

## KEY SIGNATURES

Below is a "short-cut" in figuring out what the key signature is. Once you know how to use this method, you don't need to memorize the individual key signatures.

HOWEVER, YOU DO NEED TO MEMORIZE THE FOLLOWING:

C+——no sharps or flats

F+—— has ONE flat (B)

**BY THE WAY:**      *+is MAJOR and - is MINOR*

OKAY. HERE GOES:

**FATHER CHARLES GOES DOWN AND ENDS BATTLE** is a very important sentence to memorize. The FIRST LETTER OF EACH WORD represents a SHARP.

SHARPS: **FATHER CHARLES GOES DOWN AND ENDS BATTLE**

**F                    C                    G                    D                    A                    E                    B**

- C+    no sharps
- G+    1 sharp (F)
- D+    2 sharps (F and C)
- A+    3 sharps (F, C, and G)
- E+    4 sharps (F, C, G, and D)
- B+    5 sharps (F,C,G,D and A)
- F#+    6 sharps (F,C,G,D,A, and E)
- C#+    7 sharps (F,C,G,D,A,E and B)

Now reverse the sentence for FLAT key signatures:

FLATS: **BATTLE ENDS AND DOWN GOES CHARLES FATHER**

**B                    E                    A                    D                    G                    C                    F**

- F+:                    1 flat (B)
- B flat +            2 flats (B and E)
- E flat +            3 flats (B,E and A)
- A flat +            4 flats (B,E,A and D)
- D flat +            5 flats (B,E,A,D and G)
- G flat +            6 flats (B,E,A,D,G and C)
- C flat +            7 flats (B,E,A,D,G,C and F)

The key signatures most commonly use in our songs are:

(SHARPS) G    D    A (FLATS) F    B flat    E flat    A flat, occasionally G flat  
and, of course the key of C (no sharps or flats)