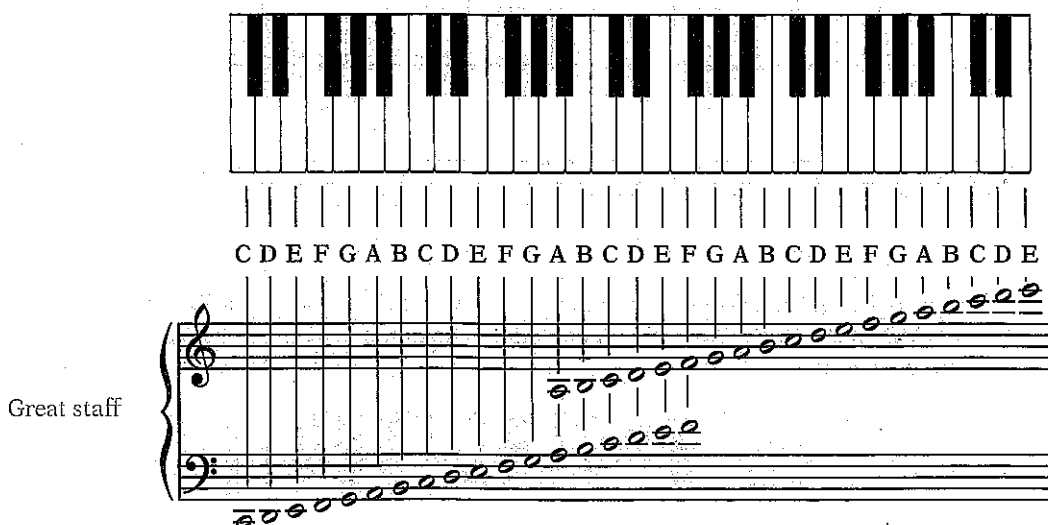


Lesson 5: Great staff

In this lesson you will learn about the great staff, octave designations.

Often music is written using two staves at the same time, with the higher notes written in treble clef and the lower notes in bass clef. The two staves are connected by a vertical line and a large brace. That combination is called the *great staff* (or *grand staff*), and it enables us to notate any pitch.



Notice that the two staves of the great staff can overlap to some extent. Middle C and the notes near it can be easily accommodated either in treble or in bass clef.

To identify a specific pitch, we will need to use not only its letter name but also its *octave designation*. Middle C, for example, is known as C4—it's the note C positioned at the beginning of the 4-octave. All of the notes above middle C, but lower than the next higher C, also lie in the 4-octave. (Octave designations actually depend on the letter name of the note, so B \sharp 4 is in the 4-octave, although it is higher in pitch than C \sharp 5). Every pitch can be precisely identified with a letter name and an octave designation. Our work in this book takes place between C2 and E6, as does most music.

