



Knowledge Organiser Key Stage 3

Subject: Music Year: 9

Topic Title: Elements and Notation



Lessons 1&2

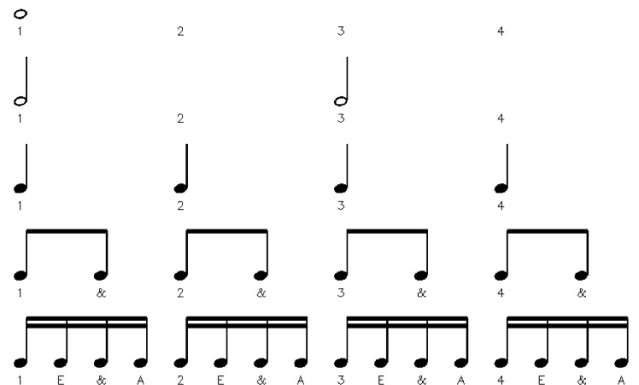
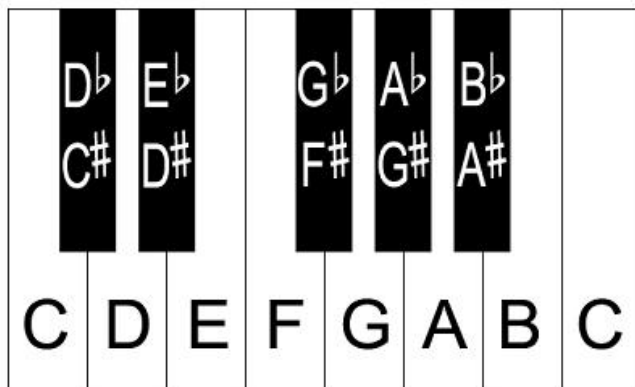
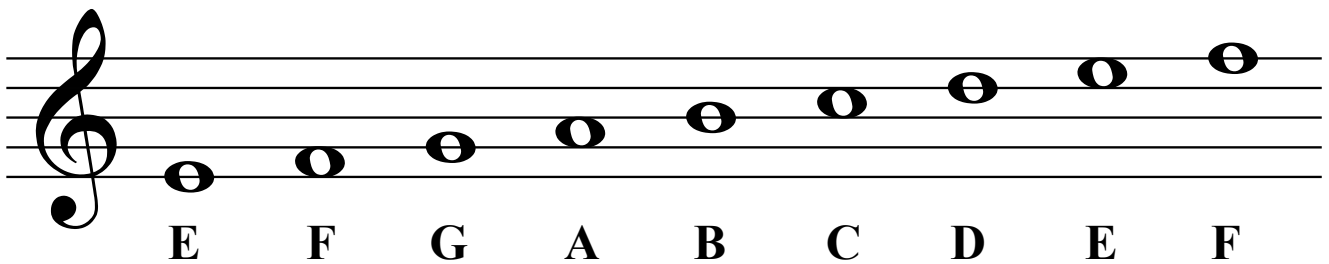
Key Facts from this lesson

- Notation is the method we use to write music. We use rhythm symbols and place them on a line or space of the *treble clef*, which tells us which pitch to play.
- We are using the E minor scale this term, which uses only white keys on the keyboard except F; we use the black key to the right of F (F#) here instead.
- Sometimes we use notes outside of the scale, these are called *accidentals*.

Key words and definitions from this lesson:

- ★ **Notation** – The most common method used to write music
- ★ **Treble clef** – The symbol at the start of a score that tells us which set of pitches to use
- ★ **Score** – A piece of music written down
- ★ **Melody** – The tune in a piece of music
- ★ **Staff** – The set of five vertical lines used in treble clef notation
- ★ **Accidental** – A note from outside of the scale we are using. In this instance, we are using a Bb (the black key to the left of B).

Diagrams to support learning:



♩ – Semibreve – Four beats

♪ – Minim – Two beats

♫ – Crotchet – One beat

♬ – Quaver – Half a beat

♭ – Semiquaver – A quarter or a beat



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Lesson 3

Key Facts from this lesson

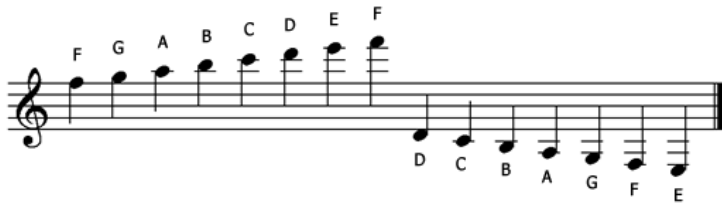
- Sometimes we need to use notes outside of the ones given to use on the notes and lines of the treble clef. We can use *ledger lines* to add additional notes above or below the staff.
- Every bar of music should add up to four beats, so if a note is to be played in one bar and continue into another, we can use a tie symbol to combine the duration of two notes. We can also use ties to keep our scores tidy and make the pulse (the underlying beat of the music) really clear.
- If when we performed music we never stopped playing, the music would be exhausting to listen to! We use rests to add pauses to melodies; they serve the same purpose as punctuation (like full stops and commas) in a sentence.

Key words and definitions from this lesson:

- ★ **Ledger line** – Additional lines drawn above or below the staff that tell us which pitches to play.
- ★ **Tie** – A symbol that tells us to play two notes as one. For instance, a crotchet (1 beat) tied to a minim (2 beats) would tell us to play a note with a duration of 3 beats.
- ★ **Rest** – A symbol that tells us not to play for a given duration.

Diagrams to support learning:

Ledger lines:



Tied notes:



This is a crotchet (one beat) tied to a semibreve (four beats), leaving a resulting note of five beats.

— — Semibreve rest – do not play for four beats

— — Minim rest – do not play for two beats

⌋ — Crotchet rest – do not play for one beat

γ — Quaver rest – do not play for half a beat

γ — Semiquaver rest – do not play for a quarter or a beat



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Lesson 4

Key Facts from this lesson

- On a score, chords are often written above the melody. The accompaniment style (the rhythm of the chords) is left to the player to decide.
- The most simple chords are triads; these are three-note chords that can be major (sounds bright) or minor (sounds dark). If we add any more notes to the triad, it is an extended chord.
- A key signature is found at the start of a piece. It shows us which sharps (black keys to the right of the indicated note) or flats (to the left) to play. This term, we are playing a piece in E minor, which uses one sharp (F#)

Key words and definitions from this lesson:

- ★ **Harmony** – The effect of multiple pitches being played at one time.
- ★ **Chord** – A combination of three or more pitches.
- ★ **Extension** – An additional note added to a triadic chord.

Diagrams to support learning:

Em D C B7

Notes in each chord:

Em – E, G, B

D – D, F#, A

C – C, E, G

B7 – B, D#, F#, A



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Lesson 5

Key Facts from this lesson

- In Jazz, Blues and other forms of Black American Music, improvisation is frequently used. Improvisation does not mean “play any note at all and hope it sounds good”! Improvisation in music is normally within a fairly strict framework, and there are still several musical “rules” to follow.
- The Blues scale is commonly used in improvisation. It is a pentatonic (five note) scale with one accidental, between the fourth and fifth note.

Key words and definitions from this lesson:

- ★ **Improvisation** – The process of using a scale to create melodies on the spot.
- ★ **Solo** – A moment in a piece in which one of the musicians becomes the main focal point (the others still play), normally by using some improvisation.
- ★ **Blues scale** – The pattern of notes frequently used in blues and jazz improvisation

Diagrams to support learning:

E Blues Scale

