
Determining Parallel Key Signatures

ANSWER KEY

By tweaking a couple of notes in the major scale, you can form a minor scale. Parallel Keys are a major and a minor key that share the same tonic (they both have the same 1st scale degree.) So for example, C major's parallel minor key is C minor. Easy enough, right? Same tonic. And now, to figure out the key signature for C minor (if it's not memorized yet...), grab the key signature of its relative major key, E \flat , which has 3 flats. How'd we get the relative major key? By going up 3 half steps. Get used to switching back and forth between relative major and minor. To get the relative minor of a major key, go down into minor land 3 half steps. To get the relative major of a minor key, go up into happy major land 3 half steps.

In this exercise, a major or minor key is given. Figure out its parallel key. Write the names of the keys underneath the staff and write the key signatures above.

The exercise consists of three rows of musical staves. Each row contains two pairs of staves. The first pair shows a major key signature followed by a double bar line and then a minor key signature. The second pair shows a minor key signature followed by a double bar line and then a major key signature. The key signatures are as follows:

- Row 1: G major (one sharp) and G minor (one flat); E major (two sharps) and E minor (one sharp); D major (two sharps) and D minor (one flat).
- Row 2: E \flat major (three flats) and E \flat minor (three flats); C major (no sharps or flats) and C minor (no sharps or flats); F \sharp minor (two sharps) and F \sharp major (two sharps).
- Row 3: A minor (no sharps or flats) and A major (no sharps or flats); B \flat minor (two flats) and B \flat major (two flats); F minor (two flats) and F major (two flats).