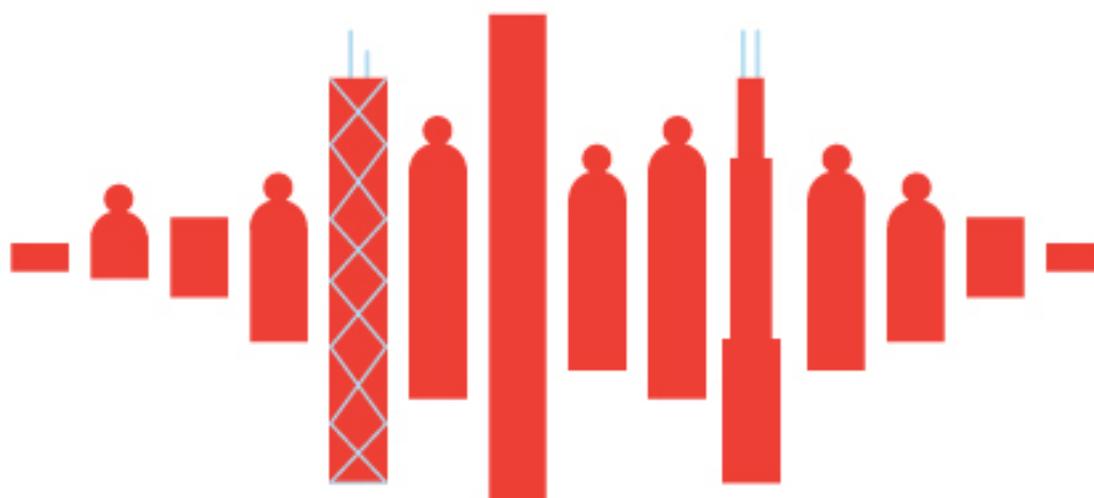

Music Theory Packet

Neighborhood Choir

2019-2020



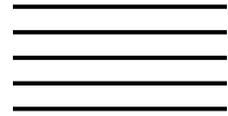
**CHICAGO
CHILDREN'S
CHOIR**

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The Music Staff

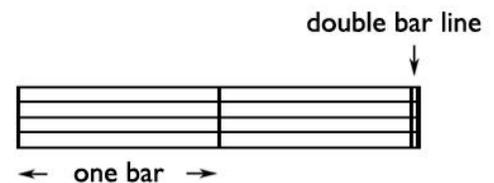
The music staff is made of five lines with four spaces in between. When composers write down music, they place notes and rhythms on the music staff. When counting lines and spaces, always start at the very bottom of the staff.



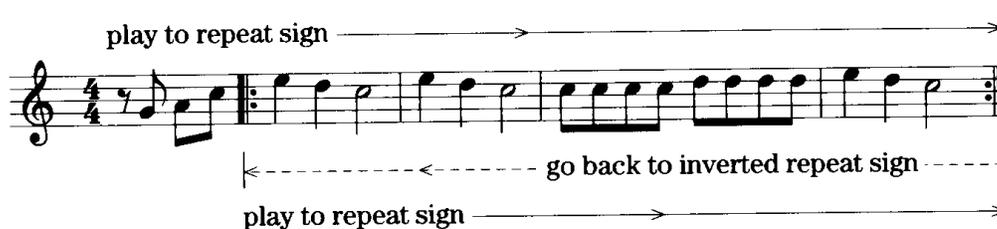
The music staff is separated into **measures** using **barlines**.



A **double barline** indicates that a song is over.



A **repeat sign** is a double bar line with two dots. The repeat sign indicates that a section of music should be sung or played again. There are usually two repeat signs, one at the beginning and one at the end of the section to be repeated.



Note Names in the Treble Clef

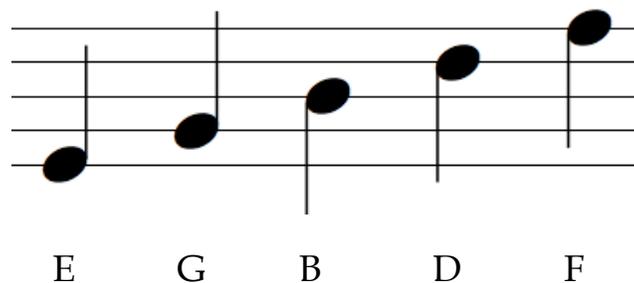


The **treble clef** is also known as the *G clef* because it circles the second line of the staff and names the notes that fall on that line, G.

In music, notes are named using the letters ABCDEFG. Only these letters are used, which means the note one step higher than G is A. When writing note names, always use capital letters.

Line Notes in the Treble Clef

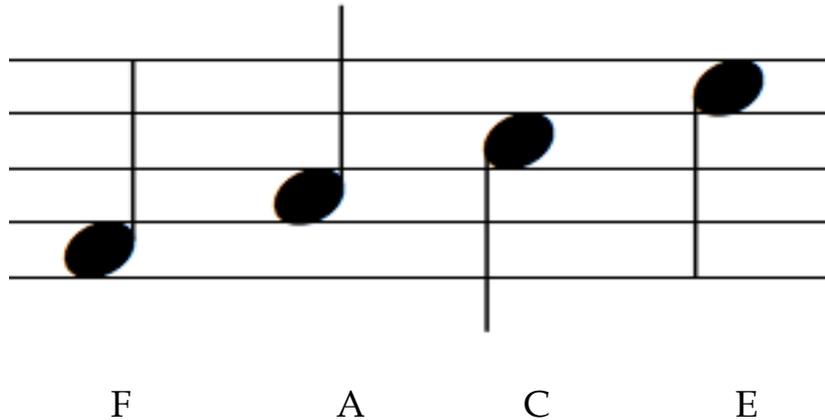
The order of line notes in the treble clef is EGBDF. Remember that the treble clef always circles the second line and names it G. Some people remember the names of the line notes in the treble clef by using the phrase *Every Good Boy Does Fine*.



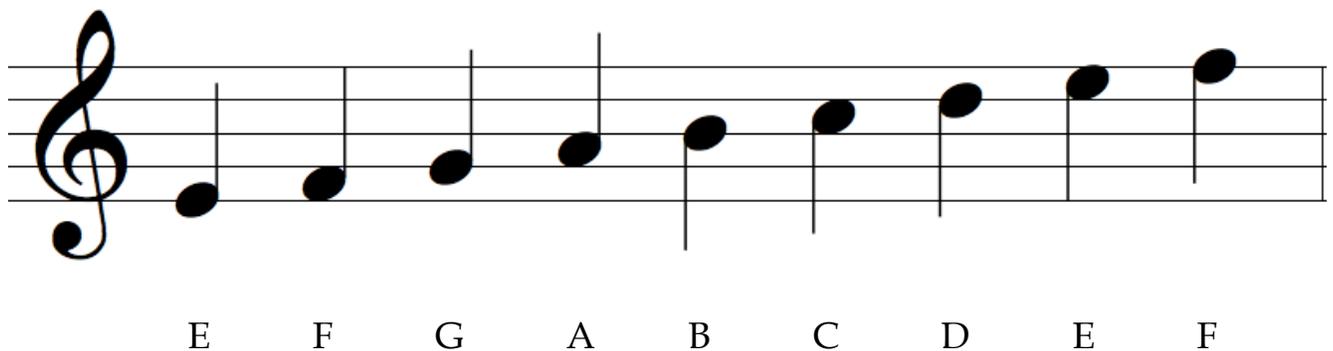
Note Names in the Treble Clef continued

Space Notes in the Treble Clef

The order of space notes in the treble clef is FACE. Remember to start with the bottom space when naming notes in the treble clef.



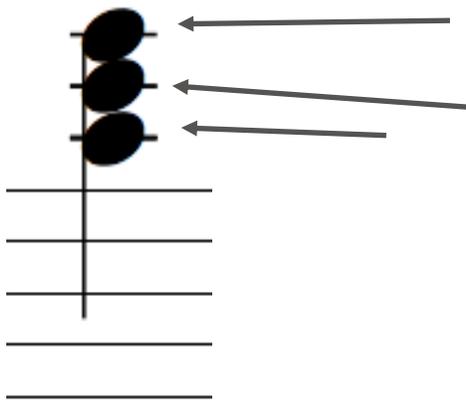
The following picture shows all the lines and notes in the treble clef. Notice that the letters start over at A after the letter G.



Notes Above or Below the Staff

Often times, music is not restricted to the lines and spaces of the music staff. When notes have to go higher or lower than the staff, the same pattern of ABCDEFG is used.

Ledger Lines are used to help organize notes outside the music staff. A closer look at ledger lines will reveal that they simply extend the staff higher or lower by adding places for more line or space notes. Notice that these three notes are written on three separate ledger lines.

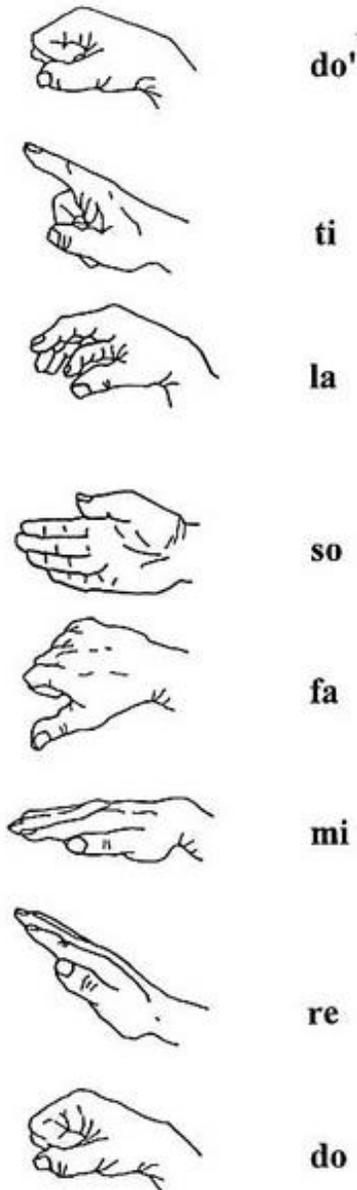


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A musical staff in treble clef. The first four notes (A, B, C, D) are on the staff lines. The next four notes (G, A, B, C) are on ledger lines above the staff. The notes are: A (first space), B (second space), C (third space), D (fourth space), G (first ledger line), A (second ledger line), B (third ledger line), and C (fourth ledger line).

A B C D G A B C

Solfege



Solfege is a tool used for sight-singing in music. When writing solfege, always use lowercase letters because uppercase letters are used to refer to note names. The order of solfege syllables is *do re mi fa sol la ti do'*.

Solfege is similar to note names because it simply starts over once all the syllables have been used. Small tick marks are used to indicate if the syllable is high or low. For example: *ti*, indicates low *ti* while *mi'* indicates high *mi*.

Curwen hand signs have been added to solfege syllables in order to create a physical movement to show the upward and downward movement of notes. *do*, (low *do*) is positioned at the belly button and *do'* (high *do*) is positioned right above the eyebrows. The rest of the hand signs gradually move in a straight line up the body. The hand sign for *sol* should be positioned right in front of the mouth.

Rhythm Names

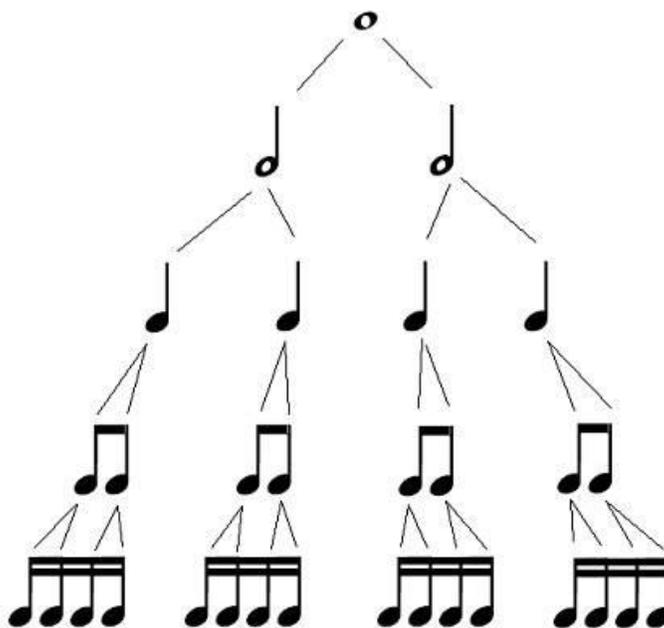
The following chart names each note and rest by its rhythmic name.

Name	Note	Rest
Whole Note		
Half Note		
Quarter Note		
Eighth Note		
Sixteenth Note		

Rhythm in Duple Meter

There are two types of meter. The first is referred to as *duple* or *simple* meter. The prefix *du* refers to two. In duple meter, the **beat** is divided equally between two smaller beats called **microbeats**.

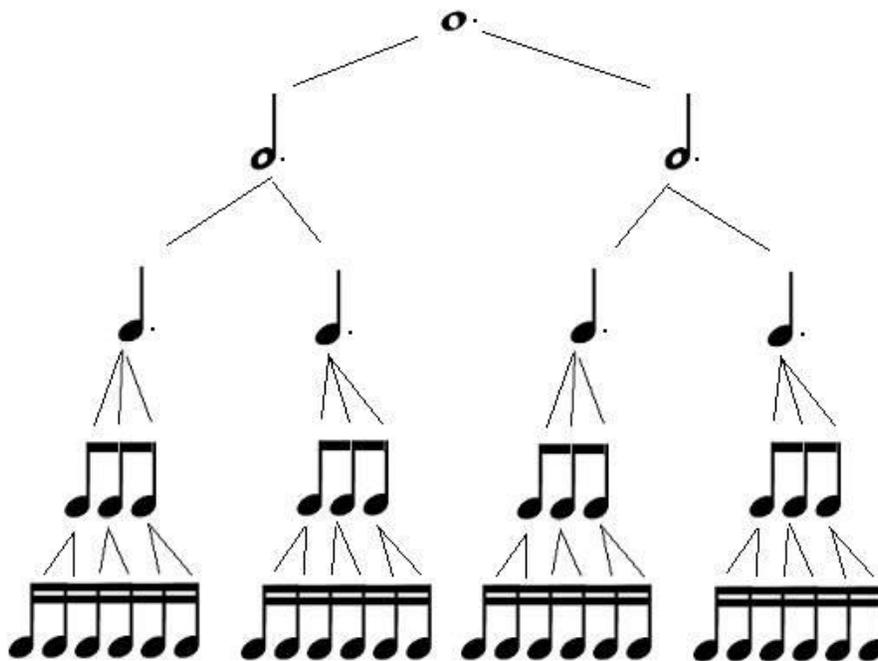
In duple meter, the syllable “ta” is used to identify the beat. The beat is divided into two equal parts, “ta-ti.” The beat can be divided further, “ta-ka-ti-ki.”



Rhythm in Triple Meter

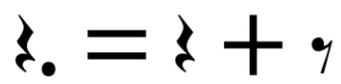
The second type of meter is called *triple* or *compound* meter. The prefix *tri* refers to three. In triple meter, the **beat** is divided equally between three smaller beats called **microbeats**.

In triple meter, the syllable “ta” is used to identify the beat. The beat is divided into three equal parts, “ta-tu-te.” The beat can be divided further, “ta-ka-tu-ku-te-ke.”

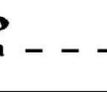


The Dot

A **dot** is added to notes to extend the duration of the note by one half of that notes value.

Dotted Note Equivalence	Dotted Rest Equivalence
	
	
	

Counting System

Duple (Simple) Meter	Triple (Compound) Meter
 ta	 ta
 ta ti	 ta tu te
 ta ka ti ki	 ta te
 ta ti ki	 ta tu
 ta ka ti	 ta ti
 ta ki	 ta ka tu ku te ke
 ta ka	 ta ka tu te
 ta tu te	 ta tu ku te
 ta -	 ta tu te ke
 ta - ti	 ta ka tu ku te
 ta ti -	 ta tu ku te ke
 ta ti - ti	 ta ku te
 ta - -	 ta ka te
 ta - - -	 ta -

Time Signatures

Time Signatures define how music is to be counted. Time signatures are written at the beginning of the staff and look like a fraction. The **bottom number** indicates a basic note value. The numbers on the bottom of a time signature will always correspond to a note value:

- 2 – half note
- 4 – quarter note
- 8 – eighth note
- 16 – sixteenth note

The **top number** indicates the number of basic note values per measure. The top number may or may not indicate the number of pulses per measure.

Examples of Common Time Signatures

$\frac{4}{4}$ This means that there are four quarter notes per measure.

$\frac{6}{8}$ This means that there are six eighth notes per measure.

$\frac{2}{4}$ This means that there are two quarter notes per measure.

$\frac{2}{2}$ This means that there are two half notes per measure.

Abbreviations for Frequently Used Time Signatures

C This signifies “Common Time” which is the same as $\frac{4}{4}$

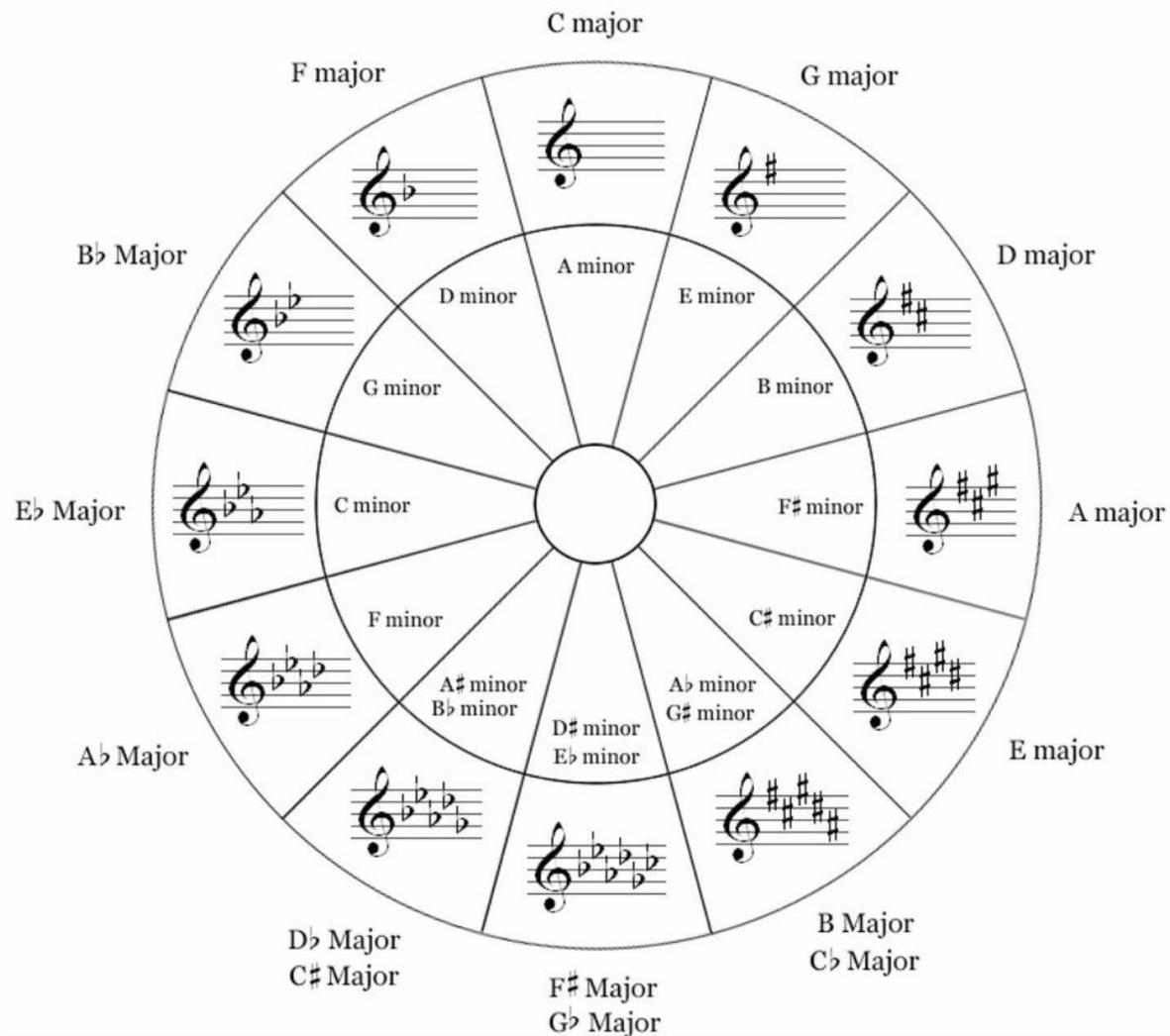
♩ This signifies “Cut Time” which is the same as $\frac{2}{2}$

Key Signatures: Identifying the Major Key

Key signatures allow musicians the flexibility to write and perform music with different tonal centers. A key refers to the tonal center of a song – musicians also call the tonal center *tonic*. When using moveable solfege, the tonal center (tonic) in major keys is always *do*.

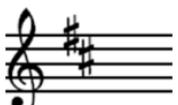
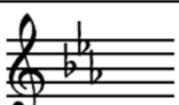
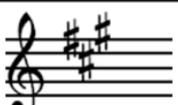
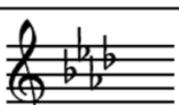
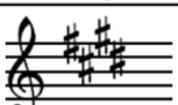
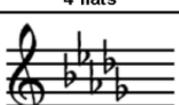
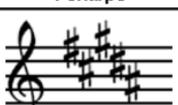
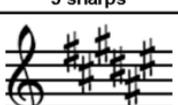
Rules for Identifying the Major Key

1. Sharp Keys: **The last sharp is *ti*.**
2. Flat Keys: **The last flat is *fa*.**
3. If there are no sharps or flats, the major key is C.



Key Signatures: Identifying the Minor Key

In music, every major key signature has a **relative minor**. The relative minor is the minor tonality that shares the same key signature – the sound is different but the picture is the same. The tonal center for a minor key is *la*. To find *la*, first identify *do* and match it to the correct note name. Then, go down two steps from *do* to identify *la*. The note that sits on *la* is the minor key.

key signature	major key	minor key			
 no sharps or flats	C major	A minor			
 1 flat	F major	D minor	 1 sharp	G major	E minor
 2 flats	Bb major	G minor	 2 sharps	D major	B minor
 3 flats	Eb major	C minor	 3 sharps	A major	F# minor
 4 flats	Ab major	F minor	 4 sharps	E major	C# minor
 5 flats	Db major	Bb minor	 5 sharps	B major	G# minor
 6 flats	Gb major	Eb minor	 6 sharps	F# major	D# minor
 7 flats	Cb major	Ab minor	 7 sharps	C# major	A# minor

Note Names in the Bass Clef

The **bass clef** is also known as the *F Clef* because the two dots surround the fourth line and name it, F.

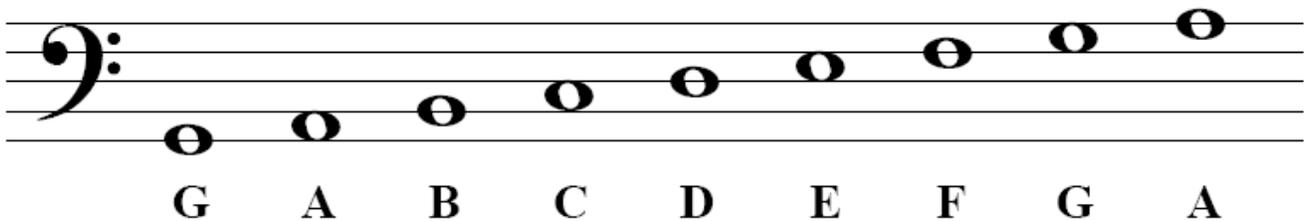


Line Notes in the Bass Clef

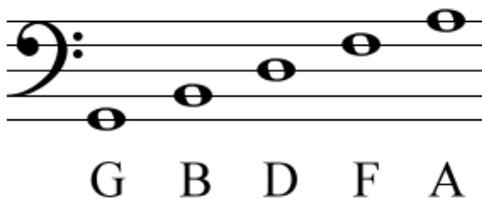
The order of line notes in the bass clef is GBDF A. Remember that the two dots of the bass clef always surround the fourth line and name it F. Some people remember the names of the line notes in the bass clef by using the phrase *Good Boys Do Fine Always*.

Space Notes in the Bass Clef

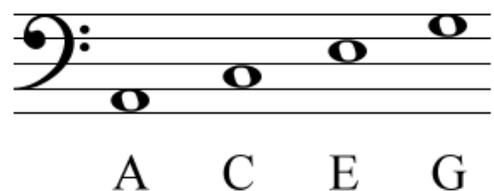
The order of the space notes in the bass clef is ACEG. Some people remember the names of the space notes in the bass clef by using the phrase *All Cows Eat Grass*.



Line Notes:



Space Notes:

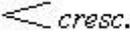
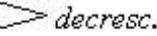


Glossary of Musical Terms and Symbols

Dynamics: describe the loudness or softness of a sound

- *pp* (pianissimo) very soft
 - *p* (piano) soft
 - *mp* (mezzo-piano) moderately soft
 - *mf* (mezzo-forte) moderately loud
 - *f* (forte) loud
 - *ff* (fortissimo) very loud
-
- crescendo: get louder
 - decrescendo: get softer
 - diminuendo (*dim.*): get softer
 - *sfz* (sforzando) suddenly loud

Dynamic Symbols

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
<i>ppp</i>	Pianississimo	Very Very Soft
<i>pp</i>	Pianissimo	Very Soft
<i>p</i>	Piano	Soft
<i>mp</i>	Mezzo Piano	Medium Soft
<i>mf</i>	Mezzo Forte	Medium Loud
<i>f</i>	Forte	Loud
<i>ff</i>	Fortissimo	Very Loud
<i>fff</i>	Fortississimo	Very Very Loud
 <i>cresc.</i>	Crescendo	Gradually becoming louder
 <i>decresc.</i>	Decrescendo	Gradually becoming softer
<i>dim</i>	Diminuendo	Gradually becoming softer
	Messa di voce	Becoming louder then softer

Glossary of Musical Terms and Symbols

Tempo: describes the speed of the music

- A tempo: back to the original tempo
- Accelerando: getting faster
- Andante: moderately slow, at a walking pace
- Allargando: getting slower
- Allegretto: slightly less fast than allegro, lighter in texture
- Allegro: fast and lively
- Largo: very slow
- Moderato: moderate tempo
- Presto: very fast
- Ritardando (*rit.*): slowing down
- Vivace: lively and brisk, faster than allegro

Style: describes how the music should be performed

- accent: a stressed note
- a cappella: sung without instrumental accompaniment
- espressivo: expressively
- legato: smooth and connected
- piu: more
- staccato: short and detached

Other terms and symbols

- accidentals: signs indicating that a note is sharp, flat, or natural
- coda: closing section of a song
- *d.c.* (da capo): from the beginning
- fermata:  hold the note