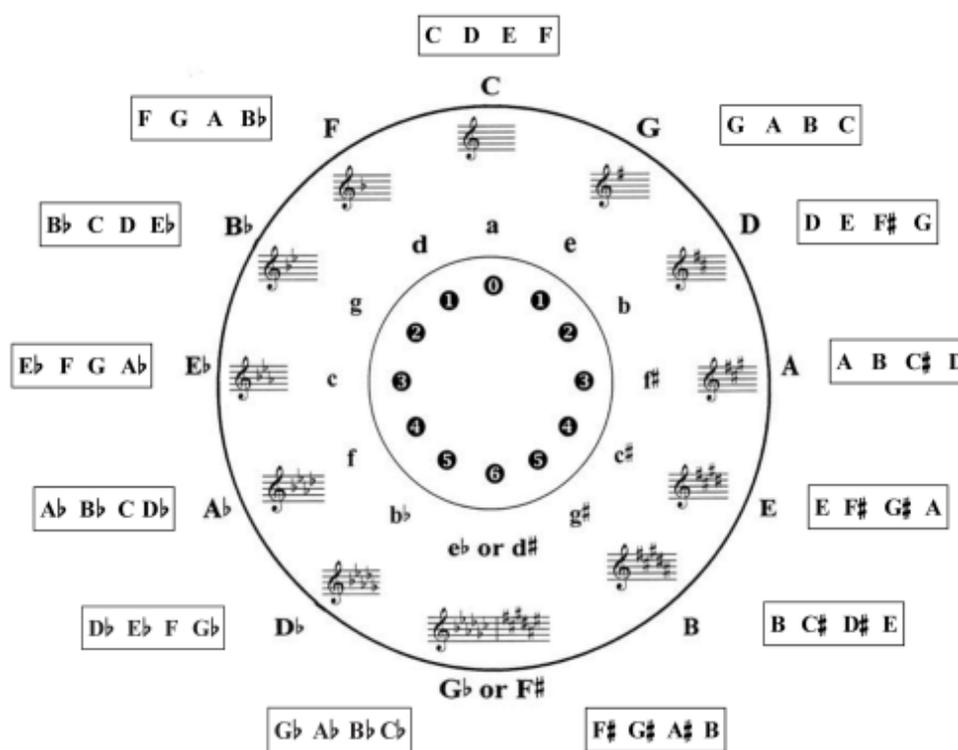


## Circle of Fifths and Tetrachords

The relationship of one key to another is shown on the *Circle of Fifths*. Like a clock, there are twelve positions around the Circle of Fifths. These positions are numbered to show the number of sharps or flats in a given key. At the 12:00 position is the number 0. This indicates that there are no sharps or flats in the key of *C major* and *a minor*. There is a number 1 both to the right and to the left of the 0. This indicates that in the key of *G major* and *e minor* there is one sharp, and in the key of *F major* and *d minor* there is one flat. The staves between the circles indicate the key signature for each pairing.

**Learning Major Scales Quickly:** Major Scales are constructed of two tetrachords made of the major 2nd, major 2nd, and minor 2nd intervals. To learn major scales quickly, learn each of the 12 tetrachords (in the boxes), playing them as fast as possible. Once learned, play the 11:00 tetrachord (FGAB) followed by the 12:00 tetrachord (CDEF) to create an F major scale. Progress around the theory clock playing 12:00 and 1:00 to create the C major scale, 1:00 and 2:00 to create the G major scale, etc.



Mnemonic devices to help remember the major and minor key pairings:

0 C, a = Caramel Apples

- |                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 F, d = Furry Dog            | 1 G, e = General Electric     |
| 2 Bb, g = Boys & Girls        | 2 D, b = Denver Broncos       |
| 3 Eb, c = Easy = E.C.         | 3 A, f# = Abercrombie & Fitch |
| 4 Ab, f = Abercrombie & Fitch | 4 E, c# = Easy = E.C.         |
| 5 Db, bb = Denver Broncos     | 5 B, g# = Boys & Girls        |
| 6 Gb, eb = General Electric   | 6 F#, d# = Furry Dog          |

Teaching scales with tetrachords. From *Flute 101.5: Enrichment* by George & Louke, published by Presser Music Company 2022.