

## Circle of Fifths/Circle of Keys

The circle of fifths shows the relationship of the musical keys. The outer ring represents the major keys, while the inner ring represents the *relative minor* keys respectively. By moving clockwise around the circle each key progresses a Perfect 5<sup>th</sup> and gains a sharp(#) each step. Transversely, by moving around the circle counterclockwise the keys progress in Perfect 4ths gaining a flat(b) each step. Starting at the top center of the circle we see the key of C Major which contains no sharps or flats. Progressing clockwise a Perfect 5<sup>th</sup> to the key of G Major produces one sharp (which is F#). Progressing another Perfect 5<sup>th</sup> to the key of D produces a new sharp in addition to the F#- this new sharp is C#. Therefore the key of D Major contains an F# and C#. Progressing another 5<sup>th</sup> to the key of A Major gives us F#, C#, and G# and so on. Moving counterclockwise around the circle produces the same results- The key of F Major contains Bb, the key of Bb contains Bb and Eb etc.

Take a close look at the chart. You will find it spells it all out very smartly!

