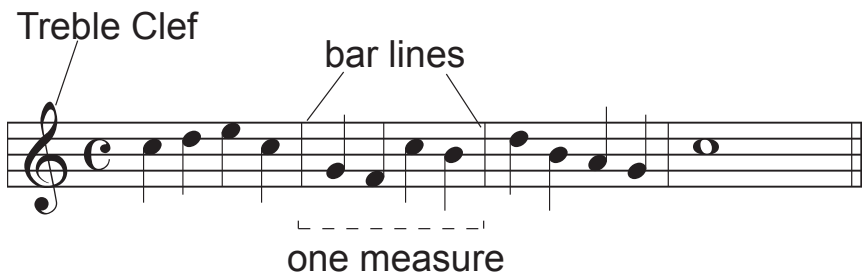


# Basic Concepts of Musical Notation

Music is written on a five line grid called the "STAFF." The positioning of the note on the staff shows the pitch and the type of note shows the time value.



Even without knowing how to play this line, you can conclude that the third note in the staff is the highest sound that you will hear. Similarly, the second note in the second measure is the lowest sound.

The time values of the notes are shown by their types. You will learn more about this as you go on in the book.

Time Signature



The "time signature" indicates the number of "beats" or "counts" in each measure. 3/4 time shows that each measure contains 3 beats. The bottom number indicates that the quarter note receives one count.



A rest is a "silent" note. The 4/4 time signature can also be shown as the symbol **C** which is said to be "common time."

Just keep in mind that you are learning a truly universal language. People in all parts of the world use this basic written language to communicate musical ideas. A tremendous library of information will be available to you when you have mastered the reading of musical notation.

This page is only an introduction to the concepts of musical notation. Other aspects of notation, as they become needed, will be explained throughout your studies in this book.