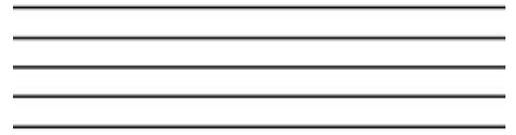


Staves, Clefs & Pitch

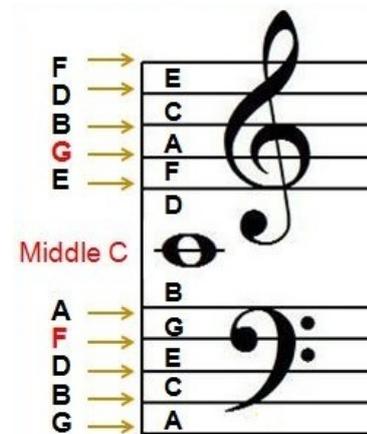
- Sounds in music when written down are called **notes**. A note can be high in **pitch** (high sound) or low in pitch (low sound). We write all pitches on a ladder of 5 lines and 4 spaces known as a **staff**.
- We use the letters of the alphabet (A, B, C, D, E, F, G) over and over again to signify low or high pitches: A-B-D-C-D-E-F-G-A-B-C-D-E-F-G-A-B etc. As we go through the musical alphabet the pitch gets higher (A-B-C-D etc). If we go backwards through the musical alphabet the pitch gets lower (D-C-B-A etc).
- We use different **clefs** to signify high and low pitches. The Treble Clef takes care of the higher pitches and begins on **line G**. The Bass Clef takes care of the lower pitches and begins on **line F**. There are other clefs, but these two clefs are by far the most popular and represent the vast majority of music you will ever hear:



Treble Clef
(begins on line G)



Bass Clef
(begins on line F)



Both clefs combined on two **staves**
with the middle C note

- You can use simple mnemonic rules to remember where the notes are located on both clefs:
 - ▮ The Treble Clef lines could be: **Every Good Boy Deserves Football.**
 - ▮ The Treble Clef spaces are easy to remember, because they spell the word **FACE**.
 - ▮ The Bass Clef lines could be: **Good Boys Deserve Football Always.**
 - ▮ The Bass Clef spaces could be: **All Cows Eat Grass.**
- The note that unites the Treble Clef and Bass Clef is middle C, which requires its own line (known as a **ledger line**) because it lies above the Bass Clef, but below the Treble Clef (in the middle!).
- Finally, you should be able to see how you can progress through the musical alphabet (A to G), by counting up every line **and** space from the G at the bottom of the Bass Clef to the F at the top of the Treble Clef. You are going from low pitches to higher pitches. Remember that after G you go to A. There's no such pitch as H (at least not in the English alphabet)!