

KEYS TO THE HIGHWAY



BY ROGER GOODMAN

A Journey into Flatland

Last time on the musical highway we constructed all of the major scales in the sharp keys. This time we will journey a bit farther and enter “flat land.” Let’s start with what we already know from our study of the sharp keys by writing out a chromatic scale in the key of F. Then below it, we write the familiar major scale

numbers with their proper spacing. The next step is to bring down the letter names that line up with the numbers, just as we did in the previous articles. Everything appears to be fine until we reach the fourth note of the scale.

F Chromatic	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F
Generic Major	1		2		3	4		5		6		7	1
F Major	F		G		A	A#							

It looks like the next note should be an A# but in a major scale we must proceed to the next letter name with each succeeding degree of the scale and, since we’ve already used the letter name “A,” we can’t also use A#. Instead, we can use the same note but give it a different name, in this case, “Bb.” What we have is the key of F—the key of 1 flat. As you continue with the rest of the F major scale, there will be no more surprises.

F Chromatic	F	Gb	G	Ab	A	Bb	B	C	Db	D	Eb	E	F
Generic Major	1		2		3	4		5		6		7	1
F Major	F		G		A	Bb		C		D	E		F

If you’ve been reading the previous columns in this series, you may have guessed that there’s a logical way to get to the next scale. You may even realize that the next scale after F (the key of 1 flat) is Bb (the key of 2 flats). How did we know what key to pick next so that the order goes from C (no flats) to F (1 flat) to Bb (2 flats)? Remember in the last column we began with the key of C (no sharps), then starting with the note C as “1” we counted up 5 to arrive at the next key, G—the key of 1 sharp. Once we wrote out a G major scale we counted G as 1 and went up 5 to D which has 2 sharps and so on up to the key of C# which has 7 sharps.



Well, it’s the same thing for the flat keys, except we count in the opposite direction by 5 to get to the next flat key. Here’s how: Use a C major scale and start with the C at the right end of the scale. Go down (or back) for a count of 5. Count the C as 1, move left to B (counted as 2), A (3), G (4) and F (5). So, going a fifth down from C lands us at F, which is the key of 1 flat. To get to the key of 2 flats, write out the F major scale then, starting at the rightmost F (counted as 1), count back 5 to Bb. You guessed it—Bb is the key of 2 flats. Keep going and you will eventually wind up at the key of 7 flats. When you finish, check your results against the table below.

Key	Flats	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1
C	0	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
F	1	F	G	A	Bb	C	D	E	F
Bb	2	Bb	C	D	Eb	F	G	Ab	Bb
Eb	3	Eb	F	G	Ab	Bb	C	D	Eb
Ab	4	Ab	Bb	C	Db	Eb	F	G	Ab
Db	5	Db	Eb	F	Gb	Ab	Bb	C	Db
Gb	6	Gb	Ab	Bb	Cb	Db	Eb	F	Gb
Cb	7	Cb	Db	Eb	Fb	Gb	Ab	Bb	Cb

Perhaps you noticed that “a fifth down” lands you on the same letter name as if you went “a fourth up.” It may be easier to count “up a fourth” than “down a fifth,” especially if you are doing these calculations in your head. Use the up or down direction that works the easiest for any particular interval, but remember always to count the first note as “1.”

A little trivia: All complementary intervals add up to 9. We have just seen that a 5th down & a 4th up (5+4=9) resolve to the same letter name. If we want a 6th up we could get to the same letter name by counting a 3rd down (6+3=9). Look at the scales above and try this for other intervals.

Next time we will look a little deeper into the importance of the progression of fifths. In the meantime, review your major scales in the sharp and the flat keys to reinforce what you have learned on this journey and be sure to stay tuned...

THE ASH GROVE

PHOENIX RISING

BY ED PEARL

From 1958 to 1973 at 8162 Melrose Ave., the Ash Grove presented folk music as a great, popular art, and as a major voice for the experiences, beliefs and feelings of various communities and cultures. It was also an important focus in the lives of over 100,000 Southern Californians. The performance standards and creative interplay among musicians, young and old, produced many great artists, enriched the lives of audiences, and gave the club a leading role in the culture of a generation.

Flatt and Scruggs, Lightnin’ Hopkins, Bill Monroe, Muddy Waters, Mississippi John Hurt, The Stanley Bros. and Doc Watson performed their first West Coast concerts here, often performing for weeks and teaching at Bernie Pearl and David Cohen’s Ash Grove School of Traditional Music.

Linda Ronstadt, Ry Cooder, Jerry Garcia, Phil Ochs, Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, Bonnie Raitt, Jackson Browne, Dave Alvin and literally dozens of other stars frequented the club, often both learning from the masters and then as performers. For passing on the tradition, special note has to be made of the role played by the New Lost City Ramblers, the Chambers Bros., Taj Mahal, Bernie Pearl, and the Kentucky Colonels. And to Clarence White, who might have created the next step in country music. We’ll never know.

Since fire closed the Ash Grove, in late 1973, no other institution has appeared which approximates the standards, the musical force, or the integration of cultures and ages of its audiences. In 1996 Ash Grove reopened on the Santa Monica Pier and once again presented a terrific line-up of folk musicians. Unfortunately, due to the economic climate of the day, in 1997 the new Ash Grove had to close its doors. Nothing will ever again create that unique era, the discovery of the music and its creators or the meaning and passion of the original club. It’s impossible to sketch those dynamic and multi-faceted years. It is far better just to list these names and tap into the memories and feelings of those of you who shared musical, social experiences at the club with some of these great artists and each other. Check out the Ash Grove’s website www.art-ashgrove for a detailed history and listing of the many great artists who performed there.

PARTIAL LIST OF ASH GROVE PERFORMERS SINCE 1958

- Steve Allen, Mose Allison, Luther Allison, Laurindo Almeida, An Albannachd Pipers, Clarence Ashley, Hoyt Axton, Roger Abrahams Joan Baez, Byron Berline, Marcia Berman, Herschel Bernardi, Chuck Berry, Leon Bibb, Geronimo Black, Ronee Blakely, David Blue, Juke Boy Bonner, Wellman Braud, Elaine Brown, Oscar Brown, Jr., Jackson Browne, Roscoe Lee Browne, Lenny Bruce, Bud & Travis, Bodacious Bugorilla, Charles Bukowski, Sandy Bull, Eric Burden, Burrito Brothers, The Byrds, Randy California, Canned Heat, Guy Carawan, June Carter, Mother Maybelle Carter, Johnny Cash, Chambers Bros., Len Chandler, Richard Chase, Sam Chatman, Clifton Chenier, Chicago All Stars, Clancy Bros. Gene Clark, Commander Cody, Albert Collins, Congress of Wonders, Ry Cooder, Larry Coryell Elizabeth Cotton, James Cotton, Country Boys, Country Gazette, Country Gentlemen, Pee Wee Crayton, Credibility Gap, Jim Croce, David Crosby, David Cohen, Barbara Dane, Rev. Gary Davis, Jesse Ed Davis, Spencer Davis, Doctor Demento, Jackie de Shannon, Dianne di Prima, Hazel Dickens, The Dillards, The Dirty Blues Band, Willie Dixon, Bob Dorough, Bob Dylan, Hamza El Din, El Teatro Campesino, Ramblin Jack Elliott, Don Ellis, Logan English, Cousin Emmy, Seamus Ennis, Sleepy John Estes, Kimeo Eto, Margie Evans, John Fahey, Billy Faier, Richard & Mimi Farina, Jose Feliciano, Firesign Theater, Flatt & Scruggs, Flying Burrito Bros., Jane Fonda, Robben Ford, Freedom Singers I & II, Jesse Fuller, Lowell Fulson, Tret Fure, Gorgia Sea Islanders, Lynn Gold, The Gosden Bros., Gospel Pearls, Lou Gottlieb, Judy Grahn, The Greenbriar Boys, Richard Greene, Bessie Griffin, Stephan Grossman, The Groundlings, Guadalajara Univ. Dance Troupe, Arlo Guthrie, Buddy Guy, Frank Hamilton, John Hammond, Don Sugarcane Harris, Harrison & Tyler, John Hartford, Ammon Hennessey, John Herald, Rene Heredia, Sarita Heredia, Carolyn Hester, Dan Hicks, Billy Higgins, Sam Hinton, Jack Hirschman, Hollywood Fats, John Lee Hooker, Lightnin’ Hopkins, Doc Hopkins, Shakey Jake Horton, Walter Horton, Son House, Miss. John Hurt, Janis Ian, Ian & Sylvia, John Jackson, Ahmad Jamal, Skip James, Stu Jamieson, Dr. John, Bessie Jones, Kaleidoscope, Kathy & Carol, Fred Katz, Bill Keith, Kentucky Colonels, Albert King, Freddy King, King David & the Parables, John Klemmer, John Koerner, Leo Kottke, Kris Kristofferson, Kweskin Jug Band, Sir Lancelot, R’wanda Lewis, Furry Lewis, David Lindley, Mance Lipscomb, Lawrence Lipton, A.L. Lloyd, Macaluso, Country Joe MacDonald, Fred MacDowell, Lonny Mack, Rose Maddox, Taj Mahal, Magic Sam, Miriam Makeba, Junior Mance, Joe and Roselee Maphis, Jimmy Martin, Benito Martinez, Letta Mbulu, Steve Mann, The McGanns, Brownie McGhee, Don McLean, Larry McNeally, Memphis Slim, Phil Melnick, Deena Metzger, Nobuko Miamoto, Ed Michel, Long Gone Miles, Bill Monroe, Bernabe de Moron, Morris Bros., Moving Star Hall Singers, Goeff Muldaur, Maria Muldaur, Charlie Musselwhite, Holly Near, New Lost City Ramblers, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Hammy Nixon, Phil Ochs, Odetta, Kajsa Ohman, Johnny Otis, Outlaw Blues Band, P.G.&E., Pat Parker, Van Dyke Parks, Gram Parsons, Kenneth Patchen, Tom Paxton, Suni Paz, Bernie Pearl, Ralph Pena, Art Pepper, The Persuasions, Pitchel Players, Pitu Guli, Pam Poland, Suni Paz, Yank Rachel, Bonnie Raitt, Alla Rakha, Bernice Reagan, Almeda Riddle, Rising Sons, Sixto Rodriguez, Jimmy Rogers, Linda Ronstadt, Dick Rosmini, Peter Rowan, Rowan & Martin Sabicas, Mort Sahl, Buffy Saint-Marie, Tony Saletan & Irene Kassoy, Pharoah Sanders, Mongo Santamaria, Martha Schlamme, Seals & Crofts, Sea Train, Mike Seeger, Peggy Seeger, Pete Seeger, Maxine Sellers, Juan Serrano, Ravi Shankar, Tom Shaw, Harry Shearer, Johnny Shines, Frank Silvera, Pat Sky, George Smith, Kilby Snow, Rosalie Sorrells, Joseph Spence, Spencer Davis, Spirit, Mark Spoelstra, Stanley Bros., Steeleye Span, Carl T. Sprague, Stoneman Family, Scotty Stoneman, Babe Stovall, Angela Strehli, Alice Stuart, Sunnyland Slim, Sweetsmill, Mtn.Boys, Horace Tapscott, Jimmy Tarleton, The Tarriers, Earl Taylor, Koko Taylor, Sally Terry, Sonny Terry, Big Mama Thornton, Los Tigres de la Sierra, Linda Tillery, Dalton Trumbo, Big Joe Turner, The United States of America, Mariachi UCLAtlan, Dave Van Ronk, Manolo Vasquez, Vern & Ray, Geronimo Villarino, Leroy Vinegar, Virgin Isl. Steel Band, Lauden Wainright, Wendy Waldman, David T. Walker, Phillip Walker, T-Bone Walker, Clara Ward, ackie Washington, Muddy Waters, Doc Watson, Johnny “Guitar” Watson, The Watson Family, Watts 103rd St. Band, Wavy Gravy, The Weavers, Eric Weissberg, Junior Wells, Hedy West, Westwind Music and Dance Ensemble, Ian Whitcomb, Booker “Bukka” White, Clarence & Roland White, Josh White, Kenny Whitson, Big Joe Williams, Robert Pete Williams, Gerald Wilson, Stan Wilson, Mac Wiseman, Jimmy Witherspoon, Howlin’ Wolf