



Music Reading Reference Sheet

20 common symbols you need to know

NAVIGATING THE PAGE

TREBLE CLEF



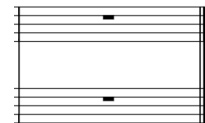
where high notes
are written

BASS CLEF



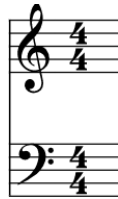
where low notes
are written

DOUBLE BAR



the end of the piece

TIME SIGNATURE



top number: how many beats/measure

bottom number: which note counts as 1 beat

DYNAMICS

PIANO

p

quiet

FORTE

f

loud

MEZZO PIANO

mp

medium quiet

MEZZO FORTE

mf

medium loud

PIANISSIMO

pp

very quiet

FORTISSIMO

ff

very loud



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20 common symbols you need to know

CRESCENDO



gradually get louder

DECRESCENDO



gradually get quieter

BENDING TIME

RITARDANDO

rit.

gradually
slow down

ACCELERANDO

accel.

gradually
speed up

FERMATA



hold longer

A TEMPO

a tempo

return to
original speed

EXPRESSIONS

STACCATO



very short



smooth and
connected

ACCENT



very strong

MARCATO



emphasize