

Braille Music Notation: Introductory Training

Leanne Newham



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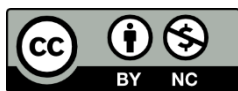
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Foreword

When considering how to learn braille music, it can perhaps be daunting when confronted by the number of textbooks or manuals that teach the code. The New International Manual of Braille Music by Bettye Krolick (1996), the Introduction to Music Transcription by Mary Turner de Garmo (2005) or the BANA Music Braille Manual (2015) just to name the popular three. Which one is the definitive resource? A transcriber may feel in a vacuum while learning braille music in isolation from a manual when there isn't access to a proficient braille music user readily available to proofread their practice exercises.

For several years, the idea of an online braille music course has been discussed by braille music specialists internationally. Discussions have presented Challenges such as deciding which methodology to use that will suit the majority of learners in as many countries as possible: should an existing method book be the basis of the course, or a new series of lessons be created? Also, the choice of platform to support course content. Then, in 2024, NextSense in New South Wales, Australia, put together a team of braille music specialists from around Australia and New Zealand to work on the project and thus, the online braille music course was born.

This training manual introduces a course that teaches braille music to a music teacher or braille transcriber who may not have a background in music. The course focuses solely on the braille music code, rather than teaching music concepts as would be taught when learning an instrument.

The braille music code is recognised internationally. While at the National Institute for Blind Youth in Paris in the early 1800s, Louis Braille invented literary braille. He also created the braille music code at the age of 19. He was a proficient organist and cellist and, with this considerable music knowledge, was able to test his new braille music system with his friends. Remarkably, this code is still in use today throughout the world. The signs for Quavers and crotchets in Australia are the same signs used in the UK, America and Europe. The formatting of braille music is not covered in this course because unlike the note values, formatting differs between countries. An example of these differences can be noticed in the positioning of bar numbers. In vocal music, Australia places bar numbers above the bar. This is just below the lyric line and above the music line. In the UK, bar numbers are placed within the music line before the bar itself. Excluding formatting eradicates the need to differentiate the course for each country and provides a much more flexible learning experience to a wider variety of learners. Formatting can be studied later by referring to the individual country's guidelines.

Accessibility has been built into the course from the ground up and testing was conducted by braille music users during its development. Screen reader and braille

users can now complete this course with adequate speech and braille feedback. When a braille display is present, the music examples to be brailled will appear correctly in words as well as spoken by the screen reader. The course uses friendly language, so there shouldn't be too much music jargon for those new to the subject.

By the end of this introductory course, you will be brailleing melodies encompassing all note values, and some piano and multipart music too. I invite you to explore braille music in this friendly accessible method and commend NextSense for making this valuable online resource available to learners everywhere. I am personally very excited by the opportunities this course will provide on a global scale.

Jordie Howell

Classical Soprano Music and Technology Teacher; Braille Music Transcriber
Australia

Introduction

The Braille Music Notation Introductory Training Program is designed for sighted and blind educators, music teachers, braille transcribers, parents/caregivers, and anyone wishing to develop foundational knowledge of braille music notation.

The program comprises 11 sequential lessons that introduce the essential concepts of braille music. Each lesson builds on the skills and knowledge of the previous one, culminating in a final lesson that consolidates all concepts learned throughout the program.

This manual presents the lesson content and accompanying exercises in a single, accessible reference document. The program itself is delivered online via the NextSense-operated UEB Online learning platform: <https://uebonline.org/>.

To complete the exercises, please register for an account at <https://uebonline.org/> and enrol in the *Braille Music Notation Introductory Training Program*. Existing UEB Online users will find the program listed among the available training options.

Further information about navigating the online course, completing the exercises, and accessing additional tutorial resources is available on the UEB Online website.

The NextSense Project Design Team gratefully acknowledges the valuable contributions of the Project Advisory Group, who reviewed and refined each iteration of the training program. Members include Christine Casey, Tristan Clare, Ben Clare, Scott Erikson, Fiona Greenfell, Chantelle Griffiths, Jordie Howell, Vanessa Ransley, Lee Strickland, and Cathy Wiltshire.

Trudy Smith, Frances Gentle, Craig Cashmore and Leanne Newham,
NextSense Project Design Team.

Contributors

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Leanne Newham has been an educator with the New South Wales Department of Education since 1994. She began her career as a music teacher after earning a Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Education from the University of New South Wales. In 2010, she completed a Master of Special Education (Sensory Disability – Vision), which led to her role as an Itinerant Support Teacher for Vision (ISTV).

Leanne further specialised in music braille through training at Renwick (now NextSense), and has since provided invaluable support to students, teachers, and fellow ISTVs in this area. Following her retirement from full-time teaching, she continues to contribute her expertise through music braille transcription and proofreading for the Department of Education, as well as transcribing examination papers for the Australian Music Examinations Board.

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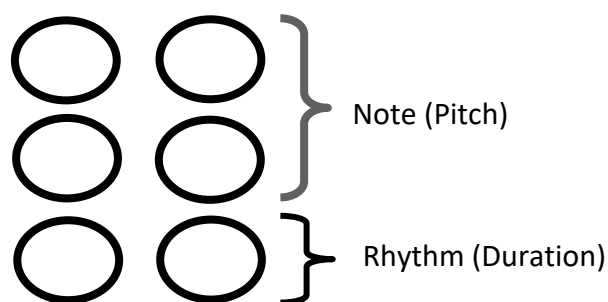
Craig holds an Engineering Degree in Telecommunications and has over 30 years' experience in software development. Craig has held positions in senior software design, software architecture and technical management in companies including Jtec, Ericsson and LongReach Networks.

In 2010 Craig founded Peppacode, a web and app development business focused on 'out-of-the-ordinary' strategic web and software development for small business, start-ups and educational institutions. Some of Craig's achievements at Peppacode include the successful launch of UEB Online for NextSense Institute and development of a membership system for SPEVI (South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment).

Craig continues to work on new and innovative projects using modern web technologies.

Lesson 1 Pitch

The music braille cell is designed to show both the *pitch* (the note name) and *duration* (the length of time the note is held). The *pitch* is indicated by using dots 1, 2, 4 and 5 in various combinations – for example, to represent notes such as C, D, E and so on. The *duration* of the note is shown by using dots 3 and/or 6 to the pitch sign. We will explore this in more detail in the next lesson. The diagram below provides a visual representation of how the cell is divided to represent pitch and duration.



We will begin by learning the seven music note names in braille. These are named after the first seven letters of the alphabet: A through G. Below are notes with their braille equivalent in braille music notation. Please note that braille music uses a different system from literary braille. For example, the braille sign for the music note C is not the same as the braille literary letter C. In music braille, dots 1 and 4 have a completely different meaning. We will learn more about this in a later lesson. The first note is shown is a C, because music octaves start on C not A.

C	⠠	Dots 1 4 5
D	⠡	Dots 1 5
E	⠢	Dots 1 2 4
F	⠣	Dots 1 2 4 5
G	⠤	Dots 1 2 5
A	⠠	Dots 2 4
B	⠡	Dots 2 4 5

Exercise 1.1

Let's practise writing these seven notes. Braille each exercise on a new line. Leave a space between each group of four notes. Do not leave a space at the end of the line.

1. CCCC DDDD EEEE FFFF
2. CCDD EEFF DDCC FFEE
3. CDCD EFEF DCDC FEFE
4. FCFC DEDE DFDF ECEC
5. CDEF FEDC CEFD EFCD
6. GGGG AAAA BBBB
7. GGAA BBAA GGBB
8. BAAA GBBB AGGG
9. GBGB AGAG BABA
10. GAAB BAGA BGGA

Lesson 2 Duration

Every note in music has a value, also called duration. This means how long a note is held. In braille music, the length of the note is shown by using dots 3 and 6, placed under the pitch symbol in the braille cell (as mentioned in the first lesson). The four main note values we will learn first:

- Quaver ♪ (Eighth note) no dots in positions 3 or 6
- Crotchet ♪ (Quarter note) add dot 6
- Minim ♪ (Half note) add dot 3
- Semibreve ∞ (Whole note) add dots 3 and 6

Examples:

To braille a G crotchet: use dots 1-2-5 for the G and add dot 6 for the crotchet - ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

To braille a B minim: use dots 2-4-5 for the B and add dot 3 for the minim - ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

To braille a C semibreve: use dots 1 4 5 for the C and add dots 3 6 for the semibreve - ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

All the notes you wrote in Exercise 1.1 were quavers, because no dots were added in positions 3 or 6.

Note Values and Dual Meanings

In braille music, each symbol can sometimes represent a smaller note value. For example: a semibreve (whole note) is also a semiquaver (sixteenth note). A minim may also represent a demisemiquaver (thirty-second note). How do we know which value is correct? It depends on how many beats (counts) are in each bar (measure).

Example:





If a bar has 4 beats, and there is only one note – say dots 1-3-4-5-6 (C semibreve/semiquaver) – it must be a semibreve, because one semibreve equals four beats. It cannot be a semiquaver, because it is only worth ¼ of a beat, and would not fill the bar.

Barlines (Measures)

































































A bar or measure is a group of beats, shown between vertical lines in print music called barlines. In braille music, we represent a barline by leaving one blank cell between bars.

Rests

Rests represent silences in music. Just like every note has a duration, every note value has a matching rest that shows how long the silence lasts. Below are the four most common rests and their braille music symbols.

Semibreve (whole note)/Semiquaver (16 th note)		dots 1 3 4
Minim (half note)/32 nd note		dots 1 3 6
Crotchet (quarter note)/64 th note		dots 1 2 3 6
Quaver (8 th note)/128 th note		dots 1 3 4 6

The table below is a good reference of the note values and rests to help you complete Exercise 2.1.









Name	Symbol	Rests	C	D	E	F	G	A	B
Quaver (8 th note) or Semihemidemisemiquaver (128 th note)	 	 	 	 	 	 	 	 	
Crotchet (quaver note) or Hemidemisemiquaver (64 th note)	 	 	 	 	 	 	 	 	
Minim (half note) or Demisemiquaver (32 nd note)	 	 	 	 	 	 	 	 	
Semibreve (whole note) or Semiquaver (16 th note)	 	 	 	 	 	 	 	 	

Dotted Notes

To add variety to rhythms, music sometimes uses dotted notes. A dotted note is created by placing a dot after a note, which increases its length. The dot adds half the value of the original note.

For example: a crotchet (quarter note) is worth 1 beat. A dotted crotchet is worth $1 + \frac{1}{2} = 1\frac{1}{2}$ beats. You can have dotted quavers, dotted minims, and so on.

In braille music, a dotted note is written by adding dot 3 immediately after the note cell. Since rests also have note values, rests can be dotted too. To do this in braille, simply place a dot 3 immediately after the rest cell using the same rule. For example:

- a dotted C crotchet () is:  (dots 1 4 5 6 dot 3)
- a dotted G minim () is:  (dots 1 2 3 5 dot 3)
- a dotted crotchet rest () is:  (dots 1 2 3 6 dot 3)
- a dotted minim rest () is:  (dots 1 3 6 dot 3)

Exercise 2.1

Let's practise writing notes and adding note values.

Braille each of the notes below as crotchets (quarter notes).

CCDD EEFF CDCD EFEF

GGAA BBCC GAGA BCBC

GBED FCGA CDEF GABC

ABCD FGAF GABC DEDG

Exercise 2.2

Braille the notes shown on the stave below. All notes are crotchets (quarter notes). Braille both bars on each staff as one braille line. Press return (Enter) at the end of the second bar. Use a blank cell between the two bars to show the barline. Only braille the musical notes – do not include the clef.



Image description:

Bar 1: BECG

Bar 2: FADC

Bar 3: AEGF

Bar 4: DCBC

Bar 5: CDEF

Bar 6: GABC

Bar 7: GCEA

Bar 8: GFDB

Exercise 2.3

Braille the notes below making them minims (half notes):

CC GG AA BB DD FF EE GG

DE GA EF BC BA GF ED CC

AB DC EF AG FD EC DE FG

CE GE GB FA BA GF ED BC

Exercise 2.4

Braille the notes on the staff below. All notes are minims (half notes). Braille the four bars on each staff as one braille line. Press return (Enter) at the end of the fourth bar. Use one blank cell between the bars to show the barline. Only braille the musical notes – do not include the clef.



Image description:

Bar 1: FA

Bar 2: GE

Bar 3: DE

Bar 4: BC

Bar 5: BA

Bar 6: GF

Bar 7: DC

Bar 8: EE

Bar 9: DD

Bar 10: DE

Bar 11: AG

Bar 12: FB

Bar 13: GA

Bar 14: FF

Bar 15: ED

Bar 16: BC

Exercise 2.5

Braille the notes below making them semibreves (whole notes):

C E F A

G D B C

D G E B

C D B A

Exercise 2.6

Braille the notes on the stave below. All notes are semibreves (whole notes). Braille the 4 bars on each staff on one braille line. Press return (Enter) at the end of the fourth bar. Use one blank cell between each bar to indicate the barline. Braille only the musical notes – do not include the clefs.

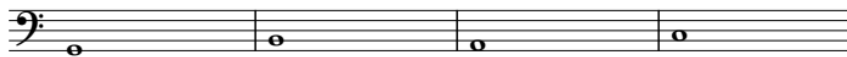


Image description:

Bar 1: C

Bar 2: F

Bar 3: E

Bar 4: B

Bar 5: G

Bar 6: A

Bar 7: B

Bar 8: C

Bar 9: G

Bar 10: B

Bar 11: A

Bar 12: C

Bar 13: E

Bar 14: F

Bar 15: D

Bar 16: A

Exercise 2.7

Braille each line of the notes and rests below (do not put a space between notes and rests).

C crotchet, D dotted crotchet, quaver rest, G crotchet

B quaver, C quaver, F dotted minim, semibreve rest

G minim, B crotchet, D quaver, A quaver, F crotchet, crotchet rest

G quaver, F quaver, A dotted crotchet, B quaver, C quaver, E crotchet, minim rest

A minim, dotted D minim, minim rest, crotchet rest

G dotted quaver, A semiquaver, dotted crotchet rest, E minim, semibreve rest

Dotted minim rest, C crotchet, D semibreve, semibreve rest

Exercise 2.8

Braille the notes on the stave below. Braille the bars on each line on one braille line. Press return (Enter) at the end of the last bar. Use one blank cell between each bar to indicate the barline. Braille only the musical notes – do not include the clefs.



Image description:

Bar 1: Minim rest, C crotchet, G crotchet

Bar 2: F quaver A quaver, E crotchet, G quaver A quaver B quaver C quaver

Bar 3: E crotchet, crotchet rest, B crotchet, C crotchet

Bar 4: C crotchet, D quaver E quaver, F dotted crotchet, A quaver

Bar 5: G minim, crotchet rest, B quaver A quaver

Bar 6: G quaver F quaver E quaver D quaver, B crotchet, D crotchet

Bar 7: C semibreve

Bar 8: C quaver, B quaver, E quaver, D dotted quaver, A semiquaver, B quaver

Bar 9: G dotted crotchet, dotted crotchet rest

Bar 10: E dotted quaver, F semiquaver, G quaver, A quaver, quaver rest, B quaver

Bar 11: C dotted minim

Bar 12: F dotted quaver, G semiquaver, A dotted quaver, B semiquaver, C dotted quaver, D semiquaver, E quaver, G quaver

Bar 13: A crotchet, crotchet rest, B crotchet, C crotchet

Bar 14: A dotted quaver, G semiquaver, F dotted quaver, E semiquaver, D dotted quaver, C semiquaver, D quaver, F quaver

Bar 15: G crotchet, D crotchet, C minim

Bar 16: A dotted quaver, B semiquaver, C crotchet, B crotchet, G crotchet

Bar 17: C dotted crotchet, F quaver, E dotted quaver, F semiquaver, G crotchet

Bar 18: F crotchet, B dotted quaver, B semiquaver, C crotchet, C crotchet

Bar 19: A semibreve

Lesson 3 Octave Signs

Octave signs indicate pitch in music braille not clef signs. While there are braille equivalents for the treble and bass clef they are rarely used in transcriptions unless the braille needs to be an exact copy of the print, a facsimile copy.

An important step in knowing when to use an octave sign before a note is determining what the distance or interval is between two notes.

To determine an interval between two notes, count the number of steps (lines and spaces) from the note you are on to the next note. Don't forget to count the note you are on as 1.



Image Description:

Middle C up to D is a 2nd

Middle C up to E is a 3rd

Middle C up to F is a 4th

Middle C up to G is a 5th

Middle C up to A is a 6th

Middle C up to B is a 7th

Middle C up to C is an octave

Examples of intervals:

	4 th octave D to 4 th octave B	6 th
	5 th octave D to 5 th octave E	2 nd
	4 th octave G to 4 th octave B	3 rd
	4 th octave A to 5 th octave A	octave
	3 rd octave B to 4 th octave F	5 th

Interval Practice

It is your turn. In the melody below there are 8 slurs (curved line between 2 notes of different pitch). Name each of these intervals. The answers are at the end of this lesson.

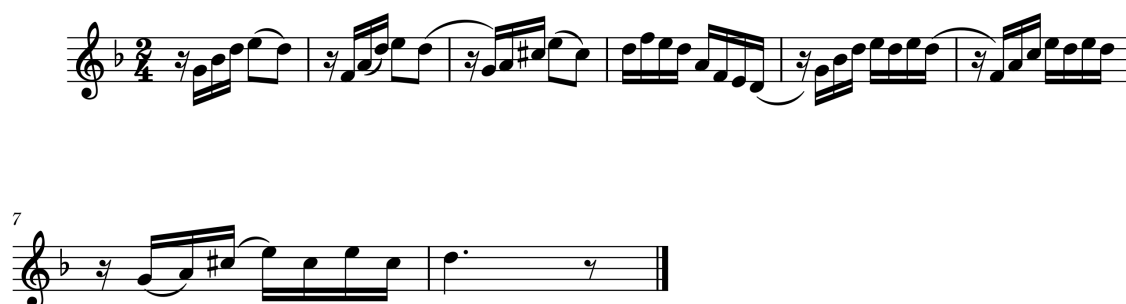


Image description:

Melody is in 2 4 time and has one flat B.

Bar 1: semiquaver rest, 4th octave G semiquaver, 4th octave B semiquaver, 5th octave D semiquaver, 5th octave E quaver, slur, 5th octave D quaver

Bar 2: semiquaver rest, 4th octave F semiquaver, 4th octave A semiquaver, slur, 5th octave D semiquaver, 5th octave E quaver, 5th octave D quaver, slur

Bar 3: semiquaver rest, 4th octave G semiquaver, 4th octave A semiquaver, 5th octave C sharp semiquaver, 5th octave E quaver, slur, 5th octave C

Bar 4: 5th octave D semiquaver, 5th octave F semiquaver, 5th octave E semiquaver, 5th octave D semiquaver, 4th octave A semiquaver, 4th octave F semiquaver, 4th octave E semiquaver, 4th octave D semiquaver, slur

Bar 5: semiquaver rest, 4th octave G semiquaver, 4th octave B semiquaver, 5th octave D semiquaver, 5th octave E semiquaver, 5th octave D semiquaver, 5th octave E semiquaver, 5th octave D semiquaver, slur

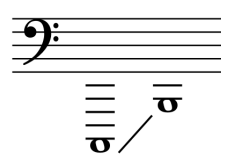

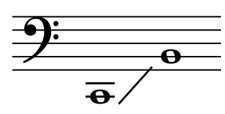





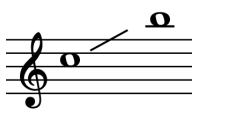

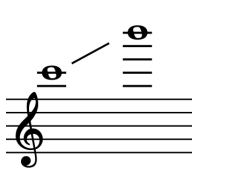



Bar 6: semiquaver rest, 4th octave F semiquaver, 4th octave A semiquaver, 5th octave C semiquaver, 5th octave E semiquaver, 5th octave D semiquaver, 5th octave E semiquaver, 5th octave semiquaver

Bar 7: semiquaver rest, 4th octave G semiquaver, slur, 4th octave A semiquaver, 5th octave C sharp semiquaver, slur, 5th octave E semiquaver, 5th octave C semiquaver, 5th octave E semiquaver, 5th octave C semiquaver

Bar 8: 5th octave D dotted crotchet, quaver rest, double bar line.

Octave Signs

There are 7 octaves as indicated in the table below. The first octave starts on the lowest C on the piano to the next B. The 4th octave starts on middle C which is shown in the treble and bass clefs.

	1 st Octave		dot 4
	2 nd Octave		dots 4, 5
	3 rd Octave		dots 4, 5, 6
	4 th Octave		dot 5
	5 th Octave		dot 4, 6
	6 th Octave		dots 5, 6
	7 th Octave		dot 6

The Rules for using Octave Signs

When and how to use octave signs is important. They tell the reader the direction of the melody, so it is important that octave signs are used correctly.

- The first note of a piece of music and the first note of every new line must be preceded by an octave sign. If a rest is on the first count of a new line, then the octave sign is placed before the first note on that line not the rest as a rest does not have pitch.

- Seconds or thirds do not need an octave sign even if they are in different octaves.
- Fourth and fifths only receive an octave sign if they are in different octaves.
- Sixths, sevenths and octaves must always have their own octave mark.

So, in summary:

- 2nd or 3rd, never.
- 4th or 5th, sometimes. (Only if it should leave the octave.)
- 6th or more, always.

One last rule for octave signs. Nothing comes between an octave sign and its note. If a note needs an octave sign, then it will immediately precede the note that needs it. More about this will be covered in other lessons.

Below is the first 8 bars of Ode to Joy by Beethoven in print and then in braille. Note that the first note of the melody has a 4th octave sign in front of it. The melody is moving in steps, in this case 2nds, so there are no more octave signs are required. However, bar 8 starts on a new braille line so the first note must have an octave sign.

The piece below is Ode to Joy by Beethoven. At the end of the excerpt you will notice that there is a double barline showing the end of the piece of music. The braille symbol for the double barline is: ⠆⠆⠆⠆ (dots 1 2 6, dots 1 3).



Image description:

All note values are quavers.

Bar 1: 4th octave E, 4th octave E, 4th octave F, 4th octave G

Bar 2: 4th octave G, 4th octave F, 4th octave E, 4th octave D

Bar 3: 4th octave C, 4th octave C, 4th octave D, 4th octave E

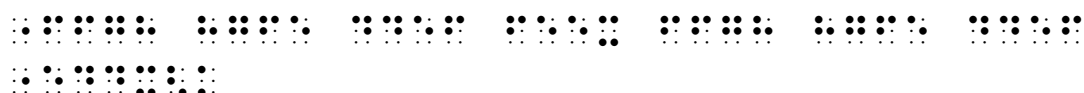
Bar 4: 4th octave E, 4th octave D, 4th octave D, quaver rest.

Bar 5: 4th octave E, 4th octave E, 4th octave F, 4th octave G

Bar 6: 4th octave G, 4th octave F, 4th octave E, 4th octave D

Bar 7: 4th octave C, 4th octave C, 4th octave D, 4th octave E

Bar 8: 4th octave D, 4th octave C, 4th octave C, quaver rest, double bar line.



Below is another example in print and braille demonstrating the use of octave signs. This melody has wider jumps in the melody, so more octave signs are required. The first note has a 3rd octave sign, but the next note jumps a 6th and also moves to a different octave, so according to the rules it must have its own octave sign so the reader knows which the direction the melody is moving. In the next bar, the distance between the A crotchet and the B crotchet is a 7th so the B must have an octave sign.



Image description:

Bar 1: 3rd octave G minim, 4th octave E minim

Bar 2: 4th octave F crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet, 3rd octave B crotchet

Bar 3: 4th octave C semibreve, double bar line.



To show the importance of octave signs, the melody above would be interpreted like this if the E in bar 1 did not have a 4th octave sign before it.



Image description:

Bar 1: 3rd octave G minim, 3rd octave E minim

Bar 2: 3rd octave F crotchet, 3rd octave G crotchet, 3rd octave A crotchet, 3rd octave B crotchet

Bar 3: 4th octave C semibreve, double barline.

Answers to the Interval Practice:

1. 2nd 2. 4th 3. 5th 4. 3rd 5. 4th 6. 6th 7. 2nd 8. 3rd

Exercise 3.1

Put the following melody into braille making sure to put octave signs as needed. To start a new bar, do a space and don't forget the double bar line at the end.



Image description:

Bar 1: minim rest, crotchet rest, 4th octave G crotchet

Bar 2: 4th octave E crotchet, 4th octave D quaver, 4th octave C quaver, 4th octave G crotchet

Bar 3: 4th octave A dotted minim, 4th octave A crotchet

Bar 4: 4th octave D crotchet, 4th octave D crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave F crotchet

Bar 5: 4th octave E crotchet, 4th octave D crotchet, 4th octave C crotchet, crotchet rest, double bar line.

Exercise 3.2

Put the following melody into braille making sure to put octave signs as needed. To start a new bar, do a space and don't forget the double bar line at the end.



Image description:

Bar 1: 4th octave C minim, 5th octave C minim

Bar 2: 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave A quaver, 4th octave B crotchet, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 3: 4th octave C minim, 4th octave A minim

Bar 4: 4th octave G semibreve

Bar 5: 3rd octave A minim, 4th octave F minim

Bar 6: 4th octave E crotchet, 4th octave C quaver, 4th octave D quaver, 4th octave E crotchet, 4th octave F crotchet

Bar 7: 4th octave D crotchet, 3rd octave B quaver, 4th octave C quaver, 4th octave D crotchet, 4th octave E crotchet

Bar 8: 4th octave C semibreve, double bar line.

Exercise 3.3

The melody below is called *Aloha 'Oe* by Queen Lili'oukalani (Hawaii). Put it into braille making sure to put octave signs as needed. Music braille does not follow the print music in the number of bars to a line. If a whole bar will not fit on the one braille line, then move the whole bar to a new line. Remember, to start a new bar, do a space and do not forget the double bar line at the end.

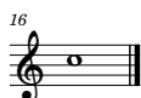
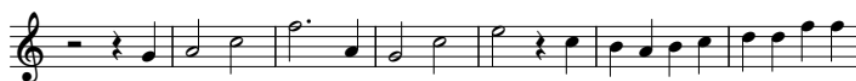


Image description:

Bar 1: minim rest, crotchet rest, 4th octave G crotchet

Bar 2: 4th octave A minim, 5th octave C minim

Bar 3: 5th octave F dotted minim, 4th octave A crotchet

Bar 4: 4th octave G minim, 5th octave C minim

Bar 5: 5th octave E minim, crotchet rest, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 6: 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave B crotchet, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 7: 5th octave D crotchet, 5th octave D crotchet, 5th octave F crotchet, 5th octave F crotchet

Bar 8: 5th octave E semibreve

Bar 9: 5th octave C minim, crotchet rest, 4th octave G crotchet

Bar 10: 4th octave A minim, 5th octave C minim

Bar 11: 5th octave F dotted minim, 4th octave A crotchet

Bar 12: 4th octave G minim, 5th octave C minim

Bar 13: 5th octave E minim, crotchet rest, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 14: 4th octave B dotted minim, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 15: 5th octave E crotchet, 5th octave D minim 4th octave B crotchet

Bar 16: 5th octave C semibreve, double bar line.





Lesson 4 Time and Key Signatures and Grouping Notes

This lesson will demonstrate how to braille time signatures, key signatures, and accidentals, as well as grouping notes.

Time Signatures



A time signature (or meter signatures) is found at the beginning of a piece of print music with the key signature. In braille music a time signature is centred on its own line above the piece of music. To write a time signature, braille a number sign, then the top number of the time signature is brailled next in the top part of the cell then the bottom number is brailled next in the lower part of the cell. A standard time signature will be three cells. An example of a time signature in a piece of music is shown at the end of this lesson.

Examples of how to braille different time signatures:

$\frac{3}{4}$		Dots 3 4 5 6, dots 1 4, dots 2 5 6
$\frac{6}{4}$		Dots 3 4 5 6, dots 1 2 4, dots 2 5 6
$\frac{3}{2}$		Dots 3 4 5 6, dots 1 4, dots 2 3
$\frac{6}{8}$		Dots 3 4 5 6, dots 1 2 4, dots 2 3 6









Two other common time signatures are common and cut common time which looks like the letter C.



Common time   (dots 4 6, dots 1 4)

Cut common time   (dots 4 5 6, dots 1 4)

Key Signatures/Accidentals





Accidentals are sharps, flats, and naturals put before a note to change its pitch. The table below shows the braille cells for each accidental.

Sharp 		dots 1 4 6
Double Sharp 		dots 1 4 6 dots 1 4 6
Flat 		dots 1 2 6
Double Flat 		dots 1 2 6 dots 1 2 6

Natural 		dots 1 6
---	---	----------

Key signatures are made up of sharps or flats and are found at the beginning of each new stave in print music. In braille, however, the key signature, like the time signature, is only written once at the beginning of a piece before the time signature, centred on their own line. If the key signature only has up to three sharps or flats, then the corresponding number of sharps or flats are used. If the key signature has four or more sharps or flats, then a numeric indicator with the number of sharps or flats there is, is brailled before the sharp or flat sign. Below are examples of how to braille different numbers of sharps and flats.

Examples of key signatures:

2 sharps		Dots 1 4 6, dots 1 4 6
3 flats		Dots 1 2 6, dots 1 2 6, dots 1 2 6
5 sharps		Dots 3 4 5 6, dots 1 5, dots 1 4 6
4 flats		Dots 3 4 5 6, dots 1 4 5, dots 1 2 6

There are two examples of how to braille key and time signatures. The first example has 2 flats and a time signature of $\frac{3}{4}$. Note that the key and time signature have their own line and that there is no space between the key and time signature.



Image description:

Key signature: 2 flats

Time signature: 3 4

Bar 1: 4th octave F minim, 4th octave F crotchet

Bar 2: 4th octave F crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave F crotchet

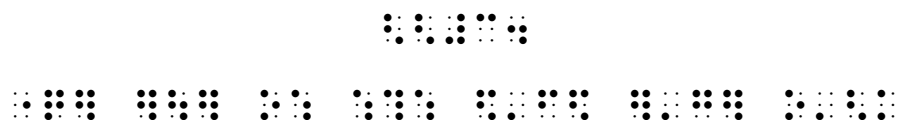
Bar 3: 4th octave D minim, 4th octave D crotchet

Bar 4: 4th octave D crotchet, 4th octave C crotchet, 4th octave D crotchet

Bar 5: 4th octave E dotted crotchet, 4th octave E quaver, 4th octave E crotchet

Bar 6: 4th octave F dotted crotchet, 4th octave F quaver, 4th octave F crotchet

Bar 7: 4th octave D dotted minim, double bar line.



In this second example the key signature has 4 sharps so a numeric sign has been used.



Image description:

Key signature: 4 sharps

Time signature: 2 4

Bar 1: 4th octave E quaver, 4th octave E quaver, 4th octave G crotchet

Bar 2: 4th octave F quaver, 4th octave D quaver, 3rd octave B crotchet

Bar 3: 4th octave E quaver, 4th octave E quaver, 4th octave G crotchet

Bar 4: 4th octave B quaver, 4th octave A quaver, 4th octave F crotchet



Changes of Time and Key Signatures

Changes of time and/or key signatures can occur within a piece of music. Any change to a time signature or key signature is placed in the line of music wherever it occurs in the print and it will have a space on either side. It is preferable to braille it on the same line as the bar it effects. The first note following a time or key signature change must have an octave sign.

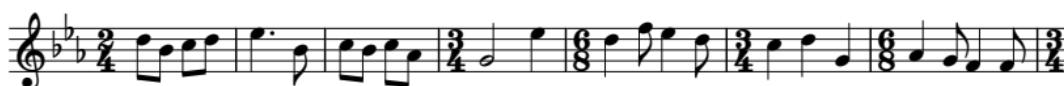


Image description:

Key signature: 1 flat

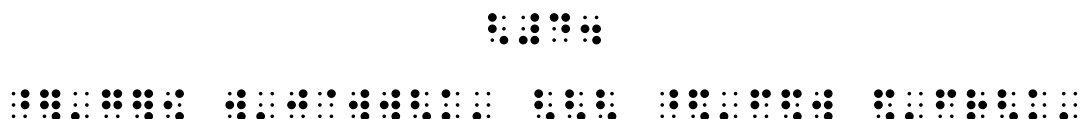
Time signature: 4 4

Bar 1: 2nd octave F dotted crotchet, 2nd octave F quaver, 2nd octave F crotchet, 2nd octave A crotchet

Bar 2: 2nd octave B dotted crotchet, 2nd octave B quaver, 1st octave B crotchet, 1st octave B crotchet, sectional double barline

Bar 3: key signature change to 3 flats, 2nd octave E dotted crotchet, 2nd octave E quaver, 2nd octave E crotchet, 2nd octave B crotchet

Bar 4: 2nd octave E dotted crotchet, 2nd octave quaver, 2nd octave B minim, sectional double barline.



Grouping of Notes

In print, notes are shown grouped together with beams. Beams are not possible in braille but notes smaller than an eighth can be grouped together when there are three or more. This is done by writing the first note of the group as its true value and the remaining notes are written as eighths.

The example below is 2 bars from Beethoven's Violin Sonata, Op. 24 showing how semiquavers are grouped in braille.



Image description:

Key signature: 1 flat

Time signature: common time

Bar 1: 5th octave A minim, group of 4 semiquavers 5th octave G, 5th octave F, 5th octave E, 5th octave F, group of 4 semiquavers 5th octave G, 5th octave F, 5th octave E, 5th octave D

Bar 2: 5th octave C minim, group of 4 semiquavers 5th octave D, 5th octave C, 4th octave natural B, 4th octave C, group of 4 semiquavers 5th octave D, 5th octave C, 4th octave flat B, 4th octave A, double barline.



Notes cannot be grouped when:

- they are not in the same beat,
- the group cannot be completed on the line which it begins,
- the group is followed in the same bar (measure) by quavers (eighth notes) or dotted quavers or a quaver rest (see example 1),
- a rest of equal value that occurs in any place other than the beginning of the group (see example 2), or
- the group is interrupted by a music hyphen (this sign will be covered in later lessons).

Example 1



Image description:

Key signature: 3 flats

Time signature: 2 4

Bar 1: group of 4 semiquavers 5th octave C, 5th octave D, 5th octave E, 5th octave D, 5th octave C quaver, quaver rest.

Bar 2: group of 4 semiquavers 5th octave E, 5th octave F, 5th octave G, 5th octave F, 5th octave E quaver, quaver rest

Bar 3: group of 4 semiquavers 5th octave G, 5th octave F, 5th octave A, 5th octave G, group of 4 semiquavers 5th octave F, 5th octave E, 5th octave D, 5th octave C

Bar 4: group of 4 semiquavers 4th octave natural B, 5th octave C, 5th octave D, 4th octave B, 5th octave C quaver, 5th octave C quaver, double barline.



Example 2



Image description:

Key signature: no sharps or flats

Time signature: 4 4

Bar 1: semiquaver rest, 4th octave G semiquaver, 4th octave A semiquaver, 4th octave B semiquaver, group of 4 semiquavers 5th octave C, 4th octave B, 5th octave C, 5th octave D, 5th octave E semiquaver, semiquaver rest, 5th octave F semiquaver, 5th octave E semiquaver, group of 4 semiquavers 5th octave D, 5th octave E, 5th octave F, 5th octave G

Bar 2: 5th octave A semiquaver, 5th octave G semiquaver, 5th octave F semiquaver, semiquaver rest, group of 4 semiquavers 5th octave D, 5th octave E, 5th octave F, 5th octave E, group of 4 semiquavers 5th octave D, 5th octave C, 4th octave A, 4th octave B, semiquaver rest, 5th octave D semiquaver, 5th octave E semiquaver, 5th octave D semiquaver

Bar 3: 5th octave C quaver, 4th octave G quaver, group of 4 semiquavers 4th octave A, 4th octave B, 5th octave C, 5th octave D, 5th octave E quaver, 4th octave B quaver, 5th octave C crotchet, double barline.



Exercise 4.1

The excerpt below is from Symphonie no. 101 in D Major by Hayden. Braille the piece of music remembering to centre the key and time signatures.



Image description:

Key Signature: 2 sharps

Time Signature: 4 4

Bar 1: 4th octave F minim, 4th octave G minim

Bar 2: 4th octave A minim, 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave F quaver, 4th octave E quaver, 4th octave D quaver

Bar 3: 4th octave B crotchet, 5th octave C crotchet, 5th octave D crotchet, 5th octave E crotchet

Bar 4: 5th octave D minim, 5th octave C minim

Bar 5: 5th octave E minim, 5th octave F minim

Bar 6: 5th octave G minim, 5th octave G quaver, 5th octave F quaver, 5th octave E quaver, 5th octave D quaver

Bar 7: 5th octave C crotchet, 5th octave D crotchet, 5th octave E crotchet, 5th octave F crotchet

Bar 8: 5th octave D crotchet, crotchet rest, minim rest, double barline.

Exercise 4.2

Braille this piece of music. Remember to centre the key and time signatures on their own line and don't forget the accidental.

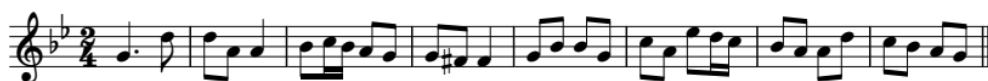


Image description:

Key signature: 2 flats

Time signature: 2 4

Bar 1: 4th octave G dotted crotchet, 5th octave D quaver

Bar 2: 5th octave D quaver, 4th octave A quaver, 4th octave A crotchet

Bar 3: 4th octave B quaver, 5th octave C semiquaver, 4th octave B semiquaver, 4th octave A quaver, 4th octave G quaver

Bar 4: 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave sharp F quaver, 4th octave F crotchet

Bar 5: 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave B quaver, 4th octave B quaver, 4th octave G quaver

Bar 6: 5th octave C quaver, 4th octave A quaver, 5th octave E quaver, 5th octave D semiquaver, 5th octave C semiquaver

Bar 7: 4th octave B quaver, 4th octave A quaver, 4th octave A quaver, 5th octave D quaver

Bar 8: 5th octave C quaver, 4th octave B quaver, 4th octave A quaver, 4th octave G quaver, double barline.

Exercise 4.3

Put the music below into braille. Remember to centre the key and time signatures, use octave signs where needed, and be aware of the sectional double barline and change of key signature.

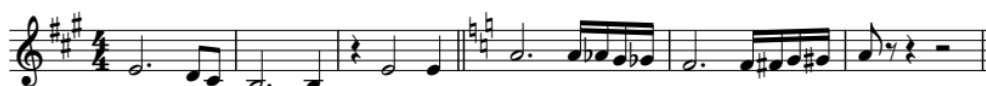


Image description:

Key signature: 3 sharps

Time signature: 4 4

Bar 1: 4th octave E dotted minim, 4th octave D quaver, 4th octave C quaver

Bar 2: 3rd octave B dotted minim, 3rd octave B crotchet

Bar 3: crotchet rest, 4th octave E minim, 4th octave E crotchet, sectional double barline

Bar 4: change of key signature to 3 naturals, 4th octave A dotted minim, group of 4 semiquavers 4th octave A, 4th octave flat A, 4th octave G, 4th octave flat G

Bar 5: 4th octave F dotted minim, group of 4 semiquavers 4th octave F, 4th octave sharp F, 4th octave G, 4th octave sharp G

Bar 6: 4th octave A quaver, quaver rest, crotchet rest, minim rest, double barline.

Exercise 4.4

Put the piece below into braille. Remember to centre the key and time signatures use octave signs where needed and be aware of the changes in time signatures.

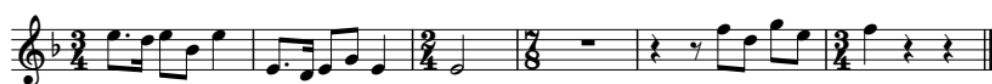


Image description:

Key signature: 1 flat

Time signature: 3 4

Bar 1: 5th octave E dotted quaver, 5th octave D semiquaver, 5th octave E quaver, 4th octave B quaver, 5th octave E crotchet

Bar 2: 4th octave E dotted quaver, 4th octave D semiquaver, 4th octave E quaver, 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave E crotchet

Bar 3: change of time signature to 2 4, 4th octave E minim

Bar 4: change of time signature to 7 8, whole bar rest

Bar 5: crotchet rest, quaver rest, 5th octave F quaver, 5th octave D quaver, 5th octave G quaver, 5th octave E quaver

Bar 6: change of time signature to 3 4, 5th octave F crotchet, crotchet rest, crotchet rest, double barline.

Exercise 4.5

The piece below is called *Ballade Pour Adeline*. Put it into braille and group the semiquavers. In bars 2 and 6 where the semiquaver group starts with a semiquaver rest, remember the rule where the semiquaver rest sets the value for the group and the semiquaver notes following may be shown as quavers.



Image description:

Key signature: no sharps or flats

Time signature: common time

Bar 1: 5th octave E crotchet, 5th octave E minim, 5th octave E dotted quaver, 5th octave F semiquaver

Bar 2: 5th octave F minim, semiquaver rest, 5th octave F semiquaver, 5th octave F semiquaver, 5th octave F semiquaver, group of 4 semiquavers all 5th octave F

Bar 3: 5th octave G crotchet, 5th octave G minim, 5th octave G dotted quaver, 5th octave A semiquaver

Bar 4: 5th octave E dotted minim, crotchet rest

Bar 5: 5th octave E crotchet, 5th octave E crotchet, group of 4 semiquavers all 5th octave E, group of 4 semiquaver 5th octave E, 5th octave E, 5th octave E, 5th octave F

Bar 6: 5th octave F minim, semiquaver rest, 5th octave F semiquaver, 5th octave F semiquaver, 5th octave F semiquaver, group of 4 semiquavers 5th octave F, 5th octave F, 5th octave F, 5th octave G

Bar 7: 5th octave G dotted minim, 5th octave G dotted quaver, 5th octave A semiquaver

Bar 8: 5th octave E minim, minim rest, double barline.

Lesson 5 Bar Numbering and Ties and Slurs

Bar Numbering

Numbering bars is an important guide for braille readers and bars are numbered in instrumental music regardless of whether the bar numbers are shown in print. Numbers are placed in cell 1 of the braille line without a number sign. An anacrusis or upbeat to bar 1, is numbered as bar 0. Examples of how to use bar numbers will be demonstrated in the examples shown in this lesson.

Ties

A tie in print music is a curved line that joins two notes of the same pitch. Notes that are tied are played as one note. A tie in braille is: ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ (dot 4, dot 1 4).

Examples of how ties are used.

Example 1: The piece below is called *Oh, My Lovin' Brother* and shows ties over the bar.



Image description:

Key Signature: 1 flat

Time Signature: Cut common time

Bar 1: crotchet rest, 4th octave F quaver, 4th octave F quaver, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet.

Bar 2: 4th octave B minim, 4th octave B minim, tie

Bar 3: 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave B quaver, 4th octave B quaver, 4th octave F crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet

Bar 4: 4th octave A semibreve

Bar 5: crotchet rest, 4th octave A quaver, 4th octave A quaver, 5th octave C crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet

Bar 6: 4th octave G minim, 4th octave G minim, tie

Bar 7: 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave F crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet

Bar 8: 4th octave A minim, 4th octave A minim, tie

Bar 9: 4th octave A crotchet, crotchet rest, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave F crotchet

Bar 10: 4th octave F minim, 4th octave F minim, tie

Bar 11: 4th octave F crotchet, 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave F crotchet, 4th octave D crotchet

Bar 12: 4th octave C minim, 4th octave F minim, tie

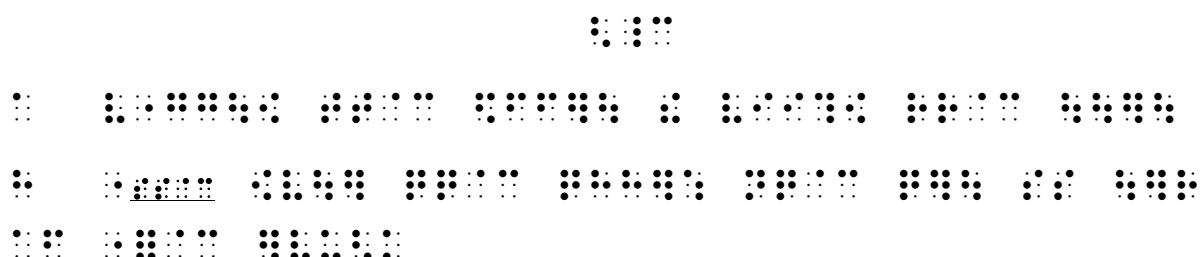
Bar 13: 4th octave F minim, 4th octave F crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet

Bar 14: 4th octave A minim, 4th octave A minim

Bar 15: 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave F crotchet, 4th octave G minim

Bar 16: 4th octave F semibreve, tie

Bar 17: 4th octave F crotchet, crotchet rest, minim rest, double barline.



Example 2: The piece below is called *Little Brown Jug* and it shows the use of ties within a bar.



Image description:

Key Signature: no sharps or flats

Time Signature: Common time

Bar 1: 4th octave E quaver, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave G quaver, tie, 4th octave G minim

Bar 2: 4th octave F quaver, 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave A quaver, tie, 4th octave A minim

Bar 3: quaver rest, 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave B quaver, 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave B crotchet

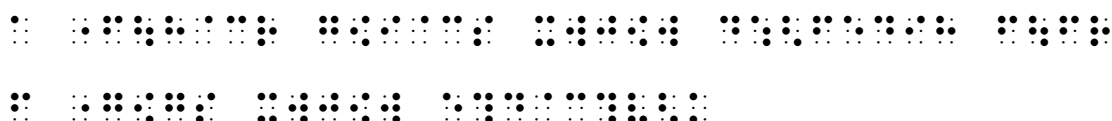
Bar 4: 5th octave C quaver, 5th octave D crotchet, 5th octave flat E quaver, 5th octave D quaver, 5th octave C quaver, 4th octave A quaver, 4th octave G quaver

Bar 5: 4th octave E quaver, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave E quaver, 4th octave G minim

Bar 6: 4th octave F quaver, 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave F quaver, 4th octave A minim

Bar 7: quaver rest, 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave B quaver, 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave B crotchet

Bar 6: 5th octave D quaver, 5th octave C crotchet, 5th octave C quaver, tie, 5th octave C crotchet, crotchet rest, double barline.



The Slur

The tie and slur in print use the same sign. The purpose of a slur is to indicate that notes are to be played smoothly, show phrasing and in vocal music, give a correlation between notes and syllables.

The single slur ⠠ (dots 1 4) is used to connect two to four notes. It is placed after the each note except for the last note. For slurs longer than four notes the single slur can be doubled after the first note. To conclude the slur a single slur sign is placed before the last to be slurred.

Below is an example showing the use of the single and double slur. Note the slur in bar 8 to 9. As 4 notes are being slurred a double slur can be used, single slurs have been used in this circumstance, as the use of a double slur does not save any cells. In this instance, the use of either the double slur or single slur is correct.



Image description:

Key signature: 3 sharps

Time signature: common time

Bar 1: 5th octave C minim, slur, 5th octave E minim

Bar 2: 4th octave A minim, slur, 5th octave C minim

Bar 3: 4th octave F minim, slur, 5th octave D crotchet, slur, 5th octave C crotchet, slur

Bar 4: 4th octave B crotchet, slur, 5th octave F crotchet, slur, 5th octave E minim

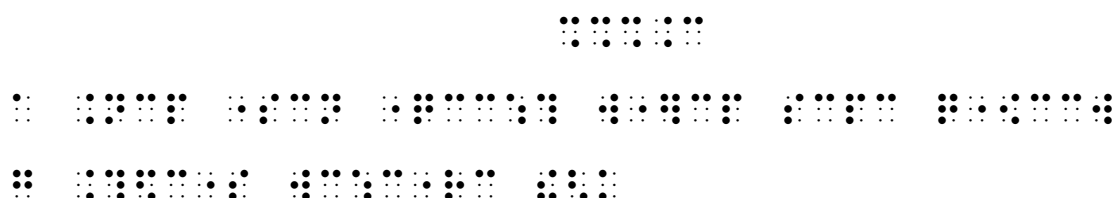
Bar 5: 5th octave A minim, slur, 5th octave E minim, slur

Bar 6: 5th octave F minim, 4th octave A crotchet, slur, 4th octave B crotchet, slur

Bar 7: 5th octave C crotchet, slur, 5th octave E crotchet, slur, 4th octave A minim

Bar 8: 4th octave B crotchet, slur, 5th octave D crotchet, slur, 4th octave G minim, slur

Bar 9: 4th octave A semibreve, double barline.



Another common slur is the bracket slur: ⌈ ⌋ (Opening bracket dots 5 6, dots 1 2. Closing bracket dots 4 5, dots 2 3). It can be used instead of the double slur, but it is commonly used to show phrases especially in keyboard and instrumental music. The bracket slur is also employed when a piece uses layered slurs.

Example of the bracket slur.



Image description:

Key Signature: 1 sharp

Time Signature: 3 4

Bar 0: open bracket slur, 3rd octave D quaver, 3rd octave C quaver

Bar 1: 2nd octave B crotchet, 2nd octave A crotchet, 2nd octave G crotchet

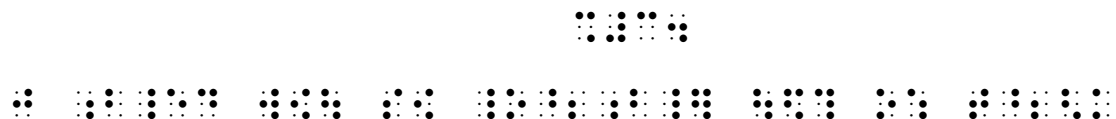
Bar 2: 2nd octave A minim, 2nd octave A crotchet

Bar 3: 3rd octave D minim, closed bracket slur, open bracket slur, 3rd octave F crotchet

Bar 4: 3rd octave G crotchet, 3rd octave E crotchet, 3rd octave C crotchet

Bar 5: 3rd octave D minim, 3rd octave D crotchet

Bar 6: 2nd octave B minim, closed bracket slur, double barline.



Example of the use of bracket slurs when slurs are layered in the music.



Exercise 5.1

Put *Air* from *Water Music* by Handel into braille. Make sure to add bar numbers on the margin of each line and most importantly, don't forget to use octave signs.



Image description:

Key Signature: 1 flat

Time Signature: 4 4

Bar 1: 4th octave A dotted quaver, 5th octave C semiquaver, 4th octave A dotted quaver, 4th octave A semiquaver, 4th octave G minim

Bar 2: 4th octave A dotted quaver, 5th octave C semiquaver, 4th octave F dotted quaver, 4th octave A semiquaver, 4th octave G crotchet, 5th octave C crotchet, tied

Bar 3: 5th octave C crotchet, 4th octave B crotchet, tied, 4th octave B dotted quaver, 4th octave G semiquaver, 4th octave A dotted quaver, 4th octave B semiquaver

Bar 4: 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave G dotted quaver, 4th octave F semiquaver, 4th octave F minim

Bar 5: 4th octave A dotted quaver, 5th octave C semiquaver, 4th octave F dotted quaver, 5th octave F semiquaver, 5th octave E dotted crotchet, 5th octave D quaver

Bar 6: 5th octave C crotchet, 4th octave B dotted quaver, 4th octave A semiquaver, 4th octave G crotchet, 5th octave G crotchet, tied

Bar 7: 5th octave G crotchet, 5th octave F crotchet, tied, 5th octave F dotted quaver, 5th octave D semiquaver, 5th octave E dotted quaver, 5th octave F semiquaver

Bar 8: 5th octave E crotchet, 5th octave D dotted quaver, 5th octave C semiquaver, 5th octave C minim, double barline.

Exercise 5.2

Put the piece below into braille. Be careful to identify the difference between a tie and a slur. Make sure to show bar numbers at the beginning of each new line and add appropriate octave signs.



Image description:

Key signature: 2 flats

Time signature: 3 4

Bar 1: 5th octave F minim, slur, 5th octave natural E crotchet

Bar 2: 5th octave flat E crotchet, slur, 5th octave D crotchet, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 3: 4th octave B minim, 5th octave D quaver, slur, 4th octave B quaver

Bar 4: 4th octave A quaver, slur, 5th octave C quaver, slur, 5th octave F quaver, slur, 5th octave E quaver, 5th octave G quaver, slur, 5th octave F quaver

Bar 5: 4th octave B minim, 5th octave D quaver, slur, 4th octave B quaver

Bar 6: 4th octave A quaver, slur, 5th octave C quaver, slur, 5th octave E quaver, slur, 5th octave C quaver, 5th octave G quaver, slur, 5th octave F quaver

Bar 7: 4th octave B crotchet, crotchet rest, 5th octave B crotchet, tied

Bar 8: 5th octave B dotted minim, tied

Bar 9: 5th octave B minim, slur, 5th octave natural B crotchet

Bar 10: 6th octave C crotchet, slur, 6th octave D crotchet, 6th octave E crotchet

Bar 11: 6th octave F minim, slur, 5th octave A crotchet

Bar 12: 5th octave B crotchet, crotchet rest, crotchet rest, double barline.

Exercise 5.3

Put the piece below into braille. Be careful to use the correct slur sign. Make sure to number the bars at the beginning of each new line and add the appropriate octave signs.



Image description:

Key signature: 2 sharps

Time signature: 6 8

Bar 1: open bracket slur, 5th octave F crotchet, 5th octave D quaver, 4th octave B dotted quaver, 5th octave C semiquaver, 5th octave D quaver

Bar 2: 5th octave E quaver, slur, 5th octave C quaver, slur, 4th octave sharp A quaver, 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave F quaver

Bar 3: 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave sharp A quaver, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 4: 5th octave D dotted crotchet, 5th octave C crotchet, close bracket slur, quaver rest

Bar 5: open bracket slur, 4th octave B quaver, slur, 5th octave D quaver, slur, 5th octave F quaver, 5th octave sharp E crotchet, 5th octave sharp G quaver

Bar 6: 5th octave F dotted crotchet, 5th octave C crotchet, close bracket slur, open bracket slur, 4th octave A quaver

Bar 7: 4th octave G quaver, slur, 4th octave B quaver, slur, 5th octave D quaver, 5th octave C crotchet, 5th octave E quaver

Bar 8: 5th octave D dotted crotchet, tied, 5th octave D crotchet, close bracket slur, quaver rest

Bar 9: open bracket slur, 5th octave F dotted quaver, 5th octave E semiquaver, 5th octave D quaver, 4th octave B dotted quaver, 5th octave C semiquaver, 5th octave D quaver

Bar 10: 5th octave E quaver, slur, 5th octave C quaver, slur, 4th octave sharp A quaver, 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave F quaver

Bar 11: 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave sharp A quaver, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 12: 4th octave B dotted crotchet, tied, 4th octave B crotchet, close bracket slur, quaver rest, double barline.

Lesson 6 Dynamics and Expressive Markings

Dynamics (eg. *f*, *p*, *mf*, *mp*, *cresc* and *descres*) and expressive markings (*moderato*, *rit*, *poco*, *lento* etc) are usually words or letters. This lesson will show how to put words and letters into a piece of braille music and also show how to add titles and composers if the piece has them.

When adding words to braille music it is done in uncontracted braille (letter by letter, no contractions). Throughout this lesson, and subsequent lessons, uncontracted braille will be used. If you are unsure of this code a document can be found under Resources to help you. Grade 1 Braille may not necessarily be used in every country, so it is advised that you check with the Braille Authority of your country when creating your own music braille.

All words in the line of music are preceded by a word sign ⠆ (dots 3 4 5).

Care must be taken on the placement of an expression marking in braille music and it is important to get the order of signs correct. In print a new tempo marking for a bar may be placed in different positions depending on the editor and when written with a dynamic marking it may be shown after, above or below it. In music braille the tempo marking would be brailled first and then the dynamic marking before the note as the dynamic marking directly effects the note. For example, a tempo indication can be placed before a rest, but a dynamic marking must be placed before a note – rests cannot be loud or soft, but they can be fast or slow.

Rules for when writing words:

1. words are written in uncontracted braille in the applicable literary code
2. no capitals are used
3. can use literary punctuation except for dot 3 which is a period and the special parenthesis sign which is ⠤⠆ (dots 2 3 5 6)
4. an octave sign is required for the next note.
5. the word must be followed by a dot 3 if the next cell contains dots 1 2 or 3. For example, if the next note is preceded by a sharp then the sharp sign must be brailled before the octave sign which means there would be a dot 1 so a dot 3 would be required after the word. The exception is if it is the last sign of the bar (measure), the following sign is a word sign or a dot 3 (representing a period) is already present

The example below is called Trumpet Voluntary by Jeremiah Clark. Titles and composers are brailled on their own lines centred above the music. This piece also has a tempo marking – moderato. A tempo marking found above the first bar of music is

brailled on the same line as, but before, the key and time signature and it is followed by a full stop (dots 2 5 6).

The excerpt also uses the *cresc* (crescendo) dynamic marking. The abbreviation of *cr* is always used regardless of how it is abbreviated in print. The same goes for decrescendo, it is abbreviated to *decr* and diminuendo is abbreviated to *dim*.

Dynamic markings like *mf*, crescendos etc are always brailled before the note they affect. For example, in Trumpet Voluntary the first note F has *mf* underneath it.

Therefore, the first bar will start with a word sign, then the *mf* and then the octave sign for the first note.

Every dynamic sign cannot be covered in these lessons, but they all follow the same rules and a more comprehensive table of dynamic markings can be found in the program notes to help you with this lesson.

Trumpet Voluntary

Jeremiah Clarke



Image description:

Title: Trumpet Voluntary

Composer: Jeremiah Clarke

Tempo Marking: Moderato

Key Signature: 1 flat

Time Signature: 4 4

Bar 1: *mf*, 4th octave F minim, 4th octave G minim

Bar 2: 4th octave A dotted crotchet, 4th octave B quaver, 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet

Bar 3: 4th octave F crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave F quaver

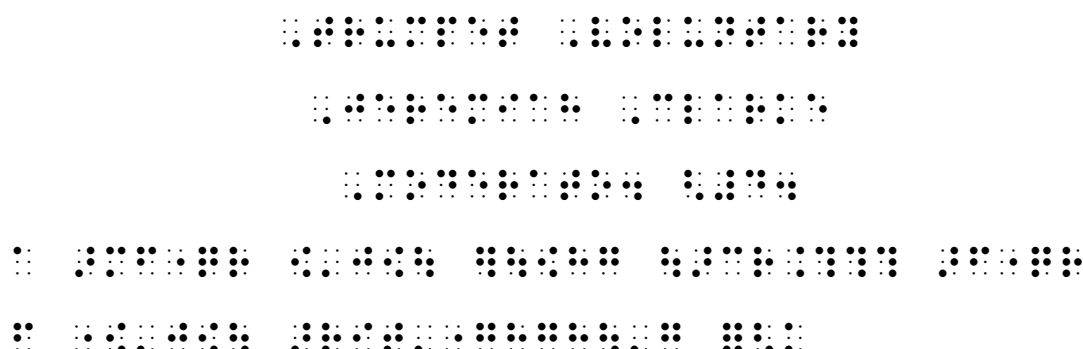
Bar 4: 4th octave G crotchet, *cresc*, 5th octave C crotchet, 5th octave C crotchet, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 5: *f*, 4th octave F minim, 4th octave G minim

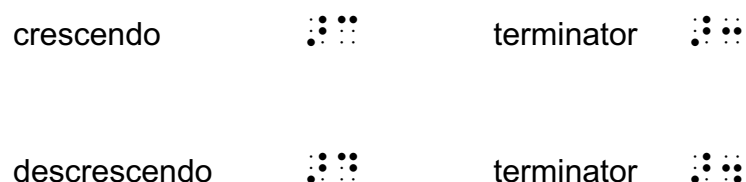
Bar 6: 4th octave A dotted crotchet, 4th octave B quaver, 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet

Bar 7: *rit*, 4th octave F quaver, 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave F quaver, 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave G dotted crotchet, 4th octave F quaver

Bar 8: 4th octave F semibreve, double barline.



Another common dynamic marking is the hairpin (2 lines that converge – decrescendo or diverge – crescendo). This marking may require a terminator if the hairpin is not followed by another dynamic marking, a long rest or a double barline ending the piece. Where a terminator is required, it is brailled after the effected note. If there are other signs on that note like a slur or tie the terminator should be brailled after these signs.



Vocalise by Sieber demonstrates the use of the hairpin crescendo and decrescendo and termination sign.

Vocalise, Op. 93, No. 24

Sieber



Image description:

Title: Vocalise, Op. 93, No. 24

Composer: Sieber

Tempo Marking: Lento

Key Signature: 1 sharp

Time Signature: Common time

Bar 1: *p*, 4th octave E quaver, slur, 4th octave G quaver, slur, 4th octave B slur, 5th octave E quaver, slur, 5th octave D crotchet, slur, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 2: 4th octave B crotchet, tie, 4th octave B semiquaver, slur, 4th octave A semiquaver, slur, 4th octave G semiquaver, slur, 4th octave F semiquaver, slur, 4th octave E crotchet, crotchet rest

Bar 3: 4th octave B quaver, slur, 4th octave A quaver, slur, 4th octave F quaver, slur, 4th octave sharp D quaver, 4th octave E crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet

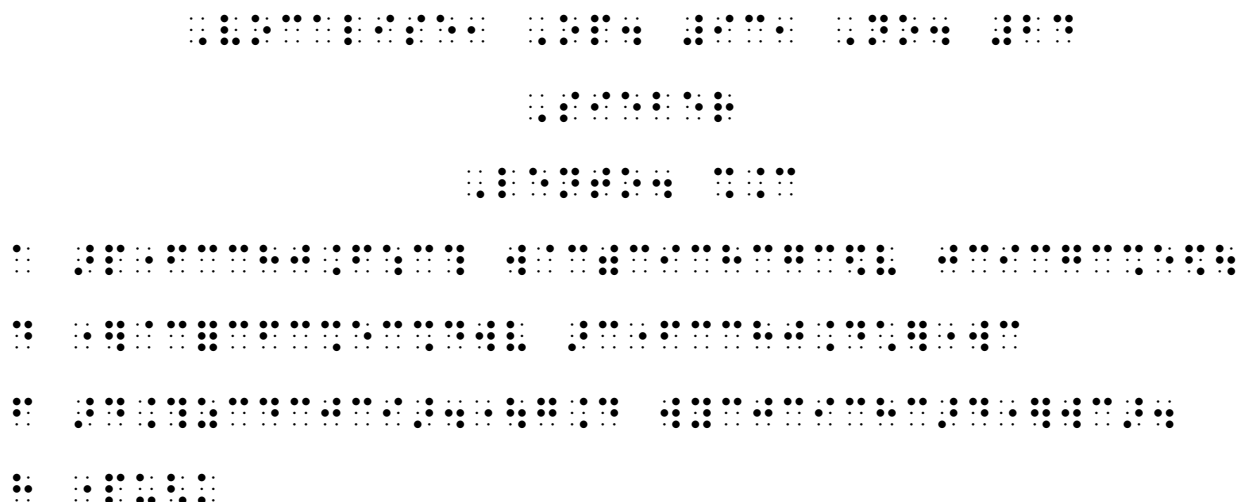
Bar 4: 4th octave F crotchet, tie, 4th octave F semiquaver, slur, 4th octave E semiquaver, slur, 4th octave sharp D semiquaver, slur, 4th octave sharp C semiquaver, 3rd octave B crotchet, crotchet rest

Bar 5: hairpin crescendo, 4th octave E quaver, slur, 4th octave G quaver, slur, 4th octave B quaver, slur, 5th octave E quaver, 5th octave natural F crotchet, slur, 4th octave B crotchet, slur, end hairpin

Bar 6: hairpin decrescendo, 5th octave C crotchet, 5th octave D semiquaver, slur, 5th octave C semiquaver, slur, 4th octave B semiquaver, slur, 4th octave A semiquaver, end hairpin, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave F quaver, 5th octave C quaver

Bar 7: 4th octave B crotchet, 5th octave C semiquaver, slur, 4th octave B semiquaver, slur, 4th octave A semiquaver, slur, 4th octave G semiquaver, slur, hairpin decrescendo, 4th octave F crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet, slur, end hairpin

Bar 8: 4th octave E minim, minim rest, double barline.



Longer expressions, that is, an expression consisting of two or more words, as in *a tempo* in bar 9, is enclosed between a pair of word signs and must be preceded and followed by a space.

Bethena

Joplin

Cantabile

The musical score for 'Bethena' by Scott Joplin is presented in four staves. The first staff begins with the tempo marking *Cantabile* and the dynamic *p*. The second staff includes the tempo marking *rit* and the dynamic *f*. The third staff includes the tempo marking *p a tempo*. The fourth staff ends with a double barline. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 3/4.

Image description:

Title: Bethena

Composer: Joplin

Tempo Marking: Cantabile

Key Signature: 2 sharps

Time Signature: 3 4

Bar 1: *p*, 5th octave D quaver, 4th octave B crotchet, 5th octave F quaver, 5th octave D crotchet

Bar 2: 5th octave D quaver, 5th octave F quaver, 5th octave D quaver, 4th octave B quaver, tie, 4th octave B crotchet

Bar 3: 4th octave sharp A quaver, 5th octave F crotchet, 5th octave G quaver, 5th octave F crotchet

Bar 4: 4th octave B quaver, 5th octave F crotchet, 5th octave G quaver, 5th octave F crotchet

Bar 5: 5th octave D quaver, 4th octave B crotchet, 5th octave F quaver, 5th octave D crotchet

Bar 6: 5th octave B quaver, 5th octave F quaver, 5th octave D quaver, 4th octave B quaver, tie, 4th octave B quaver, 5th octave D quaver

Bar 7: hairpin crescendo, 5th octave D quaver, rit, 5th octave D crotchet, 5th octave D quaver, 5th octave E quaver, 5th octave sharp E quaver

Bar 8: *f*, 5th octave F crotchet, hairpin decrescendo, 5th octave C crotchet, 4th octave F crotchet

Bar 9: *a tempo*, *p*, 5th octave D quaver, 4th octave B crotchet, 5th octave F quaver, 5th octave D crotchet

Bar 10: 5th octave B quaver, 5th octave F quaver, 5th octave D quaver, 4th octave B quaver, tie, 4th octave B crotchet

Bar 11: 4th octave sharp A quaver, 5th octave F crotchet, 5th octave G quaver, 5th octave F crotchet

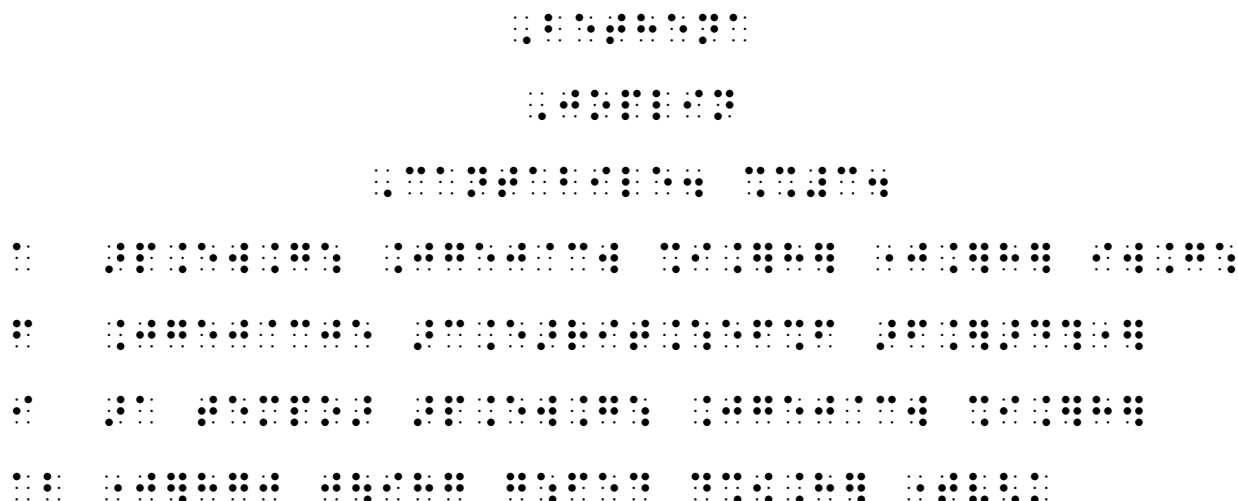
Bar 12: 4th octave B quaver, 5th octave F crotchet, 5th octave G quaver, 5th octave F quaver, 5th octave B quaver

Bar 13: 5th octave B quaver, 5th octave G crotchet, 5th octave A quaver, 5th octave G quaver, 5th octave F quaver

Bar 14: 5th octave F quaver, 5th octave D crotchet, 5th octave E quaver, 5th octave D quaver, 5th octave C quaver

Bar 15: 5th octave C quaver, 4th octave sharp A crotchet, 5th octave G quaver, 5th octave F crotchet

Bar 16: 4th octave B minim, crotchet rest, double barline.



Exercise 6.1

Put the piece below into braille. Remember to centre the heading and subhead, use the word sign for the dynamic markings and most importantly don't forget to use octave signs where needed.

When Love is Kind

Irish Folk Song



Image description:

Title: When Love is Kind

Subtitle: Irish Folk Song

Tempo Marking: Moderato

Key Signature: 3 flats

Time Signature: 3 4

Bar 1: *f*, 4th octave B crotchet, slur, 5th octave E crotchet, 5th octave E crotchet

Bar 2: 5th octave E crotchet, 5th octave D quaver, 5th octave E quaver, 5th octave F crotchet

Bar 3: *p*, 4th octave B crotchet, slur, 5th octave F crotchet, 5th octave F crotchet

Bar 4: 5th octave F crotchet, 5th octave E quaver, 5th octave F quaver, 5th octave G crotchet

Bar 5: *f*, 4th octave B crotchet, slur, 5th octave G crotchet, 5th octave G crotchet

Bar 6: 5th octave G crotchet, 5th octave F quaver, 5th octave G quaver, 5th octave A crotchet

Bar 7: 4th octave B crotchet, 5th octave C crotchet, 5th octave D crotchet

Bar 8: 5th octave E dotted minim, double barline.

Exercise 6.2

Below is a theme from Finlandia by Sibelius. Make sure to use hairpin terminators where needed. Also, the word *express* is under the staff so it will be written in the line of music and not with the key and time signatures. Although the *mf* comes first in the print, *express* will be brailled first as it is not specific to the note as the *mf* dynamic.

Finlandia

Sibelius



Image description:

Title: Finlandia

Composer: Sibelius

Key Signature: 4 flats

Time Signature: Common time

Bar 1: crotchet rest, *express*, *mf*, 5th octave C crotchet, slur, 4th octave B crotchet, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 2: 5th octave D dotted minim, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 3: 4th octave B crotchet, 5th octave C crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet, quaver rest, 4th octave B quaver

Bar 4: 4th octave B crotchet, 5th octave C dotted minim, tie

Bar 5: 5th octave C crotchet, 5th octave C crotchet, 4th octave B crotchet, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 6: hairpin decrescendo, 5th octave D dotted minim, end hairpin, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 7: 4th octave B crotchet, 5th octave C crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet, quaver rest, 4th octave B quaver

Bar 8: 5th octave C semibreve, tie

Bar 9: 5th octave C crotchet, 5th octave E crotchet, 5th octave E crotchet, 5th octave E crotchet

Bar 10: 5th octave F dotted minim, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 11: 5th octave C crotchet, slur, 5th octave E crotchet, hairpin decrescendo, 5th octave E dotted crotchet, slur, 4th octave B quaver, end hairpin

Bar 12: 4th octave B crotchet, hairpin decrescendo, 5th octave D dotted minim, tie

Bar 13: 5th octave D crotchet, 5th octave D crotchet, slur, 5th octave C crotchet, end hairpin, 4th octave B crotchet

Bar 14: 5th octave C dotted minim, slur, 4th octave A crotchet

Bar 15: 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave B minim, quaver rest, 5th octave C quaver

Bar 16: 5th octave C semibreve, double barline.

Exercise 6.3

Below is the last 7 bars of the Bassoon part from the Peer Gynt Suite by Grieg for you to put into Braille. There are a lot of dynamic changes and a tempo change. Remember that dynamics always come before the note they affect unless it is a hairpin terminator which comes after the note and slur or tie.

Peer Gynt Suite No. 1

1. Morning Mood

Grieg



Image description:

Title: Peer Gynt Suite No. 1

Subtitle: 1. Morning Mood

Composer: Grieg

Tempo Marking: piu tranquillo

Key Signature: 4 sharps

Time Signature: 6 8

Bar 1: *p*, 5th octave G quaver, slur, hairpin crescendo, 5th octave E quaver, slur, 5th octave D quaver, slur, hairpin decrescendo, 5th octave C quaver, slur, 5th octave D quaver, slur, 5th octave E quaver

Bar 2: hairpin crescendo, 5th octave G quaver, slur, 5th octave E quaver, slur, 5th octave D quaver, slur, hairpin decrescendo, 5th octave C quaver, slur, 5th octave D semiquaver, slur, 5th octave E semiquaver, slur, 5th octave D semiquaver, slur, 5th octave E semiquaver

Bar 3: *dim.*, 5th octave G dotted crotchet, tie, 5th octave G crotchet, quaver rest

Bar 4: *poco rit.*, 5th octave E dotted crotchet, tie, 5th octave E crotchet, quaver rest

Bar 5: *pp*, hairpin crescendo, 5th octave C dotted minim, tie

Bar 6: hairpin decrescendo, 5th octave C dotted minim, tie, end hairpin

Bar 7: 5th octave C crotchet, quaver rest, crotchet rest, quaver rest, double barline.

Lesson 7 Nuances and Ornaments

There are many signs used in music that must be brailled if they are in the print. This lesson will give you a cross section of signs that precede and follow a note and show you how to braille them. As there are too many to show individually, a comprehensive table of signs is available through the link.

Nuances

Articulations represented by symbols, for example staccato, accent and arpeggios, are placed before the notes affected. The note following these signs does not require an octave sign. Sometimes two or more of these signs may be used on the same note. They should be placed in the following order: arpeggio, staccato or staccatissimo, accent, tenuto.

Except for the swell, these nuances can be doubled if there are four or more successive notes. Doubling at the bottom of the braille page before the turnover must have four or more affect notes before the turnover. The doubling should be restated at the top of the next braille page only if there are four or more notes affected by the doubling.

Nuances that follow a note are breath or break marks and fermata markings.

Below are the opening four bars of Beethoven's Fidelio Overture. It demonstrates the use of the staccato 8 (dots 2 3 6) and fermata ♯:♯: which is a two cell sign (dots 1 2 6, dots 1 2 3).



Image description:

Title: Fidelio

Subtitle: Overture

Composer: L. van Beethoven

Tempo Marking: Allegro

Key Signature: 4 sharps

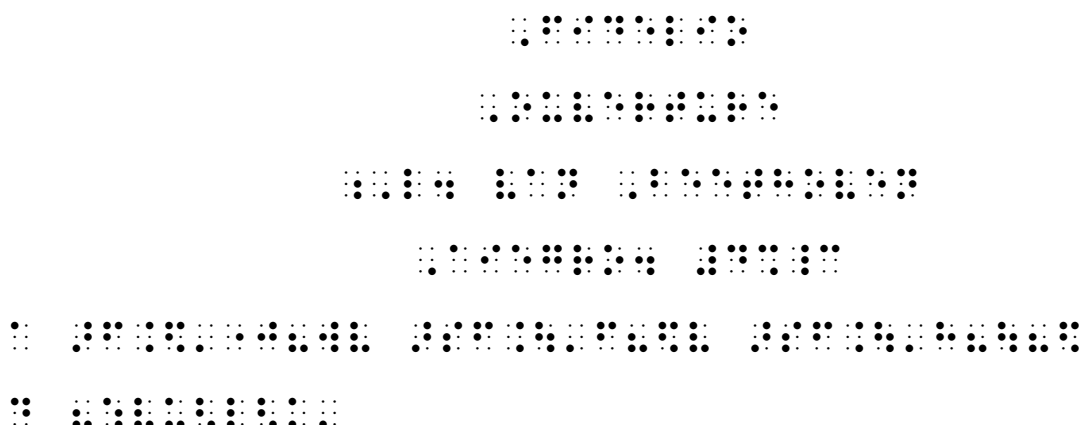
Time Signature: cut common

Bar 1: *f*, 5th octave E dotted crotchet, 4th octave B quaver, staccato 4th octave B crotchet, crotchet rest

Bar 2: *sf*, 5th octave G dotted crotchet, 5th octave E quaver, staccato 5th octave E crotchet, crotchet rest

Bar 3: *sf*, 5th octave B dotted crotchet, 5th octave G quaver, staccato 5th octave G crotchet, staccato 6th octave E crotchet

Bar 4: staccato 6th octave D crotchet, crotchet rest, minim rest fermata, sectional double barline.



The excerpt below is played by the flute in *Carmen* by Bizet. All the notes are to be played staccato, so when putting this excerpt into braille the doubling rule can be used.



Image description:

Key signature: 2 sharps

Time signature: 3 8

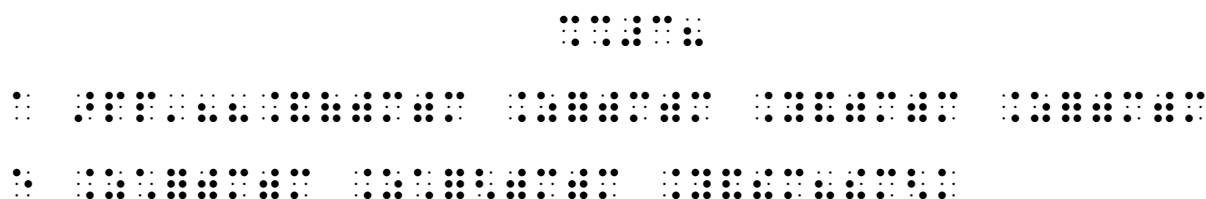
All notes in excerpt are semiquavers and played staccato.

Bar 1: *pp*, 5th octave E, 5th octave G, 5th octave B, semiquaver rest, 5th octave B, semiquaver rest

Bar 2: 5th octave D, 5th octave F, 5th octave B, semiquaver rest, 5th octave B, semiquaver rest

Bar 3: 5th octave C, 5th octave E, 5th octave B, semiquaver rest, 5th octave B, semiquaver rest

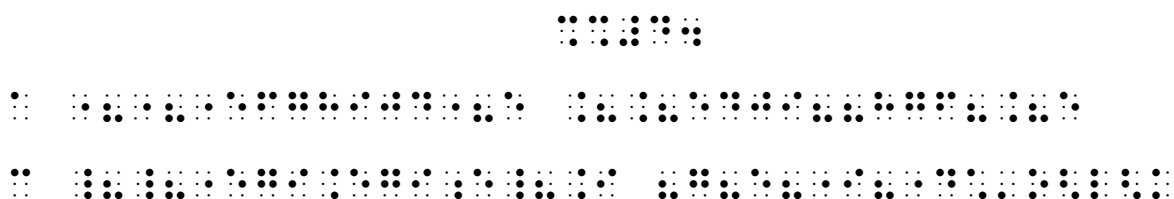
Bar 7: 5th octave C, 5th octave E, 5th octave A, semiquaver rest, 5th octave A, semiquaver rest, double barline.



Below is a D major scale and arpeggio showing different articulations. Bar 1 has the mezzo-staccato $\cdot\cdot\cdot\cdot\cdot$ (dot 5 dots 2 3 6), bar 2 has the accent $\cdot\cdot\cdot\cdot\cdot$ (dots 4 6 dots 2 3 6) and bar 3 has the tenuto $\cdot\cdot\cdot\cdot\cdot$ (dots 4 5 6 dot 2 3 6). The final note has a swell $\cdot\cdot\cdot\cdot\cdot$ (dots 1 6 dot 3) and a fermata.



Bar 4: first four notes are quavers played staccato, 5th octave F, D, 4th octave A, 4th octave C, swell 4th octave D minim, fermata, double barline.



Turns (see table for signs)

A turn sign is written before the affected note regardless of its position in print. If a turn symbol is printed directly above or below the note, then that is represented by preceding the sign with a dot 6. Turns can be affected by accidentals and can be written above or below the turn and both positions have significant meaning to the performer. If an accidental sign is above a turn, then the accidental is written first followed by the turn. If an accidental is below the turn, then a dot 6 is placed before the accidental. If an accidental is written above and below a turn then the upper accidental is written first, followed by the lower accidental which is preceded by dot 6 and then the turn sign.

Mordents (see table for signs)

Mordents follow the same rules as turns. It is brailled before the affected note. A mordent affected by an accidental, which can be shown above or below a mordent symbol, is brailled before the mordent symbol.

Glissando

A glissando, $\dot{\cdot} \dot{\cdot} \dot{\cdot}$ (dot 4 dot 1), can be represented by a wavy or straight line between two notes in print. The glissando symbol is placed after the first note. If the word “glissando” is written on the music, it is not necessary to show it in braille. The exception being if the braille is a facsimile or exact copy.

Below is an excerpt from the Peer Gynt Suite by Greig. These four bars from the violin line at figure A, show the use of dynamics, accent, slur, and appoggiatura.



Key Signature: 4 sharps

Time Signature: 6 8

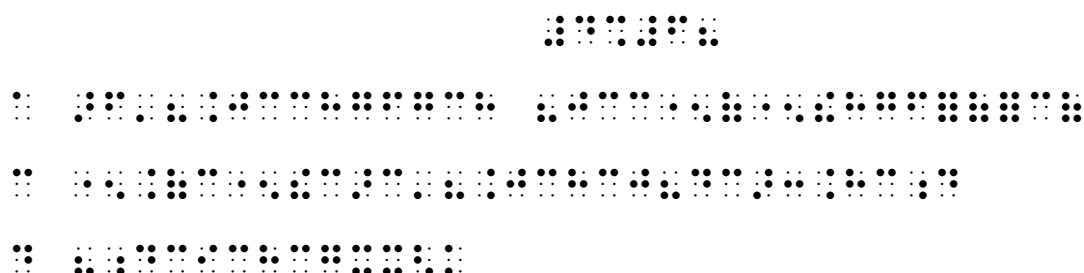
Bar 1: *f*, accent, 5th octave B quaver, slur, 5th octave G quaver, slur, 5th octave F quaver, slur, 5th octave E quaver, slur, 5th octave F quaver, slur, 5th octave G quaver

Bar 2: accent, 5th octave B quaver, slur, long appoggiatura 5th octave G semiquaver, long appoggiatura 5th octave A semiquaver, 5th octave G quaver, slur, 5th octave F quaver, slur, 5th octave E quaver, slur, 5th octave F semiquaver, slur, 5th octave G semiquaver, slur, 5th octave F semiquaver, slur, 5th octave G semiquaver

Bar 3: long appoggiatura 5th octave G semiquaver, slur, long appoggiatura 5th octave A semiquaver, slur, hairpin crescendo, accent 5th octave B quaver, slur, 5th octave G

quaver, slur, 5th octave B quaver, accent, 5th octave C quaver, slur, hairpin terminator, 5th octave G quaver, slur, 5th octave C quaver

Bar 4: accent, 5th octave C quaver, slur, 5th octave A quaver, slur, 5th octave G quaver, slur, 5th octave F quaver, quaver rest, quaver rest, double barline.



The excerpt below is from the opening violin line from Rondo in A für Klavier und Orchester, KV 386 by Mozart. The upside down triangle on the first beat of bar 1, 2 and 6 is a staccatissimo. The braille symbol is $\cdot\cdot\cdot\cdot$ (dot 6, dot 2 3 6).



Image description:

Key signature: 3 sharps

Time signature: 2 4

Bar 1: *p*, staccatissimo, 5th octave C quaver, 5th octave C crotchet, slur, trill, 4th octave B semiquaver, slur, 4th octave A demisemiquaver, slur, 4th octave B demisemiquaver

Bar 2: staccatissimo, 4th octave A quaver, 4th octave A crotchet, slur, trill, 4th octave B semiquaver, slur, 4th octave A demisemiquaver, slur, 4th octave B demisemiquaver

Bar 3: 5th octave C quaver, 5th octave staccato D semiquaver, 5th octave staccato E semiquaver, 5th octave staccato F semiquaver, 5th octave staccato G semiquaver, 5th octave staccato A semiquaver, 5th octave staccato F semiquaver

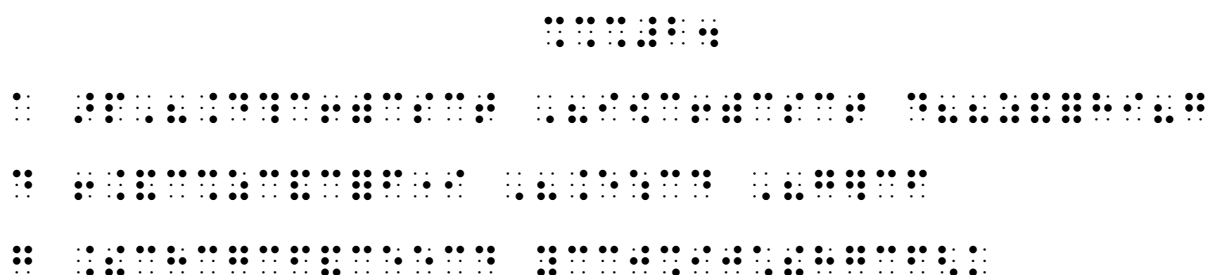
Bar 4: trill 5th octave E semiquaver, slur, 5th octave sharp D semiquaver, slur, 5th octave E semiquaver, slur, 5th octave F semiquaver, 5th octave E quaver, 4th octave A quaver

Bar 5: staccatissimo, 5th octave D quaver, 5th octave D crotchet, slur, 5th octave C quaver

Bar 6: staccatissimo, 5th octave F quaver, 5th octave F crotchet, slur, 5th octave E quaver

Bar 7: 5th octave A semiquaver, slur, 5th octave G semiquaver, slur, 5th octave F semiquaver, slur, 5th octave E semiquaver, 5th octave E semiquaver, slur, 5th octave D semiquaver, 5th octave D semiquaver, slur, 5th octave C semiquaver

Bar 8: 5th octave C semiquaver, slur, 4th octave B semiquaver, slur, 4th octave sharp A semiquaver, slur, 4th octave B semiquaver, slur, 4th octave natural A semiquaver, slur, 4th octave G semiquaver, slur, 4th octave F semiquaver, slur, 4th octave E semiquaver, double barline.



This next short excerpt is from *The Golden Sonata* for Recorder by Purcell. It demonstrates the use of a mordent and break mark. As a transcriber an interpretation of the score and composer's intent may be necessary. The mark in bar 3 before the A quaver is interpreted as a break mark rather than a breath mark. Firstly, because of its position in the music and secondly because it looks like a stroke rather than a comma or tick what are more associated as breath marks.



Image description:

Key Signature: 1 flat

Time Signature: 3 8

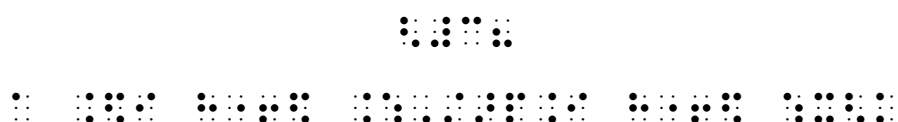
Bar 1: 5th octave E crotchet, 5th octave A quaver

Bar 2: 5th octave G quaver, upper mordent 5th octave E crotchet

Bar 3: 5th octave D crotchet, break mark, *p*, 5th octave A quaver

Bar 4: 5th octave G quaver, upper mordent, 5th octave E crotchet

Bar 5: 5th octave D crotchet, quaver rest, double barline.



This next excerpt is from a *Gigue* by Couperin. In these 3 short bars he uses a turn, grace notes before and after the note and an upper and lower mordent.



Image description:

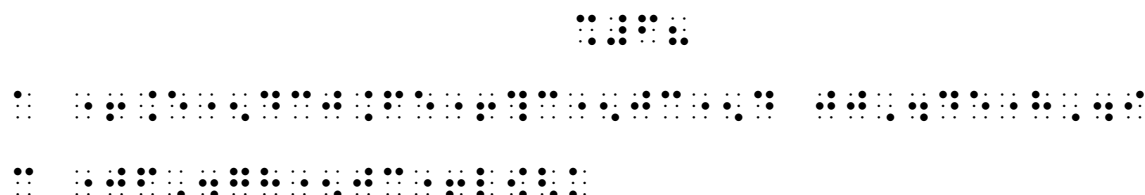
Key Signature: 1 sharp

Time Signature: 6 8

Bar 1: upper mordent, 5th octave D quaver, long appoggiatura 5th octave C quaver, slur, 4th octave B quaver, 5th octave E quaver, 5th octave D quaver, upper mordent, 5th octave C crotchet, slur, long appoggiatura 4th octave B quaver, slur, long appoggiatura 5th octave C quaver

Bar 2: 4th octave B quaver, 4th octave B quaver, turn above note 5th octave C quaver, 5th octave D quaver, 4th octave G quaver, turn above note 4th octave A quaver

Bar 3: 4th octave B quaver, 4th octave E quaver, turn above note 4th octave F quaver, 4th octave G quaver, long appoggiatura 4th octave G quaver, slur, lower mordent, 4th octave A crotchet, double barline.



The example below is of a glissando. Even though the word gliss is printed on the line indicating the glissando it is not necessary to include the word in braille.



Image description:

Key signature: 1 flat

Time signature: 4 4

Bar 1: minim rest, crotchet rest, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 2: 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave A quaver, 4th octave flat A crotchet

Bar 3: 4th octave G minim, glissando, 5th octave C crotchet, crotchet rest.



Exercise 7.1

Put the piece *Tom Dooley* into braille. Remember to centre the heading and number the bars.

Beware the first bar as it starts with a dynamic marking and the first note has a flat.

Tom Dooley

American Folk Song



Image description:

Title: Tom Dooley

Subtitle: American Folk Song

Key Signature: no sharps or flats

Time Signature: 4 4

Bar 1: *mf*, 4th octave flat E quaver, 4th octave E crotchet, 4th octave E quaver, 4th octave F crotchet, 4th octave flat A crotchet

Bar 2: staccato 5th octave C quaver, quaver rest, accent 5th octave C dotted minim

Bar 3: 4th octave flat E quaver, 4th octave E crotchet, 4th octave E quaver, 4th octave F crotchet, 4th octave flat A crotchet

Bar 4: 4th octave flat B semibreve

Bar 5: 4th octave flat E quaver, 4th octave E crotchet, 4th octave E quaver, 4th octave F crotchet, 4th octave flat A crotchet

Bar 6: staccato 4th octave flat B quaver, quaver rest, accent 4th octave B dotted minim

Bar 7: 4th octave flat B quaver, 4th octave B crotchet, 5th octave C quaver, 4th octave flat A crotchet, 4th octave F crotchet

Bar 8: 4th octave flat A semibreve

Exercise 7.2

Put the below excerpt from Haydn Sonata in Ab major into braille. Remember to group the semiquavers and number the bars.



Image description:

Tempo Marking: Presto

Key Signature: 4 flats

Time Signature: 2 4

Bar 0: *f*, 5th octave E quaver

Bar 1: group of 4 semiquavers 5th octave E, 5th octave D, 5th octave F, 5th octave E, group of 4 semiquavers 5th octave D, 5th octave C, 4th octave B, 4th octave A

Bar 2: 4th octave A quaver, 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave A quaver, *p*, 4th octave F quaver, tie

Bar 3: group of 4 semiquavers 4th octave F, 4th octave E, 4th octave A, 4th octave E, group of 4 semiquavers 4th octave E, 4th octave D, 4th octave B, 4th octave D

Bar 4: 4th octave D crotchet, 4th octave C quaver, *f*, 5th octave E quaver

Bar 5: group of 4 semiquavers 5th octave C, 5th octave D, 5th octave F, 5th octave E, group of 4 semiquavers 5th octave D, 5th octave C, 4th octave B, 4th octave A

Bar 6: 4th octave A quaver, 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave A quaver, *p*, 5th octave F quaver

Bar 7: group of 4 semiquavers 5th octave E, 6th octave C, 5th octave B, 5th octave A, group of 4 semiquavers 5th octave G, 5th octave F, 5th octave E, 5th octave F

Bar 8: long appoggiatura 5th octave E quaver, turn above note, 5th octave D crotchet, 5th octave C quaver, quaver rest, double barline

Exercise 7.3

The excerpt below is from a *Menuet* by Handel. Put it into braille and be careful to use the correct mordent sign.



Image description:

Key Signature: 2 flats

Time Signature: 3 4

Bar 1: 5th octave D crotchet, lower mordent, 5th octave B dotted crotchet, 6th octave C quaver

Bar 2: Extended upper mordent, 5th octave A minim, 5th octave A crotchet

Bar 3: 4th octave A crotchet, 5th octave A dotted crotchet, 5th octave B quaver

Bar 4: Upper mordent, 5th octave G minim, 5th octave G crotchet

Bar 5: 4th octave G crotchet, 5th octave G dotted crotchet, 5th octave A quaver

Bar 6: 5th octave sharp F crotchet, 5th octave natural E quaver, 5th octave F quaver, 5th octave D quaver, 5th octave F quaver

Bar 7: 5th octave sharp F quaver, 5th octave G quaver, 5th octave G quaver, 5th octave A quaver, 5th octave A quaver, 5th octave B quaver

Bar 8: 5th octave B quaver, 5th octave A quaver, 5th octave G quaver, 5th octave sharp F quaver, 5th octave natural E quaver, 5th octave natural D quaver

Bar 9: 5th octave D crotchet, 5th octave B quaver, 5th octave A quaver, 5th octave B quaver, 6th octave C quaver

Bar 10: Upper mordent, 5th octave A minim, 5th octave A crotchet

Bar 11: 4th octave A crotchet, lower mordent, 5th octave A dotted crotchet, 5th octave B quaver

Bar 12: Upper mordent, 5th octave G minim, 5th octave G crotchet

Bar 13: 4th octave G crotchet, 5th octave G quaver, 5th octave sharp F quaver, 5th octave G quaver, 5th octave A quaver

Bar 14: Upper mordent, 5th octave sharp F dotted crotchet, 5th octave D quaver, lower mordent, 5th octave G crotchet, tie

Bar 15: 5th octave G quaver, 5th octave A quaver, 5th octave B crotchet, upper mordent, 5th octave A dotted quaver, 5th octave G semiquaver

Bar 16: 5th octave G dotted minim, double barline.

Exercise 7.4

This short excerpt is from the *Classical Symphony*, Op. 25 by Prokofiev. Be mindful of the order of signs in bars 2 and 6, an ornament comes before an expression eg accent.



Image description:

Key Signature: 1 sharp

Time Signature: 4 4

Bar 0: *pp*, staccato, 4th octave D crotchet, staccato, 4th octave D crotchet

Bar 1: staccato, 5th octave D crotchet – 4 times

Bar 2: staccato, 5th octave D crotchet, staccato, 5th octave D crotchet, trill, accent, 4th octave B minim, slur, long appoggiatura 4th octave A semiquaver, slur, long appoggiatura 4th octave B semiquaver, slur

Bar 3: staccato 5th octave E crotchet, staccato 5th octave E crotchet, staccato 4th octave B crotchet, staccato 5th octave E crotchet

Bar 4: staccato 4th octave B crotchet, staccato 5th octave C crotchet, accent 5th octave D minim

Bar 5: *pp*, staccato, 5th octave D crotchet – 4 times

Bar 6: staccato 5th octave D crotchet, staccato 5th octave D crotchet, trill, accent, 4th octave B minim, slur, long appoggiatura 4th octave A semiquaver, slur, long appoggiatura 4th octave B semiquaver, slur

Bar 7: staccato 5th octave E crotchet, staccato 5th octave D crotchet, 5th octave C quaver, 4th octave B quaver, staccato 4th octave A crotchet

Bar 8: 4th octave G minim, minim rest, double barline.

Lesson 8 Irregular Note Groupings

Triplets

Triplets are a common irregular note grouping. A triplet of any value is indicated by \therefore (dots 2 3). This sign can be double when there are four or more successive triplets of the same value.

These two bars from Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 in F demonstrate the use of the triplet sign.



Image description:

Key signature: 1 sharp

Time signature: 2 4

Bar 1: *dolce*, 5th octave E crotchet, tie, triplet, 5th octave E quaver, 5th octave E quaver, 5th octave D quaver

Bar 2: triplet, 5th octave C quaver, 5th octave E quaver, 5th octave D quaver, triplet, 5th octave C quaver, 5th octave A quaver, 5th octave F quaver, double barline.



The example below from Clarinet Quintet in B flat by Weber shows doubling of the triplet sign. To terminate the doubled triplet, a triplet sign is placed before the last triplet in the sequence. As the triplets are semiquavers the first semiquaver of each group shows the value except in bar 4 - 7 where a triplet is followed by a quaver.

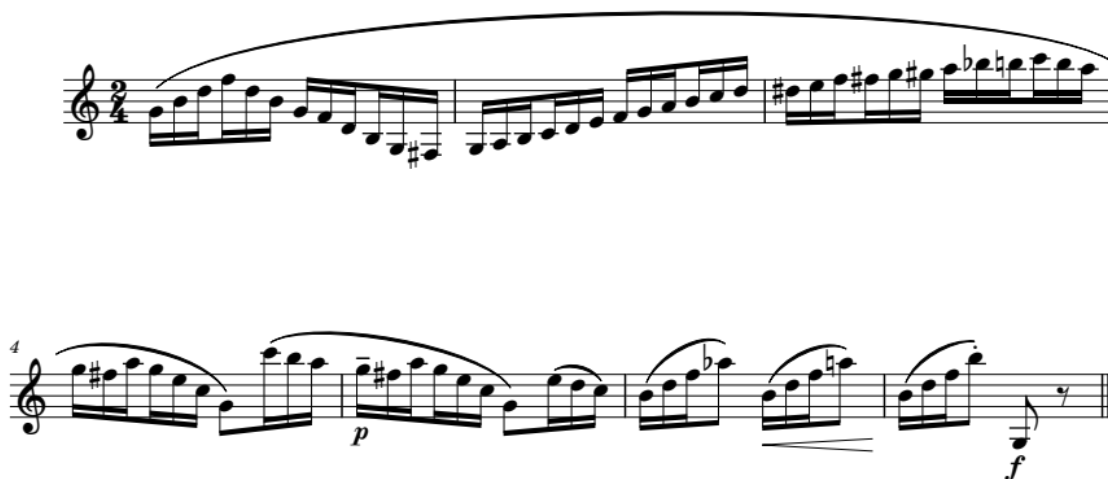


Image description:

Key signature: no sharps or flats

Time signature: 2 4

Bar 1: open bracket slur, triplet sign doubled and all triplets are semiquavers, 4th octave G, 4th octave B, 5th octave D, 5th octave F, 5th octave D, 4th octave B, 4th octave G, 4th octave F, 4th octave D, 3rd octave B, 3rd octave G, 3rd octave sharp F

Bar 2: 3rd octave G, 3rd octave A, 3rd octave B, 4th octave C, 4th octave D, 4th octave E, 4th octave F, 4th octave G, 4th octave A, 4th octave B, 5th octave C, 5th octave D

Bar 3: 5th octave sharp D, 5th octave E, 5th octave F, 5th octave sharp F, 5th octave G, 5th octave sharp G, 5th octave A, 5th octave flat B, 5th octave natural B, 6th octave C, 5th octave B, 5th octave A

Bar 4: 5th octave G, 5th octave sharp F, 5th octave A, triplet, 5th octave G, 5th octave E, 5th octave C, 5th octave G quaver, close bracket slur, open bracket slur, triplet, 6th octave C semiquaver, 5th octave B semiquaver, 5th octave A semiquaver


Bar 5: *p*, triplet, tenuto, 5th octave G semiquaver, 5th octave sharp F, 5th octave A semiquaver, triplet, 5th octave G semiquaver, 5th octave E semiquaver, 5th octave C semiquaver, 4th octave G quaver, close bracket slur, triplet, 5th octave E semiquaver, slur, 5th octave D semiquaver, slur, 5th octave C

Bar 6: triplet, 4th octave B semiquaver, slur, 5th octave D semiquaver, slur, 5th octave F semiquaver, slur, 5th octave A quaver, hairpin crescendo, triplet, 4th octave B semiquaver, slur, 5th octave D semiquaver, slur, 5th octave F semiquaver, slur, 5th octave natural A quaver, end hairpin

Bar 7: triplet, 4th octave B semiquaver, slur, 5th octave D semiquaver, slur, 5th octave D semiquaver, slur, staccato, 5th octave B quaver, *f*, 3rd octave G quaver, quaver rest, double barline.



Three or Four-cell sign for Irregular Groupings

This sign is used to indicate an irregular grouping of notes other than three. The three-cell (four cells if the grouping is larger than nine) group is dots 4 5 6 followed by the numeral in the lower part of the cell and then a dot 3. For example,  (dots 4 5 6, dots 2 6, dot 3) would indicate an irregular grouping of five notes. This sign can also be doubled when there are four or more successive groups and it would look like this:


 (dots 4 5 6, dots 2 3 5, dots 4 5 6, dots 2 3 5, dot 3). An octave sign must on the first note after the three or four cell sign.



Image description:

Key signature: 2 flats

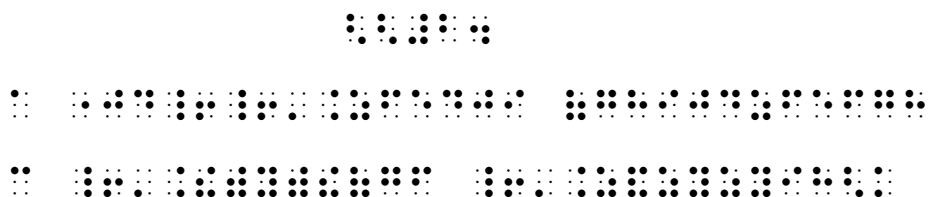
Time signature: 2 4

Bar 1: 4th octave B quaver, 5th octave C quaver, grouping of 6 doubled and all notes are semiquavers, 5th octave D, 5th octave E, 5th octave D, 5th octave C, 5th octave B, 5th octave A

Bar 2: 4th octave G, 4th octave F, 4th octave G, 4th octave A, 4th octave B, 5th octave C, 5th octave D, 5th octave E, 5th octave D, 5th octave E, 5th octave F, 5th octave G

Bar 3: grouping of 6 sign, 5th octave A, 5th octave B, 6th octave C, 5th octave B, 5th octave A, 5th octave G, 5th octave F quaver, 5th octave E quaver

Bar 4: grouping of 6, 5th octave D semiquaver, 5th octave E semiquaver, 5th octave D semiquaver, 5th octave C semiquaver, 5th octave D semiquaver, 5th octave C semiquaver, 4th octave A quaver, 4th octave B quaver, double barline.



If there are triplets among other irregular grouped notes, then the triplets should be indicated by the three-cell sign not the single cell sign.



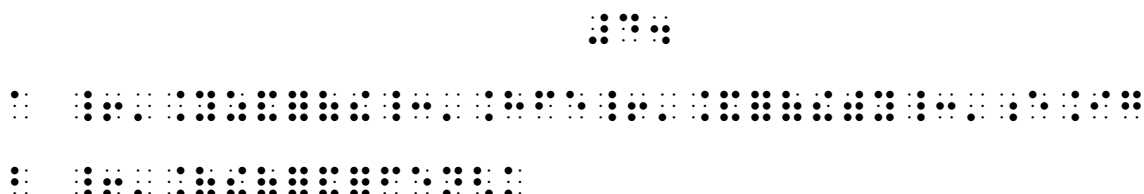
Image description:

Key signature: no sharps or flats

Time signature: 4 4

Bar 1: grouping of 6 semiquavers, 5th octave C, 5th octave D, 5th octave E, 5th octave F, 5th octave G, 5th octave A, grouping of 3 quavers, 5th octave G, 5th octave E, 5th octave D, grouping of 6 semiquavers, 5th octave E, 5th octave F, 5th octave G, 5th octave A, 5th octave B, 6th octave C, grouping of 3 quavers, 6th octave D, 5th octave A, 5th octave F

Bar 2: grouping of 6 semiquavers, 5th octave G, 5th octave A, 5th octave G, 5th octave F, 5th octave E, 5th octave F, 5th octave E quaver, 5th octave D quaver, 5th octave C minim, double barline.



Sometimes a number for an irregular grouping is not always present in print and the numeral is necessary with a three-cell sign. When the transcriber needs to provide the missing number then a dot 5 must preceded the grouping sign. In the case of triplets, absence of a print numeral does not affect the braille as shown in the Weber Clarinet Quintet above.

Exercise 8.1

The excerpt below is from *Fairy Tales* for clarinet, viola and piano by Robert Schumann. Put it into braille and remember to number the bars and use octave signs as needed.



Image description:

Key signature: no sharps or flats

Time signature: common time

Bar 1: minim rest, crotchet rest, triplet, 4th octave A quaver, 5th octave C quaver, 5th octave F quaver

Bar 2: martellato, 5th octave A crotchet, 5th octave F crotchet, 5th octave G crotchet, triplet, 4th octave C quaver, 4th octave E quaver, 4th octave G quaver

Bar 3: martellato, 5th octave F crotchet, 5th octave D crotchet, 5th octave E crotchet, crotchet rest

Bar 4: crotchet rest, triplet, 4th octave F quaver, 4th octave A quaver, 5th octave D quaver, 5th octave F crotchet, crotchet rest

Bar 5: crotchet rest, triplet, 4th octave F quaver, 4th octave sharp G quaver, 5th octave D quaver, 5th octave F crotchet, triplet, 4th octave C quaver, 4th octave F quaver, 4th octave A quaver

Bar 6: 5th octave C dotted quaver, 4th octave F semiquaver, martellato, 4th octave natural G minim, 4th octave sharp G crotchet

Bar 7: 4th octave A dotted quaver, 4th octave E semiquaver, 4th octave F crotchet, minim rest, double barline.

Exercise 8.2

The extract below is from *Golden Wedding*. Put it into braille remembering to double the triplet sign, number the bars and use octave signs where needed.



Image description:

Key signature: 1 sharp

Time signature: cut common

Bar 1: minim rest, quaver rest, 5th octave C quaver, 5th octave sharp C quaver, 5th octave D quaver

Bar 2: triplet, 5th octave A quaver, 5th octave B quaver, 5th octave A quaver, triplet, 5th octave G quaver, 5th octave A quaver, 5th octave G quaver, triplet, 5th octave F quaver, 5th octave G quaver, 5th octave F quaver, triplet, 5th octave E quaver, 5th octave F quaver, 5th octave E quaver

Bar 3: staccato, 5th octave D quaver, quaver rest, crotchet rest, quaver rest, 4th octave D semiquaver, 4th octave E semiquaver, 4th octave F quaver, 4th octave A quaver

Bar 4: 5th octave D quaver, 4th octave A quaver, triplet, 5th octave D quaver, 5th octave F quaver, 5th octave A quaver, accent, 6th octave D crotchet, crotchet rest, double barline.

Exercise 8.3

The excerpt below is from a Sonata by Brahms. Put it into braille.



Image description:

Key signature: 1 flat

Time signature: common time

Bar 1: minim rest, crotchet rest, quaver rest, 3rd octave G quaver





Bar 2: triplet, 4th octave B quaver, 4th octave A quaver, 4th octave sharp F quaver, triplet, 4th octave G quaver, 3rd octave A quaver, 3rd octave B quaver, triplet, 4th octave natural F quaver, 4th octave E quaver, 4th octave sharp C quaver, triplet, 4th octave D quaver, 3rd octave sharp F quaver, 3rd octave G quaver.

Bar 3: 3rd octave natural F crotchet, tie, grouping of 4 semiquavers 3rd octave F, 3rd octave E, 3rd octave G, 3rd octave B, grouping of 4 semiquavers 4th octave C, 4th octave E, 4th octave G, 4th octave B, grouping of 5 semiquavers, 5th octave C, 5th octave E, 5th octave G, 5th octave B, 6th octave D

Bar 4: 6th octave C crotchet, crotchet rest, minim rest, double bar line.

Lesson 9 Print Repeats

Beginning and End Repeats

Print repeats are common in music. A repeat sign has two dots in the 2nd and 3rd space on the staff which either follow (beginning repeat) or precede (end repeat) a double barline:  . In braille, the one indicating the start of a repeated passage is  (dots 1 2 6, dots 2 3 5 6). The repeat where the dots precede the double barline, indicating the end of the passage to be repeated is represented in braille by  (dots 1 2 6, dot 2 3). A repeat sign is part of the bar (measure) and therefore there is no space between the sign and bar to which it is attached. The first note following either of these signs must have an octave sign.

Below is the opening phrase of *Good King Wenceslas* showing a simple end repeat sign.

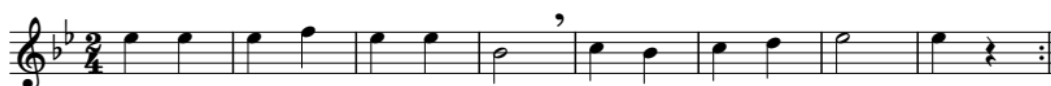


Image description:

Key signature: 2 flats

Time signature: 2 4

Bar 1: 5th octave E crotchet, 5th octave E crotchet

Bar 2: 5th octave E crotchet, 5th octave F crotchet

Bar 3: 5th octave E crotchet, 5th octave E crotchet

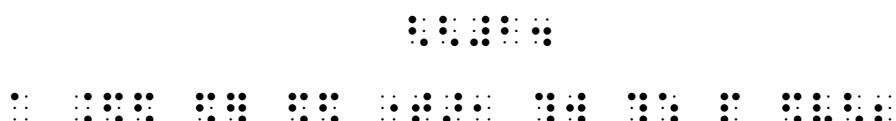
Bar 4: 4th octave B minim, breath mark

Bar 5: 5th octave C crotchet, 4th octave B crotchet

Bar 6: 5th octave C crotchet, 5th octave D crotchet

Bar 7: 5th octave E minim

Bar 8: 5th octave E crotchet, crotchet rest, end repeat sign.



The example below is the soprano line of a choral arrangement of *Prelude in C minor* by Chopin which shows the use of the beginning and end repeat sign within the excerpt. Note the use of octave signs after the repeat sign and where the signs are placed in the braille.



Image description:

Tempo Marking: Largo

Key signature: 1 flat

Time signature: common time

Bar 1: *f*, 4th octave A crotchet, slur, slur, 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave A dotted quaver, 4th octave G semiquaver, slur, 4th octave F crotchet

Bar 2: 4th octave F crotchet, slur, slur, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave F dotted quaver, 4th octave flat E semiquaver, slur, 4th octave D crotchet

Bar 3: 4th octave E crotchet, slur, slur, 4th octave sharp F crotchet, 4th octave A dotted quaver, 4th octave G semiquaver, 4th octave F crotchet

Bar 4: 4th octave E crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet, 5th octave sharp C dotted quaver, 4th octave natural B semiquaver, slur, 4th octave A crotchet

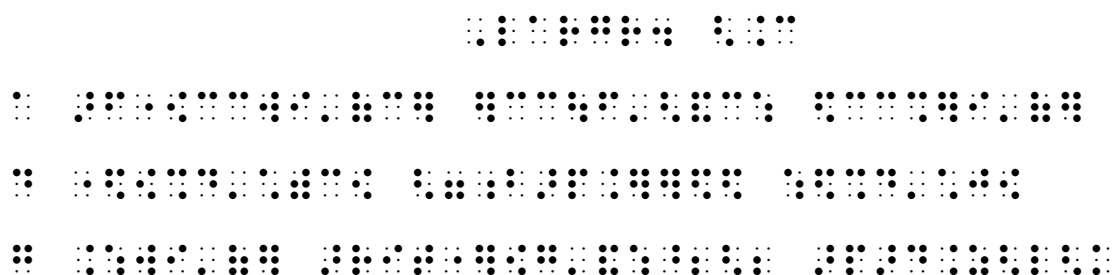
Bar 5: start repeat, open bracket slur, *p*, 5th octave F crotchet, 5th octave F crotchet, 5th octave E crotchet, 5th octave E crotchet

Bar 6: 5th octave D crotchet, 5th octave E crotchet, 5th octave sharp C dotted quaver, 4th octave natural B semiquaver, 4th octave A crotchet

Bar 7: 5th octave D crotchet, 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave A dotted quaver, 4th octave G semiquaver, 4th octave F crotchet

Bar 8: *rit*, 4th octave F crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave F dotted quaver, 4th octave E semiquaver, 4th octave D crotchet, close bracket slur, end repeat sign

Bar 9: *p*, hairpin decrescendo, 4th octave D semibreve, fermata over note, double barline.



In the next example, the repeat sign occurs during a bar (measure). A music hyphen, dot 5, is used to indicate an incomplete bar and it must follow the end repeat sign in bar 4 to indicate that the rest of the bar is following. This is because there must be a space after a repeat sign.

The Jolly Miller



Image description:

Title: The Jolly Miller

Key signature: no sharps or flats

Time signature: 6 8

Bar 0: beginning repeat, 4th octave E quaver

Bar 1: 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave A quaver, 4th octave sharp G crotchet, 4th octave E quaver

Bar 2: 5th octave C crotchet, 5th octave C quaver, 4th octave B crotchet, 5th octave D quaver

Bar 3: 5th octave C crotchet, 4th octave A quaver, 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave sharp G quaver

Bar 4: 4th octave A dotted crotchet, tie, 4th octave A crotchet, end repeat, space, music hyphen, 5th octave C semiquaver, 5th octave D semiquaver

Bar 5: 5th octave E crotchet, 5th octave E quaver, 5th octave E crotchet, 5th octave C quaver

Bar 6: 5th octave D crotchet, 5th octave D quaver, 5th octave D crotchet, 4th octave B quaver

Bar 7: 5th octave C crotchet, 4th octave A quaver, 5th octave D crotchet, 5th octave C quaver

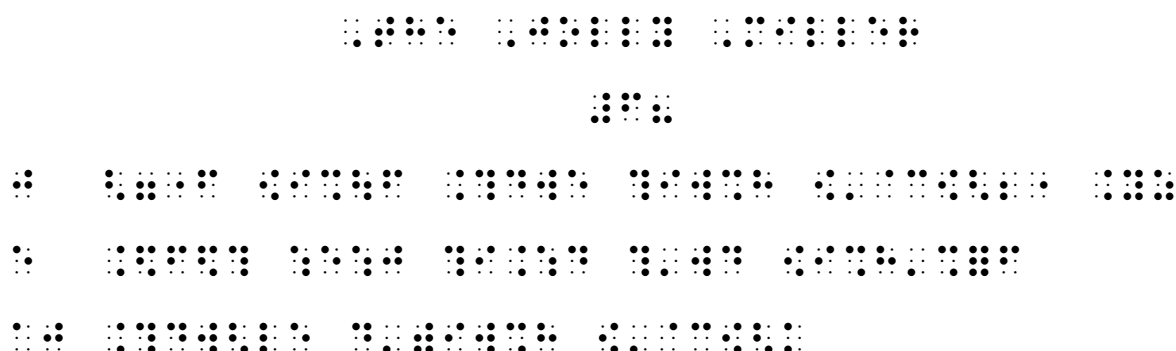
Bar 8: 5th octave C dotted crotchet, 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave E quaver

Bar 9: 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave A quaver, 4th octave sharp G dotted quaver, 4th octave sharp F semiquaver, 4th octave E quaver

Bar 10: 5th octave C crotchet, 5th octave C quaver, 4th octave B crotchet, fermata over note, 5th octave D quaver

Bar 11: 5th octave C dotted quaver, 4th octave B semiquaver, 4th octave A quaver, 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave sharp G quaver

Bar 12: 4th octave A dotted crotchet, tie, 4th octave A crotchet, double barline.



Voltas



Image description: A volta is a bracket with the numeral 1 placed above the beginning of the first bar of the first time ending. The bracket continues over the bars to the repeat sign. The second time ending, which is directly after the repeat sign, has the number 2 place at the beginning of the bracket over the stave.

A volta gives an alternative ending and is commonly called first and second time endings.

Rules for brailleing voltas:

1. When brailled there is no space between the sign and the bar to which it is connected.
2. The first note after a volta sign must have an octave sign.
3. If a sign immediately following a volta has a 1, 2, or 3, it must be followed by a dot 3 separator. (See example *Angels We Have Heard on High*)
4. Any punctuation used in print, like full stops and commas, are not brailled
5. The bracket above the bar/s indicating the volta is not brailled
6. If two or more numbers are used in print, then each number must have a numeric indicator unless it follows a hyphen (dots 3 6) then the number after the hyphen does not need a numeric indicator and spaces are not included between numbers.

Long Time Ago is an example of a simple first and second time ending.

Long Time Ago

American Folk Song



Image description:

Title: Long Time Ago

Subtitle: American Folk Song

Tempo marking: Allegro

Key signature: 2 flats

Time signature: 4 4

Bar 1: 4th octave B quaver, 4th octave B quaver, 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet

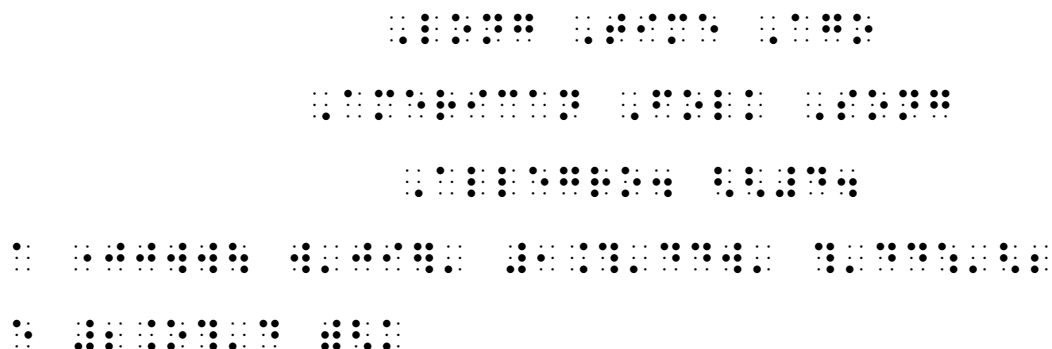
Bar 2: 4th octave B dotted crotchet, 4th octave B quaver, 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave F dotted crotchet

Bar 3: first time ending, 5th octave C dotted crotchet, 5th octave C quaver, 5th octave C quaver, 4th octave B dotted crotchet

Bar 4: 5th octave C dotted crotchet, 5th octave C quaver, 5th octave C quaver, 5th octave D dotted crotchet, end repeated

Bar 5: second time ending, 5th octave D minim, 5th octave C dotted crotchet, 5th octave C quaver

Bar 6: 4th octave B semibreve, double barline.



The example below demonstrates the use of dot 3 after the alternative ending signs.

Angels We Have Heard on High



Image description:

Title: Angels We Have Heard on High

Key signature: 1 flat

Time signature: common time

Bar 1: *mf*, 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 2: 5th octave C dotted crotchet, 4th octave A quaver, 4th octave A minim

Bar 3: 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 4: 4th octave A dotted crotchet, 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave F minim end repeat

Bar 5: *f*, 5th octave C minim, 5th octave D quaver 5th octave C quaver, 4th octave B quaver, 4th octave A quaver

Bar 6: beginning repeat sign 4th octave B minim, 5th octave C quaver, 4th octave B quaver, 4th octave A quaver, 4th octave G quaver

Bar 7: 4th octave A minim, 4th octave B quaver, 4th octave A quaver, 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave F quaver

Bar 8: 4th octave G dotted crotchet, 4th octave C quaver, 4th octave C minim

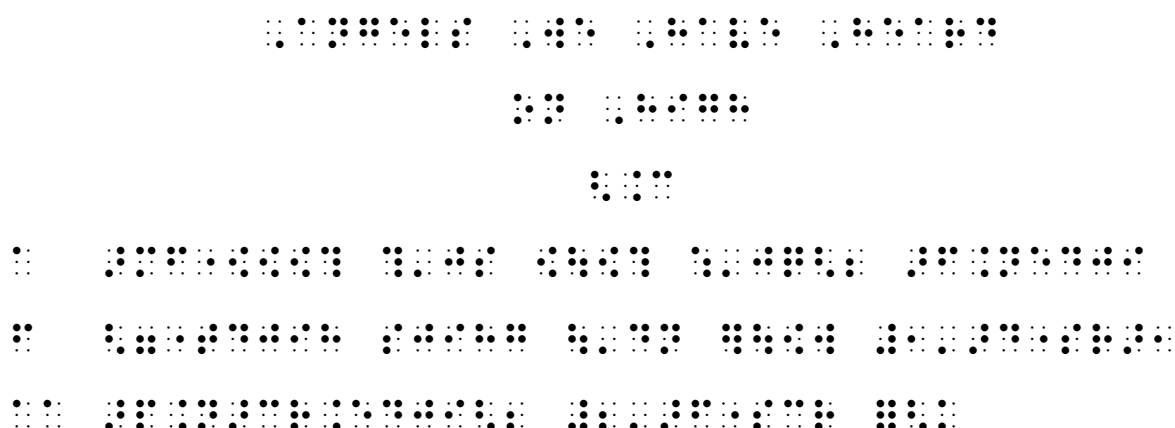
Bar 9: 4th octave F crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave B crotchet

Bar 10: first time ending, hairpin decrescendo, 4th octave A minim, 4th octave G minim, breath mark

Bar 11: *p*, 5th octave C minim, *cresc*, 5th octave D quaver, 5th octave C quaver, 4th octave B quaver, 4th octave A quaver, end repeat sign

Bar 12: second time ending, *f*, 4th octave A minim, slur, 4th octave G minim

Bar 13: 4th octave F semibreve, double barline.



Exercise 9.1

This example is from *Concerto Grosso No. 12* by Handel. The tempo marking, *larghetto e piano*, is quite long, so it should be put on its own centred line with the key and time signatures under it. This is to ensure that the reader can tell that the lines are centred. Make sure to put bar numbers at the beginning of each line and use the correct repeat signs. While the rhythms are not complicated in this excerpt be sure to use octave signs where needed as the melody does contain a lot of leaps between octaves.



Image description:

Tempo marking: Larghetto e piano

Key signature: 4 sharps

Time signature: 3 4

Bar 1: 4th octave B minim, 4th octave G crotchet

Bar 2: 4th octave E dotted minim

Bar 3: 5th octave C crotchet, 4th octave F crotchet, 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave A quaver

Bar 4: 4th octave G dotted minim

Bar 5: 5th octave G dotted minim

Bar 6: 5th octave C dotted minim

Bar 7: 5th octave A minim, 5th octave F crotchet

Bar 8: 5th octave D minim, 5th octave E crotchet

Bar 9: 5th octave F crotchet, 5th octave G crotchet, 5th octave E crotchet

Bar 10: 5th octave C crotchet, 4th octave sharp A crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet
Bar 11: 5th octave E crotchet, 5th octave C dotted crotchet, 4th octave B quaver
Bar 12: 4th octave B dotted minim, end repeat sign
Bar 13: beginning repeat sign, 5th octave B dotted minim
Bar 14: 5th octave E dotted minim
Bar 15: 5th octave A minim, 5th octave F crotchet
Bar 16: 5th octave D dotted crotchet, 5th octave C quaver, 4th octave B crotchet
Bar 17: 5th octave G crotchet, 5th octave E crotchet, 5th octave G crotchet
Bar 18: 5th octave A crotchet, 5th octave G crotchet, 5th octave F crotchet
Bar 19: 5th octave E quaver, 5th octave D quaver, 5th octave D dotted crotchet, 5th octave C quaver
Bar 20: 5th octave C dotted minim
Bar 21: 4th octave B dotted minim
Bar 22: 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave F crotchet
Bar 23: 4th octave G crotchet, 5th octave E crotchet, 4th octave sharp A crotchet
Bar 24: 4th octave B dotted minim
Bar 25: 5th octave A minim, 5th octave C crotchet
Bar 26: 4th octave B minim, 5th octave E crotchet
Bar 27: 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave F quaver, 4th octave F dotted crotchet, 4th octave E quaver
Bar 28: 4th octave E dotted minim, end repeat sign.

Exercise 9.2

This excerpt is part of the oboe line from the Brandenburg Concerto No. 1 by Bach. Put it into braille.



Image description:

Tempo marking: Menuetto

Key signature: 1 flat

Time signature: 3 4

Bar 1: *mf*, 5th octave C crotchet, slur, 5th octave flat E crotchet, 5th octave D crotchet

Bar 2: beginning repeat, 5th octave C crotchet, slur, 4th octave B quaver, slur, 4th octave A quaver, 4th octave B crotchet

Bar 3: 5th octave C crotchet, slur, 5th octave flat E crotchet, 5th octave D crotchet

Bar 4: trill, 5th octave C minim, 5th octave F crotchet

Bar 5: 4th octave B crotchet, slur, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet

Bar 6: 4th octave B crotchet, 5th octave D minim

Bar 7: 4th octave B crotchet, slur, 4th octave A quaver, slur, 4th octave G quaver, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 8: 4th octave A minim, 4th octave G crotchet

Bar 9: 4th octave natural B quaver, slur, 5th octave C quaver, trill, 5th octave C dotted crotchet, slur, 4th octave B semiquaver, slur, 5th octave C semiquaver

Bar 10: 5th octave D crotchet, slur, 5th octave C quaver, slur, 4th octave natural B quaver, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 11: 5th octave F quaver, 5th octave G quaver, 5th octave D dotted crotchet, 5th octave C quaver

Bar 12: first time ending, 5th octave C dotted minim

Bar 13: 5th octave C crotchet, slur, 5th octave flat E crotchet, 5th octave D crotchet, end repeat sign

Bar 14: second time ending, 5th octave C dotted minim, double barline.

Exercise 9.3

Put *Mama's Gonna Buy* into braille. Remember the rule when there are volta numbers separated by a hyphen – there is no punctuation, and the second number does not need a numeric indicator. Do not forget use the dot 3 separator if there is anything in dots 1 2 3 in the cell after a repeat sign.

Mama's Gonna Buy



Image description:

Title: Mama's Gonna Buy

Key signature: 1 flat

Time signature: 4 4

Bar 1: beginning repeat, *mf*, 4th octave C crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave B crotchet

Bar 2: 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave G minim

Bar 3: 4th octave C quaver, 4th octave C quaver, 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave A quaver

Bar 4: 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave F crotchet, 4th octave F dotted crotchet, 4th octave F quaver

Bar 5: 4th octave C crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave B crotchet

Bar 6: 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave G minim

Bar 7: 4th octave C quaver, 4th octave C quaver, 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave A quaver

Bar 8: first – fourth time ending, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave F crotchet, 4th octave F minim, tie

Bar 9: 4th octave F dotted minim, crotchet rest, end repeat

Bar 10: fifth time ending, *f*, 4th octave G crotchet, accent, 4th octave F crotchet, accent, 4th octave F crotchet, crotchet rest, double barline.

Lesson 10 Braille Repeats

In braille there are several repeat devices that can be used to reduce the amount of reading and saving cells when bars or multiple bars are repeated in the print music.

The Braille Repeat Sign

The braille repeat sign, ⠠⠨⠶ (dots 2 3 5 6), is used to indicate an immediate repetition of a bar (measure) or a portion of a bar. This sign is never used for a passage longer than one bar.

Rules:

- The sign may only be used if the nuances and markings are the same.
- When a bar or part-bar is the same but in a different octave then the appropriate octave mark is placed before the repeat sign.
- If the exact repeat is modified by a change of dynamic or word-sign eg *rit*, and it applies the entire repetition or beyond it, then the appropriate marking is placed before the repeat sign.
- If a tie is included in a repeat on the last note, then the tie is placed after the repeat sign.
- Braille repeats only apply to the contents of the bar so added signs such as double bar, final double barline, end repeat sign or a breath or break mark follow the repeat sign without a space.
- Where there are multiple repeats of a single bar, three or more, then the numeric sign follows the repeat sign without a space to indicate the number of repeats. The first note after this sign must have an octave sign.

The excerpt below is from a study by Cavallini. Notice that bar 1 is exactly the same as bar 2 and bar 3 is the same as bar 4. Instead of repeatedly brailleing the exact same thing over and over the braille repeat sign can be used.



Image description:

Key signature: no sharps or flats

Time signature: 2 4

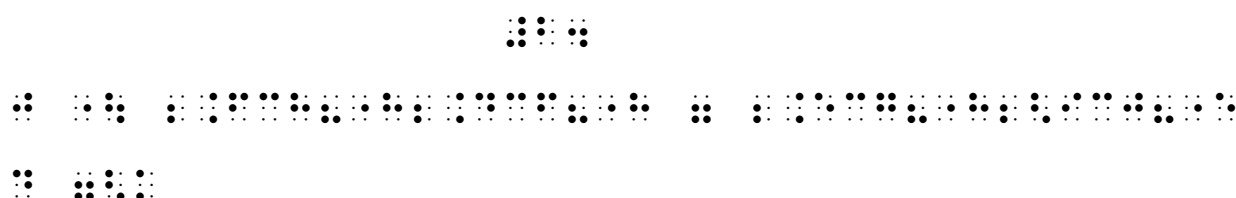
Bar 0: 4th octave G crotchet

Bar 1: triplet, 5th octave E quaver, slur, 5th octave G quaver, staccato, 4th octave G quaver, triplet, 5th octave C quaver, slur, 5th octave E quaver, staccato, 4th octave G quaver

Bar 2: triplet, 5th octave E quaver, slur, 5th octave G quaver, staccato, 4th octave G quaver, triplet, 5th octave C quaver, slur, 5th octave E quaver, staccato, 4th octave G quaver

Bar 3: triplet, 5th octave D quaver, slur, 5th octave F quaver, staccato, 4th octave G quaver, triplet, 5th octave flat A quaver, slur, 5th octave B quaver, staccato, 4th octave D quaver

Bar 4: triplet, 5th octave D quaver, slur, 5th octave F quaver, staccato, 4th octave G quaver, triplet, 5th octave flat A quaver, slur, 5th octave B quaver, staccato, 4th octave D quaver, double barline.



The example below demonstrates how to use the repeat sign in conjunction with an octave sign and a change of dynamics.



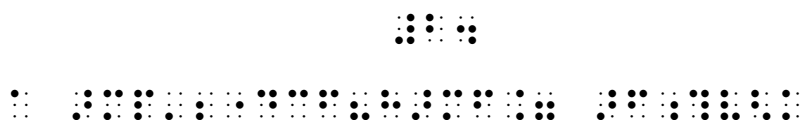
Image description:

Key signature: no sharps or flats

Time signature: 2 4

Bar 1: *mp*, triplet, 4th octave C quaver, slur, 4th octave E quaver, staccato, 4th octave G quaver, *mf*, triplet, 5th octave C quaver, slur, 5th octave E quaver, staccato, 5th octave G quaver

Bar 2: *f*, 6th octave C crotchet, crotchet rest, double barline.



The next example shows the repeat sign where there are ties.



Image description:

Key signature: no sharps or flats

Time signature: 4 4

Bar 1: 3rd octave C crotchet, 2nd octave G quaver, 3rd octave C quaver, tie, 3rd octave C crotchet, 2nd octave G quaver, 3rd octave C quaver, tie

Bar 2: same as bar 1

Bar 3: same as bar 1

Bar 4: 3rd octave C crotchet, 2nd octave G quaver, 3rd octave C quaver, tie, 3rd octave C crotchet, crotchet rest, double barline.



A common way in print to indicate multiple bars that are to be played the same is the use of this bar repeat sign (looks like a forward slash with a dot on either side of the slash):



When this sign is used the bar repeat sign is used and then the number of repeats is placed after the sign as shown in the example below.

- the count back of bars should be limited too
- the original phrase and the count back point must be on the same braille page,
- where the passage is repeated without intervening music the repeat may be restated as many times as the passage itself is repeated.
- A numeral repeat only applies to the contents of the bar/s, so added signs like double barline, voltas and print repeat signs can be place immediately after the numeral repeat marking.
- Numeral repeats in different octaves and dynamics can be shown before the numeral repeat sign. Be sure to order them correctly. A dynamic would come first followed by the octave sign.

Jingle Bells demonstrates the use of the backward-numeral repeat.

Jingle Bells



Image description:

Title: Jingle Bells

Key signature: 1 sharp

Time signature: cut common

Bar 1: 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave B quaver, 4th octave B quaver, tie, 4th octave B minim

Bar 2: same as bar 1

Bar 3: quaver rest, 4th octave B crotchet, 5th octave D quaver, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet

Bar 4: 4th octave B dotted minim, crotchet rest

Bar 5: 5th octave C crotchet, 5th octave C quaver, 5th octave C quaver, tie, 5th octave C dotted crotchet, 5th octave C quaver

Bar 6: 5th octave C crotchet, 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave B quaver, 4th octave B quaver

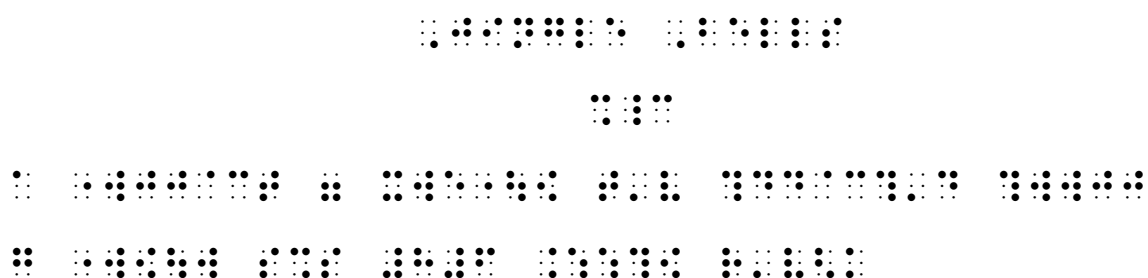
Bar 7: 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave B crotchet

Bar 8: 4th octave A minim, 4th octave sharp A minim

Bar 9 – 14: same as bars 1 – 6

Bar 15: 5th octave D crotchet, 5th octave D crotchet, 5th octave C crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet

Bar 16: 4th octave G dotted minim, double barline.



The example below demonstrates the backward-numeral repeat without intervening music. It also shows a repeat with a change of dynamics in bar 13.

Soon, Soon, Soon

The Magic Flute

Mozart



Image description:

Title: Soon, Soon, Soon

Subtitle: The Magic Flute

Composer: Mozart

Tempo Marking: Adagio

Key Signature: 2 sharps

Time Signature: cut common

Bar 1: *p*, 4th octave A crotchet, crotchet rest, 5th octave D crotchet, crotchet rest

Bar 2: 5th octave F minim, 5th octave F crotchet, 5th octave F crotchet

Bar 3: 5th octave G dotted minim, 5th octave F crotchet

Bar 4: 5th octave F crotchet, slur, 5th octave E crotchet, 5th octave D crotchet, slur, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 5: 5th octave D minim, minim rest

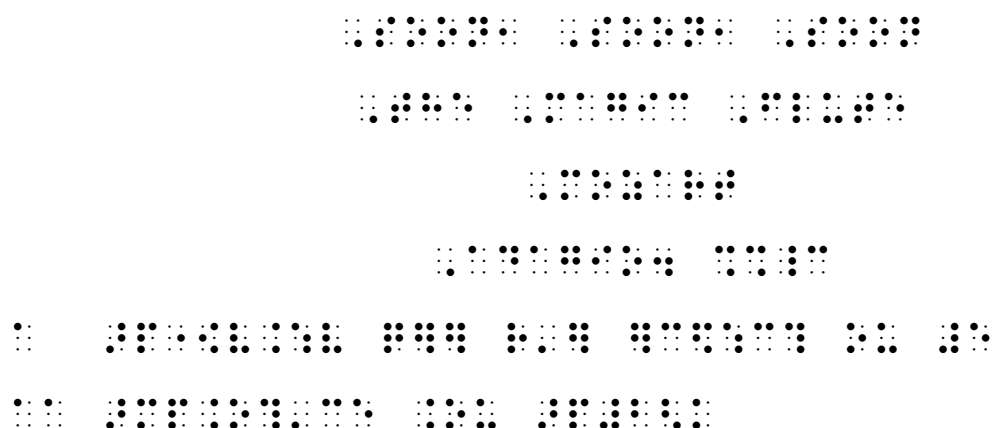
Bar 6 – 10: the same as bars 1 – 5

Bar 11: *mp*, 5th octave D minim, 5th octave C dotted crotchet, slur, 5th octave D quaver

Bar 12: 5th octave D minim, minim rest

Bar 13: same as bar 11 but starts *p*

Bar 14: same as bar 12, double barline.



Bar (Measure)-Number Repeats

This repeat is used to indicate a repetition of a single bar or multiple bars when the original is further back in the piece. The bar numbers are brailled between spaces and

Things to be mindful of when using a bar-number repeat:

- ## Let Me Call You Sweetheart



Key signature: 2 flats

Time signature: 3 4

Bar 1: 4th octave D minim, 4th octave F crotchet

Bar 2: 4th octave B minim, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 3: 5th octave D crotchet, 4th octave F minim

Bar 4: 4th octave natural E minim, 4th octave F crotchet

Bar 5: 4th octave G dotted minim

Bar 6: 4th octave G dotted minim

Bar 7: 4th octave G dotted minim, tie

Bar 8: 4th octave G minim, crotchet rest

Bar 9: 4th octave A minim, 4th octave sharp G crotchet

Bar 10: 4th octave A minim, 4th octave B crotchet

Bar 11: 5th octave C crotchet, 4th octave A minim

Bar 12: 4th octave natural G minim, 4th octave A crotchet

Bar 13: 4th octave F dotted minim

Bar 14: 4th octave F dotted minim

Bar 15: 4th octave F dotted minim, tie

Bar 16: 4th octave F minim, crotchet rest

Bar 17: 4th octave D minim, 4th octave F crotchet

Bar 18: 4th octave B minim, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 19: 5th octave D crotchet, 4th octave F minim

Bar 20: 4th octave natural E minim, 4th octave F crotchet

Bar 21: 4th octave G dotted minim

Bar 22: 4th octave G dotted minim

Bar 23: 5th octave C dotted minim, tie

Bar 24: 5th octave C minim, crotchet rest

Bar 25: 5th octave C minim, 4th octave B crotchet

Bar 26: 4th octave A minim, 4th octave B crotchet

Bar 27: 5th octave D crotchet, 4th octave F minim

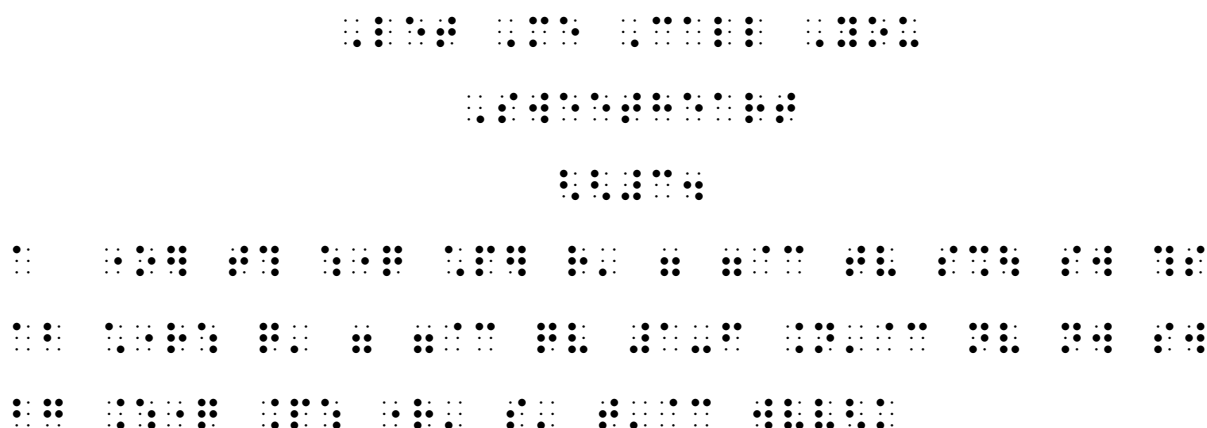
Bar 28: 5th octave E minim, 5th octave D crotchet

Bar 29: 4th octave G dotted minim

Bar 30: 4th octave A dotted minim

Bar 31: 4th octave B dotted minim, tie

Bar 32: 4th octave B crotchet, crotchet rest, crotchet rest, double barline.



Exercise 10.1

Put the piece below into braille using the appropriate braille repeat.

Songs My Mother Taught Me

Dvorak



Image description:

Title: Songs My Mother Taught Me

Composer: Dvorak

Key signature: no sharps or flats

Time signature: 2 4

Bar 1: *p*, 5th octave C crotchet, 4th octave B quaver, slur, 4th octave A quaver

Bar 2: 5th octave C crotchet, 4th octave B quaver, slur, 4th octave A quaver

Bar 3: 5th octave C quaver, slur, 5th octave F crotchet, slur, 4th octave F quaver

Bar 4: 4th octave F crotchet, crotchet rest

Bar 5: 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave A quaver, slur, 4th octave G quaver

Bar 6: 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave A quaver, slur, 4th octave G quaver

Bar 7: 4th octave B quaver, slur, 5th octave E crotchet, slur, 4th octave E quaver

Bar 8: 4th octave E crotchet, crotchet rest

Bar 9: 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet

Bar 10: hairpin crescendo, 4th octave B quaver, 5th octave C quaver, 5th octave D quaver, 5th octave E quaver

Bar 11: *f*, 5th octave F dotted crotchet, slur, *dim*, 4th octave B quaver

Bar 12: 4th octave B dotted crotchet, quaver rest

Bar 13: 5th octave C dotted crotchet, 5th octave C quaver

Bar 14: 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet

Bar 15: *p*, 4th octave G minim

Bar 16: 4th octave G crotchet, crotchet rest, double barline.

Exercise 10.2

The excerpt below is a study for clarinet. Use the bar repeat sign to save cells. Remember to group the semiquavers.



Image description:

Key signature: no sharps or flats

Time signature: common time

All note values in excerpt are semiquavers.

Bar 1: 3rd octave G, slur, 3rd octave B, 4th octave D, 4th octave G, 4th octave B, 5th octave D, 5th octave G, 5th octave sharp F, trill, 5th octave G, slur, 5th octave F, 5th octave E, 5th octave D, 5th octave C, 4th octave B, 4th octave A, 4th octave G

Bar 2: 3rd octave G, slur, 3rd octave B, 4th octave D, 4th octave G, 4th octave B, 5th octave D, 5th octave G, 5th octave sharp F, trill, 5th octave G, slur, 5th octave F, 5th octave E, 5th octave D, 5th octave C, 4th octave B, 4th octave A, 4th octave G

Bar 3: 3rd octave natural F, slur, 3rd octave B, 4th octave D, 4th octave G, 4th octave B, 5th octave D, 5th octave G, 5th octave sharp F, trill, 5th octave G, slur, 5th octave F, 5th octave E, 5th octave D, 5th octave C, 4th octave B, 4th octave A, 4th octave G

Bar 4: 3rd octave natural F, slur, 3rd octave B, 4th octave D, 4th octave G, 4th octave B, 5th octave D, 5th octave G, 5th octave sharp F, trill, 5th octave G, slur, 5th octave F, 5th octave E, 5th octave D, 5th octave C, 4th octave B, 4th octave A, 4th octave G

Bar 5: 3rd octave sharp G, slur, 3rd octave B, 4th octave E, 3rd octave B, 4th octave sharp G, slur, 4th octave E, 4th octave B, 4th octave G, 5th octave E, slur, 4th octave B, 5th octave sharp G, 5th octave E, 4th octave B, slur, 4th octave G, 4th octave E, 3rd octave B

Bar 6: 3rd octave sharp G, slur, 3rd octave B, 4th octave E, 3rd octave B, 4th octave sharp G, slur, 4th octave E, 4th octave B, 4th octave G, 5th octave E, slur, 4th octave B, 5th octave sharp G, 5th octave E, 4th octave B, slur, 4th octave G, 4th octave E, 3rd octave B

Exercise 10.3

Put the piece below into braille. Use the backward-numeral repeat for this excerpt.

Dolly's Funeral

Tschaikovsky



Image description:

Title: Dolly's Funeral

Composer: Tschaikovsky

Tempo marking: Grave

Key signature: 3 flats

Time signature: 2 4

Bar 1: *pp*, 4th octave C crotchet, 4th octave C dotted quaver, 4th octave C semiquaver

Bar 2: 4th octave C crotchet, 4th octave C dotted quaver, 4th octave C semiquaver

Bar 3: hairpin crescendo, 4th octave C crotchet, slur, 4th octave D crotchet, slur

Bar 4: 4th octave E minim

Bar 5: *p*, 4th octave D crotchet, 4th octave D dotted quaver, 4th octave D semiquaver

Bar 6: 4th octave D crotchet, 4th octave D dotted quaver, 4th octave D semiquaver

Bar 7: 4th octave F crotchet, slur, 4th octave E, slur

Bar 8: 4th octave D minim

Bar 9: *pp*, 4th octave C crotchet, 4th octave C dotted quaver, 4th octave C semiquaver

Bar 10: 4th octave C crotchet, 4th octave C dotted quaver, 4th octave C semiquaver

Bar 11: hairpin crescendo, 4th octave C crotchet, slur, 4th octave D crotchet, slur

Bar 12: 4th octave E minim

Bar 13: *p*, 4th octave D crotchet, 4th octave D dotted quaver, 4th octave D semiquaver

Bar 14: 4th octave D crotchet, slur, 4th octave E crotchet, slur

Bar 15: 4th octave C minim, tie

Bar 16: 4th octave C crotchet, crotchet rest, double barline.

Exercise 10.4

Put the piece below into braille. It uses the backward-numeral repeat and the Bar-Number repeat.

Meet Me in St. Louis, Louis

Mills



Image description:

Title: Meet Me in St. Louis, Louis

Composer: Mills

Key signature: 2 flats

Time signature: 3 4

Bar 1: 3rd octave B minim, 4th octave C crotchet

Bar 2: 4th octave D minim, 4th octave E crotchet

Bar 3: 4th octave F minim, 5th octave D crotchet

Bar 4: 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave F minim

Bar 5: 4th octave G minim, 4th octave B crotchet

Bar 6: 4th octave A minim, 4th octave G crotchet

Bar 7: 4th octave F dotted minim, tie

Bar 8: 4th octave F crotchet, crotchet rest, crotchet rest

Bar 9: 3rd octave B minim, 4th octave C crotchet

Bar 10: 4th octave D minim, 4th octave E crotchet

Bar 11: 4th octave F minim, 5th octave D crotchet

Bar 12: 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave F minim

Bar 13: 4th octave G minim, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 14: 5th octave C minim, 5th octave D crotchet

Bar 15: 5th octave C dotted minim, tie

Bar 16: 5th octave C, 5th octave C octave, 5th octave sharp C crotchet

Bar 17: 5th octave D minim, 5th octave C crotchet

Bar 18: 4th octave B minim, 4th octave A crotchet

Bar 19: 5th octave D crotchet, 4th octave G minim, tie

Bar 20: 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave sharp F crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet

Bar 21: 5th octave C minim, 4th octave B crotchet

Bar 22: 4th octave A minim, 4th octave G crotchet

Bar 23: 5th octave C crotchet, 4th octave F minim, tie

Bar 24: 4th octave F crotchet, crotchet rest, crotchet rest

Bar 25: 3rd octave B minim, 4th octave C crotchet

Bar 26: 4th octave D minim, 4th octave E crotchet

Bar 27: 4th octave F minim, 5th octave D crotchet

Bar 28: 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave F minim

Bar 29: 4th octave G minim, 4th octave B crotchet

Bar 30: 5th octave C minim, 4th octave F crotchet

Bar 31: 4th octave B dotted minim, tie

Bar 32: 4th octave B crotchet, crotchet rest, crotchet rest, double barline.

Lesson 11 Tying It All Together

Congratulations on making it to this point. This lesson has no new content for you to learn. It is time to put all the information you have learned in the last ten lessons into producing pieces of music. There will be five pieces for you to put into braille as the final step in completing the beginner course in music braille.

Below is an order of signs in relationship to the note that we have covered. The first section gives the order of signs before a note and the second section is for the order of signs that follow a note. This chart may help you in completing the exercises.

Preceding a note:

- forward repeat sign
- first or second ending sign
- opening bracket slur
- simple word-sign expression (*p*, *f*, *mf* etc)
- triplet or irregular grouping sign
- accidental for ornament
- ornament
- signs of expressions
 - staccato
 - accent
 - tenuto
 - any other of these signs
- accidental
- octave mark

Following a note:

- dot
- fermata
- single slur or opening double slur
- closing bracket slur
- tie
- termination sign for a hairpin
- breath marking
- backward repeat sign

Exercise 11.1

The piece below is the melody of the song *The Blue-Tail Fly*. It features an anacrusis (or up-beat) so make sure to number the bars correctly, crotchet triplets, fermata (pause) and a sectional double barline. And as always, don't forget your octave signs.

The Blue-Tail Fly



Image description:

Title: The Blue-Tail Fly

Key signature: 4 sharps

Time signature: cut common

Bar 0: 4th octave G crotchet

Bar 1: 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave F crotchet, 4th octave E crotchet

Bar 2: 4th octave C crotchet, 4th octave C crotchet, 4th octave A dotted crotchet, 3rd octave B quaver

Bar 3: triplet, 4th octave E crotchet, 4th octave E crotchet, 4th octave E crotchet, triplet, 4th octave E crotchet, 4th octave D crotchet, 4th octave E crotchet

Bar 4: 4th octave F dotted minim, 4th octave G crotchet

Bar 5: 4th octave A dotted crotchet, 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave F quaver, 4th octave F quaver, 4th octave E crotchet

Bar 6: 4th octave C quaver, 4th octave C dotted crotchet, 4th octave A dotted crotchet, fermata over note, 4th octave C quaver

Bar 7: 3rd octave B dotted crotchet, 4th octave D quaver, 4th octave F dotted crotchet, 4th octave A quaver

Bar 8: 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave E crotchet, 4th octave E minim, sectional double barline

Bar 9: 3rd octave B quaver, 3rd octave B quaver, 4th octave E crotchet, 4th octave E dotted crotchet, 4th octave E quaver

Bar 10: 4th octave D crotchet, 4th octave F crotchet, 4th octave F minim

Bar 11: 3rd octave B quaver, 3rd octave B quaver, 4th octave F crotchet, 4th octave F dotted crotchet, 4th octave F quaver

Bar 12: 4th octave E crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave G minim

Bar 13: 4th octave E quaver, 4th octave E quaver, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave G dotted crotchet, 4th octave G quaver

Bar 14: 4th octave A crotchet, 5th octave C crotchet, 5th octave C dotted crotchet, fermata over note, 5th octave C quaver

Bar 15: 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave D crotchet

Bar 16: 4th octave E minim, crotchet rest, double barline.

Exercise 11.2

While the music notation in this piece is simple, be careful of the time signature changes with the use of the sectional double barline.

The Water is Wide



Image description:

Title: The Water is Wide

Tempo marking: Very Freely

Key signature: 1 sharp

Time signature: 4 4

Bar 0: 4th octave D crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave G quaver, 4th octave A quaver, sectional double barline

Bar 1: time signature change to 2 4, 4th octave B minim, sectional double barline

Bar 2: time signature change to 4 4, 4th octave A dotted crotchet, 4th octave A quaver, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave E crotchet

Bar 3: 4th octave D crotchet, 4th octave D dotted minim

Bar 4: crotchet rest, 4th octave D crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave F crotchet

Bar 5: 4th octave G dotted minim, 4th octave A crotchet, sectional double barline

Bar 6: time signature change to 2 4, 4th octave B crotchet, 5th octave C quaver, slur, 4th octave B quaver, sectional double barline

Bar 7: time signature change to 4/4, 4th octave A semibreve, tie

Bar 8: 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave B quaver, slur, 5th octave C quaver

Bar 9: 5th octave D semibreve

Bar 10: 5th octave C crotchet, 5th octave C crotchet, 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave A quaver, slur, 4th octave G quaver

Bar 11: 4th octave B semibreve, tie

Bar 12: 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave E crotchet

Bar 13: 4th octave D semibreve, tie

Bar 14: 4th octave D crotchet, 4th octave D crotchet, 4th octave E quaver, 4th octave G dotted crotchet

Bar 15: 4th octave G semibreve, tie

Bar 16: 4th octave G crotchet, double barline.

Exercise 11.3

The excerpt below is a clarinet melody from Symphony No. 4 in B flat by Beethoven, put it into braille. Be careful of all the ties and slurs. Bar 6 uses a double dotted quaver. It is treated no differently than a single dotted note, just add another dot 3.

Symphony No. 4 in B flat

Op. 60

Second Movement

Ludwig van Beethoven

Adagio

p cantabile

cresc. - p

7

cresc. f

6

p cantabile

13

cresc. p

cresc. f

6

Image description:

Title: Symphony No. 4 in B flat

Subtitle: Op. 60

Subtitle: Second Movement

Composer: Ludwig van Beethoven

Tempo Marking: Adagio

Key signature: 1 flat

Time signature: 3 4

Bar 1: *cantabile*, *p*, 5th octave C crotchet, slur, 5th octave D dotted crotchet, 5th octave D quaver

Bar 2: 5th octave D dotted quaver, slur, 5th octave E semiquaver, slur, 5th octave F crotchet, tie, 5th octave F quaver, slur, 5th octave G semiquaver, slur, 5th octave flat A semiquaver

Bar 3: 5th octave G quaver, quaver rest, crotchet rest, 5th octave natural A dotted quaver, slur, 5th octave E semiquaver

Bar 4: 5th octave E quaver, quaver rest, crotchet rest, 5th octave G dotted quaver, slur, 5th octave D semiquaver

Bar 5: *cresc*, 5th octave E dotted minim, tie

Bar 6: *p*, grouping of 4 semiquavers, 5th octave E, slur, 5th octave D, slur, 5th octave F, slur, 4th octave A, 5th octave C crotchet, slur, 4th octave natural B double dotted quaver, slur, 5th octave G demisemiquaver

Bar 7: *cresc*, 5th octave G dotted minim, tie

Bar 8: *f*, 5th octave G quaver, 5th octave G quaver, tie, grouping of 6 semiquavers 5th octave G, slur, 5th octave F, slur, 5th octave E, slur, 5th octave F, slur, 5th octave G, slur, 5th octave A, 5th octave E quaver, slur, 5th octave F dotted semiquaver, slur, 5th octave D demisemiquaver, slur

Bar 9: 5th octave C quaver, quaver rest, crotchet rest, crotchet rest

Bar 10: *cantabile*, *p*, 5th octave F crotchet, 5th octave G dotted crotchet, 5th octave G quaver

Bar 11: 5th octave G dotted quaver, slur, 5th octave A semiquaver, slur, 5th octave natural B crotchet, tie, 5th octave B quaver, slur, 6th octave C semiquaver, slur, 6th octave flat D semiquaver

Bar 12: 6th octave C quaver, quaver rest, crotchet rest, 5th octave natural D dotted quaver, slur, 5th octave A semiquaver

Bar 13: 5th octave natural B quaver, quaver rest, crotchet rest, 6th octave C dotted quaver, slur, 5th octave G semiquaver

Bar 14: *cresc*, 5th octave A dotted minim, tie

Bar 15: *p*, grouping of 4 semiquavers, 5th octave A, slur, 5th octave G slur, 5th octave natural B, slur, 5th octave D, 5th octave F crotchet, slur, 5th octave E double dotted quaver, slur, 6th octave C demisemiquaver, slur

Bar 16: *cresc*, 6th octave C dotted minim, tie

Bar 17: *f*, 6th octave C quaver, 6th octave C quaver, tie, grouping of 6 semiquavers 6th octave C, slur, 5th octave natural B, slur, 5th octave A, slur, 5th octave B, slur, 6th octave C, slur, 6th octave D, 5th octave A quaver, slur, 5th octave B dotted semiquaver, slur, 5th octave G demisemiquaver, slur

Bar 18: 5th octave F quaver, quaver rest, crotchet rest, crotchet rest, double barline.

Exercise 11.4

Allegro

from: Concerto for Oboe and Strings

Albinoni

Image description:

Title: Allegro

Subtitle: from: Concerto for Oboe and Strings

Composer: Albinoni

Key Signature: 1 flat

Time Signature: 4 4

Bar 0: quaver rest

Bar 1 – 8: whole bars rest

Bar 9: crotchet rest, quaver rest, *f*, mezzo-staccato, 6th octave C quaver, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave A quaver, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave F quaver, tenuto, 5th octave G quaver, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave F semiquaver, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave E semiquaver

Bar 10: group of 4 semiquavers, 5th octave F, slur, 5th octave C, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave D, mezzo-staccato 5th octave E, group of 4 semiquavers, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave F, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave G, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave A, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave B, mezzo-staccato, 6th octave C quaver, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave F quaver, tenuto, 5th octave G quaver, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave F semiquaver, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave E semiquaver

Bar 11: group of 4 semiquavers, 5th octave F, slur, 5th octave C, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave D, mezzo-staccato 5th octave E, group of 4 semiquavers, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave F, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave G, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave A, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave B, tenuto, 6th octave C quaver, mezzo-staccato, 6th octave D semiquaver, mezzo-staccato, 6th octave C semiquaver, grouping of 4 semiquavers, 5th octave B, slur, 6th octave C, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave A, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave B

Bar 12: 5th octave G crotchet, crotchet rest, minim rest

Bar 13 – 15: bars rest

Bar 16: crotchet rest, quaver rest, *p*, mezzo-staccato, 6th octave C quaver, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave A quaver, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave F quaver, tenuto, 5th octave G quaver, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave F semiquaver, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave E semiquaver

Bar 17: group of 4 semiquavers, 5th octave F, slur, 5th octave C, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave D, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave E, group of 4 semiquavers, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave F, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave G, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave A, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave B, mezzo-staccato, 6th octave C quaver, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave F quaver, tenuto, 5th octave G quaver, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave F semiquaver, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave E semiquaver

Bar 18: group of 4 semiquavers, 5th octave F, slur, 5th octave C, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave D, mezzo-staccato 5th octave E, group of 4 semiquavers, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave F, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave G, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave A, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave B, tenuto, 6th octave C quaver, mezzo-staccato, 6th octave D semiquaver, mezzo-staccato, 6th octave C semiquaver, grouping of 4 semiquavers, 5th octave B, slur, 6th octave C, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave A, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave B

Bar 19: 5th octave G crotchet, quaver rest, 6th octave C semiquaver, 5th octave B semiquaver, grouping of 4 semiquavers, 5th octave A, slur, 5th octave B, 5th octave G, 5th octave A, grouping of 4 semiquavers, 5th octave F, slur, 5th octave G, 5th octave E, 5th octave F

Bar 20: 5th octave D quaver, 5th octave E semiquaver, 5th octave F semiquaver, 5th octave G semiquaver, 5th octave A semiquaver, accent, 5th octave B quaver, tie, grouping of 4 semiquavers, 5th octave B, slur, 6th octave C, 5th octave A, 5th octave B, grouping of 4 semiquavers, 5th octave G, 5th octave A, 5th octave F, 5th octave G

Bar 21: 5th octave E quaver, 5th octave F semiquaver, 5th octave G semiquaver, 5th octave A semiquaver, 5th octave B semiquaver, accent, 6th octave C quaver, tie, grouping of 4 semiquavers, 6th octave C, slur, 6th octave D, 5th octave B, 6th octave C, grouping of 4 semiquavers, 5th octave A, 5th octave B, 5th octave G, 5th octave A

Bar 22: 5th octave F semiquaver, slur, 5th octave E semiquaver, slur, 5th octave F quaver, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave A quaver, mezzo-staccato, 6th octave C quaver, 5th octave F semiquaver, slur, 5th octave E semiquaver, slur, 5th octave F quaver, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave natural B quaver, mezzo-staccato 6th octave D quaver

Bar 23: 5th octave F semiquaver, slur, 5th octave E semiquaver, slur, 5th octave F quaver, mezzo-staccato, 5th octave natural B quaver, mezzo-staccato, 6th octave D quaver, 5th octave F crotchet, tie, grouping of 4 semiquavers, 5th octave F, 5th octave F, 5th octave E, slur, 5th octave D

Bar 24: grouping of 4 semiquavers, 5th octave E, slur, 5th octave F, slur, 5th octave G, slur, 5th octave A, long appoggiatura, 5th octave E quaver, slur, trill, 5th octave D crotchet, 5th octave C crotchet, crotchet rest, double barline.

Exercise 11.5

Put the piece below into braille. Use braille repeats where possible.



Image description:

Tempo marking: Moderato

Key signature: 1 flat

Time signature: 6 8

Bar 0: *p*, 4th octave C quaver

Bar 1: Beginning repeat, 4th octave F quaver, slur, 4th octave C quaver, slur, 4th octave F quaver, slur, 4th octave A quaver, slur, 4th octave F quaver, slur, 4th octave A quaver, slur

Bar 2: 5th octave C dotted crotchet, 4th octave B dotted crotchet

Bar 3: 4th octave A quaver, slur, 5th octave C quaver, staccato, 4th octave F quaver, 4th octave G quaver, slur, 4th octave B quaver, staccato, 4th octave E quaver,

Bar 4: volta 1st time ending, 4th octave F dotted crotchet, tie, 4th octave F crotchet, 4th octave C quaver, end repeat sign

Bar 5: volta 2nd time ending, 4th octave F dotted crotchet, tie, 4th octave F crotchet, *mf*, 5th octave C quaver

Bar 6: 5th octave C quaver, slur, 4th octave A quaver, slur, 5th octave C quaver, 5th octave C quaver, slur, 4th octave A quaver, slur, 5th octave C quaver

Bar 7: 5th octave D dotted crotchet, 4th octave B crotchet, 4th octave B quaver

Bar 8: 4th octave B quaver, slur, 4th octave G quaver, slur, 4th octave B quaver, 4th octave B quaver, slur, 4th octave G quaver, slur, 4th octave B quaver

Bar 9: 5th octave C dotted crotchet, 4th octave A crotchet, 4th octave G quaver

Bar 10: 4th octave A quaver, slur, 4th octave B quaver, slur, 5th octave C quaver, slur, 5th octave C quaver, slur, 4th octave B quaver, slur, 4th octave A quaver

Bar 11: 4th octave A dotted crotchet, slur, 4th octave G crotchet, 4th octave C quaver

Bar 12: 4th octave F quaver, slur, 4th octave C quaver, slur, 4th octave F quaver, slur, 4th octave A quaver, slur, 4th octave F quaver, slur, 4th octave A quaver, slur

Bar 13: 5th octave C dotted crotchet, 4th octave B dotted crotchet

Bar 14: 4th octave A quaver, slur, 5th octave C quaver, staccato, 4th octave F quaver, 4th octave G quaver, slur, 4th octave B quaver, staccato, 4th octave E quaver

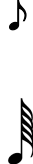
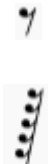


































Bar 15: 4th octave F dotted crotchet, tie, 4th octave F crotchet, quaver rest, double barline.


Appendices

Appendix 1

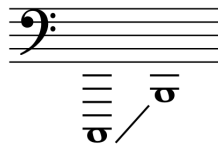
Summary of Signs

Notes and Note Names

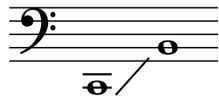
Name	Symbol	Rests	C	D	E	F	G	A	B
Quaver (8 th note) or Semihemidemisemiquaver (128 th note)									
Crotchet (quaver note) or Hemidemisemiquaver (64 th note)									
Minim (half note) or Demisemiquaver (32 nd note)									
Semibreve (whole note) or Semiquaver (16 th note)									

Dot after a note (to add value)  (dot 3)

Octave Signs



1st Octave :: dot 4



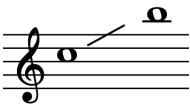
2nd Octave :: dots 4, 5



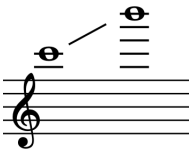
3rd Octave :: dots 4, 5, 6



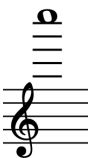
4th Octave :: dot 5



5th Octave :: dot 4, 6













6th Octave :: dots 5, 6







7th Octave :: dot 6

Key and Time Signatures

Accidentals

Sharp			dots 1 4 6
Double Sharp			dots 1 4 6 dots 1 4 6
Flat			dots 1 2 6
Double Flat			dots 1 2 6 dots 1 2 6
Natural			dots 1 6

Examples of Key Signatures:

3 sharps		Dots 1 4 6, dots 1 4 6, dots 1 4 6
3 flats		Dots 1 2 6, dots 1 2 6, dots 1 4 6
4 sharps		Dots 3 4 5 6, dots 1 4 5, dots 1 4 6
4 flats		Dots 3 4 5 6, dots 1 4 5, dots 1 2 6

Time Signatures

Four-four time



(dots 3 4 5 6, dots 1 4 5, dots 2 5 6)



Six-eight time



(dots 3 4 5 6, dots 1 2 4, dots 2 3 6)



Common Time



(dots 4 6, dots 1 4)



Cut Common Time



(dots 4 5 6, dots 1 4)



Barlines

Barline

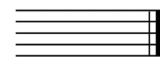
space



Double barline (Final)



dots 1 2 6, dots 1 3



Sectional double barline



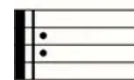
dots 1 2 6, dots 1 3, dot 3



Start Repeat (double bar followed by dots)



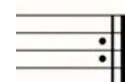
dots 1 2 6, dots 2 3 5 6




End Repeat (double bar preceded by dots)





dots 1 2 6, dots 2 3



Ties and Slurs


Tie  (dot 4, dot 1 4)


Slur  (dot 1 4)

Bracket Slur   (Open bracket dot 5 6, dot 1 2) (Close bracket dot 4 5, dot 2 3)


Dynamics and Expressive Markings

Word sign  dots 3 4 5

pianissimo *pp*  dots 3 4 5, dots 1 2 3 4, dots 1 2 3 4

piano *p*  dots 3 4 5, dots 1 2 3 4


mezzo piano *mp*  dots 3 4 5, dots 1 3 4, dots 1 2 3 4

mezzo forte *mf*  dots 3 4 5, dots 1 3 4, dots 1 2 4

forte *f*  dots 3 4 5, dots 1 2 4

fortissimo *ff*  dots 3 4 5, dots 1 2 4, dots 1 2 4

crescendo *cresc.*  dots 3 4 5, dots 1 4, dots 1 2 3 5, dot 3

decrescendo *decresc.*  dots 3 4 5, dots 1 4 5, dots 1 5, dots 1 4, dots 1 2 3 5, dot 3

hairpin crescendo  dots 3 4 5, dots 1 4


hairpin crescendo terminator  dots 3 4 5, dots 2 5

hairpin decrescendo  dots 3 4 5, dots 1 4 5

hairpin decrescendo terminator  dots 3 4 5, dots 2 5 6

Irregular Note Groupings

Single-cell sign for Triplet  (dot 2 3)

Three-cell sign for triplet  (dot 4 5 6, dot 2 5, dot 3)

Group of two notes (or more)  (dot 4 5 6, dot 2 3, dot 3)

Nuances that Precede the Note

Staccato



dot 2 3 6



Staccatissimo



dot 6, dot 2 3 6



Mezzo-staccato



dot 5, dot 2 3 6



Tenuto (agogic accent)



dot 4 5 6, dot 2 3 6



Accent



dot 4 6, dot 2 3 6



Expressive accent



dot 4 5, dot 2 3 6



Reversed Accent



dot 4, dot 2 3 6



Martellato



dot 5 6, dot 2 3 6



Swell




dot 1 6, dot 3




Nuances that Follow the Note


Fermatas (hold or pause)

- above or under a note





dot 1 2 6, dot 1 2 3


- between notes

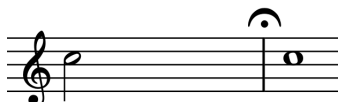



dot 5,
dot 1 2 6, dot 1 2 3


- above or below a barline

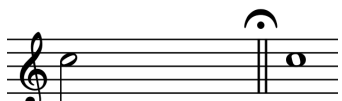



dot 4 5 6,
dot 1 2 6, dot 1 2 3


- above or below a sectional double barline

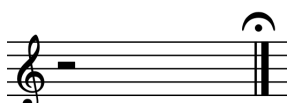



dot 1 2 6, dot 1 3, dot 3
dot 1 2 6, dot 1 2 3


- above or below a double bar





dot 1 2 6, dot 1 3,
dot 1 2 6, dot 1 2 3


- squared shape




dot 5 6
dot 1 2 6, dot 1 2 3


- tent-shaped



dot 4 5
dot 1 2 6, dot 1 2 3

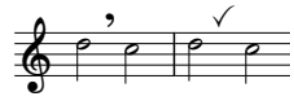


Breath or Break Marks

Breath marks



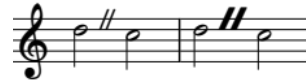
dot 3 4 5, dot 2



Break marks



dot 6, dot 3 4



Ornaments

Appoggiaturas

Long appoggiatura



dot 5, dot 2 6



Short appoggiatura



dot 2 6



Trills

Trill



dot 2 3 5



Inflected trill (with a flat)



dot 1 2 6, dot 2 3 5








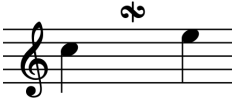












Inflected trill (with a sharp)



dot 1 4 6, dot 2 3 5



Turns

Turn between notes		dot 2 5 6	
Turn above or below a note		dot 6, dot 2 5 6	
Inverted turn between notes		dot 2 5 6, dot 1 2 3	
Inverted turn above or below a note		dot 6, dot 2 5 6, dot 1 2 3	
Turn with inflected upper note (sharp)		dot 1 4 6, dot 2 5 6	
Turn with inflected upper note (flat)		dot 1 2 6, dot 2 5 6	
Turn with inflected lower note (sharp)		dot 6, dot 1 4 6, dot 2 5 6	
Turn with inflected lower note (flat)		dot 6, dot 1 2 6, dot 2 5 6	
Turn with both notes inflected		dot 1 2 6, dot 6, dot 1 4 6, dot 2 5 6	

Mordents

Upper mordent



dot 5, dot 2 3 5



Extended upper mordent



dot 5 6, dot 2 3 5



Lower mordent



dot 5, dot 2 3 5, dot 1 2 3



Extended lower mordent



dot 5 6, dot 2 3 5, dot 1 2 3



Inflected upper mordent (flat)



dot 1 2 6, dot 5, dot 2 3 5



Inflected upper mordent (sharp)



dot 1 4 6, dot 5, dot 2 3 5



Inflected lower mordent



dot 1 4 6, dot 5, dot 2 3 5, dot 1 2 3



Inflected lower mordent (flat)



dot 1 2 6, dot 5 6, dot 2 3 5, dot 1 2 3

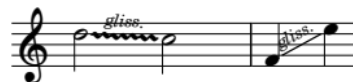


Glissando

Straight or wavy line between two successive notes



dot 4,
dot 1

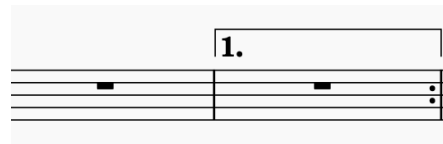


Print Repeats

Volta

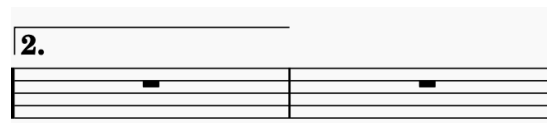
First time ending
(dots 3 4 5 6, dot 2)

⠠⠠⠠⠠



Second time ending
(dots 3 4 5 6, dots 2 3)

⠠⠠⠠⠠



(also see barlines)

Braille Repeats

Braille repeat sign

⠠⠠ (dots 2 3 5 6)

Backward-Numeral repeat

⠠⠠⠠⠠ (dots 3 4 5 6, dots 1 4 5, dots 3 4 5 6, dots 1 2)

Bar-Number repeats

⠠⠠⠠⠠ (dots 3 4 5 6, dots 2 6, dots 3 6, dots 2 3 6)