

FINDING THE KEY

THE KEY SIGNATURE TELLS YOU

1. The key in which a piece is written (either Major or minor).
2. The notes to be sharpened or flatted throughout the entire piece.

RULES FOR FINDING THE KEY IN THE # SIGNATURES

1. Look at the last sharp to the right.
2. Go up to the next letter in the music alphabet (a half step), this is the name of the Major key.



OR

1. Look at the last sharp to the right.
2. Go down to the next letter in the music alphabet (a whole step), this is the name of the minor key.



RULES FOR FINDING THE KEY IN THE b SIGNATURES

1. Look at the next-to-the-last flat.
2. The name of this letter is the name of the Major key.



OR

2. A skip down (a minor third) from this letter will be the name of the minor key.



EXCEPTIONS TO THE ABOVE RULES

1. Key of F Major and D minor (one flat only, Bb)
2. Key of C Major and A minor (no sharps or flats)