

LEARN THE BASICS OF SHEET MUSIC

BEGINNER'S  
GUIDE TO  
READING  
MUSIC

an informational packet from

BROADWAY  
OR BUST



# this packet includes:

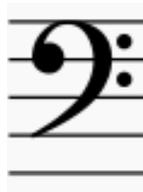
- what do different clefs mean?
- where are notes located on a staff?
- what are accidentals?
- what is a key signature?
- notes and rests can be long or short
- what is a time signature?



# learn your clefs



a treble clef is usually found on music with higher pitches. middle c is on the line under the staff.



a bass clef is usually found on music with lower pitches. middle c is on the line above the staff.

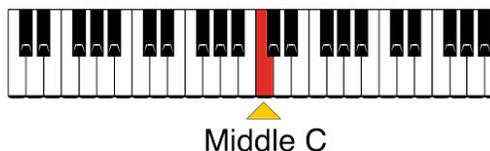
**there are more clefs in sheet music, but these are the two most common clefs in vocal music especially**

## where are notes on the staff?



middle c is on a **ledger line**

between a treble and bass clef on the grand staff. the notes shown here are the same as the white keys on a piano. middle c is the center white key on a standard piano.



## here's a way to remember where notes live on the grand staff

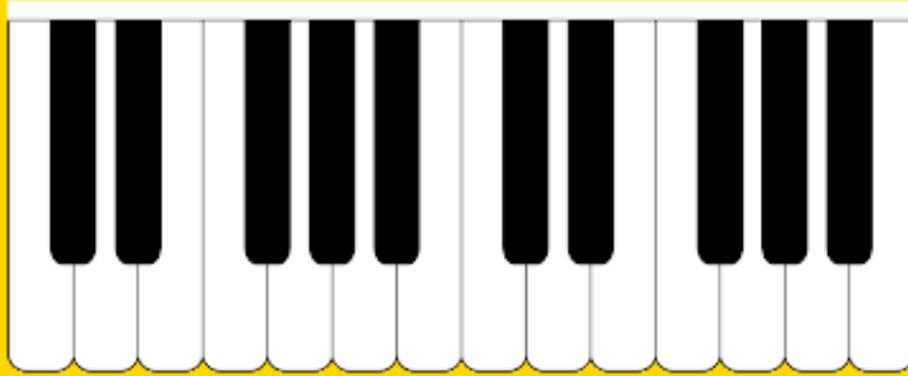
these acronyms go from the bottom to the top of the staff

**Every Good Boy Deserves Fudge**

**BONUS: the spaces on the treble clef spell "FACE"**

**Good Boys Do Fine Always**

not all music is played on the white keys of a piano. what do the black keys do?



accidentals



a **sharp** raises a pitch by half a step



a **flat** lowers a pitch by half a step



a **natural** cancels out a sharp or flat

sometimes sharps and flats appear in your key signature



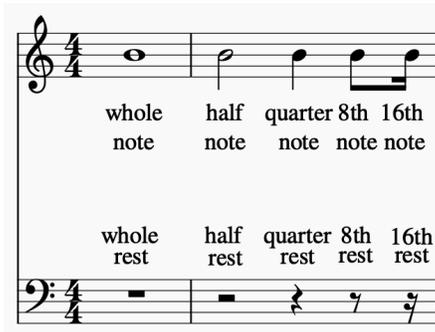
a **key signature** tells you how many sharps or flats are in the piece you are playing or singing. This piece, written in the key of G, only has one sharp: because of this, all Fs in the song are sharp.

**A key signature will rarely contain both sharps and flats at the same time**

# notes can be rearranged to create new music

notes can be made longer or shorter to communicate emotion through the music. both **notes** and **rests** (pauses) can be long or short.

depending on your **time signature**, these notes are held for different amounts of time.



time signatures  
are musical  
fractions!



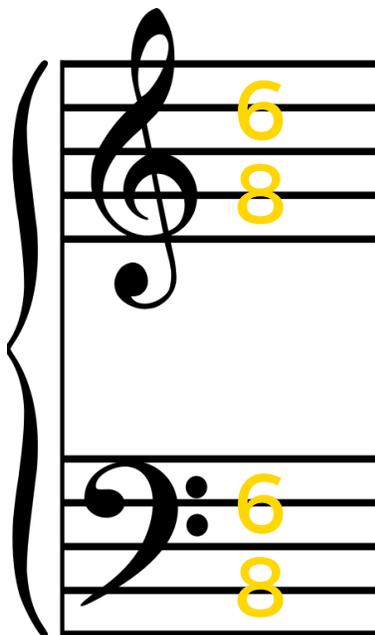
in 4/4, a quarter note is one beat because there are four beats in a measure

a half note is two beats and a whole note is four beats. one whole note fills the entire measure in 4/4 time.

in 6/8, however, an eighth note is one beat because there are six eighth notes in a measure.

in 6/8, a quarter note is two beats and a half note is four beats. in order to fill the six counts of a measure, one would use a dotted half note.

dotted half notes are a lesson for another day

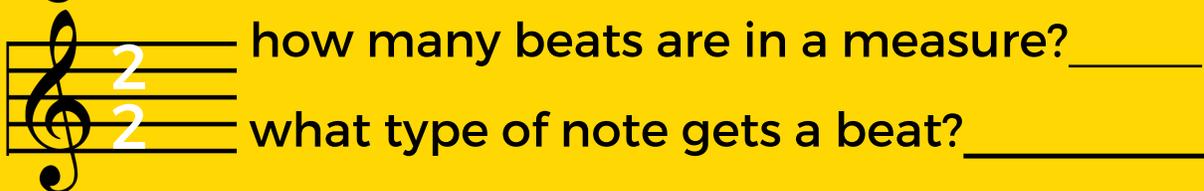
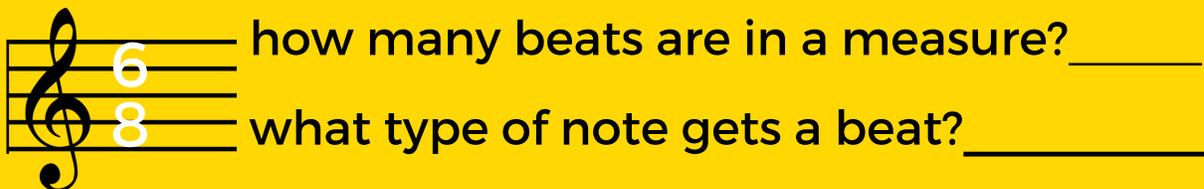
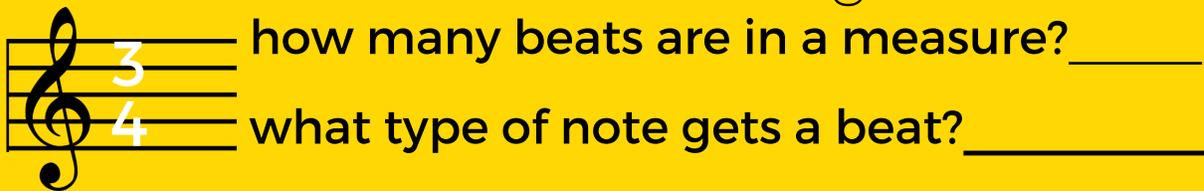


# practice these new skills:

use the music on these staves in order to find the hidden words



fill in the blanks about time signatures:



label your accidentals



what is this?

\_\_\_\_\_



what is this?

\_\_\_\_\_



what is this?

\_\_\_\_\_