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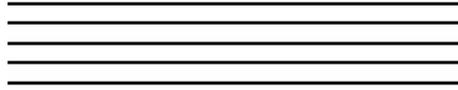
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REVISION

The Staff

The staff is the 5 lines and 4 spaces that music notes are written on.



The Treble clef

The purpose of the treble clef is to show the person playing or singing music, that the pitch will be high. The treble clef is mostly played with the right hand on a piano as the higher pitches on the keyboard are situated on the right hand side.



Note values

	Name	Note	Rest	Length
<u>Semi-breve</u>	Whole Note			4 beats
<u>Minim</u>	Half Note			2 beats
<u>Crotchet</u>	Quarter Note			1 beat
<u>Quaver</u>	Eighth Note			1/2 beat
	Sixteenth Note			1/4 beat

Tempo

The tempo of music is how fast or how slow the music is being played or sung.



Pitch

Pitch is how high or how low a sound is.



Dynamics

Dynamics, in music, is how loud or how soft a sound is.

If music should be played loudly, then the ***f*** symbol will be used to indicate it.

The letter 'f' stands for ***forte*** which means 'loud'.

If the music should be played softly, then the symbol ***p*** will be used.

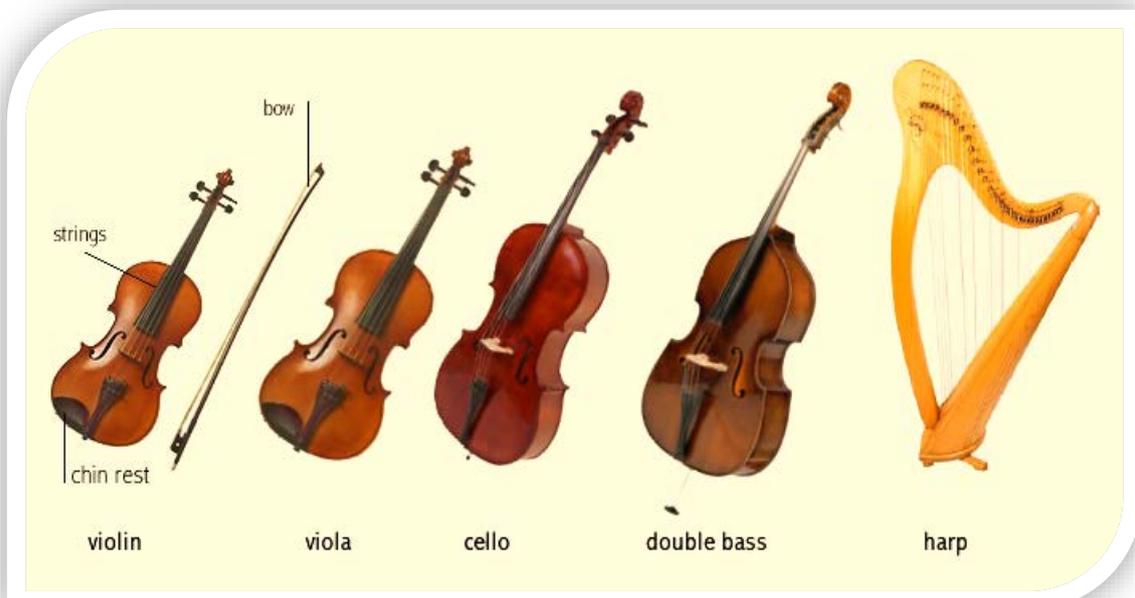
The letter 'p' stands for ***piano*** which means 'softly'.



Canon

A canon is a piece of music in which two or more voices (or instrumental parts) sing or play the same melody, but start at different times.

String instruments





Rhythm

Definition: *It is the pattern of regular and irregular pulses or beats in music.*

Musical alphabet

The musical alphabet consists out of the first seven letters of the alphabet.

A, B, C, D, E, F and G

Phrasing

In music and music theory, phrase and phrasing are concepts and practices related to grouping melodic notes that come one after the other (consecutive notes).

Phrasing, in music, is the same as phrasing when you are speaking. One starts a sentence with a capital letter and ends it with a full stop. For example:

Good morning, how are you?

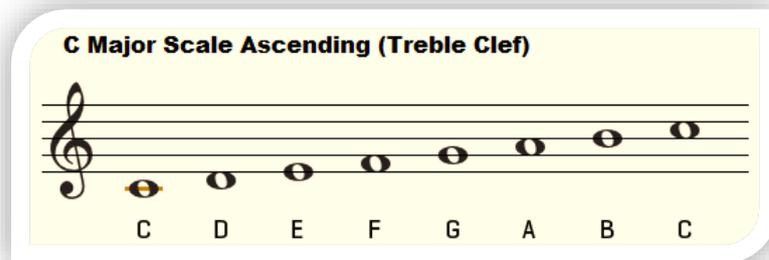
I am well, how are you?

How was your weekend?

It was lovely.

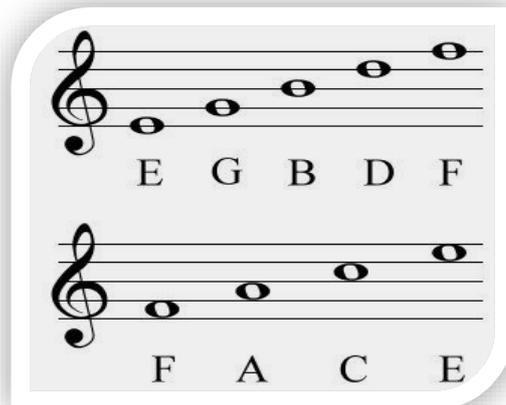
Scales

A scale is a sequence of 8 consecutive notes which progress in ascending order (going higher) or descending order (going lower). The word **scale** means ladder.

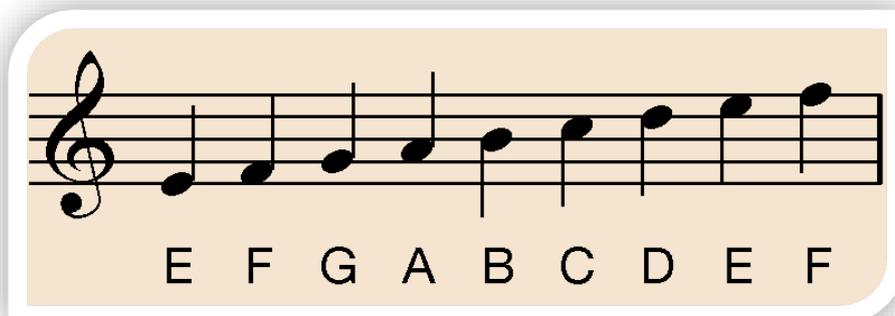


Letter names

These are the letter names of the notes written on the lines and in the spaces of a music stave in the treble clef:



Each line and space on the stave has a letter name. The spaces can be remembered as “**FACE**” and the lines can be remembered by the rhyme “**E**very **G**ood **B**oy **D**rinks **F**anta”.

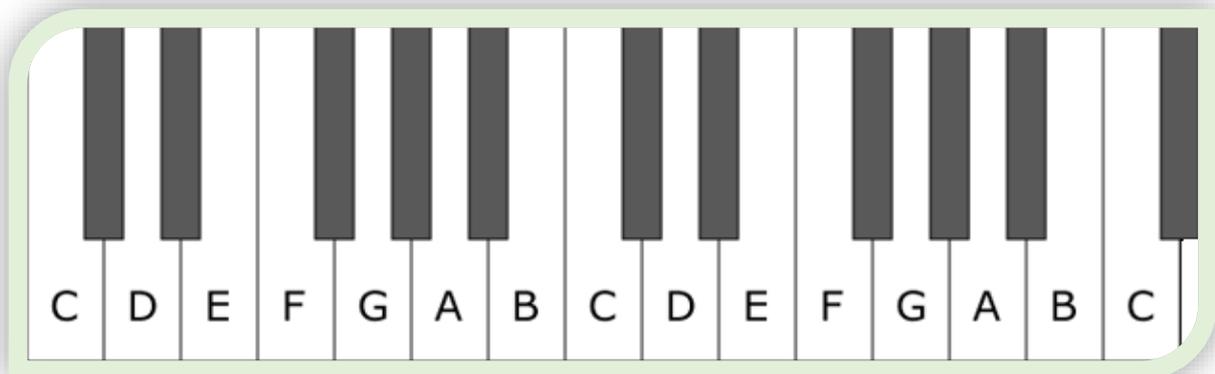


Unison

The definition of unison is: *to perform musical parts at the same pitch or in the range of an octave*. This means to play or sing a piece of music on the same note.

The letter names on the keyboard

A **musical keyboard** is the set of adjacent levers or keys on a musical instrument. Keyboards typically contain keys for playing the twelve notes of the Western musical scale, with a combination of larger, longer keys and smaller, shorter keys that repeats at the interval of an octave. To press a key on the keyboard causes the instrument to produce sounds, either by mechanically striking a string (piano); plucking a string (harpsichord) or causing air to flow through a pipe (organ). Since the most commonly encountered keyboard instrument is the piano, the keyboard layout is often referred to as the "piano keyboard". This is what the piano keyboard looks like:



The Djembe drum

As may be understood from the name, membranophones are a group of instruments in which the sound is generated by the vibrations of a stretched membrane of an animal skin: **'memobrano'**- 'membrane' + **'phone'**- 'sound'.

While African membranophones may include a number of tambourine-like instruments, the most common membranophone of the African instruments is the drum.



There are various types of drums that have different sizes and shapes, and which are common to different regions and countries in Africa. They are, however, all made and used in much the same way. Drums in Africa have a lot of importance attached to them, even to the point of being sacred (religious). They were traditionally used for such events as:

1. Warrior rituals
2. Rites of passage
3. Healing ceremonies
4. Naming ceremonies
5. Social occasions (such as engagement parties, weddings, etc.)
6. Celebrations (such as for seasons, rain after a period of drought, harvests, etc.)

Long ago, drums were also used as a tool for communication to send messages and news over long distances, or as calls to community work and gatherings, calls of danger and emergency, calls to religious occasions, and so on.

Today however, people usually play drums at occasions like weddings, funerals, religious ceremonies, and other festivities.

The most common type of African drum is the **Djembe drum**. The word 'djembé' is a name of a tree that has very dense wood, and the 'be' means goat which refers to the skin used on the top of the drum.

Drumming technique

The djembe drum is unique because it can be used to produce **3 major sounds** associated with African drumming without the need of using any other drums. These assist with the ease of playing and the convenience of transporting less instruments.

Sound is produced by hitting the membrane with the hands, and different sounds can be achieved by playing the instrument in different ways. There are **3 major tones**:

- **Bass stroke** - the membrane is struck firmly in the middle of the drum with a slightly cupped hand, followed through by bouncing the hand away again. This produces a deep and resounding bass tone.

- **Slap stroke** - the drum is struck on the edge by the heel of the hand as the fingertips clutch at the membrane as if they were trying to pull it up. This produces a short, sharp and loud tone.
- **Open tone** - the drum is struck on the rim with the palm of the hand just below the fingers so that the fingers are whipped over onto the outer edge of the membrane. This produces a high-pitched ringing tone.

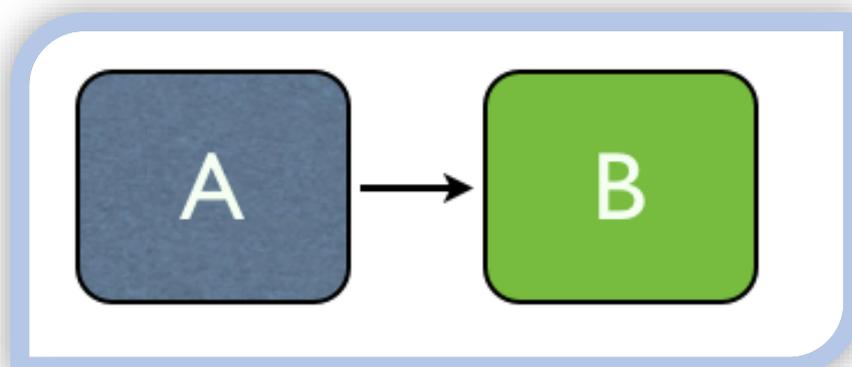
With the wide range of sounds and tones that the variety of African drum types can produce, African drumming involves the playing of some very sophisticated and complex rhythm patterns.

The leader is a soloist who is free to improvise on the main theme, while the other drummers repeat the rhythmic patterns. Rhythms, counter-rhythms and contrasting timings are layered upon each other to blend into an overall theme. This is based on the principle of **polyrhythms** (where poly means many). Polyrhythms are defined as “the sounding of 2 or more independent and contrasting rhythms at the same time”.

The **djembe** is an unpitched percussion instrument. The djembe is a West African drum that is easy to find at any African craft market. A djembe drum makes 3 main sounds: a tone (the highest sounding note), a bass (the lowest sounding note) and a slap (a sharp sound).

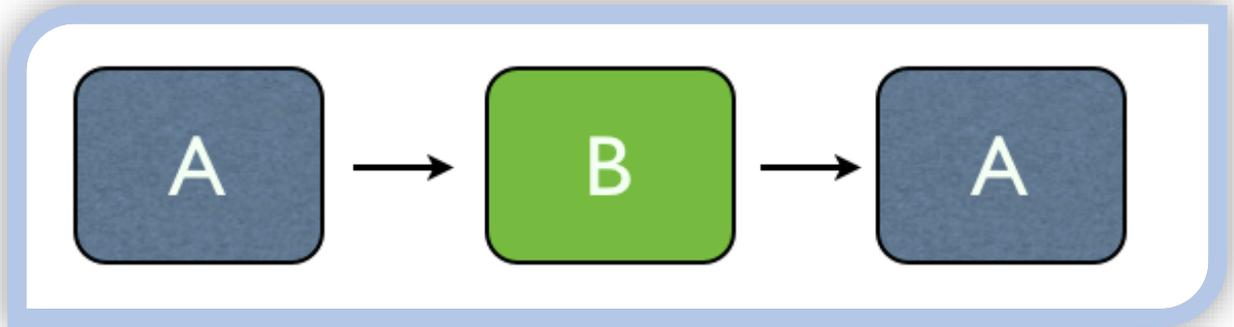
Binary form

Binary form describes the structure of a piece of music which is divided into 2 contrasting sections, although the relationship of the thematic material of the two parts are very close. The 2 sections are usually labelled A and B. The key concept to grasp is that there is some sort of contrast between the A section and the B section. This contrast is usually (though not always) created by a key change.



Ternary form

Ternary form, in [music](#), is a [form](#) consisting of three sections. The musical structure consists of two contrasting sections, followed by the third section normally either a literal or a varied repeat of the first. The symmetrical construction of this music form can be shown as the A-B-A form.



Rhythmical patterns to practice at home

Ludwig van Beethoven



Ludwig van Beethoven was a German composer and pianist. A crucial figure in the transition between the Classical and Romantic eras in Classical music, he remains one of the most famous and influential of all composers. His best-known compositions include 9 symphonies, 5 piano concertos, 1 violin concerto, 32 piano sonatas, 16 string quartets, his great Mass the *Missa solemnis*, and one opera, *Fidelio*.

Born in Bonn, then the capital of the Electorate of Cologne and part of the Holy Roman Empire, Beethoven displayed his musical talents at an early age and was taught by his father Johann van Beethoven and by composer and conductor Christian Gottlob Neefe. At the age of 21 he moved to Vienna, where he began studying composition with Joseph Haydn and gained a reputation as a virtuoso pianist. He lived in Vienna until his death. By his late 20s his hearing began to deteriorate, and by the last decade of his life he was almost completely deaf. In 1811 he gave up conducting and performing in public but continued to compose; many of his most admired works come from these last 15 years of his life.

Some of his most famous works are: *Ode to Joy* (9th Symphony), *Fur Elise* and his 5th Symphony.

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87qT5BOI2XU>)