

# Notation: Pitch

MUSIC NOTATION IS THE ART OF RECORDING MUSIC IN WRITTEN FORM.

MODERN MUSIC NOTATION IS A PRODUCT OF **CENTURIES** OF TRANSFORMATION... AND IT IS NEITHER **EFFICIENT** NOR **INTUITIVE**!

**PITCH** IS THE HIGHNESS OR LOWNESS OF A SOUND.

FOR EXAMPLE, A **FLUTE** HAS A **HIGH PITCH**, WHILE A **TUBA** HAS A **LOW PITCH**.

A **NOTE** IS A **WRITTEN REPRESENTATION** OF A PARTICULAR **PITCH**.

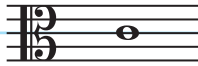


NOTATION IS BASED ON THE **PIANO KEYBOARD**; **LINE**S AND **SPACE**S ON THE STAFF REPRESENT THE **WHITE NOTES** ON THE KEYBOARD.

TO DISPLAY NOTES **OUTSIDE** THE STAFF, WE USE SHORTENED STAFF LINES CALLED **LEDGER LINES**.



TREBLE CLEF



ALTO CLEF

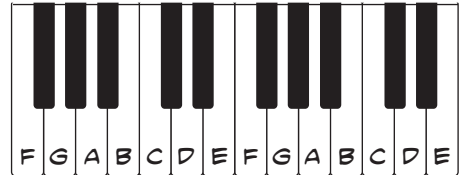
THE **CLEF** DETERMINES WHAT NOTES EACH STAFF LINE CORRESPONDS TO. THE **FOUR MODERN CLEFS** ARE SHOWN HERE; THE NOTE DISPLAYED ON EACH STAFF CORRESPONDS TO **MIDDLE C**.



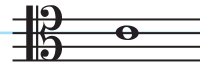
THE SYSTEM OF MUSICAL NOTATION WE USE IS ESSENTIALLY A **STYLIZED GRAPH** OF **PITCH** VERSUS **TIME**.



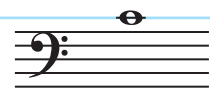
THE **FIVE LINES** ON WHICH NOTES APPEAR IS CALLED A **STAFF**.



THE **WHITE NOTES** ON THE KEYBOARD ARE LABELED WITH LETTERS FROM **A** TO **G**.



TENOR CLEF



BASS CLEF

**MIDDLE C** IS THE **C** THAT IS CLOSEST TO THE **MIDDLE** OF THE PIANO KEYBOARD.

TO NOTATE THE **BLACK NOTES** ON THE PIANO KEYBOARD, WE USE **ACCIDENTALS**, WHICH ALTER THE NOTE BY ONE OR TWO **HALF STEPS**.

A **HALF STEP** IS THE DISTANCE BETWEEN **TWO ADJACENT KEYS** ON THE PIANO KEYBOARD, REGARDLESS OF WHAT **COLOR** THE KEYS ARE.



THE **DOUBLE SHARP** RAISES THE NOTE BY TWO HALF STEPS.



THE **SHARP** RAISES THE NOTE BY ONE HALF STEP.



THE **NATURAL** CANCELS OUT ANY PREVIOUS ACCIDENTAL.

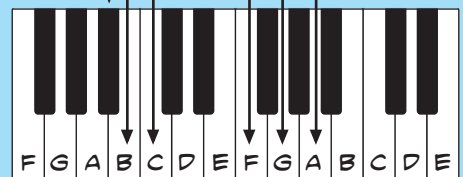


THE **FLAT** LOWERS THE NOTE BY ONE HALF STEP.



THE **DOUBLE FLAT** LOWERS THE NOTE BY TWO HALF STEPS.

THESE SYMBOLS ARE PLACED TO THE **LEFT** OF THE NOTE THAT THEY AFFECT, AND THEY APPLY TO ALL THE NOTES ON THAT LINE OR SPACE FOR THE REST OF THE MEASURE.



TWO **NOTES** WHICH HAVE THE SAME **PITCH** (FOR EXAMPLE, **F SHARP** AND **G FLAT**) ARE CALLED **ENHARMONICS**.