

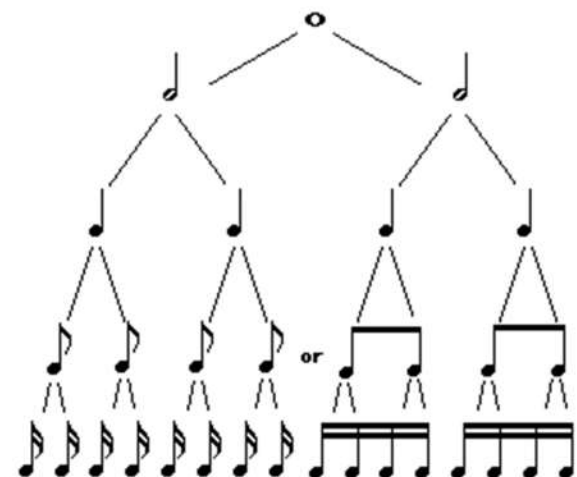
# **Band Study Guide**

**For ALL bands**



# Basic Music Theory

- Notes and Rests



## NOTE & REST CHART

Name	Note	Rest	Beats	1 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>4</sub> measure
Whole			4	
Half			2	
Quarter			1	
Eighth			1/2	
Sixteenth			1/4	

- Time Signatures: - tell us what note duration gets the beat and how many are in each measure. Examples below!

Top number tell us how MANY beats are in each measure

Bottom number tell us what note counts as ONE beat

- Key Signatures: - tell us what notes are altered in the music which puts it into a Key.



- **Dynamics:** - tell us how loud or soft to play the musical phrase.

**Music Dynamics Chart**

<i>ppp</i>	<i>pianississimo</i>	Very, very soft.
<i>pp</i>	<i>pianissimo</i>	Very soft.
<i>p</i>	<i>piano</i>	Soft.
<i>mp</i>	<i>mezzo piano</i>	Moderately soft.
<i>mf</i>	<i>mezzo forte</i>	Moderately loud.
<i>f</i>	<i>forte</i>	Loud.
<i>ff</i>	<i>fortissimo</i>	Very loud.
<i>fff</i>	<i>fortississimo</i>	Very, very loud.

gradually getting louder → gradually getting softer

*p*  *f*  *p*

crescendo (*cresc.*) decrescendo (*decresc.*)  
or diminuendo (*dim.*)

- **Tempo markings:** - tell us how fast to play the music phrase


Tempo term	Speed of the pulse
<b>Presto</b>	Extremely fast
<b>Vivace</b>	Quick, lively
<b>Allegro</b>	Fast, cheerful
<b>Moderato</b>	Moderate speed
<b>Andante</b>	Walking speed
<b>Adagio</b>	Slow, at ease
<b>Lento</b>	Slow
<b>Largo</b>	Very Slow

- **Articulation markings:** - tell us how to emphasize a note


<b>Musical Articulations</b>		
<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>How to Play the Note</i>
•	Staccato	Short
—	Tenuto	Long <span style="margin-left: 20px;">Also called Legato</span>
>	Accent	Hard
^	Accent (Housetop)	Harder
>•	Accent with staccato	Hard and short
≧	Accent with tenuto	Hard and long

- **Basic Accidentals**


Sharp Symbol
Natural Symbol
Flat Symbol




D sharp



D natural



D flat




Key signature:  
2 flats  
(B flat major)

- **Clef Signs and Staff line names**


Treble and Bass Clefs

**Treble Clef - Line Notes**




Every Green Bus Drives Fast

**Treble Clef - Space Notes**



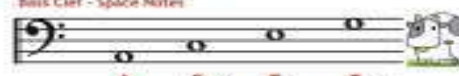
F A C E

**Bass Clef - Line Notes**



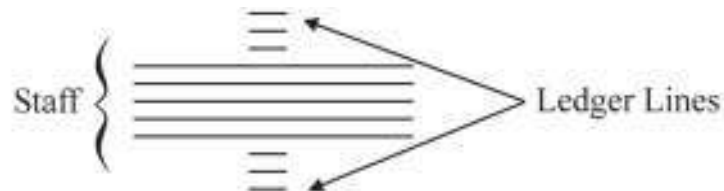
Good Burgers Destroy France Always

**Bass Clef - Space Notes**



All Cows Eat Grass

- **Ledger Lines:** - notes that extend above and below the staff lines. Remember each space and line continues the musical alphabet. A, B, C, D, E, F, G



- **Slurs and Ties** – Slurs move from one note to another without tonguing. Ties connect notes to make them longer.

Tie
Slur




- **Phrase marking:** - creates a musical sentence or idea




- **Repeats and first/second endings**


begin repeat



end repeat




segno



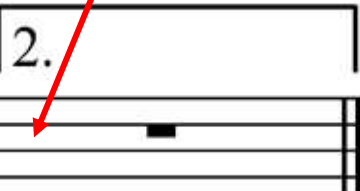
coda

Can be put anywhere in the music and often called the "Sign"

1<sup>st</sup> ending



2<sup>nd</sup> ending



Coda – jumping point to another area

- **Multi-measure rests:** - number tells you how many measures to count.



- **Fermata:** - hold the note until told to release or 2 ½ times the length of the note



- **Caesura: (Grand Pause) "Railroad Tracks":** - to suddenly stop and pause before continuing



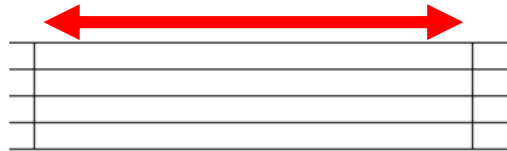
## Anacrusis

- One or more weak-beat notes before the first strong beat of a phrase. Often called a 'pick up' in jazz and pop music.
- **Melody:** - a sequence of single notes that is musically satisfying
- **Harmony:** - a pleasant musical sound made by different notes being played or sung at the same time
- **Rhythm:** - the systematic arrangement of musical sounds
- **Form:** - overall structure or plan of a piece of **music**, and it describes the layout of a composition as divided into sections
  - **Theme & Variations:** - a melody, or **theme**, followed by **variations** of that melody
  - **Round:** - a musical composition, a limited type of canon, in which a minimum of three voices sing exactly the same melody at different times
  - **ABA: - Ternary form**, sometimes called song **form**, is a three-part **musical form** where the first section (A) is repeated after the second section (B) ends
- **Scale:** - an organized sequence of notes



- **Pitch:** - how high or low a note is

- **Measure:** - the distance between two bar lines



- **Chromatic:** - the sharpening or flattening of notes



- **Arpeggio:** - playing the notes of a chord consecutively



- **Intonation:** - to describe whether someone who is playing a *musical* instrument is playing in tune
- **Tone Quality:** - the character of musical tones with reference to their richness or perfection
- **Timbre:** - what makes a particular musical sound have a different sound from another, even when they have the same pitch and loudness
- **Embouchure:** - the way in which a player applies the mouth to the mouthpiece of a brass or wind instrument

- **Style/Genre:** - A music genre is a conventional category that identifies some pieces of music as belonging to a shared tradition or set of conventions
  - **Patriotic:** - having or showing great love and support for your country
  - **Swing:** - A kind of jazz generally played by a “Big Band” and characterized by a lively rhythm suitable for dancing
  - **Jazz:** - American music developed especially from ragtime and blues
  - **Ragtime:** - Early form of Jazz
  - **Dixieland:** - Developed Art form founded in New Orleans
  - **Lyrical:** - having the form and musical quality of a song
  - **March:** - a piece of music with a strong regular rhythm which in origin was expressly written for marching to and most frequently performed by a military band
  - **Rock:** - a form of popular music that evolved from rock and roll and pop music
  - **Folk:** - A kind of music originating from the ordinary people of a region or nation and continued by oral tradition
  - **Spirituals:** - A kind of music originating from the church
  
- **Famous Composers**
  - **Mozart:** - Classical period *“Eine Kleine Nachtmusik”*
  - **Beethoven:** - Classical/Romantic period *“Ode to Joy”*
  - **Sousa:** - Patriotic Marches *“Stars and Stripes Forever”*
  - **Haydn:** - Classical period *“Surprise Symphony”*
  - **John Williams:** - 20<sup>th</sup> Century/Movie *“Olympic Fanfare”*
  - **Offenbach:** - Romantic period *“Can Can”*
  - **Bach:** - Baroque period *“Minuet in G”*
  - **Ellington:** - Swing era *“It Don’t Mean A Thing”*
  - **Joplin:** - Ragtime *“The Entertainer”*

[Go to the band website to listen to examples for above](#)