

Max's Musical Map: Understanding Notation

Unlock the secrets of sound and compose your own masterpiece!

- **The Stave:** Music is written on a set of five horizontal lines and four spaces called a stave. The higher a note sits on the lines, the higher its pitch will sound.
- **The Treble Clef:** Often called the 'G-clef', this symbol marks the beginning of the stave and helps us identify the pitch of the notes that follow.
- **Note Values:** Musical notes are like a mathematical puzzle! A crotchet is worth one beat, a minim is worth two, and a semibreve lasts for four beats.
- **Bar Lines:** These vertical lines divide the music into equal sections called bars, which help the performer keep a steady rhythm and tempo.
- **Rests:** Silence is just as important as sound in music! Rests are special symbols that tell the musician exactly how long to pause before playing the next note.

Did you know? Did you know? Before musical notation was standardised, musicians had to memorise every melody by ear. It wasn't until the 11th century that a monk named Guido of Arezzo developed a system using lines, which eventually became the stave we recognise today!

Key vocabulary: Stave · Treble Clef · Minim · Crotchet · Quaver · Pitch · Tempo · Bar Lines