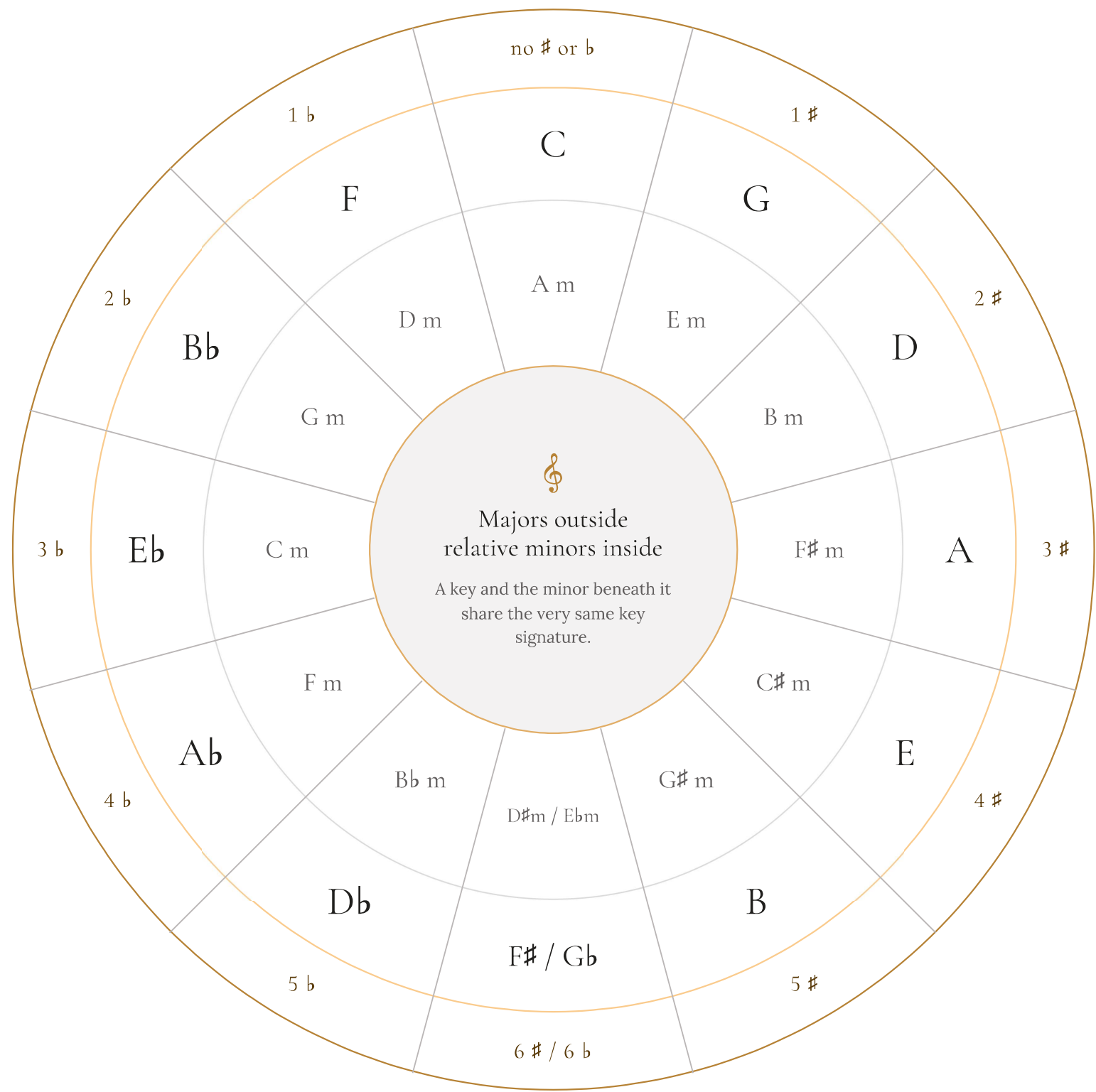


The Circle of Fifths

The handiest map a composer can own: every key, its relative minor, its key signature, and how far apart any two of them sit.



How it works

Clockwise from C, each key adds one sharp: C, G, D, A, E, B, F#.

Anticlockwise from C, each key adds one flat: C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db.

The inner ring is each key's relative minor — same signature, darker colour.

Neighbouring keys share nearly all their notes, so moving between them sounds smooth.

Using it while composing

Find a key signature fast — count the steps around the circle from C.

Change key smoothly — modulate to a neighbour, which shares the most notes.

Pick a relative minor for a darker version of a major-key idea.

Build progressions like I-IV-V from chords that sit close together.