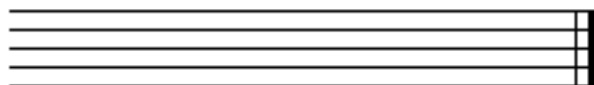


Music Fundamentals

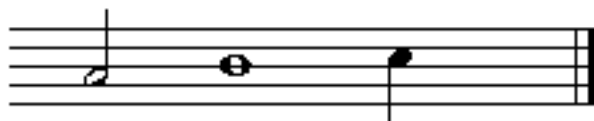
Part I: Staff, Clefs, Notes, Ledger Lines, Grand Staff

The Staff

We use the **Staff** or **Staff** to write music:



We write the musical notes on the lines and in the spaces of the staff:



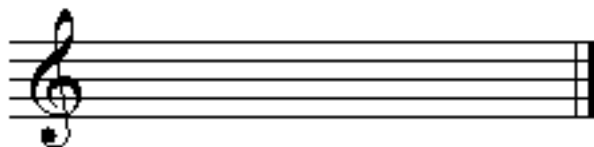
According to their position on the staff we know what note they represent.

The Clefs

The first symbol on the staff is the **clef**.

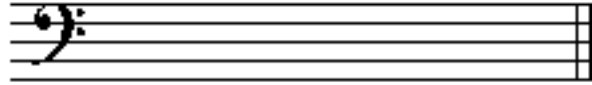
There are several clefs. The more often used are the **Treble Clef** or **G Clef**:

Treble Clef



And the **Bass Clef** or sometimes called the **F Clef**:

Bass Clef



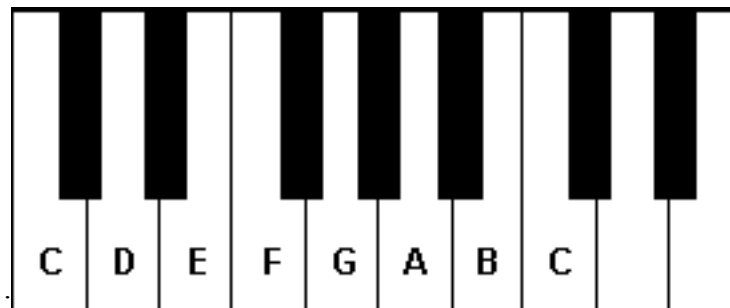
The **Treble Clef** is used by high-pitched instruments such as the flute, trumpet, violin, and by other lower-pitched instruments such as the guitar. The Bass Clef is used by low-pitched instruments like the cello, bassoon, and trombone.

When you are reading music, notice the clef first in order to correctly identify the notes.

The Notes

Before we learn how to write the notes on the staff, let's check over their name and order.

Our music system has seven notes. The order of these notes is C, D, E, F, G, A, and B. These notes correspond to the white keys of the piano



The Treble clef

In the example below, you can see the notes represented by each one of the lines and spaces of a **treble** or **G clef**. Notice that the lowest line corresponds to the note E, and the first space to the note F. In other words, notes on the staff (line-space-line...) follow the natural order (C, D, E, F, G, A, and B). Notice that we can write underneath the lowest line, and above the fifth line, or highest line:



Note: Some students have suggested the following phrases for remembering the notes on the treble clef lines:

Every Good Bird Does Fly

And for the notes in the bass clef spaces:

F. A. C. E.

Ledger lines

Besides writing on the spaces and lines of the staff, we can also add additional lines to write higher notes and lower notes:



The C note on the first additional line below the staff is the same note as the middle C of a piano.

The Bass or F clef

In the example below, you can see the notes represented by each one of the lines and spaces of the stave with a Bass or F clef. We have included the additional lines.



The higher C on the first additional superior line is the middle C.

Note: Some students have suggested the following phrases for remembering the notes on the bass clef lines:

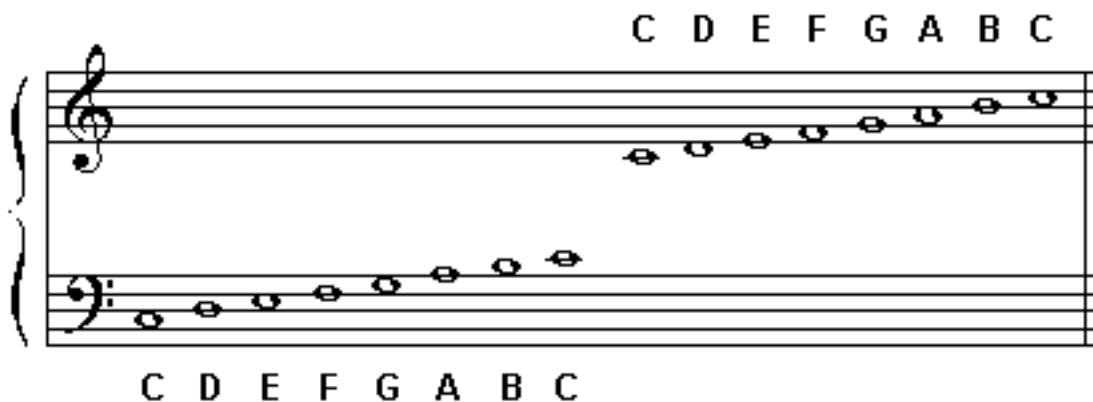
Good Boys Drive Fords Always

And for the notes in the bass clef spaces:

All Cows Eat Grass

The Grand Staff

By combining the treble and bass staves we can write from the lowest note to the highest note:



The highest C of the bass clef and first of the treble clef are called “middle C.” Piano music is normally written using the Grand Staff.