









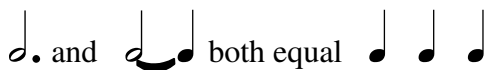
Note Length

Note Symbol	Name	Description	Equivalent Rest
	Semibreve or whole note	The longest note in general use	
	Minim or half note	Half the length of a semibreve The stem can either go up or down	
	Crotchet or quarter note	Quarter the length of a Semibreve Half the length of a Minim The stem can either go up or down	
	Quaver or eighth note	There are eight in a semibreve, four in a minim and two in a crotchet The tail turns to the right no matter whether the stem goes up or down Quavers can be grouped together with a beam in place of tails	

You also get Semi-Quavers and even smaller notes, they have two or more tails and each tail halves the length of the note again.

There is also an even longer note than the Semibreve, it is called the Breve. It looks like a Semibreve with a short line down each side, or a small box. Composers usually use it at the ends of movements to indicate that the choir is to hold the note as long as the conductor tells them to. You also occasionally find them in the middle of a score, when they generally mean that you are to hold the note for twice as long as a Semibreve.

Composers will also want you to sing a note which is half as long again than normal, this is indicated with a dot (.) after the note. Another way the composer can do this is to write out the individual notes and put a tie or slur between them, particularly if they wish you to hold a note across a bar line. If there is a line linking several notes and they are of different pitch, then sing the notes moving gently from one to the next without any gaps (legato).



You will also see three notes with a little 3 above or below them, this means that the composer would like you to sing these notes in the space it would normally take to sing two, in other words a little bit quicker. This is called a triplet.

Note Pitch

The Notes are labelled A to G they are placed on the Staves from the bottom to the top as follows

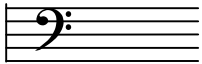
The Treble clef



The spaces are F A C E

The Lines are E G B D F (Every Good Boy Deserves Fruit)

The Bass Clef



The spaces are A C E G (All Cows Eat Grass)

The Lines are G B D F A (Good Boys Deserve Fruit Always)

The tenors usually sing the notes on the Treble clef but an octave lower, the F at the top of their staff is the same note as the F on the bottom of the Alto/Soprano staff

There are occasionally notes which go above or below the staff, these are indicated with Ledger lines, little dashes. The ledger lines are labelled using the same letters repeated over again.

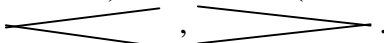
The notes are made a half a tone higher (sharper) or lower (flatter) by using the following symbols. The symbols can be placed at the beginning of a staff, in which case all notes on that line will be flat or sharp as directed, unless there is a natural symbol next to it

An $A_{\#}$ is the same pitch as a B_{\flat}

#	Sharp	The note goes up half a tone
\flat	Flat	The note goes down half a tone
\natural	Natural	The note is the normal tone

Volume

There are several things which tell you how loud you need to sing. The most common ones are; pp, p mp, mf, f, ff, also known as pianissimo, piano, mezzo piano, mezzo forte, forte and fortissimo. The volume range is from pp (very soft) to ff (very loud). You will also find multiples of p and f EG. pppp which means very, very, very soft.

You will also be told when to move gradually louder or softer. This is usually written as cresc. (Crescendo) and decresc. (Decrescendo) they can also be written as symbols above the notes .

You may also see dim. (Diminuendo) this means to fade away completely.

Glossary

Word	Abbreviation	Description
a piacere		Peacefully
a tempo		Back to the previous Tempo
Accelerando	Accel.	Gradually become faster
Adagio		Slowly
Allegro		Lively and fast
Allegro cristiano		Lively and fast, With Holiness
Allegro giusto		Lively and fast, with Gusto
Allegro maestoso		Lively and fast, Majestically
Allegro Moderato		Lively and fast, at a moderate speed
Andante		At an easy walking pace
Andante grazioso		At an easy walking pace, gracefully
Andante maestoso		At an easy walking pace, Majestically
Andante sostenuto		At an easy walking pace, sustained
Andantino		At an brisk walking pace
Andantino moso		At an brisk walking pace, more lively
Andantino sostenuto		At an brisk walking pace, sustained
Animando un pochino		Animated, a little bit
Bass		The lower male singing voice
Col canto		With the singing
Contralto	Alto	The lower female singing voice
Diminuendo	Dim.	fade away completely
Legato		Smoothly, well connected, shown by a slur over the notes
Moderato		At a moderate speed
Morendo		Dying away
Piu lento		Little slower
Poco-a-poco		A little bit at a time
Presto		Very fast
Rallentando	Rall.	Gradually become slower
Rinsforzando	Rinf.	Strong emphasis
Ritenuto	Rit.	Immediately slower, held back
Ritornando		Gradually become slower
Smorzando	Smorz.	Dying away
Solo		One singer, chosen for the quality of voice
Soprano		The higher female singing voice
Sotto voce		As quietly as you can, whisper on pitch
Staccato	Stacc.	Detached, short, shown by a dot above or below the note
Tenor		The higher male singing voice
Trill	Tr.	Switch quickly between two notes
Tutta forza		Everybody with force
Tutti		The whole choir or all the singers in a particular voice part