

# Notation

## Part 4: Circle of 5ths

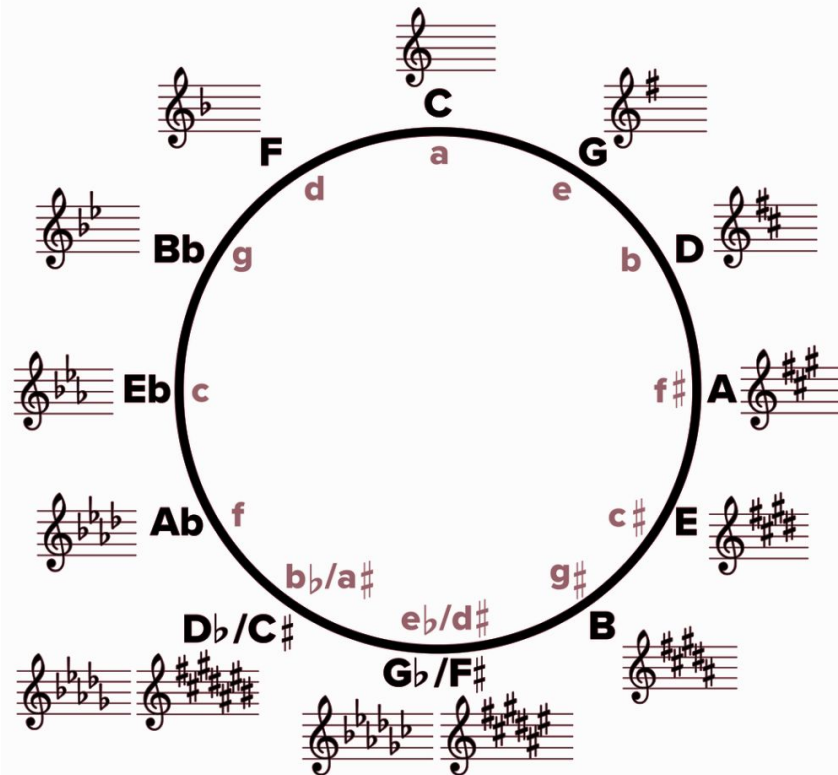


*To send light into the darkness of men's hearts – such  
is the duty of the artist.*

*–Robert Schumann*

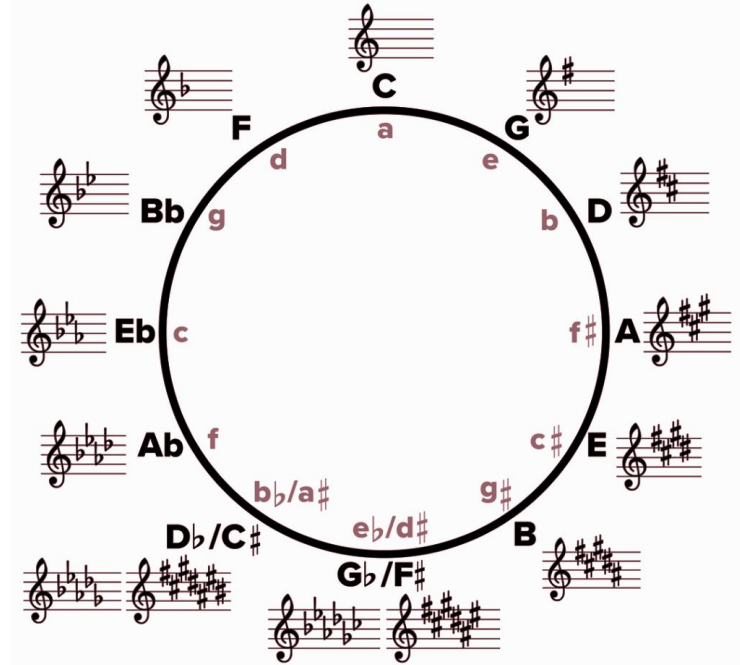
## 4. Circle of 5ths

# Circle of 5ths



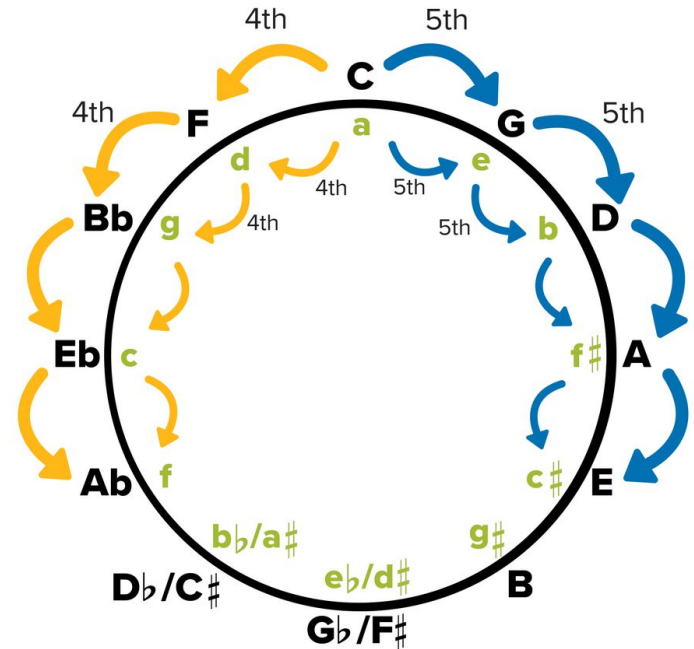
## What is the Circle of 5ths

- Represents the 12 chromatic scale tones and their key signature
- Outer circle: key signatures
- Capital letters: major keys
- Lowercase letters: minor keys



## What is the Circle of 5ths

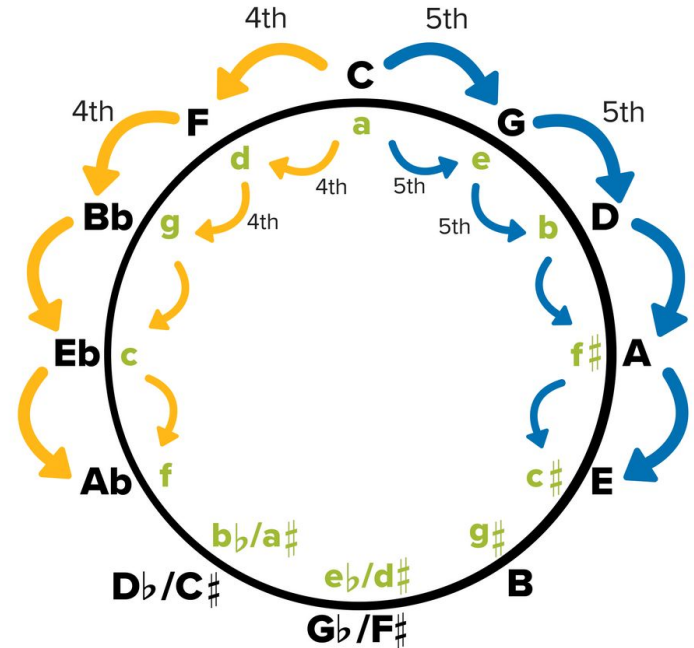
- Each interval represents a note a 5th higher
- Starting with C major, G major is a 5th up from C and D is a 5th up from G....
- Same principle with minor keys



"Circle of 5ths." *Open Music Theory*, 2018

## What is the Circle of 5ths

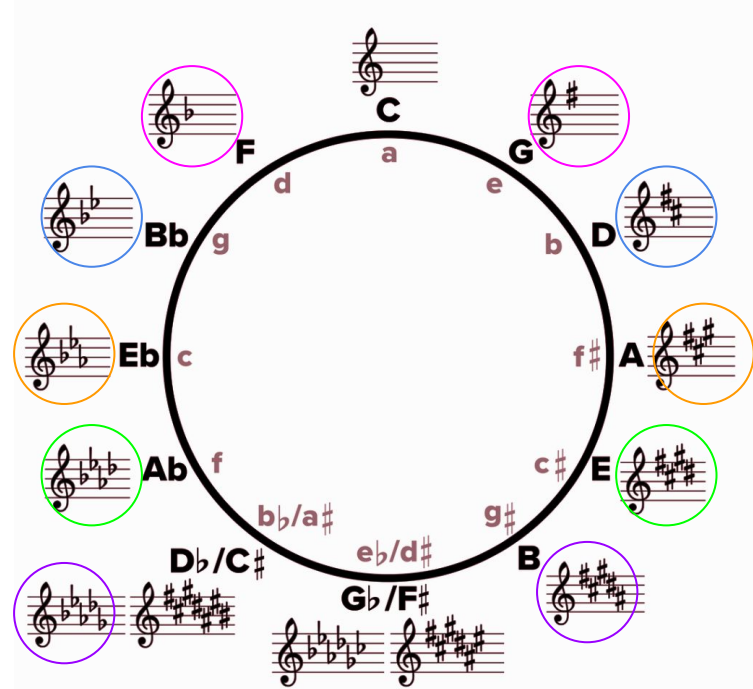
- Less commonly used, the counterclockwise circle shows the notes descending by a 4th
- Each interval marks one accidental



"Circle of 5ths." *Open Music Theory*, 2018

# Key Signatures

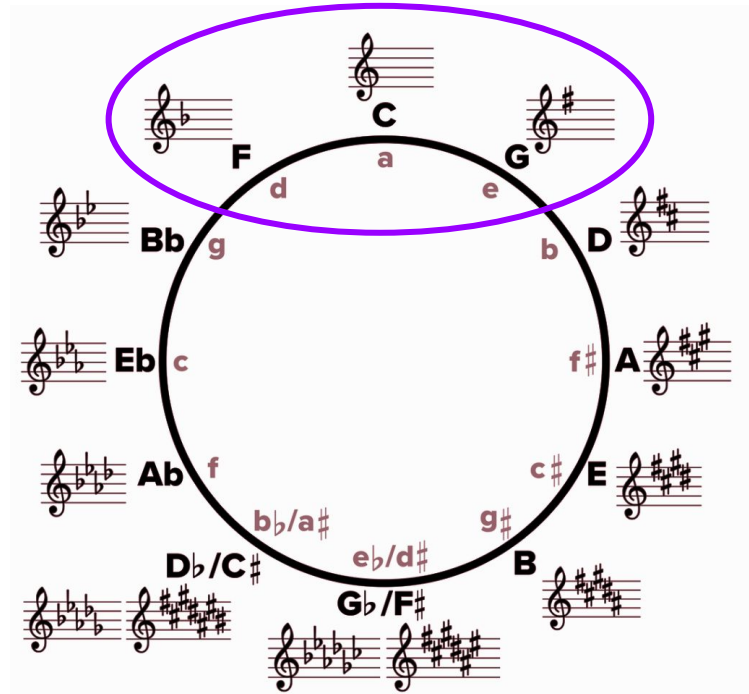
- The circle shows the key signature of each note
- Key signatures correlate when looked at clockwise and counterclockwise for easy memorization





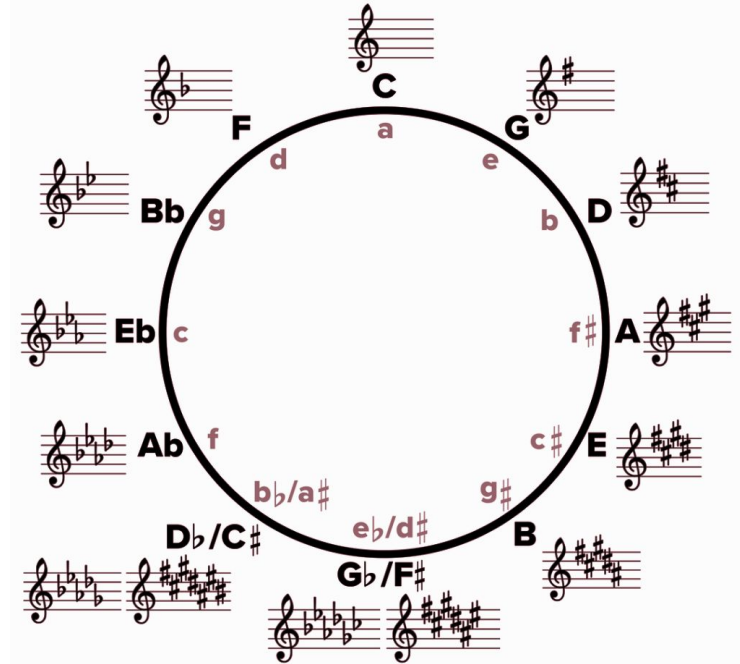
# Modulation

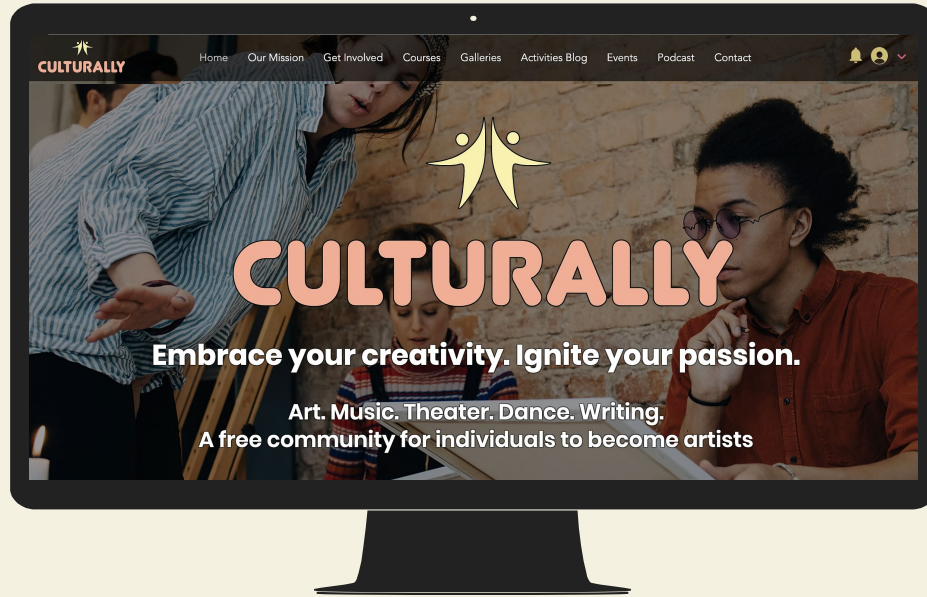
- Example: C major
- The keys to the left and right share chords with C major and are the easiest to modulate to a new key
- C major and G major
  - C, G, F, d, a, e



# Memorization

- To remember the order of the sharps, use this mnemonic device
  - Father Charles Goes Down And Ends Battle
- Flats (read backwards)
  - Battle Ends and Down





**Thank you for supporting Culturally**

We hope you like our course so far! Next, test your knowledge of the circle of 5ths with our word search.