Chapter One

PITCH AND PITCH CLASS

Pitches and Pitch Class

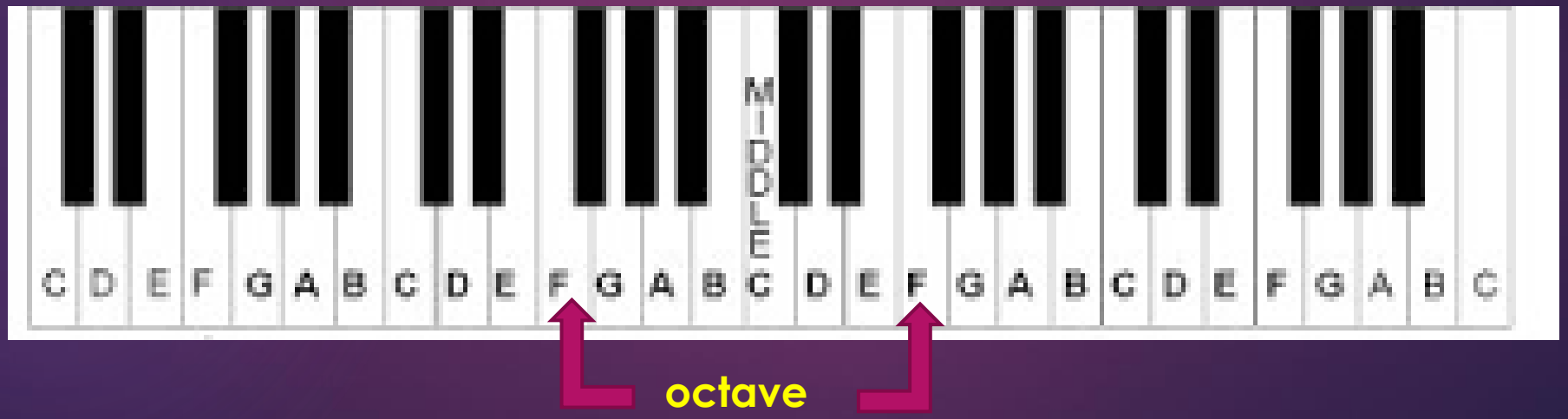
- Music notes are named using the first seven letters of the alphabet (A B C D E F G) repeatedly. Once you get to G, you start over at A. Know how to say them forward and backwards!!!
- When "counting" a set of notes, make sure you always count the starting pitch. For instance, from F to C is 5 notes.
- It's helpful to be able to think in terms of 3 note groupings (or thirds) like A to C or D to F and in 5 note groupings (or fifths) like D to A and A to E.

Pitches and Pitch Class

- Notes that are 8 notes apart like A and A are an **octave** and sound similar (just higher or lower). This is known as **octave equivalence**. These notes belong to the same "**pitch class.**" For instance, all G's are in the same pitch class but each G is a different pitch.
- Notes may differ in pitch and **timbre** (tone color) and be in the same pitch class (Trumpet Voluntary example)

The Piano Keyboard

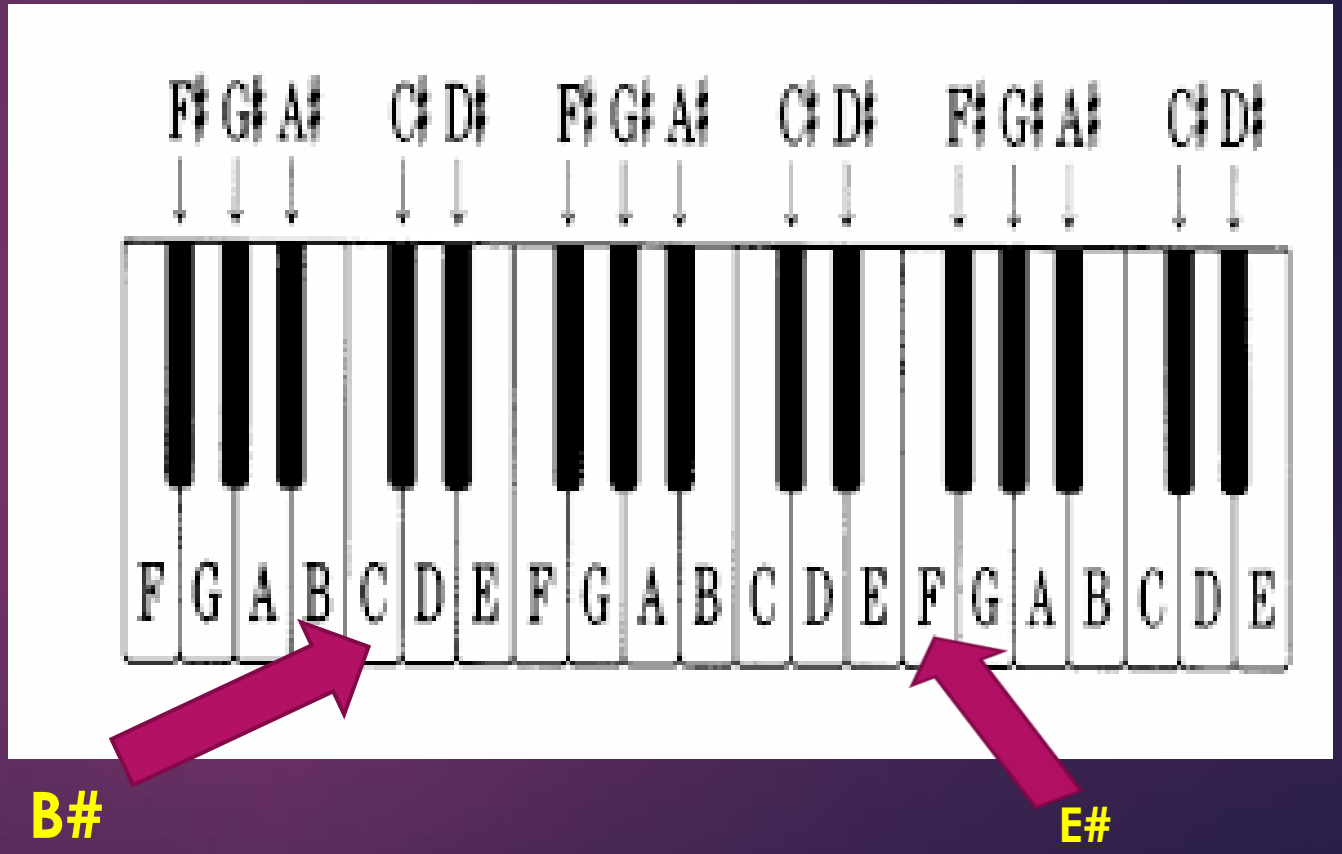
- Great tool to help visualize music
- Has the capability to sound multiple pitches all at once.
- The white keys are labeled to correspond to the seven letters in the musical alphabet.



Black Keys

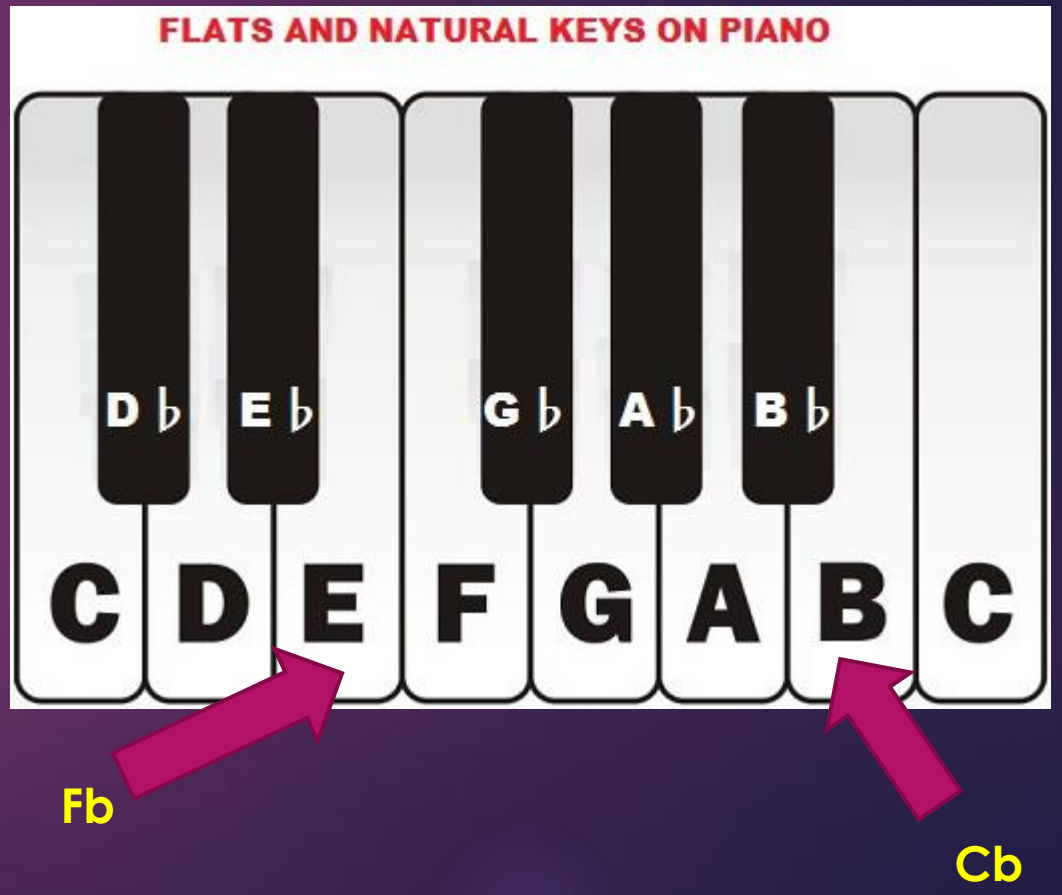
It's a sharp!

The note immediately to the RIGHT of a note receives the white key's name PLUS a sharp.



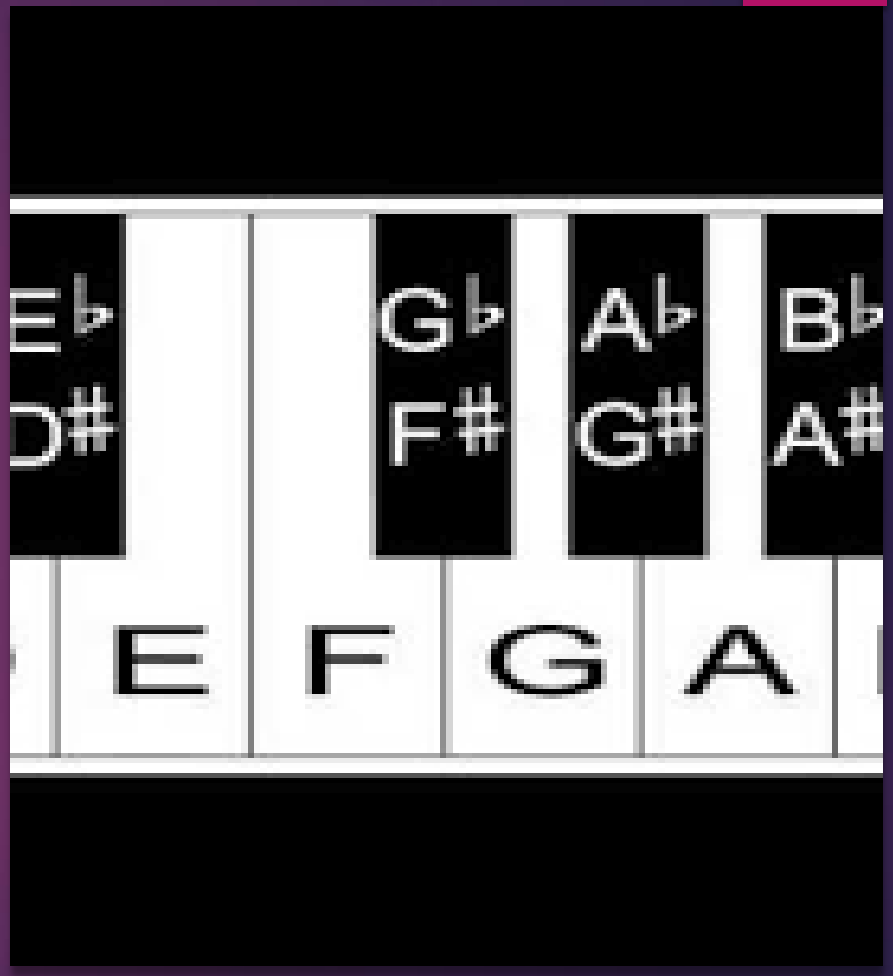
Black Keys

The note immediately to the LEFT of a note receives the white key's name PLUS a flat.



Flats and Sharps

- Pitches that have two different names are called **enharmonics**.
- Sharp and flat symbols are called "**accidentals**."
- A natural symbol is another accidental and serves to cancel out a sharp or flat, returning the note to its white key location.

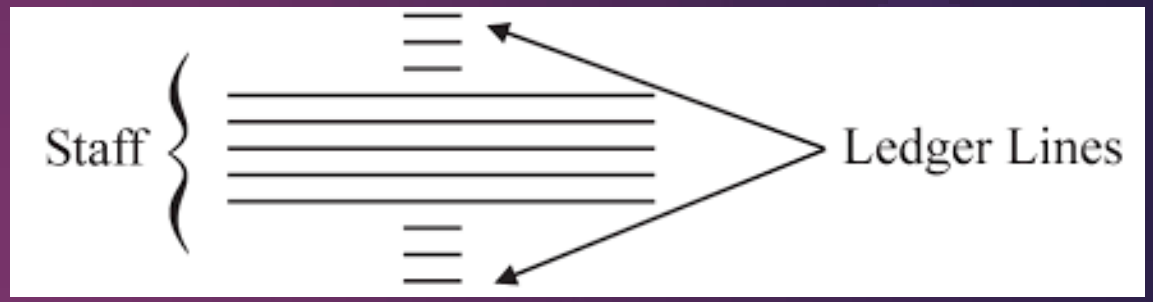


Half Steps and Whole Steps

- **Interval** is the term used for the space between 2 notes. There are two main "building block" intervals:
  - **Half step** (also called a semitone) is the interval between any pitch and the next nearest pitch (higher or lower); *Usually* from white key to black or black key to white key. A flat lowers a pitch ½ step and a sharp raises a pitch ½ step.
  - **Whole step** (also called a whole tone) is an interval made up of 2 half steps. There will always be one note in between. *Usually* from white key to white or black key to black key
  - A **double flat**  lowers a pitch one whole step, while a **double sharp**  lowers a pitch one whole step.

Reading Pitches from a Score

- Staff--5 lines and 4 spaces; Plural of staff is staves.
- Ledger lines—staff extensions



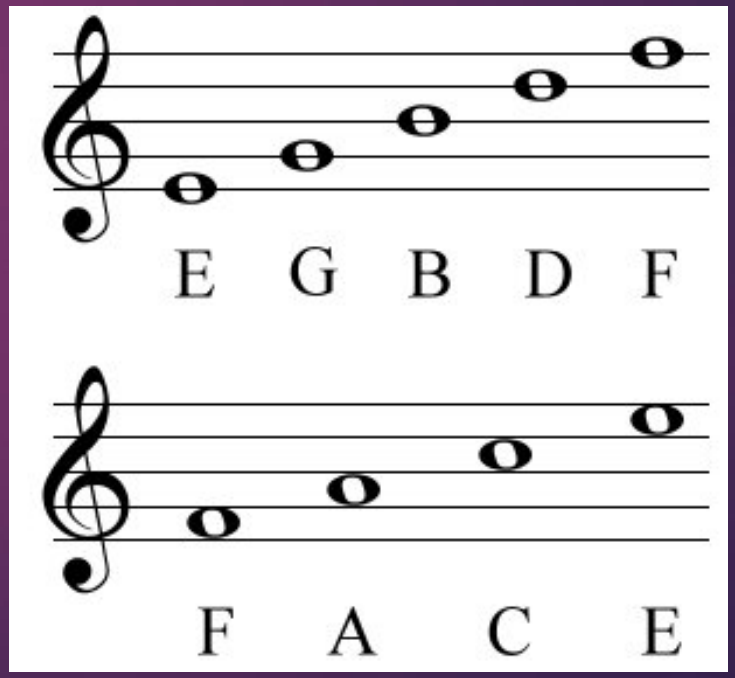
- Clef--at the left of the staff; tells which line or space represents which note

Rules of Writing Music

- Parts of a note: notehead, stem, and beam
- Notehead must be centered on the line or space
- When writing on the staff, an accidental should come BEFORE the notehead
- When writing a note name on paper, the accidental comes AFTER the note name
- For notes BELOW the 3rd line, the stem should go up and be on the right side of the notehead
- For notes on the 3rd line or higher, the stem should go down and be on the left side of the note head
- Stems should be about an octave long

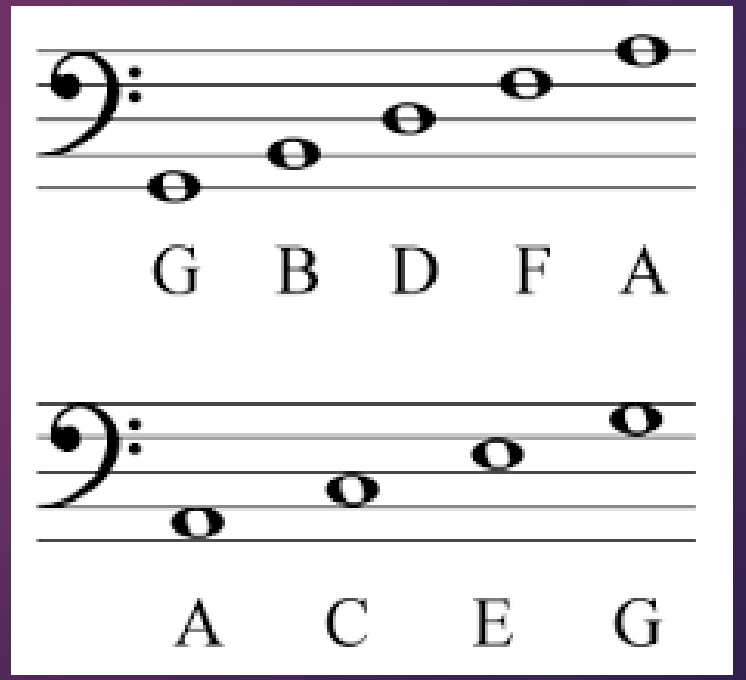
Treble Clef

- Treble Clef—also known as G clef; used by female voices, right hand piano, and a variety of other instruments
- Lines—**E**very **G**ood **B**oy **D**oes **F**ine
- Spaces--**FACE**



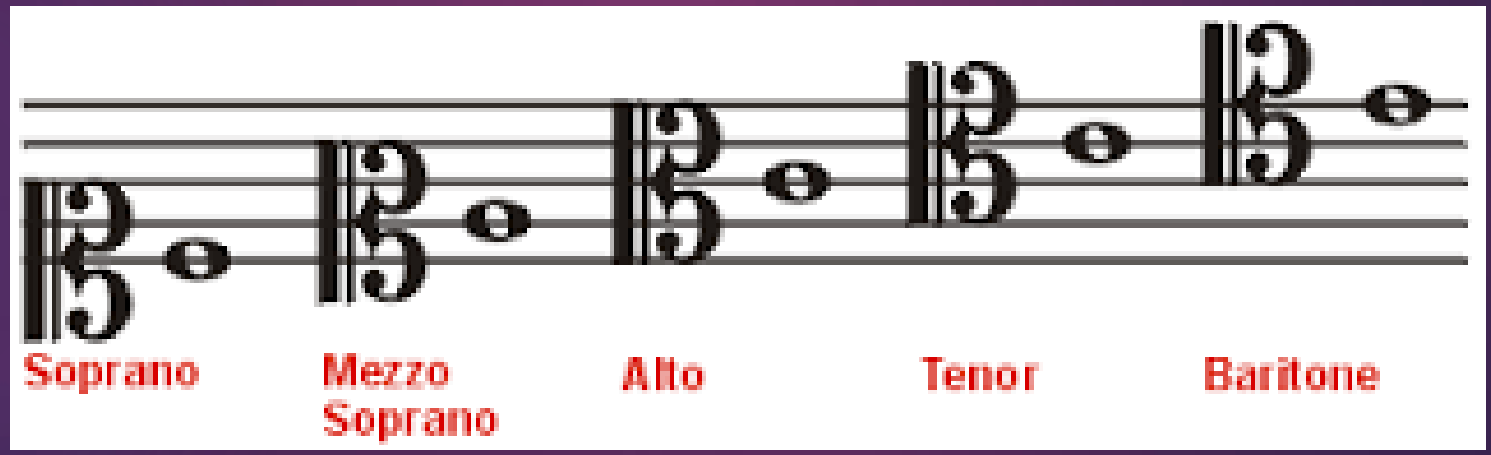
Bass Clef

- Also known as F clef; used by male voices, left hand piano, and a variety of other instruments
- Lines— **G**ood **B**oys **D**o **F**ine **A**lways
- Spaces--**All Cows Eat Grass**



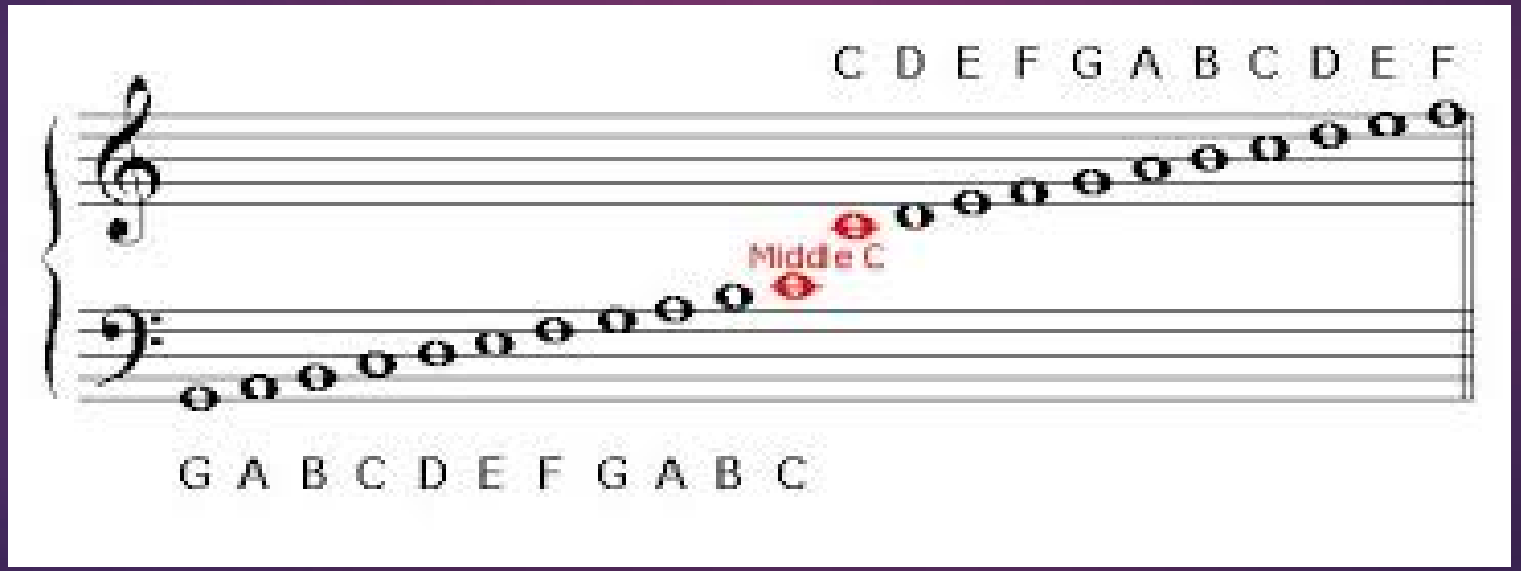
C Clefs

- C clefs are known as movable clefs. The line they are centered on is always C.
- C clefs are used to keep from using an excessive number of ledger lines.



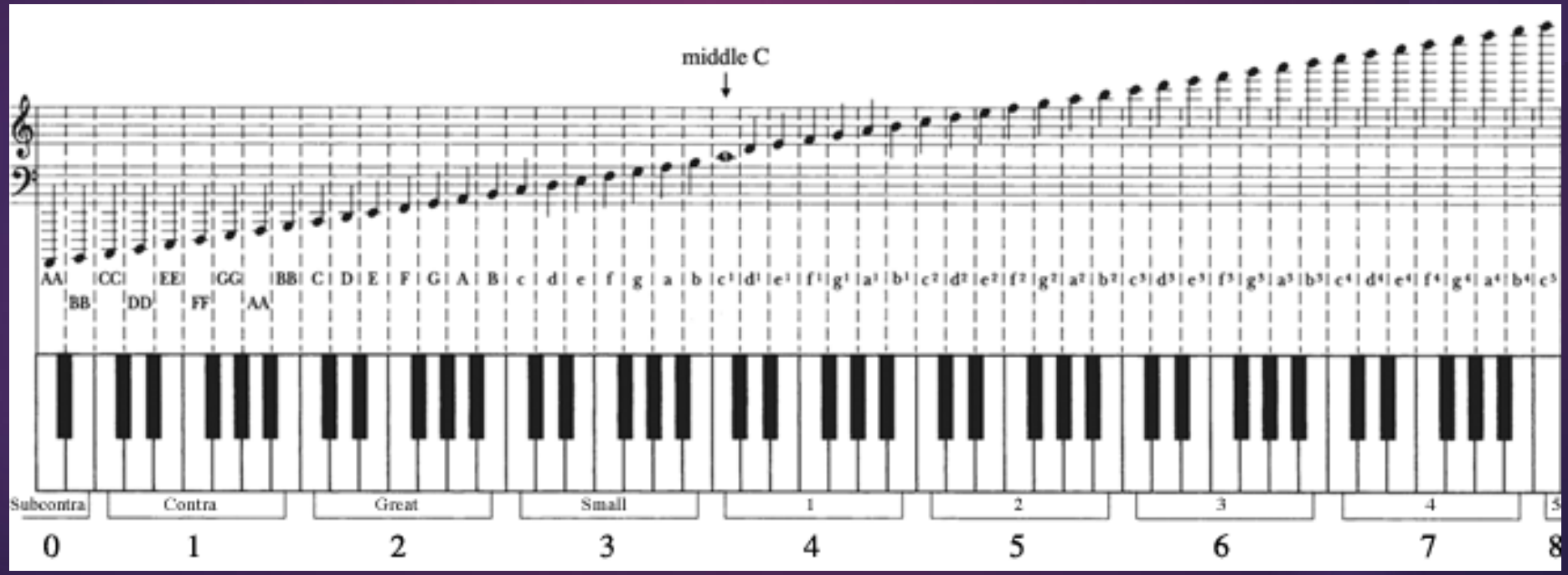
Odds and Ends

- The Grand Staff—Used by piano and organ players; incorporates both treble and bass clefs; Middle C is in the middle of the two staves. The treble (top) staff is generally played by the left hand while the bass (bottom) staff is played by the left hand.



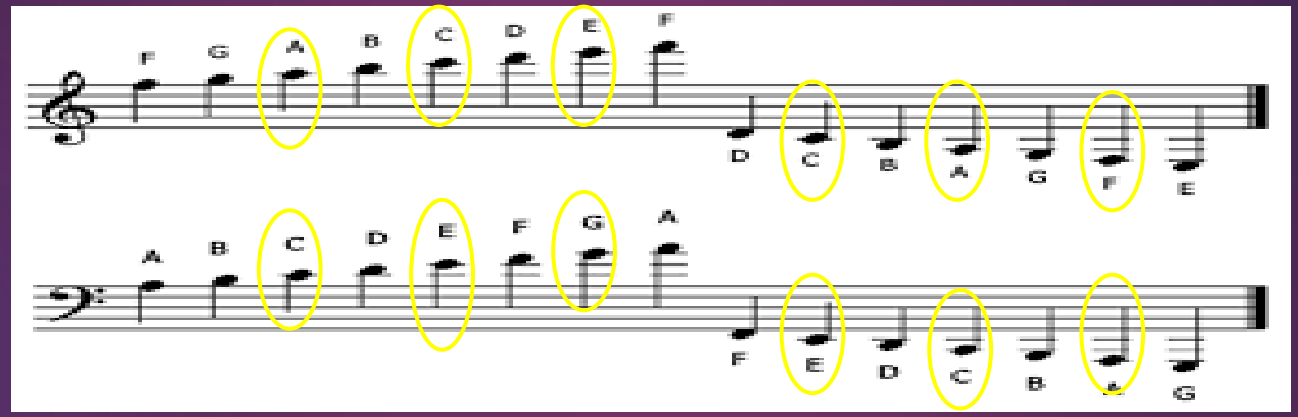
Odds and Ends

- Naming Registers—We use a number system to name each octave so we can distinguish between all the members of a pitch class.



Odds and Ends

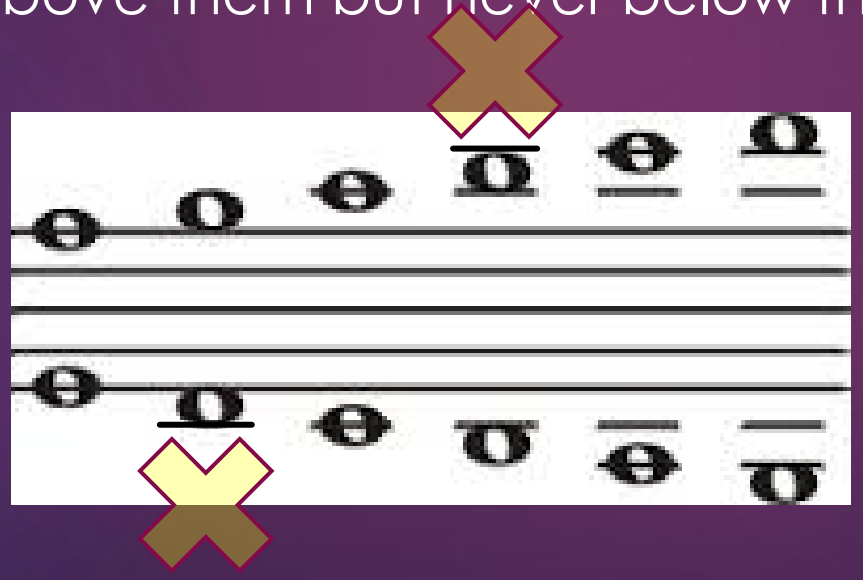
- Ledger Lines—They are read just like any other staff lines…going up you go forward in the alphabet and going down you go backwards in the alphabet.



- Memorizing "landmark" pitches above and below the staff will help speed up reading ledger lines.

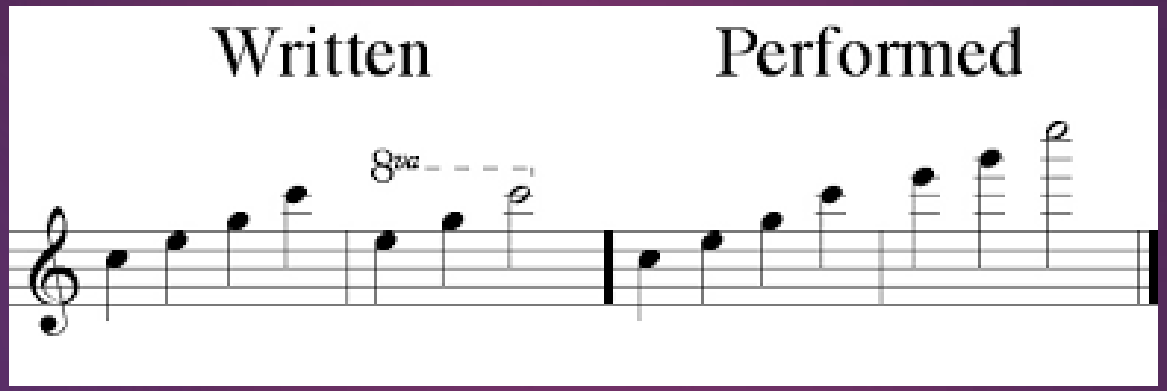
Odds and Ends

- Notes above the staff can have ledger lines going under them or through them but never above them.
- Notes below the staff may have ledger lines going through them or above them but never below them.



Odds and Ends

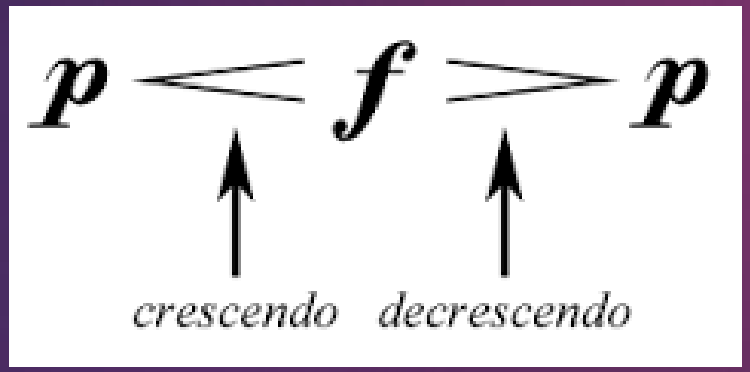
- The ottava sign—used as an alternative to additional ledger lines



- ***8va*** = play or sing notes one octave higher
- ***8vb*** = play or sing notes one octave lower

Odds and Ends

- Dyanimc Markings—tells performers how loud to perform a particular portion of the music



- Dynamic symbols can also tell you to gradually get louder or softer
- Terraced Dynamics Example