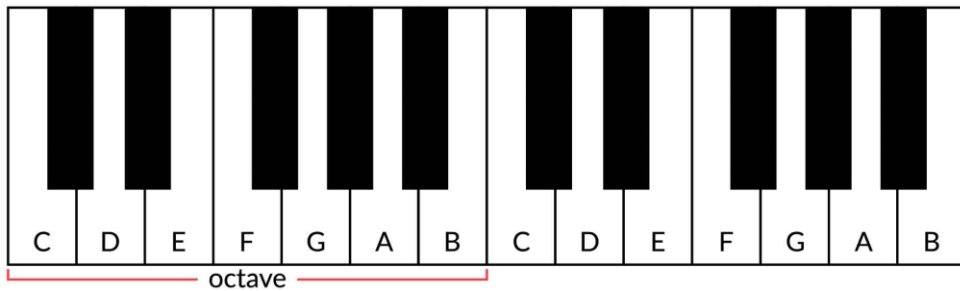


KEYBOARD SKILLS

Exploring Treble Clef Reading and Notation



A. Layout of a Keyboard/Piano



A piano or keyboard is laid out with **WHITE KEYS** and **Black Keys** (see section G). C is to the left of the two Black Keys and the notes continue to G then they go back to A again. Notes with the same letter name/pitch are said to be an **OCTAVE** apart. **MIDDLE C** is normally in the centre of a piano keyboard.

D. Keyboard Functions



E. Left Hand/Right Hand (1-5)



B. Treble Clef & Treble Clef Notation

A **STAVE** or **STAFF** is the name given to the five lines where musical notes are written. The position of notes on the staff or staff shows their **PITCH** (how high or low a note is). The **TREBLE CLEF** is a symbol used to show high-pitched notes on the staff and is *usually* used for the right hand on a piano or keyboard to play the **MELODY** and also used by high pitched instruments such as the flute and violin. The staff or staff is made up of 5 **LINES** and 4 **SPACES**.



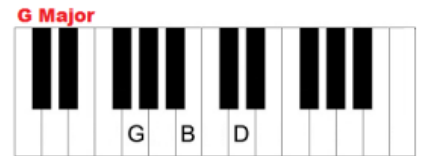
Every Green Bus Drives Fast. Notes in the **SPACES** spell "FACE"



Notes from **MIDDLE C** going up in pitch (all of the white notes) are called a **SCALE**.



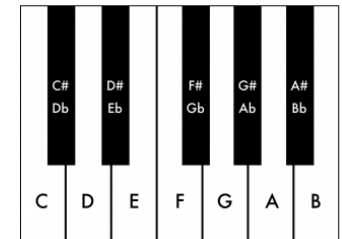
C. Keyboard Chords



Play one – Miss one – play one – miss one – play one

F. Black Keys and Sharps and Flats

There are five different black notes or keys on a piano or keyboard. They occur in groups of two and three right up the keyboard in different pitches. Each one can be a **SHARP** or a **FLAT**. The # symbol means a **SHARP** which raises the pitch by a semitone (e.g. C# is higher in pitch (to the right) than C). The b symbol means a **FLAT** which lowers the pitch by a semitone (e.g. Bb is lower in pitch (to the left) than B). Each black key has 2 names – C# is the same as Db – there's just two different ways of looking at it! Remember, black notes or keys that are to the **RIGHT** of a white note are called **SHARPS** and black notes to the **LEFT** of a white note are called **FLATS**.



BUILDING BRICKS

Exploring the Elements of Music



A. Pitch

The **highness** or **lowness** of a sound.

B. Tempo

The **speed** of a sound or piece of music.

FAST: *Allegro, Vivace, Presto*
SLOW: *Andante, Adagio, Lento*
GETTING FASTER –
Accelerando (accel.)
GETTING SLOWER –
Ritardando (rit.) or Rallentando (rall.)



C. Dynamics

The **volume** of a sound or piece of music.

VERY LOUD: *Fortissimo (ff)*
LOUD: *Forte (f)*
QUITE LOUD: *Mezzo Forte (mf)*
QUITE SOFT: *Mezzo Piano (mp)*
SOFT: *Piano (p)*
VERY SOFT: *Pianissimo (pp)*
GETTING LOUDER: *Crescendo (cresc.)*
GETTING SOFTER: *Diminuendo (dim.)*



D. Duration

The **length** of a sound.

E. Texture

How much sound we hear.

THIN TEXTURE: (*sparse/solo*) – small amount of instruments or melodies.



THICK TEXTURE: (*dense/layered*) – lots of instruments or melodies.

F. Timbre or Sonority

Describes the **unique sound or tone quality** of different instruments voices or sounds.

Velvety, Screechy, Throaty, Rattling, Mellow, Chirpy, Brassy, Sharp, Heavy, Buzzing, Crisp, Metallic, Wooden etc.

G. Articulation

How individual notes or sounds are **played/techniques**.

LEGATO – playing notes in a long, smooth way shown by a **SLUR**.



STACCATO – playing notes in a short, detached, spiky way shown by a **DOT**.



H. Silence

The opposite or absence of sound, **no sound**. In music these are **RESTS**.



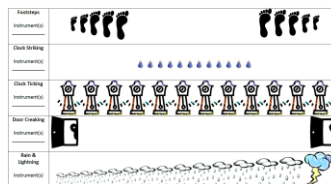
I. Notation

How music is **written** down.

STAFF NOTATION – music written on a **STAVE** (5 lines and spaces)



GRAPHIC NOTATION/SCORE – music written down using shapes and symbols to represent sounds.



J. How Music Works

Music can create an **atmosphere** or **ambience** e.g., *supermarkets and restaurants*.

Music can create an **image** e.g., *in response to art, a story, a poem, a character, a situation* – this is called **PROGRAMME MUSIC**.

Music can be **calming** e.g., *end of an evening in clubs and bars*.

Music can be used for **spiritual reasons** e.g., *worship, meditation, reflection, hymns and chants, yoga, and spiritual reflection*.

Music can be used for **commercial** purposes e.g., *advertising, TV themes*.