

## Key Signature

When a sharp or flat appears with the note throughout the music it is called an **accidental** and applies to just that note in the current measure. In a key signature all notes throughout the piece should be played with the sharp or flat applied. The key signature below would mean that in the piece all C, F or G would be played C#, F# and G# respectively .



## Time Signature

The time signature appears at the beginning of the music right after the key signature if there is one, or after the treble clef if there is not. It contains two numbers. The most common time signature is 4/4.

- 4 The top number tells you how many beats are in a measure.
- 4 The bottom number tells you which note will equals one beat, in 4/4 time a quarter note gets 1 beat.



Other common time signatures include 3/4, 2/4 or 2/2.