

Time signatures

The number of beats in a bar is determined by the *time signature*, a pair of numbers placed after the clef.

The upper number shows how many beats each bar contains, while the lower number indicates what kind of note value is used to represent a single beat. This lower number is a fraction of a whole note, so that 4 represents quarter notes and 8 represents eighth notes.

C, for *common time*, is another way to write $\frac{4}{4}$.

6 means six eighth notes 8 to the bar.

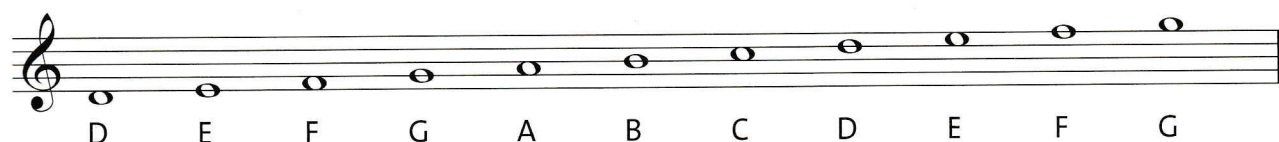


4 means four quarter notes 4 to the bar.

3 means three quarter notes 4 to the bar.

Note names

Notes are named after the first seven letters of the alphabet and are written on lines or spaces on the staff, according to pitch.

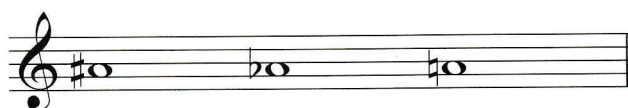


Accidentals

The pitch of a note can be altered up or down a half step (or *semitone*) by the use of sharp and flat symbols. These temporary pitch changes are known as *accidentals*.

The *sharp* (#) raises the pitch of a note.

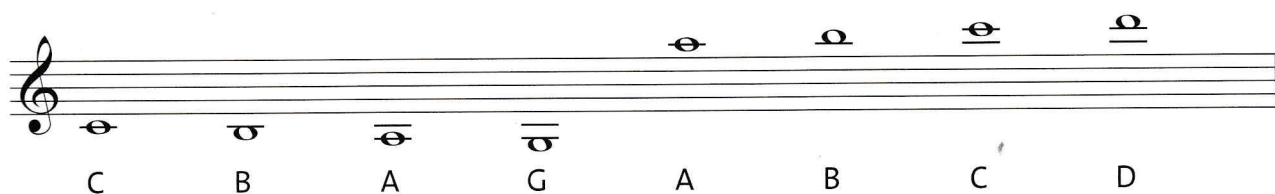
The *natural* (♮) returns the note to its original pitch



The *flat* (b) lowers the pitch of a note.

Ledger lines

Ledger lines are used to extend the range of the staff for low or high notes.

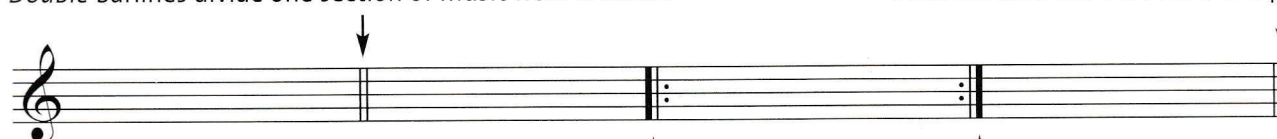


Barlines

Various different types of barlines are used:

Double barlines divide one section of music from another.

Final barlines show the end of a piece of music



Repeat marks show a section to be repeated.