

My First Tag



HOW TO WRITE A BBS TAG IN 6 PARTS

from BBS Clef Notes

Part 2 ***What's Next?***

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1

Presented by Janice Wheeler



- Member of **Pride of Portland Chorus**.
- Faculty Member of **Region 13 & Harmony College Northwest**.
- Coordinator of annual **Region 13 Arrangers WorkShop at HCNW**.
- Coordinator of annual **Tag Writing Contest** cosponsored by **HCNW & North by Northwest Region 13**.
- Recipient of **Tall Timbre Award** from **The Evergreen District of BHS** for "**outstanding contributions to HCNW**".

2

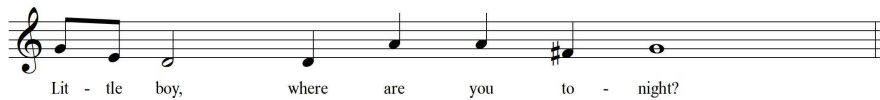
My First Tag – Part 2

WHAT'S NEXT?

3

Melody & Words *from* Last Time . . .

Now that we have a Melody & Words
for My First Tag . . .



Let's Continue
to Part 2 of My First Tag

What's Next? . . .



4

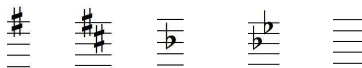
My First Tag *in* 6 Parts

- Part 1 - Where Do I Begin?
 - CHOOSE A MELODY & WORDS ✓
- **Part 2 - What's Next?**
 - FIND A KEY SIGNATURE & A TIME SIGNATURE
- Part 3 - What Else do I Need to Know?
 - FIND THE CHORDS FOR THE KEY SIGNATURE
- Part 4 - Which Chords to use for My Melody?
 - CHOOSE ONE OF THOSE CHORDS FOR EACH MELODY NOTE
- Part 5 - Which Chord Note to use for Which Part?
 - ASSIGN CHORD PARTS TO VOICE PARTS
- Part 6 - What About Embellishments?
 - ADD BARBERSHOP FLOURISH & STYLE

5

Key Signature

- A **Key Signature** – identifies the *Tonal Center* of the Melody . . .
 - ✦ **Key Note** – pitch where the Melody “*feels at rest*”
 - ✦ **Scale** – specific pattern of 7 *ascending pitches* that begins with the Key Note
- It is represented by a set of specific groups of sharps or flats (or not):



- On a music clef, it immediately follows the Clef Symbol.



6

How to Find a Key Signature

To find a **Key Signature** for the Melody of My First Tag, we need to:

- **Find and Name Pitches** – of the notes for each word syllable of the Melody
- **Find the Scale** – that includes all or most of those pitches

7

Find & Name *the* Pitches of Notes for Each Word Syllable of the Melody

We know what to name the pitches of notes for the Melody because of the ***curl of the treble clef*** symbol.

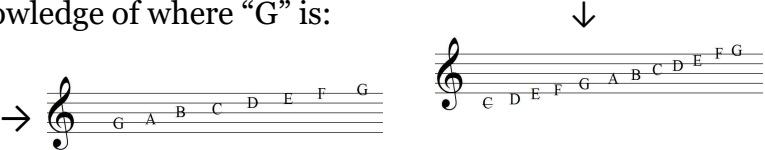
It shows us that the 2nd line of the staff is where the pitch of “G” just above Middle C is to be written – (this treble clef sign is aka known as the “***G clef***”)

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef. Above the staff, a diagram shows a treble clef with an arrow pointing to the second line, labeled 'G'. Below the staff, the melody is written with notes corresponding to the lyrics: 'Lit - tle boy, where are you to - night?'. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (half). There are arrows pointing down to the first and sixth notes. Two speaker icons are present on the right side of the staff.

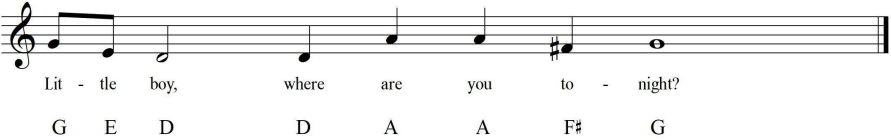
8

FIND and NAME PITCHES of NOTES

The first 7 letters of the alphabet are used to name the pitches for notes on the lines and spaces of the treble clef. You can place them on the staff below (ascending in alphabetical order) using your knowledge of where “G” is:



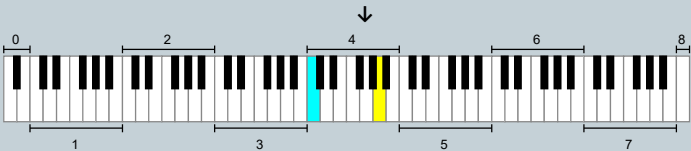
And then name the notes of the tag Melody:



9

“G” on the 88-key Piano Keyboard is “G4”

Piano Keyboard Graphic
Standard Way to Name Octaves
Source: Wikipedia



Aqua Key is Middle C
Yellow Key is A440 (Standard Tuning Reference)
The “G” (indicated by the curl of the Treble Clef symbol) is the 1st white key to the left of the Yellow Key (↓)
This G is also known as “G4” because it is in the 4th Octave

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Piano_Frequencies.svg#/media/File:Piano_Frequencies.svg

10

FIND *the* SCALE *of the* MELODY



A **Scale** is a specific pattern of pitches arranged in ascending order that spans an octave and repeats in the next octave. To find the Scale of a Melody:

- Using the Alphabet Name for each of the Melody note pitches . . .

Lit - tle boy, where are you to - night?
 G E D D A A F# G

- Arrange the note names in ascending alphabetical order:

A D E F# G

- Find the **Major Scale** that has most or all of them using the Chart of Major Scales shown in the next slide . . .

11

Chart of Major Scales

C Major Scale: C D E F G A B C
 G Major Scale: G A B C D E F# G
 F Major Scale: F G A Bb C D E F
 D Major Scale: D E F# G A B C# D
 Bb Major Scale: Bb C D Eb F G A Bb
 A Major Scale: A B C# D E F# G# A
 Eb Major Scale: Eb F G Ab Bb C D Eb
 E Major Scale: E F# G# A B C# D# E
 Ab Major Scale: Ab Bb C Db Eb F G Ab
 B Major Scale: B C# D# E F# G# A# B
 Db Major Scale: Db Eb F Gb Ab Bb C Db
 F# Major Scale: F# G# A# B C# D# E# F#
 Gb Major Scale: Gb Ab Bb Cb Db Eb F Db
 C# Major Scale: C# D# E# F# G# A# B# C#
 Cb Major Scale: Cb Db Eb Fb Gb Ab Bb Cb

12

FIND *the* SCALE *of the* MELODY



- The **G Major Scale** contains all the melody notes (A D E F# G)



G Major Scale



- So we can say:
 - ✦ The scale used for the tag Melody is G Major
 - ✦ The G Major Scale has 1 sharp (#) on the pitch of “F”



13

FIND *the* KEY SIGNATURE *for the* SCALE



- On the Chart of Major Scales, we saw **Key Signatures** – the **Visual Symbols** printed on the musical staff that identify the **Tonal Center** of a scale and indicate what pitches of a scale need to be consistently sharpened (#) or flatted (b).
- That visual symbol for the G Major Scale – the **Key of G** – is:



- So the Tonal Center is “G” and the pitch of “F” (top line below) is consistently sharpened (#) in the G Major Scale (in every octave where it occurs unless indicated otherwise).

G Major Scale



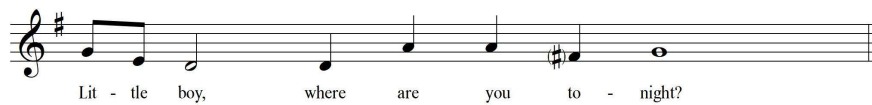
14

KEY SIGNATURE

My First Tag

So we can say the **Key Signature** for My First Tag is defined by the **G Major Scale**:

- ✦ It has 1 sharp (F#) for the pitch of “F”
- ✦ The visual symbol for the Key of G Major is:



Now for the **Time Signature** . . .



15

Time Signature

- A **Time Signature** – allows us to organize the pulse beats or **Meter** of the Melody into small units called **Measures**
 - ✦ **Meter** structures the pulse beats of the Melody in time.
 - ✦ **Measures** organize pulse beats of the Melody into small equal units.
- It is represented by a set of stacked numbers, one on top of the other.
 - ✦ **Top number** = number of beats per measure:
 - ✦ **Bottom number** = what note value is one beat:
- On a music clef, it immediately follows the Key Signature.



16

Time Signature Choices

- The **Time Signature** (also called the “meter”) organizes pulse *beats* of a Melody into small units called *measures*.
- There are 2 basic kinds of Time Signatures
 - ✦ **Simple** – have only 1 accented beat per measure
 - 3/4 time – 3 beats per measure with accent on Beat 1
 - 2/4 time – 2 beats per measure with accent on Beat 1
 - ✦ **Compound** – have more than 1 accented beat per measure
 - 4/4 time – 4 beats per measure with accents on Beats 1 and 3
 - 4/4 time (aka common time shown as “C” on sheet music) is the most used in popular music

17

How to Find a Time Signature

Feel the Pulse Pattern of the Melody

Helpful Techniques (while playing the melody)

- ✦ Listening
- ✦ Conducting
- ✦ Tapping your foot



Helpful Hints (while playing the melody)

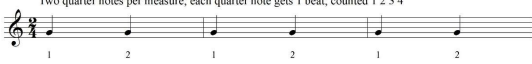
- ✦ Melodies don't always begin on the 1st downbeat
- ✦ Many begin with a “pickup”
- ✦ Nouns often fall on Beat 1
- ✦ Last beat of a measure often has the 1st syllable of a word that finishes on the downbeat of the next measure
- ✦ My tag fits into 3/4 time.

18


Chart of Time Signatures

Chart of Time Signatures

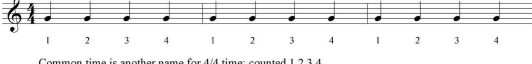
Two quarter notes per measure; each quarter note gets 1 beat; counted 1 2 3 4



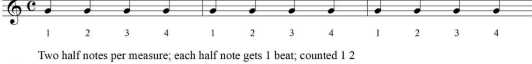
Three quarter notes per measure; each quarter note gets 1 beat; counted 1 2 3



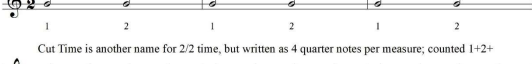
Four quarter notes per measure; each quarter note gets 1 beat; counted 1 2 3 4




Common time is another name for 4/4 time; counted 1 2 3 4



Two half notes per measure; each half note gets 1 beat; counted 1 2



Cut Time is another name for 2/2 time, but written as 4 quarter notes per measure; counted 1+2+




How to Find a Time Signature

Feel the Pulse Pattern of the Melody

Helpful Techniques (while playing the melody)

- ✦ Listening
- ✦ Conducting
- ✦ Tapping your foot

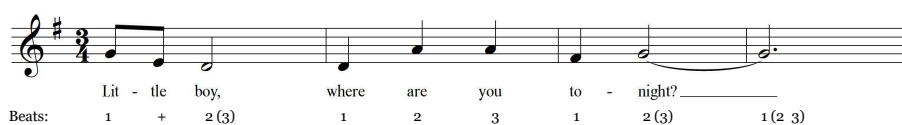


Helpful Hints (while playing the melody)

- ✦ Melodies don't always begin on the 1st downbeat
- ✦ Many begin with a "pickup"
- ✦ Nouns often fall on Beat 1
- ✦ Last beat of a measure often has the 1st syllable of a word that finishes on the downbeat of the next measure
- ✦ My tag fits into 3/4 time.

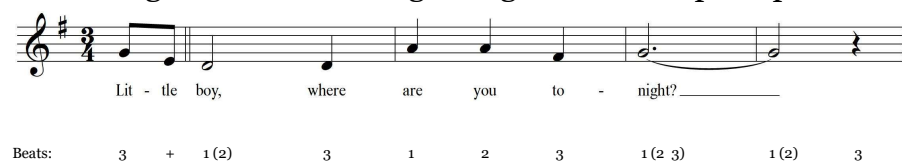
CREATE MEASURES *for the MELODY*

- Time Signature Trial 1 (beginning on downbeat):



Beats: 1 + 2 (3) 1 2 3 1 2 (3) 1 (2 3)

- Time Signature Trial 2 (beginning with 2-note pickup):



Beats: 3 + 1 (2) 3 1 2 3 1 (2 3) 1 (2) 3

21

TIME SIGNATURE

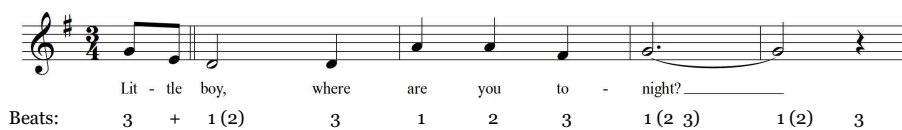
My First Tag

So we can say:

The melody is in 3/4 time = 3 beats per measure

Each quarter note gets 1 beat

The melody begins with a 2-note pickup



Beats: 3 + 1 (2) 3 1 2 3 1 (2 3) 1 (2) 3



22

SUMMARY

Part 2

WHAT'S NEXT?

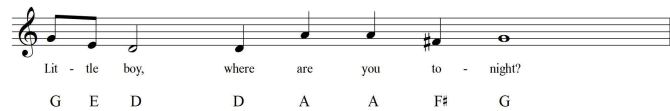
FIND A KEY SIGNATURE & A TIME SIGNATURE

23

For the Melody & Words of My First Tag We Have Found *and* Now Know:

- **Key Signature** – is G Major with 1 Sharp (F#)

- ✧ **Pitches and Names of Melody Notes**



Lit - tle boy, where are you to - night?
 G E D D A A F# G

- ✧ **Scale – is G Major**



G A B C D E F#

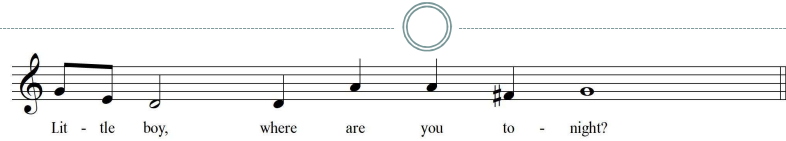
- **Time Signature** – is 3/4

- ✧ Each Measure has 3 Beats; quarter note = 1 Beat
- ✧ Melody begins with a 2-note pickup (1 Beat)



24

Key & Time Signatures *for My First Tag*

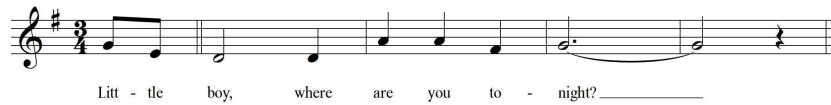


Beats of the notes and words of My First Tag have now been organized into Measures that define the Meter (pulse) and Tonal Center (at rest feel) of the Melody:



Where Are You Tonight?

Words & Music by Janice Wheeler

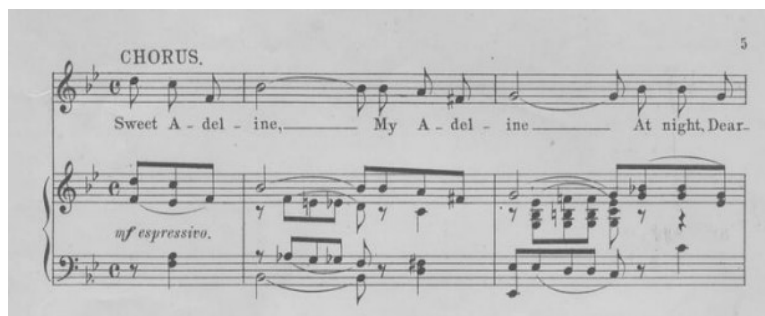


25

For a Public Domain Song

The Sheet Music Displays Key Signature & Time Signature

- For a song from the Public Domain, the Key Signature & Time Signature are already displayed on the sheet music:



<https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3381&context=mmb-vp>

- See the Chart of Major Scales & Chart of Time Signatures to identify the displayed signatures.

26

Now . . . For Your Chosen Melody & Words You Can Find:

- **Key Signature** — to identify the Tonal Center of the Melody
 - ✦ **Find and Name Pitches** of the notes for each word syllable of your Melody.
 - ✦ **Find the Scale** that includes all or most of those pitches.
- **Time Signature** — to define pulse beats (meter) of the Melody
 - ✦ **Feel the Beats** of the pulse of the notes & words of your Melody
 - ✦ **Organize Beats into Measures** that all have the same number of Beats.

Next Time . . . Part 3 of My First Tag . . .

27

Part 3 of My First Tag . . .

What Else Do
I Need To Know?

FIND THE CHORDS FOR THE KEY SIGNATURE

See you Next Time . . .

28