

Paisley Philharmonic Choir

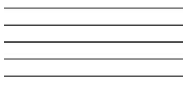
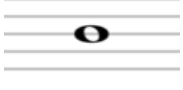

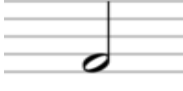




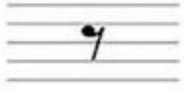





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Can I join the choir if I don't read music?

The answer is - yes!

1. You don't have to be able to read music to sing in the choir, but you do need to become familiar with what a musical score looks like and understand how it works. You will learn as you go along.
2. It's a good idea to take notes when you learn something, and compile your own file to refer to. Include references and links you find helpful on the internet. It's very easy to forget where you found something online and struggle to find it again! Take note of advice from other choir members who may have their favourites, and to instructions from the Musical Director. You may also want to make short reminder pencil notes on your musical score which you can rub off later.
3. Search online for relevant tutorials, whether documents or videos. You may find some good American sites as well as British. Here are some suggested searches:
 - a. How to read a vocal score
 - b. How to read a choral score
 - c. How to read music
 - d. Learning sheet music
 - e. How to read SATB music
 - f. Following sheet music for choirs
 - g. How to read sheet music, beginner and advanced
 - h. How to read music for singers
 - i. Can anyone join a choir
 - j. Can I join a choir if I don't read music
 - k. Basic Music theory for choirs
 - l. I haven't sung for years
4. Try the ones above and see what you find, then vary the wording of searches. Choose a mixture of online teaching. It's a matter of what works for you and what the individual teaches (or not).

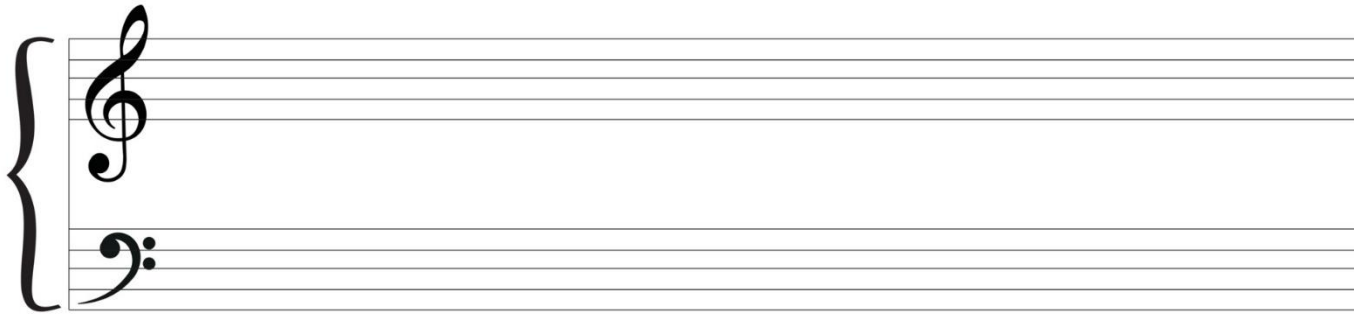
5. Be aware that the British and Americans often use different terminology in their music theory. Here are some examples:

<u>British</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Rests</u>	<u>American</u>
Bar (section of music between two vertical bar lines)			Measure
Stave (the five horizontal lines that notes are written on)			Staff
Semibreve (hollow circle with no stem = 4 beats). It's often said that the semibreve rest falls below the line because it's heavy, whereas the minim rest is light enough to sit on the line!			Whole note
Minim (hollow circle with stem = 2 beats)			Half note
Crotchet (filled-in circle with stem = 1 beat)			Quarter note
Quaver (filled in circle with stem and tail = 1/2 beat)			8th note
Semiquaver (filled in circle with stem and 2 tails = 1/4 beat)			16th note
Demi-semiquaver (filled in circle with stem and 3 tails = 1/8 beat)			32nd note
Dotted notes (a dot just to the right of any note makes it half as long again – there can be more than one dot which will lengthen the note more)		The same applies to dotted rests	

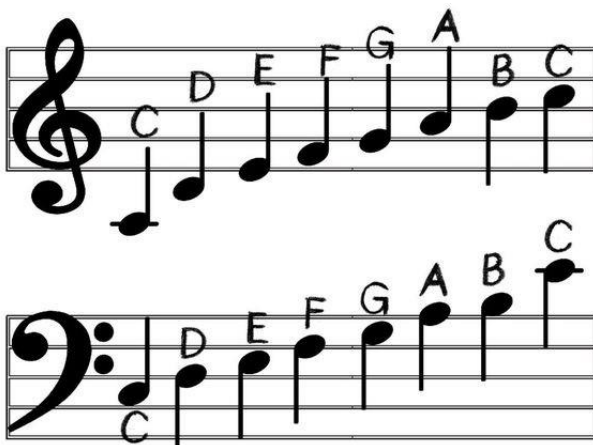
Beamed notes (4 quavers here are grouped together, then 4 semi-quavers)



Some other things you'll see on a musical score.



Here are two staves linked together by a bracket. The symbol in the upper staff is a Treble Clef (or G Clef) which signifies higher notes, and the lower staff has a Bass Clef (F Clef) which signifies lower notes. If you're a soprano or alto, you'll find your notes on the top staff, and tenors and basses the bottom staff. It is also probable that you'll come across 4 staves bracketed together, where each SATB part has its own line.



(123 Homeschool 4 Me)

Free printable music

This shows a 'scale' starting on middle C (C4) and finishing on C5 in the Treble Clef (8 notes = an octave). So how do you know where the Cs are? Because the other name for the Treble Clef is the G Clef – it curls around a line which locates where G is. You'll see that as the scale progresses upwards the note G is on the same line as the Treble Clef is curled.

Notice the bottom C in the top staff and the top C in the bottom staff, both have a line through them which is called a 'ledger line'. That's just how you deal with notes that go outside of the 5 horizontal lines, often there is more than one ledger line. There's something else about those 2 Cs on ledger lines – they are exactly the same note on the piano – middle C (C4). Remember the other name for the Bass Clef is the F Clef, you can see it's curling around a line, and looking along the scale it's where the F note goes.

(Somewhere) Over the Rainbow

Subtitle

Harold Arlen



Some where o ver the rain bow way up high. There's a land that I heard of
Some where o ver the rain bow skies are blue. And the dreams that you dare to



once in a lull a by
dream real ly do come true. Some day I'll wish up on a star and



wake up where the clouds are far be hind me where troubles melt like le mondrops a



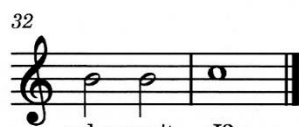
way a bove the chim ney tops that's where you'll find me. Some where o ver the rain bow blue birds



fly, birds fly o ver the rain bow why then oh why can't I?



If happy lit tle blue birds fly a bove the rain bow why oh



why can't I?

Above is a simple melody in the Key of C. The music is written in the treble clef. Immediately after the clef is what is called a 'time signature' of 4/4. The top number indicates that there are 4 beats in the bar, and the bottom number indicates that the value of each beat is a crotchet. So, each full 4 beat bar has the equivalent of 4 crotchets.

The 1st bar has 2 minims, and each minim has a value of 2 crotchets = 4 beats.

The 2nd bar has 1 crotchet, 2 quavers (half beats) then 2 more crotchets = 4 beats.

The 3rd bar has 2 minims again = 4 beats

The 4th bar has 1 semibreve = 4 beats.

If you start tapping a rhythm of 1,2,3,4 – 1,2,3,4 with your foot you will see that you hold the minims in the 1st bar for a count of 2 each. In the 2nd bar you have to fit 2 notes (quavers) into the 2nd beat. In bar 4 you hold the semibreve note for 4 beats.

You can find 'free virtual music metronomes' on the internet where you can learn to set the rhythm to keep you on track when you are learning rhythms.

You will see numbers just above the beginning of each line of the stave (7, 11, 15, 21, 27, 32). These just indicate the bar numbers.

Bars 8 & 9

This bar has a minim (hold for 2 beats) and a minim rest. Then you see 2 dots, one above the other, and a thick bar line. Above the bar is a bracket with No. 1. This means that after you have sung/played the minim, then counted the rest, you go back to the beginning and sing the second line of the lyrics. This second time, after bar 7, you miss out the bar with No.1 bracket over it (bar 8) and move instead to bar 9, with the No.2 bracket over it.

Bar 9 has a dotted minim (hold for 3 beats), then a quaver rest, then a quaver.

Bars 10 & 11 each have 8 quavers that are 'beamed' in groups of 4.

Bar 12 has 2 minims = 4 beats BUT the second minim has a curved line under it called a 'tie'. This means that you sing '-hind me' but you hold the 'me' for the 2 beats in bar 12 but also hold it for the 3 beats of the dotted minim in bar 13. So you hold 'me' for a total of 5 beats.

Bar 13 after the tied dotted minim there is a quaver rest, then a quaver.

Bars 14 & 15 have the 8-quaver rhythm again. There is another symbol in bar 15 that looks like a 'hash'. This, in music, is a 'sharp' which means that you sing the bottom note throughout the whole bar as, in this case, F sharp, which is a bit higher than plain F. (It is actually a semi-tone higher, but more of that later). On a keyboard, in the key of C, this would be the black note immediately above F = the bottom first black note of the set of 3. The # sharp continues to the end of the bar, unless it is cancelled by a 'natural' sign.



Natural sign

Bars 29 & 30

Above bar 29/30 is the instruction '**Andante**' which is an Italian word meaning 'at moderately slow tempo'. Many musical directions are written in Italian. When you are learning a new piece of music it is worth looking up any directions online and taking note of what they mean.

Bar 31

4 quavers followed by a dotted crotchet then a quaver, means holding the word 'why' for 1 and a half beats, creating a slightly different rhythm.

Bar 33

The song finishes with a semibreve held for 4 beats and a double bar line follows, indicating the end of the piece of music.