

# Elements of Music

The foundation on which music is written, arranged, and performed.

**By: Dr. Sarvjit Kaur**

Assistant Professor in Music Vocal  
Department,

Hansraj Maha Vidalya College, Jalandhar

# Introduction

All people, from the earliest recorded history, have created music.

Humans, like birds whales, have a natural tendency for making sounds and responding to them. When music is pleasurable, it says something to you It communicates a feeling or conveys a message.

# Characteristics of a tone

- a tone is identified as any type of sound
- to have a tone, there must be a vibration
  - Dynamics-Loudness or softness
  - Timbre-Tone Quality
  - Duration - Length of the tone
  - Pitch - How high or how low

# Elements of music

- ✘ All forms of music from all societies and cultures have common characteristics and elements
  - +Rhythm - How the beat is broken down
  - +Melody - The actual tune of the song
  - +Harmony - How sounds blend together
  - +Form - How the music is structured
  - +Timbre/tone color - How each instrument sounds
  - +Dynamics - How loud or soft
  - +Tempo - The speed of the Music
  - +Style - How the over all characteristics sound

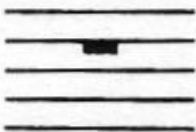
# Rhythm

- × Beat - Steady recurring pulse
- × Beats are broken down into various note values.  
Each note value is worth a set number of beats and also has a corresponding rest
  - + Whole Note - 4 Beats
  - + Half Note - 2 Beats
  - + Quarter Note - 1 Beat
  - + Eighth Note - 1/2 Beat

## Note Values and Rest Equivalents

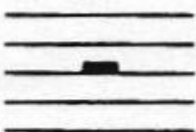
Whole note

=



Half note

=



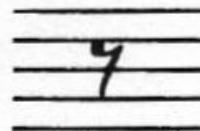
Quarter note

=



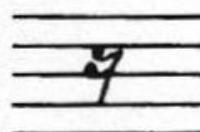
Eighth note

=



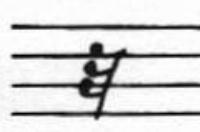
Sixteenth note

=



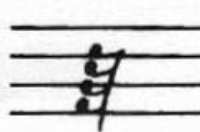
Thirty-second note

=



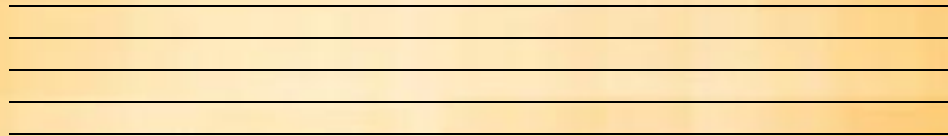
Sixty-fourth note

=



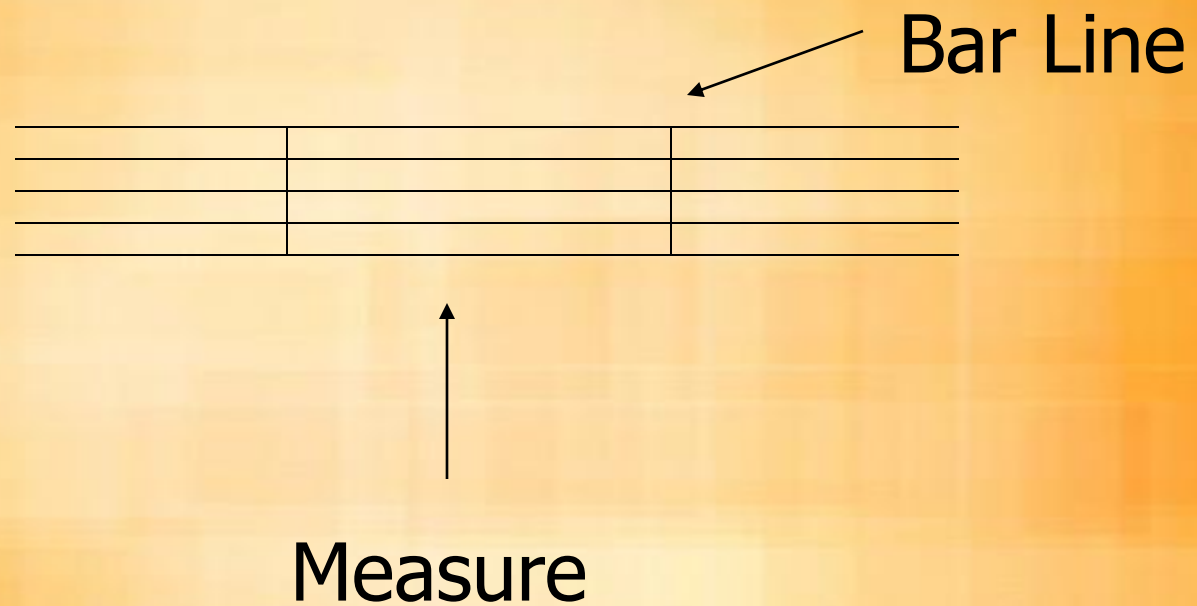
# Staff

- 5 Lines and 4 spaces that music is written on.



# Measure

- Divides the staff into smaller units of measure by using bar lines





# Time Signature

- Appears at the beginning of a piece of music right after the Key Signature.
- Tells the number of beats per measure and which note value equals one beat.



# Syncopation

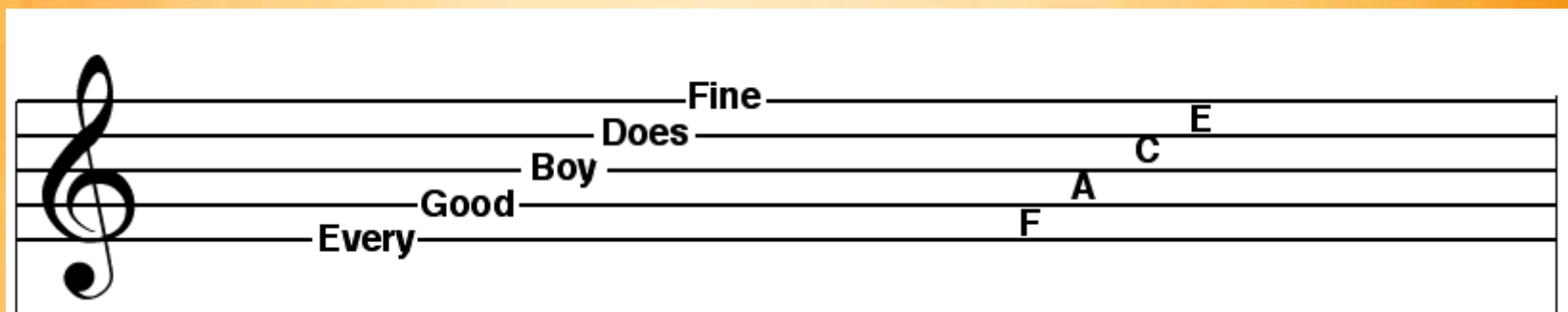
- Rhythm that puts an emphasis on a beat or a part of the beat that is not usually emphasized.

# Melody

- The actual tune of the music
  - Do the notes and melody move in an upward pattern?
  - Do the notes and melody move in a downward pattern?
  - Do the notes repeat?

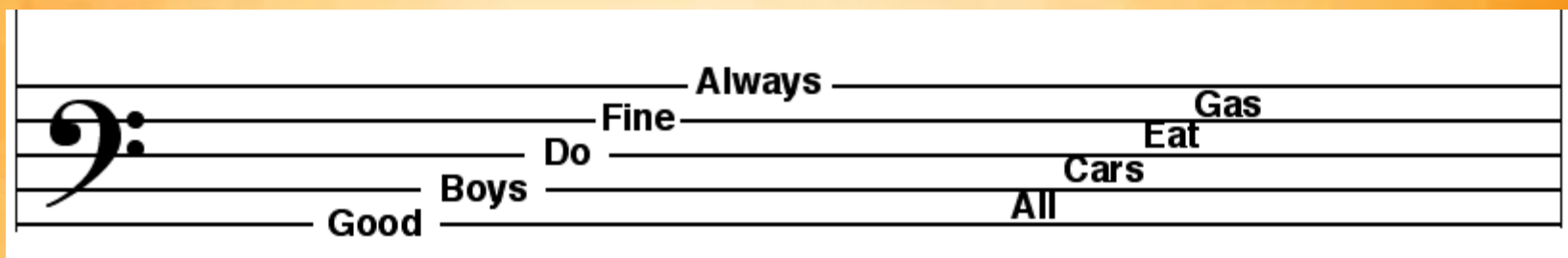
# Treble Clef

- Contains the Higher notes



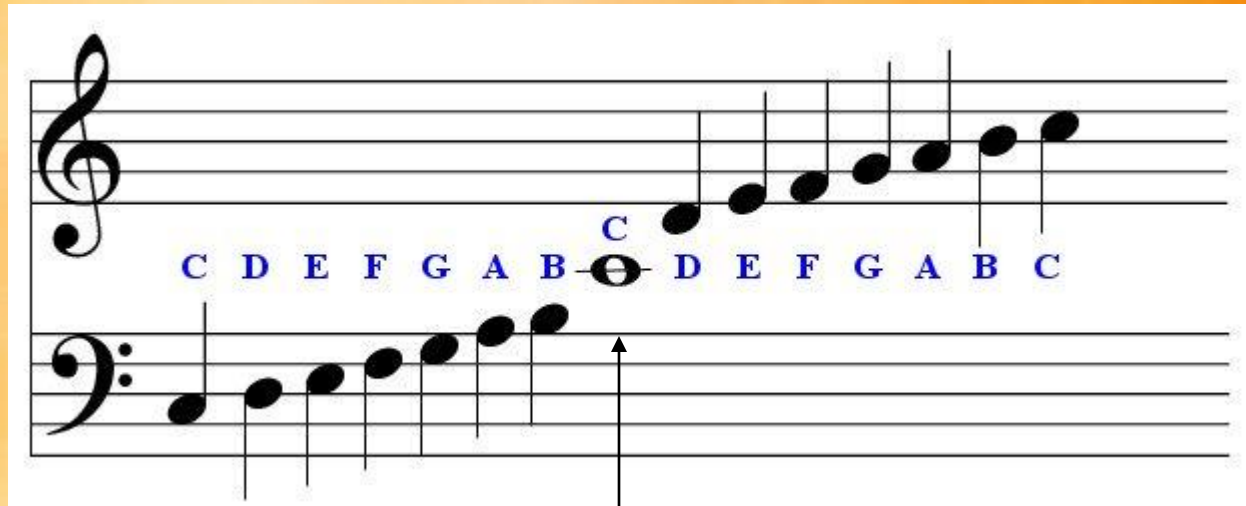
# Bass Clef

- Contains the lower notes

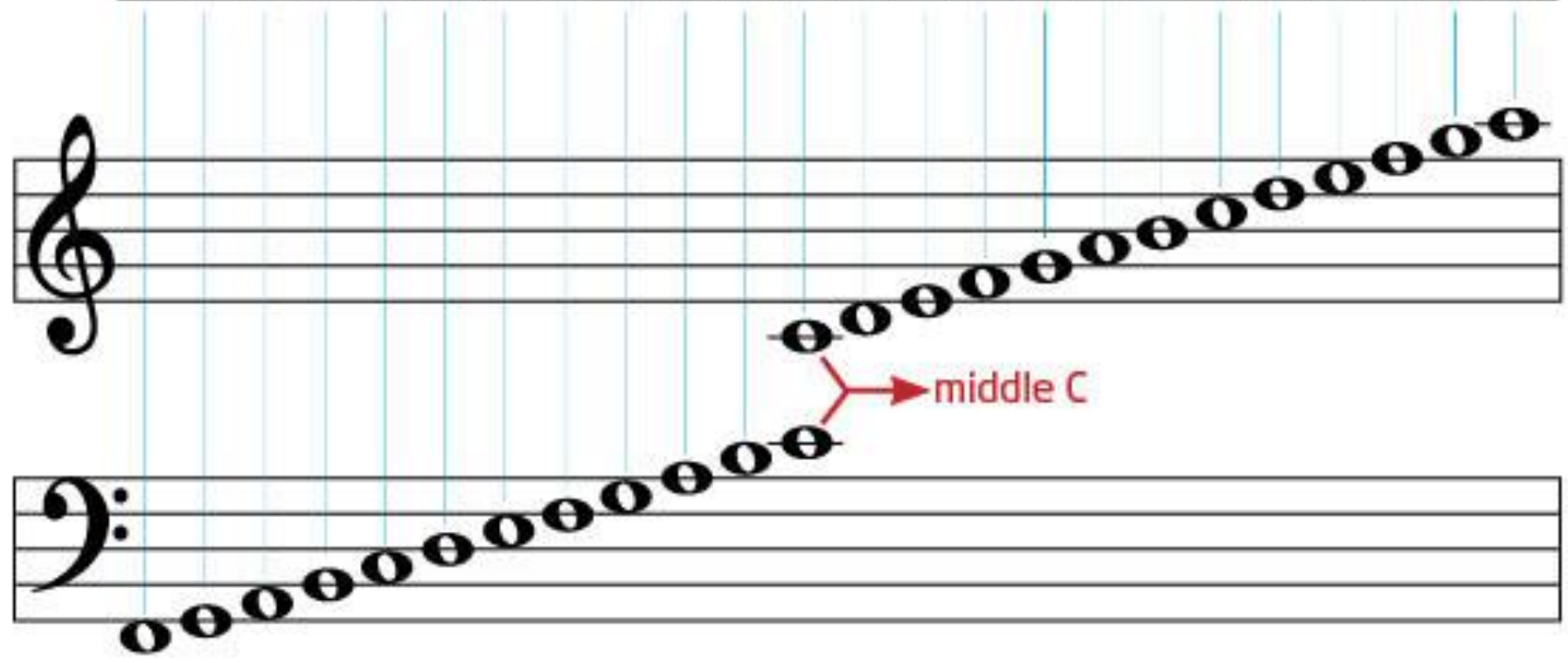


# The Grand Staff

- The combination of the Bass and Treble Clefs



Middle C

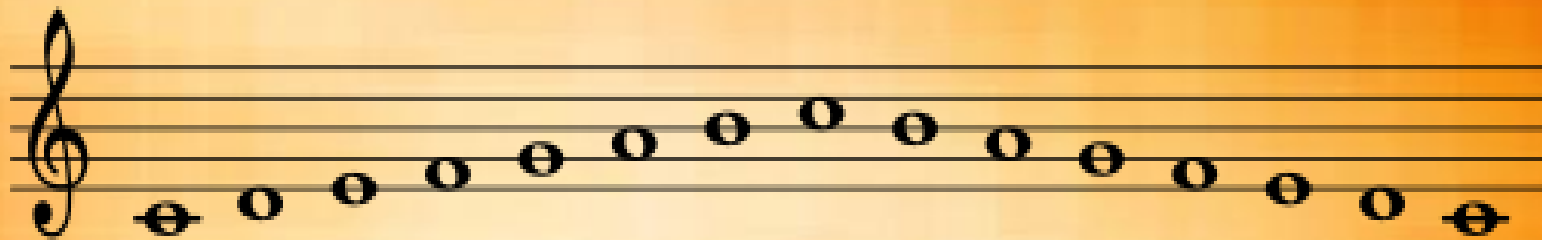


# Harmony

- How the notes blend together
  - Consonance - Absence of tension or discord in music
  - Dissonance - Discord in music, suggests a state of tension



# Major Scale



# Chords

- In music and music theory a **chord** is three or more different notes that sound simultaneously.
- Chords using three pitch classes are called triads.



# Form

- Musical design
  - Theme - A melody that assumes importance in the development of a composition because of its central and continued use
  - Sonata- Allegro Form- A large A-B-A form consisting of three sections: exposition, development and recapitulation.

**Sonata form** is a musical form that has been used widely since the early Classical period. It has typically been used in the first movement of multimovement pieces, and is therefore more specifically referred to as *sonata-allegro form* or *first-movement form*. Study of the sonata form in music theory rests on a standard definition, and a series of hypotheses about the underlying reasons for the durability and variety of the form.

The standard definition focuses on the thematic and harmonic organization of tonal materials, which are presented in an exposition, elaborated and contrasted in a development and then resolved harmonically and thematically in a recapitulation. Additionally the standard definition recognizes that an introduction and a coda may be present. Each of the sections is often further divided or characterized by the particular means by which it accomplishes its function in the form.

# Form (Cont)

- Opera - A staged drama that is predominantly sung, most often with orchestral accompaniment with three Sections
  - 3 Sections of an opera
    - Overture - An extended orchestral introduction
    - Aria-A song for solo singer and orchestra
    - Recitative - A speech-like style of singing

# Call and Response

- The leader sings or plays a phrase and the audience sings it back
- a **call and response** is a succession of two distinct phrases usually played by different musicians, where the second phrase is heard as a direct commentary on or response to the first

## **Two Part: AB**

- One Section followed by a completely different section
- Binary Form

## **Three part: A B A**

- One Section followed by a completely different section and then a repeat of the first section
- Ternary



# Round

- A **round** is a musical composition in which two or more voices sing exactly the same melody (and may continue repeating it indefinitely), but with each voice beginning at different times so that different parts of the melody coincide in the different voices, but nevertheless fit harmoniously together
- "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" is a well known children's round for 4 voices

# Verse and Chorus

Hymns and pop songs use this form

# Timbre/Tone Color

- A distinctive tone quality of a sound
  - Instruments are classified according to the source of the vibration which creates their sound
    - Woodwind
    - Brass
    - Percussion
    - Keyboard
    - String

# Woodwind Instruments

- Any instrument which sound is produced by the vibration of a wooden reed
  - Flute
  - Clarinet
  - Saxophone
  - Bassoon
  - Oboe

# Flute



- A flute produces sound when a stream of air directed across a hole in the instrument creates a vibration of air at the hole

# Clarinet



# Saxophone

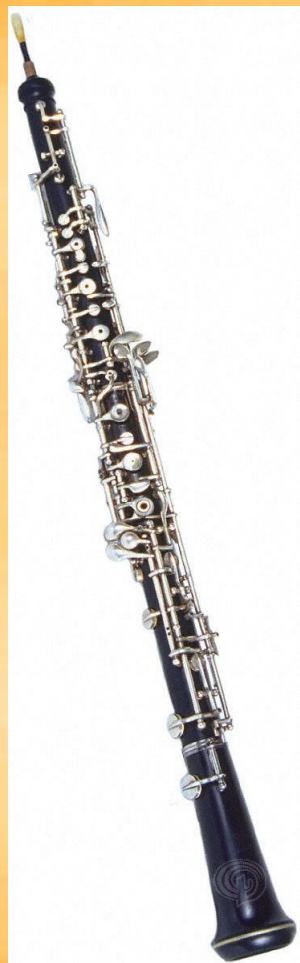


# Bassoon





# Oboe



# Brass Instruments

- Any instrument which sound is produced by the vibration of the player's lips in a mouthpiece.
  - Trumpet
  - F-Horn
  - Trombone
  - Baritone
  - Tuba

# Trumpet



# F-Horn



# Trombone



# Baritone



# Tuba



# Percussion

× Instruments that has tone produced by striking the instrument.

+ Pitched - tone is a definite pitch

× Xylophone

× Bells

× Marimba

+ Unpitched - tone does not have a definite pitch

× Snare Drum

× Cymbals

× Bass Drum



# Strings

× Any instrument that has strings that vibrate

- + Violin
- + Viola
- + Cello
- + Bass
- + Banjo
- + Guitar

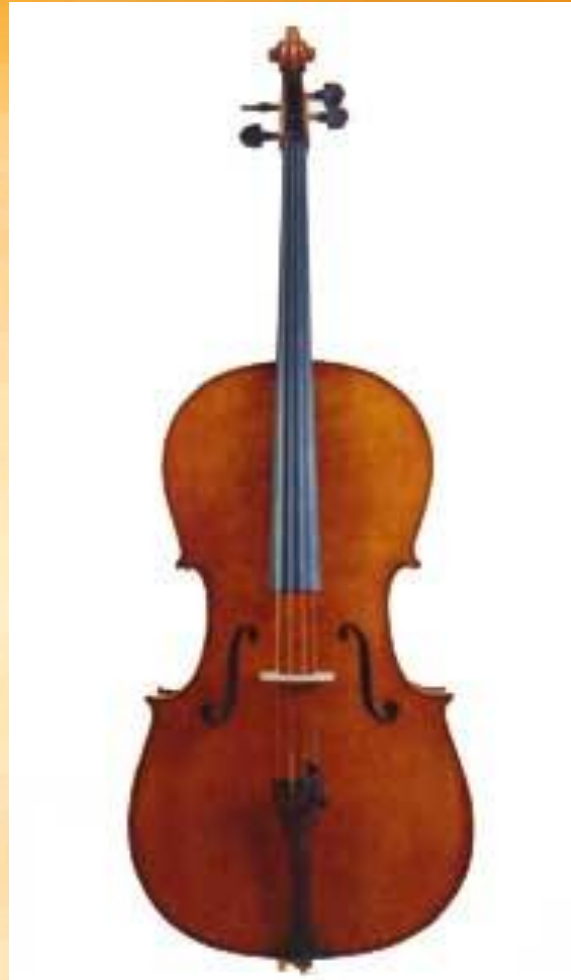
# Violin



# Viola



# Cello



# Bass



# Guitar

# Keyboard

- Instruments which are played with a keyboard. Usually have strings inside the instrument to create sound.
  - Piano
  - Harpsichord
  - Organ

# Piano





# Harpsichord



# Dynamics

- Volume of the music
  - Piano - p - Soft
  - Forte - f - Loud
  - Crescendo - Gradually get louder
  - Decrescendo - Gradually get softer



# Ceremonial

- Ceremonial music ranges from the performance of the Bridal Chorus at a wedding to Hail the Chief to signify the entrance of the President of the United States. It is music that accompanies ceremonies and rituals. This type of music is played for funerals, commemorative ceremonies, graduations, political events, religious rituals, holidays, celebrations, and similar functions.

**THANKS**