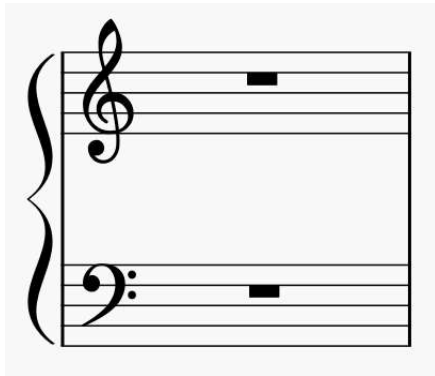


Learn to Read Music in 2 Minutes

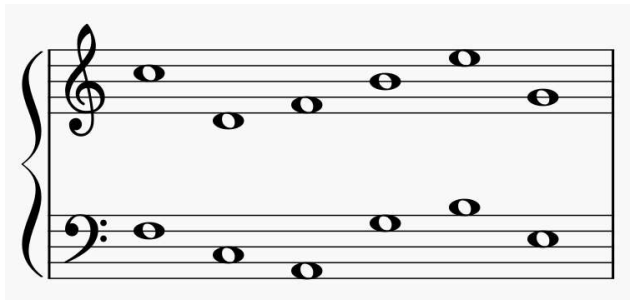
If you read pretty fast you can learn how to read music in just 2 minutes! Here goes.

This is a staff. 5 lines, 4 spaces. This is where the notes are written.



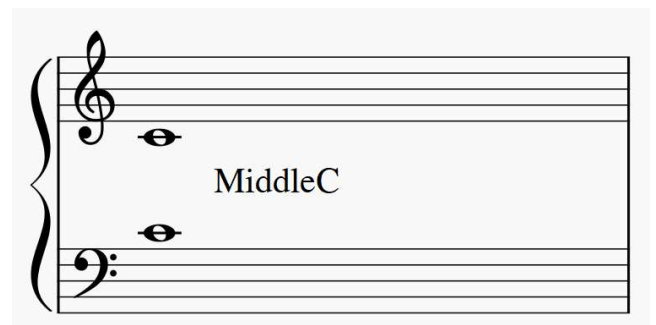
At the top is a treble or G clef - generally used for the notes at the top half of the piano, which are usually played with the right hand.

At the bottom is a bass or F clef for lower notes usually played with your left hand.

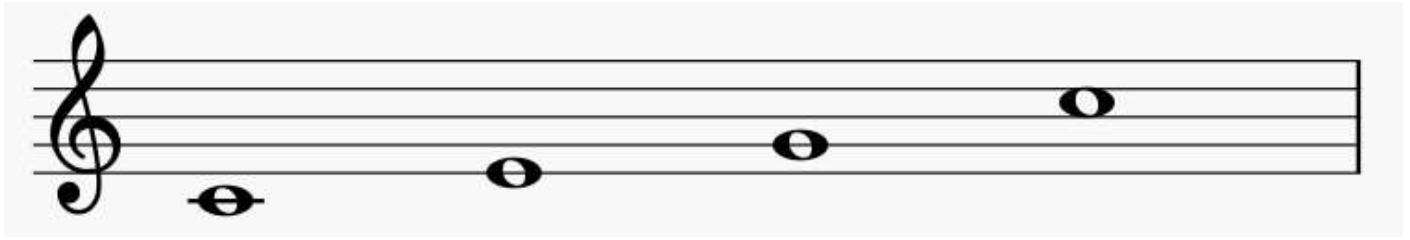


Here we have some notes which tell you which keys on the piano to press.

Middle C which is roughly in the middle of the piano sits here on a ledger line in the treble clef and bass clef.

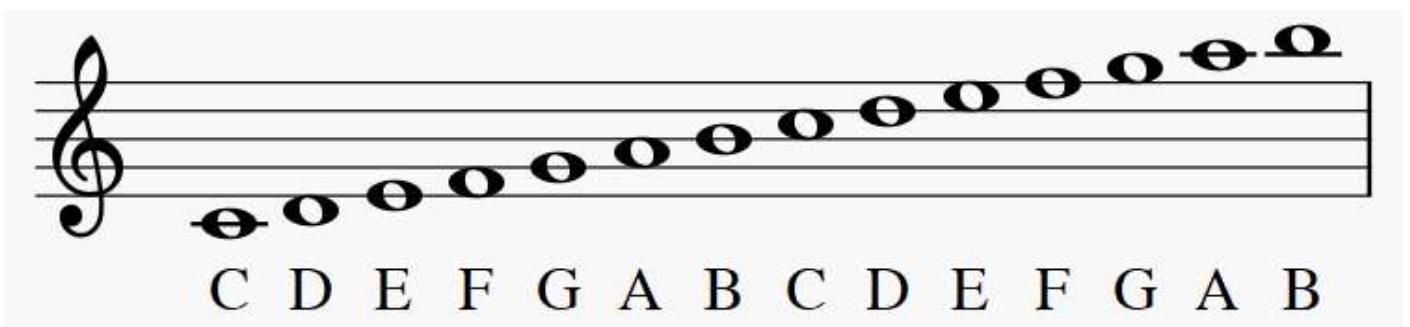


As the notes go up the staff (middle C at the bottom) this way, they go up the piano to the right.

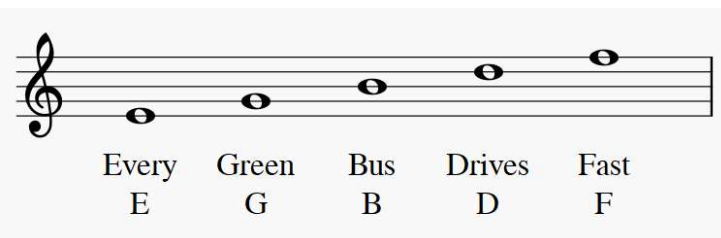


The notes ascend as follows - on a line, in a space, line, space, line, space etc in alphabetical order from A to G.

So starting at Middle C we have CDEFGAB CDEFGAB and so on. Just add more ledger lines to extend the staff.

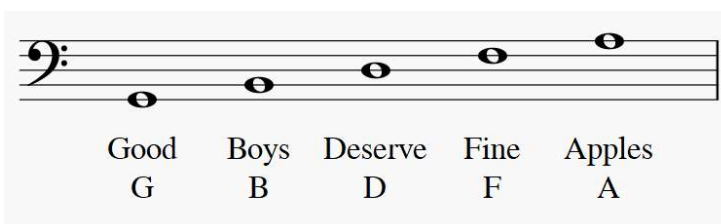
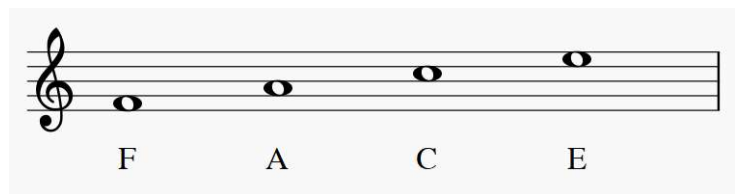


Little mnemonics can help you remember the notes on the staves.

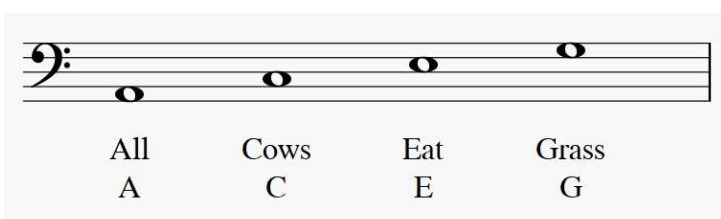


So in the treble clef we have Every Green Bus Drives Fast to help us remember the notes on the lines.

And Face to help us remember the notes in the spaces.



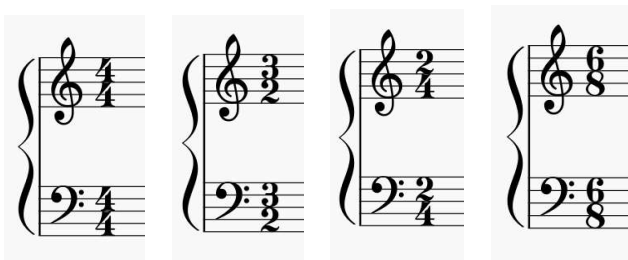
In the bass clef we have Good Boys Deserve Fine Apples for the notes on the lines and All Cows Eat Grass for the spaces.



Time signatures at the beginning of a piece of music - and sometimes part way through - tell us how many, and what kind of beats there are in a bar. This is a bar.

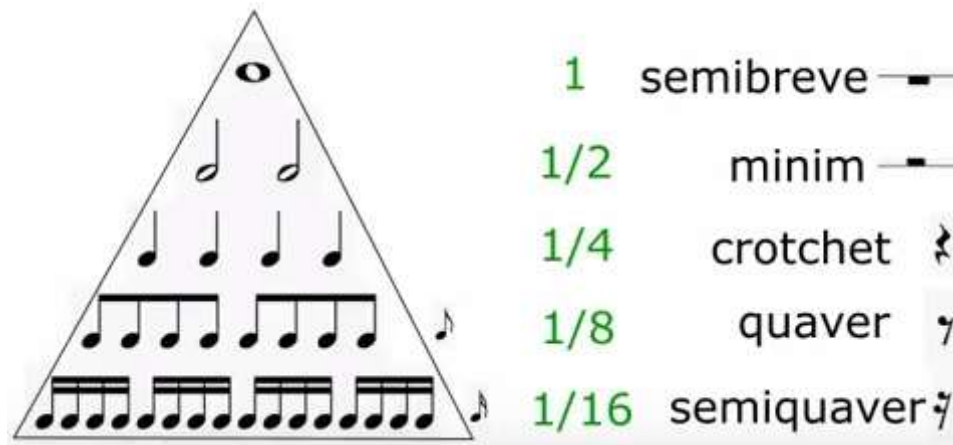


The top number tells us how many beats, 4, 3, 2, 6 etc, and the bottom number tells us the kind of beats. 4 means crotchet, 2 means minim and 8 means quaver.



So 4/4 means 4 crotchet beats in the bar and 6/8 means 6 quaver beats in a bar.

Now more on beats or note values. Think of it as a triangle.



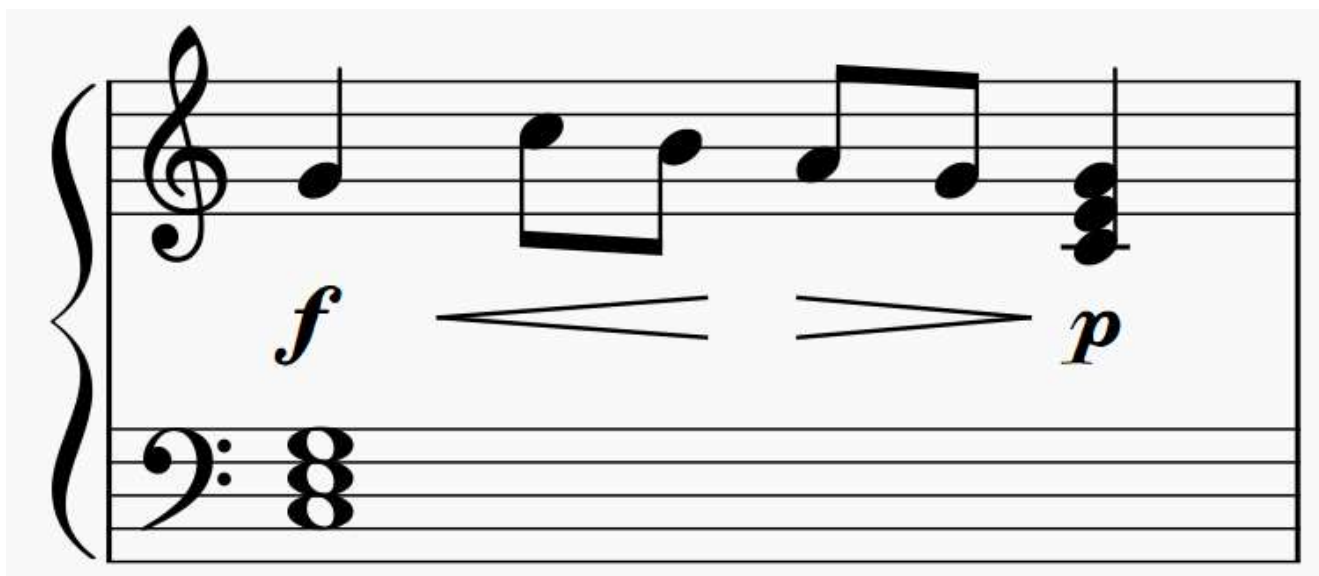
At the top we have a whole note or semibreve.
 Splitting that into 2 we have 2 half notes or minims.
 And splitting again we have 4 quarter notes or crotchets.
 8 eighth notes or quavers.
 And 16 16th notes or semi-quavers.
 Keep adding flags to the stems and you'll keep dividing the values making shorter and shorter notes.

To the right of the triangle are the rests for the same values. A rest means silence for the given value.

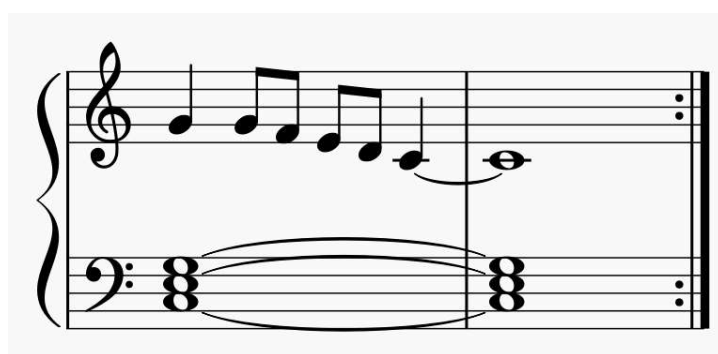
All the notes and rests in a bar need to add up to the value of the full bar indicated by the time signature.

So to finish here are some basic terms which begin to tell us how to play:

Forte means loud. Piano means quiet. Crescendo means get louder and diminuendo means get quieter.



Allegro means quick, andante means fairly slow and largo means slow.



Ties mean that you only play the note at the front of the tie but hold for the combined value.

Repeats mean go back to the

beginning or to a mirrored repeat mark at some point earlier in the music. And this double line means you've got to the end.



As have we, so there we have it...and breathe.