

# Scale & Key Overview

Laurie Richards

## Traditionally (what we've inherited)

- Means of access to playing
- Learned by rote
- Linear
- No direct relevance
- Exercise

## SM Approach

- Come from scale being the DNA of music
- Powerful, useful, relevant and wonderful
- Playing-based
  - Oriented around shape and visuals
  - Knowledge and theory of is built on a strong foundation of playing
  - Reverse engineered
- Comprehensive application
  - Reading
  - Improvisation/composition
  - Accompaniments
- The point of 'knowing scale'
  - Part of a broad-based, well-rounded education
  - Framework to compose, improvise
  - Figure music out
  - Transpose
  - Develop arrangements
  - Understanding the structure of music
  - Deeper appreciation of what you can already do
  - Sheer pleasure of discovery

## Phase 1: Project-Based

Playing-based phase – direct relevance to projects

### **Developing familiarity with journey across the keyboard**

Applying as needed for specific pieces

Pre-requisites

Substantial repertoire established

Level 1 Accompaniment - all triads, all keys, basic rhythm sections, I-IV-V

Well into the Reading Process - Rhythm /Intervals/C's very strong

Have begun Time for More Music

Establishing the relationship

FCGD, BEAD (**Reading Notes**)

Family analogy

Scale Map - Journey across keyboard - First addressed with 'Wind' (TFMM)

Naturally occurring 3s and 4s

Navigating from any note or finger back to natural 3's and 4's

Other Applications

Improvisation Exercises

## Phase 2: Structural

Learning to spell

Small doses – STP's, moving slowly

Major Scale Formula – 2 ½ 3 ½

Play major scale

Play another – same sound, new location

Named after the lowest note –the I

Developing the relationship

A scale a week - major scale, notes in scale, maps/3's & 4's/navigating

Improvisation exercises, Composition exercises

Routine application in new projects

0246 135

Knowing the key of a piece - family address

Learn layout first by playing

Two perspectives:

Knowing the number of #s / b's in a given key

Knowing the key of a song given the number of #s / b's

Relative Minor

Three half-steps below major key

Different starting point

Same 'family' of notes - one going to a wedding, one going to a funeral