

## Tips and Tricks for Sight-Reading

### 1) Tip for reading flat keys



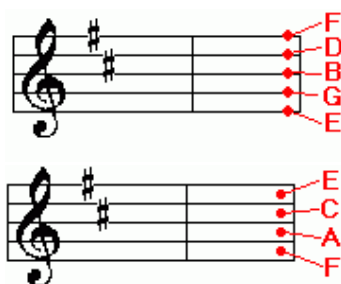
To find what flat key you're in, just take the next to the last flat. In this example Ab (flat) Major is the key! The exception is F major (or D minor), which has only 1 flat!

### 2) Tip to recognize (major) keys with sharps



To find what sharp key you're in, just go half step above the last sharp. In this example B Major is the key!

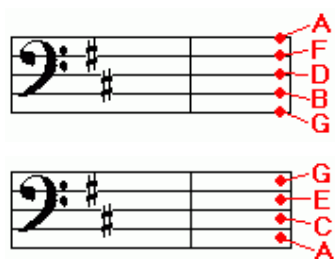
### 3) Tips to speed up note recognition in the treble clef



It is fairly easy to instantly see if a note is on a line and on which line it is. Learn these letters upward and downward and you'll see results fast!

It is fairly easy to instantly see if a note is on a space and on which space it is. Learn these letters upward and downward and you'll see results fast!

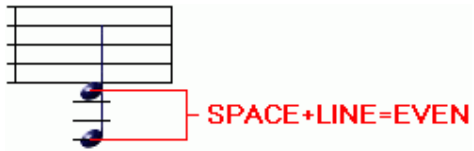
### 4) Tips to speed up note recognition in the bass clef



It is fairly easy to instantly see if a note is on a line and on which line it is. Learn these letters upward and downward and you'll see results fast!

It is fairly easy to instantly see if a note is on a space and on which space it is. Learn these letters upward and downward and you'll see results fast!

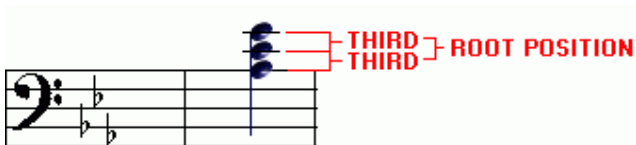
### 5) Tips on how to recognize intervals



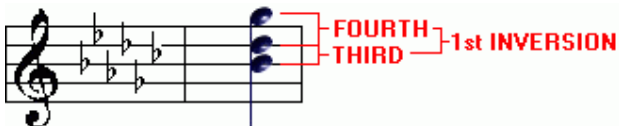
Can you immediately see that both of these notes are in a space (and not on a line)? Then you know already that this interval is ODD! In this case you're looking at a fifth. The same goes if both notes are on a line!

Do you see that one note is on a line and the other in a space? Or, do you see that not both notes are on a line or in a space? Then you know that this interval is EVEN! This is a sixth.

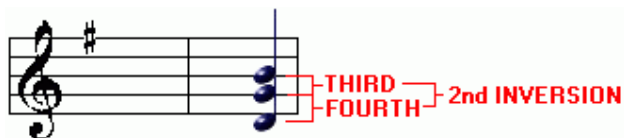
### 6) Tips on how to recognize minor, major, augmented and diminished chords



If you see 2 thirds stacked upon each other, then you know that you're looking at one of the four basic chords in root position! In this case Ab (flat) major! Knowing your primary and secondary chords will help you recognize these chords fast!



If you see fourth stacked upon a third, then you know that you're looking at one of the four basic chords in its 1st inversion! In this case Gb (flat) major! Additionally you can immediately identify the top note as the ROOT note!



If you see third stacked upon a fourth, then you know that you're looking at one of the four basic chords in its 2nd inversion! In this case G major! Additionally you can immediately identify the middle note as the ROOT note!

## 7) Tips on how to approach sight-reading

- Identify the key.
- Identify the primary (major) and secondary (minor) chords.
- Identify meter and tempo.
- Analyse the rhythm.
- Scan the piece for difficult passages before starting.
- Try not to look at your hands, only if you have to make large jumps.
- Always sit at the same place behind the piano. Preferably middle 'D' (D above middle 'C'), since it divides the piano in two symmetrical parts.
- Sight-read by interval.
- Look for patterns in music.
- Realize that melodies and chords are very closely related.
- Notes that receive less than one beat, usually don't belong to the underlying chord, but are moving towards it (or away from it to the next chord). If a note receives less than one beat, but is followed by the same note (so together they would make up one beat or more), the usually do belong to the underlying chord.

## 8) A small extract of Elton John's – Someone saved my life tonight

The musical score is annotated with red circles and numbers 1 through 7. The piano part shows chords: F (1), C (1), F (2), G (1), F (2), G (5), C (2), F (3), C (4), F (6), G (1), F (2), G (2). The vocal line has lyrics: 'When I think of those east end lights, mug-gy nights, the cur-tains drawn in the lit - tle room down stairs Pri - ma-don - na, lord you real-ly should have been there...'. Chord diagrams for F, C, F, and G are shown below the piano part.

- C major chord, some in root position, some in 1<sup>st</sup> inversion
- G major chord, some in 1<sup>st</sup> inversion, some in 2<sup>nd</sup> inversion
- With tip 7K in mind: moving towards an F chord in 2<sup>nd</sup> inversion
- With tip 7K in mind: moving towards a C chord in root position
- With tip 7K in mind: moving towards a G chord in 2<sup>nd</sup> inversion
- F major chord with the bottom note doubled
- With tip 7K in mind: notes that belong to the underlying chord and you started out with a G chord.