

## INFORMATION

For the sake of variety in practice sessions, most students have shown a preference for combining one or two of each facet of the plectrum attack exercises of Preliminary Lesson 4 with the learning of the musical alphabets of the next chapter, Preliminary Lesson 5. The relationship between the two subjects, albeit rather loose, makes this feasible.

While this idea may be carried out in any convenient mixture, it is recommended that the surrogate teacher make the final decisions.

The evolution of music has left us with four basic working tools:

1. ALPHABETS - letter names to identify the pitch (sound).
2. NOTES: - symbols to indicate the duration of pitch.
3. STAFF - a grid of five lines and four spaces upon which the notes may be written.
4. CLEFS - to indicate the keys, the key signatures and to indicate, by name, the pitch of the notes by whichever line or space the note may be placed upon.

A more detailed explanation of these four items follows in Preliminary Lessons 5,6,7,8 and 9.

### PRELIMINARY LESSON 5.

#### ALPHABETS

The musical alphabet consists of the first seven letters of our normal alphabet with the first letter repeated, making a total of eight letters.

A B C D E F G A  
letters - 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 (The eighth letter name is called the octave of the first letter name.)

More alphabets may be created by starting on each successive letter name.

1. A B C D E F G A  
2. B C D E F G A B  
3. C D E F G A B C  
4. D E F G A B C D  
5. E F G A B C D E  
6. F G A B C D E F  
7. G A B C D E F G  
8. A B C D E F G A

Forward motion

8. A G F E D C B A  
7. G F E D C B A G  
6. F E D C B A G F  
5. E D C B A G F E  
4. D C B A G F E D  
3. C B A G F E D C  
2. B A G F E D C B  
1. A G F E D C B C

Backward motion

**(Editor:** Perhaps the very first step would be to simply get familiar with reciting the musical alphabet forwards and backwards from any letter as shown above. Only when you can do this with no hesitations will you be at least slightly prepared for the studies that follow. **G.A.)**