

excellence in THEORY

Music Theory, Ear Training, and History Workbook
By Ryan Nowlin and Bruce Pearson

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Treble Clef

A Clef is a symbol at the beginning of the staff that assigns letter names to the individual lines and spaces of the staff. The first seven letters of the alphabet (A through G) are used by some times (one and seven).

The Treble Clef is known as the "C" clef because the second line of the staff and is named "C." This G is placed on the middle C on a piano keyboard.

Write the notes around the 2nd line.

Treble Clef Lines
"Every Good Boy Does Fine"

Treble Clef Spaces
FACE

STUDENT ASSIGNMENT

1. Write the middle clef and draw four lines on the staff provided.
2. Write the letter names on each line on the staff provided below. The first one has been done for you.
3. On the staff, draw the notes indicated by the letters below. There may be more than one correct answer for some. The first one has been done for you.
4. Write the name of the letter next to the blank provided beneath each space. The first one has been done for you.

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The Middle Ages (400-1400 C.E.)

ABOUT THE MIDDLE AGES ...
The Middle Ages, or the Medieval Period, was a time of warfare, religious devotion, and royal pagantry. Most of the people in medieval Europe were peasants. They were educated and farmed land owned by the wealthy, but received little in return. Diseases, physical deformities, and starvation were common among the peasants, who lived in squalor and poverty. The rich landowners, or nobles, were constantly hunting each other to maintain their land and servants. Despite their majesty and wealth, the nobles were victims of the same rampant spread of disease, destructive fires, and dangerous battles that the peasants encountered.

In the midst of this tumultuous time, the Catholic Church, under the leadership of the Pope in Rome, was an important part of life in medieval Europe. Towering cathedrals with stained glass windows and flying buttresses, like Notre Dame in Paris (right), were paid for with donations.

MEDIAEVAL MUSIC
Music in the Middle Ages was composed and performed for either sacred (religious) or secular (non-religious) purposes. The earliest form of sacred music was called plainchant or plainsong. This is a single melody written for unison voices, with words in Latin. Pope Gregory I and his assistants compiled chants used for church services and wrote the music on four-line staves using square notes called neumes. Plainchant is often referred to as Gregorian Chant, in honor of Pope Gregory I. Important composers of the Middle Ages include Hildegard von Bingen, Perotin, and Guillaume de Machaut.

MEDIAEVAL MUSICAL STYLE
Plainchant, the predominant type of sacred music of the Middle Ages, consisted of single unaccompanied melodies sung in unison. This type of music is called monophonic music. Plainchant was written without a fixed rhythm or meter. There were also tempo markings or dynamics noted on the music, and it was not composed in major or minor keys, but in modes—a unique system of half and whole steps.

By the year 1000, a second melody was sometimes performed simultaneously with the plainchant melody. This form of church music was called organum (ORG-uh-nuh), and over time it was embellished with more and more melodies and voices. Organum represents the beginning of polyphonic music in Western Europe. Polyphony is the combination of two or more melodies at the same time.

INSTRUMENT UPDATE
Working secretly performing secular music often accompanied their singing with the lute—a stringed instrument like a guitar, but with a rounded back. When the strings were plucked, a light delicate sound was created. In contrast, noble ceremonies and battles required loud wind instruments like the trumpet and shawm to play fanfares and calls, along with large hornblowers, or trumpets, to accompany. The trumpet at this time was a very long, tubular brass instrument without valves, and the shawm was a reed woodwind with a distinct sound similar to the modern oboe.

In sacred music, instruments played a relatively minor role and often simply supported vocal music. The organ, a keyboard instrument in which bellows force air through pipes to produce sound, was the primary instrument played in churches. Some organs were very large, and many men were needed to pump the bellows together to force enough air through the numerous pipes to create music.

HISTORY

Hildegard von Bingen claimed to have experienced visions from a very young age, and her copious writings include dozens of musical compositions.

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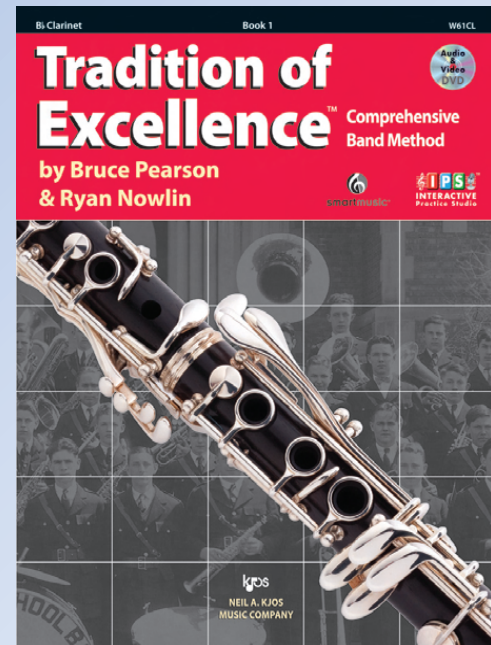


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by Bruce Pearson & Ryan Nowlin



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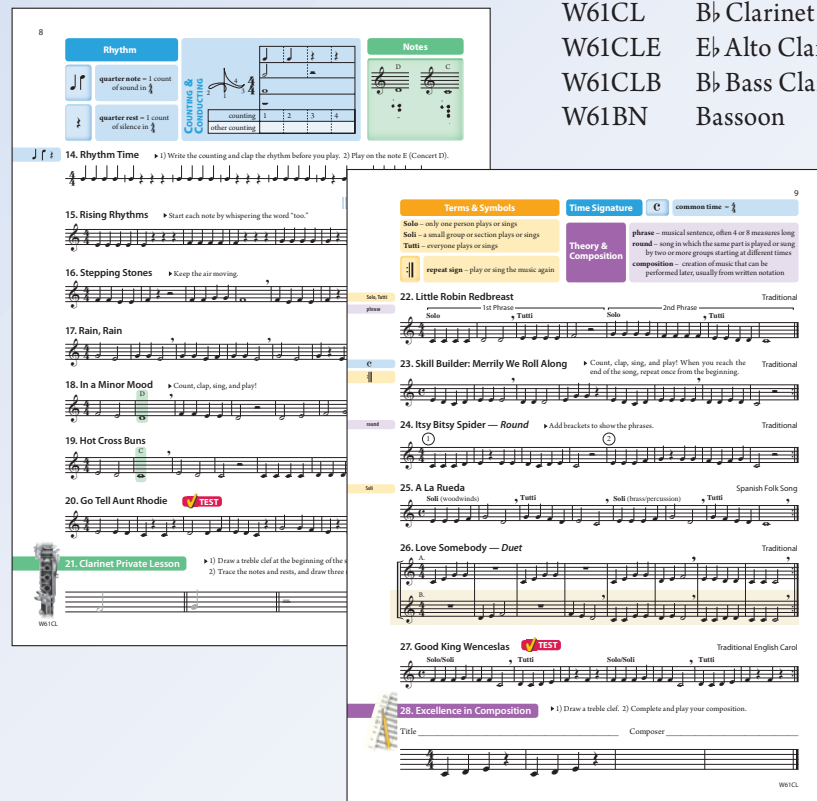
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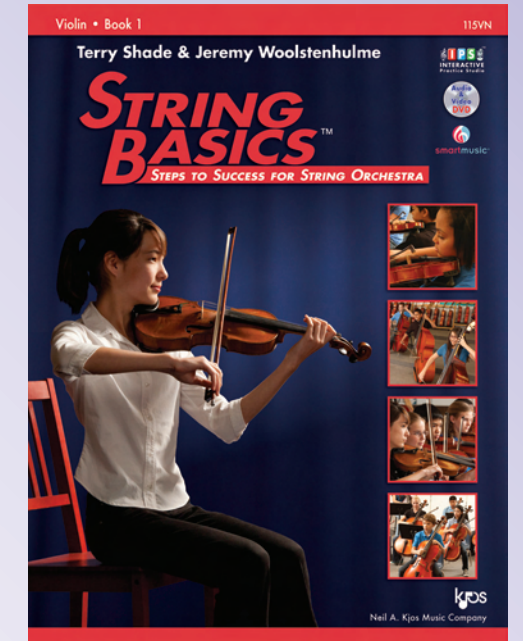
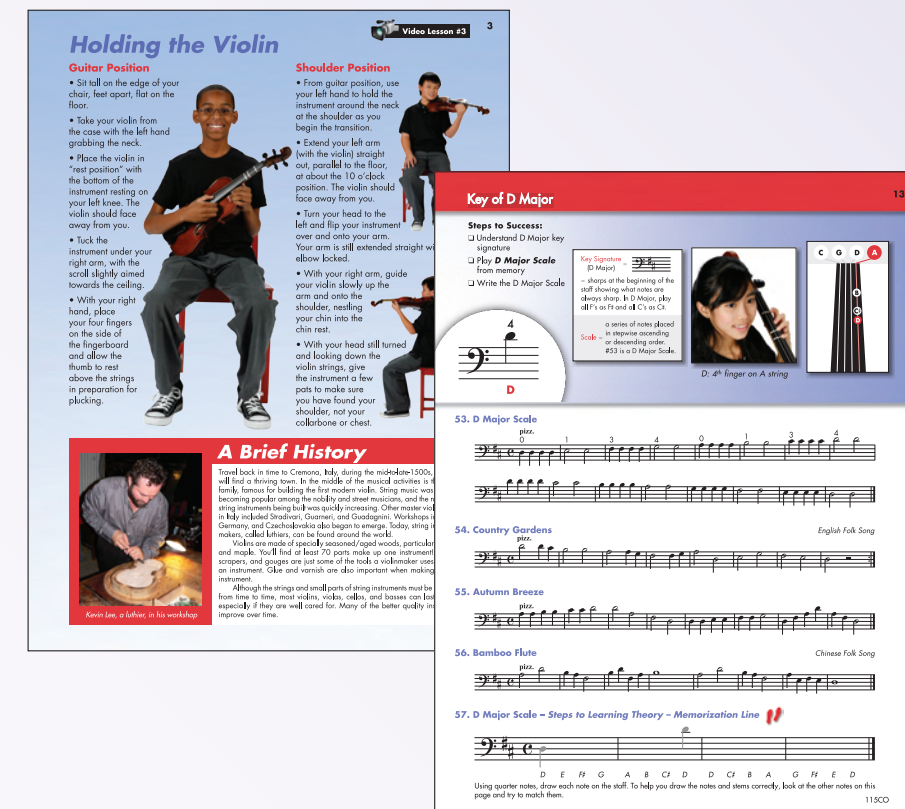
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