



## The 5 key skills/knowledge for this unit.

### Jazz

Jazz is a style of music that started in the 1920s. Two key features are swing rhythms and improvising.

### Improvising

Improvisation in music is when a musician spontaneously creates a melody or accompaniment parts in a performance. It is one of the key features of Jazz.



### Rhythm

The duration of notes and how they fit to the beat

### TIME SIGNATURE

A TIME SIGNATURE tells us how many BEATS there are and what type of BEATS are in a BAR of music. It is made up of two numbers (that look like a fraction) and it can be found at the start of a piece of music.



Top Number = HOW MANY BEATS

Bottom Number = TYPE OF BEAT

### Beat

A beat is a steady pulse. It is constant throughout the music. That's how the dancers all moved together - by listening to the beat!

### Swing Rhythms

Swing rhythms in jazz is where the quavers sound like they are skipping or 'swinging'. Instead of being strictly equal the first quaver of every pair is slightly longer.



## La la land

La La Land is a 2016 American romantic musical film written and directed by Damien Chazelle. The film stars Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone as a struggling jazz pianist and an aspiring actress, respectively, who meet and fall in love while pursuing their dreams in Los Angeles. John Legend, Rosemarie DeWitt, Finn Wittrock, and J. K. Simmons appear in supporting roles.

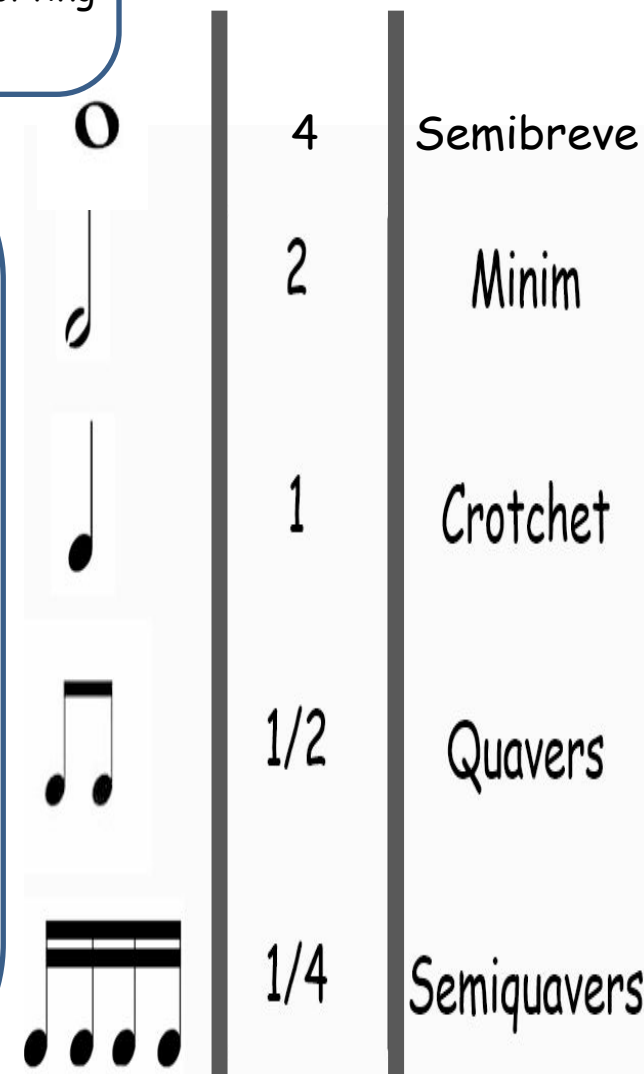
## City of stars

City of stars, Are you shining  
just for me?  
City of stars, There's so much  
that I can't see  
Who knows? I felt it from the  
first embrace I shared with  
you  
That now our dreams, They've  
finally come true

City of stars, Just one thing  
everybody wants  
There in the bars And through  
the smokescreen of the  
crowded restaurants  
It's love. Yes, all we're looking  
for is love from someone else  
A rush, A glance, A touch, A  
dance

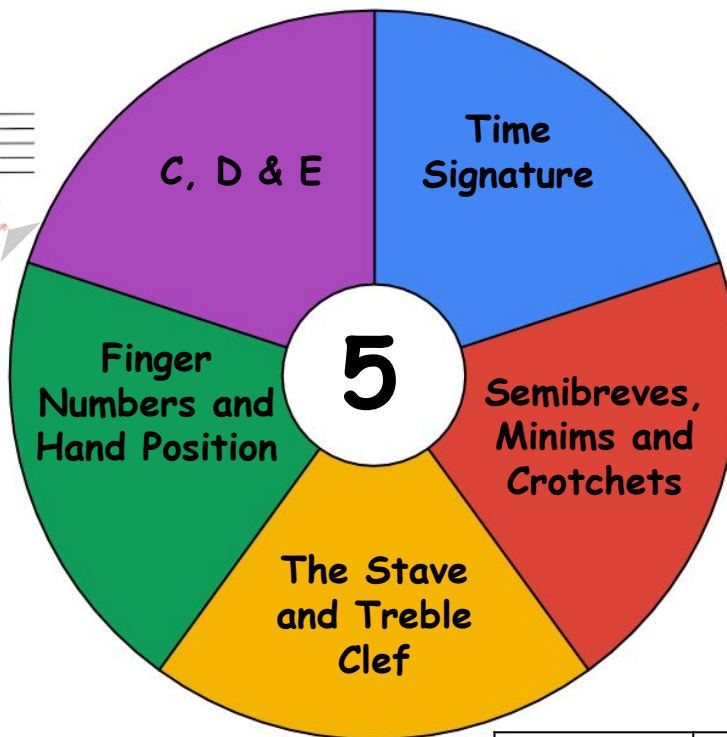
A look in somebody's eyes  
To light up the skies  
To open the world and send it  
reeling  
A voice that says, I'll be here  
And you'll be alright  
  
I don't care if I know, Just  
where I will go  
'Cause all that I need is this  
crazy feeling  
A rat-tat-tat on my heart,  
Think I want it to stay  
  
City of stars, Are you shining  
just for me?  
City of stars, You never shined  
so brightly

## Rhythm Values





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Top Number = **HOW MANY BEATS**

Bottom Number = **TYPE OF BEAT**

**Semibreves, Minims and Crotchets**

| Symbol | Type of note | Name      | Amount of beats |
|--------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|
|        | Whole        | Semibreve | 4               |
|        | Half         | Minim     | 2               |
|        | Quarter      | Crotchet  | 1               |

**The Stave and Treble Clef**  
 The Stave has 5 lines.  
 The Treble Clef means higher notes in the right hand.

**Pitch and Dynamics**  
 Pitch - How high or low music is  
 Dynamics - how loud or soft music is  
 Forte - Loud  
 Piano - Soft

**C and D**

Here is a reminder of what **middle C** looks like.

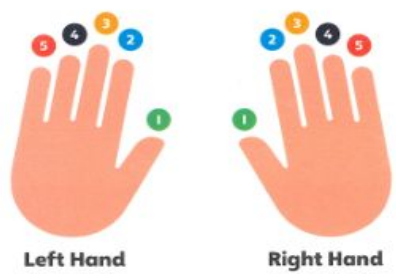
Here is **D**, one note higher (remember your musical alphabet!)

D sits in the space below the bottom line of the stave.

**E**

**E** is one note higher than **D**, and sits on the lowest line of the treble stave.

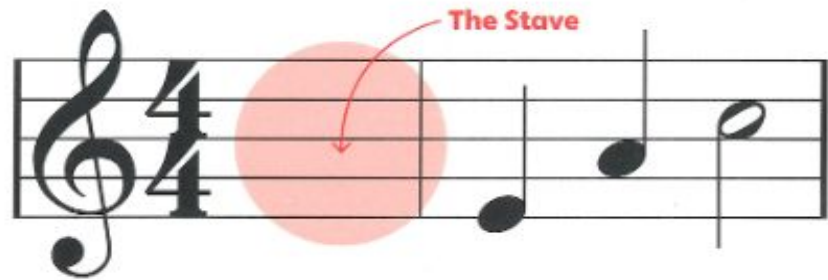
**Finger numbers & Hand Position**



Flat wrists/ rounded fingers..!

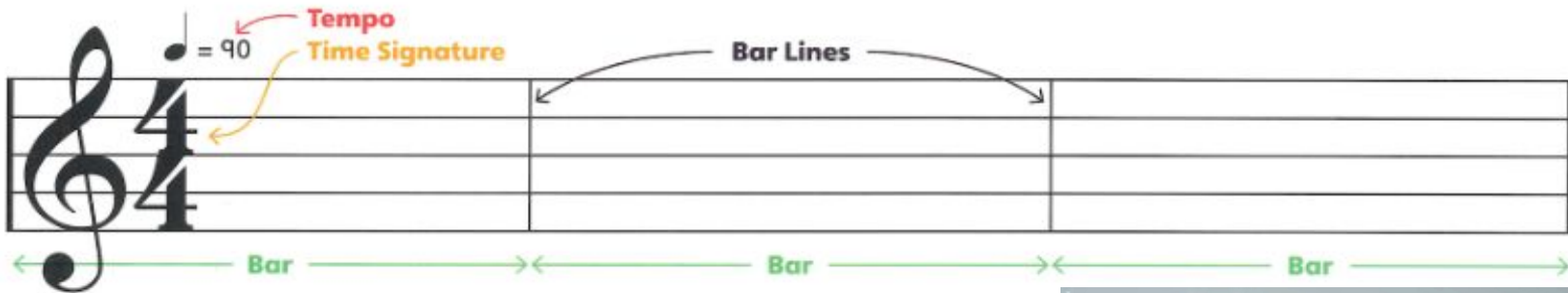
## The Staff

The staff tells you what notes to play, when to play them and how long to play them for. The staff consists of **five** lines. Notes can be placed on any of these lines or any space between the lines.



## Tempo, Bar Lines and Time Signatures

Music is divided into groups of beats called **bars**. Vertical lines on the staff are called **bar lines**. They show where each bar begins and ends. The **tempo** of a piece tells us how fast or slow it is. The **time signature** tells us how many beats there are in every bar, and what kind of beat it is.



## The Clef

This is the treble clef. It tells you which note each line and space of the staff represents. There are lots of different kinds of clefs which place the notes on different lines and spaces. The piano uses two – the treble clef and the bass clef.



## The Musical Alphabet

Each note in music has a letter, from **A** to **G**. We call this the '**musical alphabet**' and you will find this on the white keys of the piano.

**A B C D E F G**





**The 5 key skills/knowledge for this unit.**

**A. History of Folk Music**

Folk Music is **TRADITIONAL music of the people** performed by the people themselves and played within their own communities. Folk Music was passed on **ORALLY** (through speech or song) from one generation to the next – the **ORAL TRADITION** (passed down by word of mouth), and many Folk Songs were not originally written down. The Industrial Revolution of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries destroyed communities so many of the traditional Folk Songs were lost. Attempts were made to collect these songs and *Cecil Sharp* published a 'written down' collection of English Folk Music in 1907 which had taken a lifetime to collect. During the 1950's a great **FOLK MUSIC REVIVAL** began and bands in the 1970's 'mixed together' Folk and Rock (**FOLK ROCK**) as a type of musical **FUSION** e.g., *Lindisfarne*, *Steeleye Span*. Other musicians created more modern and commercial **ARRANGEMENTS** of Folk Songs such as *Ralph McTell's "Streets of London"* in 1975. Folk Music influenced bands such as *The Beatles* and artists such as *Paul Simon* and modern-day groups such as *The Corrs* use traditional Folk Music in their songs.



**B. Types of Folk Music**

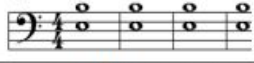
People from different countries and cultures have their own **FOLK MUSIC**. However, although it may sound different, **FOLK SONGS** are often include **WORK SONGS**, including **SEA SHANTIES**: songs sung at sea by sailors, the rhythm of these helped the sailors haul the ropes that hoisted the sails, and songs about **EVERYDAY LIFE**, **THE SEASONS, BATTLES AND WARS, SHEPHERD'S SONGS** and **LULLABIES** (cradle songs). People also sang Folk Songs to help them forget their aches and pains e.g., *shepherds sang about their sheep and lambs and the bitter weather to help keep their spirits high*. Folk Music can also be **INSTRUMENTAL**, often used for dancing, entertainment, celebration, and religious ceremonies. Dancing to Folk Music still happens such as **MORRIS DANCERS** or **MAYPOLE DANCING**.

**C. Folk Song Accompaniments**

**TONIC PEDAL - A (BASS) PEDAL (POINT/NOTE)** is a note of long duration, often held in the bass part (lower down the keyboard) which uses the **TONIC** note, over which the melody line and chords will "fit" e.g.



**DRONE** - A form of musical accompaniment consisting of continuous sounding pitched notes, usually a **FIFTH** apart (5 notes), again, often in the bass part e.g.



**OSTINATO** - A repeated musical pattern as an accompaniment, often using notes of the **CHORD** and rhythm patterns from the song e.g.



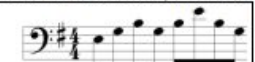
**CHORDS** - Many Folk Songs use **PRIMARY CHORDS** (**CHORD I**, **CHORD IV** and **CHORD V**) and sometimes the **SECONDARY CHORDS** of **CHORD III** and **CHORD VI** as a musical accompaniment.

The notes of a **CHORD** can be performed in different ways to create different accompaniments:

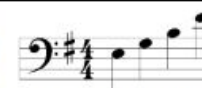
As a **TRIAD** (all three notes (**ROOT**, **THIRD**, **FIFTH**) performed together, the **ROOT** sometimes in the **BASS** part acting as **BASS LINE**).



As a **BROKEN CHORD** - a way of playing the notes (**ROOT**, **THIRD**, **FIFTH**) of a chord separately ('broken' up) in a different order, ascending (going up) or descending (going down).



As an **ARPEGGIO** - playing the notes of a chord ascending or descending (**ROOT**, **THIRD**, **FIFTH**) in order, but separately.



As an **ALBERTI BASS** - a way of playing the notes of a chord in the order: lowest (**ROOT**), highest (**FIFTH**), middle (**THIRD**), highest (**FIFTH**), repeated several times as a bass line **ACCOMPANIMENT**

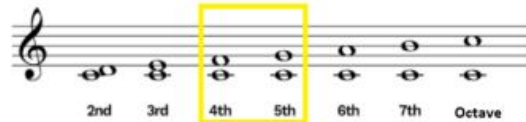


**D. Harmony in Folk Music: Intervals**

**ACCOMPANIMENT** - Music that accompanies either a lead singer or melody line. This can be instrumental performed by members of a Folk Band but also vocal often known as the "backing" provided by backing singers. (see C for different forms of accompaniments).

**HARMONY** - The effect produced by two or more pitched notes sounding together at the same time e.g., a chord or triad creates harmony or a lead singer and backing singers singing different melodies or parts 'in harmony' (**COUNTER MELODY**)

**INTERVAL** - The distance between two musical notes. The intervals of a **FOURTH** and **FIFTH** are common in Folk Music.



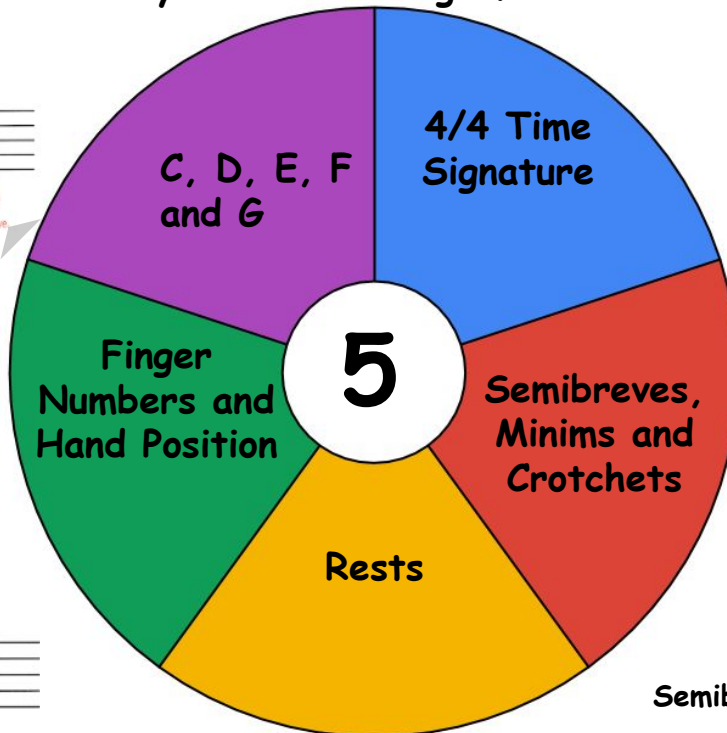
**F. Instruments, Timbres and Sonorities of Folk Music**

Many **FOLK SONGS** are often performed **UNACCOMPANIED** (with no instrumental accompaniment) = **A CAPPELLA**. However, the following instruments are often used in Folk Music:

|  |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Penny/Tin Whistle  | Harmonica or Mouth Organ  | Acoustic Guitar   | Northumbrian Pipes  | Accordion  | "Fiddle" (Violin)   | Mandolin  | Banjo   | Concertina  |



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Bottom Number = **TYPE OF BEAT**

4/4 Time Signature  
= 4  $\frac{1}{4}$  beats in a bar

**Semibreves, Minims, Crotchets and Rests**

| Rest | Note | Type of note/rest | Name      | Amount of beats |
|------|------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|
|      |      | Whole             | Semibreve | 4               |
|      |      | Half              | Minim     | 2               |
|      |      | Quarter           | Crotchet  | 1               |

**C and D**

Here is a reminder of what **middle C** looks like.



Here is **D**, one note higher (remember your musical alphabet!)



**E**

**E** is one note higher than **D**, and sits on the lowest line of the treble staff.



**F and G**

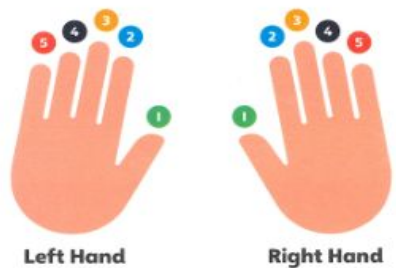
The next note we learn is **F**. It sits on the first space on the staff.



One note higher than **F** is the note **G**. It sits on the first line of the staff.



**Finger numbers & Hand Position**



Left Hand

Right Hand

Flat wrists/ rounded fingers..!



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**C and D**

Here is a reminder of what **middle C** looks like.

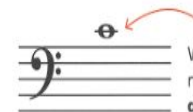


Here is **D**, one note higher (remember your musical alphabet!)



*D sits in the space below the bottom line of the staff.*

**Bass staff:**  
**Middle C**



We use the bass clef to help us read the notes in the left hand. Middle C now sits **above the staff**, on its own line.

**E**

**E** is one note higher than **D**, and sits on the lowest line of the treble staff.



**B**



**F and G**

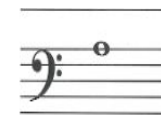
The next note we learn is **F**. It sits on the first space on the staff.



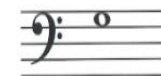
One note higher than **F** is the note **G**. It sits on the first line of the staff.



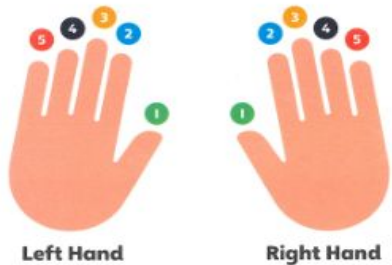
**A**



**G**



**Finger numbers & Hand Position**



**Left Hand**

**Right Hand**

Flat wrists/ rounded fingers..!



**Middle C**

Middle C is at the bottom of the treble clef and the top of the bass clef. It's where they swap over from high notes (in the right hand) to low notes (in the left hand). Middle C always has a ledger line going through it.

**Bass Clef**



Left hand  
 Low notes

**Treble Clef**



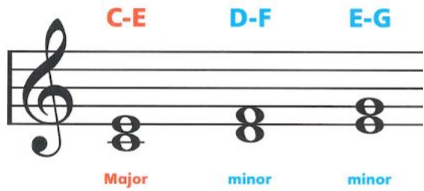
Right hand  
 High notes



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**Thirds**

To make a 'third' on the keyboard you play 2 notes 3 notes apart (skipping 1 note)

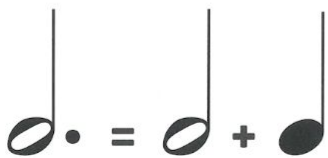


**Playing 2 hands together**

To play 2 hands together we use exactly the same hand position as before and out both thumbs on C (to start with).

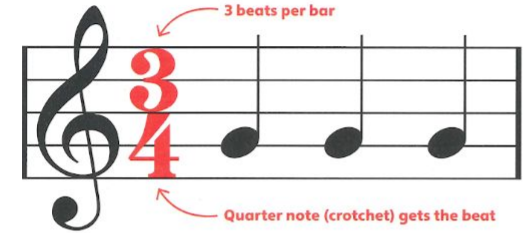
**Dotted Notes**

Dotted notes give us different note values. A dot after the note makes it longer by adding an extra half. A dotted minim creates 3 beats



**$\frac{3}{4}$  Time Signature**

A  $\frac{3}{4}$  time signature has 3 beats in a bar. A waltz is a dance in  $\frac{3}{4}$ .



The top number means 3 beats per bar. The bottom number means each beat is worth one quarter note or crotchet.



**The Grand Stave**

The grand stave uses both the Treble and the Bass Clefs, 2 hands together!

