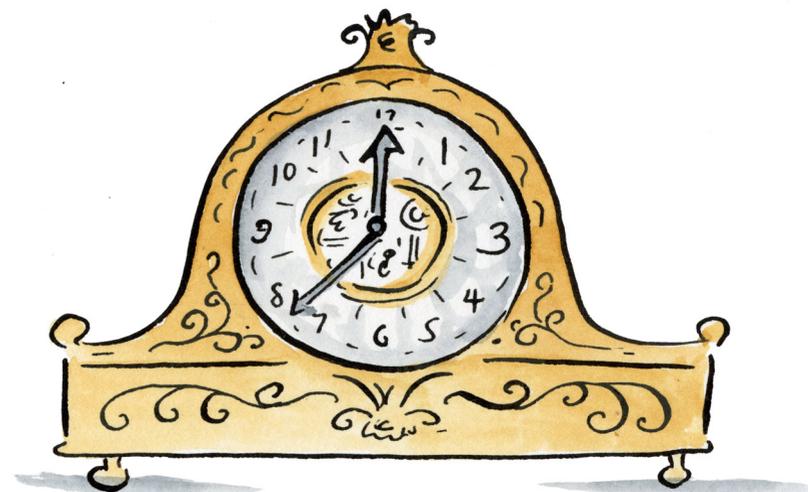


Things you need to know before you begin

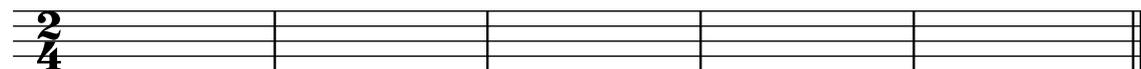
Notes

Music moves with a steady **beat** or a **count** like the tick of a clock.

- This is a 4-count note called a **semibreve** (or whole-note)
- ♪ or ♩ This is a 2-count note called a **minim** (or half-note)
- ♪ or ♪ This is a 1-count note called a **crotchet** (or quarter-note)



Musical signs

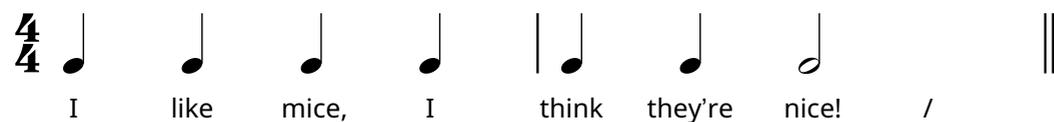


Music is divided into **bars** (or measures) by **barlines**. The top number at the beginning tells you how many to count in each bar.

Can you clap this rhythm? Count '1, 2' before you begin.



Now clap this rhythm counting '1, 2, 3, 4':



Tunes for right and left hand

Right hand plays C and D with fingers 1 and 2.

Left hand plays C and B with fingers 1 and 2.

The rocking chair

Make this tune sound smooth and rocking. Play it slowly.



1

Rock - ing, rock - ing to and fro, / Rock - ing up and down I go. /

2

I just love to rock all day / In my rock - ing chair. / / /

Up and down

The notes change places smoothly without any gaps in between.

1

Left hand see - saw, right hand see - saw, see - saw up and down. / / /

Some music games

Guess the note

1. Play any note in the middle of the piano. Sing or hum it. Did your note match exactly? Try some more notes!
2. Play two notes together, not too far away from each other (perhaps middle C and E).

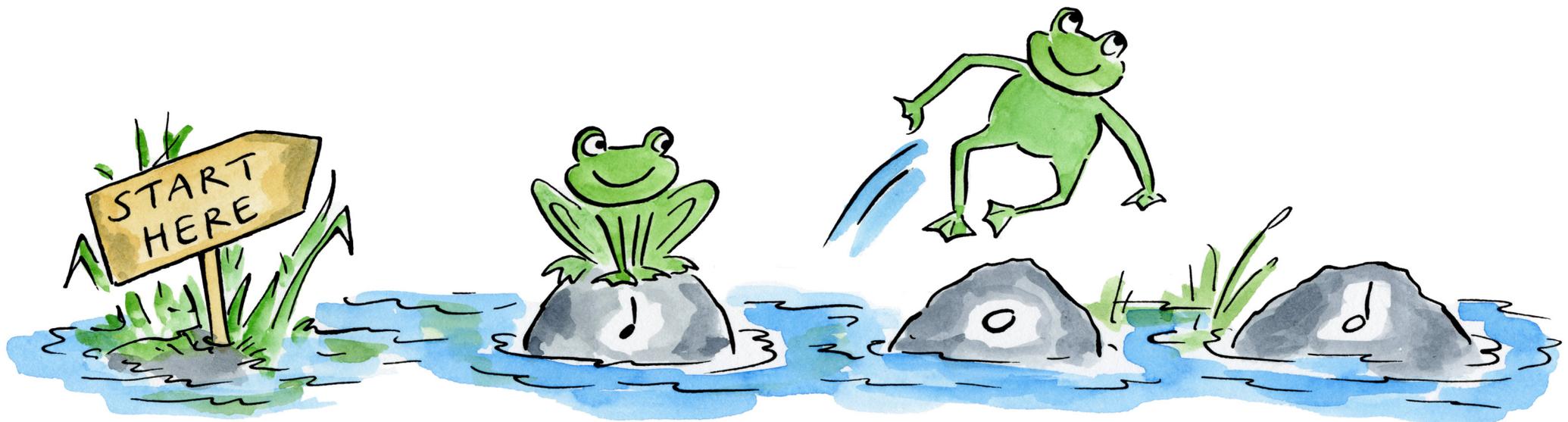
Sing or hum the higher one—that's easy!
Sing or hum the lower one—more tricky!

Practise doing this. You'll get better, and it will train you to listen more accurately.

Stepping stones

Can you cross the river? Each stone has a note on it.

Write the number of counts beside each one, then count as you jump from stone to stone.



Calm breeze

Jonathan Brigg

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff has a melody starting on G4, moving to A4, B4, and C5. The bass clef staff has a bass line starting on G3, moving to A3, B3, and C4. There are fingerings: '2' above the first treble note and '3' above the first bass note.

Float - ing on the o - cean waves, / drift - ing through the mea / - dow, /
 Brush - ing through the sand - y shore, / rust - ling in the tree / - tops, /

The second system of musical notation continues the melody. The treble clef staff has a melody starting on D5, moving to E5, F5, and G5. The bass clef staff has a bass line starting on D4, moving to E4, F4, and G4. The system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Quiet - ly mov - ing all a - round: a calm breeze o - ver me. / / /
 Ne - ver trou - bled will I be:

Do you remember what these dots mean?
 If not, have a look at page 18.



Rests

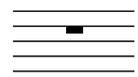
A rest is a silent count. Each note has its own rest sign.



This is a rest worth $\frac{1}{4}$ or **one** count.



This is a rest worth $\frac{1}{2}$ or **two** counts.
It balances on the third line.



This is a rest worth 1 or **four** counts. It hangs down from the fourth line. It is also used for a **whole bar's** rest.



In the next tune, say 'shh!' on all the rests.

Cuckoo

Cuck - oo! (ssh!) Cuck - oo! (ssh!) calls from the wood. Now he sounds far and

now he sounds near. (ssh!) Cuck - oo! (ssh!) Cuck - oo! (ssh!) spring - time is here.

Happy birthday to you

Before you play, clap this rhythm:



This tune starts on the last beat of the bar. Count '1, 2' before starting.
There are only two beats in the last bar. They balance the first bar where there is only one beat.

Patty Hill (1868–1946)
and Mildred J. Hill (1859–1916)

Hap - py birth - day to you, Hap - py birth - day to you, Hap - py birth - day dear

Mum - my, Hap - py birth - day to you.

Practise this so that you can play it perfectly on a special birthday!

