

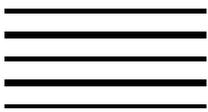
# A Guide to Reading Music

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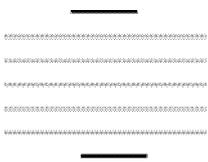
F G A B C D E F

3

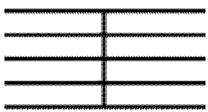
G A B Middle.C D E F G



Staff or Stave – what the music is written on



Ledger or Leger lines – additional to write higher or lower notes



Bar line – shows that the space between two of these lines should contain a number of beats (see time signature below)



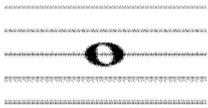
Time signature – shows two things; the top number is the number of beats – in this case three – and the bottom shows the type of note. 4 means crotchets or one beat notes, 2 means minims or two beat notes.



Treble Clef – most common and normally used for higher voices



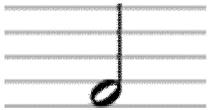
Bass Clef – as it sounds, for lower voices



Semibreve – 4 beats



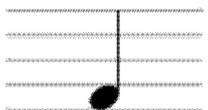
4 beats rest



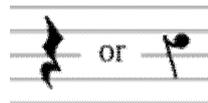
Minim – 2 beats



2 beats rest



Crotchet – 1 beat



1 beat rest



Quaver – 1/2 beat



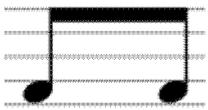
1/2 beat rest



Semi-quaver – 1/4 beat



1/4 beat rest



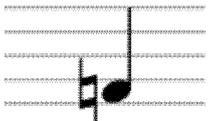
Beamed note – just adds 1/2 beat or smaller notes together – here it is two quavers. The number of lines on the beamed notes show the type of note  
1 = 1/2 beat, 2 = 1/4 beat and so on.



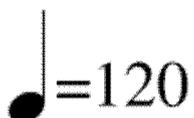
Flat – lowers the note a small amount



Sharp – raises the note by a small amount



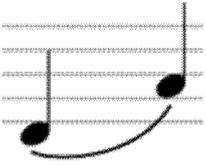
Natural – used to show the note should be sung as normal. Usually used after a flat or sharp has been used.



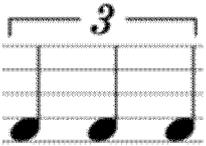
Number of that type of beats in one minute – in this case 120 normal beats in one minute or two beats every second.



Tied notes – these notes (beats) should be sung without a breath between.



Slur – same as a tie but the notes are different



Triplet – three notes in the space of two beats.

***p***

Piano – means sing softly. PP is softer still and for each additional P sing softer still.

***mp***

Mezzo Piano – a bit louder than P but not too loud. Mezzo means ‘Middle’

***f***

Forte – Loud. As with P, each additional F means louder still, and MF means a little softer.

***sfz***

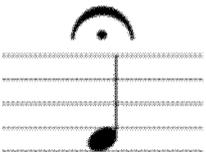
Sforzando – a little difficult but basically sing loud and then **Immediately** quieter, still on the same note.



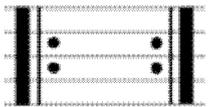
Crescendo – get louder



Diminuendo – get softer



Pause – exactly that. Sing the note and then hold it until the conductor stops you.



Repeat – when you reach the second set of lines with the colon in front of them, go back to the first set with the colon after them.

D.C. Go back to the beginning of the piece

D.S. Go back to the previous  or sign.



Sign, as above. The first time you get to this you just carry on singing.



Coda – a piece of music that you go to AFTER you have been told by a DC or DS mark to repeat. You will normally see the DS with al coda written after it. This just means that the next time you get there you skip FORWARD to the coda.

There is a lot more to it, but these basic signs will take you a long way.

*Prepared by Simon Thompson December 2012*