

RIM1230 Class Notes, R. Adams
Day 5

Introduction to the *Nashville Number System*:

Chords are referred to by scale degrees — represented with numbers

I.e., Each scale degree number represents a chord:

1 2- 3- 4 5 6- 7dim

Primary chords in any major key are 1 4 5 — all major chord

2- 3- 6- — all minor chords

We will discuss chord qualities later. For now simply understand that these numbers represent chords

Focus now on learning major keys through the system of the Circle of 5ths

To figure out major scales, instead of using formula of whole steps and half steps

W W H W W W H
F G A B \flat C D E F
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 Scale degrees

We can use key signatures to figure out major scales and key

Intro. to **Key Signatures**:

Refer to the Handout “**Circle of 5ths**” available in resource folder on D2L

Key sign order of Sharps for keys (scales) that use sharps

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

Circle of 5ths moving right from top

Key signature:

C no flats no sharp	Scale: C D E F G A B C
G 1 sharp F#	Scale: G A B C D E F# G
D 2 sharps F# C#	Scale: D E F# G A B C# D
A 3 sharps F# C# G#	Scale: A B C# D E F# G# A
E 4 sharps F# C# G# D#	Scale: E F# G# A B C# D# E
B 5 sharps F# C# G# D# A#	Scale: B C# D# E F# G# A# B
F# 6 sharps F# C# G# D# A# E#	Scale: F#G#A#BC#D#E#F#
C# 7 sharps F# C# G# D# A# E# B#	Scale: C#D#E#F#G#A#B#C#

Example:

If the key of B uses 5 sharps (F#C#G#D#A#) then the major scale for the key is:

B C# D# E F# G# A# B
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1

More examples:

D major: Uses 2 sharps (F#C#) Scale: D E F# G A B C# D

E Major: Uses 4 sharps (F#C#G#D#) Scale: E F# G# A B C# D# E

Key sign order of flats: Bb Eb Ab Db Gb Cb Fb for keys (scales) that use flats

Circle of 5ths moving left from top

Key:

F 1 flat: Bb

Scale: F G A Bb C D E F

Bb 2 flats: Bb Eb

Scale: Bb C D Eb F G A Bb

Eb 3 flats: Bb Eb Ab

Scale: Eb F G Ab Bb C D Eb

Ab 4 flats: Bb Eb Ab Db

Scale: Ab Bb C Db Eb F G Ab

Db 5 flats: Bb Eb Ab Db Gb

Scale: Db Eb F Gb Ab Bb C Db

Gb 6 flats: Bb Eb Ab Db Gb Cb

Scale: Gb Ab Bb Cb Db Eb F Gb

Cb 7 flats: Bb Eb Ab Db Gb Cb Fb

Scale: Cb Db Eb Fb Gb Ab Bb Cb

Example

If key of Eb uses 3 flats (Bb, Eb, Ab) then the major scale for the key of Eb is:

Eb F G Ab Bb C D Eb

More Examples:

Ab Major uses 4 flats (Bb, Eb, Ab, Db) Major scale: Ab Bb C Db Eb F G Ab

Gb Major uses 6 flats (Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, Cb) Major scale Gb Ab Bb Cb Db Eb F Gb