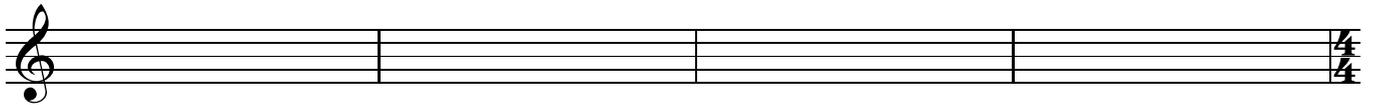


Music notation - sheet 1

Music is written on a set of five lines called the "stave".

At the start of the stave is a musical symbol called the "clef". This one  is the "treble clef".

The clef sets the range of the notes that follow. There are other clefs e.g. "bass clef".



The stave is divided into "bars" by vertical bar lines. The "time signature" e.g. $\frac{4}{4}$ follows the clef symbol. It consists of 2 numbers - the top one is the number of beats in each bar. e.g. 4 beats.



Notes are written as circles on the lines of the stave, or in the spaces between the lines. Some are open or white circles, others are filled in or black circles, and many notes have lines known as "stems" (pointing up or down). These indicate the length of the note.

"semibreve" or "whole note" = 4 crotchets
 "minim" or "half note" = 2 crotchets
 "crotchet" or "quarter note"
 "quaver" = half a crotchet



These bars are all the same length

1 semibreve = 2 minims = 4 crotchets = 8 quavers



For each note length there is a matching "rest" symbol that means don't play / silence. E.g. semibreve rest, minim and rest, crotchets and rests, quavers and rests



The bottom number of the time signature tells us the note length of each beat.

If the bottom number is 4, each beat is a crotchet (quarter note)

$\frac{4}{4}$ time = 4 crotchet beats to a bar $\frac{3}{4}$ time = 3 crotchet beats to a bar $\frac{2}{4}$ time = 2 crotchet beats to a bar



If the bottom number is 2, each beat is a minim (half note). If it is 8, each beat is a quaver*

$\frac{2}{2}$ time = 2 minim beats to a bar $\frac{3}{2}$ time = 3 minim beats to a bar $\frac{3}{8}$ time = 3 quaver beats to a bar,
 $\frac{4}{8}$ = 4 quaver beats to a bar.



* but see "compound time signatures" in a later sheet on Music Notation