

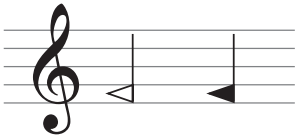








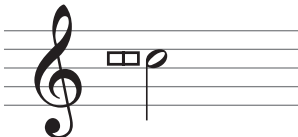


SIMPLIFIED MUSIC NOTATION

INSTRUCTIONS – THE SYMBOLS

Summary of common symbols


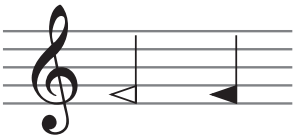


Symbols	Traditional Notation	Simplified Music Notation
Sharps 	SHARPS 	= 
Flats 	FLATS 	= 
Double Sharp History Sign 	DOUBLE SHARP 	= 
Double Flat History Sign 	DOUBLE FLAT 	= 

Sharps and flats are each represented by their own unique symbols.

Double sharps & flats are written at the pitch at which they are actually played. Such notes are marked by a 'History Sign' which signals how they were originally written but can be ignored whilst playing.

Sharps and flats


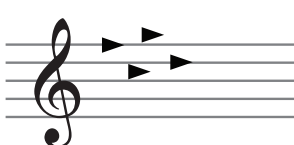

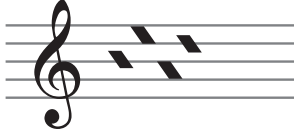
In Simplified Music Notation, flats and sharps are represented by their own distinctive noteheads:

	Traditional Notation		Simplified Music Notation
SHARPS		=	
FLATS		=	

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

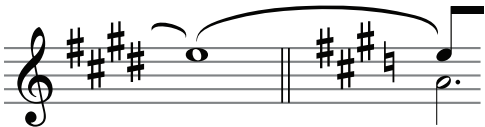

Key signatures

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

	Traditional Notation		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. For instance:

E MAJOR TO A MAJOR	
Traditional Notation	Simplified Music Notation
	

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

Traditional Notation	=	Simplified Music Notation

History Signs

Double sharps and double flats are written at the pitch at which they are actually played. So, for instance, a C double sharp is written as a D, or an F double flat as an E.

To allow you to see how the composer originally wrote such notes, and to ensure that they remain true to music theory, they are marked by a 'history sign'. Like accidentals, history signs sit in front of the note, but unlike accidentals you can ignore them whilst you play – they simply indicate the 'history' of the note. As with accidentals, history signs are not repeated within a bar (measure).

	Traditional Notation	=	Simplified Music Notation
DOUBLE SHARP			
DOUBLE FLAT		=	

Enharmonic Signs

Enharmonic notes are two notes that are written differently but sound (and are played) the same, for instance: D double flat and C natural. However, because all notes in Simplified Music Notation are written on the staff lines on which they are played, a natural that follows a transposed enharmonic note within the same bar is preceded by the 'N' (natural) symbol, to clarify how it was originally written.

Traditional Notation	=	Simplified Music Notation

COMPARISON EXAMPLES

Sharps and flats

Traditional Notation From: Air in D minor by Henry Purcell

Simplified Music Notation

Key Signature Sharp Note Head Flat Note Head

Double sharps

From: Etude in F# by Igor Stravinsky

Traditional Notation

Simplified Music Notation

Double flats

From: Elevata by Alexander Scriabin

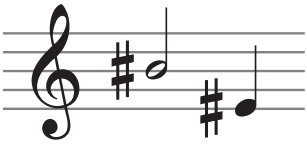


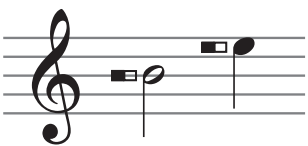
Traditional Notation

Simplified Music Notation

OPTIONAL EXTRA


B and E sharps, C and F flats

Some players experience difficulties with single sharps and flats which are played as 'white' or natural notes, such as B sharp, which is played as C. Although this is something players must eventually become accustomed to, we do have an optional alternative notation for such notes which uses History Signs:

	Traditional Notation	=	Simplified Music Notation
B and E SHARPS			
C and F FLATS			

Single sharp and flat history signs are used in our original series of piano books, 'A More Rational Approach to Music Notation' but are not used in our subsequent publications, such as the Key Perfect series. If you would like to order a copy which does use these symbols, you can contact us at info@simplifiedmusicnotation.org to make a special order.

Example staves with single history signs:

Traditional Notation

Simplified Music Notation
