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Basic Elements of Reading and Writing Music

Stephen Hill

K-12 Band and Orchestra
Whittier Christian Schools and California High School


SARAHTIM Music Publishing




This series of 40 videos and accompanying worksheets was designed to introduce my students to the basic vocabulary and fundamental elements of reading and writing music. It is not intended as an in-depth study of all that Music Theory entails.

Though written with my students in mind and from the perspective of how I presented the concepts, the videos and worksheets are available to anyone who may find them helpful.

You can view the video tutorials and download the PDF worksheets from my website at www.stephenhillcomposer.com under *Resources*. The videos are also viewable on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@stephenhillcomposer>.

1. The Music Staff.....	p.4
2. The Lines and Spaces.....	p.9
3. The Music Alphabet.....	p.18
4. Overview of Clef Signs.....	p.27
5. The Treble Clef.....	p.30
6. The Bass Clef.....	p.37
7. The Alto Clef.....	p.44
8. The Grand Staff.....	p.55
9. Ledger Lines.....	p.60
10. Note Value Names.....	p.73
11. Music and Math.....	p.78
12. Rests.....	p.90
13. Music Rests and Math.....	p.95
14. Time Signatures, Bar Lines, and Measures.....	p.106
15. Pick-Up Notes and Multi-Rests.....	p.111
16. Repeat Signs.....	p.115
17. Accidentals (Sharps and Flats).....	p.118
18. Tempo (How Fast or Slow).....	p.121
19. Dynamics (How Loud or Soft).....	p.128
20. Articulations (How to Emphasize the Playing of the Note).....	p.137
21. Slurs and Ties (How to Connect One Note to the Next).....	p.141
22. Composing your Own Rhythms.....	p.148
23. Composing Your Own Melodies.....	p.152
24. Eighth Notes.....	p.177
25. Composing Your Own Rhythms with Eighth Notes.....	p.180
26. Composing Your Own Melodies with Eighth Notes.....	p.183
27. Sight Rhythms (adding Sixteenth Notes).....	p.192
28. Composing Your Own Rhythms with Sixteenth Notes.....	p.209
29. Composing Your Own Melodies with Sixteenth Notes.....	p.212
30. Introducing Intervals - Whole and Half Steps.....	p.221
31. Introducing Melodic and Harmonic Intervals.....	p.226

32. Identifying Major and Minor Intervals.....	p.235
33. Introducing Scales: Modes.....	p.244
34. Introducing Scales: Major.....	p.248
35. Introducing Key Signatures.....	p.255
36. Introducing the Circle of Fifths (Line of Fifths).....	p.262
37. Introducing Scales: Minor (Natural, Melodic, Harmonic).....	p.267
38. Introducing Chords and Arpeggios.....	p.277
39. Introducing Chord Progressions (Harmonizing a Melody).....	p.287
40. How to Transpose a Melody.....	p.306

About the Composer...**Stephen Hill** (b. 1958) was born and raised in Southern California. He studied composition with Philip Westin at Cerritos College (CA), W. Francis McBeth at Ouachita Baptist University (Arkansas), and Byong Kon Kim at California State University, Los Angeles. Stephen's studies with these composers connect him to a lineage that includes their teachers, Roy Harris, Ingolf Dahl, Clifton Williams, Bernard Rogers, Bernhard Heiden, and Howard Hanson. Stephen composes for the simple joy of it.

For over 40 years, Stephen taught K-12 instrumental music in the Private Christian School (Whittier Christian) and Public School (California High School) settings. Although semi-retired, Stephen continues to work with students by teaching part-time at California High School and maintaining his private music studio, where he plays and teaches Woodwinds, Brass, Strings, and Piano. Stephen also plays with the church orchestra where he attends. When teaching full-time, he was primarily a "summer" composer. No longer teaching full-time, Stephen has the privilege of composing beyond just the summer months and publishes through his company, SARAHTIM — a title that comes from simply combining the names of his daughter, Sarah, and son, Timothy. (*Notes by Dr. John Burdett, Azusa Pacific University*)

“Where there is devotional music, God is always at hand with His gracious presence.” J.S.Bach

“The Lord is my shepherd...” (Psalm 23)

*To listen to Stephen's music, view pdf and video scores visit:
www.stephenhillcomposer.com*


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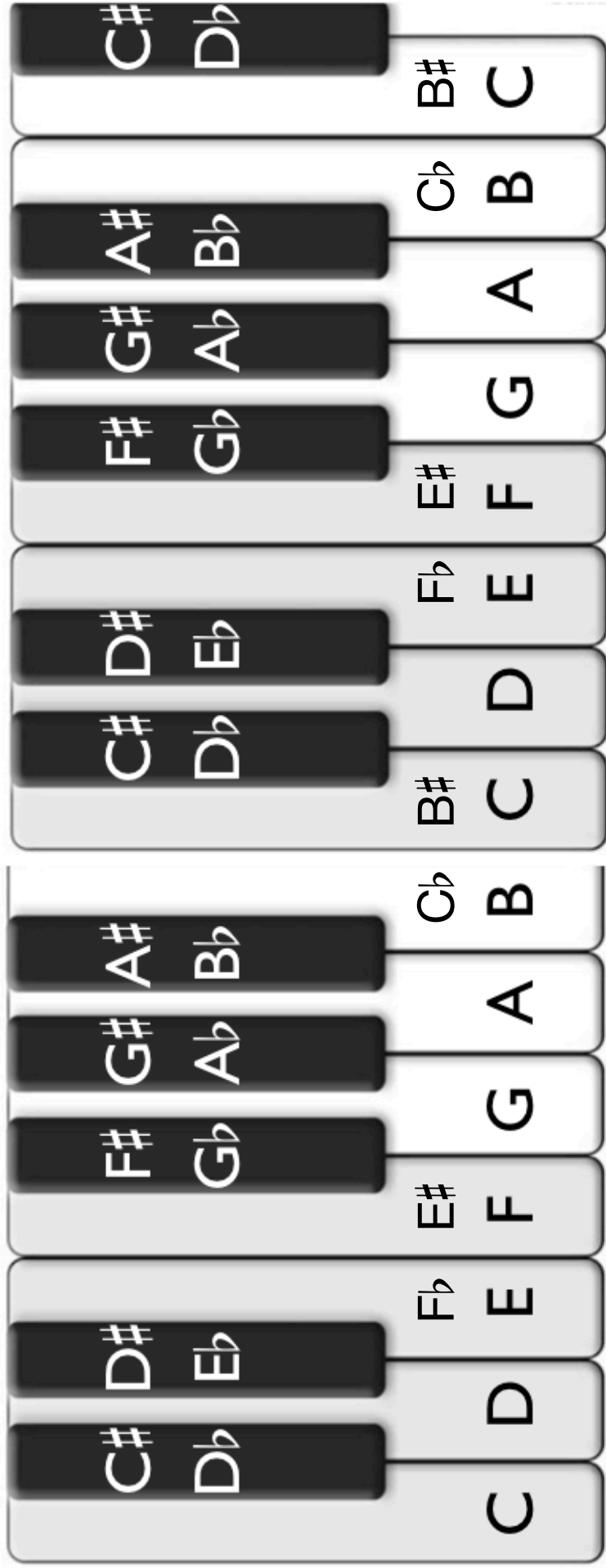
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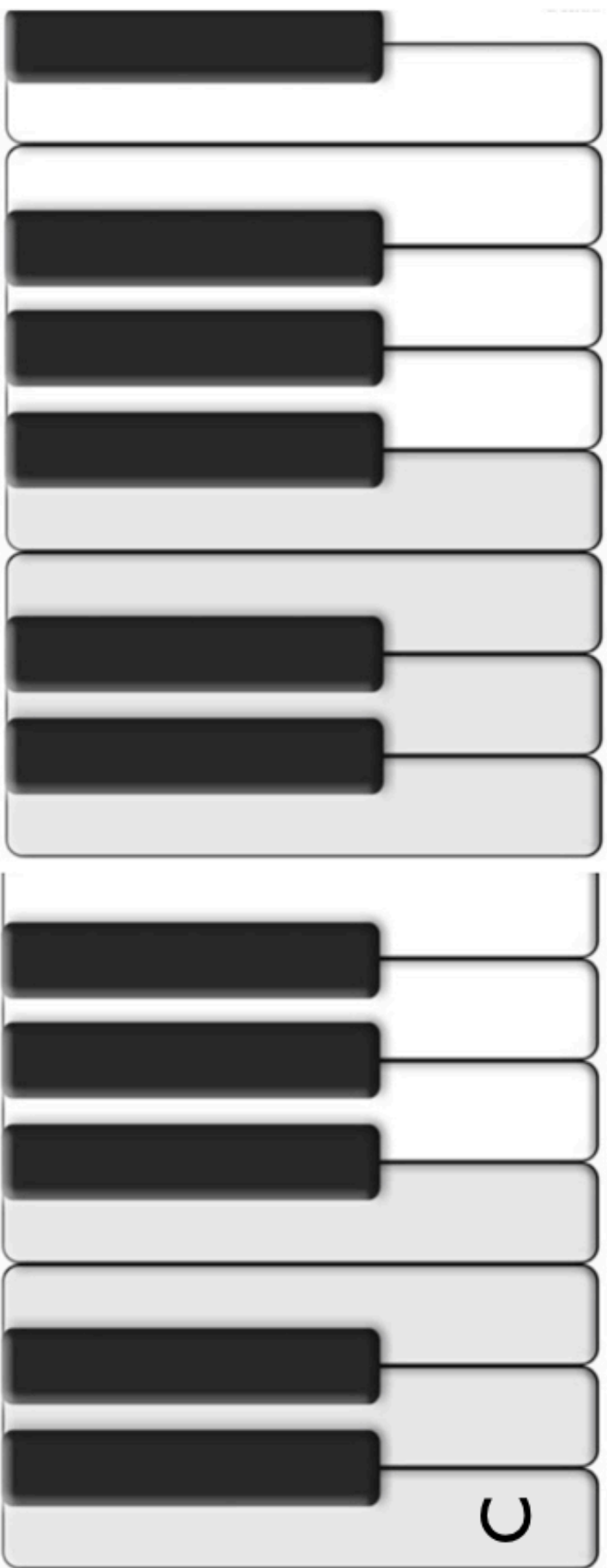
Basic Elements of Reading and Writing Music

3. The Music Alphabet

Stephen Hill
K-12 Band and Orchestra
Whittier Christian Schools and California High School


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Time _____

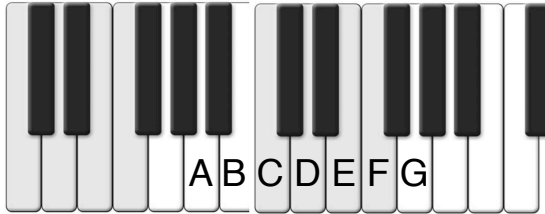
Name _____

The Music Alphabet

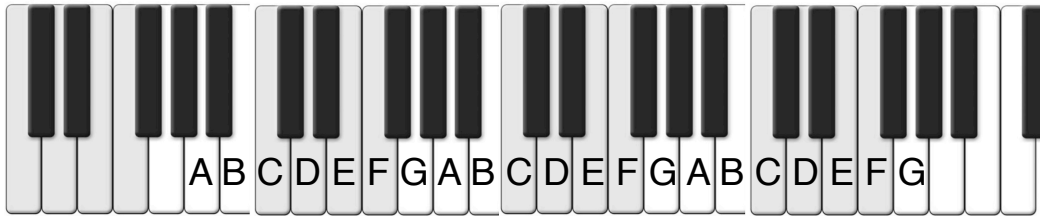
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
B						
C						
D						
E						
F						
G						

(Video tutorial available at www.stephenhillcomposer.com resources page)**Lesson 3 - The Music Alphabet Worksheet 1**

1. The Musical Alphabet consists of only 7 letters: ABCDEFG. We will use the piano keyboard to illustrate.



2. Since there are only seven letters, you will need to get used to repeating them over and over again: ABCDEFGABCDEFGABCDEFG. Notice that going forward in the Musical Alphabet, the letter G is followed by the letter A.



3. Write out the musical alphabet going forward 5 times.

A _____

4. Even if the written music begins on a different letter name than “A”, the Musical Alphabet will still continue in order. Write out the Musical Alphabet beginning from the given letter.

A _____
 B _____
 C _____
 D _____
 E _____
 F _____
 G _____

Basic Elements of Music

5. In this exercise, you will be going **FORWARD** in the Musical Alphabet.

Write the letter that comes **AFTER** the given letter.

A ___ D ___ C ___ F ___ G ___ E ___ B ___

Write the letter that comes **BEFORE** the given letter.

___B ___F ___G ___C ___E ___D ___A

Write the letter that goes **IN BETWEEN** the given letters.

G___B C___E D___F A___C E___G F___A B___D

6. In learning to read music, you will need to be able to read the Musical Alphabet forwards **AND** backwards. ABCDEFG and GFEDCBA

7. Write out the musical alphabet backwards 5 times.

G _____

Time _____

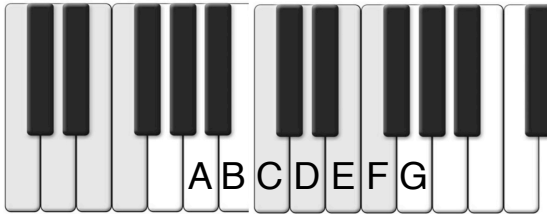
Name Answer Key

The Music Alphabet - Speed Sheet #1

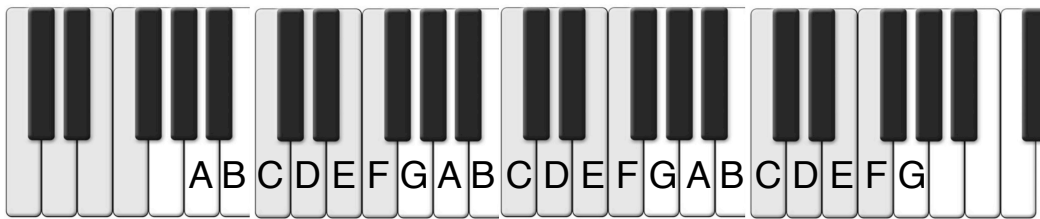
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
B	C	D	E	F	G	A
C	D	E	F	G	A	B
D	E	F	G	A	B	C
E	F	G	A	B	C	D
F	G	A	B	C	D	E
G	A	B	C	D	E	F

Answer Sheet
Lesson 3 - The Musical Alphabet Worksheet 1

1. The Musical Alphabet consists of only 7 letters: ABCDEFG. We will use the piano keyboard to illustrate.



2. Since there are only seven letters, we will need to get used to repeating them over and over again: ABCDEFGABCDEFGABCDEFG. Notice that going forward in the Musical Alphabet, the letter G is followed by the letter A.



3. Write out the musical alphabet going forward 5 times.

A B C D E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E F G

4. Even if the written music begins on a different letter name than “A”, the Musical Alphabet will still continue in order. Write out the Musical Alphabet beginning from the given letter.

A B C D E F G
B C D E F G A B
C D E F G A B C
D E F G A B C D
E F G A B C D E
F G A B C D E F
G A B C D E F G

Basic Elements of Music

5. In this exercise, you will be going **FORWARD** in the Musical Alphabet.

Write the letter that comes **AFTER** the given letter. A B C D E F G

A B D E C D F E G A E F B C

Write the letter that comes **BEFORE** the given letter.

A B E F F G B C D E C D G A

Write the letter that goes **INBETWEEN** the given letters.

G A B C D E D E F A B C E F G F G A B C D

6. In learning to read music, you will need to be able to read the Musical Alphabet forwards **AND** backwards. ABCDEFG and GFEDCBA

7. Write out the musical alphabet backwards 5 times.

G F E D C B A G F E D C B A G F E D C B A G F E D C B A G F E D C B A