

The Petite Scales of Major Scales

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Petitescales is an innovative and quick way to teach the Major Scales. It is based around counting the number of lines inherent in the letter name of the scale. ie the number of lines in the letter D is two and there are two sharps in the scale of D Major, A has three lines and therefore three sharps and E four lines and four sharps.

The students find this a very easy system to work with as there are no rhymes to remember (or forget), just the letter to draw in the air to prompt their memory.

There are four components to this method: 1. the number of strokes in the letter name of the scales with sharps. 2. the black and white patterns formed when finding the sharps and flats. 3. the use of the large and small group of black notes that shape the fingering. 4. the importance of the number seven. (7 letters in the musical alphabet, 7 Major scales with sharps, 7 Major scales with flats and using the number 7 you can easily work out the Major scales with flats in them)

The Major Scales with sharps are taught first, then using the number seven the students are taught how to work out the Major Scales with flats in them. ie both scales that share the same letter name must contain seven accidentals in total. D Major has two sharps therefore D Flat Major will contain five flats, two sharps plus five flats gives a total of seven accidentals.

About the Author

Katharin Petite is at present residing in Western Australia where she teaches Piano and Guitar, writes and composes music for Piano and Strings and performs with a Violin, Cello and Piano Trio, the Classic Sounds Trio. She left her place of birth, New Zealand, in the 1960's and immigrated to Adelaide, South Australia. She has since lived and worked in Melbourne, Sydney and London.

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