



# AN INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC THEORY

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# WHAT IS MUSIC THEORY?



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- ☐ IS THE STUDY OF THE PRACTICES AND POSSIBILITIES OF MUSIC.
- ☐ IS THE STUDY AND ANALYSIS OF FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS OF MUSIC SUCH AS RHYTHM AND PITCH.



**HOW WILL MUSIC THEORY SUPPORT YOUR  
MUSICAL SKILLS?**



# **HOW WILL MUSIC THEORY SUPPORT YOUR MUSICAL SKILLS?**

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- ☐ **Music theory, like language, enables us to understand (read / sing / play) the structure and meaning behind a musical composition.**
- ☐ **Music theory allows us to speak with other musicians in a common language. It serves as a short-hand for referring to important points in the music.**



# ON THIS COURSE, YOU WILL

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- ☐ Gain an understanding of the basic building blocks of music theory and notation.
- ☐ Prepares for the more practical and in-depth, in-person “Applied Music Theory for Singers Course” at Converge York (which no prior musical knowledge is required too).



# YOU WILL LEARN:

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- ☐ Rhythm —> Time Signature
- ☐ Rhythm —> Rhythmic Values
- ☐ Pitch —> Treble Clef vs Bass Clef
- ☐ Pitch —> Musical Notes



# **RHYTHM: TIME SIGNATURE**



**Time Signature indicates how many counts are in each bar (measure) and which type of rhythm note will receive one count.**



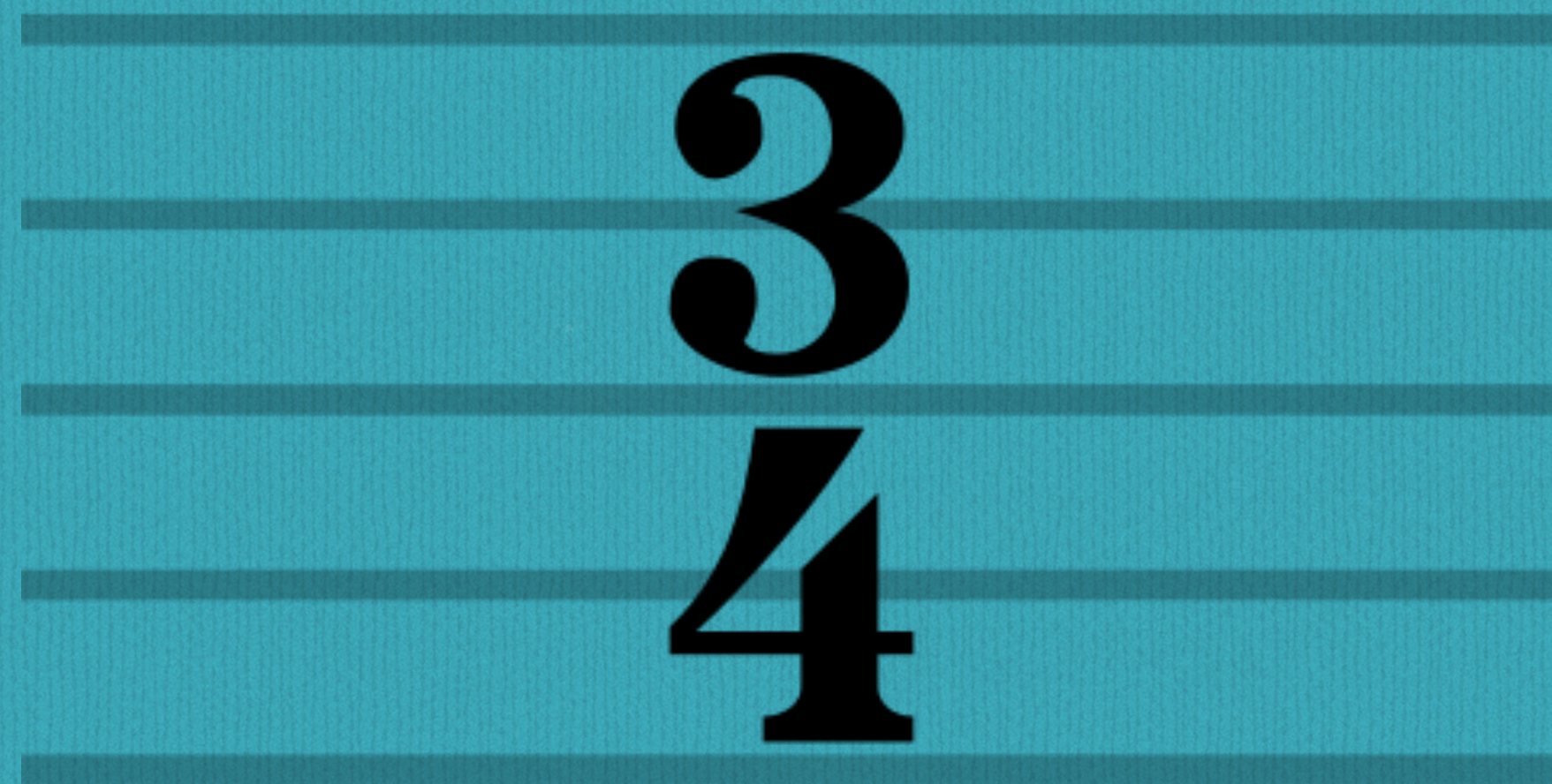
**EXAMPLE: 3/4 TIME SIGNATURE — 3 COUNTS IN EACH BAR**





**THE BOTTOM NUMBER IS A SYMBOL OF A RHYTHMIC VALUE, AND IS COMMONLY 2, 4 OR 8.**

**BOTTOM 2 REPRESENTS A TWO-BEAT NOTE (MINIM); BOTTOM 4 REPRESENTS A ONE-BEAT NOTE (CROTCHET); BOTTOM 8 REPRESENTS A HALF-BEAT NOTE (QUAVER).**





**THE TOP NUMBER IS THE QUANTITY OF THE BOTTOM NUMBER, AND IS COMMONLY 2, 3, 4, 6.**

**THE EXAMPLE BELOW: EACH BAR (MEASURE) WILL BE COUNTED AS —> 3 x ONE-BEAT NOTE (CROTCHET NOTE). IN OTHER WORDS, THERE ARE A TOTAL OF THREE BEATS IN A BAR, AND SHOULD BE COUNTED AS 1 - 2 - 3.**





# FEEL THE RHYTHM BY COUNTING & TAPPING

**Two-beat meter (two beats in a bar):  
STRONG - weak**

**Three-beat meter (three beats in a bar):  
STRONG - weak - weakest**

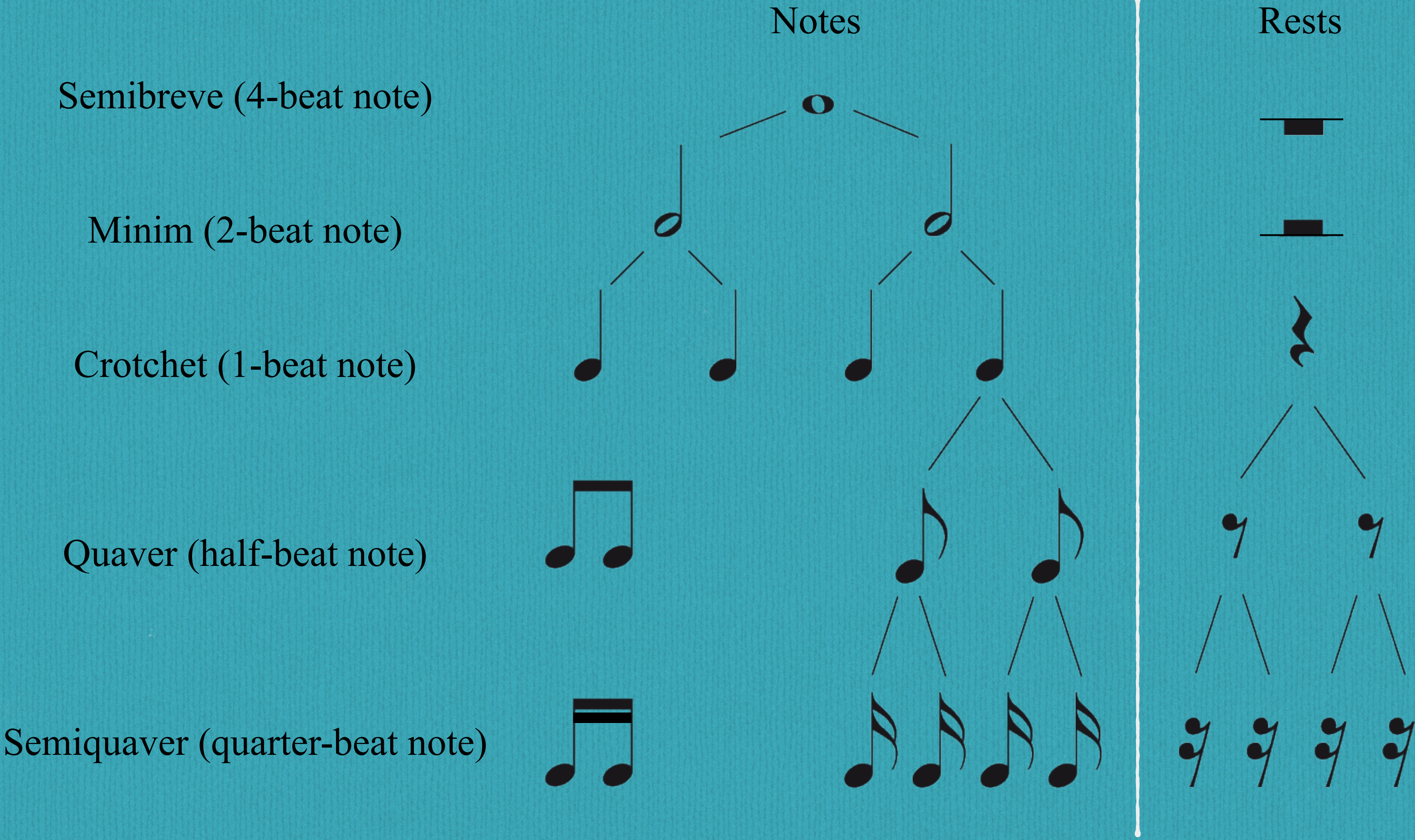
**Four-beat meter (four beats in a bar):  
STRONG- weak - STRONG (but lesser) - weakest**



# **RHYTHM: RHYTHMIC VALUES**

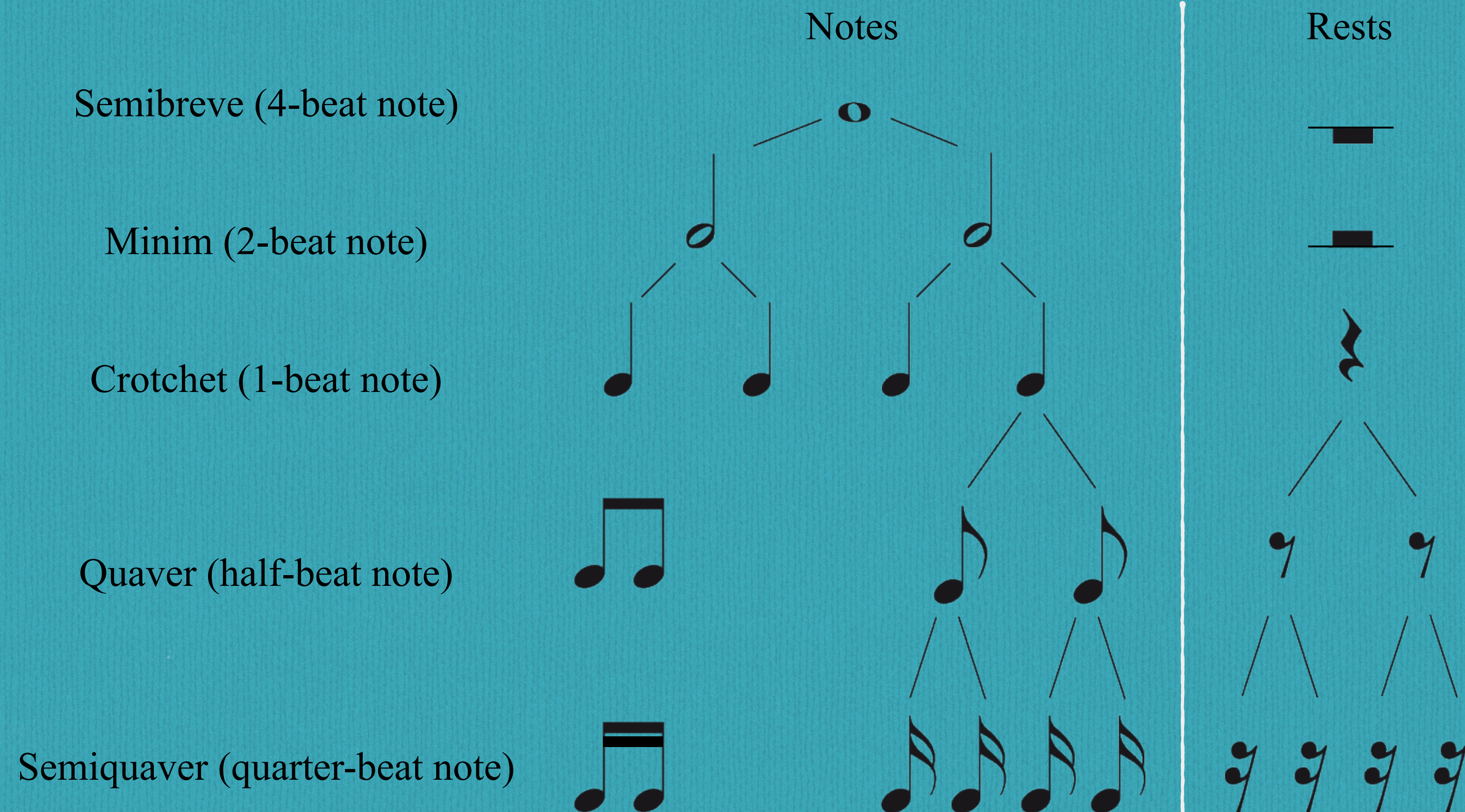


**RHYTHMIC VALUES ARE THE INDIVIDUAL MATHEMATICAL TIME VALUES OF RHYTHM:**  
**SEMIBREVE, MINIM, CROTCHET, QUAVER, SEMIQUAVER**



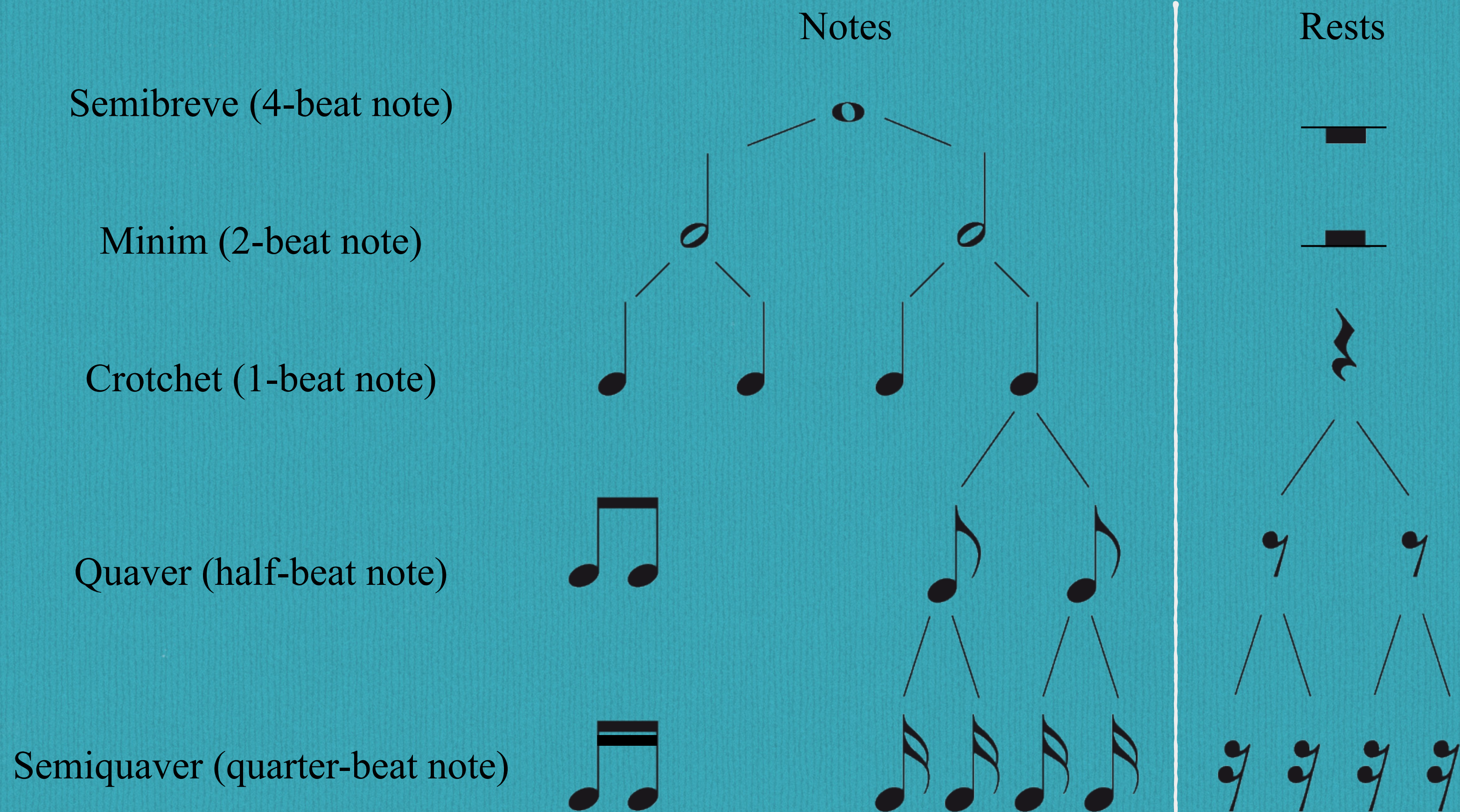


**EXAMPLE 1 —> A SEMIBREVE NOTE = YOU WILL SING OR PLAY A NOTE AND HOLD IT FOR FOUR EQUAL BEATS.**  
**EXAMPLE 2 —> IF YOU HAVE FOUR SEMIQUAVER NOTES = YOU WILL SING OR PLAY THEM ALL EQUALLY IN ONE BEAT.**





**RESTS INDICATE THAT YOU SHOULD NOT SING OR PLAY AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE SILENCE.  
FOR EXAMPLE, A SEMIBREVE REST = YOU SHOULD NOT SING OR PLAY ANY NOTE FOR FOUR EQUAL BEATS.**



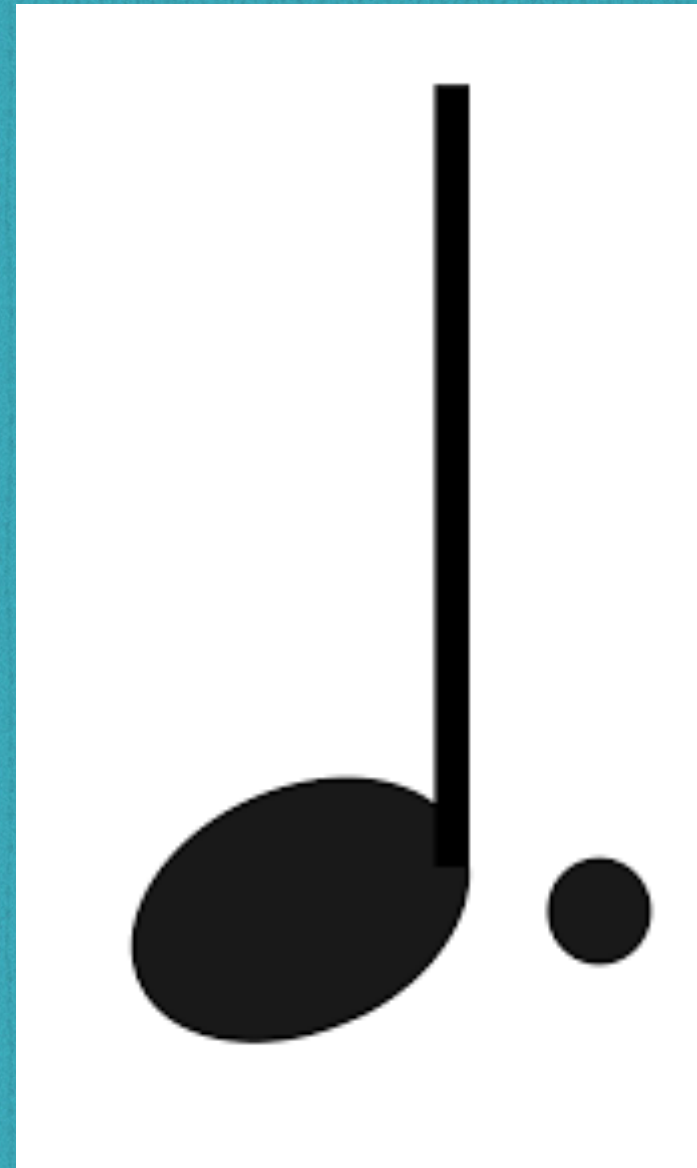


# **DOTTED RHYTHMS**



# DOTTED CROTCHET

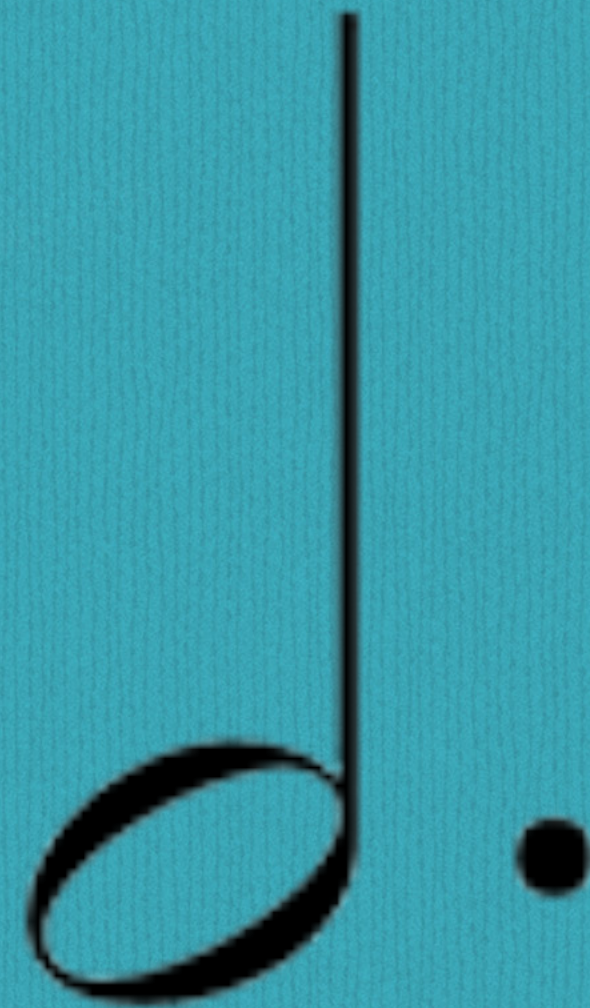
- Increases a note value by its half





# DOTTED MINIM

- Increases a note value by its half

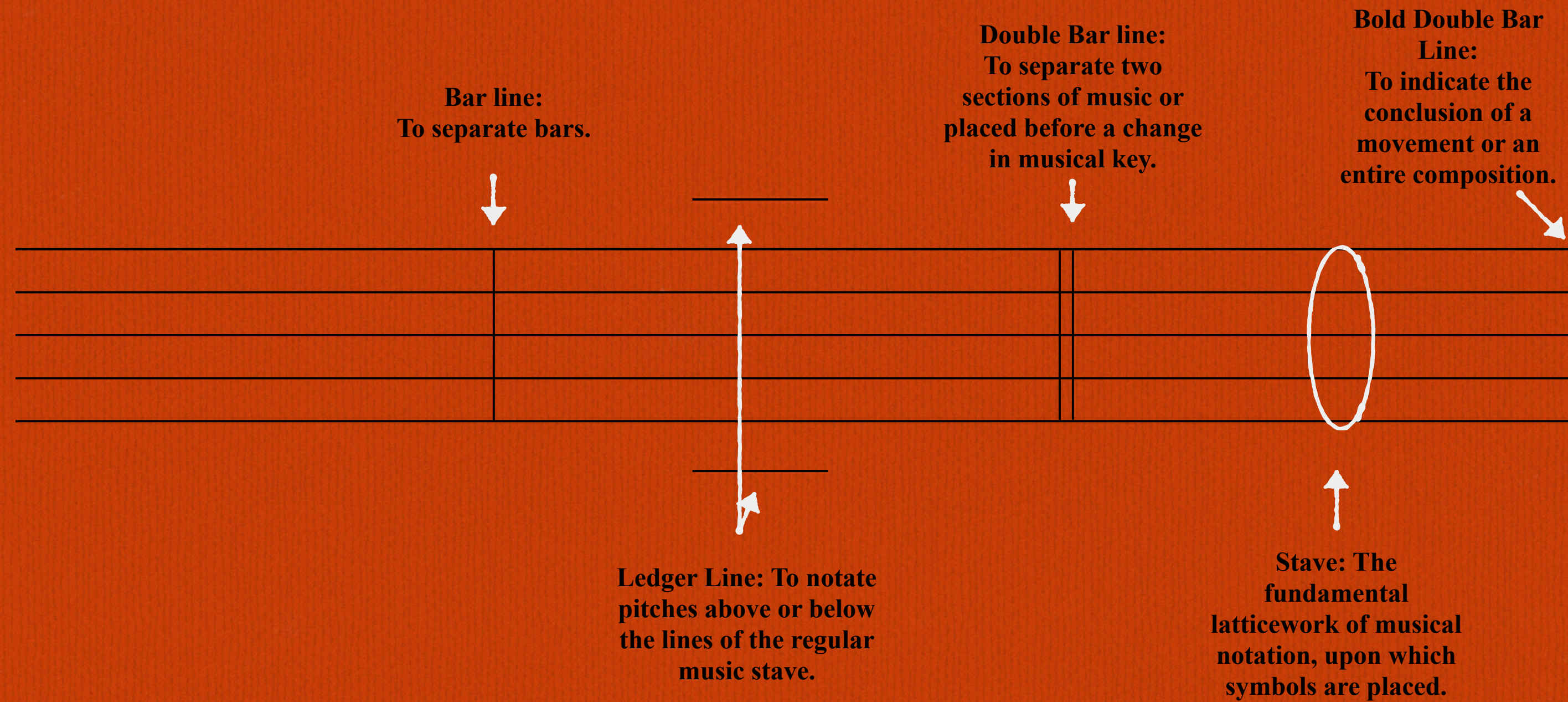




# **PITCH: TREBLE CLEF VS BASS CLEF**



# ON A MUSIC STAVE





# ON A MUSIC STAVE

**Bracket:** Connects two or more lines of music which sound simultaneously — Use to connect the staves of separate instruments or voices, for example, a four-part choir.



**Brace:** Connects two or more lines of music that are played simultaneously by a single instrument, for example, a piano.





# TREBLE CLEF VS BASS CLEF

Clefs define the pitch range of the music stave on which it is placed. A clef is usually the leftmost symbol on a stave.



**G Clef (Treble Clef)**  
The centre of the spiral  
defines the line for pitch  
G above middle C



**F Clef (Bass clef)**  
The line or between the  
dots in this clef denotes  
F below middle C



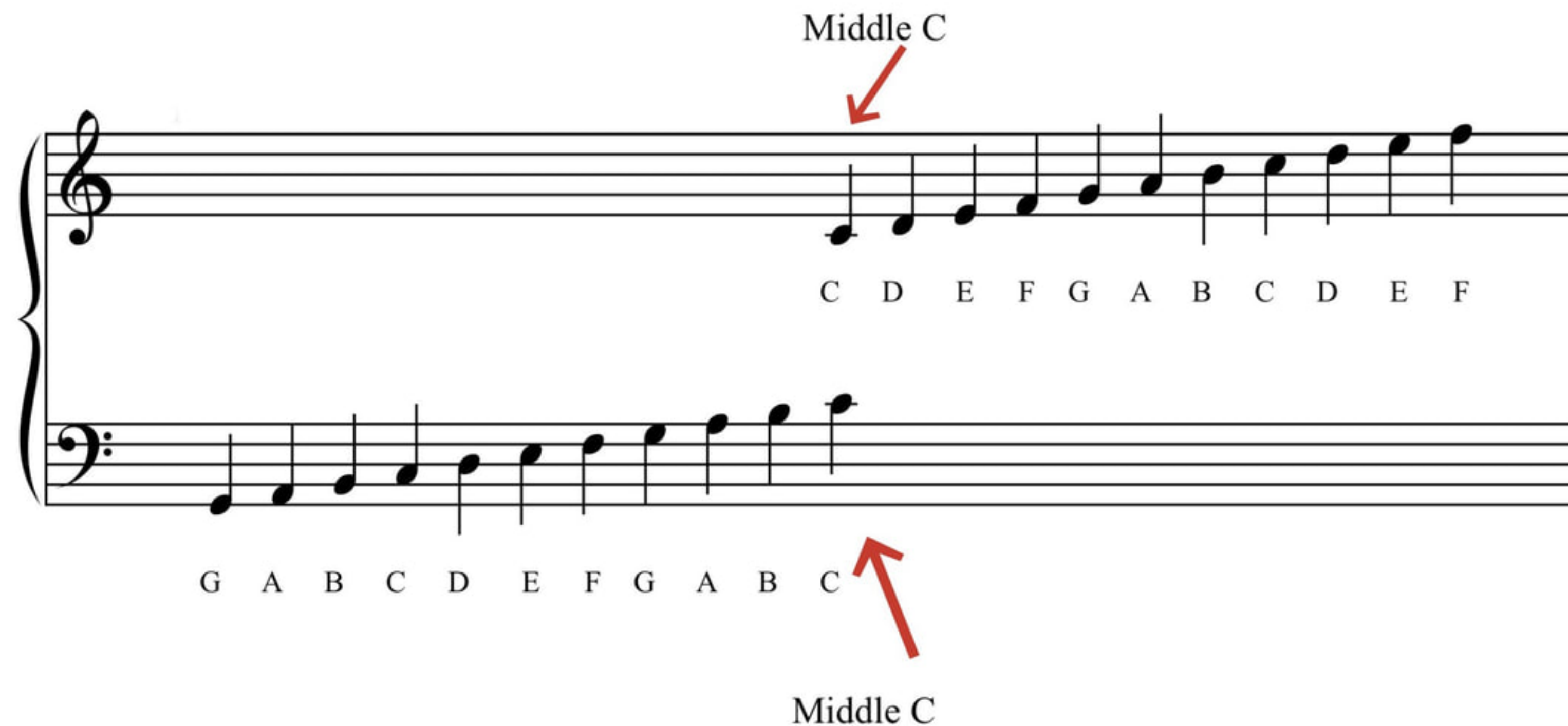
# **PITCH: MUSICAL NOTES**



**WHAT AND WHERE IS MIDDLE C?**

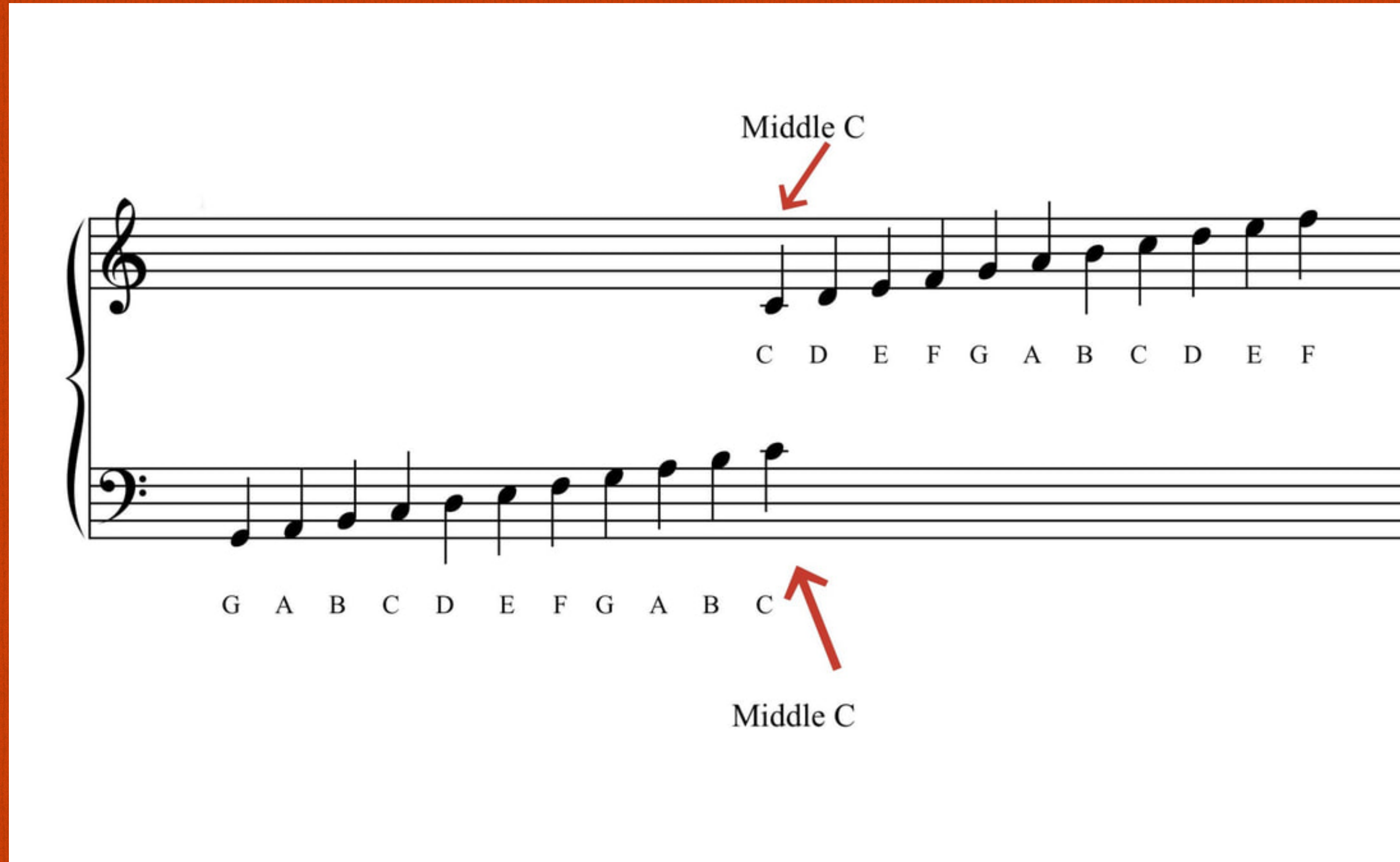


**MIDDLE C IS THE ONLY NOTE (PITCH) THAT TREBLE CLEF & BASS CLEF SHARE IN COMMON — TREBLE CLEF GO *HIGH* IN PITCH; BASS CLEF GO *LOW* IN PITCH.**



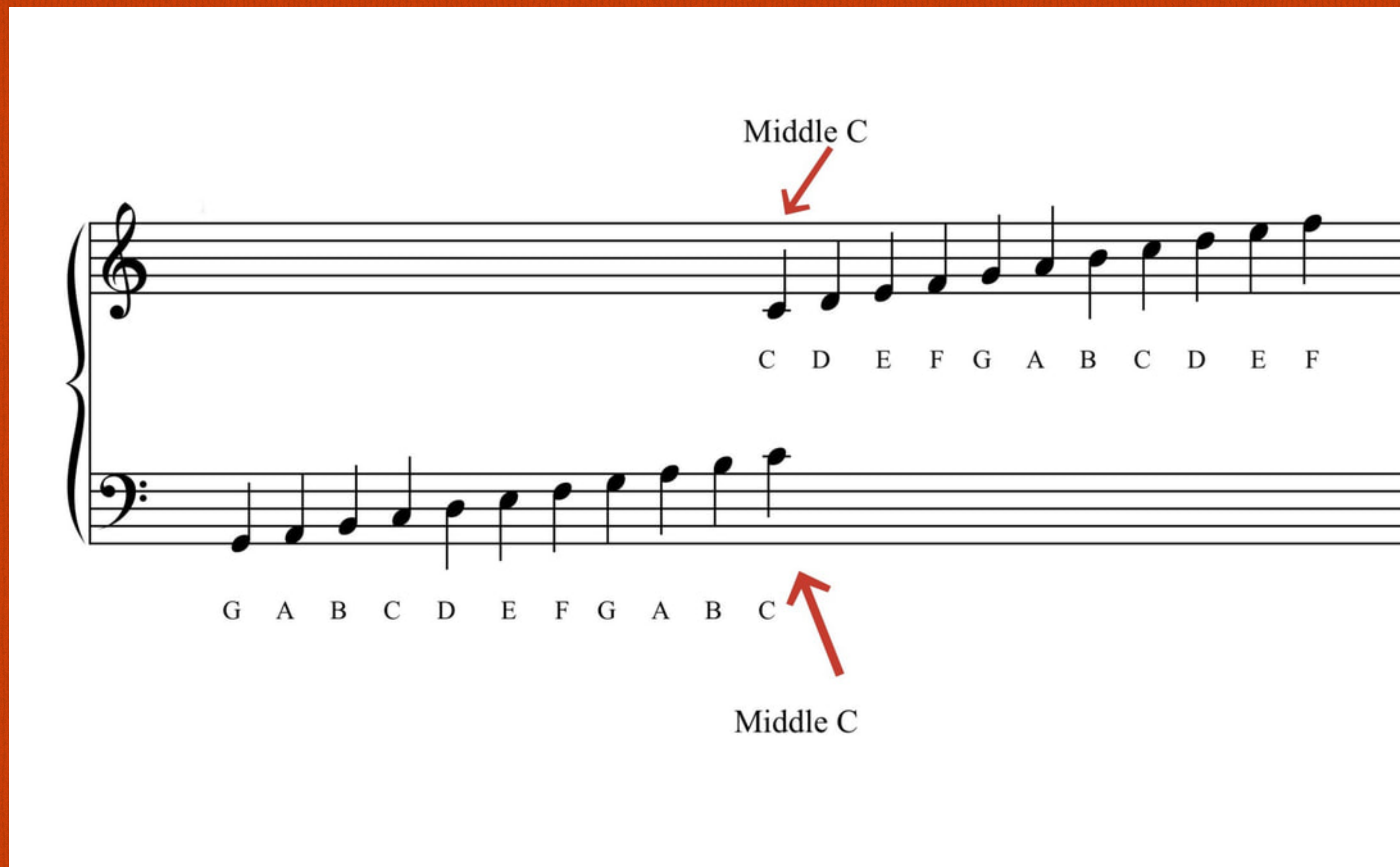


**C-NOTE IS THE 1ST NOTE OF AN OCTAVE (A MUSICAL SERIES OF 8 NOTES):  
C-D-E-F-G-A-B-C “REPEAT” / DO-RE-MI-FA-SO-LA-TI-DO “REPEAT”**



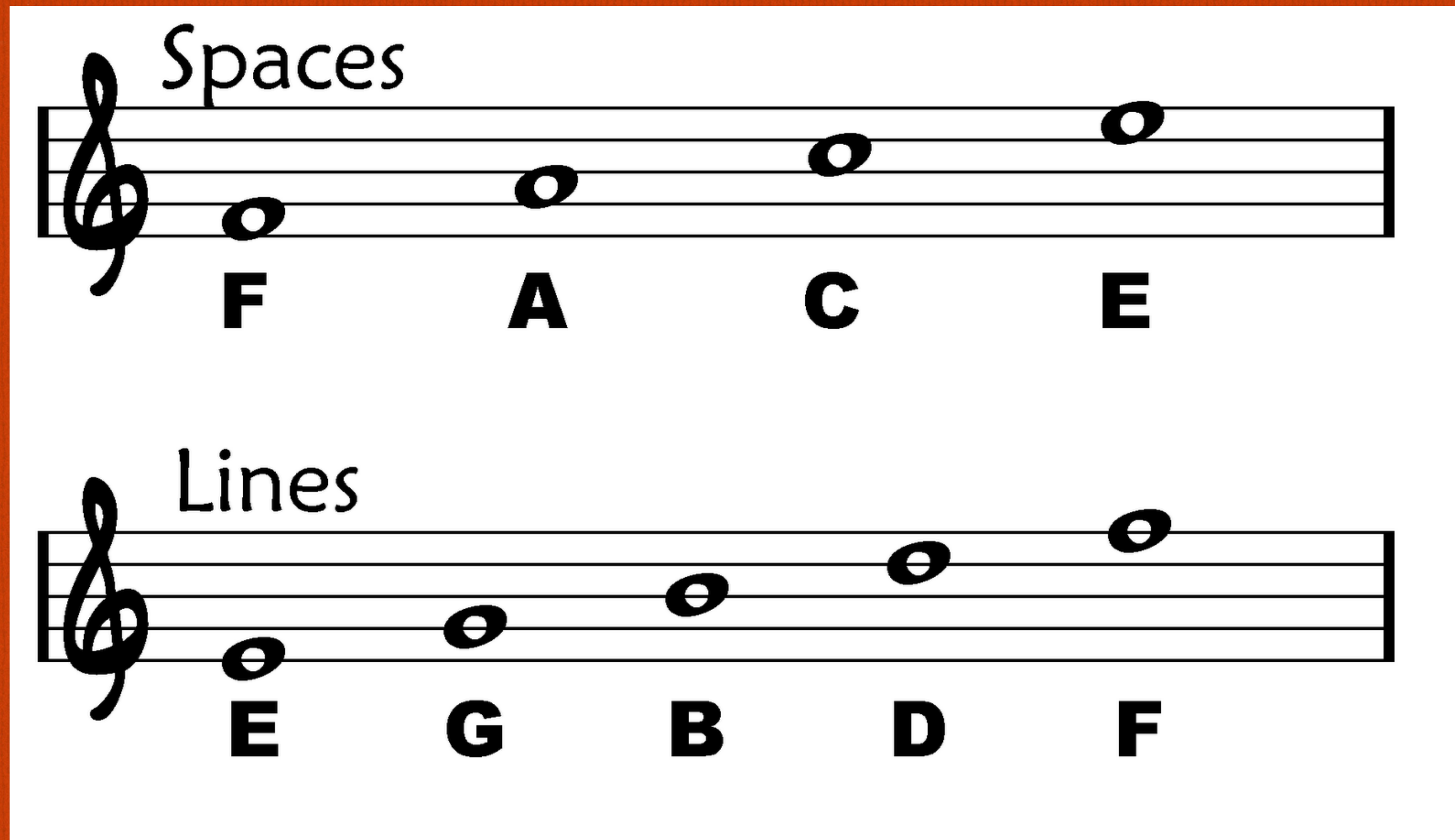


**IF YOU START COUNTING FROM MIDDLE C ON THE TREBLE CLEF: C-D-E-F-G-A-B-C (THE *ASCENDING* SCALE)**  
**IF YOU START COUNTING FROM MIDDLE C ON THE BASS CLEF: C-B-A-G-F-E-D-C (THE *DESCENDING* SCALE)**





# TIPS TO READ MUSICAL NOTES: SPACES & LINES





**TIPS TO READ MUSICAL NOTES (START FROM THE LOWEST LINE OF THE STAVE):**  
**TREBLE CLEF - SPACES & LINES ; BASS CLEF - SPACES & LINES**





# TIPS TO READ NOTE TO NOTE:

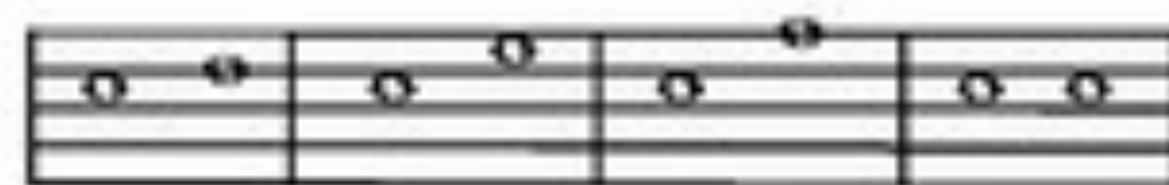
## STEP, SKIP, LEAP, REPEAT

**STEP:** the notes are next to each other in the scale

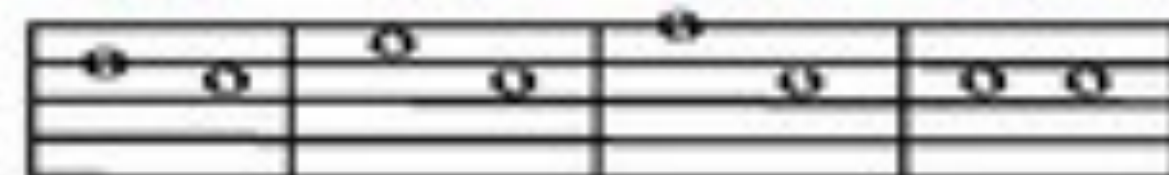
**SKIP:** the notes are 2 steps apart

**LEAP:** the notes are more than a skip apart

**REPEAT:** the exact same note is played



step skip leap repeat





**EXAMPLE 1 → STEP UP FROM MIDDLE C = MIDDLE D;**  
**EXAMPLE 2 → SKIP DOWN FROM MIDDLE C = LOWER A;**  
**EXAMPLE 3 → LEAP UP FROM MIDDLE C = MIDDLE F;**  
**EXAMPLE 4 → REPEAT FROM MIDDLE C = MIDDLE C.**

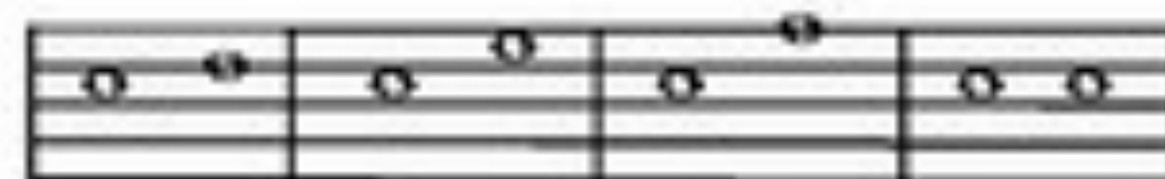
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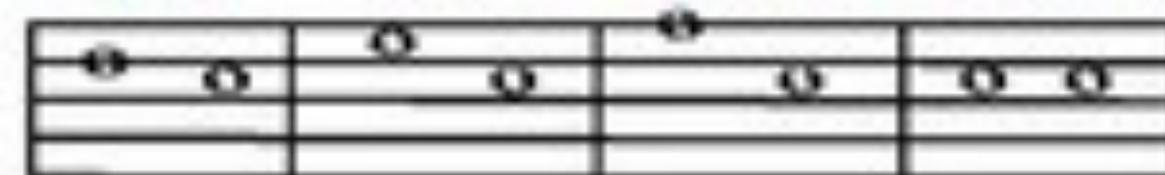
**SKIP:** the notes are 2 steps apart

**LEAP:** the notes are more than a skip apart

**REPEAT:** the exact same note is played



step skip leap repeat





**THANK YOU!**





**Please email me if you have any questions:**  
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