

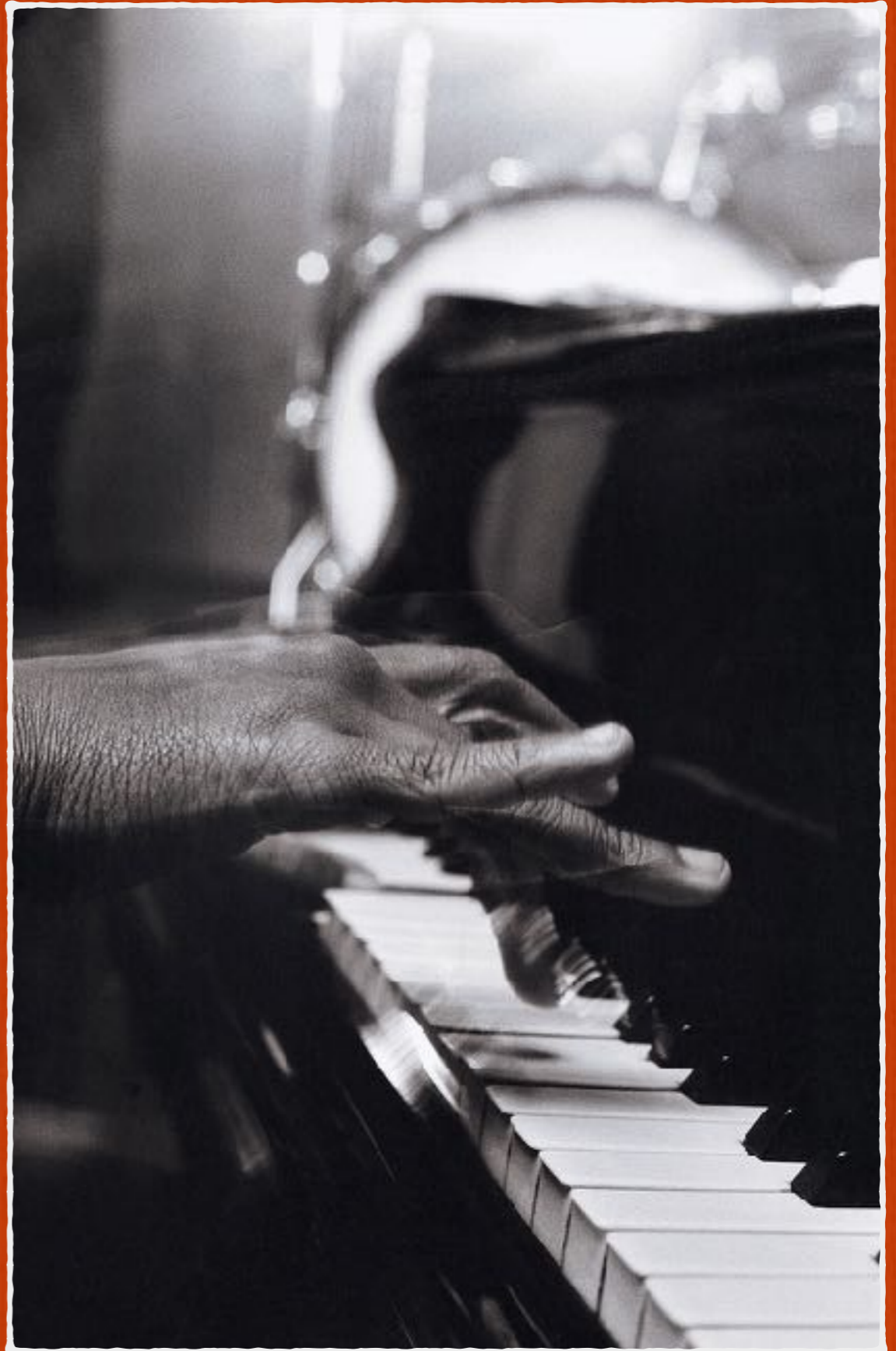
# **AP Music Theory Week 3, Ch.3: Major Scales**

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## **Objectives**

**WWH-WWWH, Scale Degrees, Key  
Signatures, Chromatic Scales,  
BEADGCF, Pentatonic Scale**

**Sight-Singing: Stepwise Melodies  
in Major Key**



# Week 3 Overview

**The concept of key is fundamental to Western music. In this chapter, we learn about keys by notating and playing major scales. The major key signatures and scale-degree names will serve as foundations for the study of harmony.**

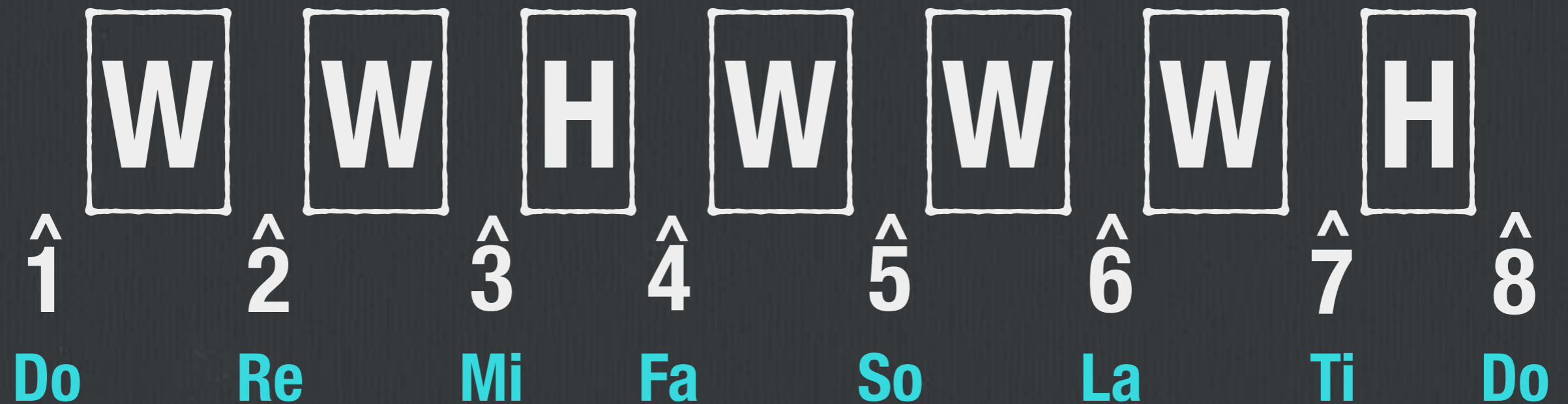
# Major Scale

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# Major Scale

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# Key Concept

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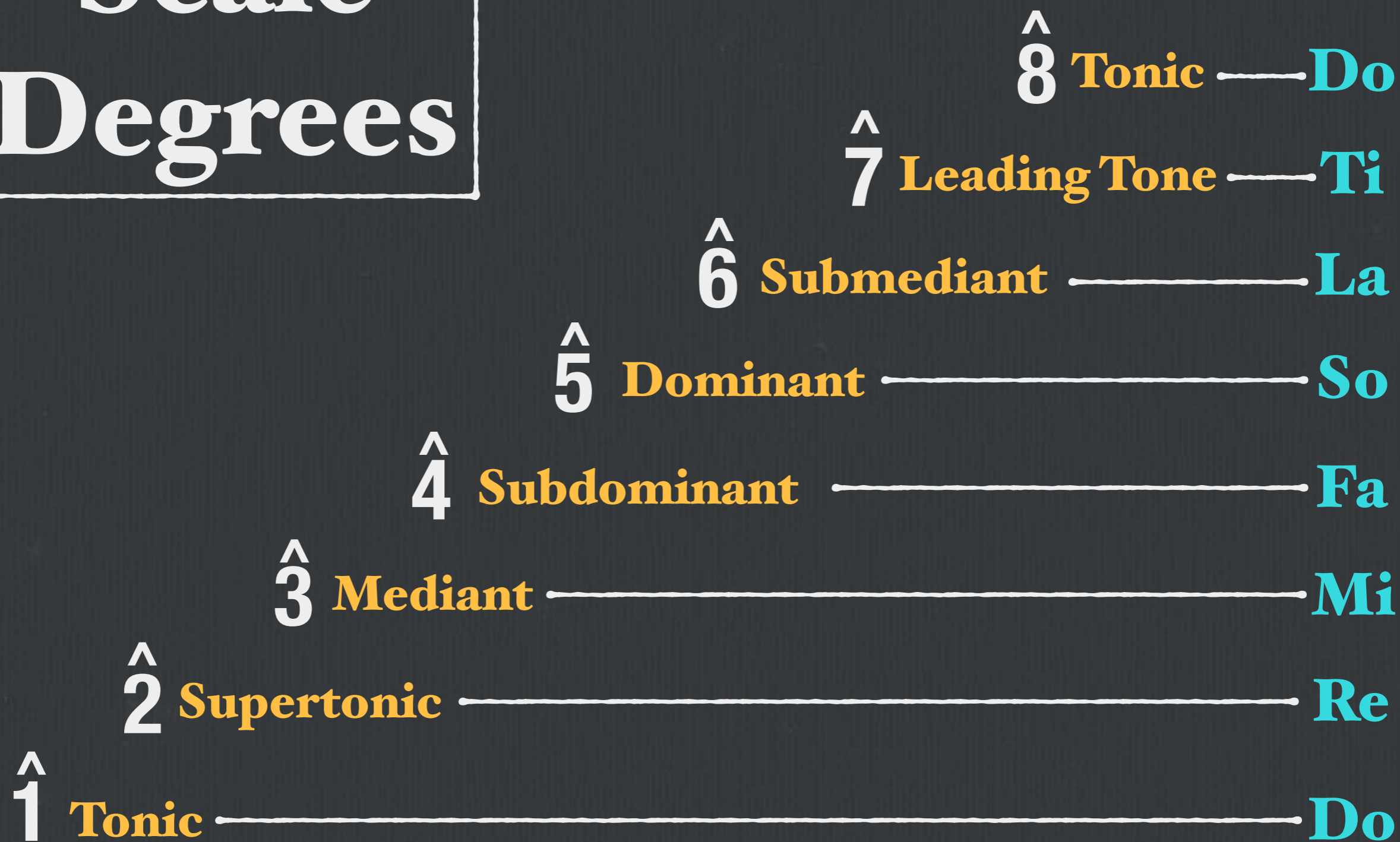
To “spell” a major scale with the correct letter name and accidental for each pitch:

Write eight pitches - all seven letters of the musical alphabet plus the repeated tonic

Follow the WWH,WWWH pattern

Use accidentals that are either all sharps or all flats, not a mixture

# Scale Degrees



# Chromatic Scale

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## Key Concept

**Chromatic Half Step**: Same letter name plus a chromatic alteration. Example: D-D#

**Diatonic Half Step**: different letter names for adjacent pitches in a diatonic scale. Example: D-E ♭

## 2 ways to notate chromatic scales

(a) Sharps ascending, flats descending (when the key context is unclear)



(b) In the context of a B $\flat$  major scale (represented in whole notes)

Ascending     $\hat{1}$     $\sharp\hat{1}$     $\hat{2}$     $\sharp\hat{2}$     $\hat{3}$     $\hat{4}$     $\sharp\hat{4}$     $\hat{5}$     $\sharp\hat{5}$     $\hat{6}$     $\sharp\hat{6}$     $\hat{7}$     $\flat\hat{1}$

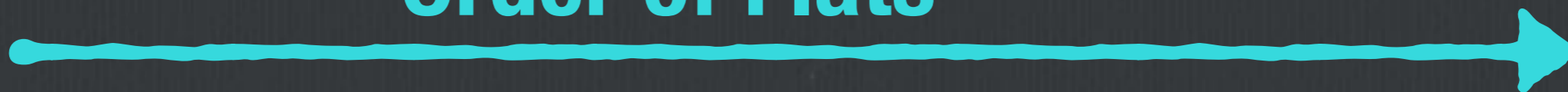
A musical staff in bass clef showing an ascending chromatic scale in B-flat major. The notes are: Bb, B, C, C#, D, D#, Eb, E, F, F#, G, G#, Ab, A, Bb. The notes are grouped into pairs with slurs: (Bb, B), (C, C#), (D, D#), (Eb, E), (F, F#), (G, G#), (Ab, A), (Bb, B). Below the staff are the solfège syllables: do, di, re, ri, mi, fa, fi, sol, si, la, li, ti, do.

Descending     $\hat{1}$     $\hat{7}$     $\flat\hat{7}$     $\hat{6}$     $\flat\hat{6}$     $\hat{5}$     $\flat\hat{5}$     $\hat{4}$     $\hat{3}$     $\flat\hat{3}$     $\hat{2}$     $\flat\hat{2}$     $\hat{1}$

A musical staff in bass clef showing a descending chromatic scale in B-flat major. The notes are: Bb, Ab, Gb, Fb, Eb, Db, Cb, B, Bb, Ab, Gb, Fb, Eb, Db, Cb, Bb. The notes are grouped into pairs with slurs: (Bb, Ab), (Gb, Fb), (Eb, Db), (Cb, B), (Bb, Ab), (Gb, Fb), (Eb, Db), (Cb, Bb), (Ab, Gb), (Fb, Eb), (Db, Cb), (Bb, Ab). Below the staff are the solfège syllables: do, ti, te, la, le, sol, se, fa, mi, me, re, ra, do.



## Order of Flats



F

B-flat

E-flat

A-flat

D-flat

G-flat

C-flat

B

E

A

D

G

C

F

C#

F#

B

E

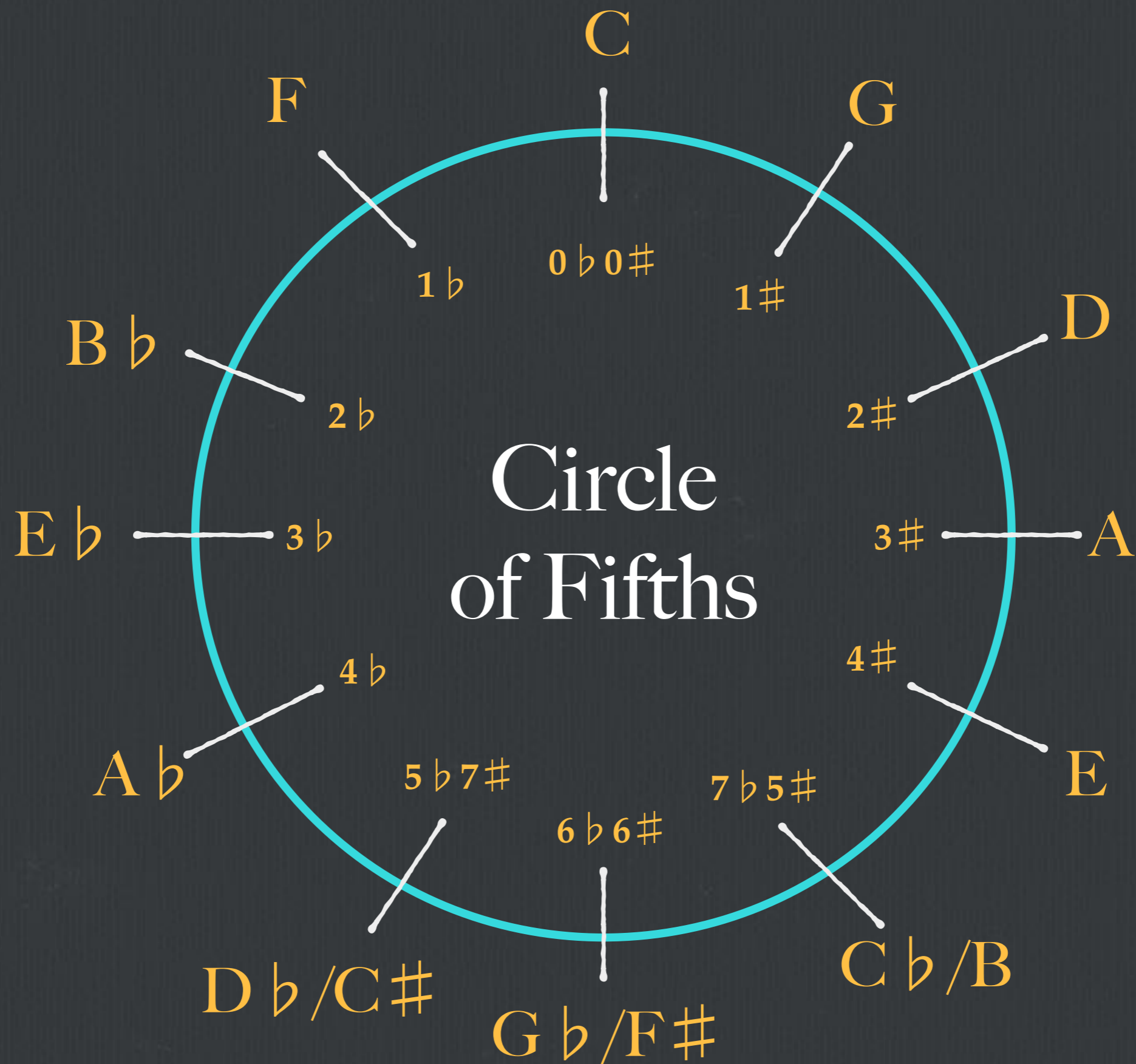
A

D

G



## Order of Sharps



# Key Concept

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**To determine the major key from a key signature:**

**For Sharp Keys: the last sharp is scale degree 7 (or ti).**

**To find tonic, go up a diatonic half step**

**For Flat Keys: the last flat is scale degree 4 (or fa).**

**Look to the second to the last flat in Key Signature to find tonic**