

MUSIC THEORY NOTES

PART 1

NOTE NAMES

	US	UK	PT
♩	whole note	semibreve	semibreve
♪	half note	minim	mínima
♫	quarter note	crochet	semínima
♬	eighth note	quaver	colcheia

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RELATIVE TEMPO

whole note	♩
half note	♪
quarter note	♫
eighth note	♬

STAVES & BARS

- A stave is used to write notes
- Composed of 5 evenly spaced horizontal lines
- Vertical lines separate different bars (or measures)
- Every bar has the same number of beats



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TEMPO & RHYTHM

- Tempo describes the steady pulse of the music
- Rhythm describes the variation of length between different notes

TIME SIGNATURES

- Describe the tempo
- Top number: beats per bar
- Bottom number: length of a beat

2/4	2 quarter note beats per bar
3/4	3 quarter note beats per bar
4/4	4 quarter note beats per bar

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
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PITCH

- The pitch of a note represents it's tone
- The clef defines the position of the notes in the stave
- Seven letters are used to represent different notes

UK, US	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
<i>Solfejo</i>	<i>La</i>	<i>Si</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>Re</i>	<i>Mi</i>	<i>Fa</i>	<i>Sol</i>

CLEFS









- The treble clef  (or G clef)
- The bass clef  (or F clef)

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RESTS

- Rests describe absence of sound
- Duration is related with notes length

Note	Rest
	
	
	
	

TIES & DOTS

- Ties join notes that sound the same into one
- Dots after a note or rest make them plus half as long

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ACCIDENTALS

- Sharps (#) raise the tone by half-step
- Flats (b) lower the tone by half-step
- Natural (♮) cancels any sharps or flats
- Accidentals are placed before the note on the stave
- And affect the same notes until the end of the bar (or measure)

MAJOR SCALES

- A scale is any predefined series of notes
- The distance between notes defines the tonality of the scale
- The distance can be a whole tone (T) or a semitone (S)
- Major scales pattern is T-T-S-T-T-T-S
- Example for the C Major scale:

C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
└ T	└ T	└ S	└ T	└ T	└ T	└ S	

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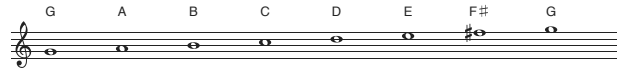
C MAJOR SCALE

- Starts and ends on C
- Follows the major scale pattern
- Doesn't require sharps (#) or flats (b)



G MAJOR SCALE

- Starts and ends on G
- Follows the major scale pattern
- Requires a F#

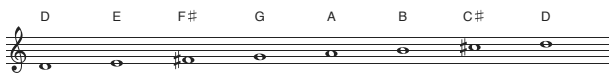


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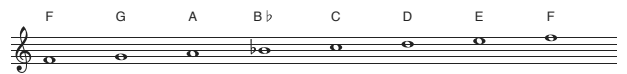
D MAJOR SCALE

- Starts and ends on D
- Follows the major scale pattern
- Requires a F# and a C#



F MAJOR SCALE

- Starts and ends on F
- Follows the major scale pattern
- Requires a Bb

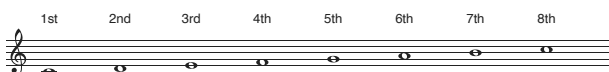


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INTERVALS & DEGREES

- Interval is the distance in pitch between two notes
- Harmonic interval: notes are played together
- Melodic interval: notes are played one after the other
- For example, the degrees for the C Major scale are:



TRIADS

- Groups of three notes:
 1. The tonic: 1st degree of the scale
 2. The 3rd degree of the scale
 3. And, the 5th degree of the scale

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PERFORMANCE DIRECTIONS

TEMPO

<i>lento</i>	slow
<i>adagio</i>	slow, with expression
<i>andante</i>	moderate, "walking pace"
<i>accelerando</i>	gradually getting quicker/faster
<i>allegretto</i>	fairly quick/fast, not as fast as allegro
<i>allegro</i>	quick/fast, "cheerful"

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PERFORMANCE DIRECTIONS

DYNAMICS

<i>ppp</i>	very very soft
<i>pp</i>	<i>pianissimo</i> , very soft
<i>p</i>	<i>piano</i> , soft
<i>mp</i>	<i>mezzo piano</i> , half soft
<i>mf</i>	<i>mezzo forte</i> , half loud
<i>f</i>	<i>forte</i> , loud
<i>ff</i>	<i>fortissimo</i> , very loud
<i>fff</i>	very very loud

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PERFORMANCE DIRECTIONS

ARTICULATION

<i>legato</i>	smoothly
<i>semi-staccato</i>	a little detached, less than <i>staccato</i>
<i>staccato</i>	detached and short
<i>tenuto</i>	held

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PERFORMANCE DIRECTIONS

EXPRESSION

<i>cantabile</i>	in a singing style
<i>dolce</i>	sweet
<i>grazioso</i>	graceful
<i>molto</i>	very much
<i>poco</i>	a little

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PERFORMANCE DIRECTIONS

SPECIAL SYMBOLS

<	<i>crescendo</i> , gradually getting louder
>	<i>diminuendo</i> , gradually getting quieter
>	accent

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REFERENCES

- *The AB Guide to Music Theory, Part I* -- by Eric Taylor

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