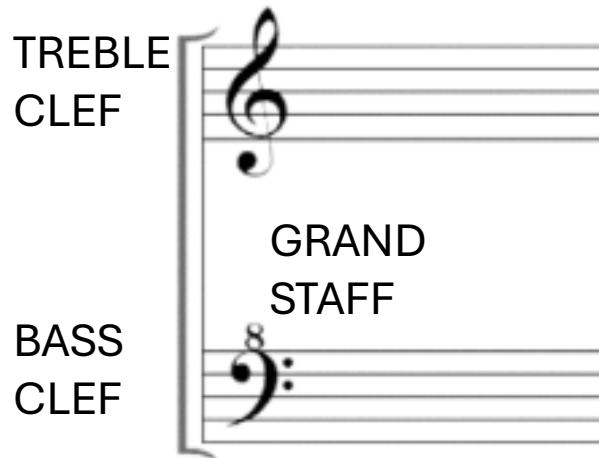
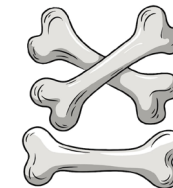




THE BARE BONES BASICS OF READING MUSIC



Barbershop music within the Sweet Adeline organization is designed to fit and feature the physiology and acoustics of the female vocal mechanism. Arrangements are written on the TREBLE and BASS clefs.

The two clefs are connected and become a GRAND STAFF.

The parts written on the bass clef are sung an octave higher than written. A small number eight (8) is written just above the bass clef to indicate that notes on that staff are to be sung an octave (8 notes) higher.

Tenor Lead

1 2 3 4

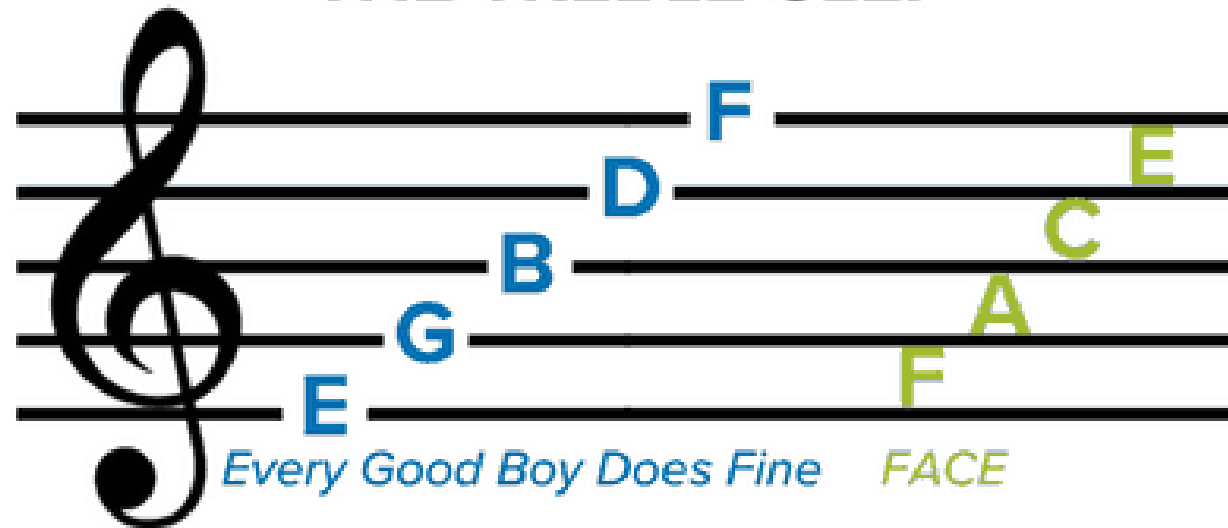
Bari Bass

8

4

Tenors and leads sing the notes on the treble clef. Tenors sing the notes with stems pointing up; leads sing the notes with stems pointing down. Baritones (stems up) and basses (stems down) sing the notes on the bass clef. The music is divided into MEASURES indicated by BAR LINES.

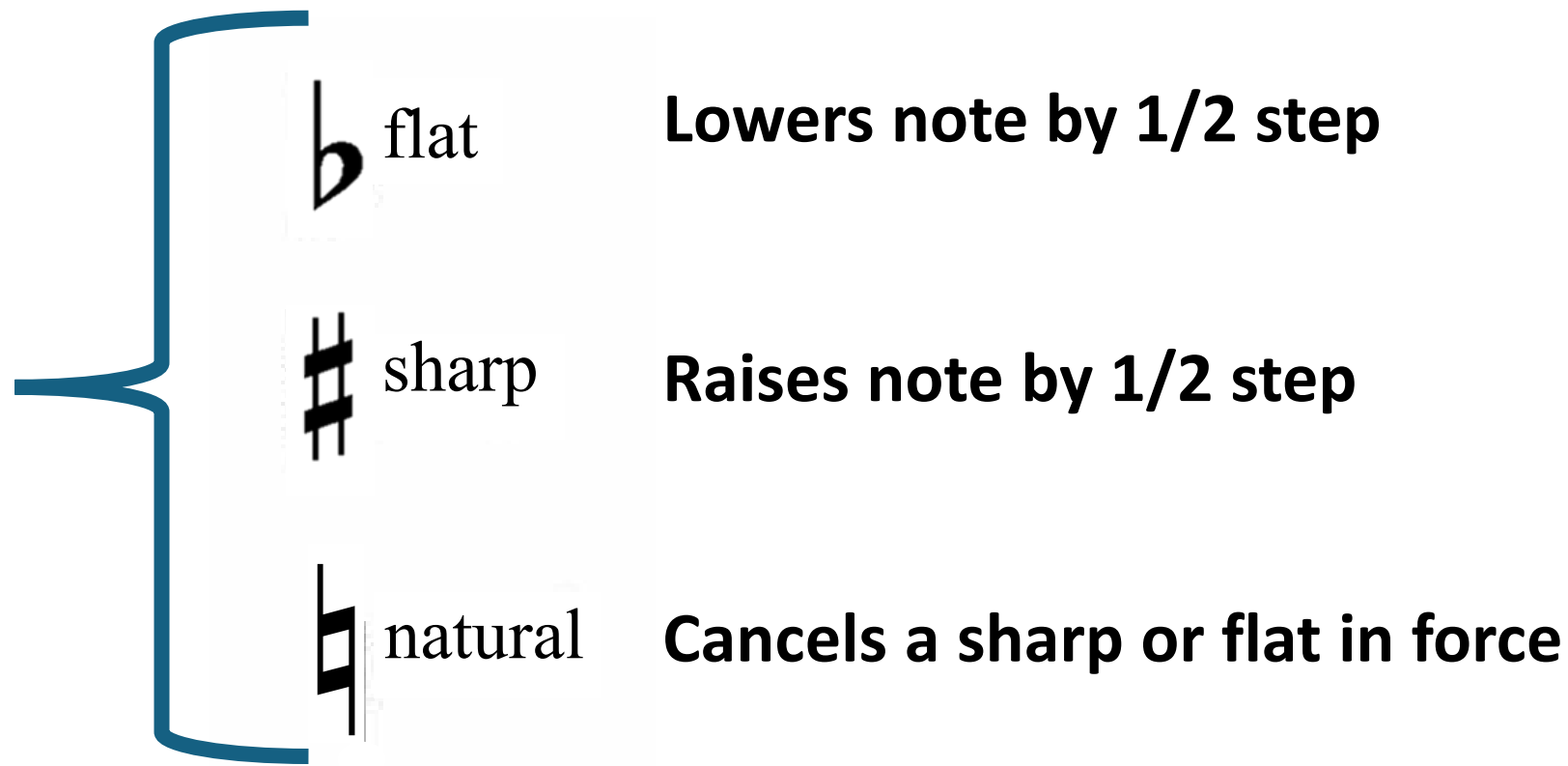
THE TREBLE CLEF



THE BASS CLEF



These musical symbols are called ***ACCIDENTALS***. They change the pitch of the note that immediately follows.



Any accidental (sharp, flat, or natural) stays in effect until the next measure, then the note returns to whatever the key signature calls for. Sometimes arrangers add a “courtesy accidental”—an accidental in parentheses to remind singers to return to the correct note.

How to Read Music and Play a Keyboard for SSAA Barbershop Singing

C#	D#	F#	G#	A#	C#	D#	F#	G#	A#	C#	D#	F#	G#	A#
Db	Eb	Gb	Ab	Bb	Db	Eb	Gb	Ab	Bb	Db	Eb	Gb	Ab	Bb

The diagram illustrates the relationship between a piano keyboard, a treble clef staff, and a bass clef staff. The keyboard shows notes from A to C. The treble clef staff shows notes from C to C. The bass clef staff shows notes from C to C. A blue star is placed on the C key of the keyboard. An arrow points to the C note in the bass clef staff, labeled "Middle C".

The bass clef notes are sung as shown here for SSAA barbershop; this is an octave higher than standard music notation.

The image displays five measures of musical notation, each representing a different major key. The keys are labeled in red text below the notes:

- C Major:** No sharps or flats. Notes: C4, E4, G4 (treble); C3, E3, G3 (bass).
- G Major:** One sharp (F#). Notes: G4, B4, D5 (treble); G3, B3, D4 (bass).
- D Major:** Two sharps (F#, C#). Notes: D4, F#4, A4 (treble); D3, F#3, A3 (bass).
- A Major:** Three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Notes: A4, C#5, E5 (treble); A3, C#4, E4 (bass).
- E Major:** Four sharps (F#, C#, G#, D#). Notes: E4, G#4, B4 (treble); E3, G#3, B3 (bass).

IF you DO want to learn the names of the key signatures:

No sharps or flats is C major. You can name the major sharp keys by looking at the last sharp—the key is the next note name higher. For example, look at the measure with one sharp—it is F#, so the key is G.

The image displays a musical staff with two systems: a treble clef system on top and a bass clef system on the bottom. Each system contains four measures. The notes in the measures are as follows:

Measure	Treble Clef Notes	Bass Clef Notes	Key Signature
1	F4, A4, C5	F3, A2, C3	F Major
2	Bb4, D5, F5	Bb2, D3, F3	Bb Major
3	Eb5, G5, Bb5	Eb3, G3, Bb3	Eb Major
4	Ab5, C6, Eb6	Ab3, C4, Eb4	Ab Major

Below the staff, the key signatures are labeled in red text: F Major, Bb Major, Eb Major, and Ab Major.

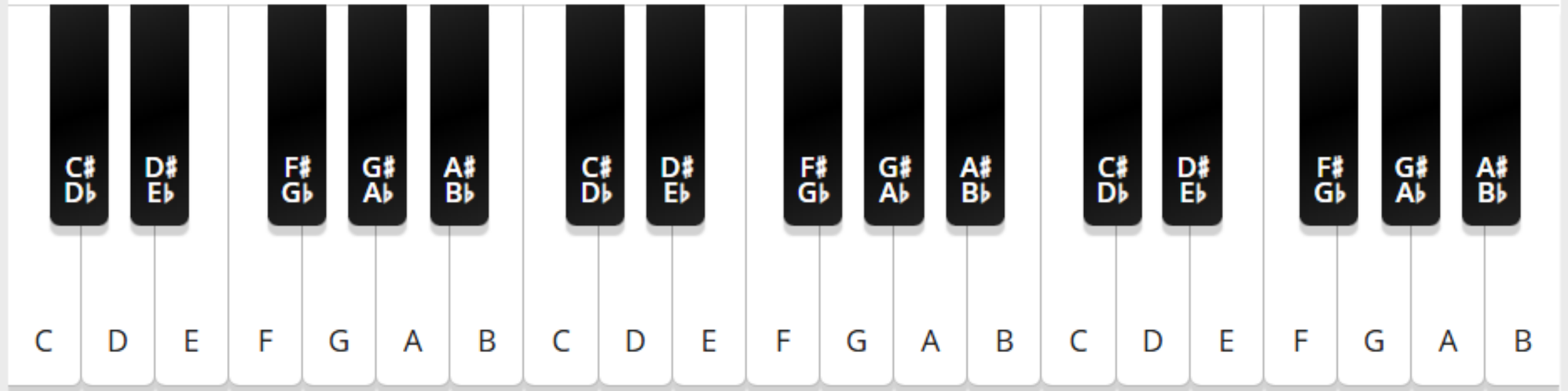
For key signatures with flats, you will need to memorize that one flat is F major; after that, you can name the major flat keys by looking at the next-to-last flat—that's the key. For example, look at the measure with two flats—the next-to-last flat is Bb; the key is Bb.

musicca.com/piano

Virtual piano

Mark

Hide note names



The duration of a note or rest depends on the time signature of the song; most barbershop music is written in a time signature that assigns the quarter note one beat.

NOTE VALUES



Whole Note



Half Note



Quarter Note



Eighth Note



Sixteenth Note

REST VALUES



Whole Rest



Half Rest



Quarter Rest



Eighth Rest



Sixteenth Rest

In 3/4 or 4/4 time:

4 beats

2 beats

1 beat

1/2 beat

1/4 beat

A dot after a note adds 1/2 of the time of that note. So, a dotted half note in 4/4 time would get 3 beats; a dotted quarter note would get 1 1/2 beats.

4/4 TIME SIGNATURE

"Twinkle Twinkle Little Star"

The image shows a musical staff in 4/4 time signature. The first measure contains two quarter notes: F4 and F4. The second measure contains four quarter notes: C5, C5, D5, and C5. A green arrow points to the 4/4 time signature. Brackets above the staff indicate the first and second measures. Below the staff, the lyrics are written: "Twin - kle twin - kle lit - tle star". The words "Twin - kle" are under the first measure, "lit - tle" under the second measure, and "star" under the final note of the second measure. The word "bar" is written below the first and second measures. Below the staff, the time signature is written as "1 2 3 4" for the first measure and "1 2 3 - 4" for the second measure.

Time Signature 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 - 4

3/4 TIME SIGNATURE

"Over The River & Through The Woods"


The image shows a musical staff in 3/4 time signature. The first measure contains three quarter notes: G4, A4, and B4. The second measure contains three quarter notes: C5, B4, and A4. A green arrow points to the 3/4 time signature. Brackets above the staff indicate the first and second measures. Below the staff, the lyrics are written: "O - ver the ri - ver and". The words "O - ver" are under the first measure, "the" under the second measure, "ri - ver" under the first measure of the second bar, and "and" under the second measure of the second bar. The word "bar" is written below the first and second measures. Below the staff, the time signature is written as "1 2 3" for the first measure and "1 2 3" for the second measure.


Time Signature 1 2 3 1 2 3

The top number in the time signature indicates the number of beats in a measure.

The bottom number indicates what kind of note gets one beat.

Other time signature symbols:

 "common time,"
is the same as 4/4

 "cut time,"
is the same as 2/2
and is sung at a much faster
pace than 4/4

RHYTHM GUIDE

 HOT DOG 	 GRAPE SODA 	 APPLE PIE 	 HOT FUDGE SUNDAE 	 COCONUT SHRIMP 
 RICE KRISPIE TREAT 	 CHOCOLATE STRAWBERRY 	 CINNAMON OATMEAL 	 MILK AND CEREAL 	 AVOCADO TOAST 
 CHEESE RAVIOLI 	 STRAWBERRY ICE CREAM 	 CHIPS AND GUACAMOLE 	 TATER TOT CASSEROLE 	 PEPPERONI PIZZA 

Speak the rhythms as you tap your hands. In this chart, each box has two beats. Tap with one hand on beat one and with the other hand on beat two.

The first two lines are fairly standard. How about that third line? Did you speak “cheese ravioli” in the rhythm indicated? How about “chips and guacamole”?