

# Musical Starter Kit: Knowledge Organiser

<p><b>A. Pitch</b></p> <p>The <b>highness</b> or <b>lowness</b> of a sound.</p> <p>Getting Higher Stepwise (Conjunct)</p> <p>High Pitch</p> <p>Low Pitch</p> <p>Getting Lower Leaps (Disjunct)</p>	<p><b>B. Tempo</b></p> <p>The <b>speed</b> of a sound or piece of music.</p> <p><b>FAST:</b> <i>Allegro, Vivace, Presto</i></p> <p><b>SLOW:</b> <i>Andante, Adagio, Lento</i></p> <p><b>GETTING FASTER</b> – <i>Accelerando (accel.)</i></p> <p><b>GETTING SLOWER</b> – <i>Ritardando (rit.)</i> or <i>Rallentando (rall.)</i></p>	<p><b>C. Dynamics</b></p> <p>The <b>volume</b> of a sound or piece of music.</p> <p><b>VERY LOUD:</b> <i>Fortissimo (ff)</i></p> <p><b>LOUD:</b> <i>Forte (f)</i></p> <p><b>QUITE LOUD:</b> <i>Mezzo Forte (mf)</i></p> <p><b>QUITE SOFT:</b> <i>Mezzo Piano (mp)</i></p> <p><b>SOFT:</b> <i>Piano (p)</i></p> <p><b>VERY SOFT:</b> <i>Pianissimo (pp)</i></p> <p><b>GETTING LOUDER:</b> <i>Crescendo (cresc.)</i></p> <p><b>GETTING SOFTER:</b> <i>Diminuendo (dim.)</i></p>	<p><b>D. Duration</b></p> <p>The <b>length</b> of a sound.</p> <p><b>SHORT</b> → <b>LONG</b></p>
<p><b>E. Texture</b></p> <p>How much sound we hear.</p> <p><b>THIN TEXTURE:</b> (<i>sparse/solo</i>) – small amount of instruments or melodies.</p> <p><b>THICK TEXTURE:</b> (<i>dense/layered</i>) – lots of instruments or melodies.</p>	<p><b>F. Timbre or Sonority</b></p> <p>Describes the <b>unique sound or tone quality</b> of different instruments voices or sounds.</p> <p><i>Velvety, Screechy, Throaty, Rattling, Mellow, Chirpy, Brassy, Sharp, Heavy, Buzzing, Crisp, Metallic, Wooden etc.</i></p>	<p><b>G. Articulation</b></p> <p>How individual notes or sounds are <b>played/techniques</b>.</p> <p><b>LEGATO</b> – playing notes in a long, smooth way shown by a <b>SLUR</b>.</p> <p><b>STACCATO</b> – playing notes in a short, detached, spiky way shown by a <b>DOT</b>.</p>	<p><b>H. Silence</b></p> <p>The opposite or absence of sound, <b>no sound</b>. In music these are <b>RESTS</b>.</p>
<p><b>I. Notation</b></p>		<p><b>J. How Music Works</b></p>	

Note Name	Note Symbol	Note Value
Semibreve		4 beats
Minim		2 beats
Crotchet		1 beat
Quaver		½ of a beat
Pair of Quavers		2 x ½ beats = 1

**PULSE** – A regular **BEAT** that is felt throughout much music. Certain beats of the pulse can be emphasised to establish regular pulse patterns e.g.

*1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4 = a 4-beat pulse*

*1 2 3, 1 2 3 = a 3-beat pulse (often called a WALTZ)*

*1 2, 1 2, 1 2 = a 2-beat pulse (often called a MARCH)*

**RHYTHM** – A series of sounds or notes of different lengths that create a pattern. A rhythm usually fits with a regular pulse.

A **TIME SIGNATURE** tells us how many beats (and what type of beats) there are in each **BAR** of music and is made up of two numbers at the beginning of a piece of music.

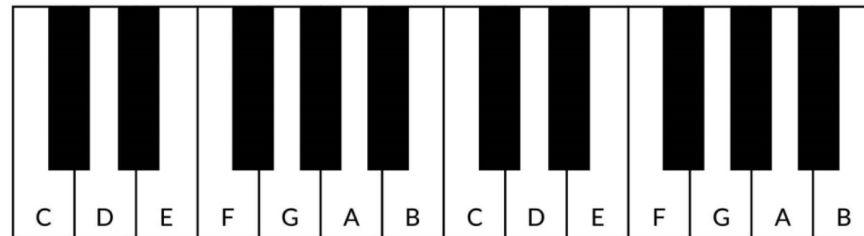
Top Number = **HOW MANY BEATS**

Bottom Number = **TYPE OF BEAT**

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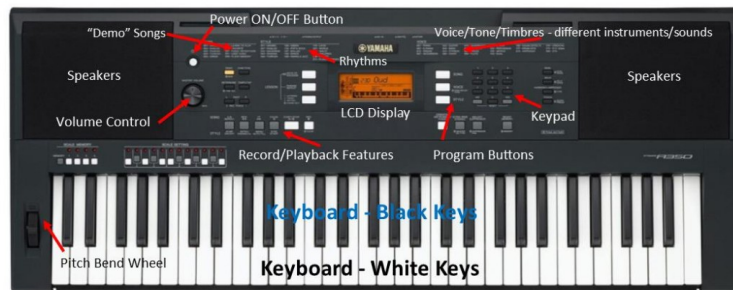
## KEYBOARD SKILLS

### 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**.

