



Written Music Glossary

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illustrated by Kent Kerr*

- bass clef:** the symbol sometimes found on the second staff of a piece of music that shows the lower range of notes
- eighth note:** a note that lasts for one-eighth the length of a whole note; represented by a black dot attached to a line with a flag
- flat:** a note that is lower in pitch by half a step; represented by a symbol that looks like an italicized lowercase *b*
- forte:** a symbol shaped like an italicized lowercase *f* that indicates the notes should be played or sung loudly
- half note:** a note that lasts for half the length of a whole note; represented by an *o*-shaped symbol with a line attached to it

measure (or bar):	a segment on a music staff that designates a given number of beats, usually four
piano:	a symbol shaped like an italicized lowercase <i>p</i> that indicates the notes should be played or sung softly
pitch:	the highness or lowness of a note
quarter note:	a note that lasts for one-fourth the length of a whole note; represented by a black dot with a line attached to it
rest:	a symbol that designates an amount of silence between notes
sharp:	a note that is higher in pitch by half a step; represented by a symbol that looks like a number sign (#)
staff:	the five lines and four spaces on which musical notes are written
time signature:	the fraction at the beginning of a piece of music that regulates its rhythm; the top number shows how many beats are in each measure, most commonly four
treble clef:	the symbol on the first staff, or treble staff, of a piece of music that shows the higher range of notes
whole note:	a note that lasts for four beats; represented by an <i>o</i> -shaped symbol