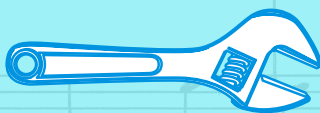




Piano Reading Tools




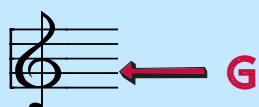
Use these tools to help find your notes to get started or when you get stuck.


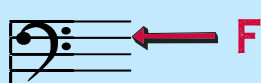


FINDING BEGINNING NOTES



Use nearby notes you know well. Don't only start from Middle C.

 Treble Clef is also called G Clef because it curls into the G line. 

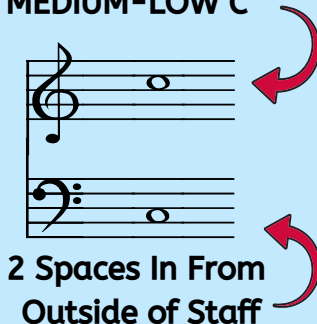
 Bass Clef is also called F Clef because the two dots surround the F line. 

○ Any note is only a few steps or skips away from one of the following C's.

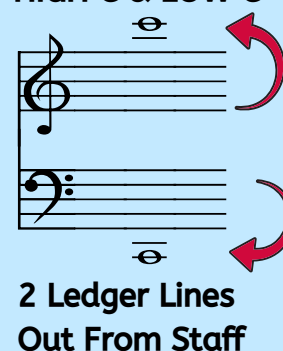
MIDDLE C



MEDIUM-HIGH C & MEDIUM-LOW C



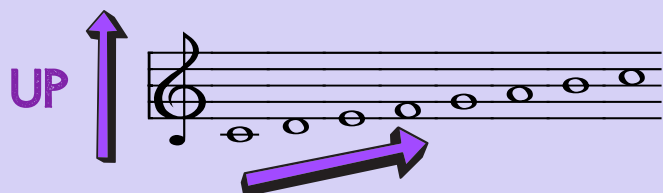
HIGH C & LOW C



*Notice the two staves connect together at Middle C to create one grand staff.
Middle C is written closer to bass or treble depending on what hand you should play it in.

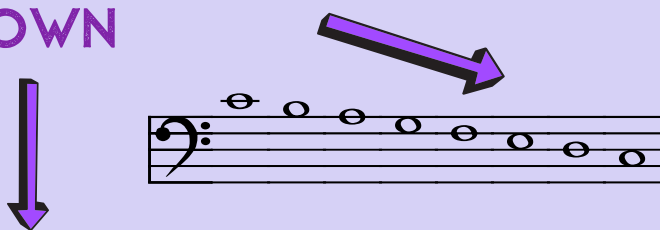
MUSIC IS A PICTURE

Once you've figured out your beginning note, where does it go next?



When the notes go up on the staff, they go up on the piano. Goes higher in pitch.

DOWN



When the notes go down on the staff, they go down on the piano. Goes lower in pitch.



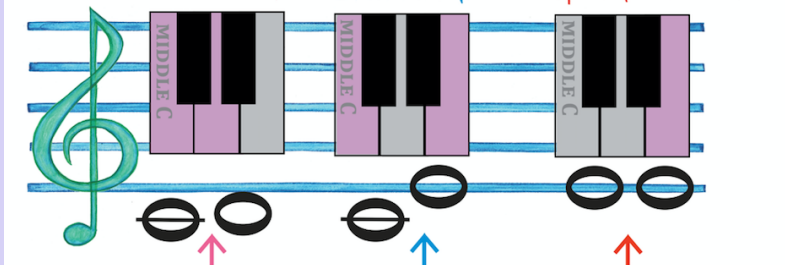
Piano Reading Tools



Reading music is all about recognizing shapes, patterns and ideas you've seen before.

STEP, SKIP, SAME

STEPPING: SKIPPING: STAYING THE SAME:



Step: Line to space or space to line on staff, key to key on piano. Up or down.

Skip: Line to line or space to space on staff, key to key on piano. Up or down.

Same: Note stays the same, same line or space of staff, same key on piano.

Imagine the keys as steps on the stairs:



INTERVALS

Intervals: The distance between two notes.

Starting on one note, count every line and space until you land on the next note.



They can be played at the same time (harmonic). or They can be played separately (melodic).

2nd- A distance of two. Looks squished together instead of stacked. Also known as a step.

3rd- A distance of three. Also called a skip. Chords are made up of two stacked thirds.

4th- A distance of four. One step larger than a third or skip.

5th- A distance of five. Looks like a double skip or the outside of a chord.

6th- A distance of six. One step larger than a fifth.

7th- A distance of seven. One step smaller than an octave.

Octave- A distance of eight. A version of the same letter or note eight steps above or below.

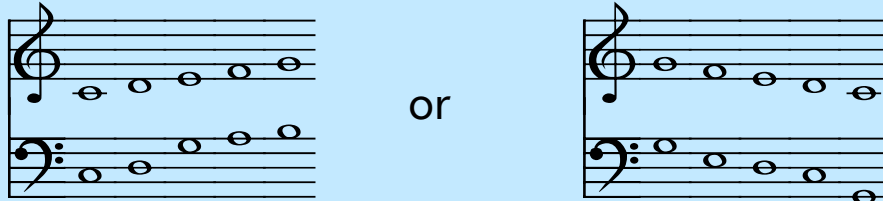
*They are qualities to intervals (major, minor etc.) but...
for reading purposes you just need to recognize the general shape.



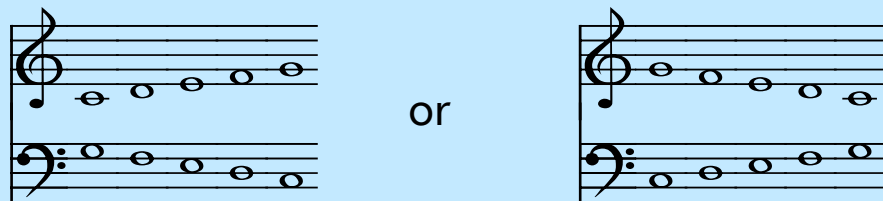
Also look for notes, phrases or sections that repeat

SIMILAR & CONTRARY MOTION

Similar Motion: Both hands move in the same direction but not necessarily the same intervals.



Contrary Motion: Hands move in opposite directions but not necessarily the same intervals.



SCALES

If you see a long string of stepping notes, it's probably centered around a scale.

If you know your scales, then you know what sharps or flats to play and often the right fingers to use.



Scale In A Run

CHORDS

Learning chords allows you to recognize big chunks of ideas in music and makes reading easier.

You may see them the following ways:

Root Position- Taken straight from the 1st, 3rd and 5th notes of its scale in order.

In an inversion- Notes played in a different order than root.

Outlined- Only some notes of the chord.

Patterns- Made up of some or all of the notes of a chord.

Run or Arpeggio- Going up or down through the notes of a chord.

