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**Key signatures:**

C major    A minor    G major    E minor    D major    B minor    A major    F# minor

E major    C# minor    B major    G# minor    F# major    D# minor

F major    D minor    Bb major    G minor    Eb major    C minor

Ab major    F minor    Db major    Bb minor    Gb major    Eb minor

Parallel keys are keys which begin on the same letter note and hence have parallel notes but do not have the same key signatures: C major and C minor; A major and A minor, and so forth.

tween the fifth and sixth tones and the second and third tones descending (called the natural minor form). Accidentals "borrowed" from the parallel major key are used for the sixth and seventh tones ascending:

C major    C minor    A major    A minor

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

**THE SCALES**

The diatonic scale of our western culture consists of an arrangement of five whole steps and two half steps. The major scale has its half steps between the third and fourth tones and between the seventh and eighth tones. The others are all whole steps.

The harmonic minor scale has its half steps between the second and third tones, fifth and sixth tones and between the seventh and eighth tones in both ascending and descending order. The seventh tone is raised ("borrowed" from the parallel major key) in both ascending and descending the scale, thus creating the odd scale interval of one-and-a-half steps between the sixth and seventh tones, called an augmented second interval.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

aug. 2nd aug. 2nd

The melodic minor scale has its half steps between the second and third tones and between the seventh and eighth tones ascending and be-

