

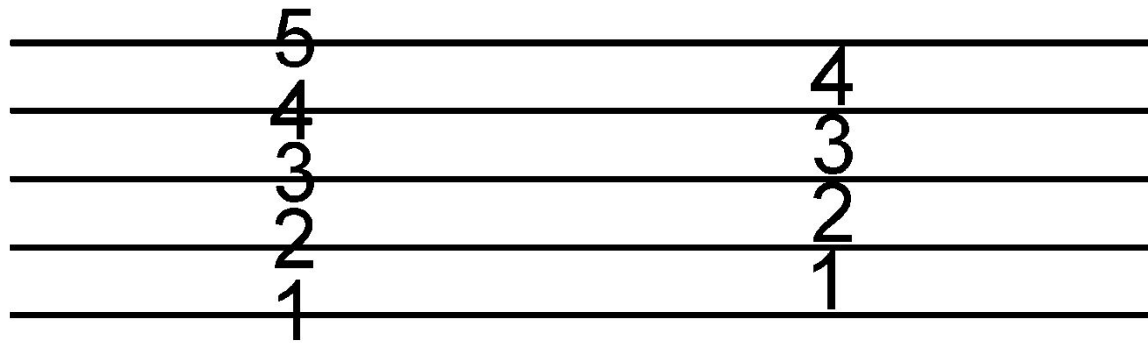
Music reading is accomplished through understanding **pitch** (how high or low a note sounds). Musicians can tell the pitch of a note through the use of the **staff**.

This is the staff (5 lines and 4 spaces):



Notes are written on the lines and spaces of the staff. Each line or space has a specific sound. Notes written towards the top of the staff sound higher than notes written towards the bottom of the staff.

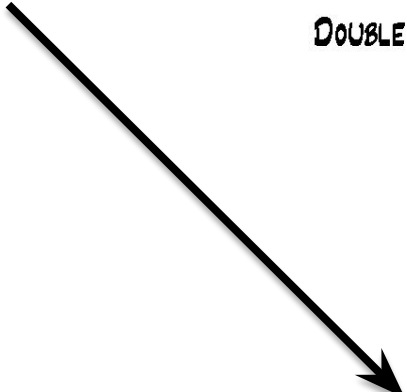
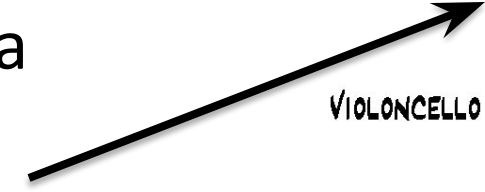
When identifying lines and spaces on the staff musicians always count from the bottom to the top.



1<sup>st</sup>  
System/  
Stanza

Musical score for the first system, consisting of four staves. From top to bottom, the staves are labeled: VIOLIN 1 (treble clef), VIOLA (alto clef), VIOLONCELLO (bass clef), and DOUBLE BASS (bass clef). Each staff contains a single horizontal bar representing a measure. A large bracket on the left side of the staves groups them together.

Brackets



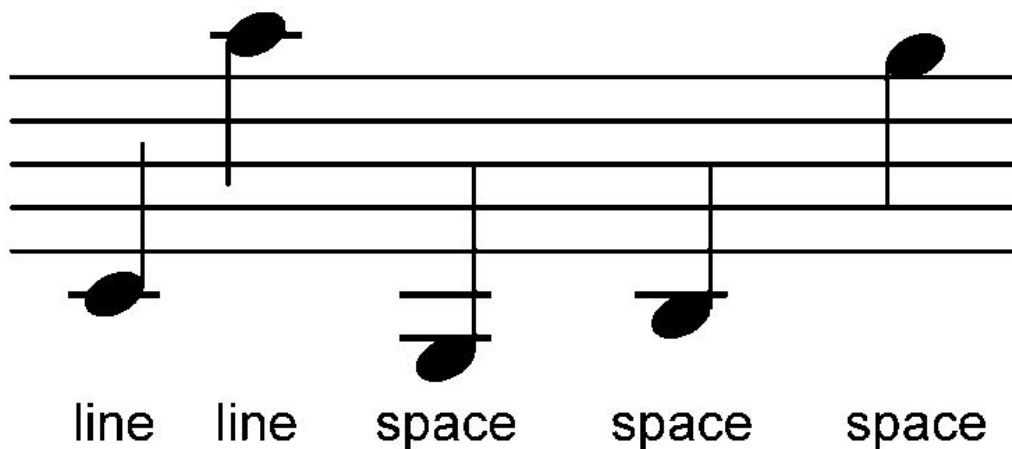
Measure



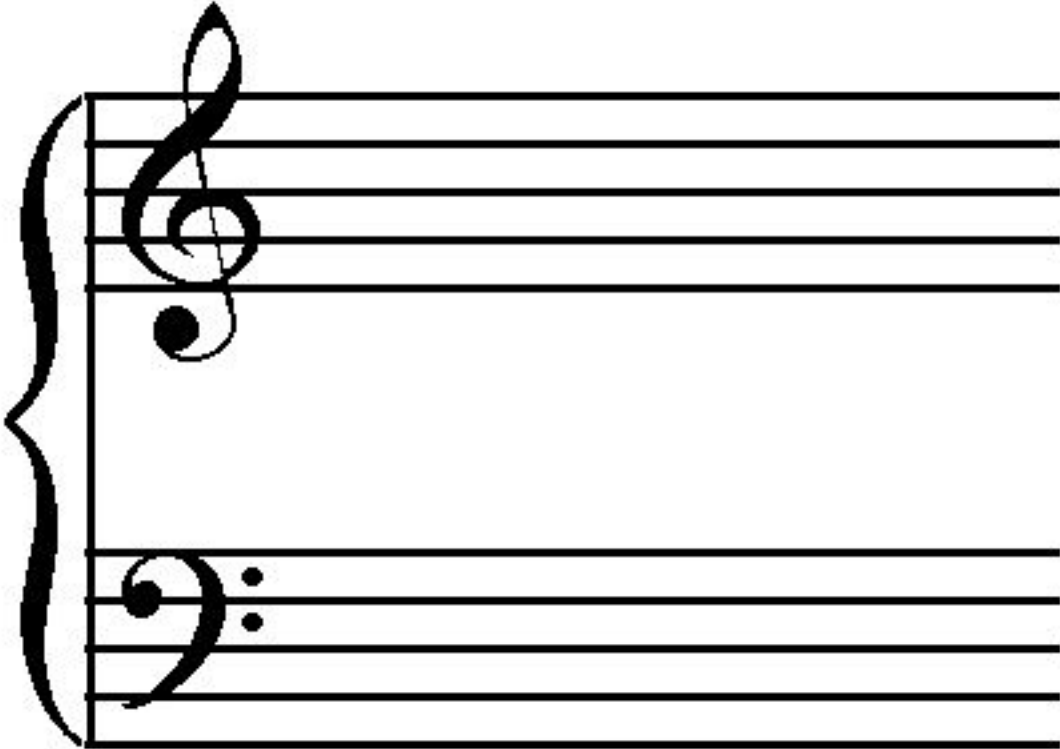
2nd  
System/  
Stanza

Musical score for the second system, consisting of four staves. From top to bottom, the staves are labeled: VLN. 1 (treble clef), VLA. (alto clef), VC. (bass clef), and DB. (bass clef). The first staff has a '3' written above it. Each staff contains three horizontal bars representing measures. A large bracket on the left side of the staves groups them together.

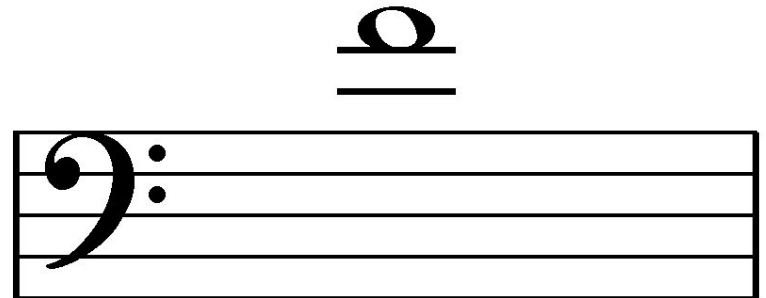
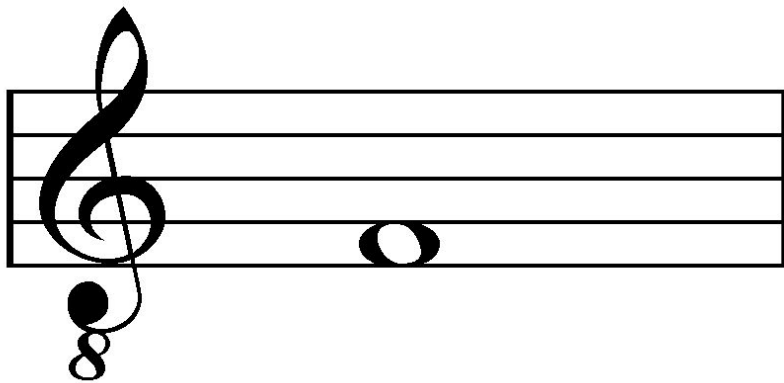
Sometimes notes are placed above or below the staff and extra lines are drawn. They are called **ledger lines**.



# The Grand Staff



Composers use different clefs so that musicians do not have to read a lot of ledger lines. For instance, these two notes have the exact same pitch, but look much different in each clef. The bass clef singer rarely sings this pitch. It is high for his voice. But it is in a comfortable place for the treble clef singer.



# CLEFS

Since there are so many possible pitches (think about all the keys on a piano) composers use **clefs** to tell the musicians exactly what pitch they want the performer to sing.

This is a **G clef**. It is used for higher pitches.



When the number “8” on the bottom of the clef it means the pitch sounds an octave (8 notes) lower. This is the clef is used for higher men’s voices.



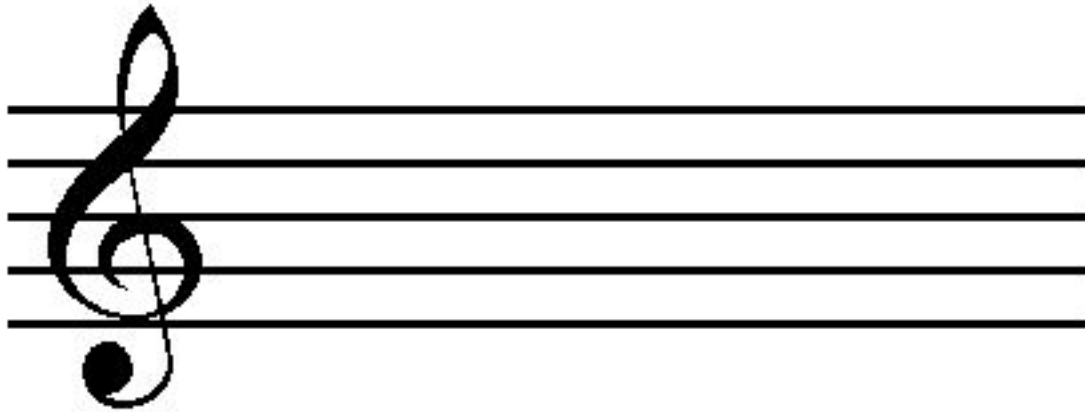


This is a **F clef:**

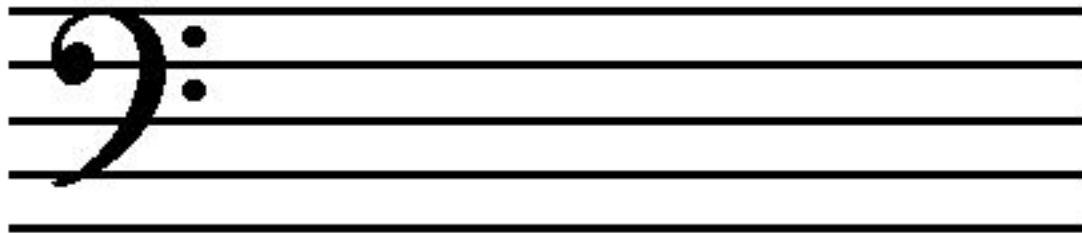


It is used for lower pitches.

In order to use the terms “Treble Clef” and “Bass Clef” the clefs must be located on a staff.



Treble  
Clef

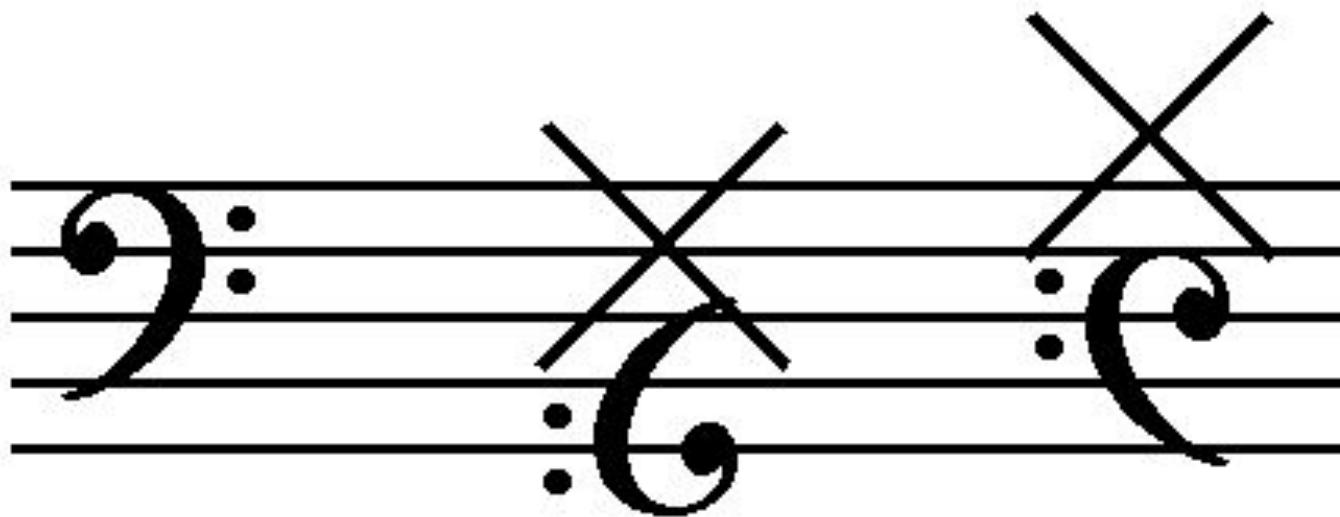


Bass  
Clef

The Treble Clef Always Circles the “G” Line



The Two Dots in the Bass Clef Always Surround the “F” Line



# BARLINES

The staff is divided by barlines. Think of the barline as the space between words in a sentence. If you remove the spaces between words a sentence is difficult to understand:

Realmenlovetosing.

If you put spaces between words the sentence is much easier to understand:

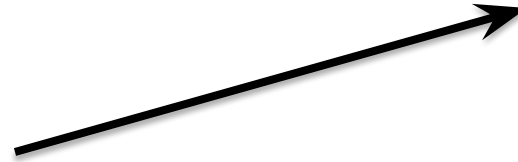
Real men love to sing.

Barlines make music easier to read because they divide notes into groups.

Music without barlines:



Music with barlines:



The double barline means “the end.”