



SCORE BASICS

This overview of terms and concepts will help you interpret what you see on a page of sheet music.

The staff is the long horizontal grid, consisting of five lines and four spaces, that runs across the width of the music page.



Each staff represents a different vocal part or musical instrument. For example, in the score below:

- the first staff from the top is the high voice;
- the second staff is the low voice.
- and the third and fourth staff make up a piano part (one staff for the left hand and one staff for the right hand)

High voices

H Chi del gi - ta - no i gior - ni ab - bel - la? Chi del gi -

L Chi del gi - ta - no i gior - ni ab - bel - la? Chi del gi -

Low voices

Piano part

f Tutti

Where the notes are printed on each staff indicates how high or low—and for how long—each note should be sung or played. Generally, the higher a note is placed on the staff, the higher it sounds to your ear when sung. The lower a note is placed, the lower it sounds.

You read a music score left to right, just as you would a book. And when you get to the end of a line in a book, you jump down seamlessly to the next line or paragraph. But unlike reading regular text, your staff doesn't necessarily continue directly below the one you just finished.

For example, if you're following the high voice below, the yellow line shows you the path of your music. If you're following the low voice, the orange line does the same.

High Voice

Low Voice

Chorus.

Ve-dil le fo-sche not-tur-ne spo-glie de' cie-li sve-ste l'im-men-sa

ve-dil le fo-sche not-tur-ne spo-glie de' cie-li sve-ste l'im-men-sa

Strings alone

pp

vôl-ta: sem-bra u-na ve-do-va che al-fin si to-glie i bru-ni

vôl-ta: sem-bra u-na ve-do-va che al-fin si to-glie i bru-ni

Strings

Wind Tri., etc.

pp

nan-ni ond'e-ra in-vol-ta.

nan-ni ond'e-ra in-vol-ta.

Cornet

In the printable score we have provided for the “Anvil Chorus,” the staff for the high voice always has an H in front of it, and the staff for the low voice always has an L in front of it to help you keep yourself oriented.

Print the score and listen along to the recording in **Step 6: Putting It All Together** to get an idea of how all the music parts you hear get represented on a page.