

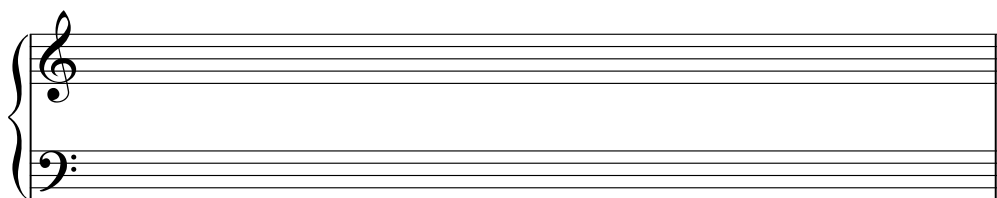
All about pitch

To show their pitch, notes are written on a five-line **stave**.

Notes are written on the **lines** or in the **spaces**:



Piano music uses two staves joined together – the top one for the right hand, and the bottom one for the left-hand – called the **grand staff**. Each staff has a **clef** at the beginning to fix the pitch of the notes. For high notes, and mainly the right hand, we use the **treble clef** ; for low notes, and mainly the left hand, we use the **bass clef** . You may like to practise drawing some clefs on the staff below (start from the middle and work outwards for the treble clef). Notes are grouped into **bars** (measures) by **barlines**. At the end of a piece there is a **double barline**.



How to sit at the keyboard

- Always sit in the **middle** of the keyboard. Use an adjustable stool if possible, to find the most comfortable height.
- Sit with your back straight, shoulders in relaxed position.
top tip Imagine there is a string attached to the top of your head gently pulling you upwards!
- Keep your fingers rounded over the keys. Fingers curved, wrists level with your arm.
top tip Imagine you are holding a ball under each hand.
- Keep both feet firmly on the ground.

Can you work out which key is each piece in?

Reflections in the water

Quite slowly

p *mf* *mp* *pp*

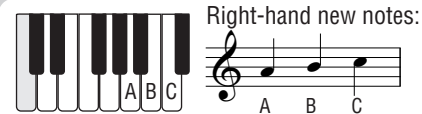
poco rit.

fact file *poco rit.* = getting a little slower

Rigadoon

Allegro

mf *mp* *f* *mf*



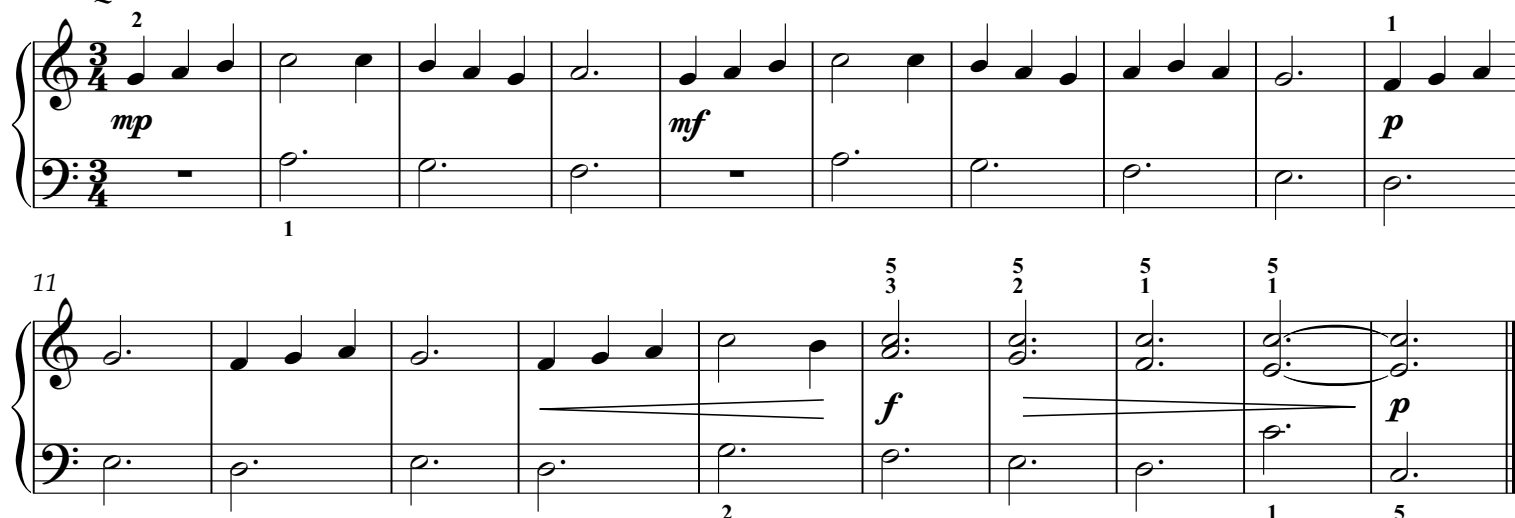
Making the changes



Past times

fact file Some new dynamics: *mf* = **mezzo forte** = quite loud; *mp* = **mezzo piano** = quite quiet

Quite slow and reflective



fact file The distance between notes can be counted up to calculate their **interval**. The last five bars of this piece contain intervals of a third, fourth, fifth and sixth in the right hand. You'll need to move your thumb to reach the sixth. An interval of an eighth is called an **octave**. Notes an octave apart have the same letter name. You now know the notes of an octave in your left and right hands.

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Pavane

top tip Don't forget the upbeat!
The count-in on the CD is 1 2 123.

Slow and stately

