


Grade 3

Improve your theory!

Paul Harris

Welcome to Grade 3

Here's what you should know as you get going on this book. If there are any gaps, have a look at *Improve Your Theory! Grades 1 and 2* and ask your teacher! Tick all the things you know (*but only if you really do!*)

- ☐ These notes and rests: 
- ☐ And triplets, too ...
- ☐ These time signatures: $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{2}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{4}{2}$ $\frac{4}{4}$
- ☐ Grouping notes in all the above time signatures
- ☐ Treble and bass clefs
- ☐ Bars, bar-lines, the stave and all notes on the stave
- ☐ Notes up to two ledger lines above and below the stave
- ☐ Key signatures
- ☐ Sharps, flats and naturals
- ☐ Tones and semitones
- ☐ Constructing a major scale
- ☐ Constructing a minor scale
- ☐ C major; G, D, A majors (sharp keys); F, B \flat and E \flat majors (flat ones)
- ☐ E and D minors
- ☐ Intervals and tonic triads
- ☐ Composing simple four-bar rhythms
- ☐ A reasonable number of terms and signs!

Put anything you're not sure about in this box and ask your teacher to fill in the gaps before you get going on Stage 1!

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A message from Paul Harris

Welcome to *Improve Your Theory! Grade 3*. I very much hope you'll enjoy working through this book and learning about the music that you play or sing. You'll learn about how music is written down and really get to *understand* your pieces and songs. Through knowing theory, you'll play, sing, sight-read and perhaps even make up your own music with much more accuracy and confidence. It will also improve your aural, scales and ability to play expressively. And you'll learn lots of interesting and fun facts about music along the way. Many people think that theory is dreary ... it really isn't!



Audio tracks for the Aural/listening activities are available to download from www.fabermusicstore.com/Improve-Your-Theory-Grade-3-9780571538638.aspx



Answer sheets are available to download from www.fabermusicstore.com/Improve-Your-Theory-Grade-3-9780571538638.aspx

Stage 1

Octave transposition

More than two
ledger lines

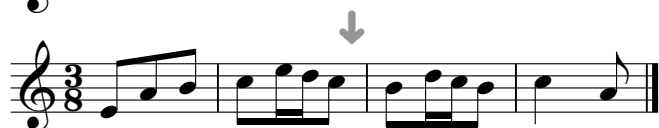


Facts box

The same melody can be played starting on any pitch, as long as the pattern of intervals remains the same. When music is written down or performed at a different pitch from the original music, it is called **transposition**.



transposed down one octave becomes ...

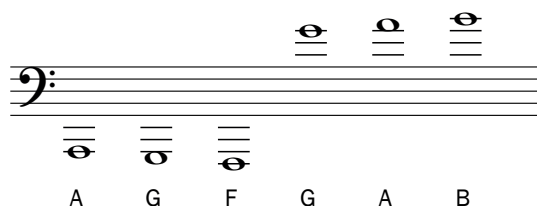
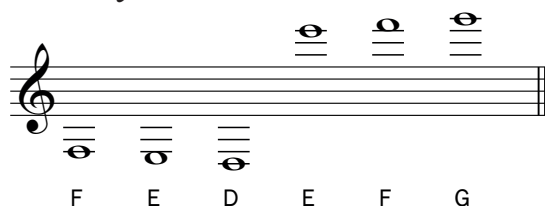


transposed down a further octave becomes ...

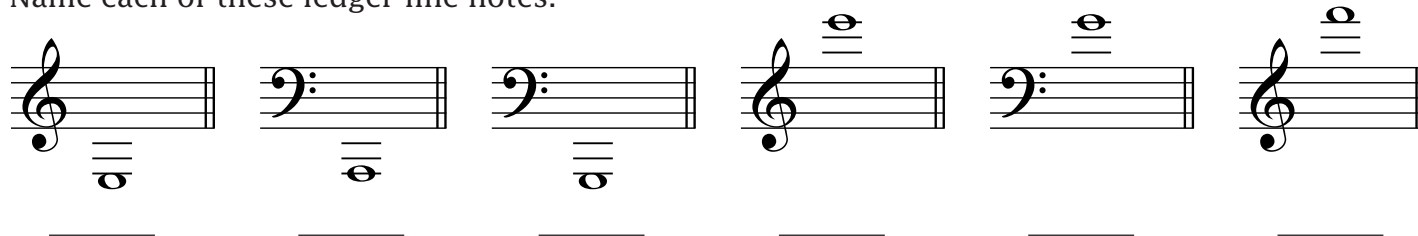


Music that is transposed up or down by an octave is sometimes written using a different clef. This is because it makes the music easier to read. In order to write this melody an octave lower still, the bass clef is used.

New ledger-line notes



- 1 Name each of these ledger-line notes.

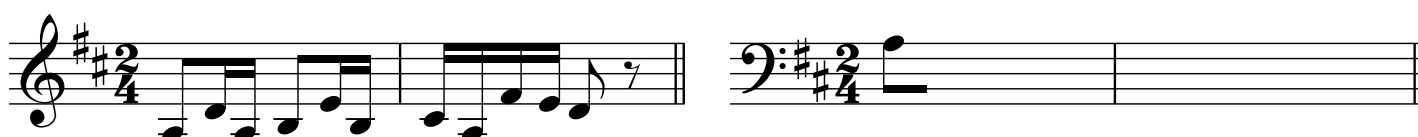


- 2 Fill in the missing notes (marked with an *) in these two examples to make the melodies the same.



Are these two melodies: **the same pitch** **an octave apart** (circle)

- 3 Rewrite this extract at the same pitch but using the bass clef. The first note has been given.



- 4 Transform this tune to reach the goal, playing or singing each version as you go along.

Transpose this down one octave, using the treble clef

Rewrite in the bass clef

Add an accidental that will change the key to the relative minor

GOAL!

- 5 Have a look at this piece and then complete the puzzle questions below.

It's big, green and diamond shaped

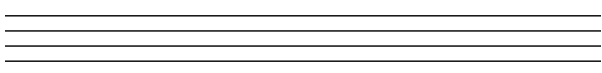
Spiritoso



- To find out to what the title is all about, discover the word spelt out by the notes in bar 2.

Write it here _____

- Write out bar 2 one octave lower, using the most suitable clef. Can you play the whole piece at the original pitch and then an octave lower than it is written?



Theory box of fun

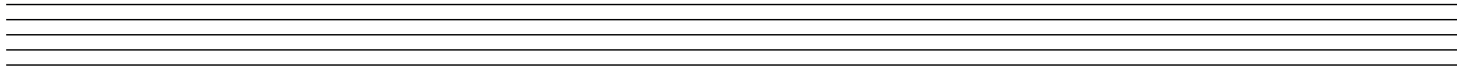


Ledger lines are used to indicate particularly high or low notes. Have you ever thought why we call notes 'high' or 'low'? It's because of the frequency that they have. **Frequency** is the number of vibrations that make up a sound: a 'high' note has a higher frequency of vibrations (e.g. high C = 4186.1 Hz) and a 'low' note has a lower one (e.g. C eight octaves lower = 16.35 Hz). Hz is named after Heinrich Hertz, a German physicist. One Hz means there is one vibration per second.



Making connections to your pieces

Find a piece or song that uses notes with at least three ledger lines (get your teacher or friend to help if necessary) and write out the first few bars on the staves below. Make sure you include all of the information and write clearly and accurately, with good spacing between notes.



Now try this quiz:

- How many different ledger-line notes can you find in the passage you have written out?

- What are the highest and lowest notes in the piece? Draw them in the workspace in the following ways:
 - Exactly as they are written in the music
 - Using a different clef but keeping the pitch the same
 - Either up or down one octave using the most suitable clef



Workspace



More connections

Here's a piece of 'table music'! Put this book on a table, find a friend who can play the other clef, and play it as a duet! Then transpose the piece either down an octave (if you're a treble-clef player) or up an octave (if you're a bass-clef player). You could write out the transposition on manuscript paper to play from, or transpose as you go along.



Aural/listening

Listen to each short phrase and then sing it back, transposed to your own comfortable pitch.