

Paisley Philharmonic Choir








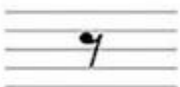





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Can I join the choir if I don't read music?

The answer is - yes!

1. You don't have to be able to read music to sing in the choir, but you do need to become familiar with what a musical score looks like and understand how it works. You will learn as you go along.
2. It's a good idea to take notes when you learn something, and compile your own file to refer to. Include references and links you find helpful on the internet. It's very easy to forget where you found something online and struggle to find it again! Take note of advice from other choir members who may have their favourites, and to instructions from the Musical Director. You may also want to make short reminder pencil notes on your musical score which you can rub off later.
3. Search online for relevant tutorials, whether documents or videos. You may find some good American sites as well as British. Here are some suggested searches:
 - a. How to read a vocal score
 - b. How to read a choral score
 - c. How to read music
 - d. Learning sheet music
 - e. How to read SATB music
 - f. Following sheet music for choirs
 - g. How to read sheet music, beginner and advanced
 - h. How to read music for singers
 - i. Can anyone join a choir
 - j. Can I join a choir if I don't read music
 - k. Basic Music theory for choirs
 - l. I haven't sung for years
4. Try the ones above and see what you find, then vary the wording of searches. Choose a mixture of online teaching. It's a matter of what works for you and what the individual teaches (or not).

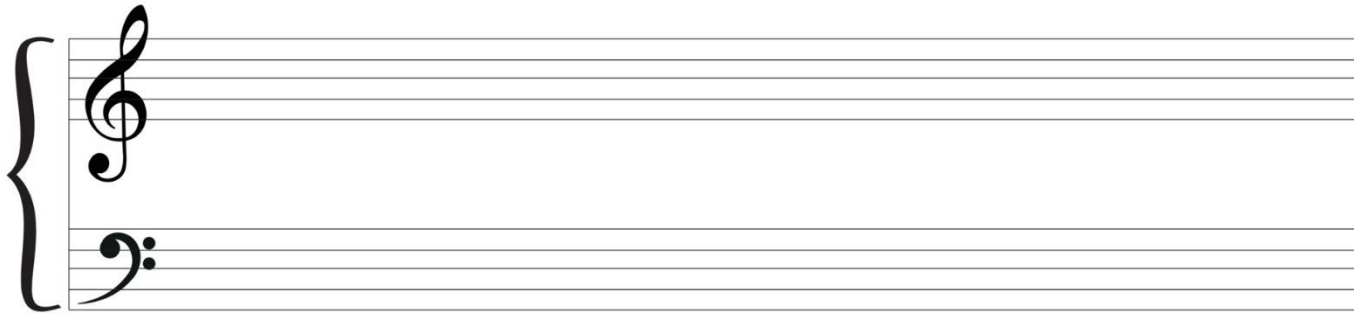
5. Be aware that the British and Americans often use different terminology in their music theory. Here are some examples:

<u>British</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Rests</u>	<u>American</u>
Bar (section of music between two vertical bar lines)			Measure
Stave (the five horizontal lines that notes are written on)			Staff
Semibreve (hollow circle with no stem = 4 beats). It's often said that the semibreve rest falls below the line because it's heavy, whereas the minim rest is light enough to sit on the line!			Whole note
Minim (hollow circle with stem = 2 beats)			Half note
Crotchet (filled-in circle with stem = 1 beat)			Quarter note
Quaver (filled in circle with stem and tail = 1/2 beat)			8th note
Semiquaver (filled in circle with stem and 2 tails = 1/4 beat)			16th note
Demi-semiquaver (filled in circle with stem and 3 tails = 1/8 beat)			32nd note
Dotted notes (a dot just to the right of any note makes it half as long again – there can be more than one dot which will lengthen the note more)		The same applies to dotted rests	

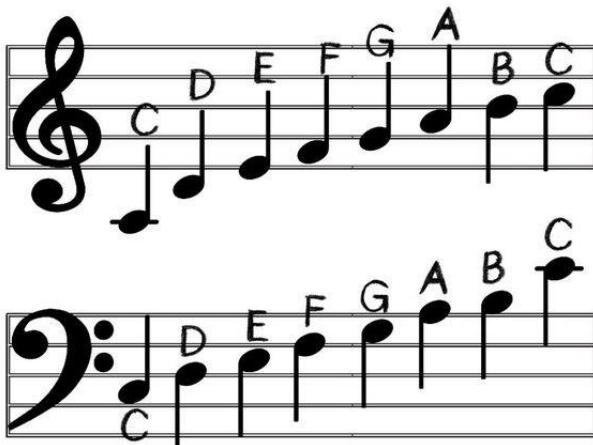
Beamed notes (4 quavers here are grouped together, then 4 semi-quavers)



Some other things you'll see on a musical score.



Here are two staves linked together by a bracket. The symbol in the upper staff is a Treble Clef (or G Clef) which signifies higher notes, and the lower staff has a Bass Clef (F Clef) which signifies lower notes. If you're a soprano or alto, you'll find your notes on the top staff, and tenors and basses the bottom staff. It is also probable that you'll come across 4 staves bracketed together, where each SATB part has its own line.



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Free printable music

This shows a 'scale' starting on middle C (C4) and finishing on C5 in the Treble Clef (8 notes = an octave). So how do you know where the Cs are? Because the other name for the Treble Clef is the G Clef – it curls around a line which locates where G is. You'll see that as the scale progresses upwards the note G is on the same line as the Treble Clef is curled.

Notice the bottom C in the top staff and the top C in the bottom staff, both have a line through them which is called a 'ledger line'. That's just how you deal with notes that go outside of the 5 horizontal lines, often there is more than one ledger line. There's something else about those 2 Cs on ledger lines – they are exactly the same note on the piano – middle C (C4). Remember the other name for the Bass Clef is the F Clef, you can see it's curling around a line, and looking along the scale it's where the F note goes.