

ALFRED'S ESSENTIALS OF MUSIC THEORY

A Complete Self-Study Course for all Musicians

Andrew Surmani ■ Karen Farnum Surmani ■ Morty Manus

FOREWORD

Listening to music is one of the most popular pastimes, enjoyed by people all over the world. Whether listening to recordings or attending live concerts, music has the ability to inspire and give pleasure to almost everyone.

For many students and professionals, playing a musical instrument is an even more enjoyable experience. But understanding how music is constructed; how scales and chords are formed; the relationship between major and minor keys; and how music is composed through melody, harmony and chord progressions can enhance the musical experience even further. There is also current scientific research which indicates that studying music improves I.Q. scores—it actually makes you smarter.

Alfred's Essentials of Music Theory is designed for students of any age, whether listener or performer, who want to have a better understanding of the language of music.

This music theory course is divided into three sections of 40 pages each, with each section containing six units. There is a table of contents for each book on pages 2, 42 and 82. A unit consists of four or five pages of instructional material (including written exercises), an Ear Training page and Review page.

Each new term is capitalized the first time it is introduced (GRAND STAFF) and will also be listed in the Glossary & Index of Terms and Symbols (along with the page number) at the end of each book. As the Glossary only contains terms introduced within the book, it is a complete listing of subjects included.

ANSWER KEY: Answers for all exercises from the Lesson and Review pages and music for the Ear Training pages are included in the back of the book. This will help you determine your comprehension of the concepts being taught. To find the answers for a particular page, refer to the Table of Contents.

COMPACT DISCS: One of the difficulties in studying music theory is not being able to hear what is being learned. The two CDs included (**CD 1** covers Books 1 and 2, **CD 2** covers Book 3) not only allow you to hear the musical elements discussed, but offers you opportunities to test your listening skills. Musical examples are played by a variety of instruments (piano, flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, violin and cello).

COMPUTER SOFTWARE: *Alfred's Essentials of Music Theory* offers companion software for both IBM-compatible and Macintosh computers that will allow you to test and drill new concepts, and keep track of your scores.

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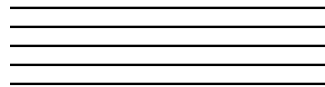
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The Staff, Notes and Pitches

Music is written on a STAFF of five lines and the four spaces between.

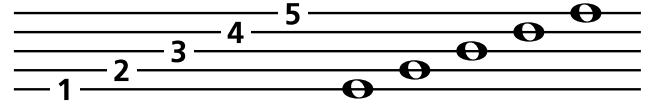


The STAFF

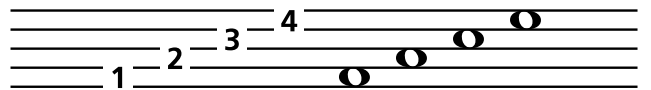
Music NOTES are oval-shaped symbols that are placed *on* the lines and *in* the spaces. They represent musical sounds, called PITCHES.



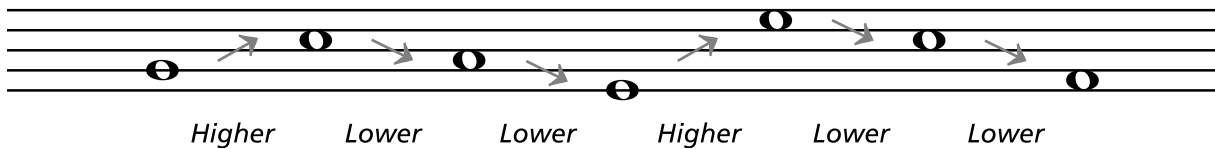
The lines of the staff are numbered from bottom to top.



The spaces between the lines are also numbered from bottom to top.



If the notes appear *higher* on the staff, they sound *higher* in pitch.
If the notes appear *lower* on the staff, they sound *lower* in pitch.

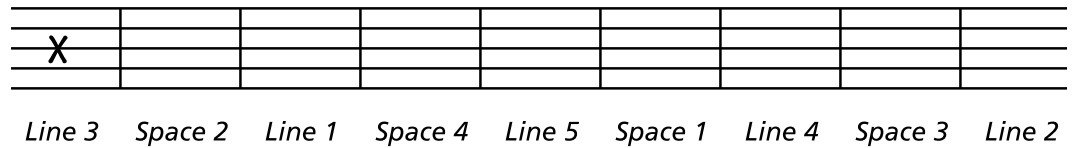



Exercises

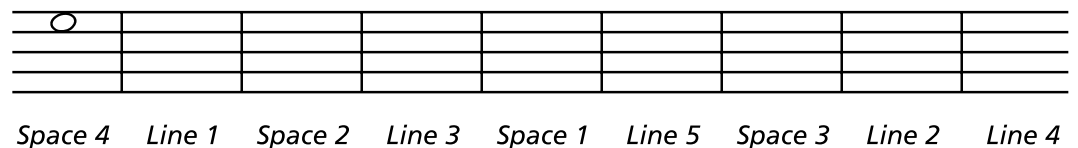
- 1 Draw a staff by connecting the dots. Use a ruler or straight edge. Number the lines, then the spaces from low to high.



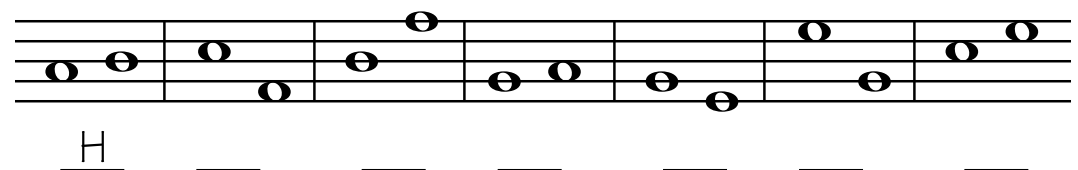
- 2 On the staff, mark an X in the following locations:



- 3 Write notes like this  on the following lines and spaces:



- 4 Indicate whether the 2nd note is higher or lower than the 1st note by using an H (higher) or L (lower).

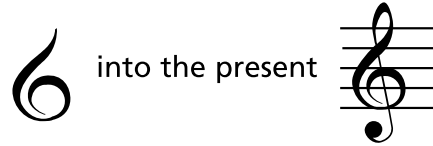


Treble Clef and Staff

Music notes are named after the first seven letters of the alphabet, from A to G. By their position on the staff, they can represent the entire range of musical sound.

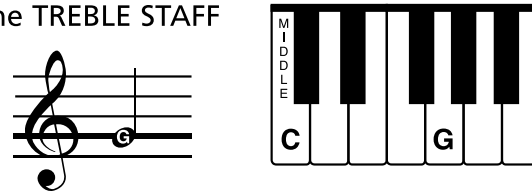
CLEF signs help to organize the staff so notes can easily be read.

The TREBLE CLEF is used for notes in the higher pitch ranges. The treble (or G) clef has evolved from a stylized letter G:

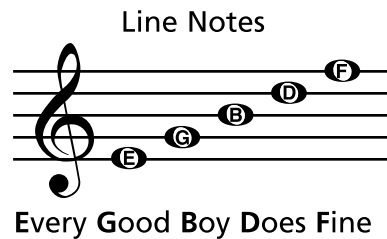


The curl of the treble clef circles the line on which the note G is placed. This G is above MIDDLE C (the C nearest the middle of the keyboard).

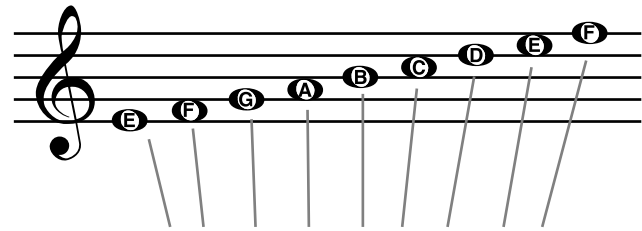
The TREBLE STAFF



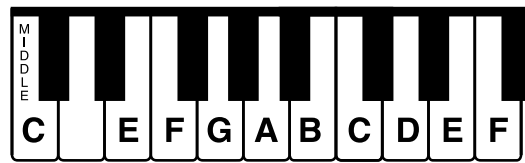
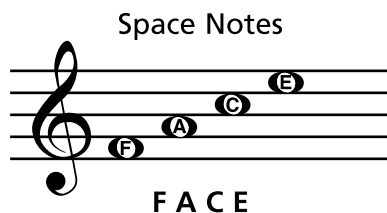
In the treble staff, the names of the notes on the lines from bottom to top are E, G, B, D, F.



All the notes of the TREBLE STAFF:

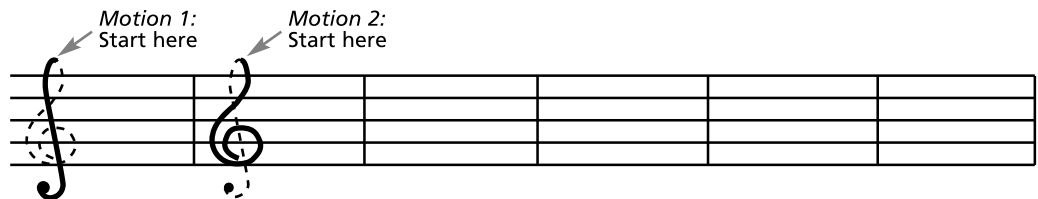


The names of the notes in the spaces from bottom to top spell FACE.

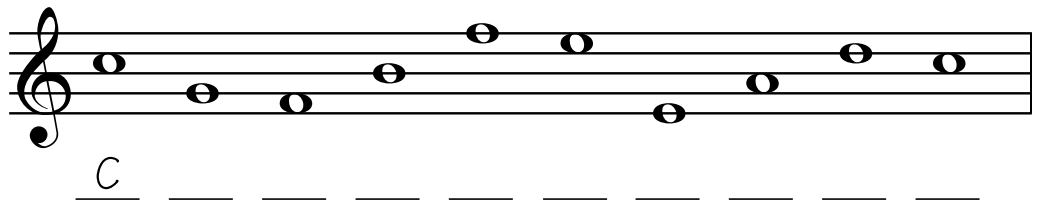


Exercises

- 1** The treble clef is written in two motions. Trace along the dotted lines as indicated, then draw four more.



- 2** Write the letter names of the following notes. Use capital letters.



- 3** Write the notes on the staff indicated by the letters. If the notes can be written in two places, write one above the other.

