

Simplified Music Notation Introduction

Simplified Music Notation is a new notation that aims to make sight-reading easier. It was designed to make music more accessible to musicians with dyslexia, working memory impairments, or simply those who struggle with sight-reading.




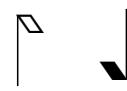














As Simplified Music notation reduces the amount of clutter on the page from accidentals, it is also very helpful in notating contemporary, atonal music.

Simplified Music Notation is based on traditional 5-line staff notation, so players do not have to relearn as such. The two notations can be taught alongside each other, with Simplified Music Notation used as a learning tool to help students develop skills in easy stages. It can also help more advanced learners tackle complex works, such as chromatic or atonal works which are difficult to read.

The project is grateful to have received support from a broad range of professional musicians, including teachers, performers and academics – visit www.SimplifiedMusicNotation.org to read some of the endorsements.



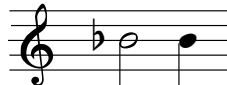

All profits from the sale of Simplified Music Notation books and scores will be donated to the Creative Arts Research Foundation (UK registered charity No.1046414) which aims to make music more accessible to all.

Instructions – The Symbols

Symbols	Traditional Notation	Simplified Music Notation	
Sharps 	SHARPS 		<p>Sharps and flats are each represented by their own unique symbols.</p> <p>Double sharps & flats, B & E sharps and F&C flats are written at the pitch at which they are actually played.</p> <p>Such notes are marked by a 'History Sign' which signals how they were originally written but can be ignored whilst playing.</p>
Flats 	FLATS 		
Single Sharp History Sign 	B and E SHARPS 		
Single Flat History Sign 	C and F FLATS 		
Double Sharp History Sign 	DOUBLE SHARPS 		
Double Flat History Sign 	DOUBLE FLATS 		

SHARPS AND FLATS


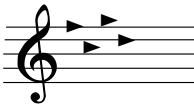

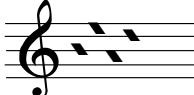
In Simplified Music Notation, flats and sharps are represented by their own distinctive noteheads:

	Traditional Notation	=	Simplified Music Notation
SHARPS		=	
FLATS		=	

The traditional oval note is used where a note is natural.

KEY SIGNATURES

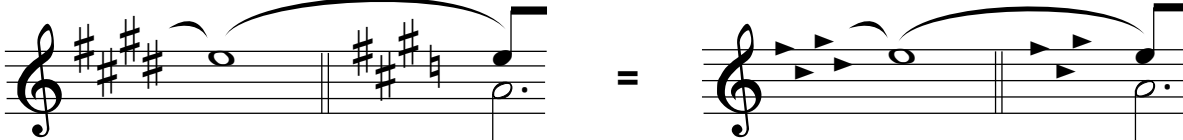
The traditional sharp and flat symbols in the key signature are replaced by the sharp and flat noteheads of Simplified Music Notation:

SHARPS		=	
FLATS		=	

CHANGE OF KEY

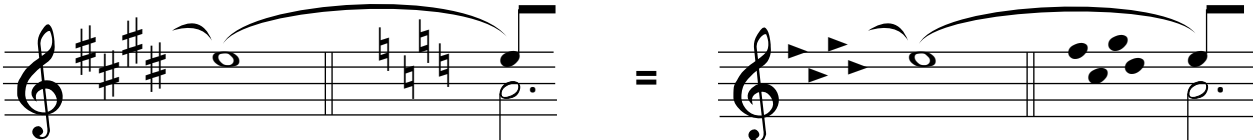
If there is a key change in the middle of a piece, the new key signature is shown without naturals to 'neutralise' the previous key:

E MAJOR TO A MAJOR



The exception to this is where the key changes to C major or A minor, where 'neutralising' naturals are put in to make this clear. Instead of the traditional natural symbol, an oval notehead is used:

E MAJOR TO A MINOR






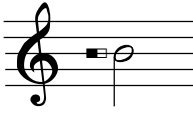




HISTORY SIGNS

To adhere to our principal of playing what you see, B and E sharps, C and F flats, and all double sharps and flats notes are transposed to the position on the staff on which they are actually played.

To show that these notes have been transposed, they are preceded by a History Sign. As in traditional notation, History Signs are not repeated within a bar (measure):

SINGLE SHARP AND FLAT HISTORY SIGNS

B SHARP		=	
E SHARP		=	
C FLAT		=	
F FLAT		=	

DOUBLE SHARP AND FLAT HISTORY SIGNS

DOUBLE SHARP		=	
DOUBLE FLAT		=	

COMPARISON EXAMPLES

SHARPS

TRADITIONAL NOTATION

Musical score for 'SHARPS' in traditional notation. The score is in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The tempo/mood is *p* (piano). The music features a melodic line in the treble clef and a harmonic accompaniment in the bass clef. The first two measures show a melodic phrase with a slur and a fermata, followed by a rest in the treble and a continuation in the bass. The third measure shows a melodic phrase with a slur and a fermata, followed by a rest in the treble and a continuation in the bass.

SIMPLIFIED MUSIC NOTATION

Musical score for 'SHARPS' in simplified music notation. The score is in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The tempo/mood is *p* (piano). The music features a melodic line in the treble clef and a harmonic accompaniment in the bass clef. The first two measures show a melodic phrase with a slur and a fermata, followed by a rest in the treble and a continuation in the bass. The third measure shows a melodic phrase with a slur and a fermata, followed by a rest in the treble and a continuation in the bass.

(from: *Le Prophète* - Meyerbeer)

FLATS

TRADITIONAL NOTATION

Ben legato e molto cantabile

Musical score for 'FLATS' in traditional notation. The score is in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab). The tempo/mood is *pp* (pianissimo). The music features a melodic line in the treble clef and a harmonic accompaniment in the bass clef. The first two measures show a melodic phrase with a slur and a fermata, followed by a rest in the treble and a continuation in the bass. The third measure shows a melodic phrase with a slur and a fermata, followed by a rest in the treble and a continuation in the bass.

SIMPLIFIED MUSIC NOTATION

5 **Ben legato e molto cantabile**

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(from: *Una Furtiva Lagrima* - Donizetti)