APPENDIX III

Musical Analysis

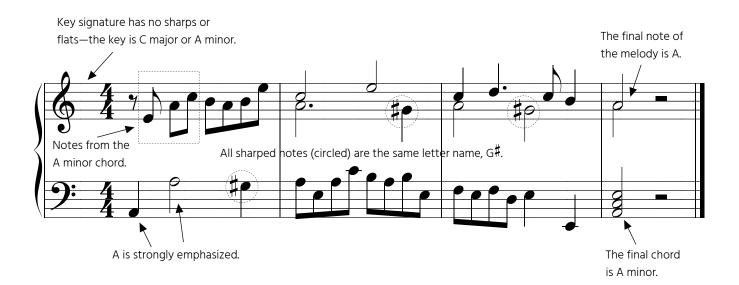
How to Determine Major or Minor Tonality in Music

One of the first things that should be determined about a piece of music is whether it is in a major or minor key. We have learned that every key signature can signify either a major or minor key. So how do you decide the key?

Check the following:

- 1. The key signature will narrow the choice to two keys: a major key and its relative minor.
- 2. The beginning will often start with the tonic note, tonic chord, or a strong implication of the tonic chord.
- 3. The final note of the melody and the final chord (or lowest note in the bass) will usually be the tonic.
- 4. Certain altered notes (accidentals) will appear in most minor pieces as a regular and distinct part of the key. These notes are usually a step below the tonic.

The musical example below illustrates these points.



An analysis of the musical example:

- 1. The key signature no sharps or flats; the key is either C major or A minor.
- 2. The beginning A is strongly emphasized in the bass; the notes of the A minor triad are implied in the treble.
- 3. The end A is strongly emphasized in the treble; the A minor triad appears in the bass.
- 4. Altered notes all the sharped notes are G^{\sharp} , which is a step below A.

We can safely assume that the musical example is in the key of A minor.