



Chapter 1 AP Music Theory

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Reading Pitches from a Score

- The music you read is a staff. The plural of staff is staves
- A staff is made of 5 lines and four spaces.

Treble Clef

- To read notes a staff you need a clef.
- The treble clef is also known as the G clef because it circles the note G.
- Middle C can be found on the first ledger line BELOW the staff.
 - In order from Middle C up it is:
 - C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C

Another good way to remember the order is the lines from bottom up;

Every Good Boy Deserves Fdge

And spaces:

F - A - C - E

ANOTHER WAY you'll see treble clef is in choral music the Tenor part will be written with an 8 below which simply means read this music an OCTAVE down

- When writing a note with an accidental on the staff the # or *b* go on the left side of the note..... However, when analyzing music the you write the letter name first then the sign, for example, F#.

Bass Clef

- The bass clef is also known as the F clef because the two dots on the clef are on both sides of the F line on the staff.
- Middle C can be found on the first ledger line ABOVE the staff
 - In order from G on the the bottom line it is
 - G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G

Another way of memorizing the lines from bottom up is:

Good Boys Do Fine Always

And spaces:

All Cows Eat Grass

C- Clefs

- There are actually 5 C- Clefs but only two are mostly used today.
- The C- Clefs are mostly used in orchestra and chamber music.
- The C- Clef is a moveable clef that moves where MIDDLE C is.
 - Middle C will be located where the two curves join together
- There is a soprano clef, mezzo-soprano clef, alto clef, tenor clef, and baritone clef.

Naming Registers

When you name pitches, it helps to specify their exact octave placement. There are different ways in doing this but we will use the Numeric System.

- Lowest C on the keyboard is C1
- Highest C on the keyboard is C8
- Middle C on the keyboard is C4

Grand Staff and Ledger Lines

- A grand staff is a joining of treble clef on top and bass clef on bottom with a curly line on the left side joining the two.
- Middle C is the ledger line connecting the two staves.
- Ledger lines should be written only if needed for example you can use a ledger line to draw middle C above the bass clef but you don't need a ledger line if you have B on the bass clef

Writing Pitches on a Score

- When drawing note heads make them solid Oval Shapes
- When writing with stems on notes the stem should go to the middle of the staff
- The middle line on the staffs stem should face down
- If the stem is facing down the oval should be on the right
- If the stem is facing up the stem should be on the left.

Dynamic Markings

pp- pianissimo (softest, don't even bother)

p- piano

mp- mezzo piano

(medium)

mF- mezzo forte

F- forte

FF- fortissimo (loudest, don't even bother)

< crescendo (growing louder)

> diminuendo (diminishing)

Style Periods

There are many different style periods but we will be focusing on the Common Practice Period