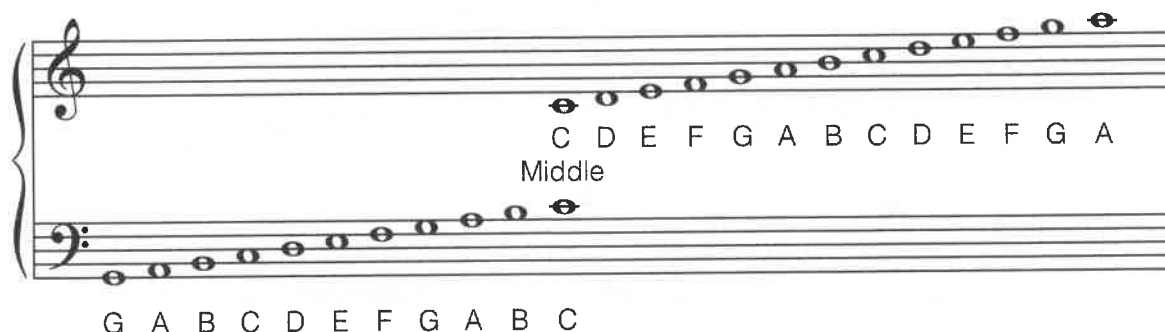


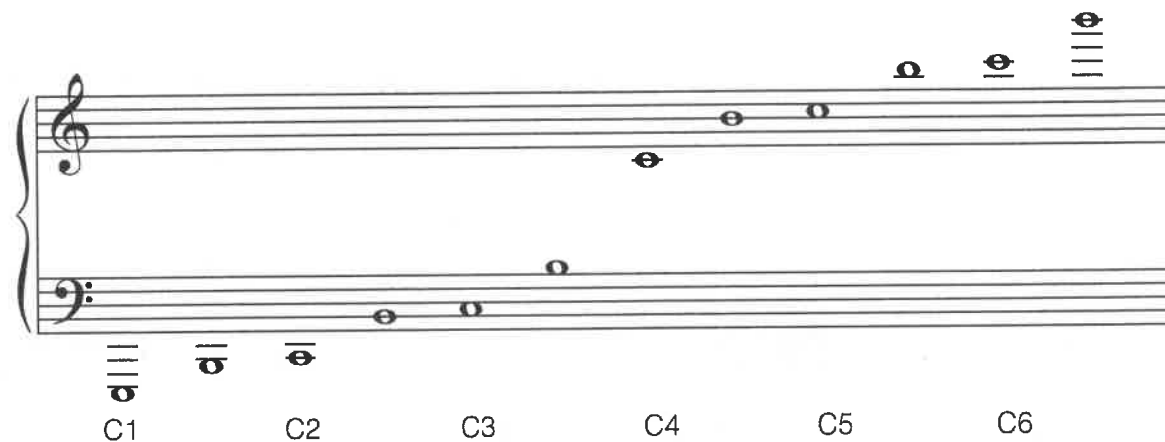
The Grand Staff

A **grand staff** is the combination of the treble staff and the bass staff grouped together by a vertical line and a brace. Music for the piano is written on the grand staff. Middle C appears on a ledger line in the treble clef as well as in the bass clef.



Octave Identification

We can use numbers to identify pitches in a particular octave. Middle C is always C4; the C an octave above middle C is C5; the C an octave below middle C is C3.



2.5 Notating Sharps and Flats on the Staff

Notating Sharps on the Staff

Sharps on the staff are placed before the notes to which they refer. Even though we say F-sharp, the sharp sign needs to precede the note to which it refers. The sharp symbol must enclose the line or space of the note that is raised. There are two steps in writing sharps:

1. Draw two vertical parallel lines before the note.
2. Complete the sharp sign by drawing two diagonal lines, making sure that the accidental is on the same line or space as the note it belongs to.

In the following song, observe that every F is sharped. Once a sharp is indicated within a measure, it remains in effect for the remainder of the measure.

Who's That Tapping at the Window

American Folk Song

The image displays two systems of musical notation for the piano accompaniment of 'Who's That Tapping at the Window'. Each system consists of a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The time signature is 2/4. The first system shows the beginning of the piece, with a treble staff starting on a whole note G4 and a bass staff starting on a whole note G2. The melody in the treble staff includes notes with sharps (F# and C#). The second system continues the piece, ending with a double bar line.

Notating Flats on the Staff

Like sharps, flats must be placed before the note even though we say B-flat; the flat sign (b) needs to precede the note to which it refers. It is important to enclose the line or space of the note that is lowered. There are two steps in writing flats.

1. Draw a vertical line before the note.
2. Complete the flat sign as indicated below.

In the following song, observe that every B is a B-flat. Remember, once a flat is indicated within a measure, it remains in effect for the remainder of the measure.

Who's That Tapping at the Window

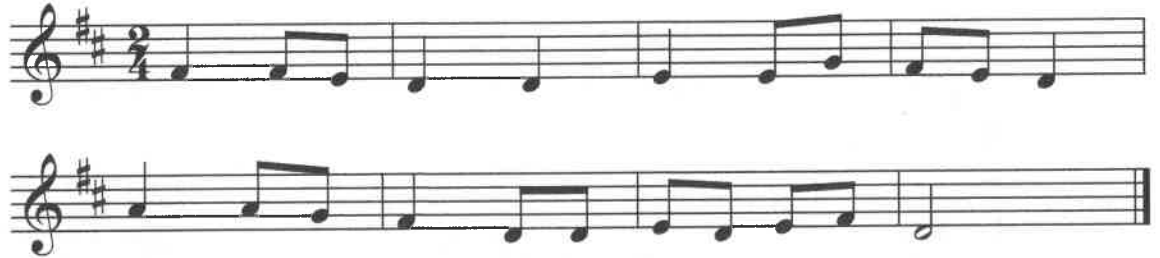
American Folk Song

The image displays two systems of musical notation for the piano accompaniment of 'Who's That Tapping at the Window'. Each system consists of a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The time signature is 2/4. The first system shows the beginning of the piece, with a treble staff starting on a whole note G4 and a bass staff starting on a whole note G2. The melody in the treble staff includes notes with flats (Bb and Fb). The second system continues the piece, ending with a double bar line.

Key Signature

Reading a piece of music becomes much easier when we know which accidentals are to be played throughout. The **key signature**, a sharp or group of sharps or a flat or group of flats at the beginning of a piece of music, tells us what accidentals are to be played throughout the piece. For example, the one sharp in the key signature of “Aunt Rhody” in the example below tells us that F-sharp is to be played every time we see an F written on the staff. You will learn more about key signatures in Chapter 5.

Aunt Rhody



Natural (♮)

The function of a **natural sign** (♮) is to cancel the preceding sharp or flat. It remains in effect in the part where it is placed for the duration of the measure.

As with the sharp and flat signs, the natural sign (♮) must be placed before the note to which it refers. Just as with sharps and flats, we enclose the line or space of the note with the square section of the natural sign.

Accidentals Within a Measure of Music

We know that when a note has been altered by an accidental, that note will remain altered for the duration of the measure. Accidentals in a treble clef do not apply to the same note in the bass part or vice versa. If we do not want the note to be altered for the duration of the measure, we add in a natural sign to the next appearance of the note.



will be played as follows:



Chromatic Half Step

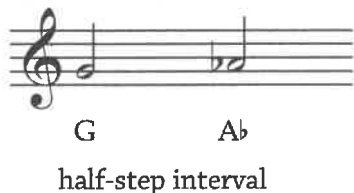
A **chromatic half step** is two pitches that use the same letter name but are a half step apart.



G to G# is referred to as a chromatic half step. B to B-flat and C to C-flat are other examples of chromatic half steps.

Diatonic Half Step

The distance between G and A \flat is a half step. A **diatonic half step** uses two different letter names; G to A \flat is referred to as a diatonic half step. Chromatic half steps use the same letter names for notes that are a half step apart, and diatonic half steps use adjacent letter names.

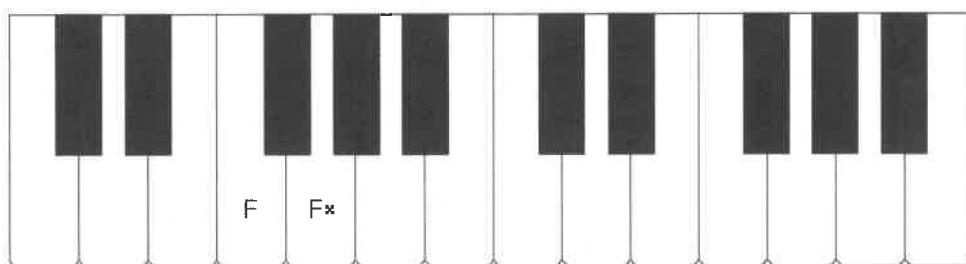


half-step interval

Double Sharp

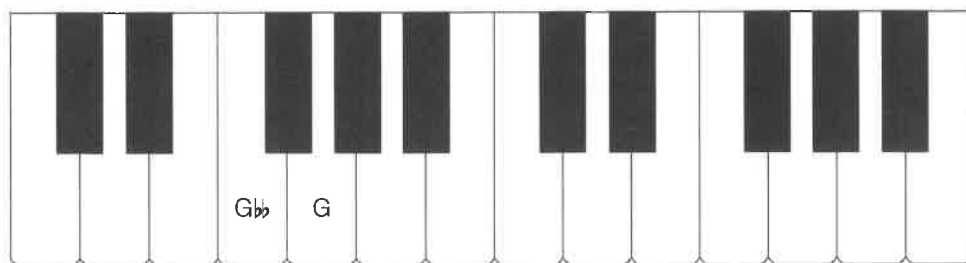
A **double sharp** (\times) raises a pitch by two half steps.

In the following example, F-double-sharp is an enharmonic spelling of G; therefore, it is notated differently but sounds the same.



Double Flat

A **double flat** ($\flat\flat$) lowers the pitch by two half steps. In the following figure, G $\flat\flat$ is an enharmonic spelling of F. It is notated differently but sounds the same.



Canceling Part of a Double Flat or Double Sharp

If you have a C-double-sharp and you want to replace it with a C-sharp in the same measure, you must put a sharp sign in front of the second C.

Key Terms and Concepts

Pitch	Flat Sign	Grand Staff
Letter Names	Enharmonic Spelling	Key Signature
Octave	Staff	Natural Sign
Interval	Treble Clef, or G Clef	Chromatic Half Step
Half Step	Bass Clef, or F Clef	Diatonic Half Step
Whole Step	Ledger Lines	Double Sharp
Sharp Sign	Octave Sign	Double Flat

How to Practice

Mastery of playing the piano takes many hours of practice. But we can make practice more efficient by using a variety of practice techniques. If possible, practice with another student who has taken piano lessons, as this will be invaluable to your development and it will provide you with the opportunity of peer assessment.

Here are some useful suggestions for practicing a simple piano piece:

Performing the Rhythm and the Beat at the Same Time	<p>Divide into two groups: one group performs the rhythm of the piece; the other keeps the beat. Practice this activity in different combinations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructor/class • Class/instructor • Divided class • Two individual students <p>Individually, keep the beat with one hand and tap the rhythm with the other hand.</p>
Counting	<p>Sing or speak the rhythm syllables of the piano piece while tapping the beat. Count with numbers as you keep the beat.</p>
Melody	<p>Identify all the notes in the piece of music from the lowest to highest. Play the notes on the piano from lowest to highest. Sing these notes with letter names.</p> <p>Try to sing the melodies with letter names.</p> <p>Try to hum the melodies as you conduct.</p> <p>Identify the phrases and the form of the melodies.</p>
Performing	<p>Clap the rhythm of the piano piece as you say the rhythm syllables.</p> <p>Say the rhythm syllables as you move the fingers you are going to play with in the air.</p> <p>Sing the letter names as you move the fingers you are going to play with in the air.</p> <p>Play the example on the piano.</p>
Memory	<p>Memorize each piano piece. First analyze the form by looking for repeated and similar parts. This will simplify the task.</p>
Improvisation/Composition	<p>Improvise a variation. Maybe compose a new ♭ section to a piece of music.</p>

Using the Musical Skills CD

Access Chapter 2 on the skills CD to reinforce some of the important concepts introduced in this chapter through tutorials and dictations.

In the Tutorial section, you can review information concerning the layout of the keyboard.

How to Read a Musical Score

Examine the following piece by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Rhythm

Identify the time signature, quarter notes, half notes, whole notes, and eighth notes. Identify the tempo of the piece.

Melody

Identify the dynamic markings. Identify all flats. Identify the treble clef. Identify the bass clef. Identify ledger lines. Identify the grand staff. Identify the key signature. Identify the natural signs.

Song

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Andante

The musical score is presented in three systems of grand staff notation. The first system (measures 1-5) is in the treble clef, marked *p* (piano) and *cresc.* (crescendo). The second system (measures 6-10) is in the bass clef, marked *p* and *cresc.*. The third system (measures 11-15) is in the treble clef. The piece is in 4/4 time, G major (one flat), and marked *Andante*.