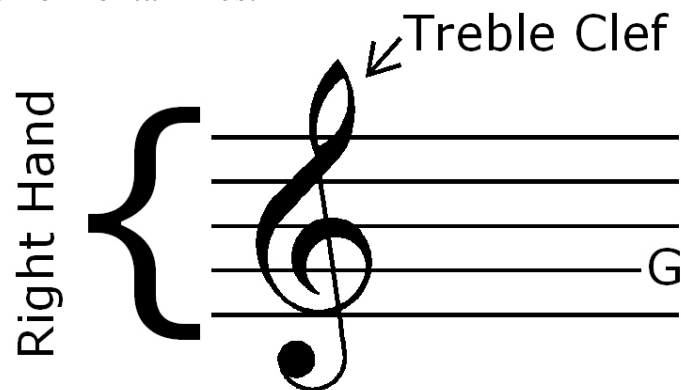


Chapter Two : The Staff

The Goal: You will be able to name the notes on the staff.

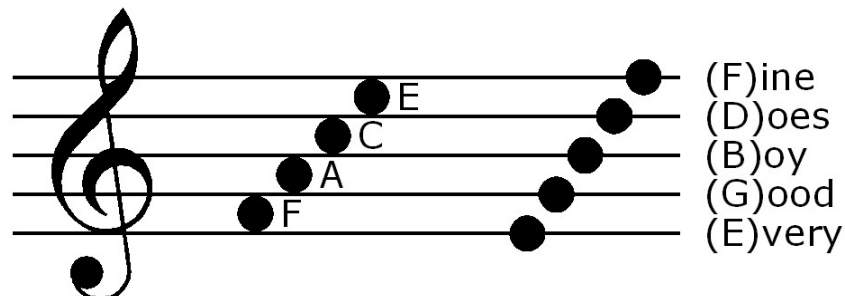
Time required: 2+ hours.

In the western music system the music notation is read from the **staff** from left to right and top to bottom, just like reading an English language book. **Staff** is the combination of **clefs, lines, notes, time signature**, etc. Let's do some decoding of the staff system. Figure (Fig. 2-1) below shows a typical treble clef. **Treble clef** is usually played by the right hand and is also known as **G Clef** because the big round part of the clef itself encircles the second line (Fig. 2-1) from the bottom, which happens to be the G note. The staff also includes five horizontal lines.



(Fig. 2-1)

To read the notes fluently you must be familiar with the notes on the staff. Notes on the staff can be memorized using the standard acronyms. For example, the notes that fall in the spaces (space notes) spell the word “**FACE**” from bottom to top (Fig. 2-2). The notes on the line (line notes) can be memorized using the **mnemonic, Every Good Boy Does Fine.**



(Fig. 2-2)

More lines, known as **ledger lines**, can be added at the top or at the bottom of the staff (Fig. 2-3), to accommodate the need of notes that are higher or lower than the normal five lines configuration (Fig. 2-2). In the figure below (Fig. 2-3), a ledger line is added on