

Music Notation

Staves and Clefs

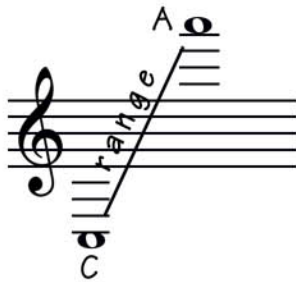
A staff is a series of lines and spaces on which notes are written. The plural of staff is staves.



Without a clef symbol,
we have no way of knowing the pitches of these notes!

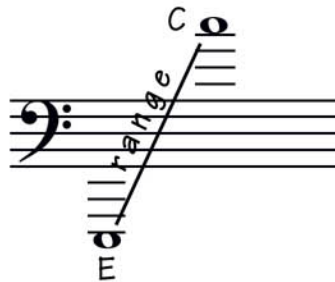
Clefs are a symbol placed at the beginning of a staff to indicate the position of all pitches on the staff. There are three types of clefs in general use:

Treble clef or G clef

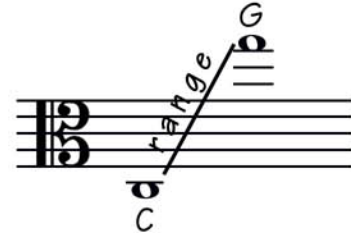


When a notated pitch is outside the range of the staff, an extension of the staff must be provided. Ledger lines are used for this purpose and may go above or below the staff.

Bass clef or F clef



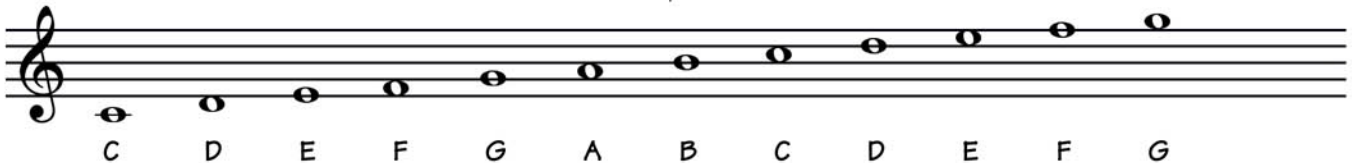
Alto clef or C clef



In the alto clef, not as many ledger lines are used. It is more common to see the alto clef change to the treble clef when notes begin to go into the upper range of the staff.

The Treble Clef

The treble clef is also called the G clef because it wraps around the note G.



These are the notes or pitches on the treble clef staff.

