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## Forward

Many parents start their children in piano lessons around five to seven-years-old. With little or no musical training, the child's first lesson book should cover the basics, especially how to read music. But often that is not the case.

As a music teacher I have found that the standard, popular beginner lesson books do not cover some key, basic concepts.

For example, it is much easier for a child to understand the grand staff if they first understand horizontal and vertical lines. And if you first teach a child about the spaces and lines of the grand staff they can then more readily grasp where notes belong.

That is why I have written this workbook, which can be used as a supplement to any beginner lesson book.

*Tracing Through Theory* is the result of teaching many beginner students (some as young as five-years-old, but adults as well) how to play the piano, and implementing the concepts found in this book in my own piano studio.

The book begins with teaching about lines: horizontal lines, where space and line notes "live;" and, vertical lines, which are used as bar lines and double bar lines. From there it moves to the music staff, measures, braces, treble and bass clef, and more—all the elements to make the grand staff.

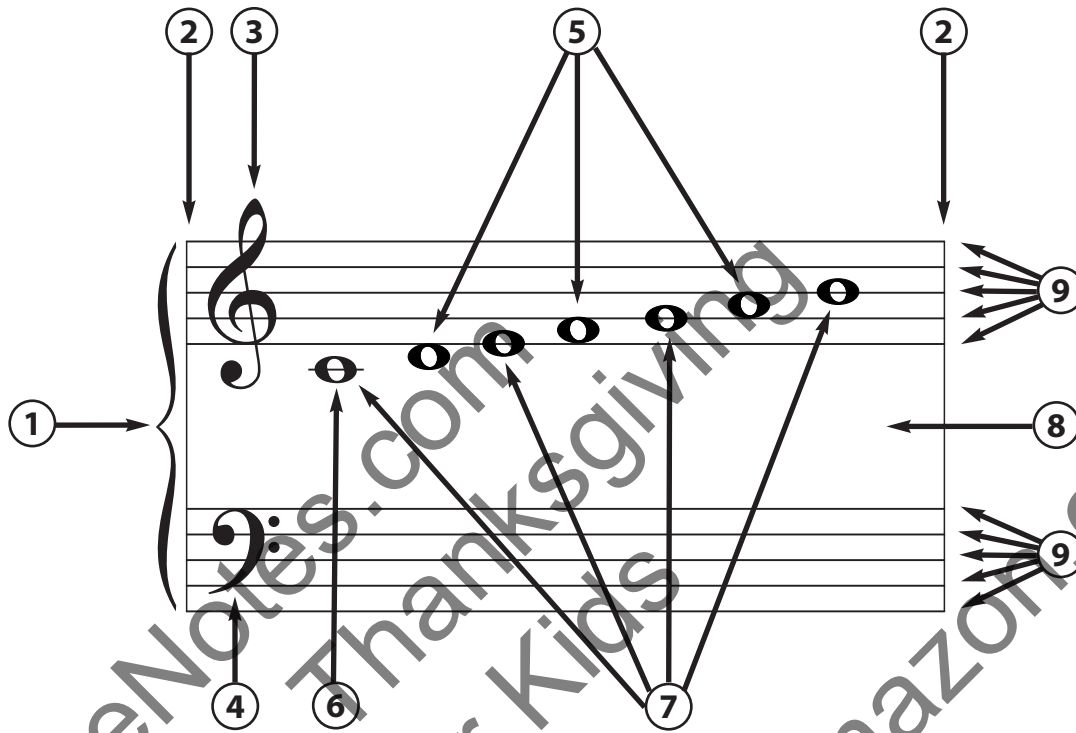
It is one thing to teach these concepts, it is, of course, another for the child to understand them. Teachers, no matter the subject, can attest how often they teach a concept, and yet the student fails to grasp the lesson. Focus, repetition, and exercise are key.

That is why this workbook is called *TRACING Through Theory*. In nearly every lesson the child must trace the concept—trace the treble clef, bass clef, bar lines, whole notes, and more. At the concluding lesson, they make the connection between what they see on the grand staff to where they place their fingers on the keyboard. Students learn by doing.

I hope your students will move forward in their music studies as they "trace through theory."

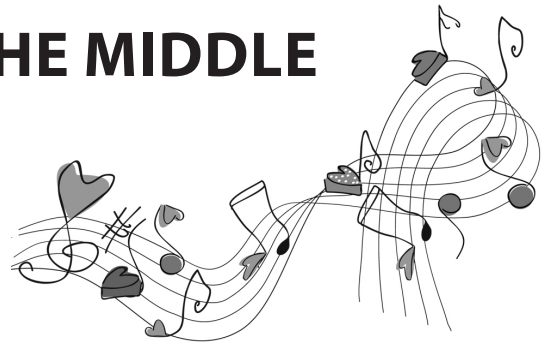
Kimberly Snow

# ELEMENTS OF THE GRAND STAFF



- ① Curly brace
- ② Single bar lines
- ③ Treble clef
- ④ Bass clef
- ⑤ Space (whole) notes
- ⑥ "Middle C" (ledger line)
- ⑦ Line (whole) notes
- ⑧ Middle of staves
- ⑨ Staff lines

# LESSON 1 — LINES AND THE MIDDLE

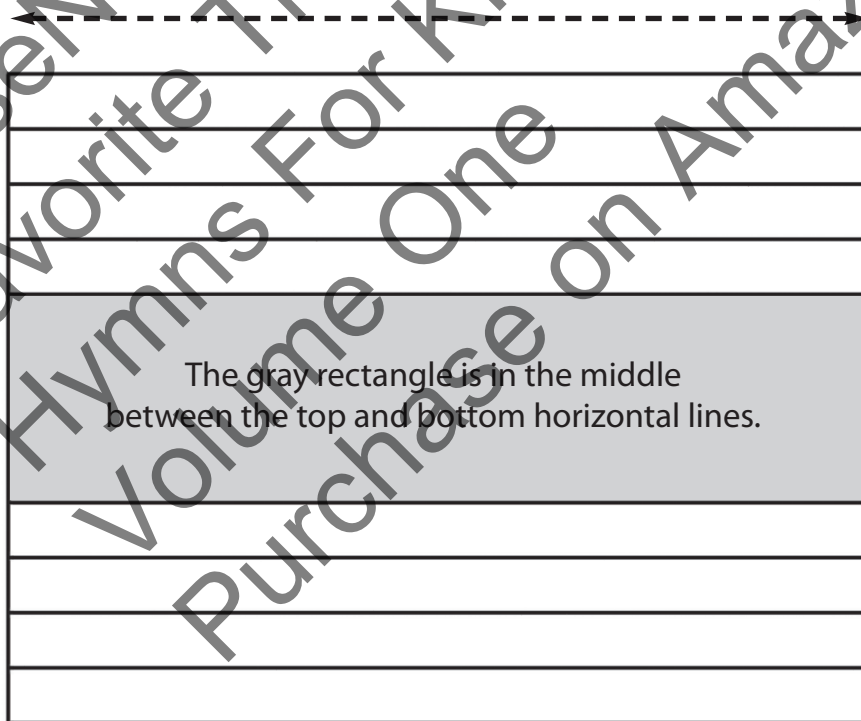


## In This Lesson

- Horizontal Line
- Vertical Line
- The Middle

- ① A horizontal line is a parallel, straight line which moves from left to right across the page.
- ② A vertical line is a parallel, straight line which is placed in an up and down position.
- ③ The middle is the center of something or the halfway point. In this example, the gray rectangle is in the middle and is between the top and bottom horizontal lines.

Horizontal lines move across the page



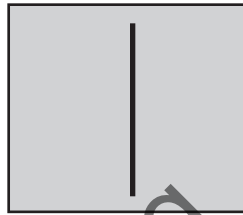
Vertical lines move up and down

# WORKSHEET 1

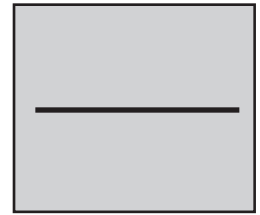
Complete the following exercises.

1 Circle the horizontal line.

(A)



(B)

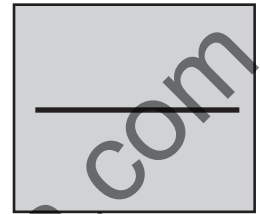


2 Circle the vertical line.

(A)

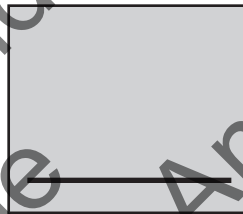


(B)



3 Circle the line that is in the middle of the square shape.

(A)

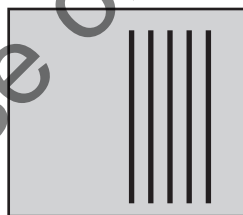


(B)



4 Circle the 5 horizontal lines.

(A)

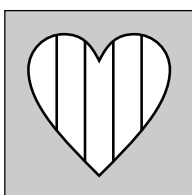


(B)

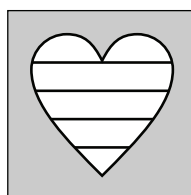


5 Circle the 2 shapes below which have vertical lines.

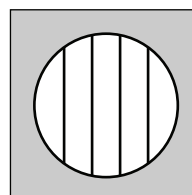
(A)



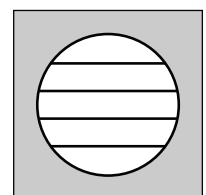
(B)



(C)



(D)



# LESSON 2 — THE MUSIC STAFF

## In This Lesson

- The Music Staff
- 5 Horizontal Lines
- 4 Spaces Between the 5 Lines
- Whole Notes

- ① The music staff has 5 horizontal lines.
- ② There are 4 spaces between the 5 horizontal lines.
- ③ Each of the 5 lines and 4 spaces have a number. The lowest number (1) is at the bottom, the highest numbers are at the top.
- ④ Notes are symbols that musicians read on the music staff. The example below shows four whole notes<sup>1</sup> placed in spaces 1 through 4.

What does a whole note look like?

Answer: Drawn on the music staff it looks like a chicken egg with a black outline.

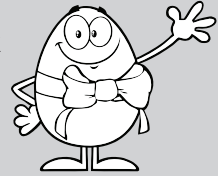


Diagram illustrating the music staff structure with whole notes placed in spaces 1 through 4.

The diagram shows a five-line music staff. On the left, a box labeled "Space #" has arrows pointing to the four spaces between the lines, numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4 from bottom to top. On the right, a box labeled "Line #" has arrows pointing to the five lines, numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 from bottom to top. Four whole notes (black ovals with white centers) are placed in the spaces between the lines: one in space 1 (between lines 1 and 2), one in space 2 (between lines 2 and 3), one in space 3 (between lines 3 and 4), and one in space 4 (between lines 4 and 5).

# WORKSHEET 2

Complete the following exercises.

- 1 Number each of the 5 horizontal lines beginning with line 1.
- 2 Number each of the 4 spaces between the 5 horizontal lines beginning with line 1.
- 3 Trace over the 5 dashed horizontal lines using 5 different colored markers beginning with line 1.
- 4 What do the four whole notes found in the spaces look like? Circle the correct answer.
  - A. White notes with a black outline, or a chicken egg with a black outline
  - B. Black notes with a white outline

Space #

Line #

←

←

←

←

←