

Key Signature Recognition and the Order of Flats/Sharps

By Ben Wahlund (www.blackdogmusicstudio.com)

The Order of Flats = B, E, A, D, G, C, F

A musical staff in treble clef showing the order of flats. The notes are C, F, B \flat , E \flat , A \flat , D \flat , and G \flat . An arrow points to the G \flat note.

The name of a key that has flats in the key signature is found by naming the *second flat in the key signature from the right*. Notice the key of G \flat , for example.

The Order of Sharps = F, C, G, D, A, E, B

A musical staff in treble clef showing the order of sharps. The notes are C, G, D, A, E, B, and F \sharp . An arrow points to the B note.

The name of a key that has sharps in the key signature is found by naming the *note a 1/2 step above the last sharp on the right*. Notice the key of B, for example.