

# Little Lesson

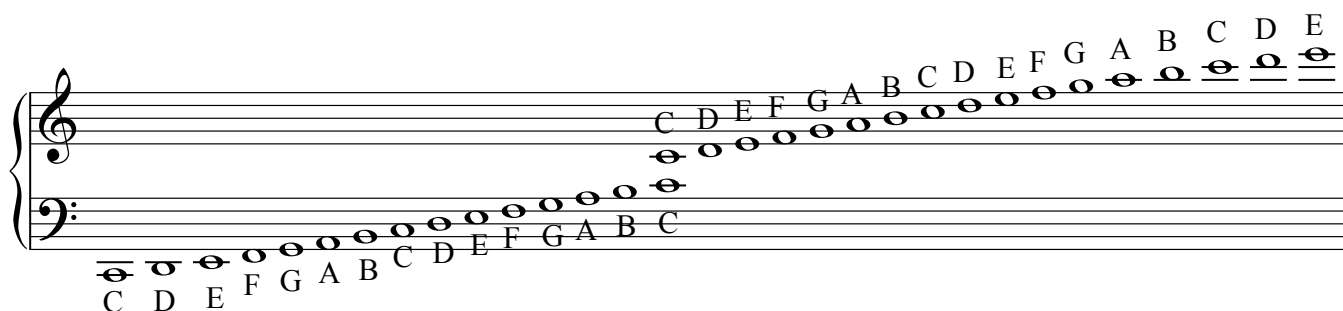
This little lesson in music theory does not claim to be exhaustive; I have deliberately kept the information to a minimum and reduced it to the essentials.

The notation of the pieces is also very simple. Only the important motifs are entirely notated

## 1. The Notes

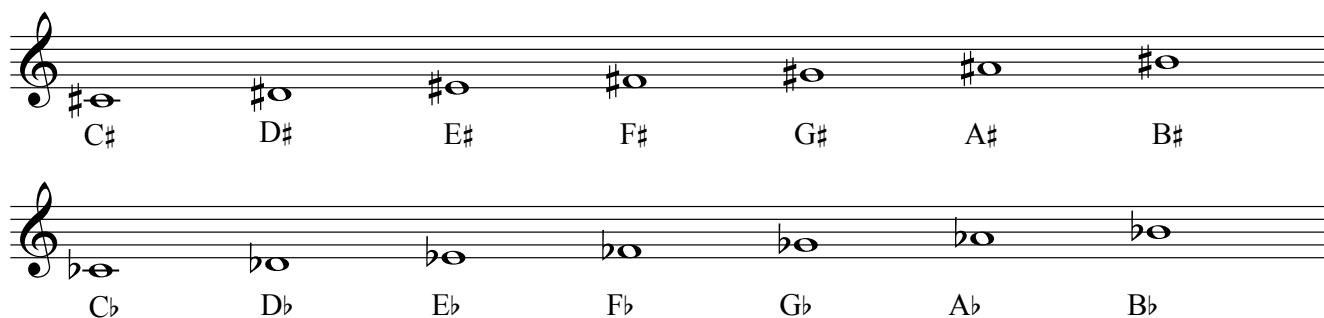
(Not including octave designations)

These are the names of the natural notes (the white keys of the piano).

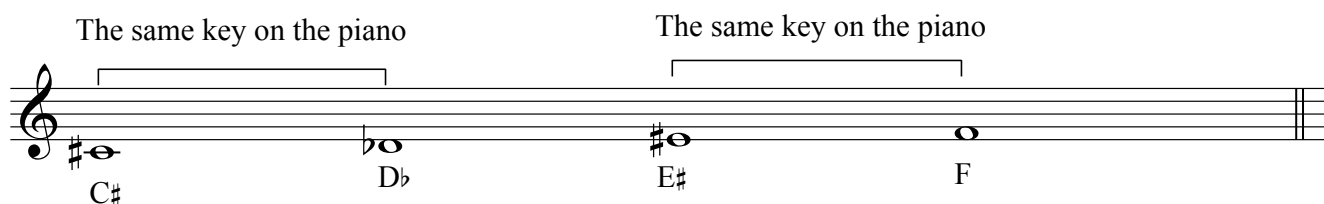


Key signature/accidentals:

A sharp # raises the respective note by one-half step. A flat ♭ lowers the respective note by one-half step.



Therefore, every key on the piano has two names (enharmonic equivalents).



The key signature is shown at the beginning of a piece and applies for all octaves of the same piece. Accidentals shown within the score only apply to the respective measure and the respective pitch. A natural ♮ cancels an accidental.

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: F# (quarter), D# (quarter), F (quarter), D (quarter), F# (quarter), G# (quarter), G (quarter), and G (quarter). Labels with arrows point to the key signature (F#) and the accidentals (D# and G#).

Key signature

Accidentals

## 2. Note Values

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whole note (4 quarter beats)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dotted quarter note (equals the length of 3 eighth notes)*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Triplet (3 triplet eighth notes equal the length of one quarter note)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dotted half note * (3 quarter beats)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarter note (1 quarter beat)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sixteenth notes (4 sixteenth notes equal the length of one quarter note)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Half note (2 quarter beats)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eighth note (2 eighth notes equal the length of one quarter note)</li> </ul>	

\* A dot behind a note lengthens the value by one-half.

## 3. Rests, Slurs and Staves

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The staff contains: a sixteenth rest, an eighth rest, a whole rest, and a bold double bar line. Below the staff, labels with arrows point to these elements. In the bass clef, there is a half rest, a slur over two eighth notes (C and C), and a quarter rest. Labels with arrows point to these elements. A text box explains the slur.

Sixteenth rest

Eighth rest

Whole rest

Bold double bar line

Half rest

Slur (links notes of the same pitch. The length of the first note is extended by the length of the second note. Therefore, the C has a length of 4 quarter beats).

Quarter rest

Time signature  
(4 quarter beats in one measure)