


4 Discovering Ornamentation and 32nd Notes

During Bach's time and throughout the Baroque Period (1600-1750), keyboardists often improvised during their performances by adding embellishments or ornaments to the music they played. One type of ornament is called a *mordent*, a quick three-note embellishment consisting of two half or whole steps – first down, then up. Composers did not notate the notes of the embellishments. Instead, they used symbols to indicate to the performer to add the ornament. The symbol for a mordent is .

When you see:



Play:



Have you noticed the “math” of music?
To fill a measure in $\frac{4}{4}$ time, you will need:



32nd notes are shown in the mordent example.

Prelude in C Major

BWV 939

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Moderato

The musical score for the Prelude in C Major, BWV 939, is presented in two systems. The first system covers measures 1 through 4, and the second system covers measures 5 through 13. The piece is in 4/4 time and begins with a *mf* dynamic. The tempo is marked *Moderato*. The score includes various fingerings and ornaments, such as mordents in measures 9 and 10. A *cresc.* (crescendo) marking is present in measure 9, and a *f* (forte) dynamic is used in measure 10. The piece concludes with a *rit.* (ritardando) marking in measure 13. A small inset at the bottom left shows a mordent symbol over a note.



Discovering Metronome Markings

The metronome was invented by John Maelzel in 1816. It provides a steady pulse or beat (like a clock ticking) and can be set at a wide range of choices of ticks per minute. The higher the number, the quicker the “ticks.”

By adding a metronome marking to a composition, the composer conveys to the performer at what speed he or she would like their piece performed. The metronome is also an excellent tool to help musicians experiment with tempo, to check out what the composer had in mind, and to discover the places where they are not maintaining a steady tempo.

The desired metronome marking for the piece below is ♩ = 112-116. (Sometimes a range is given for the performer to choose from.)

Dance of the Wind

Janet Vogt

With flourish! ♩ = 112-116

The musical score for "Dance of the Wind" by Janet Vogt is presented in three systems. Each system consists of a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked "With flourish!" and the metronome marking is ♩ = 112-116. The first system starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes fingerings 1, 2, 3, 5, 2, 1, 2, 1, 3, 2. The second system starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes fingerings 1, 2, 3, 2, 1, 2, 1. The third system starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes fingerings 1, 3, 3. Dynamic markings include *mp* and *mf*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and articulation marks.

(7)

Musical score for system (7) in G major. The right hand (RH) features a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The left hand (LH) provides a bass line. Fingerings are indicated: 1, 3, 1, 2, 1 in the RH.

(9)

Musical score for system (9) in G major. The right hand (RH) features a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *f* (forte). The left hand (LH) provides a bass line. Fingerings are indicated: 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 2, 1 in the RH.

(11)

Musical score for system (11) in G major. The right hand (RH) features a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte). The left hand (LH) provides a bass line. Fingerings are indicated: 5, 3, 5, 3 in the RH.

(13)

Musical score for system (13) in G major. The right hand (RH) features a melodic line with dynamic markings of *p* (piano) and *pp* (pianissimo). The left hand (LH) provides a bass line. Fingerings are indicated: 5, 3, 1, 4, 5, 1 in the RH.

(15)

Musical score for system (15) in G major. The right hand (RH) features a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano). The left hand (LH) provides a bass line. Fingerings are indicated: RH 5, LH 1, RH 2, LH 1, RH 3, 2, 1, 2 in the RH.

Discovering Retrograde Markings

(17)

p

(19)

mp *mf*

(21)

1 3 2 1 2 1 3 2

(23)

1 1 1 8va

accel. al fine

8va

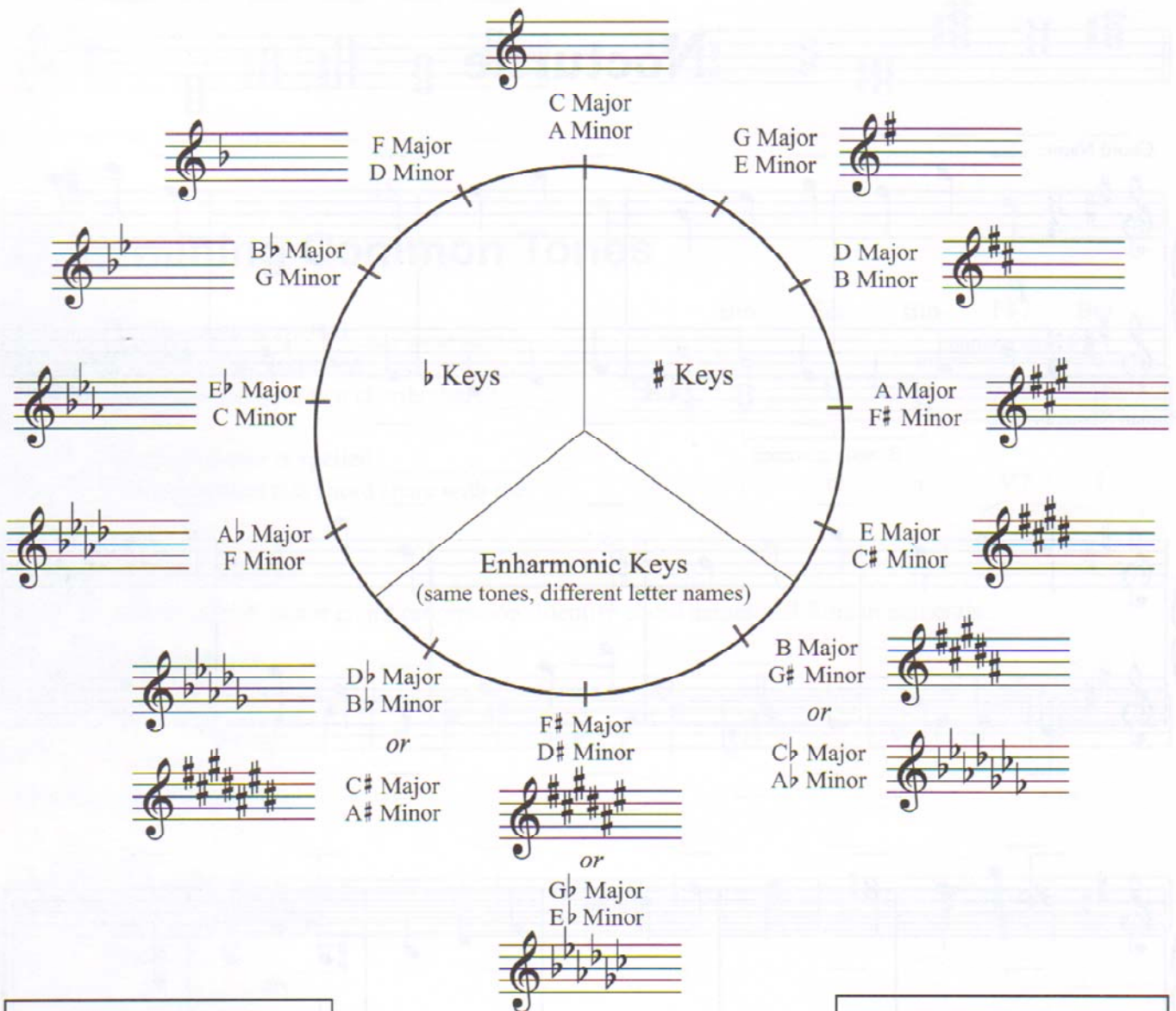
(25)

15^{ma} 15^{ma} 1 1 1 2

loco

Discovering the Circle of Fifths

You have studied the order of sharps and flats and the sharp and flat keys. The *Circle of Fifths* charts the progression of one key to the next. An interval of a fifth separates the tonic of each key. For example, moving clockwise through the sharp keys (beginning with C Major), C to G is a fifth apart, then G to D is a fifth apart, and so on. Note that with each successive key, the number of sharps in each key signature increases by one. The flat keys follow the same pattern in a counter-clockwise manner. The minor keys also follow the same logical progression. The major/minor enharmonic keys overlap by sharing the same tones, but have different names depending upon whether they are designated as flat keys or sharp keys.



The order in which **FLATS** occur in a key signature is:
B^b E^b A^b D^b G^b C^b F^b

The order in which **SHARPS** occur in a key signature is:
F[#] C[#] G[#] D[#] A[#] E[#] B[#]

The order in which flats occur in a key signature is: _____

The order in which sharps occur in a key signature is: _____

Fill in each blank and identify each major and minor key.

The diagram is a circle divided into three sectors:

- ♭ Keys (Left Sector):** Contains 7 musical staves. Each staff has a key signature with 1 to 7 flats. To the right of each staff are two lines: "Major" and "Minor".
- # Keys (Right Sector):** Contains 7 musical staves. Each staff has a key signature with 1 to 7 sharps. To the left of each staff are two lines: "Major" and "Minor".
- Enharmonic Keys (Bottom Sector):** Contains 4 musical staves. The first two staves have key signatures with 7 flats and 7 sharps respectively, with labels "Major" and "Minor" or "Major" and "Minor" below them. The last two staves have key signatures with 7 sharps and 7 flats respectively, with labels "Major" and "Minor" below them.

The major sharp keys in order are **G**, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____

The major flat keys in order are **F**, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____

The minor sharp keys in order are **Em**, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____

The minor flat keys in order are **Dm**, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____