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; LINES AND SPACES ON THE STAFF REPRESENT THE WHITE NOTES ON THE KEYBOARD.

TO DISPLAY NOTES

OUTSIDE THE

STAFF, WE USE

SHORTENED

STAFF LINES

CALLED

LEDGER LINES.





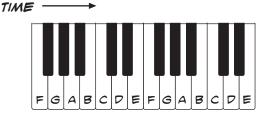
ALTO CLEF

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.



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.

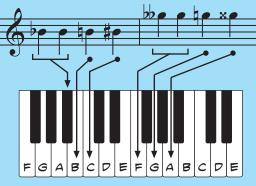
THE **SHARP** RAISES THE NOTE BY ONE HALF STEP.

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**.