

## Chapter 2. Bass Clef

In this chapter you will:

1. Write bass clefs
2. Write some low notes
3. Match low notes on the keyboard with notes on the staff
4. Write eighth notes
5. Identify notes on ledger lines
6. Identify sharps and flats on the keyboard
7. Write sharps and flats on the staff
8. Write enharmonic equivalents

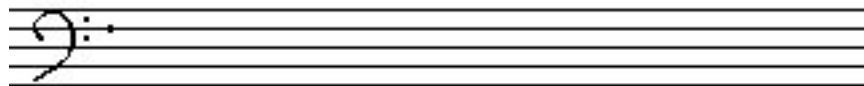
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### 2.1 Write bass clefs

The diagram shows a musical staff with a bass clef (F or bass clef) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth notes: F2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4. A keyboard diagram to the right shows middle C (C) and the F key below it. The lyrics are: "This old man, He played one, He played nick nack on my thumb".

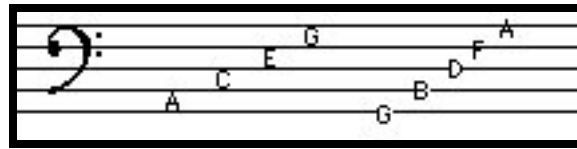
- The symbol at the beginning of the above staff,  $\text{F}$ , is an F or bass clef.
- The F or bass clef says that the fourth line of the staff is the F below the piano's middle C. This clef is used to write low notes.

*DRAW* five bass clefs. After each clef, which itself includes two dots, put another dot on the F line.



# Pathways to Harmony, Chapter 1. The Keyboard and Treble Clef

## 2.2 Write some low notes



- The notes on the spaces of a staff with bass clef starting from the bottom space are:  
A, C, E and G as in All Cows Eat Grass.
- The notes on the lines of a staff with bass clef starting from the bottom line are:  
G, B, D, F and A as in Good Boys Do Fine Always.

1. *IDENTIFY* the notes in the song “This Old Man.” *PLAY* it.

This old man, He played one, He played nick nack on my thumb

2. *WRITE* the notes and bass clefs for the song, “Go Tell Aunt Rhodie”

Q = quarter note                      H = half note                      W = whole note

H Q Q    H H    H Q Q    Q Q H  
E E D    C C    D D F    E D C

Go tell Aunt Rhodie, Go tell Aunt Rhodie

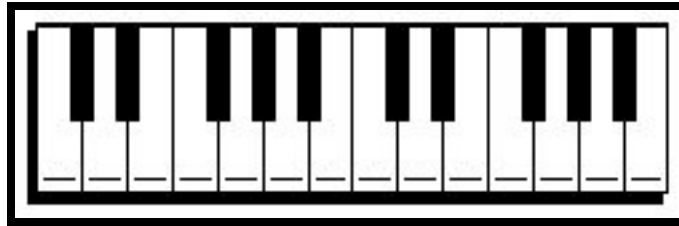
H Q Q    H Q Q    Q Q    Q Q W  
G G F    E E C    D C    D E C

Go tell Aunt Rhodie, The old grey goose is dead.

Write  
bass  
clefs

# Pathways to Harmony, Chapter 1. The Keyboard and Treble Clef

## 2.3 Match low notes on the keyboard with notes on the staff



### A. Bass clef and the keyboard

1. *WRITE* letters on the white keys of the above keyboard.
2. *WRITE*, on the keyboard below, the number of each note which appears on the staff to the left. Learn to play this phrase.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Deck the halls with boughs of hol-ly



### B. Review

*COMPLETE* the following sentences

1. The phrase for remembering the lines for bass clef is

\_\_\_\_\_

2. The spaces in treble clef spell

\_\_\_\_\_

3. The phrase for remembering the lines for treble clef is

\_\_\_\_\_

4. The phrase for remembering the spaces for bass clef is

\_\_\_\_\_

### C. Practice

*GO ONLINE* to <http://www.classic.musictheory.net/>.

1. *SELECT* "Note Trainer" from the "Trainers" menu.
2. *CLICK* "Settings."
3. *HIGHLIGHT* bass clef only; *DRAG* notes to the top and bottom lines.
4. *CLICK* "Settings" again.
5. *REVIEW* treble clef notes as needed.



# Pathways to Harmony, Chapter 1. The Keyboard and Treble Clef

## 2.5 Identify notes above and below the staff; ledger lines

Example 1. Treble clef: D E F...E F G. Bass clef: F G A...G A B.

Example 2. Treble clef: G A B C D (with ledger lines). Bass clef: B C D E.

The image shows two examples of musical notation. Example 1 shows a treble clef staff with notes D, E, F, E, F, G and a bass clef staff with notes F, G, A, G, A, B. Example 2 shows a treble clef staff with notes G, A, B, C, D written below the staff using ledger lines, and a bass clef staff with notes B, C, D, E written above the staff using ledger lines. A box labeled 'Ledger lines' points to the first ledger line in Example 2.

- Notes can be written above and below the staff. Their letter names continue in alphabetical order. See example 1 above.
- Staffs can be extended with ledger lines. Ledger lines are short lines above, below or through notes to show pitches beyond the staff. See example 2.

*IDENTIFY* the notes to Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy.”

The image shows the first two staves of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" in 4/4 time. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The melody is written in quarter notes. The notes in the treble clef are G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3. The notes in the bass clef are F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1.

# Pathways to Harmony, Chapter 1. The Keyboard and Treble Clef

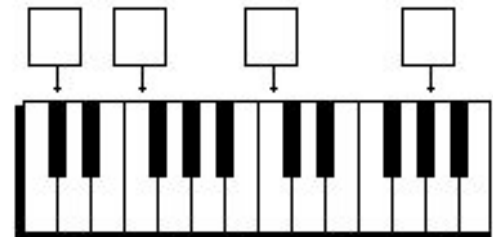
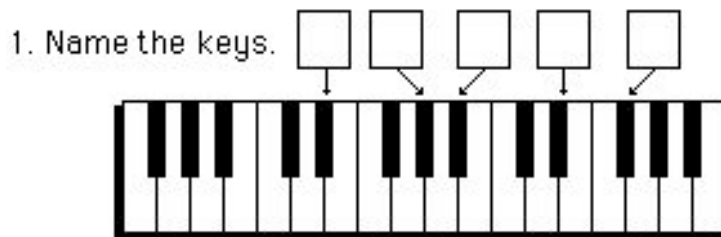
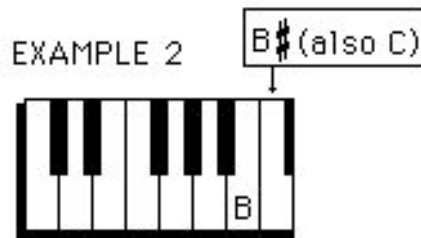
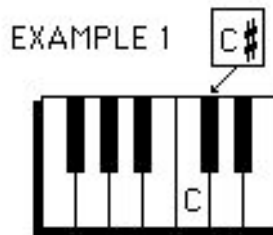
## 2.6 Identify sharps and flats on the keyboard



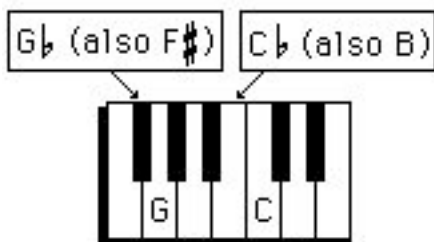
• A sharp, #, after a letter name means play the key to the right, or higher, on the keyboard without skipping over any keys, whether black or white. See example 1 below. C# is to the right of C.

• If the key to the right is white, give the key a new second name with a sharp. See example 2 below.

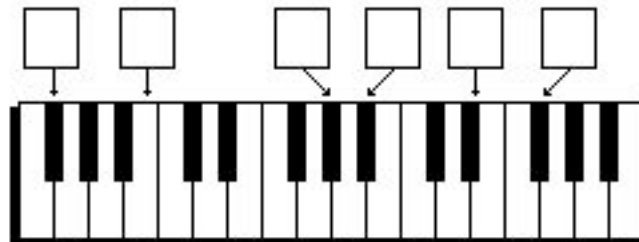
• A flat, b, after a letter means play the key to the left, or lower, on the keyboard without skipping over any keys, whether black or white.



EXAMPLE



2. Name the keys with flats.



# Pathways to Harmony, Chapter 1. The Keyboard and Treble Clef

## 2.7 Write sharps and flats on the staff

### Sharps and flats on the staff.

- When writing sharps and flats with letter names, write the sharp or flat after the letter--C#.
- When writing sharps and flats with notes on a staff, write the sharp or flat before the note--#C.
- On the staff, the space in the middle of the sharp or flat should cover the same line or space as the note next to it.

### 1. *WRITE* sharps or flats in front of these notes.

Add sharps \_\_\_\_\_ Add flats \_\_\_\_\_

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The staff contains two musical phrases. The first phrase starts with a note on the second line (F4) with a sharp sign (#) written after it. A box labeled 'EXAMPLE' points to this sharp sign. The second phrase starts with a note on the second space (G4) with a flat sign (b) written before it. A box labeled 'EXAMPLE' points to this flat sign. Brackets above the staff indicate that the first phrase is for 'Add sharps' and the second phrase is for 'Add flats'.

### 2. *REVIEW*

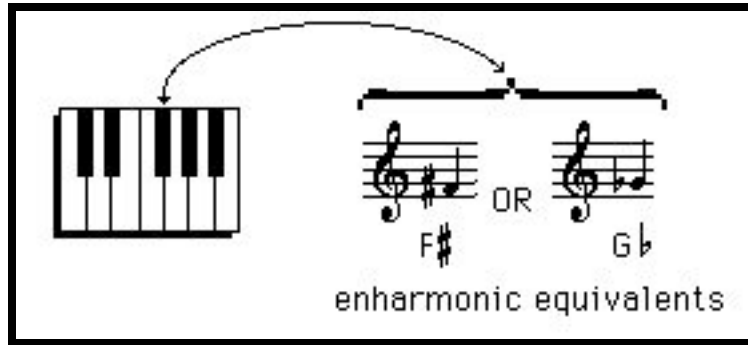
- Notes sound \_\_\_\_\_ on the right side of the keyboard.  
(higher or lower)
- Notes sound \_\_\_\_\_ on the left side of the keyboard.  
(higher or lower)
- A sharp means play the key to the \_\_\_\_\_ on the keyboard.  
(right or left)
- A flat means play the key to the \_\_\_\_\_ on the keyboard.  
(right or left)
- The key for D|| is to the \_\_\_\_\_ of D.  
(right or left)
- The key for C is to the \_\_\_\_\_ of C.  
(right or left)
- D sounds \_\_\_\_\_ than D.  
(higher or lower)
- C sounds \_\_\_\_\_ than C.  
(higher or lower)

### 3. *GO ONLINE* to <http://www.classic.musictheory.net/>.

- SELECT* "Keyboard Trainer" from the "Trainers" menu.
- CLICK* the "Black Keys" circle so it says "On."
- CHOOSE* the correct letters for the highlighted keys.

# Pathways to Harmony, Chapter 1. The Keyboard and Treble Clef

## 2.8 Write enharmonic equivalents



• Each key on the keyboard can be written in at least two different ways on the staff, and can be called by at least two different letter names. Two letter names or two notes on the staff which refer to the same pitch are called enharmonic equivalents.

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1. *WRITE* enharmonic equivalents for each of these notes:

All \_\_\_\_

Bll \_\_\_\_

Cll \_\_\_\_

Dll \_\_\_\_

Dll \_\_\_\_

Fll \_\_\_\_

Bll \_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_

A | \_\_\_\_

2. *REWRITE* the following music using flats instead of sharps.



3. *PLAY* this tune.