

Section 2.2

THE CIRCLE OF FIFTHS

Circle of fifths

The **circle of fifths** is a common way to arrange the keys so each key moving clockwise starts on the fifth note of the preceding key. Major keys are listed outside the circle, with minor keys inside. (For minor keys, see 2.4 **Minor Scales: Two Roads.**) **Enharmonic keys** are written differently, but played the same on the piano keyboard, like B and C flat. Enharmonic keys share a box in the circle of fifths diagram.

Enharmonic keys

Flats and sharps

Moving **clockwise** moves up five scale notes and **adds a sharp** (or takes away a flat), while moving **counterclockwise** moves down five notes and **adds a flat** (or takes away a sharp). Always count the starting note as one.

Circle of fifths diagram

