

# Unit 4

## GOALS

Terms: Rest

Scale: G Major Scale

Rhythms: Quarter notes      Eighth notes in pairs      Quarter rests

Solfeggio: DO RE MI FA SOL

Piano: The five-finger pattern

## Concepts & Terms

So far, we've been dealing with concepts of musical sound: pitch, rhythm, scale, and key. But, we also need to address the absence of musical sound. We need to address musical silence.

A **Rest** is a symbol for musical silence. Many music teachers over the years wish that another word had been chosen for these symbols, because the last thing any musician does during a rest is, well, rest! Rests are musical silences that must fit into the overall rhythmic structure of any piece. They are not naps or mini-vacations!

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## G Major Scale

Our first key, C Major, had no accidentals in it. DO is C when no accidentals appear in the key signature. Our first **accidental** is a **sharp**, which looks like this:



The middle of the sharp is like the head of the notes – wherever it is placed on the staff determines its pitch. **Accidentals** change the pitch that is sung. A **sharp** raises the pitch **one-half step**. If you're looking at the piano keyboard, one half-step is the next nearest key, black or white, from any other key. \*More on accidentals at the piano later.

There are two ways to approach learning your scales from the key signature.

- 1) Learn the steps to determine the key.
- 2) Memorize them as we go.

Either way is fine, because you will end up doing both. After memorizing a few, you'll notice a pattern and be able to figure them out, or, you'll figure them out and end up memorizing them anyway.

### **Determining sharp keys**

Sharp keys are easy to determine.

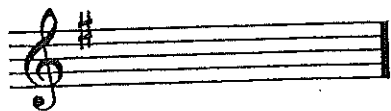
1. Look at the key signature.
2. Name the last sharp in the key signature.
3. Move up one letter name.

OR, in other words: **the last sharp is TI. Find DO.**

So, by that logic,

- if the last sharp is G#, our key would be A Major.
- if the last sharp is D#, our key would be \_\_\_\_\_.
- if the last sharp is A#, our key would be \_\_\_\_\_.
- if the last sharp is C#, our key would be \_\_\_\_\_.

Our first sharp key has only one sharp in it, so by default, the only sharp is the also the last sharp. It looks like this in the treble clef.



And like this in the bass clef.



Which pitch is sharp?

Go up one letter name.

What is the starting point for this key?

The last sharp in this key is F#.

When go up one letter name, we find that our starting pitch is G.

This is the key of G Major.

Let's start on G and move forward until we get to another G.

This should build our scale.



One more step. We should label the letter names of this scale just to be thorough. But, don't just write the letters from G to G, because we have an accidental in our key. We said that our last (and only) sharp is F, so we can no longer say that TI is F. Instead, we have to say F#. We don't have to write the sharp next to the note because the key signature takes care of it for us.



Sing the G Major scale twice. The first time, sing it on the solfeggio syllables. The second time, sing it on the letter names.

Solfeggio.

Sing the following exercises on the solfeggio syllables.



DO RE MI



DO RE MI FA SOL

The following exercises are in the Bass Clef. We are still in the key of G Major.



DO RE MI FA SOL



DO RE MI FA SOL

Notice that only the "new" solfeggio syllables are being written down. If you have to write down syllables at the beginning, do it this way, because it will force your eyes to look at the notes more and more.



DO RE MI FA SOL



DO RE MI FA SOL



