

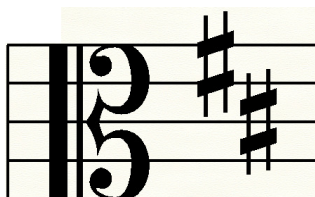
Let's Read Music: Viola

X. Key Signatures: D Major

Now that we can play a D Major Scale, we can now learn about the D Major Key Signature.

Goal: Learn to read the key signature for the key of D Major.

In our previous worksheet, we played the D Major Scale. Another name for a scale is the word *key*, which is defined as a "series of notes progressing diatonically, in a certain order of tones and semi-tones," (a.k.a. whole steps and half steps) "the first note of the scale being called the *key note*."³ By this definition, the "D" of the D Major Scale would be called the Key Note, and the notes of the scale would belong to the Key of D Major.



You may also remember that the D Major Scale, or Key of D Major, has two sharp notes: F# and C#. In previous worksheets, these notes were made sharp by placing a sharp (#) next to the notes on the music. Another way to make notes sharp is by using a Key Signature. Look at the alto clef to the left. Notice the two sharps. The first sharp is on the space for F and the second sharp is on the line for middle C (a note you will learn on a later worksheet). Songs that have this key signature will be played with all F's and C's being sharp. Since the D Major Scale has both F# and C#, that makes this the Key Signature for the Key of D Major.

Song 10.1

"French Folk Song"



The musical score for "French Folk Song" is written in D Major (two sharps: F# and C#) and 3/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is a simple folk tune consisting of quarter notes and a final dotted half note. The subsequent staves are numbered 5, 9, 13, and 17, indicating the starting measure for each line of the piece.

Coursework

Creativity Exercise: The measures below have the key signature for D Major. Write out your own assortment of notes. You do not need to place sharps next to F's or C's since those notes have already been made sharp by the key signature. Perform for teacher at next lesson.

