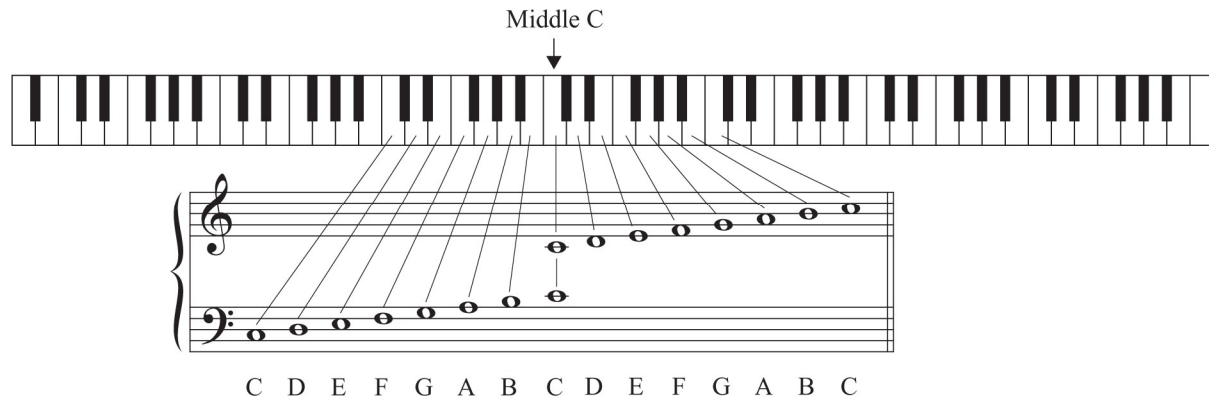


1.1 Notation Handout

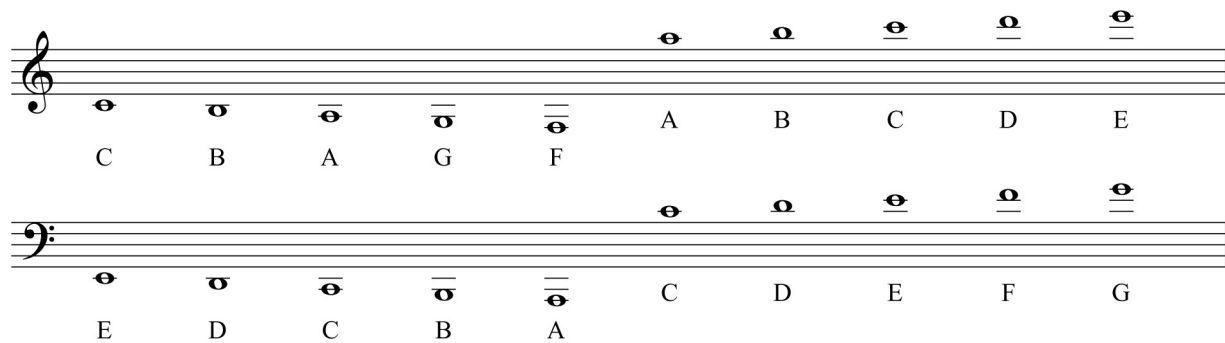
Grand Staff

The grand staff is associated most often with keyboard music. The figure below shows the relationship between the grand staff, the standard 88-key piano keyboard, and middle C.



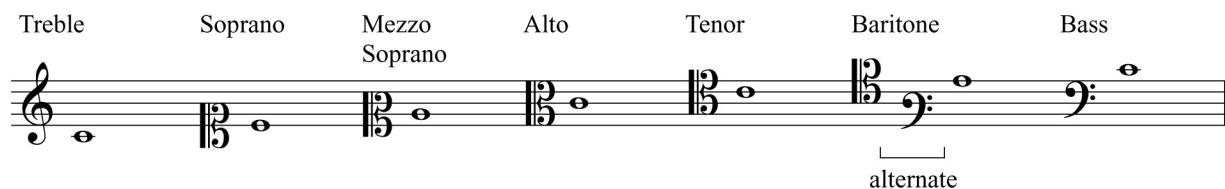
Ledger Lines

Pitches that go beyond the limits of the staff are written by adding ledger lines above or below the staff. Ledger lines, which parallel the staff, accommodate only one note.



C Clef

A *C clef* may be positioned on any line of the staff to designate **middle C**. This clef is coupled with a set of secondary names that identify each of the possible positions:



The **alto clef** designates the third line of the staff as middle C, and is the standard clef used in music for viola.

The **tenor clef** designates the fourth line of the staff as middle C, and is occasionally found in music written for cello, bassoon, or trombone.

The **soprano, mezzo soprano, and baritone clefs** are used less often than the alto and tenor clefs.

Accidentals

Accidentals are symbols that are placed to the left of the noteheads to indicate the raising or lowering of a pitch.

Sharp (\sharp)—raises the pitch a half step.

Flat (\flat)—lowers the pitch a half step.

Natural (\natural)—cancels any previous sharp or flat and returns to the natural, or unaltered, pitch.

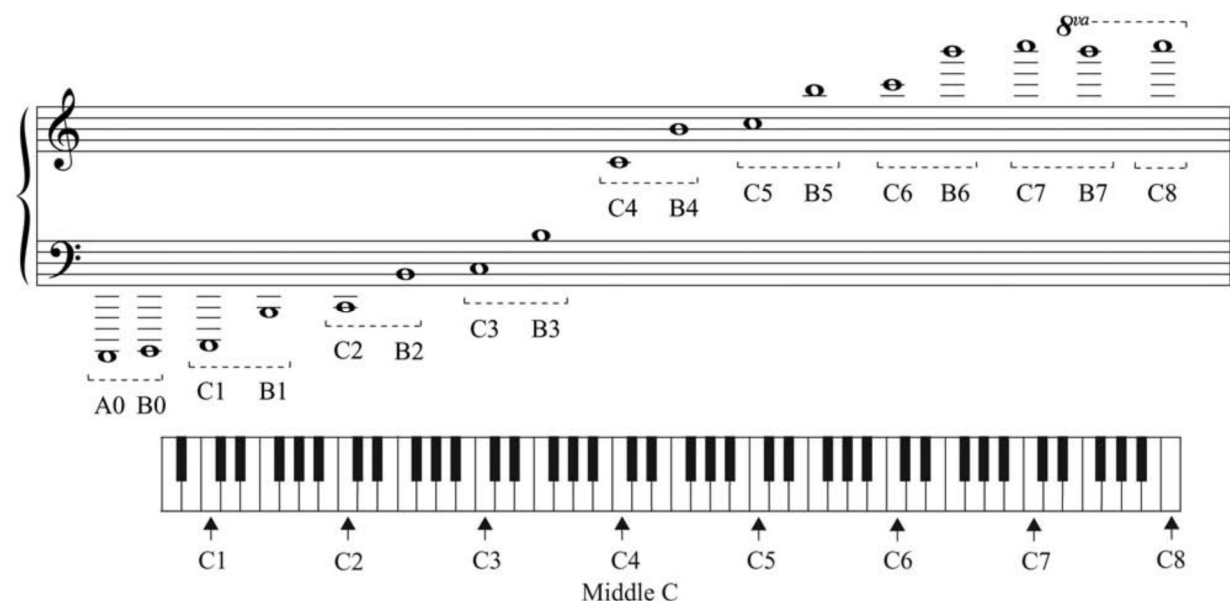
Double Sharp (\times)—raises the pitch two half steps.

Double Flat ($\flat\flat$)—lowers the pitch two half steps.



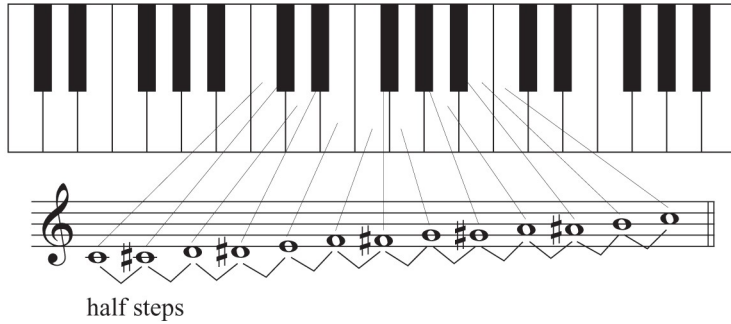
Octave Identification

Since the pitch spectrum is so wide, it is often necessary to identify a specific note by the octave in which it appears. Thus, middle C is distinguished from any other C in the pitch spectrum by the written designation C4 (see below). Each octave is numbered, beginning with A0 for the lowest note on the piano and extending to C8 for the highest note on the piano.



Intervals

An interval is the relationship between two tones. The half step is the smallest interval used. It is the interval between any two adjacent keys – black to white, white to black, or white to white – on the keyboard.



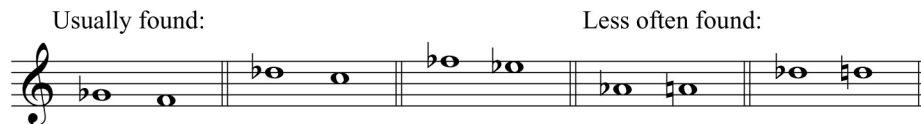
Enharmonic Equivalents

Enharmonic equivalents are tones that have the same pitch but different names.



Half-Step Motion

In passages of music involving half-step motion, a flatted note is followed most often by a note with a different letter name a half step lower.



A sharped note is followed most often by a note with a different letter name a half step higher in passages involving half-step motion.

