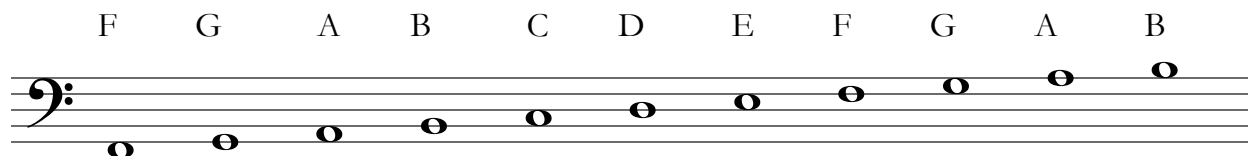
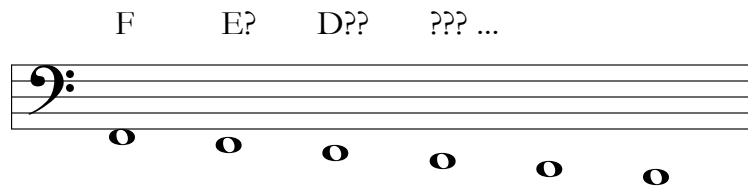
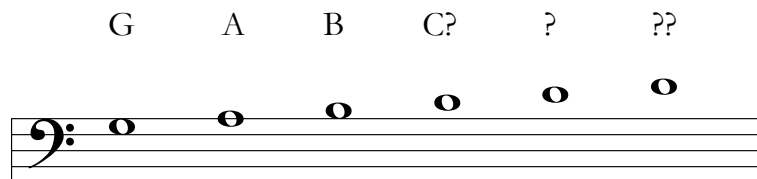


Unit 2 ~ Ledger Lines, Middle C, and the Grand Staff

In unit 1 we learned about the staff, notes, and clefs:



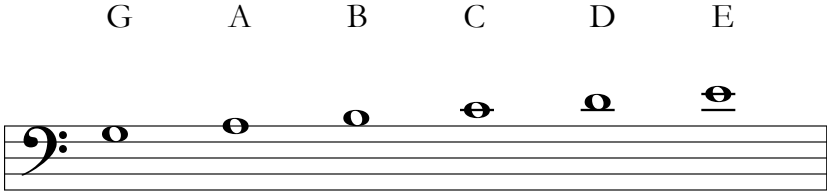
Now, what happens if you want to write notes that go higher than the staff?



As the notes float up and off into space, or sink down into the depths, it becomes hard to tell what they are!

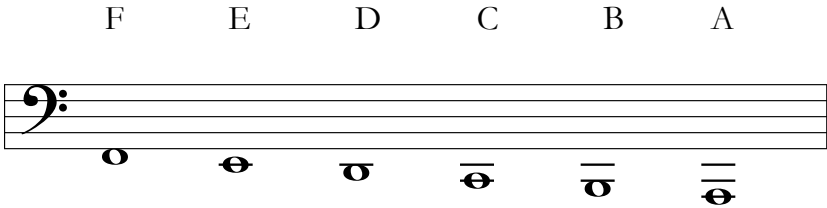
To fix this, we need something called a LEDGER LINE

A ledger line is a small line that we draw either under or through a note to give us a clear idea of what that note is:

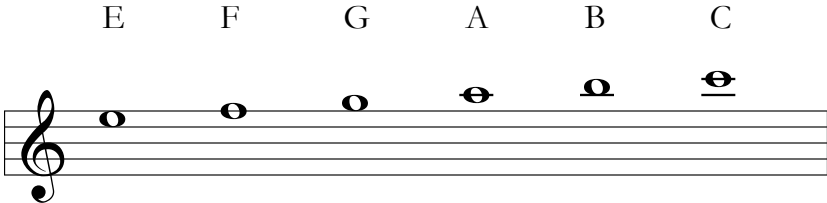


Have a careful look at the above notes ...
The C has a ledger line drawn through the middle.
The D is resting on top of the ledger line.
The E needs TWO ledger lines.

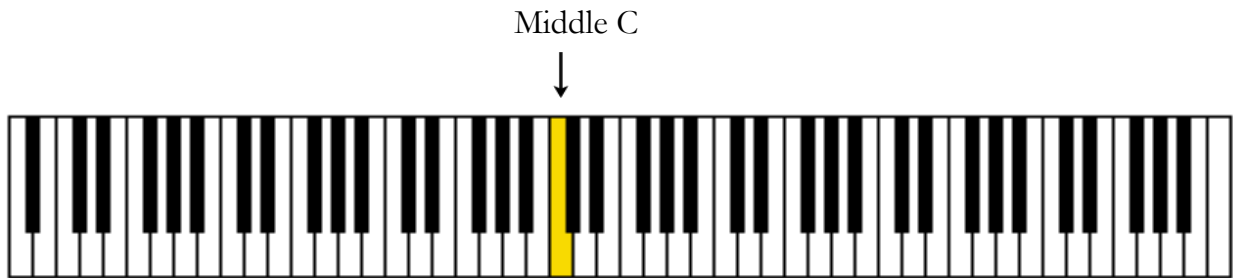
Of course you can do the same thing below the staff ...



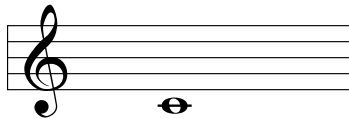
... and in the treble clef too:



Let's see how these two clefs map onto the piano keyboard. We can do this with the help of MIDDLE C, which is the note right in the middle of a piano keyboard:



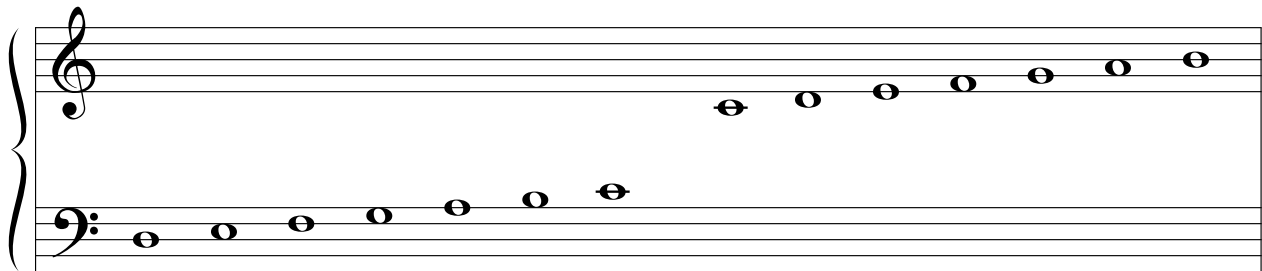
This is where middle c is written in treble clef:



And here it is in the bass clef:



Now, we can join bass and treble together. The result is called the GRAND STAFF



As many of you will know, this is how piano music is written. The left hand plays the notes in the lower staff, and the right hand plays the notes in the treble clef.