

My First

UKULELE BOOK

Music Movement
Arts studio





Dear Valued Educator,

Thank you so much for purchasing My First Ukulele Book! We're thrilled to be a part of your ukulele learning journey and hope this book serves as an engaging and fun resource for you or your child.

Whether you're strumming your first chords or mastering transitions, we believe the ukulele is a joyful instrument that brings out the love for music in everyone. We are here to support you every step of the way as you embark on this musical adventure.

If you're interested in lessons or custom curriculums, please contact us at mrnoblemusic.com.

Thank you for choosing our book to begin this exciting chapter. Happy strumming!

Warm regards,

The Music Movement and Arts Team

Music Movement and Arts Ukulele for Beginners:

Target Audience: Early learners
(as young as 4 years old)

Pre-requisites:

1. Student should be eager to learn and able to read.
2. Student should have a ukulele and a means to tune it.
3. Guardians should assist with tuning until the student can manage it independently.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the program, the student should be able to:

1. Identify a ukulele and distinguish it from other instruments.
2. Know the string count and string names.
3. Understand the origin of the ukulele and its size.
4. Know the parts of the ukulele.
5. Learn a mnemonic device for string names.
6. Understand tuning and use an electronic tuner.
7. Grasp basic concepts of Rhythm, Melody, and Harmony.
8. Learn C major and F major chords and transition between them.
9. Understand proper finger placement and basic music notes.
10. Understand timbre vs. pitch and relate ukulele notes to other instruments like the piano.

Duration:

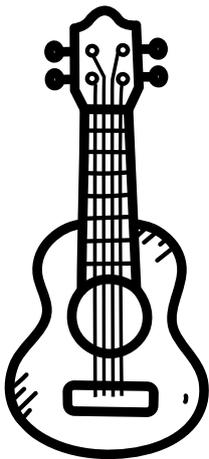
The program is structured for 6 months to 2 years, depending on the learner's pace.

It's a well-rounded curriculum that emphasizes both practical playing skills and foundational music theory.

What is a ukulele?

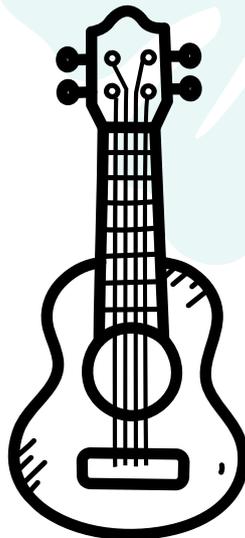
The ukulele is a small 4 stringed instrument that originated in Hawaii. It comes in several different sizes, each with its own unique sound and playability. The four main sizes of ukulele are soprano, concert, tenor, and baritone.

★
SOPRANO

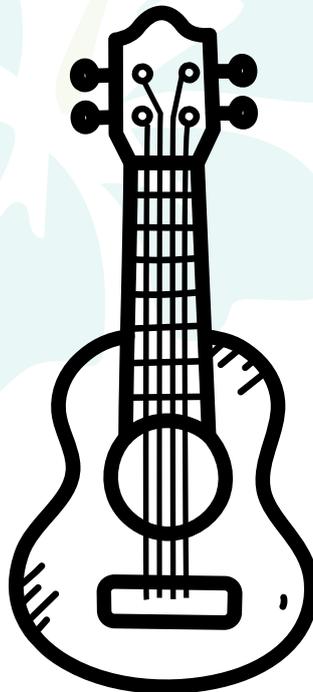


**Recommended
for early
learning**

CONCERT

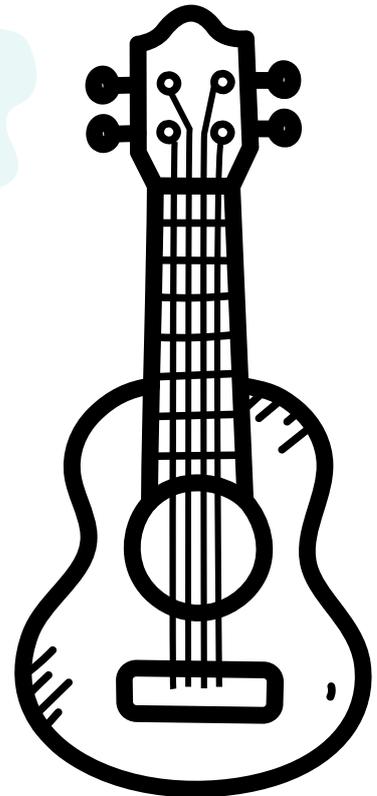


TENOR



One I play

BARITONE



HAWAII
HAWAII
HAWAII
HAWAII

1



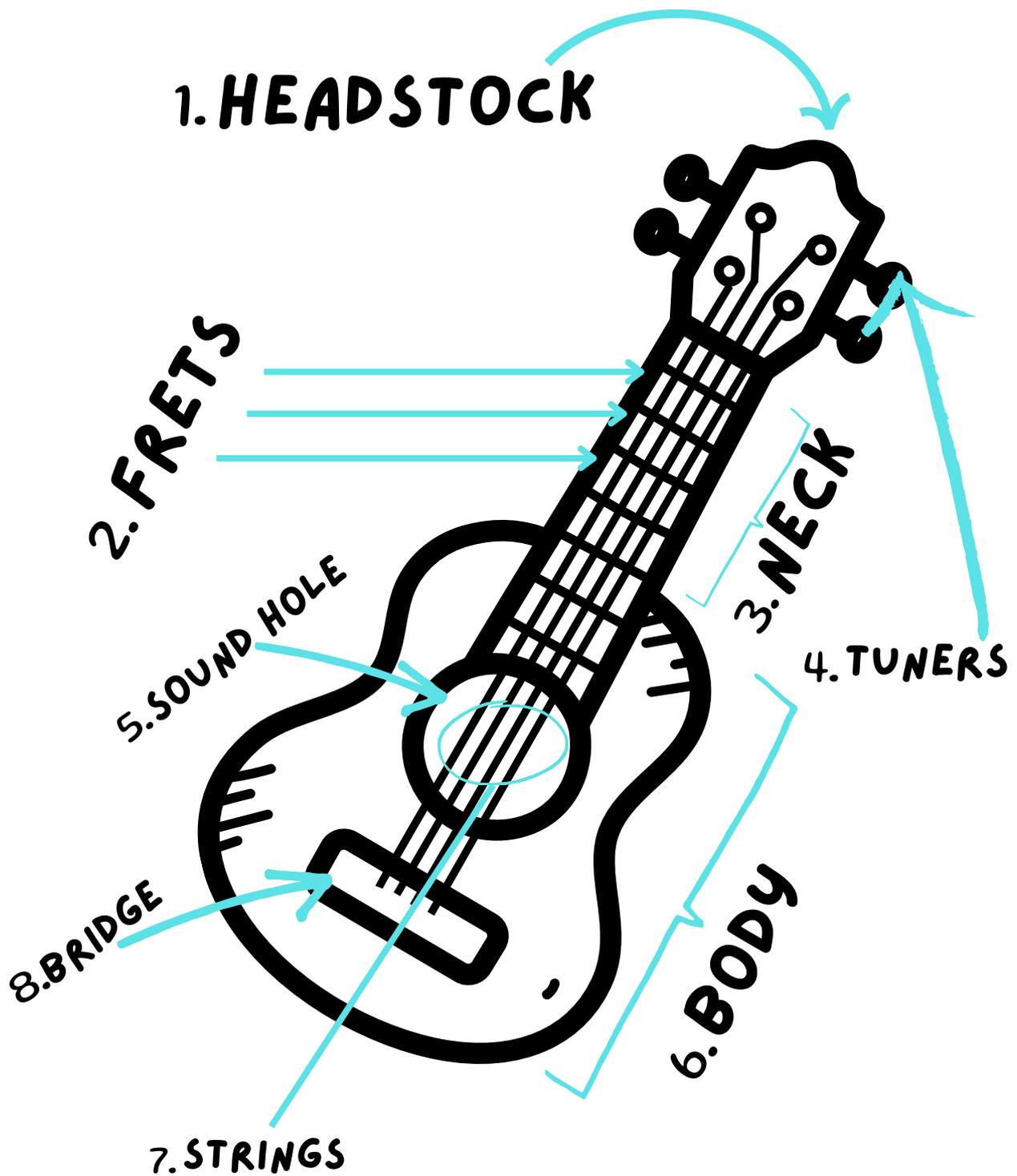
Soprano: The smallest and most traditional ukulele size, with a scale length of approximately 13 inches (33 cm) and an overall length of about 21 inches (53 cm). Known for its bright and cheerful sound, often preferred by beginners or those with smaller hands.

Concert: Slightly larger than the soprano, with a scale length of about 15 inches (38 cm) and an overall length of around 23 inches (58 cm). Produces a fuller sound and provides more finger placement on the fretboard. A popular choice for beginners and experienced players.

Tenor: Larger than the concert, with a scale length of approximately 17 inches (43 cm) and an overall length of about 26 inches (66 cm). Offers a deeper and richer tone, suitable for those who prefer a resonant sound. Favored by professional musicians and players who desire more fretboard space for complex chords and fingerpicking.

Baritone: The largest ukulele size, with a scale length of about 19 inches (48 cm) and an overall length of around 30 inches (76 cm). It is tuned lower, similar to the top four strings of a guitar, producing a deep and mellow sound. Popular among guitarists transitioning to the ukulele.

Lets name the parts of the Ukelele



1.Headstock: The headstock is like the head of a person and holds the tuning pegs. By turning the tuners, you can tune the ukulele.

2.Frets: Frets are metal strips on the fingerboard of the ukulele. Each fret produces a different pitch when pressed down, allowing for different chord sounds.

3.Neck: The neck extends from the body and supports the fretboard and headstock. The left hand presses the strings against the frets on the neck while the right hand plucks or strums to produce notes and chords.

4.Tuners: Tuners are located on the headstock and are used to keep the ukulele in tune. They adjust the tension of the strings, which can change due to playing or temperature fluctuations.

5.Soundhole: The soundhole is a circular opening below the strings. It allows the sound to resonate and project outward, enhancing the volume and tone of the instrument.

6.Body: The body is the main hollow section of the ukulele, typically made of wood. It contributes to the overall sound quality and can have different shapes, such as figure-eight or pineapple-shaped.

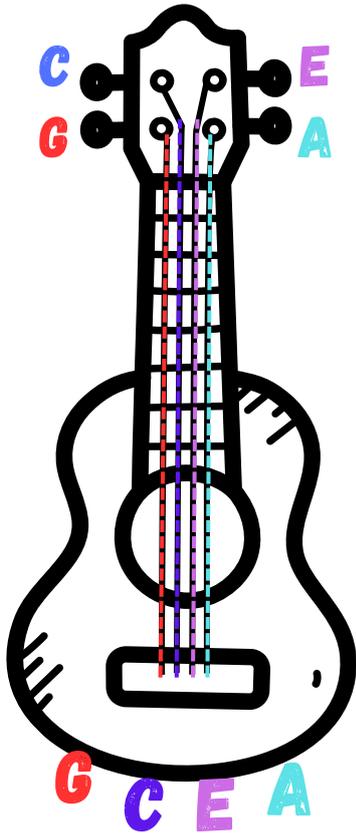
7.Strings: Ukuleles have four nylon strings. They are attached at the bridge and tuners. When plucked or strummed, they vibrate and produce sound. Changing the pitch is done by holding down the frets.

8.Bridge: The bridge is a small piece on the body that holds and anchors the strings. It transmits their vibrations to the body, contributing to the instrument's resonance and tone.

These elements of the ukulele play important roles in its sound production, playability, and tuning.

The Strings of the Ukulele

string names on a ukulele in standard tuning (GCEA), you can use the following mnemonics

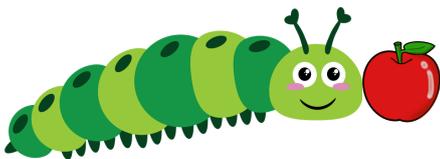


G - GOOD
C - CATS
E - EAT
A - APPLES



G - GIRAFFES
C - CAN
E - EAT
A - APPLES

G - GREEN
C - CATERPILLARS
E - EAT
A - APPLES

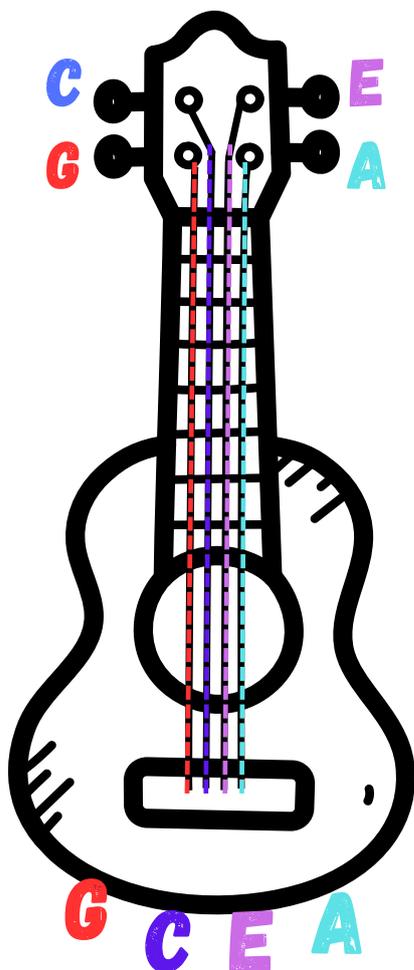


G - GIGGLING
C - CATS
E - ENJOY
A - ADVENTURES

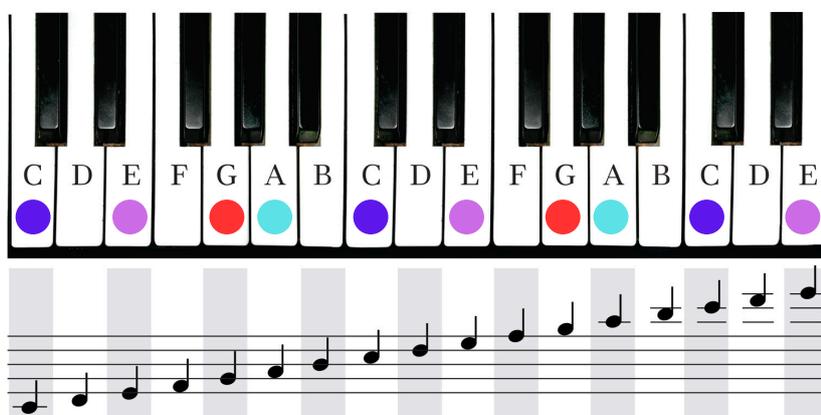


Tuning your ukulele

Before you start playing your ukulele the first thing you should do is check the tuning and make sure it is in tune. Over time you want to train your ears to hear the sound of an open plucked standard tuning.

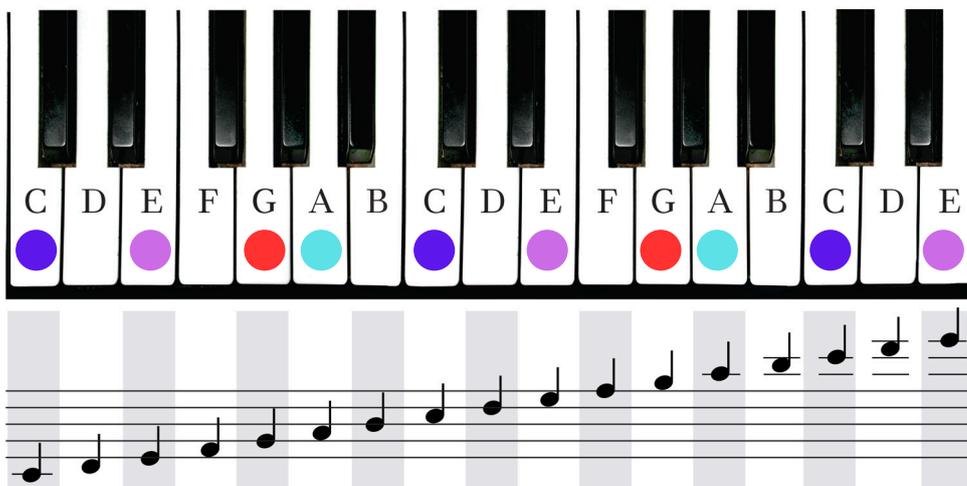
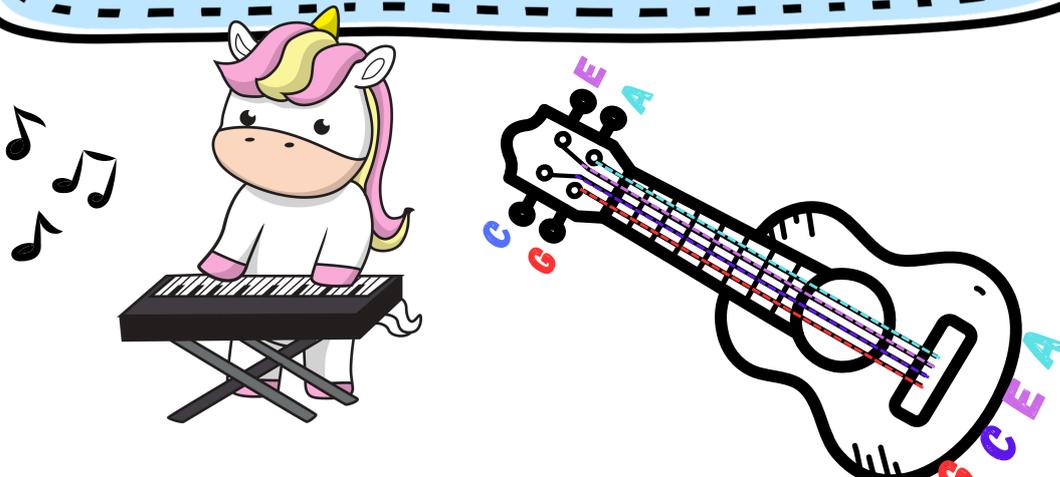


Notice the Keyboard at the bottom:
The notes are color coded and you can see where on the piano those notes are. You can use the piano to keep your ukulele in tune!



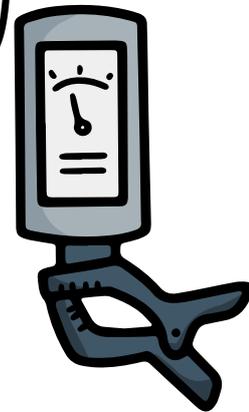
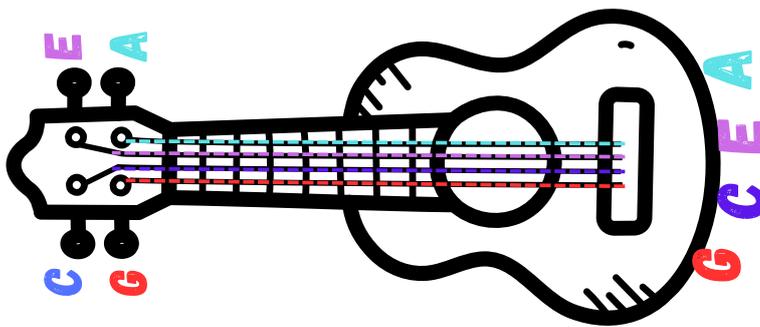
Tuning by Ear:

Tuning by ear requires developing a keen sense of pitch. Start by using a reference pitch, such as a piano or a tuned ukulele. Play the reference pitch, and then play the corresponding string on your ukulele. Adjust the tuning peg until the pitch of your ukulele matches the reference pitch.



Using an Electronic Tuner:

Electronic tuners are precise and easy to use. Simply clip the tuner onto the headstock of the ukulele and pluck each string one by one. The tuner will display whether the string is in tune, too high, or too low. Adjust the tension of the corresponding tuning peg until the string matches the desired pitch.



Conclusion:

Tuning a ukulele is a fundamental skill for any ukulele player. By following the steps outlined in this guide, whether by using an electronic tuner, tuning by ear, or employing relative tuning, you can ensure that your ukulele consistently produces harmonious and delightful sounds. Regular tuning not only enhances your playing experience but also allows you to create music that resonates with joy and beauty. So, take the time to tune your ukulele and embark on a melodious journey of self-expression and musical exploration.

Rhythm, melody, and harmony

RHYTHM, MELODY, AND HARMONY ARE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF MUSIC, INCLUDING WHEN PLAYING THE UKULELE.

Rhythm is what makes us move to music. It's the beat and pattern we feel inside. When playing the ukulele, rhythm is strumming or plucking the strings to a beat while counting. It's like clapping or tapping our feet along with the music. Rhythm helps us play together, creating beautiful sounds that make us want to dance and groove.



Melody is the tune you can sing or hum. It's the part of the music that stands out.

When playing the ukulele, melody is made by playing individual or combined notes. When I mention a song like Twinkle

Twinkle little star you can hear the melody. Many times the melody of a song will have words with it called lyrics.

Harmony: Harmony combines multiple notes to form chords and progressions. It supports the melody and sounds pleasing. On the ukulele, harmony is achieved by forming chords and strumming or picking with the melody. It adds depth and texture. Understanding chords enables musicians to harmonize with others or accompany themselves.

In summary, rhythm provides structure, melody delivers the tune, and harmony complements with chords. Mastery of these elements on the ukulele enables expressive and enjoyable music.

Let learn some Chords!

THESE CHORD CHANGES CREATE A PATTERN CALLED A CHORD PROGRESSION, WHICH IS THE HARMONY OF THE SONG. IT ALLOWS US TO SING A MELODY OVER IT.

CHORDS ARE LIKE THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF A SONG. WHEN WE SING A SONG, WE CAN FEEL OR NOTICE THE CHORDS CHANGING AS THE SONG GOES ON.



MUSICIANS LEARN CHORD NAMES OR SHAPES SO THAT WHEN A CHORD IS CALLED, THEY CAN PLAY THOSE SOUNDS AND CREATE BEAUTIFUL HARMONIES TOGETHER.



THERE ARE A FEW WAYS MUSICIANS CAN REMEMBER CHORDS:



Remembering the shape of the chord: All chords have a specific shape on the instrument. Many musicians remember chords by the way their hands look when they play those shapes on the instrument.

Some musicians remember the notes in a chord: They might rely on memorable shapes but they can also build chords from the chord names and create different chord shapes.

Fingering for Ukulele chords



When it comes to ukulele, fingering numbers for the fretting hand refer to the recommended fingers to use when pressing down on the strings of the instrument. Here's an explanation of the commonly used fingering numbers:

Index Finger (Finger 1): The index finger is typically assigned to the first fret of any string. It is commonly used to press down on the first fret or to bar across multiple strings at the same fret.

Middle Finger (Finger 2): The middle finger is usually assigned to the second fret of any string. It is commonly used for chords that require the second fret or for transitioning from the first fret to the second fret.

Ring Finger (Finger 3): The ring finger is typically assigned to the third fret of any string. It is commonly used for chords that require the third fret or for transitioning from the second fret to the third fret.

Pinky Finger (Finger 4): The pinky finger is often assigned to the fourth fret of any string. It is commonly used for chords that require the fourth fret or for reaching higher positions on the fretboard.

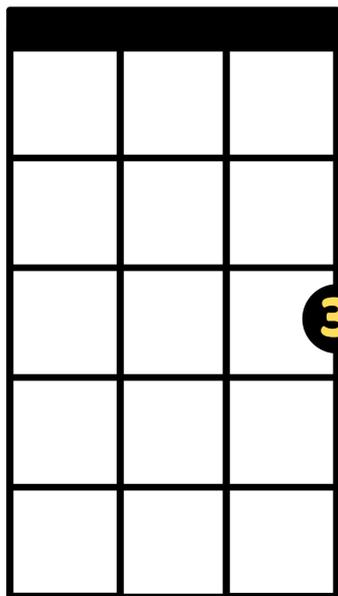
The C and F major chord

As a teacher, I recommend starting with learning chord shapes first. Over time, you can gradually learn the musical theory behind building chords without relying solely on memorized shapes.

OPEN STRING

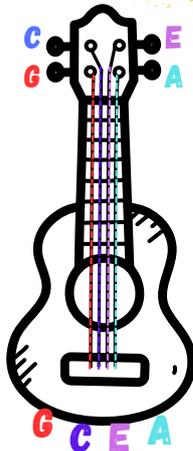
C MAJOR

0 0 0



THE C MAJOR CHORD IS BUILT UP OF THE NOTES

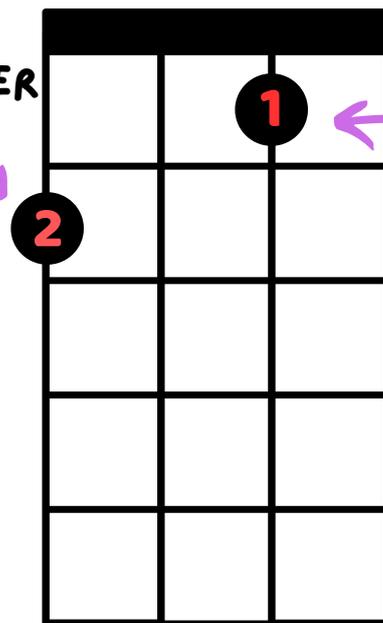
C E G



OPEN STRING

F MAJOR

0 0



THE F MAJOR CHORD IS BUILT UP OF THE NOTES

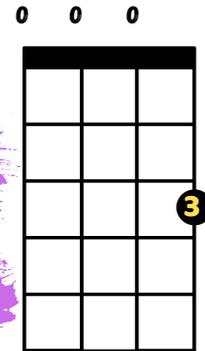
F A C

OPEN STRING :WHEN YOU PLAY A STRING WITHOUT FRETTING

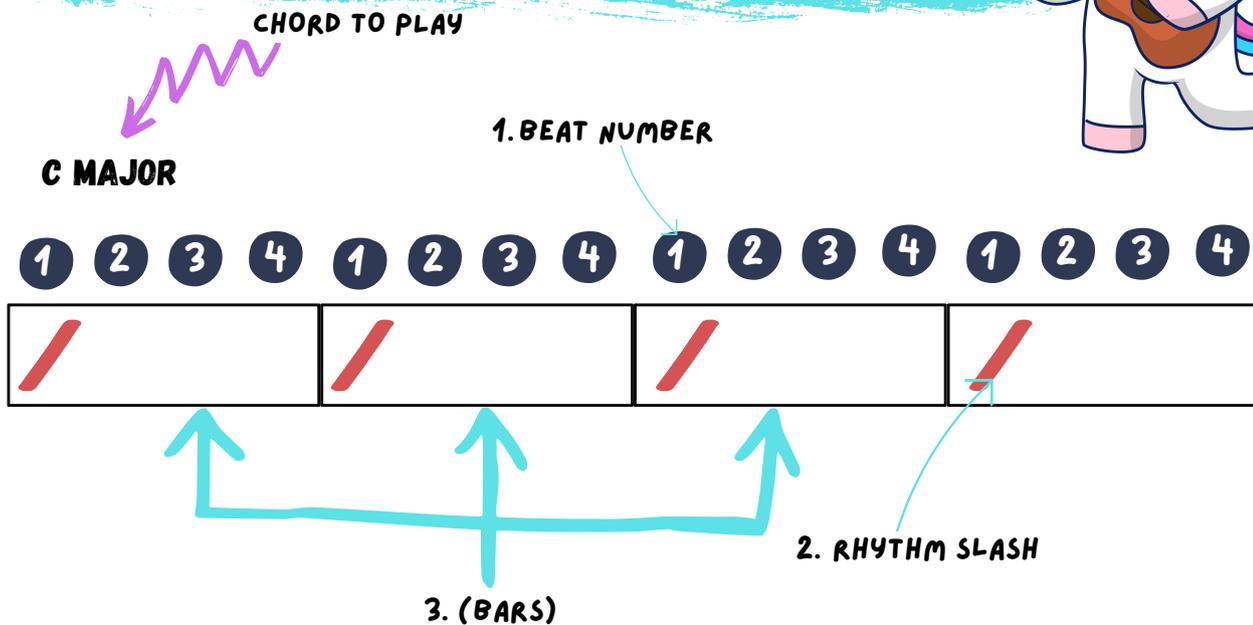
THE C MAJOR CHORD

LET US LOOK AT A SIMPLE PIECE OF MUSIC

when we look at this music we see four rectangular blocks
Each block is called a Bar there are four Bars together the
make what is called a measure.



Each Bar has four beats in this example. When there are 4
beats a measure we usually call it Four four time. We can have
a metronome keep track of the beat count.



1. Beat Number: A bar has four beats. On each beat, you can play or rest.
This pattern of playing or resting creates a rhythm.

2. Rhythm Slash: Tells us when to play and which beat to play on. When
there is no slash, we rest (don't play).

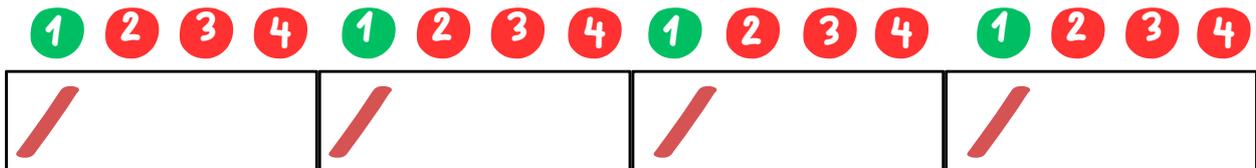
3. Bars: A bar is a section of music that contains a specific number
of beats. In this example, each bar has four beats.

Chord to Play: This tells us which chord we are going to play. (Do you
remember the shape of C major?)

WHOLE NOTE



Whole Note: A whole note is like a nice, long sound. It looks like an empty circle. When we see a whole note, we play one chord over four beats. A whole note is the longest note.

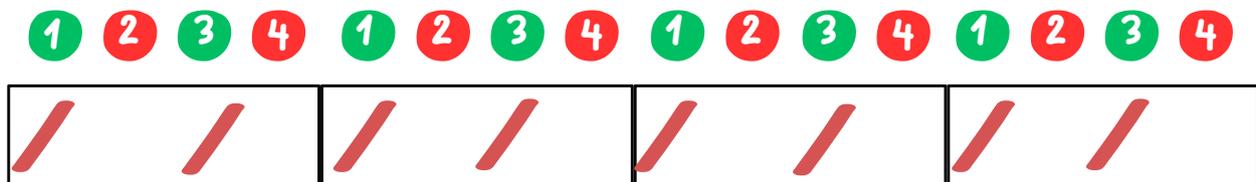


HALF NOTE



Half Note: A half note is like a sound that's a little shorter than the whole note. It looks like a circle with a stem sticking up from it. When we see a half note, we play chord over two beats.

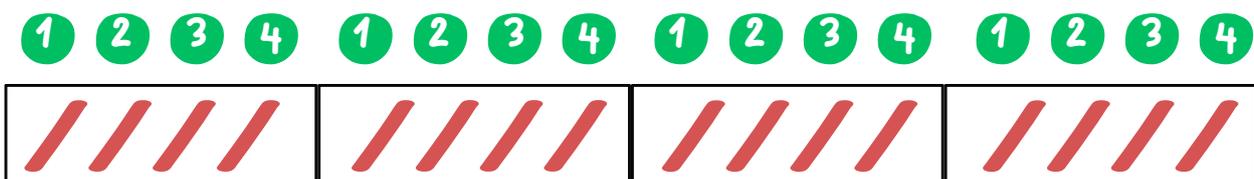
We can fit 2 half notes into the bar,



QUARTER NOTE



Quarter Note: A quarter note is even shorter than the half note. It looks like a filled-in circle with a stem sticking up from it. When we see a quarter note, we play the chord over just one beat. We can play 4 quarter notes in the bar.

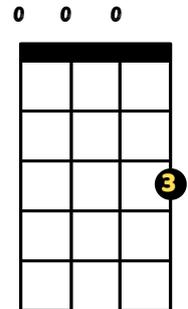


So, to sum it up, the whole note is the longest, the half note is shorter than the whole note, and the quarter note is the shortest. These notes help us keep the rhythm and timing in music.

THE C MAJOR CHORD

Let us look at a simple piece of music where we play a C chord 3 ways. The whole Note gives time to think before we play again. Half notes we play two chords per bar. Quarter notes we play on every beat. Always start with whole note when you are just learning the chord changes

C MAJOR



WHOLE NOTE

PLAY ON BEAT 1

C MAJ **C MAJOR CHORD**

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 4 3

HALF NOTE

PLAY ON BEAT 1 AND 3

C MAJ

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

QUARTER NOTE

PLAY ON ALL FOUR BEATS

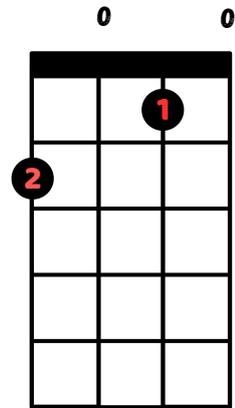
C MAJ

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

THE F MAJOR CHORD

The F major chord takes two fingers to fret

F MAJOR



WHOLE NOTE

PLAY ON BEAT 1

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

A rhythm diagram for a whole note. It consists of four rectangular boxes, each containing a single red diagonal slash (/) in the bottom-left corner, representing a whole note played on the first beat of each measure.

HALF NOTE

PLAY ON BEAT 1 AND 3

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

A rhythm diagram for a half note. It consists of four rectangular boxes, each containing two red diagonal slashes (/) in the bottom-left corner, representing a half note played on the first and third beats of each measure.

QUARTER NOTE

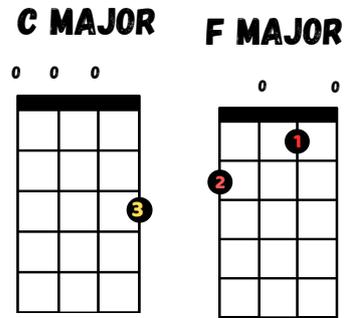
PLAY ON ALL FOUR BEATS

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

A rhythm diagram for a quarter note. It consists of four rectangular boxes, each containing four red diagonal slashes (/) in the bottom-left corner, representing a quarter note played on all four beats of each measure.

CHANGING CHORDS

Many chord charts will look similar to this. If there is just a letter there we assume that the chord is a major chord. In an instructional book or online tabs the chord fingerings are often shown as a reference.



WHOLE NOTE

PLAY ON BEAT 1

C 1 2 3 4	F 1 2 3 4	C 1 2 3 4	F 1 2 3 4
/	/	/	/

HALF NOTE

PLAY ON BEAT 1 AND 3

C 1 2 3 4	F 1 2 3 4	C 1 2 3 4	F 1 2 3 4
/ /	/ /	/ /	/ /

QUARTER NOTE

PLAY ON ALL FOUR BEATS

C 1 2 3 4	F 1 2 3 4	C 1 2 3 4	F 1 2 3 4
/ / / /	/ / / /	/ / / /	/ / / /

THE UNIVERSALITY OF TONALITY



Notes are notes, melodies are melodies, no matter what instrument you choose, if it can play a melody it can probably play twinkle twinkle little star.

Technique is specific to your instrument but musical knowledge is universal. Studying music theory will provide the building blocks that help transcend the instrument. Understanding the relationship between notes and the chords will help should you ever want to transition from one instrument to another.

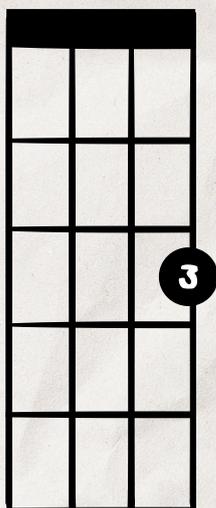


The notes on the Ukulele fret board correspond to the notes on the piano. This means almost any song or a version of it can be 'transposed' to ukulele. All chords can be voiced on the ukulele in some form, having the knowledge of chords is a great place to start with your tonal and harmonic musical development.

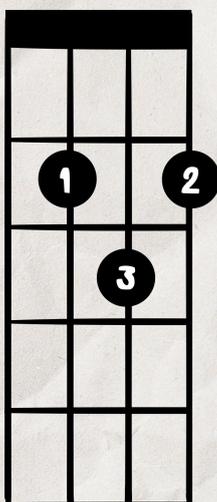
CHORD NAMES AND FINGERING

These beginner chords are the building blocks for many songs and will give you a solid foundation. The ones I'll show you should be enough to get you started and help you play some familiar tunes right away!

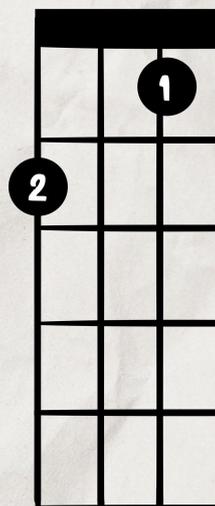
C



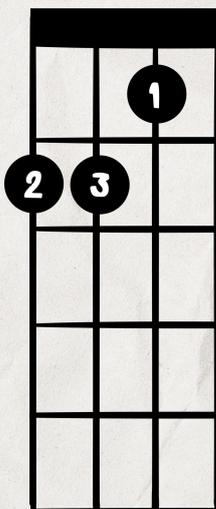
G



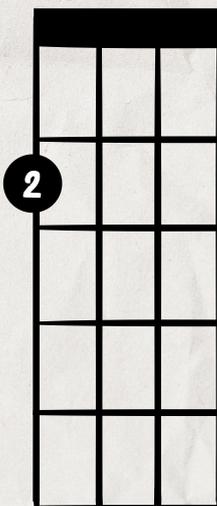
F



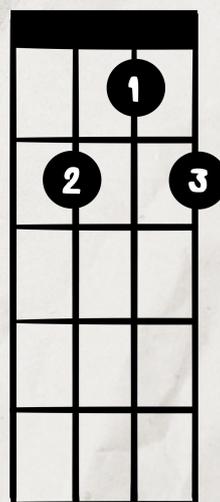
Dm



Am

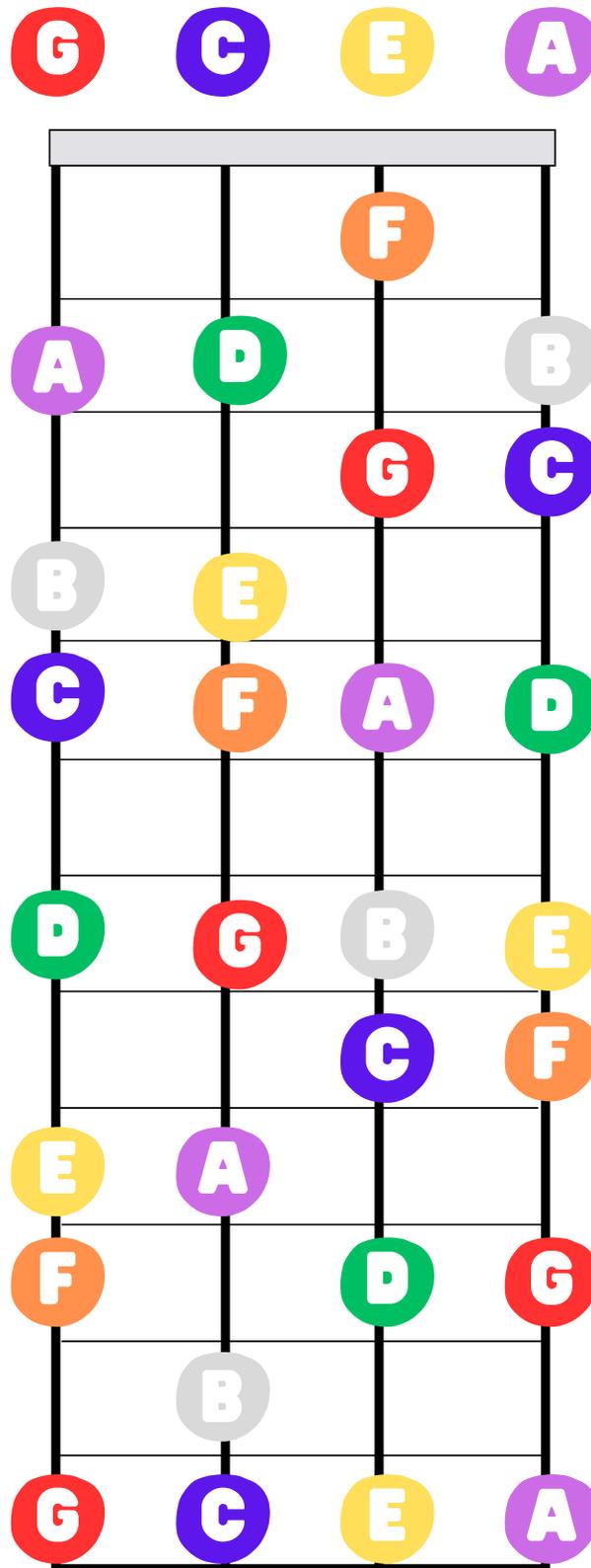


G7

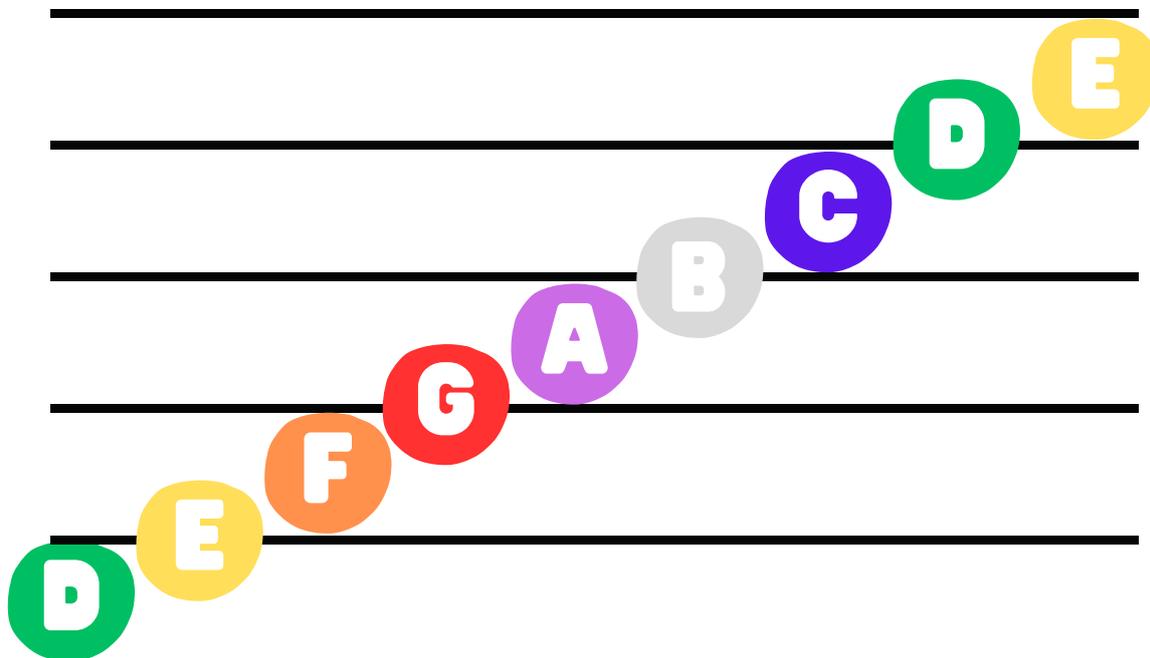


UKULELE FRET BOARD

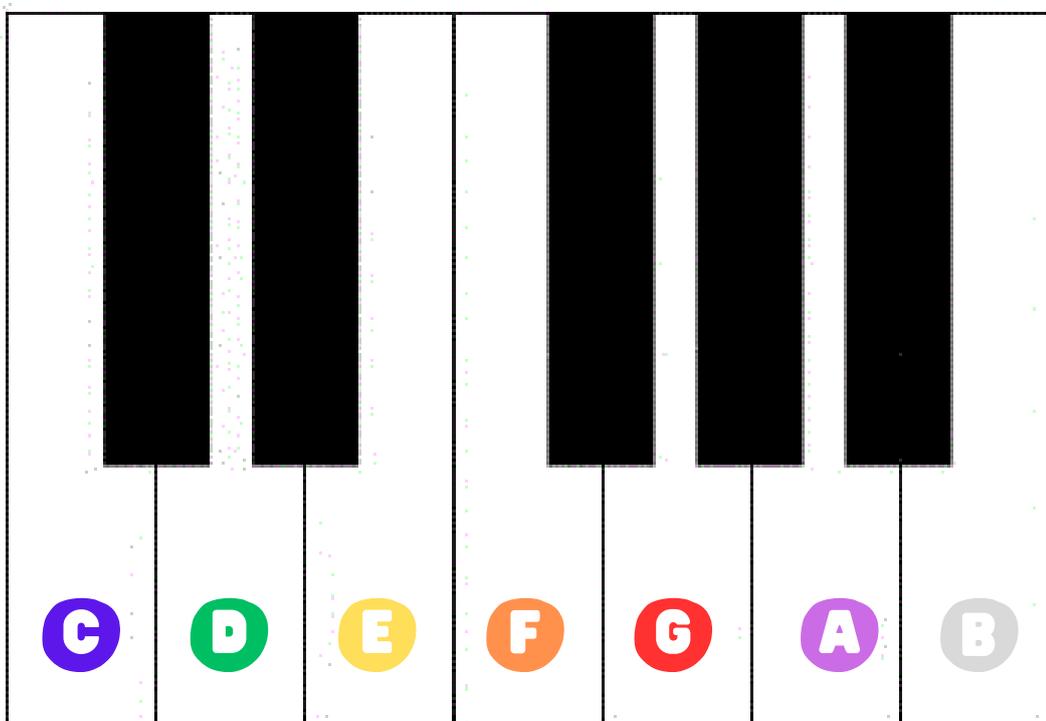
NATURAL NOTES

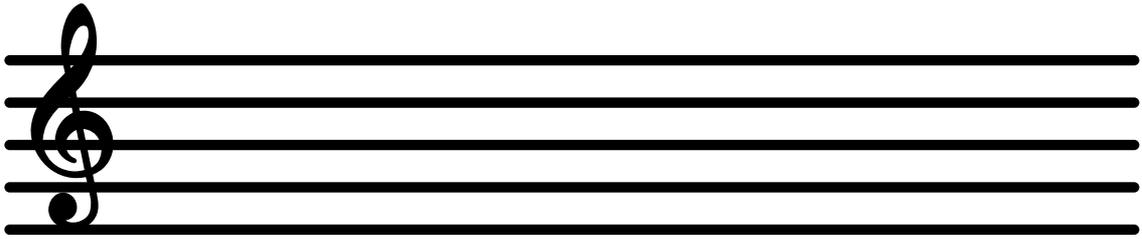
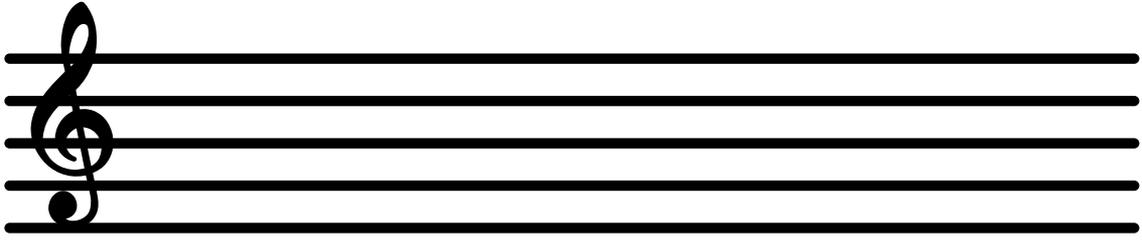


NOTES ON MUSIC STAFF



KEYBOARD NOTES





C D E F G A B