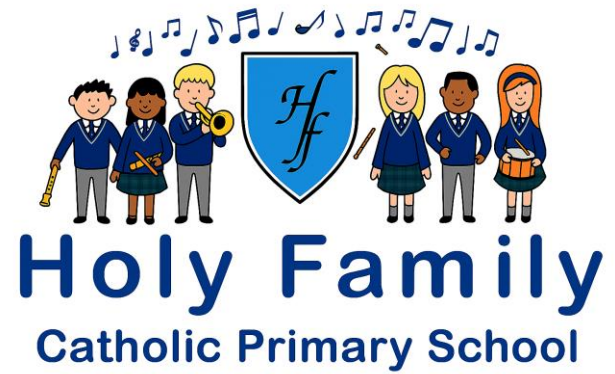


Holy Family Cronton Guide to Music



PULSE

- The steady beat of the music
- Like the heartbeat—what you tap your foot to

RHYTHM

- The pattern of long and short sounds
- Often follows the syllables of words in a song

PITCH

- Refers to how high or low a note sounds
- Creates the melody (the tune)

TEMPO

- The speed of the music
- Can be fast, slow, or in-between

DYNAMICS

- The volume of the music
- Can be loud, soft (quiet), or somewhere in the middle

TIMBRE (*TAM-bruh*)

- The quality or type of sound
- What makes a sound unique (e.g., flute vs. drum, humming vs. whispering)

TEXTURE

- How the layers of sound fit together
- Like stacking sounds on top of each other—a musical sandwich

STRUCTURE

- The layout or form of the music
- Like a story: verses, choruses, repeated sections
- Includes bars, phrases, and sections

Musical Instrument Families

The four main instrument families in an orchestra are:

String: Instruments that produce sound through vibrating strings. Examples: Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Harp

Brass: Instruments made of brass or other metals, played by buzzing the lips into a mouthpiece. Examples: Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Tuba

Woodwind: Instruments that produce sound when air is blown through them, often using a reed. Examples: Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone (occasionally used in orchestras)

Percussion: Instruments that produce sound when struck, shaken, or scraped. Examples: Timpani, Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Cymbals, Xylophone, Triangle

Each family adds a unique colour and texture to the overall sound of the orchestra.

[About the Instruments Games – Inside the Orchestra](#)

String and woodwind: activities.insidetheorchestra.org/instruments/

Brass and percussion: activities.insidetheorchestra.org/instruments2/

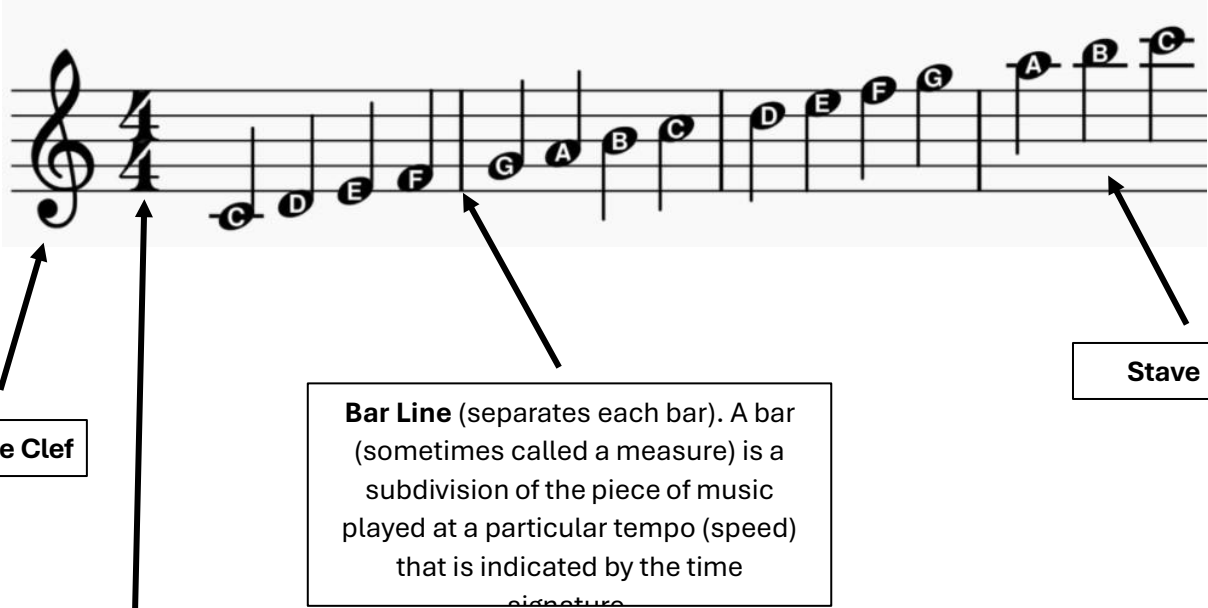
Benjamin Britten's Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra as this also introduces the different instruments. [\(14\) The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra - Animation - YouTube](#)

A limited range of instruments can be explored in Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf. [\(14\) Peter and the Wolf - YouTube](#)



NB: It's a common misconception that the **saxophone** is a brass instrument because of its shiny, metallic body. But it's classified as a **woodwind instrument** because of how it produces sound, using a single reed on the mouthpiece, just like a clarinet.

MUSICAL NOTATION



Treble Clef

Bar Line (separates each bar). A bar (sometimes called a measure) is a subdivision of the piece of music played at a particular tempo (speed) that is indicated by the time signature.

Stave

Time Signature:













The bottom number tells us what sort of beat is in each bar. 4 means that they are crotchet beats, 2 means they are minim beats, 8 means they are quaver beats and 16 means they are semi-quaver beats.

The top number tells us how many of those beats there are. So, this time signature tells us that each bar is made up of 4 crotchet beats.

Tips

To remember the names of the notes in the stave you can use the reminder 'Face in the Space' as the notes F, A, C, E are in the spaces of the stave.

To remember the notes on the lines of the stave, you can use the mnemonic 'Every Good Boy Deserves Fudge'.

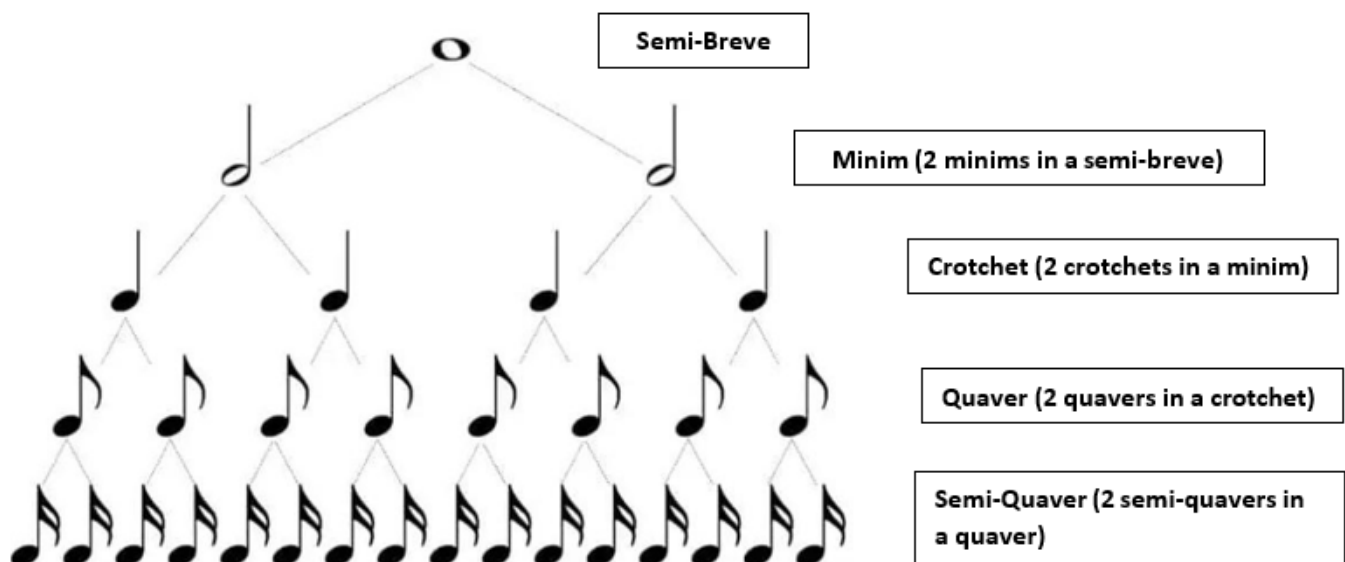
name	relative length	note	rest	in $\frac{4}{4}$ time
semibreve	whole note			4 beats
minim	half note			2 beats
crotchet	quarter note			1 beat
quaver	eighth note	 or 		$\frac{1}{2}$ beat
semi quaver	sixteenth note	 or 		$\frac{1}{4}$ beat


A rest is a period of time in which no note is played. Each type of note has its own type of rest symbol. So, a crotchet rest would last for one beat.





Quavers and semi-quavers can be beamed (joined together) in groups of up to two crotchets' worth of beats but there are quite tricky rules on when and where you can do this. Quavers have one beam at the top of the stem (representing the single flag on a quaver note), semi-quavers have a double beam at the top (representing the double flag on the note)

1 semi-breve = 2 minims/4 crotchets/8 quavers/16 semi-quavers.

A semi-breve lasts twice as long as a minim, four times as long as a crotchet etc.









Symbol	Name	Beats
	Semibreve	4
	Minim	2
	Crotchet	1
	Quaver	$\frac{1}{2}$

[Writing musical notation - BBC Bitesize](#)

Useful Tips

To help remember the rhythm of notes and combinations of notes, here are some words you can use for some of the more common ones.

	Tea	Walk	Bee
	Coffee	Jogging	Spider
	Miiiilk	Stroll	Flies
	Coca cola	Running-Running	Caterpillar