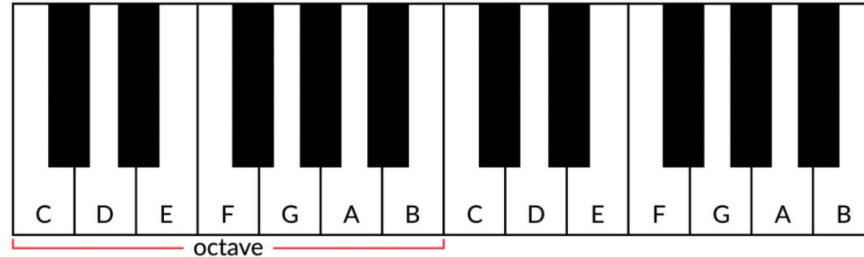


Knowledge Organiser: All About the Bass

KEYBOARD SKILLS

A. Layout of a Keyboard/Piano



A piano or keyboard is laid out with **WHITE KEYS** and Black Keys (see section G). C is to the left of the two Black Keys and the notes continue to G then they go back to A again. Notes with the same letter name/pitch are said to be an **OCTAVE** apart. **MIDDLE C** is normally in the centre of a piano keyboard.

D. Keyboard Functions



E. Left Hand/Right Hand (1-5)



Exploring Treble Clef Reading and Notation

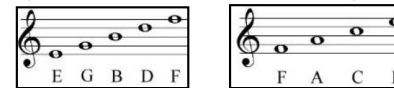


B. Treble Clef & Treble Clef Notation

A **STAVE** or **STAFF** is the name given to the five lines where musical notes are written. The position of notes on the stave or staff shows their **PITCH** (how high or low a note is). The **TREBLE CLEF** is a symbol used to show high-pitched notes on the stave and is *usually* used for the right hand on a piano or keyboard to play the **MELODY** and also used by high pitched instruments such as the flute and violin. The stave or staff is made up of 5 **LINES** and 4 **SPACES**.



Every Green Bus Drives Fast. Notes in the **SPACES** spell "FACE"



Notes from **MIDDLE C** going up in pitch (all of the white notes) are called a **SCALE**.



C. Keyboard Chords

C Major



G Major



F Major



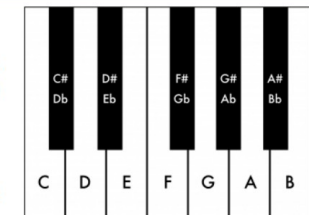
A Minor



Play one – Miss one – play one – miss one – play one

F. Black Keys and Sharps and Flats

There are five different black notes or keys on a piano or keyboard. They occur in groups of two and three right up the keyboard in different pitches. Each one can be a **SHARP** or a **FLAT**. The # symbol means a **SHARP** which raises the pitch by a semitone (e.g. C# is higher in pitch (to the right) than C). The b symbol means a **FLAT** which lowers the pitch by a semitone (e.g. Bb is lower in pitch (to the left) than B). Each black key has 2 names – C# is the same as Db – there's just two different ways of looking at it! Remember, black notes or keys that are to the **RIGHT** of a white note are called **SHARPS** and black notes to the **LEFT** of a white note are called **FLATS**.



Knowledge Organiser: All About the Bass

ALL ABOUT THE BASS

Exploring Bass Clef Reading and Notation and Bass Line Musical Patterns



A. Bass Clef & Bass Clef Notation

STAFF is the name given to the five lines where musical notes are written.

The position of notes on the staff or staff shows their **PITCH** (how high or low a note is).

The **BASS CLEF** is a symbol used to show low-pitched notes on the staff and is *usually* used for the left hand on a piano or keyboard to play the **BASS LINE** and also used by low pitched instruments (see B.)

The staff or staff is made up of 5 **LINE**s and 4 **SPACE**s.

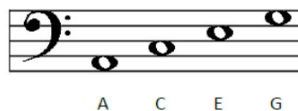
Notes on the **LINE**s of the **BASS CLEF**: **G, B, D, F, A**

Green Buses Drive Fast Always

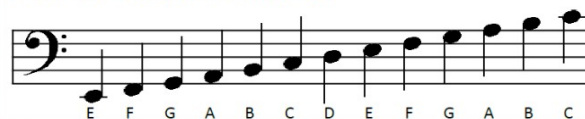


Notes in the **SPACE**s of the **BASS CLEF**: **A, C, E, G**

All Cows Eat Grass



Bass Clef **STAFF NOTATION**:



B. Musical Instruments that use the Bass Clef



Left Hand of a Piano/Keyboard



Left Hand & Pedals of an Organ



Bassoon



Cello



Double Bass



Trombone



Tuba



Timpani



Bass Guitar



Bass
(deepest male singing voice)

C. Bass Line Patterns

BASS RIFFS – Short, repeated, 'catchy' and memorable Bass Line Patterns used in Rock, Rap, Hip Hop, R'n'B, and Pop songs often performed on Bass Guitar. Bass Riffs 'fit' with the notes in the chord, but also use other 'EXTRA' notes (**PASSING NOTES**) to make them more memorable.



WALKING BASS – used in Jazz, Blues, Rhythm and Blues, and Rock'n'roll, and featuring a note on every beat. Using the **ROOT**, **THIRD** and **FIFTH** of the chord, and 'EXTRA' notes (called **PASSING NOTES**) to create a smooth bass line often moving mainly by step (**CONJUNCT**).



ARPEGGIO: Playing the notes of a chord separately and in order *root, third fifth, root, third, fifth etc.*, can be ascending (going up) or descending (going down).



BROKEN CHORD – Playing the notes of a chord separately but not necessarily in strict order (e.g., like an Alberti Bass), often creating a repeated musical pattern, can be ascending (going up) or descending (going down).



ALBERTI BASS – a type of **ACCOMPANIMENT PATTERN** in the **BASS LINE** using the **ROOT**, **THIRD** and **FIFTH** notes of a **CHORD** played in a **specific order**:

ROOT	FIFTH	THIRD	FIFTH
Lowest	Highest	Middle	Highest

The pattern repeats, but notes change as chord changes and a melody is added 'on top' of the Alberti Bass. Used by Classical composers such as Mozart, especially in solo piano music, as well as modern composers.



(BASS) PEDAL (POINT/NOTE) – either **SUSTAINED** notes of **LONG DURATION**, or **REPEATED LONG NOTES**, often in **BASS LINE PART**, using the **ROOT** (a **TONIC PEDAL**) or the **FIFTH** (a **DOMINANT PEDAL**). Changing chords, harmonies, and a melody line "fit over the top" of a **PEDAL** note.

