

learning the circle of fifths

beginning at one note and moving up (or down) by perfect fifths (seven half-steps), one will pass through every other note once and only once before returning to the starting note

there are a zillion things to say and notice about the circle of fifths and it is a lifelong friend to the musician

suffice it for here to learn a few ways of internalizing the relationships by grouping them in various ways

spanning the keyboard

A musical staff in 3/4 time, split into two systems. The first system is in bass clef and contains a sequence of notes: C2, D2, E2, F2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4. The second system is in treble clef and contains a sequence of notes: D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6. Dashed lines labeled '8vb' and '8va' indicate the octave span.

groups of two

alternate groups of two

Two musical staves in 6/4 time. The top staff shows pairs of notes: (C2, G2), (D2, A2), (E2, B2), (F2, C3), (G2, D3), (A2, E3), (B2, F3), (C3, G3), (D3, A3), (E3, B3), (F3, C4), (G3, D4), (A3, E4), (B3, F4), (C4, G4), (D4, A4), (E4, B4), (F4, C5), (G4, D5), (A4, E5), (B4, F5), (C5, G5), (D5, A5), (E5, B5), (F5, C6), (G5, D6), (A5, E6), (B5, F6), (C6, G6), (D6, A6), (E6, B6), (F6, C7), (G6, D7), (A6, E7), (B6, F7), (C7, G7), (D7, A7), (E7, B7), (F7, C8), (G7, D8), (A7, E8), (B7, F8), (C8, G8), (D8, A8), (E8, B8), (F8, C9), (G8, D9), (A8, E9), (B8, F9), (C9, G9), (D9, A9), (E9, B9), (F9, C10), (G9, D10), (A9, E10), (B9, F10), (C10, G10), (D10, A10), (E10, B10), (F10, C11), (G10, D11), (A10, E11), (B10, F11), (C11, G11), (D11, A11), (E11, B11), (F11, C12), (G11, D12), (A11, E12), (B11, F12), (C12, G12), (D12, A12), (E12, B12), (F12, C13), (G12, D13), (A12, E13), (B12, F13), (C13, G13), (D13, A13), (E13, B13), (F13, C14), (G13, D14), (A13, E14), (B13, F14), (C14, G14), (D14, A14), (E14, B14), (F14, C15), (G14, D15), (A14, E15), (B14, F15), (C15, G15), (D15, A15), (E15, B15), (F15, C16), (G15, D16), (A15, E16), (B15, F16), (C16, G16), (D16, A16), (E16, B16), (F16, C17), (G16, D17), (A16, E17), (B16, F17), (C17, G17), (D17, A17), (E17, B17), (F17, C18), (G17, D18), (A17, E18), (B17, F18), (C18, G18), (D18, A18), (E18, B18), (F18, C19), (G18, D19), (A18, E19), (B18, F19), (C19, G19), (D19, A19), (E19, B19), (F19, C20), (G19, D20), (A19, E20), (B19, F20), (C20, G20), (D20, A20), (E20, B20), (F20, C21), (G20, D21), (A20, E21), (B20, F21), (C21, G21), (D21, A21), (E21, B21), (F21, C22), (G21, D22), (A21, E22), (B21, F22), (C22, G22), (D22, A22), (E22, B22), (F22, C23), (G22, D23), (A22, E23), (B22, F23), (C23, G23), (D23, A23), (E23, B23), (F23, C24), (G23, D24), (A23, E24), (B23, F24), (C24, G24), (D24, A24), (E24, B24), (F24, C25), (G24, D25), (A24, E25), (B24, F25), (C25, G25), (D25, A25), (E25, B25), (F25, C26), (G25, D26), (A25, E26), (B25, F26), (C26, G26), (D26, A26), (E26, B26), (F26, C27), (G26, D27), (A26, E27), (B26, F27), (C27, G27), (D27, A27), (E27, B27), (F27, C28), (G27, D28), (A27, E28), (B27, F28), (C28, G28), (D28, A28), (E28, B28), (F28, C29), (G28, D29), (A28, E29), (B28, F29), (C29, G29), (D29, A29), (E29, B29), (F29, C30), (G29, D30), (A29, E30), (B29, F30), (C30, G30), (D30, A30), (E30, B30), (F30, C31), (G30, D31), (A30, E31), (B30, F31), (C31, G31), (D31, A31), (E31, B31), (F31, C32), (G31, D32), (A31, E32), (B31, F32), (C32, G32), (D32, A32), (E32, B32), (F32, C33), (G32, D33), (A32, E33), (B32, F33), (C33, G33), (D33, A33), (E33, B33), (F33, C34), (G33, D34), (A33, E34), (B33, F34), (C34, G34), (D34, A34), (E34, B34), (F34, C35), (G34, D35), (A34, E35), (B34, F35), (C35, G35), (D35, A35), (E35, B35), (F35, C36), (G35, D36), (A35, E36), (B35, F36), (C36, G36), (D36, A36), (E36, B36), (F36, C37), (G36, D37), (A36, E37), (B36, F37), (C37, G37), (D37, A37), (E37, B37), (F37, C38), (G37, D38), (A37, E38), (B37, F38), (C38, G38), (D38, A38), (E38, B38), 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