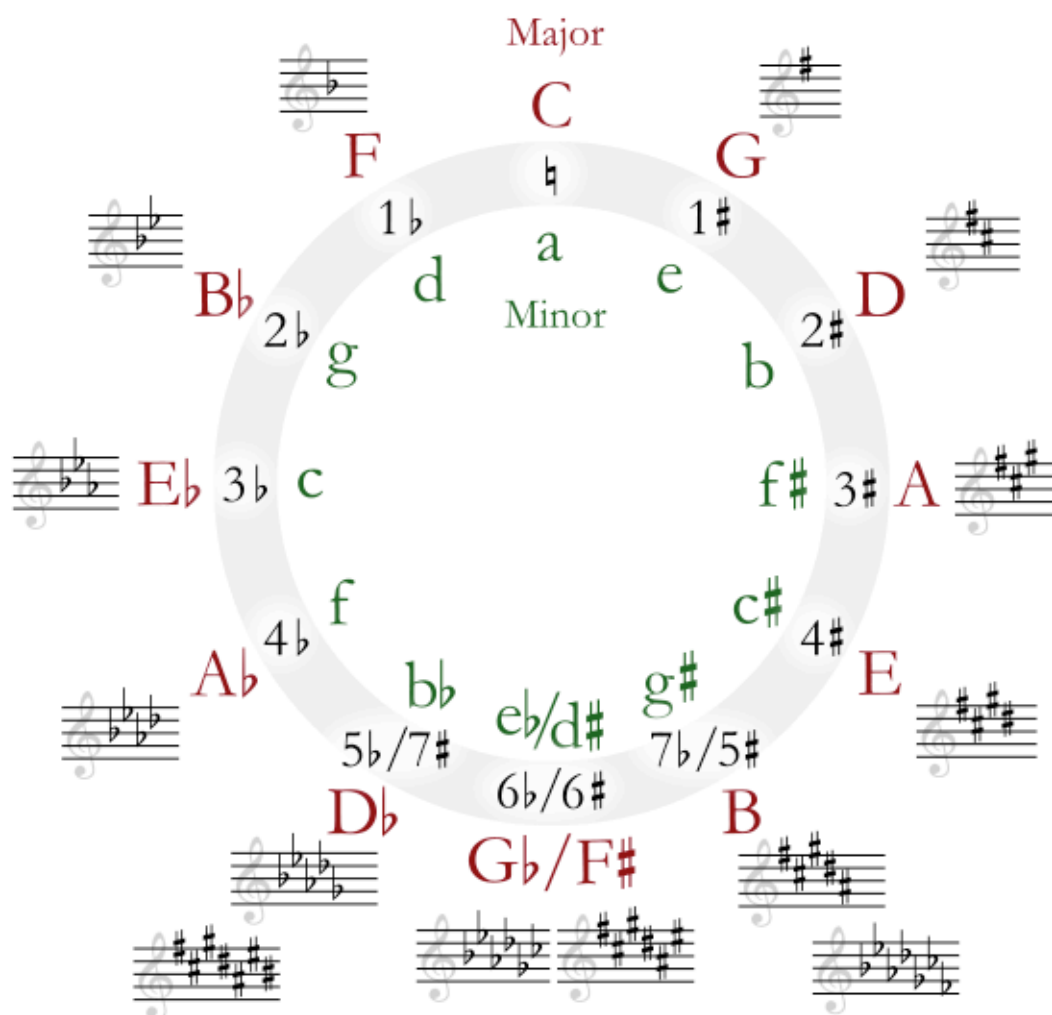


CIRCLE OF FIFTHS

The **Circle of Fifths** is a chart organizing all of the keys into a system that we can use to relate them to one another. There are several versions of this chart. The most common ones use only the major keys with only the chord symbols. The version below however shows the major and minor keys with their key signatures.



How Does This Chart Work?

The letters on the outside of the circle are the major keys and the letters on the inside are minor. If you think of the keys as chords, you'll see that each major chord is related to a minor chord. This is good basic songwriting knowledge.

The circle itself shows how many sharps or flats there are in each key, and the key signatures are on the edge.

This is called the Circle of Fifths because each note is a **perfect fifth** away from the one preceding it. When we go clockwise around the circle, we are going "up a fifth". This is also called adding a sharp (because of the what it does to the key signature). When we go counter-clockwise, we are going "down a fifth". This is also called adding a flat.

(This is also called the Circle of Fourths because when we go "up a fifth", it is the same thing as going down a fourth. Also when we go "down a fifth", it is the same thing as going up a fourth.)