

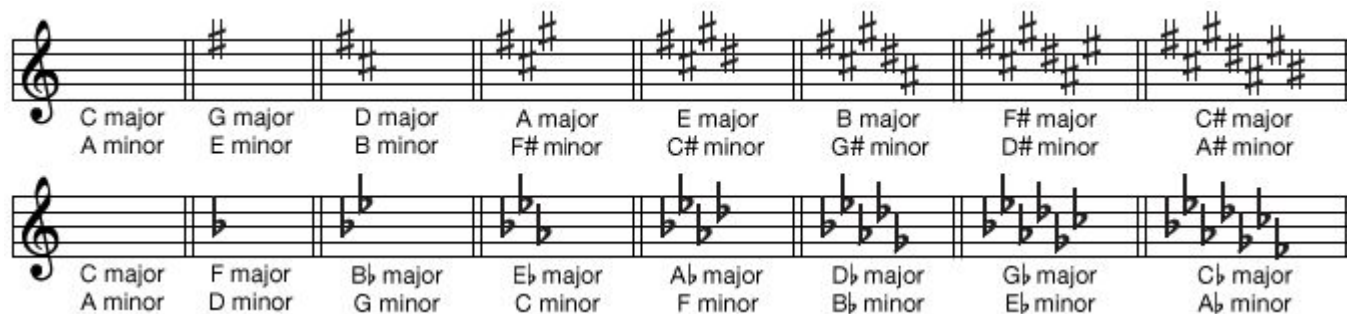
Music Theory 101



Basics to help you start reading and
writing Music

Key Signatures

- In music, the key signature represents the key that a particular piece of music or measure will be in.
- Key signatures are depicted using accidentals [sharps/flats] on the staff of a measure.
- Knowing the key signature is the first step in reading and writing music.



Time Signature

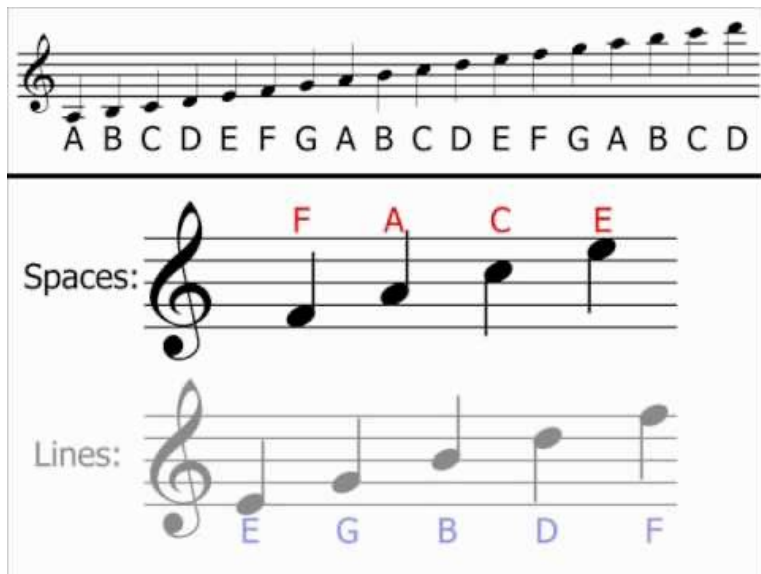
The time signature represents how many beats a measure gets based on the note being equated to one beat. If the time signature is not stated, it's best to assume that it is in 4/4 otherwise known as common time.

For example:

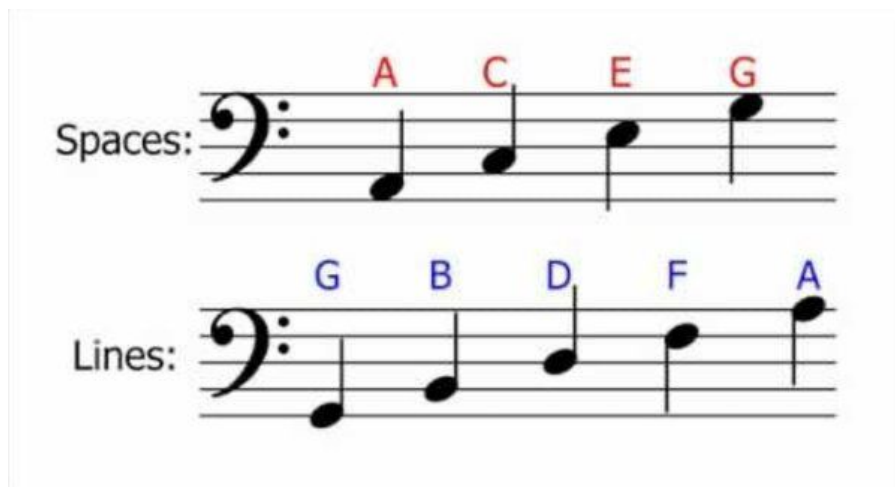
1. In 4/4 time, there are four beats in a given measure with a quarter notes getting one beat. This is also known as standard time.
2. In 6/8 time, there are six beats in a given measure with an eighth note getting one beat.
3. In $\frac{3}{4}$ time, there are 3 beats in a given measure, with a quarter note getting one beat.

Reading Staves

Most music is written either in bass clef or treble clef.



Treble



Bass

Octaves

For octaves, it helps to imagine a piano in front of you. Pianos have the key “C” that signify moving into the next octave.

C1 -> C2 -> C3....etc

In the bass clef, you go from C1 -> C3

C4 is middle C

In the treble clef you go from C4 -> C8