

LESSON 16

Date: _____

Transposition in music refers to the process of rewriting, or moving, a collection of notes up or down in pitch by a constant interval. In Level 3, transposition at the octave will be studied.

1. Rewriting Music Between Clefs (no transposition)

Recognizing notes that produce the exact same pitch (and frequency) is an important skill in reading music. The following notes, in four different clefs, are designated as “middle C” and sound exactly the same when played by the same instrument.

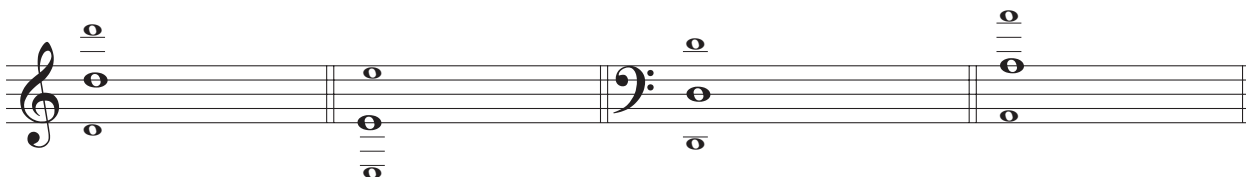


Moving pitches up or down in any particular clef, may result in the use of ledger lines in corresponding clefs. Observe the following examples. Each set of notes is identical in pitch.



2. Octave Transposition within the Same Clef

The ability to sight octave transpose your part is a skill that is often used by orchestral and band players. Passages of music might go beyond your range ability, or in order to understand the melodic or rhythmic structure of a passage it may be more convenient to practice it up or down an octave into a more comfortable range. The following notes have been transposed up and down an octave within the same clef.



3. Octave Transposition Between Clefs

The following notes have been transposed up or down one octave between treble and bass clefs.

A musical staff with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) divided into four measures. The notes are: Measure 1: Treble clef, G4; Bass clef, G3. Measure 2: Treble clef, G4; Bass clef, G4. Measure 3: Treble clef, G5; Bass clef, G4. Measure 4: Treble clef, G5; Bass clef, G3.

PRACTICE

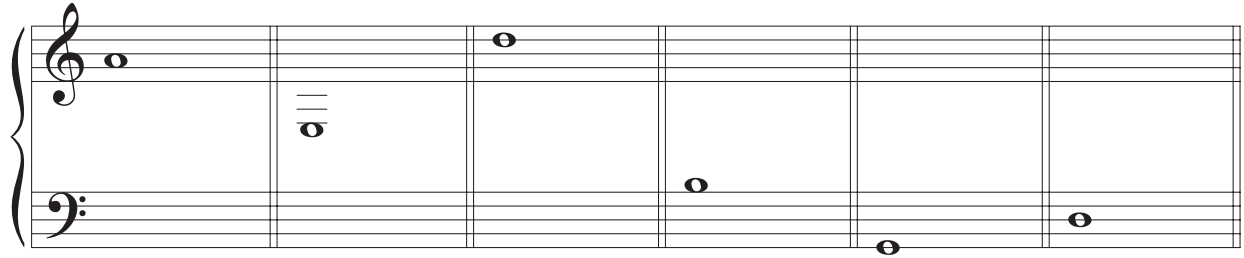
1. Rewrite each of the given notes in each of the remaining clefs, at the exact pitch.

A musical staff with four staves. The first two staves are treble and bass clefs. The last two staves are alto and tenor clefs. The notes are: Treble clef, G4; Bass clef, G3; Alto clef, G4; Tenor clef, G3.

2. Transpose each of the following notes up *and* down one octave, within the same clef.

A musical staff with four staves. The first two staves are treble clefs. The last two staves are bass clefs. The notes are: Treble clef, G4; Treble clef, G5; Bass clef, G3; Bass clef, G4.

3. Transpose the notes from the treble clef one octave lower into the bass clef, and the notes from the bass clef one octave higher into the treble clef.



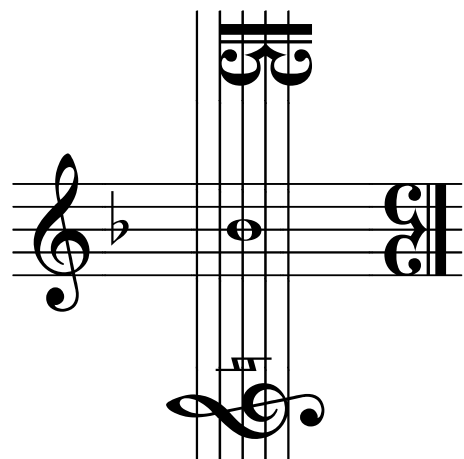
In German musical nomenclature, the musical alphabet is slightly different than the system we use.

German Musical Alphabet: C D E F G A **H** (B \flat) **B** (B \flat). If you are researching Bach's "Mass in B minor (BWV 232)" you may encounter the German title "Messe in h-moll".

This special nomenclature allowed Johann Sebastian Bach to create a signature, with one note, to be read in 4 clefs, starting left then clockwise reading b-a-c-h, as is shown in the image below. Its modern notation equivalent is also shown.



Bach.



Bach.