

LEARN THE BASICS OF SHEET MUSIC

BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO READING MUSIC

an informational packet from

BROADWAY
OR BUST



this packet includes:

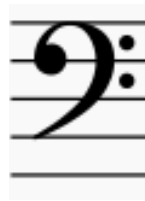
- what do different clefs mean?
- where are notes located on a staff?
- what are accidentals?
- what is a key signature?
- notes and rests can be long or short
- what is a time signature?



learn your clefs



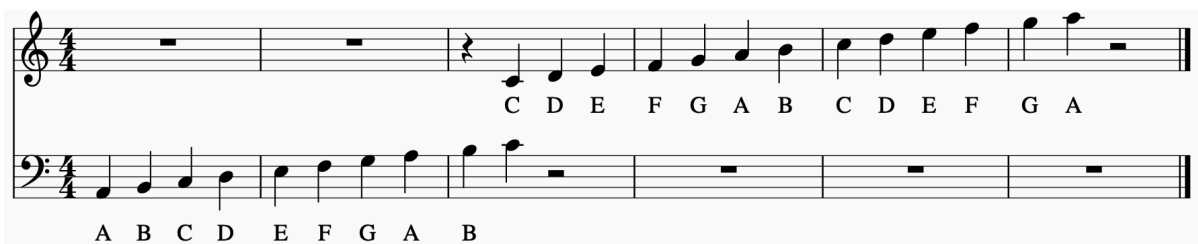
a treble clef is usually found on music with higher pitches. middle c is on the line under the staff.



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

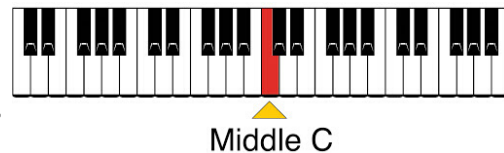
there are more clefs in sheet music, but these are the two most common clefs in vocal music especially

where are notes on the staff?



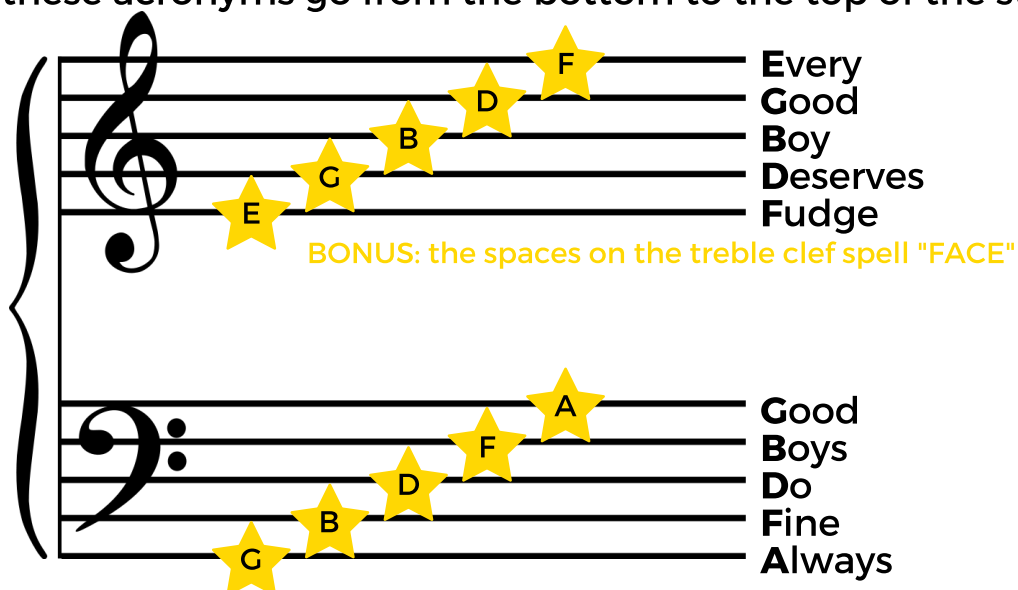
middle c is on a **ledger line**

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



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

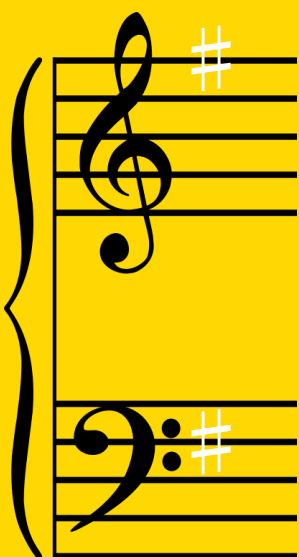


a **flat** lowers a pitch by half a step



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

sometimes sharps and flats appear in your key signature



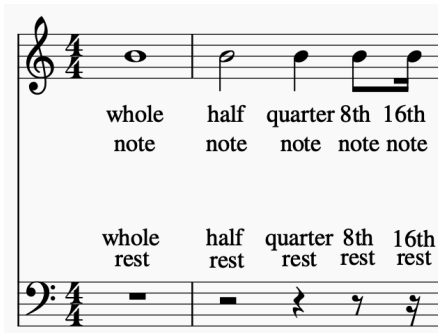
a **key signature** tells you how many sharps or flats are in the piece you are playing or singing. This piece, written in the key of G, only has one sharp: because of this, all Fs in the song are sharp.

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!



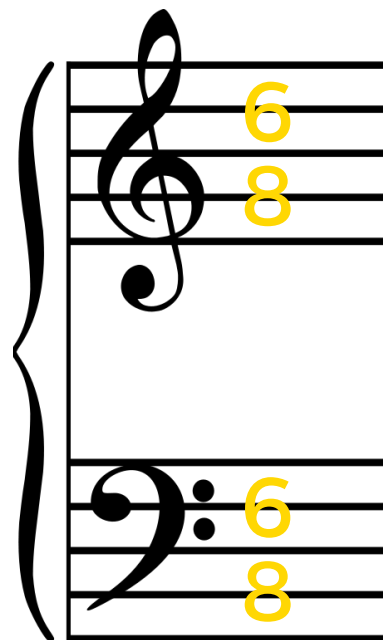
in 4/4, a quarter note is one beat because there are four beats in a measure

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:



how many beats are in a measure? _____

what type of note gets a beat? _____



how many beats are in a measure? _____

what type of note gets a beat? _____



how many beats are in a measure? _____

what type of note gets a beat? _____

label your accidentals



what is this?



what is this?



what is this?
