# minor	G# minor	D# minor	A# minor

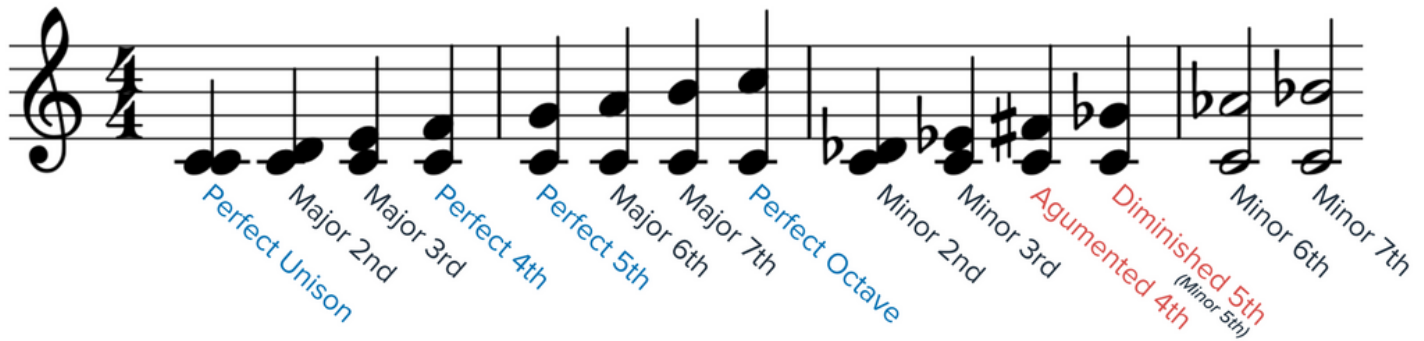
You can name the major sharp keys by looking at the last sharp—the key is the next note name higher. For example, look at the measure with one sharp—it is F#, so the key is G.

C major	F major	Bb major	Eb major	Ab major	Db major	Gb major	Cb major
A minor	D minor	G minor	C minor	F minor	Bb minor	Eb minor	Ab minor

You will need to memorize that one flat is F major; after that, you can name the major flat keys by looking at the next-to-last flat—that’s the key. For example, look at the measure with two flats—the next-to-last flat is Bb; the key is Bb.

INTERVALS—The distance between one note and another

Interval examples using C as the root note. (Note—Augmented 4th and Diminished 5th are essentially the same note and are generally identified as the tritone)



Intervals are not always easy to name when the bottom note is something other than a C! It helps me to identify intervals if I remember the intervals with ODD numbers (3rd, 5th, 7th) are line-to-line or space-to-space; the intervals with EVEN numbers (2nd, 4th, 6th) are line-to-space or space-to-line. Then I just have to figure out if the interval is a major/perfect or minor! It takes LOTS of practice; using a piano keyboard helps.

Pick the songs YOU know and create YOUR OWN interval song chart at:

<https://www.earmaster.com/products/free-tools/interval-song-chart-generator.html>

Here's mine:

My interval song chart

Interval	Ascending	Descending		How many 1/2 steps ?	Another way to calculate
Minor 2 nd	Jaws (Theme)	Shall We Dance (The King and I)	m2	1	1/2 step
Major 2 nd	Happy Birthday to You	Yesterday (The Beatles)	M2	2	1 whole
Minor 3 rd	Lullaby (Brahms)	This Old Man	m3	3	1W+1H
Major 3 rd	Oh, when the Saints	Swing Low Sweet Chariot	M3	4	2W
Perfect 4 th	Here comes the Bride - Wedding March (Wagner)	Born Free (Movie theme by John Barry)	P4	5	2W+ 1H
Tritone	Maria (West side story)		Tritone	6	3W
Perfect 5 th	Twinkle Twinkle Little Star (Mozart)	Flintstones theme	P5	7	3W+1H
Minor 6 th	The Entertainer (Scott Joplin)	Love Story (theme)	m6	8	4W
Major 6 th	My Bonnie Lies over the Ocean	Over There (George Cohan)	M6	9	4W+1H
Minor 7 th	Somewhere (West side story)	An American in Paris (Gershwin)	m7	10	5W
Major 7 th	Superman theme (1-1-1-7-5,1-1-1-7-5)		M7	11	5W+1H
Octave	Somewhere over the Rainbow (Wizard of Oz)	The Lonely Goatherd (The Sound of Music)	Octave	12	6W

Tag

hap - pen on that Po - lar Ex - press! Yes, that's the way things hap - pen on that

roll - er coast - er, on that roll - er coast - er Po - lar ____

____ Ex - press! Po - lar Ex - press! ____

1. What is the key signature? Check to make sure if it's a major or minor key. (Hint—look at the last chord. What chord is it? Or—what is the bass note?)
2. What notes are always flatted in this key (unless there is a natural in front)?
3. What is “do,” or scale step 1 in this key?
4. Scale step 5?
5. Name every note in your voice part. Careful—make sure you name flats that are in the key signature.
6. What is the note value of the notes in measure 100? Measure 201? Measure 103 “that’s”? Measure 103 “the”?
7. Now go back and name the scale step for each of those notes.
8. Rest value in 107?
9. What is the time signature—careful, it’s a TRICK QUESTION!! The time signature doesn’t appear on this page—what does it look like AT FIRST GLANCE? However!!! This song is sung at a very fast tempo—does this change your answer?
10. Look at the tenor part in the top system. What is the effect of the naturals on that line?
11. Find a courtesy accidental in your voice part.
12. How many measures are in the tag?
13. What are the intervals between the lead and tenor on the two chords in measure 106? Bb-C? Ab-C?
14. What are the intervals between the bass and baritone in measure 107? Ab-F? Db-F?
15. BONUS POINTS—what is the interval between baritone and lead in measure 104 on “-pen”?
16. Find a keyboard and play your part! Congratulations!!! You’re a music-savvy singer!!!!