



# HITS '94: Language of Music I-B

## Introduction to Barbershop Music

Barbershop Music is written on two STAFFS: the top one in the TREBLE CLEF  and the bottom one in the BASS CLEF .



- TENOR - STEMS UP
  - LEAD (MELODY) - STEMS DOWN
  - BARITONE - STEMS UP
  - BASS - STEMS DOWN
- NOTE: Baritone and Bass are sung one octave *higher* than you would play them on the piano

Each line and space has a letter name:

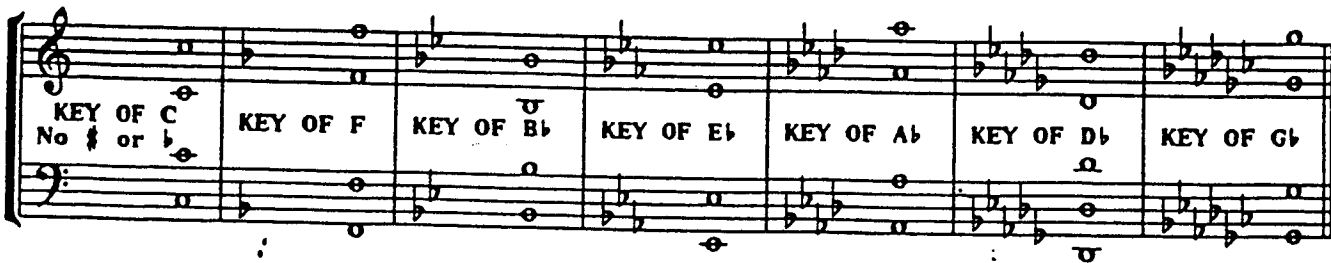
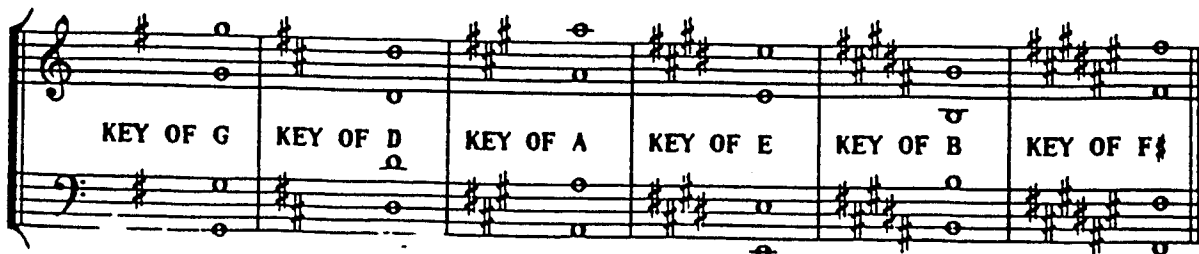


The following symbols are used to raise or lower notes by SEMITONES (a semitone is the interval (distance) between two notes that are side-by-side on a piano or pitchpipe).

- ♭ FLAT: *Lowers* note one semitone
- ♮ NATURAL: *Cancel*s the previous ♭ or ♯ at that pitch.
- ♯ SHARP: *Raises* note one semitone
- ♭♭ DOUBLE FLAT: *Lowers* note two semitones
- ♯♯ DOUBLE SHARP: *Raises* note two semitones

Each piece of music is written in a certain KEY. The KEY of the song is the note that is blown on the pitch pipe. The KEY SIGNATURE is given at the beginning of each line of music and tells you which notes are to be sung as sharps or flats throughout the song. The sharps and flats apply to each note of that letter name in the music (some will be an octave above or below where the sharp or flat actually appears).

Watch for KEY CHANGES in the middle of a song, indicated when you see a new KEY SIGNATURE.

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We often use the syllables DOH-RE-MI-FAH-SO-LAH-TI-DOH to refer to the notes in the scale. The KEY of each song is DOH. Count up and down the lines and spaces to figure out which syllable belongs on which note for each key signature.

KEY OF C Doh Re Mi Fah So Lah Ti Doh      KEY OF E $\flat$  Doh Re Mi Fah So Lah Ti Doh

Each note has a TIME VALUE:

1 WHOLE NOTE = 2 HALF NOTES = 4 QUARTER NOTES = 8 EIGHTH NOTES

RESTS also have values:

1 WHOLE REST = 2 HALF RESTS = 4 QUARTER RESTS = 8 EIGHTH RESTS

At the beginning of each piece of music you will find a TIME SIGNATURE. The top number you how many beats are in each MEASURE (between the BAR LINES). The bottom number tells you the value of the note that gets one beat.

For example:  $\frac{4}{4}$  4 beats in a measure  
A quarter note gets one beat

Here are some examples of TIME SIGNATURES, and the notes that make up each measure:

The following are some other symbols that are often used in barbershop music:

Repeat section	Pause Hold note for a longer duration.	Lead above Tenor	Change of melody from Lead to Tenor
SLUR or SWIPE One word sound at 2 or more pitches. DO NOT sing a new word sound on the 2nd note.	TIE Connects 2 notes at the same pitch. DO NOT sing a new word sound on the 2nd note.	FIRST AND SECOND ENDINGS Repeat first section, then go to the second ending.	TRIPLET 3 notes in the space of 2.