

## Alternative Music Notation

### Formation of the Express Stave:

On the keyboard, the white key group ABCDEFG forms a symmetrical pattern with D at its centre. The black key G#/Ab can be seen as the 'link' (L) between successive groups of keys ABCDEFG.

Both **L** and **D** are 'centres of symmetry' within the keyboard pattern. Each is represented by a line in the Express Stave: **L** by a **bold** line; **D** a **light** line.

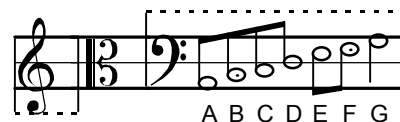
The stave of three lines, **LDL**, accommodates all 12 chromatic pitches, with *white* notes indicating *naturals* and *black* notes indicating *accidentals*.

Both a black and a white note touch each line from below and above, and in the middle of each 'space band' is one non-touching note with a centre 'spot'.

### Rhythm: Only two note values are non-traditional:

minim (half-note): semibreve (whole-note):

### Registers: Express Stave uses the three traditional clefs, but each simply denotes one unit of pitches A to G, all clefs being read the same way. Treble and bass each have an added dotted line for middle-D. Notice how bass clef notes look familiar.



### Tutorial: Express Stave is easy to learn. Try the following 4-step keyboard lesson, firstly orienting the page in landscape, if desired. Can you play and identify the mystery tune (4)?

Learn Express Stave:

### An example of *Express Stave* notation: Excerpt from Chopin's *Fantasia-Impromptu*

