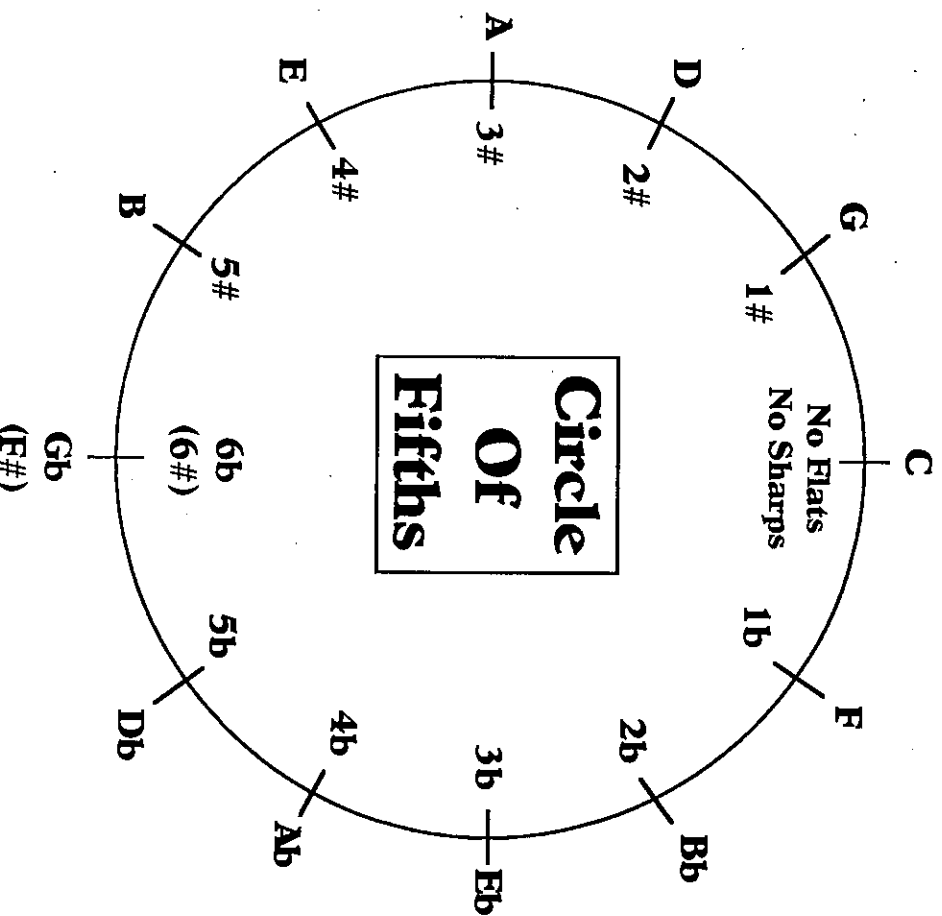


Capistrano Valley High School

Instrumental Music Department

The fastest way to figure out how music works is by understanding how each major key relates to the others. As you travel clockwise around the Circle of Fifths, adding flats as you go, you move **DOWN** a perfect fifth with each new key. As you travel counter-clockwise around the Circle of Fifths, adding sharps as you go, you move **UP** a perfect fifth with each new key.



The Circle of Fifths is only helpful, though, if you know the order in which flats and sharps are added to the key signatures. If you have this information, you will know exactly what notes, flat, sharp, or natural, are in each key.

ORDER OF FLATS: B, E, A, D, G, C, F

ORDER OF SHARPS: F, C, G, D, A, E, B

Now, you have all the information you need to be able to play any major scale in any key. If you want to play an E-Major scale, for example, you can figure out that E-Major has 4 sharps and knowing the order of sharps, you know that those sharps are F, C, G, and D and that all other notes are natural. Have fun.