## **Key Signatures**

A key signature is written in the staff and shows what accidentals (sharps # or flats b) a song or section uses. Songs that are either in the key of C or are in no key (atonal) do not have sharps or flats in the key signature.

## **Sharp Keys**

The first sharp in a key is always F# and additional sharps are added a fifth away. The last sharp in a key is the seventh scale degree. A quick way to identify the major scale that is associated with a sharp key signature is to raise the last sharp by a half step.

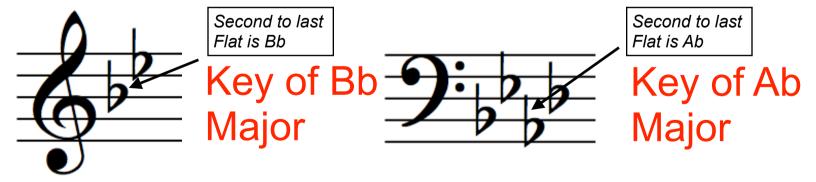


Another way to identify sharp key signatures is to memorize how many sharps are in each key.

Numbers of sharps in the key	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Name of major scale	G	D	Α	Е	В	F#	C#
Name of natural minor	Е	В	F#	C#	G#	D#	A#
Letter of last sharp	F#	C#	G#	D#	A#	E#	B#

## Flat Keys

The first flat in a key is always Bb and additional flats are added a fourth away. The last flat in a key is the fourth scale degree. The key of F has one flat and the second to last flat in every other key is the name of tonic



Another way to identify flat key signatures is to memorize how many flats are in each key.

Numbers of flats in the key	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Name of major scale	F	Bb	Eb	Ab	Db	Gb	Cb
Name of natural minor	D	G	С	F	Bb	Eb	Ab
Letter of last flat	Bb	Eb	Ab	Db	Gb	Cb	Fb