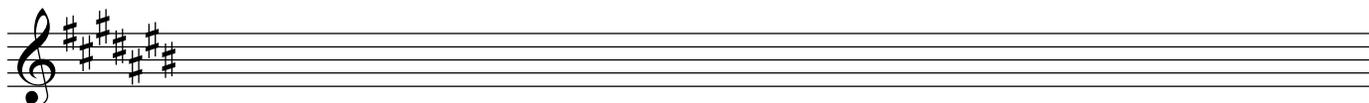# Key Signatures

Givens:

1. Each Major or minor scale is associated with a unique key signature.
2. If you know the starting pitch and the key signature, you can play the scale.

Sharp Rules:

1. Sharps always show up in the following order: **F C G D A E B**
   This can be remembered by the saying: *Fat Cats Get Dizzy After Eating Butter.*
2. Remember that this order is set in stone. You can not have a G♯ in the key signature unless there is an F♯ and a C♯ too.
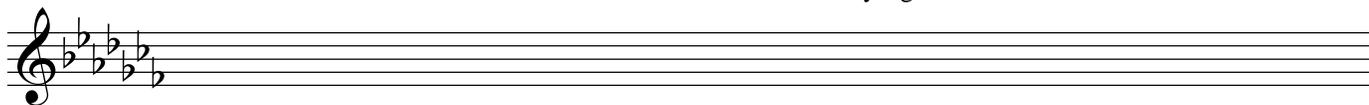

How to determine the key signature of a sharp scale:

1. Given the name of the scale.
2. Go down 1/2 step from the starting note.
3. Find the resulting sharp pitch in the order of sharps.
4. The key signature will be everything up to and including the sharp you found.

Example: We want to determine the key signature for the E Major scale. The starting note is E, so we go down 1/2 step from that note. This results in a D♯. Find D♯ in the order of sharps (Fat Cats Get Dizzy), the key signature will be all the sharps up to and including D♯. (F C G D)

Flat Rules:

1. Flats always show up in the following order: **B E A D G C F**
   This can be remembered by the saying: *Big Elephants Always Do Great Courageous Feats.*
2. Remember that this order is set in stone. You can not have an A♭ in the key signature unless there is a B♭ and an E♭ too.

How to determine the key signature of a flat scale:

1. Given the name of the scale.
2. Find the starting note in the order of flats.
3. Add 1 more flat.
4. The key signature will be everything up to and including the flat you added.

Example: We want to determine the key signature for the A♭ Major scale. The starting note is A♭, so we find that in the order of flats (Big Elephants Always). Add the next flat (D♭). The key signature will be all the flats up to and including the one you added. (B E A D)

Something else to remember:

The C scales (C, C♯ and C♭) are ALL or NOTHING. Meaning that the C scale has nothing in the key signature, and C♯ and C♭ have all the sharps and flats in their key signatures.