

Naming Notes – What We Already Know

We have worked for over a year to learn the notes and accidentals of the staff. The notes we have learned should be very familiar by now. Define the symbols below:

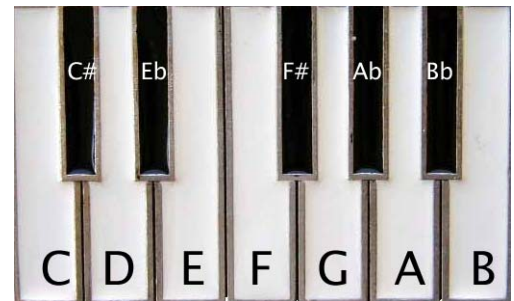
When a **b** occurs in music ...

When a **#** occurs in music ...

When a **♭** occurs in music ...

You are familiar with these notes: **C, C#, D, E, Eb, F, F#, G, Ab, A, Bb**, and **B**. The good news is that there aren't anymore notes to learn!!! As you can see by looking at the keyboard below, these notes cover each key found in one octave.

Although many of us do not play the piano, it is easy to see that all of the keys have been named. The next step in learning note names involves understanding that notes can be named several different ways.



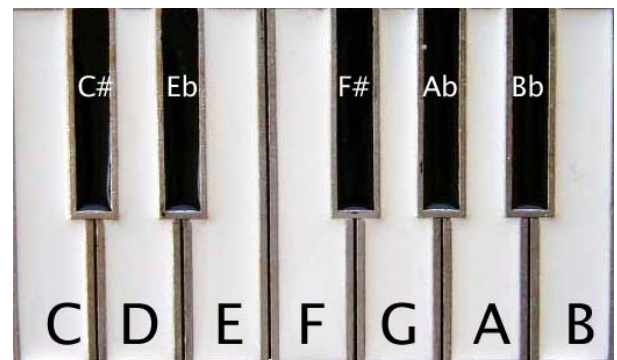
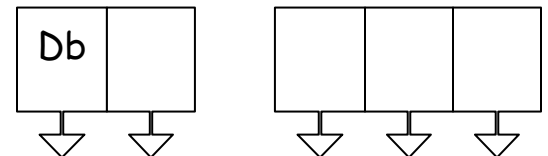
Before we can do that there are two more definitions we need to review. Define the following terms:

half step –

whole step –

Naming Notes – Different Names for the Same Note

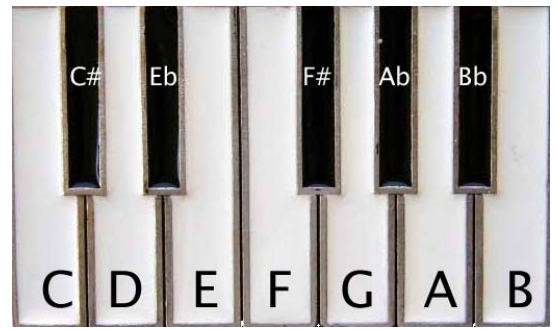
Enharmonic notes are **notes that are spelled differently, but are played exactly the same**. Using flats, naturals and sharps ahead of any note changes it to a different pitch. We can use flats, naturals and sharps to name the same space a note occupies on the staff with different note names. Any note spelled with a flat can also be spelled with a different note name using a sharp. Any note spelled with a sharp can also be spelled with a different note name using a flat. Using the same keyboard, fill in the enharmonic note names for the notes on the black keys. The first one is done for you.



So ... although each of these notes is played the same way, it can be named using different letters. This is the definition of enharmonic notes.

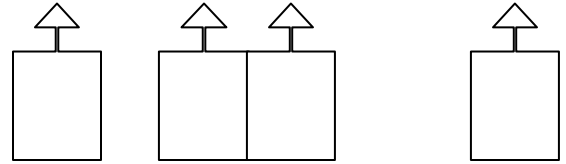
## Naming Notes – Two Pairs of Notes to Remember

Most of the white keys of the keyboard have a black key between them. There are two pairs of notes that do not. When moving from **B** to **C** or from **E** to **F** we use only one half step. Knowing this, we can also find the enharmonic names for these notes, but they are fairly uncommon to see in music. Again, looking at the keyboard, add the enharmonic note names for these four notes.

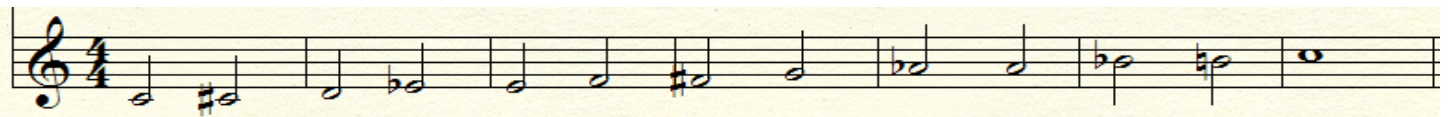


## Naming Notes – Using the Musical Staff

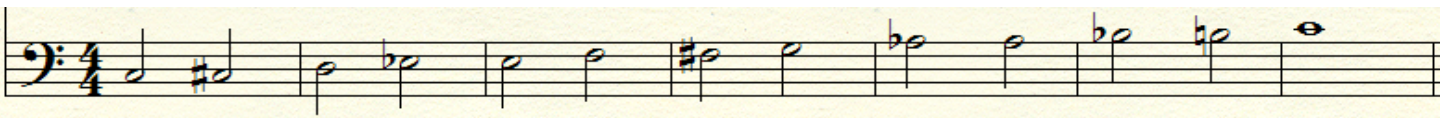
The next step in this process is to put our understanding to use on a scale. The picture below is a C Chromatic scale. It uses all of the common notes you have learned up to this point. Name the notes above the staff.



(Treble Clef)

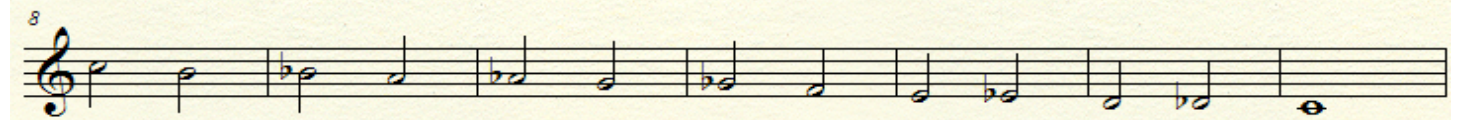
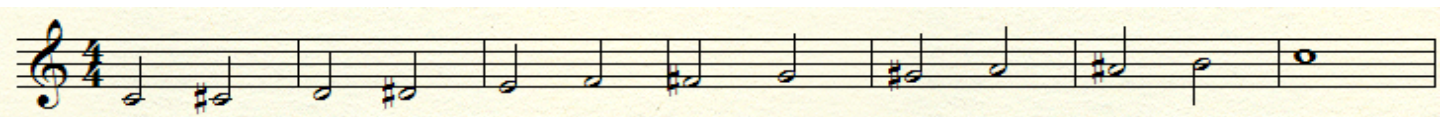


(Bass Clef)

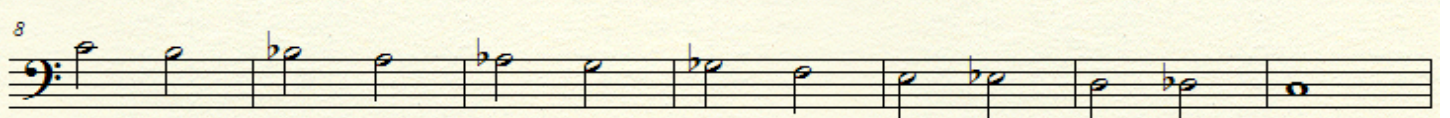
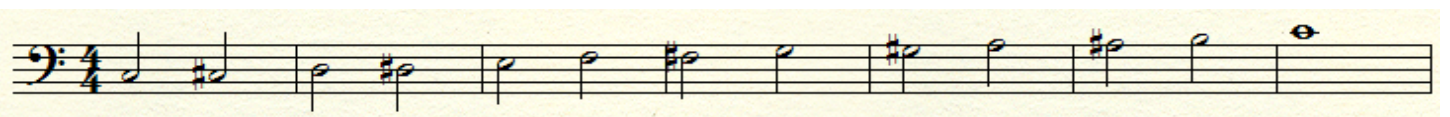


Looking at the two staves above, it is difficult to read. It is hard to tell if notes are going ascending or descending, and it will be even more difficult to perform the scale. Using enharmonic note names, write in the notes above the staff as the chromatic scale ascends and descends.

(Treble Clef)



(Bass Clef)



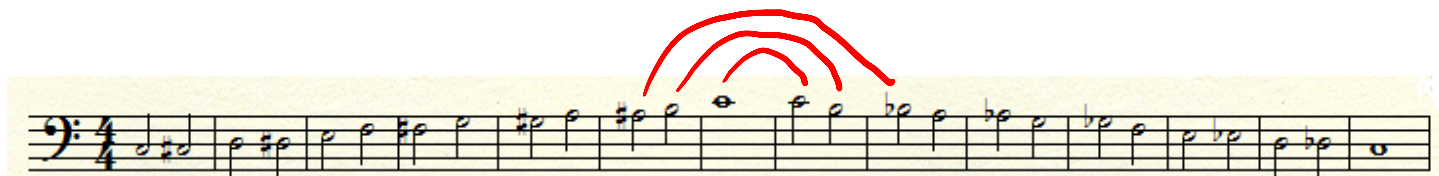
Looking at the last example, it is easy to tell that the music is ascending or descending. The note names may not be as familiar to you as the ones you have learned up to this point, but the music will be much easier to perform because you can interpret the written music faster.

In the next example, the entire scale is written on one line. Draw curved lines showing the notes of the scale that are the same. When you are finished, you should have a rainbow of lines and none of them should intersect. Three are done for you.

(Treble Clef)



(Bass Clef)



### Naming the Pairs

In the blanks below, write the enharmonic note for the note given to you.

- |              |              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. D# _____  | 2. Ab _____  | 3. F# _____  | 4. Bb _____  |
| 5. C# _____  | 6. Eb _____  | 7. Gb _____  | 8. A# _____  |
| 9. G# _____  | 10. Fb _____ | 11. B# _____ | 12. Db _____ |
| 13. Cb _____ | 14. E# _____ | 15. C _____  | 16. B _____  |
| 17. E _____  | 18. F _____  |              |              |

Writing the Pairs

Draw the matching enharmonic note on the staff next to each example.

(Treble Clef)

Two musical staves in Treble Clef. The top staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and contains eight notes: F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, and F#5. The bottom staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and contains eight notes: Bb3, C4, D4, Eb4, F4, G4, Ab4, and Bb4.

(Bass Clef)

Two musical staves in Bass Clef. The top staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and contains eight notes: F#2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, and F#3. The bottom staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and contains eight notes: Bb1, C2, D2, Eb2, F2, G2, Ab2, and Bb2.