

# MUSICAL SYMBOLS

Music consists of two basic elements: **rhythm** and **pitch**. Pitch is notated using a set of lines (and spaces) called a staff. The higher a note appears on a staff, the higher its pitch; the lower a note appears, the lower its pitch. At the beginning of the staff is a clef sign. Bass music is written in the bass clef or "F clef."

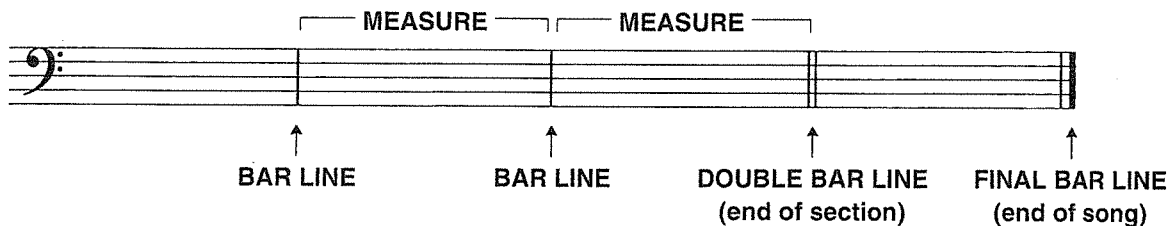


The two dots in the clef sign surround the line on which the pitch "F" is written; hence the term "F clef."

The musical alphabet uses the letters **A, B, C, D, E, F,** and **G**. After G, the sequence repeats starting with A. In bass clef, the notes written on the **lines** of the staff are G-B-D-F-A. You can remember this sequence as "Good Boys Do Fine Always." The notes on the **spaces** are A-C-E-G. "All Cows Eat Grass" may help you remember this.

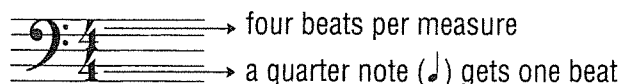


Rhythm, the other basic element of music, is notated using **measures** (also known as "bars"), which contain a set number of beats (the pulse of the music). Each measure is separated from the next by a **bar line**. A double bar line is used to show the end of a section of music. The final bar line is used to show the end of a piece of music.



The number of beats in each measure is indicated by the **time signature**, which appears at the start of a piece after the clef sign. The time signature looks like a fraction. The top number tells us how many beats there are in a bar, and the bottom number tells us what type of note is to be counted. Most of the examples in this book will be in 4/4 time.

**TIME SIGNATURE**



In the first part of this book, you will see three different kinds of note values. They are:

**NOTE VALUES**

