

## C. ENHARMONIC NOTES

Sometimes it is necessary to raise or lower a note two semitones from its normal pitch. So if we raise F sharp one semitone we have F double sharp. If we lower E flat a semitone, we have E double flat. The signs are as follows:  $\times$  double sharp       $\flat\flat$  double flat

1. Beside each note write another note a semitone higher, without changing the letter name. The first has been done for you.

*Notice the key signatures!*

2. Beside each note write another note a semitone lower, without changing the letter name. The first has been done for you.

It may seem a lot more sensible to write F $\times$  as G. However there are reasons why this is not done.

Double sharps appear in some minor scales in key-notes which have a sharp (G# and C#). When we write out the scale of G# minor, if we write the leading note as G, we create confusion, because there is already a G# in the scale. If we write it as F $\times$ , it is obvious that we are raising the leading note (the seventh note in the scale), not lowering the tonic (the key note).

3. Here is the scale of G# harmonic minor. Under it write the scale in the bass clef. This time use accidentals, not a key signature. Remember to raise the leading (seventh) note.

  

Above is the *harmonic* minor scale which a composer usually uses when writing the *harmony* (chords) in a piece of music. When writing the *melody* (tune) of the piece, s/he normally uses the *melodic* minor scale. So a piece in G# minor, for example, will have examples of *both* G# harmonic minor *and* G# melodic minor. In the melodic minor, we raise both sixth and seventh degrees of the scale when ascending (going up), but we don't raise either of them when descending. Here is G# *melodic* minor. Note the one double-sharp.

4. Write out the scale of G# melodic minor. This time use a key signature. Notice the clef.

When writing out scales, remember to use the correct letter-name. In C sharp minor, the leading note (seventh degree) is B sharp in the harmonic minor, and in the melodic minor ascending. (It is B natural in the descending form of the melodic minor). Do not write it as C, as there is already a C# in the scale.

5. In the staves below, write out the scales of F# and E flat melodic minors, ascending and descending.