

## Monteverdi's Gloria for 8 voices M 14

### Check out your knowledge about key signatures

1. How much do you already know about key signatures? Answer these questions, check how you did in the next box, (no peeking) and then fill in any gaps in your knowledge

		TRUE / FALSE
i	At the start of a piece of music are three types of signature, for the time, the key and the composer	
ii	They are called signatures because they are the unique indication of settings for the piece that it is useful to know at the start	
iii	The time signature comes at the start of every line of music, while the key signature only comes at the start	
iv	The key signature is made out of a mixture of sharps and flats	
v	When there aren't any sharps or flats at the beginning, the composer has forgotten to put them in	
vi	Every time the music changes key, there has to be a new key signature	
vii	As you go through the piece you may meet accidentals that tell you to modify the key signature	
viii	The sharps or flats must be written carefully in exactly the right places	
ix	Everyone must study the key signature very carefully to work out which notes are affected	
x	Every major and minor key has its own unique key signature	
xi	You have to be a real expert to work out the key from the key signature	

2. Check you are clear about all the information

i	False. Just two – the time (what the beat is and how many there in a bar, and which notes have to be played or sung as their sharp or flat versions)
ii	True. They could just as easily have been called autographs or labels
iii	False. It's the other way round – you get the key signature at the start of every staff. That's because musicians often check back at them to make sure they are doing the right notes
iv	False. There's never a mixture – either one or more sharps or one or more flats – or nothing
v	False. The key of C (and of A minor) has no sharps or flats
vi	False. There doesn't <u>have</u> to be a new key signature. Sometimes composers of long pieces that are going to be in a different key for a while put in the new one to avoid lots of accidentals. Pop songs that go into a new key for the next verse often do the same thing.
vii	True. Happens very often, and always when the key is minor because of the raised note(s)
viii	True. They must be drawn precisely to indicate the line or space whose notes they affect
ix	False. If you know how key signatures work you don't have to look so carefully. If there is one sharp, it's always the same one, if there are 2, the first is the same as when there was just one and the added one is always the same. In other words they come in a sequence, so if you know that, you're fine
x	True and False! It depends how you interpret the question. Every major key has its own signature. Every minor key is paired with its "relative" major and borrows that key signature.
xi	False. Since key signatures follow patterns, you just have to learn those.