

Monteverdi's Gloria for 8 voices M 15 sheet 2

Study how the keys used in the Gloria relate to each other. You need 15 sheet 1 as well

1. Find your way round the chart on 15 Sheet 1

The left hand column lists all the white and black notes in ascending order.

There is just one name for each black note – the way it is named when it comes in the Gloria. Amazingly, every note comes at least once in the Gloria. No wonder it is quite a challenge!

The scales are shown by coloured boxes – green for minor and red for major. Look at the lowest box for each scale and you'll see its name. Read across from the name of the scale and you can see the same note in the left hand column. The notes in each scale are numbered too – 1 to 8 to help you find your way around.

Monteverdi used 5 major keys and 3 minor keys in the Gloria. They are the ones on the chart.

The major scales have 8 boxes – one for each note and finishing off an octave above the starting note. The minor scales have extra boxes to show that you have different variants of notes 6 and 7. The lighter green box shows the raised version of each. No numbers for these – no space!

2. Look for the patterns within the columns (scales)

Find F major. It is the red scale nearest to the left. Check you can see the tone, tone, semitone, tone, tone, tone, semitone pattern as you go up the scale. Check out the other major scales.

Find D minor – the green column on the left. See its pattern – it starts tone, semitone, tone, tone, and then you get to the place where it can vary depending on the context. See that A minor and E minor have the same pattern.

3. Look for patterns across the red columns

Focus on the red columns (the major scales) first. Can you see how notes 1,2,3 and 4 of C major are the same as notes 5,6,7 and 8 of F major? Does G major relate to C major in the same way? And what about D major?

Look again at F major and C major. You've already discovered that they have 4 notes in common. What about the other 3? Can you see that they both have G and A natural. F major has Bb and C major has B natural. Just one note's difference.

What about C major and G major. How many notes are different between those two? And which is it / are they? Check out G major and D major, then D major and A major.

You've found that each of these pairs of scales has only one note that is different. As you go to the right along the columns, you accumulate sharps, in the sequence F#, C# and G#. A flat is the opposite of a sharp, so the sequence continues to the left.

Have you noticed that the new sharp is always the 7th note of the scale?

4. Look for patterns across pairs of green and red columns

Compare D minor (green) with F major (red). Can you see how notes 1,2 and 3 of F major are the same as notes 3,4 and 5 of D minor. And if you go on up D minor, see how the original version notes are the same as the parallel F major notes. Do A minor and major relate in the same way? And E minor and G major?

You have discovered the concept of the **relative minor**. D minor is related to F major. It shares the same notes before you adjust notes 6 and 7. So it has the same key signature as F major.