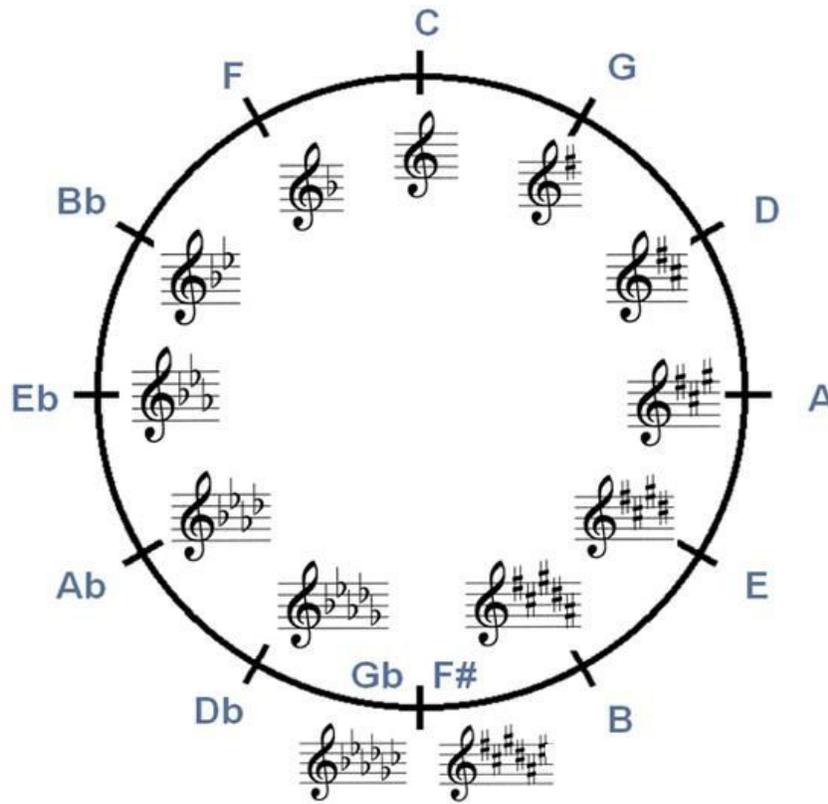




Circle of Fifths



Makeup of Major and Minor Scales

Every major scale has a relative minor, which has the exact same key signature, but starts three, 1/2 steps *below* the tonic in the major. Minor scales have three forms:

1. Natural: Exact same notes as the relative major, without any chromatic alteration;
2. Melodic: Raised 6th and 7th step in the ascending form; the descending form is like the natural;
3. Harmonic: Raised leading tone (both ascending and descending), which causes a step-and-a-half interval between the 6th and 7th steps.

Note also that works are not in "melodic minor" or "harmonic minor" keys; rather, composers sprinkle these configurations throughout the work.

Key Areas (Major)	Key Areas (Minor)
C	a
G	e
D	b
A	F#
E	c#
B	g#
F#	d#
C#	a#
F	d
B flat	g
E flat	c
A flat	f
D flat	b flat
G flat	e flat
C flat	a flat

Parallel keys are a different thing altogether; what makes them parallel is that the scale starts on the same note - but the key signatures are different. For example:

C Major (no sharps or flat) / c minor (three flats)
 G Major (one sharp) / g minor (two flats)
 D Major (two sharps) / d minor (one flat)..etc.

So the question really is, if an audition is asking for a "Parallel melodic minor scale" -- parallel to what Major key? You will need to find that out, and then play a scale on that same tonic note but with the melodic minor construction -- which of course is a raised 6th and 7th step in the ascending form, and the "natural" form in the descending.

Supposing that the auditioner wants a melodic minor scale parallel to the A Major; then you would play a melodic minor scale starting on the pitch "A," thus:

a b c d e f# g# a g natural f natural e d c b a

Identifying Key Signatures

The order of the sharps (from left to right) is Fat Cows Gulp Daises And Eat Beans. The Flats are the opposite: BEADGCF.

Rule for Sharp Keys: The key is 1/2 step above the last sharp (sharp furthest to the right).

Rule for Flat Keys: The key is the next to the last flat. With F Major, you have to memorize that it's one flat, since there is no "next to last."