

RUDIMENTS OF MUSIC

Notes, note values, time signatures and rests

Notes in alphabetical and ascending order



Simple time signatures, ie, time signatures in which the beat is of the value of an ordinary note (crotchet, minim etc)

Simple duple 2 beats in a bar	Simple triple 3 beats in a bar	Simple quadruple 4 beats in a bar
$\frac{2}{2}$	$\frac{3}{2}$	$\frac{4}{2}$
$\frac{2}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{4}{4}$
$\frac{2}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{4}{8}$

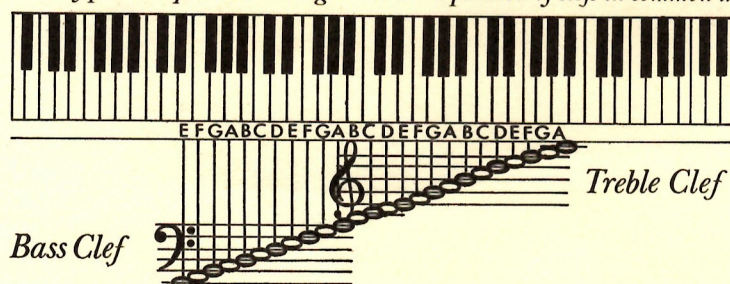
The duration of sounds is shown by notes of different shape; periods of silence are shown by signs called rests

Note	Rest	Value in terms of a semibreve	Corresponding names used in USA and Canada
Semibreve		$\frac{1}{1}$	Whole note
Minim		$\frac{1}{2}$	Half note
Crotchet		$\frac{1}{4}$	Quarter note
Quaver		$\frac{1}{8}$	Eighth note
Semiquaver		$\frac{1}{16}$	Sixteenth note
Demisemiquaver		$\frac{1}{32}$	Thirty-second note

Number of notes contained in one semibreve

1 Semibreve	
2 Minims	
4 Crotchets	
8 Quavers	
16 Semiquavers	
32 Demisemiquavers	

Plan of piano keyboard showing the relative position of clefs in common use



In printed music the Treble is usually employed for Soprano, Alto and

Key signatures, primary triads and dominant sevenths

Major Minor

C

G

D

A

E

B

F#

C#

F

Bb

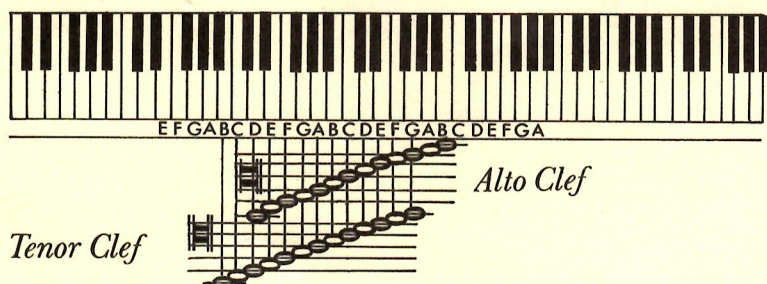
Eb

Ab

Db (Cb)

Gb (F#)

Cb (B)



Tenor, the Tenor being written an octave higher than actual pitch

ITALIAN TERMS

<i>Ad libitum</i> (<i>ad lib</i>) – at the performer's pleasure as regards the speed	<i>Mano destra</i> (<i>M.D.</i>) – right hand
<i>A tempo</i> – in time, that is, resume original speed	<i>Mano sinistra</i> (<i>M.S.</i>) – left hand
<i>Accelerando</i> (<i>accel.</i>) – accelerating, becoming gradually faster	<i>Marcato</i> – marked
<i>Adagio</i> – slowly, leisurely	<i>Martellato</i> – hammered
<i>Affrettando</i> – hurrying	<i>Meno</i> – less eg <i>meno allegro</i> – less fast
<i>Agitato</i> – agitated	<i>Mesto</i> – sad
<i>Allargando</i> – broadening out, often with an increase of tone	<i>Mezzo forte</i> (<i>mf</i>) – moderately loud
<i>Allegretto</i> – fairly fast	<i>Mezzo piano</i> (<i>mp</i>) – moderately soft
<i>Allegro</i> – fast	<i>Misterioso</i> – mysteriously
<i>Andante</i> – (<i>lit.</i> walking). At a moderate pace	<i>Molto</i> – much, very eg <i>molto adagio</i> – very leisurely
<i>Andantino</i> – either a little slower or a little faster than <i>Andante</i>	<i>Moto</i> – motion, eg <i>con moto</i> – with motion
<i>Animato</i> – animated	<i>Non</i> – not, eg <i>non allegro</i> – not fast
<i>Appassionato</i> – impassioned	<i>Ossia</i> – Or; the word indicates an alternative version
<i>Arco</i> – with the bow (for string players)	<i>Ped</i> – Depress the sustaining pedal of the pianoforte
<i>Assai</i> – sufficiently, very, eg <i>allegro assai</i> – very fast	<i>Perdendosi</i> – dying away
<i>Attacca</i> – go on immediately (to next section of the piece)	<i>Pesante</i> – heavily
<i>Ben</i> – well, eg <i>ben marcato</i> – well marked	<i>Piacevole</i> – pleasingly
<i>Brillante</i> – sparkling, brilliant	<i>Pianissimo</i> (<i>pp</i>) – very soft
<i>Brio</i> – vigour	<i>Piano</i> (<i>p</i>) – soft
<i>Calando</i> – getting slower and softer	<i>Più</i> – more
<i>Calcando</i> – hurrying	<i>Pizzicato</i> (<i>pizz.</i>) – plucked
<i>Cantabile</i> – in a singing style	<i>Poco</i> – a little
<i>Capo</i> – (<i>lit.</i> head) the beginning	<i>Poco a poco</i> – little by little
<i>Celere</i> – nimble	<i>Pochetto, pochettino, pochino</i> – a very little
<i>Col, Colla</i> – with the	<i>Presto</i> – very quick
<i>Con</i> – with	<i>Prestissimo</i> – as fast as possible
<i>Corda</i> – a string	<i>Quasi</i> – almost, as if, eg <i>quasi lento</i> – almost slow
<i>Crescendo</i> (<i>cresc.</i>) – becoming gradually louder	<i>Rallentando</i> (<i>Rall.</i>) – becoming gradually slower
<i>Da</i> – from, of	<i>Risoluti</i> – boldly
<i>Da Capo</i> (<i>D.C.</i>) – from the beginning	<i>Ritardando</i> (<i>Ritard.</i>) – gradually coming to a halt
<i>Dal Segno</i> – from the sign 	<i>Ritenuto</i> (<i>rit.</i>) – hold back (ie slower at once)
<i>Decrescendo</i> – becoming gradually softer	<i>Ritmico</i> – rhythmically
<i>Desto</i> – sprightly	<i>Scherzo</i> – a joke
<i>Diluendo</i> – dying away	<i>Scherzando</i> – playfully
<i>Diminuendo</i> (<i>Dim.</i>) – becoming gradually softer	<i>Semplice</i> – simply
<i>Divisi</i> – divided	<i>Sempre</i> – always
<i>Dolce</i> – gently, sweetly	<i>Senza</i> – without
<i>Dolcissimo</i> – very sweetly	<i>Sforzando</i> (<i>sf</i> or <i>sfz</i>) – with a sudden accent
<i>Espressivo</i> (<i>Espress.</i>) – with expression, feeling	<i>Simile</i> – in a similar manner
<i>E, ed</i> – and	<i>Sordini</i> – mutes
<i>Energico</i> – energetically	<i>Sostenuto</i> – sustained
<i>Fine</i> – end	<i>Sotto voce</i> – in an undertone
<i>Forte</i> (<i>f</i>) – loud	<i>Staccato</i> (<i>Stacc.</i>) – short, detached
<i>Fortissimo</i> (<i>ff</i>) – very loud	<i>Stringendo</i> – gradually faster
<i>Forzando</i> (<i>fz</i> or <i>sfz</i>) – with a strong accent	<i>Subito</i> – suddenly
<i>Fuoco</i> – fire	<i>Tanto</i> – so much
<i>Giocoso</i> – jocosely, humorously	<i>Tempo</i> – speed of the music
<i>Gioioso</i> – joyfully	<i>Tempo Primo</i> – resume the original speed
<i>Grave</i> – very slowly	<i>Tenuto</i> – held, sustained
<i>Grandioso</i> – grandly	<i>Tranquillo</i> – tranquil, quiet
<i>Largo</i> – slow and stately, broad	<i>Tre corde</i> – release soft pedal of the pianoforte
<i>Larghetto</i> – less slow than largo	<i>Troppo</i> – too much
<i>Legato</i> – smoothly	<i>Tutti</i> – all
<i>Leggiero</i> – lightly	<i>Veloce</i> – swiftly
<i>Lento</i> – slowly	<i>Vivace</i> – lively, quick
<i>Ma</i> – but	<i>Vivo</i> – lively
<i>Maestoso</i> – majestically	<i>Volti subito</i> (<i>V.S.</i>) – turn over quickly to the next page