

Sing
unto
the
LORD



MUSICIAN'S PRAYER

The background of the page is a light beige color with a decorative pattern of musical notes, treble clefs, and swirling lines in a slightly darker shade of beige. The notes and clefs are scattered across the page, while the swirls are more prominent on the right side.

Oh Lord, please bless this music
that it might glorify Your name.

May the talent that You have bestowed upon me
be used only to serve You.

Let this music be a witness to Your majesty and love,
and remind us that You are always
watching, and listening from Your throne above.

May Your presence and beauty be found in every note,
and may the words that are sung
reach the hearts of Your people
so they will draw closer to You.

May Your Spirit guide us through every measure
so that we might be instruments of Your peace,
and proclaim Your glory with glad voices.

~ BJ Hoff



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Yet the LORD will command his lovingkindness in the daytime,
and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.

Psalm 42:8



CHALLENGES OF CHORAL SINGING

OMEA ADJUDICATION GUIDE

- I. Quality of Sound
 - A. Tone Quality
 - B. Intonation
 - C. Vowel Uniformity/Blend/Balance
- II. Technique
 - A. Rhythm/Precision
 - B. Diction/Articulation
 - C. Facility
- III. Musicality
 - A. Interpretation/Style
 - B. Phrasing
 - C. Expression
 - D. Sensitivity
 - E. Dynamics

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- IV. Knowledge of “Pitch” Orientation
 - A. Understanding of the Various “Clefs”
 - B. Understanding of Major and Minor Keys
 - C. Understanding of Intervals
- V. Knowledge of Notation
 - A. Understanding of Relative Note Values
 1. Whole, Half, Quarter, Eighth, Sixteenth Notes
 2. How “Dotted” Notes are Effected
 - B. Understanding of “Time Signatures”
 1. 4/4, 6/8, etc.
 2. Alla Breve

The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped:
therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

Psalm 28:7



PHONETICS

Among the first publishers to use the system of *phonetics* was Shawnee Press. The purpose of using this other language was for the unification of the pronunciation of all words in the text of a choral work. Rather than reading words they knew, most of them very familiar, choir members were reading sounds; a new language that made for more unification of sound, thus, a much better blend of voices. These new sounds aim primarily at the most neutral pronunciation of the vowels in our American/English language. The goal is to pronounce each of these vowels accurately enough that the blend of voices is in complete agreement.

AH ----- OO ----- AW ----- EH ----- EE ----- OH

DA ME NI PO TU LA BE

(pronounced)

DAH MEH NEE POH TOO LAH BEH

He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God:
many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

Psalm 40:3



VOWEL SOUNDS

Below is a test example. Concentrate on the capitalized vowels. They are the “primary” vowel sounds that are held longest. All other sounds are minimized as much as possible, such as lower case vowel sounds within parentheses. These should be sung as short/quickly as possible. Likewise, all consonants should be minimized, though clearly pronounced. Consonants which are *voiced* should maintain the correct pitch. (There will be some discussion about which consonants are voiced, and those that are articulated only on the breath.) Continue on one breath until the break (/).

AH-----(oo)AW-----(t)OO-----(d)EH-----(oo)EH-----(r)EE-----(z)AH-----
(oo)AW-----(t) //
(h)EH-----(r)AW-----(l)AH-----(l)OH-----(h)EE-----(r)EH-----(d)OO-----

with some combination sounds between the primary vowels

AH-----(ee-oo)AW-----(k-t)OO-----(d)EH-----(ee-h-oo)EH-----
(r-j)EE-----(z)AH-----(z-oo)AW-----(k-t) // (h-oo)EH-----(r)AW-----
(l)AH-----(l)OH-----(n-h)EE-----(p-r)EH-----(ee-d)

DIPHTHONG

Diphthong: a vowel sound made up of two vowel sounds pronounced in one syllable, such as “ou” in *house*, or “oi” in *noise*. Also, it is often represented by only one letter, as “i” in *ice* or “u” in *abuse*.

Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.
Psalm 30:4

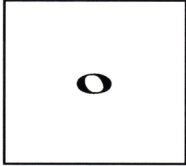


COUNTING RHYTHMS

Courtesy of www.musictechteacher.com

Music involves math! Notes can be added, subtracted, multiplied, and divided.

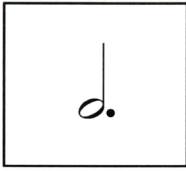
If the **bottom** number in the time signature is 4 . . .



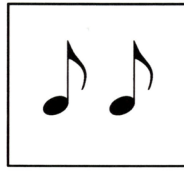
Whole Note
= 4 counts



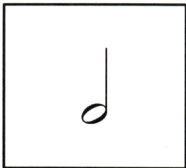
Eighth Note
= 1/2 count



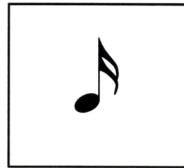
Dotted Half Note
= 3 counts



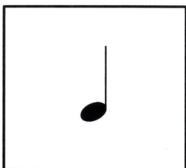
2 Eighth Notes
= 1 count



Half Note
= 2 counts



Sixteenth Note
= 1/4 count



Quarter Note
= 1 count



4 Sixteenth Notes
= 1 count

Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God;
for it is pleasant; and praise is comely.

Psalm 147:1



COUNTING RHYTHMS

(continued)

A B C D E F G H

The image displays eight musical staves, each representing a rhythmic pattern for a letter from A to H. The music is written in 2/4 time and features a variety of rhythmic values including quarter notes, eighth notes, and rests. The patterns are as follows:

- A:** Quarter note, quarter rest, quarter rest, quarter note, half note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, half note.
- B:** Half note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note.
- C:** Quarter note, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note.
- D:** Quarter rest, quarter note, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note.
- E:** Half note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, half note, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note.
- F:** Quarter rest, half note, half note, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note.
- G:** Half note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note.
- H:** Quarter note, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter note.

Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious.
Psalm 66:2



COUNTING RHYTHMS

(continued)

A B C D E F G H

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.
Psalm 69:30



COUNTING RHYTHMS

(continued)

A B C D E F G H

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name.
Psalm 66:4



COUNTING RHYTHMS

(continued)

A

B

C

D

E

F

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

Sing unto God, ye kingdoms of the earth; O sing praises unto the Lord.

Psalm 68:32



KEYBOARD NOTES

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C# D ^b | D# E ^b | F# G ^b | G# A ^b | A# B ^b | C# D ^b | D# E ^b | F# G ^b | G# A ^b | A# B ^b | C# D ^b | D# E ^b | F# G ^b | G# A ^b | A# B ^b | | | | | | |
| C | D | E | F | G | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | A | B |



Praise the LORD with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery
and an instrument of ten strings.
Psalm 33:2



TREBLE CLEF NOTES

Courtesy of www.musictechteacher.com

A B C D E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E F

Lines **Spaces**

E Every 1 G Good 2 B Boy 3 D Does 4 F Fine 5 F 1 A 2 C 3 E 4

Notes Above the Staff

A B C D E F G A B C

Notes Below the Staff

Middle C D E F G A B C

C D E F G A B C

I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.
Psalm 104:33



BASS CLEF NOTES

Courtesy of www.musictechteacher.com

C D E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E F G A

Lines

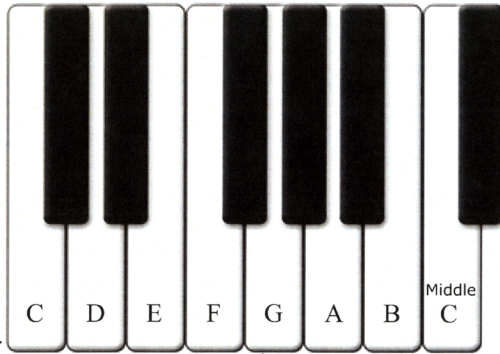
Spaces

G B D F A A C E G
 Good Boys Do Fine Always All Cows Eat Grass
 1 2 3 4 5 1 2 3 4

Notes Above the Staff

C D E F G A B C D E

Notes Below the Staff



C D E F G A B C

O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.
 Psalm 95:1



MELODIC & HARMONIC INTERVALS

Courtesy of www.musictechteacher.com

An **interval** is the distance between two notes.

MELODIC INTERVALS

The distance between notes played **separately** is called a melodic interval.



C to C • Unison C to D • 2nd C to E • 3rd C to F • 4th



C to G • 5th C to A • 6th C to B • 7th C to C • Octave

HARMONIC INTERVALS

The distance between notes played **together** is called a harmonic interval.



C to C • Unison C to D • 2nd C to E • 3rd C to F • 4th



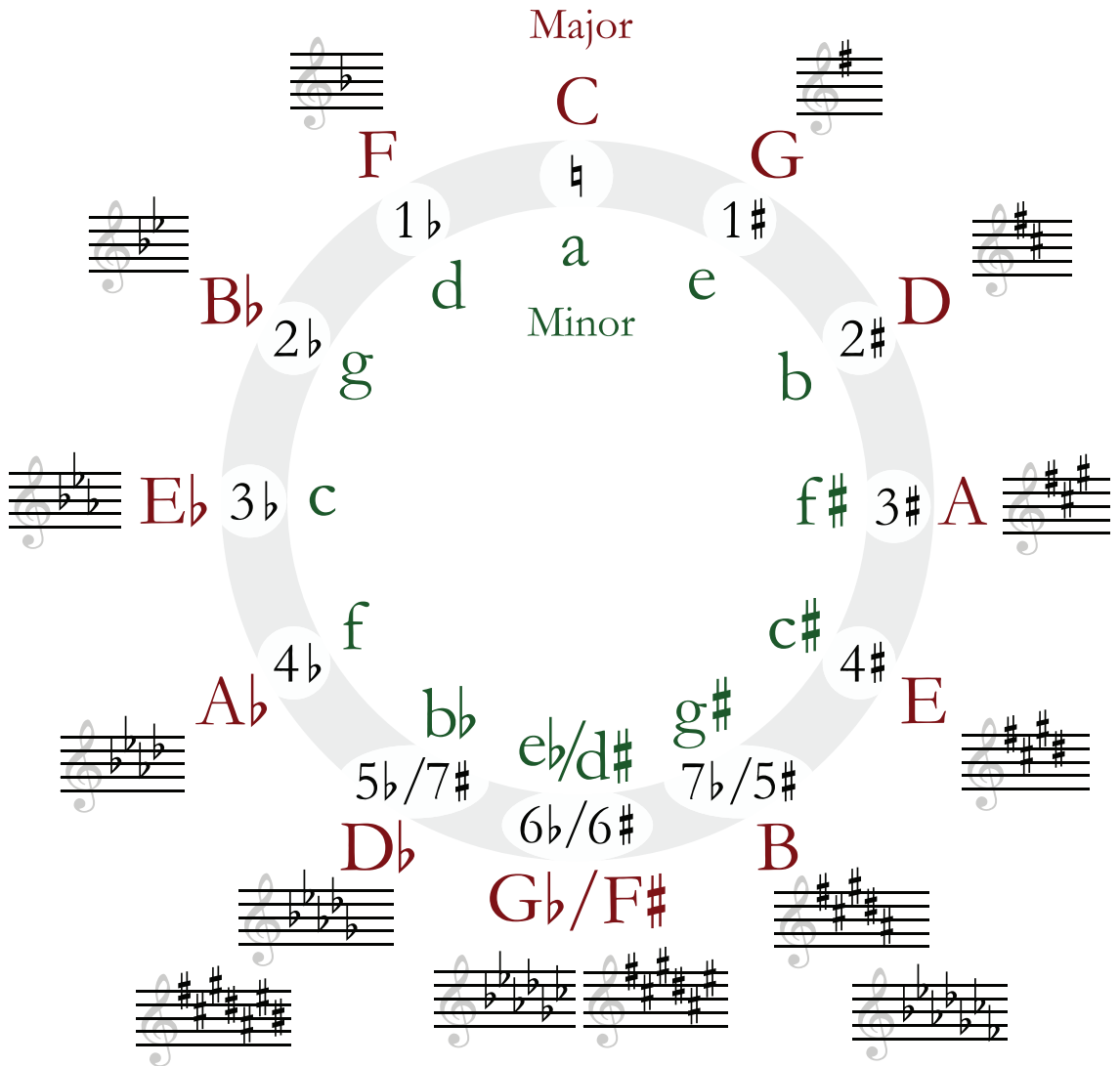
C to G • 5th C to A • 6th C to B • 7th C to C • Octave

I will declare thy name unto my brethren,
in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

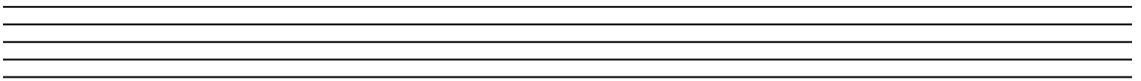
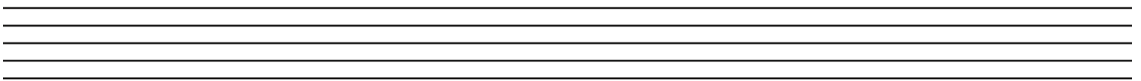
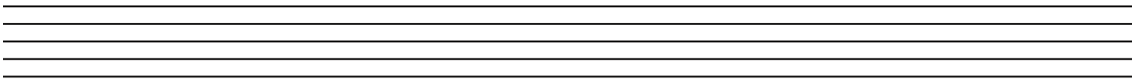
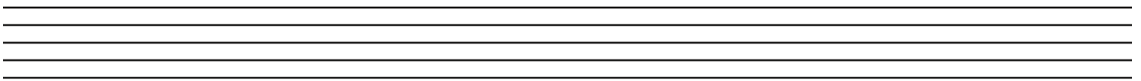
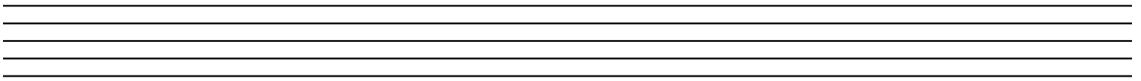
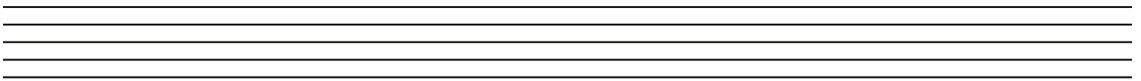
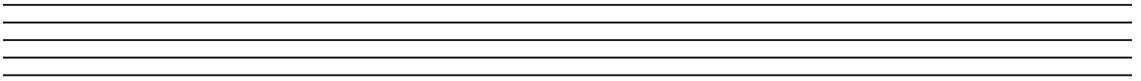
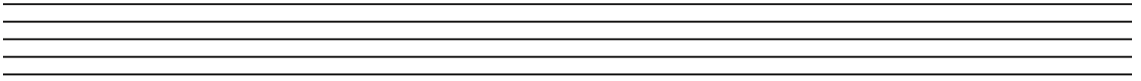
Hebrews 2:12



THE CIRCLE OF FIFTHS



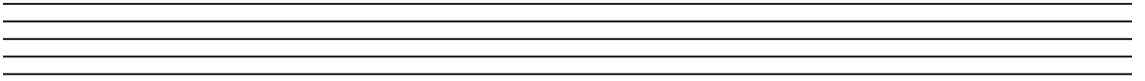
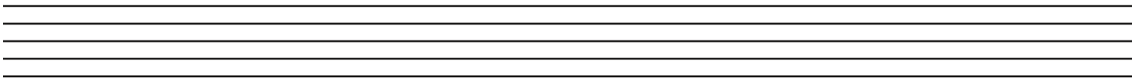
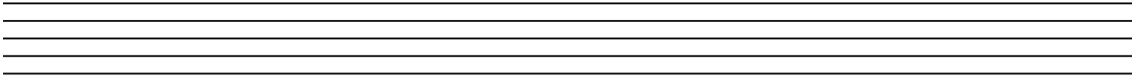
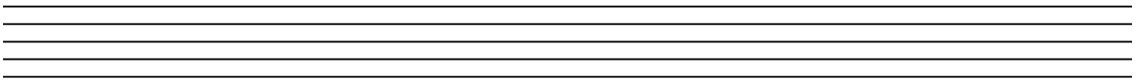
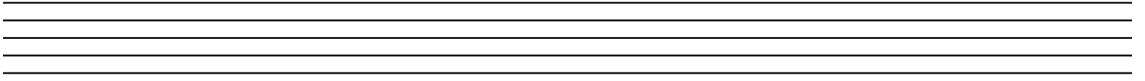
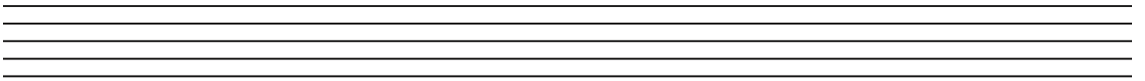
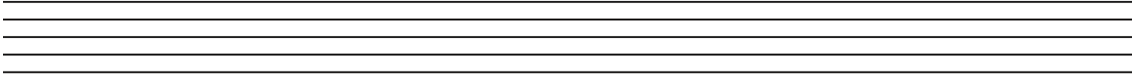
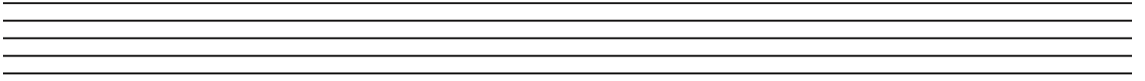
I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.
 I Corinthians 14:15



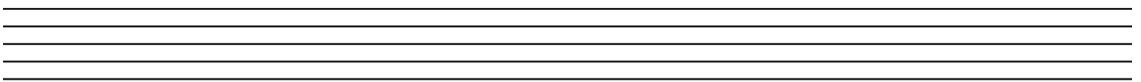
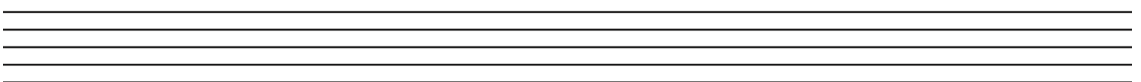
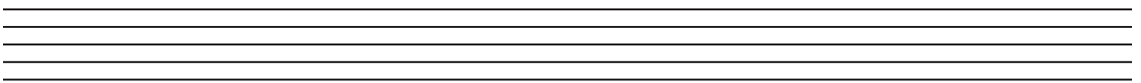
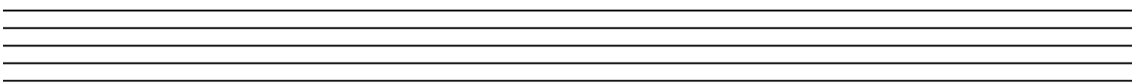
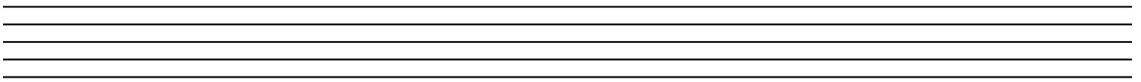
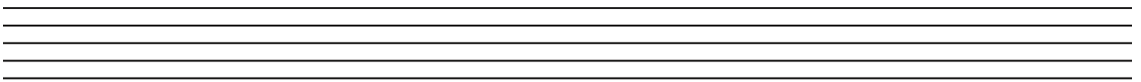
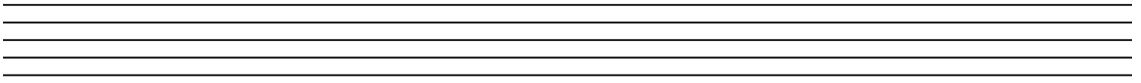
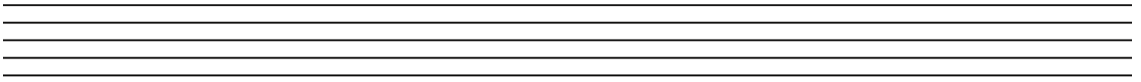
Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my defence, and the God of my mercy.
Psalm 59:17

The image contains ten sets of blank musical staves, arranged vertically. Each set consists of five horizontal lines, providing a template for musical notation.

To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent.
O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.
Psalm 30:12



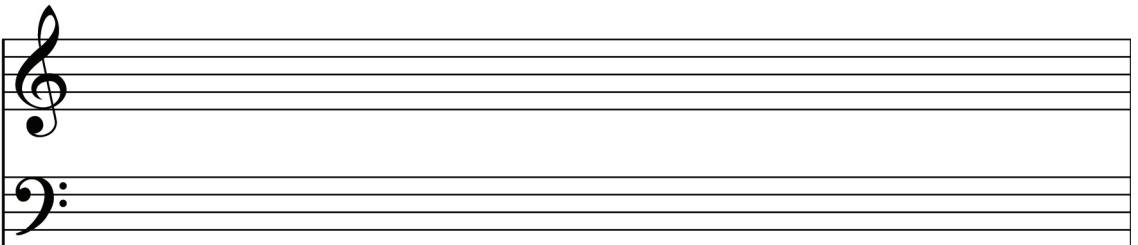
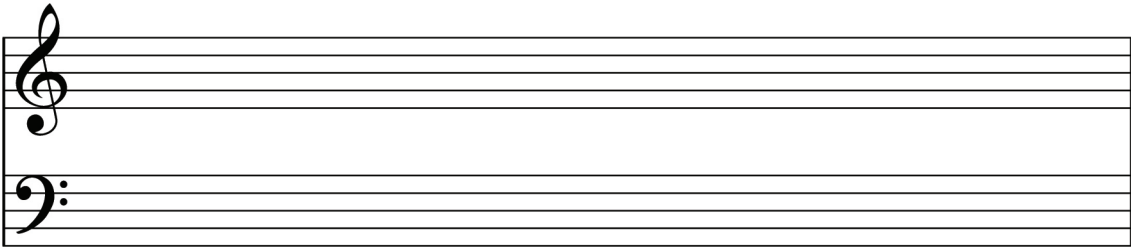
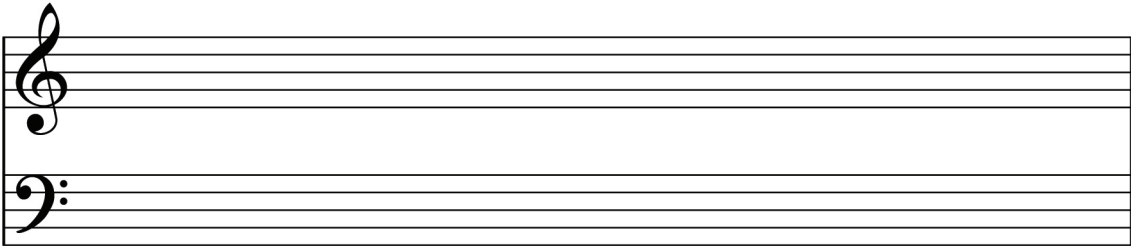
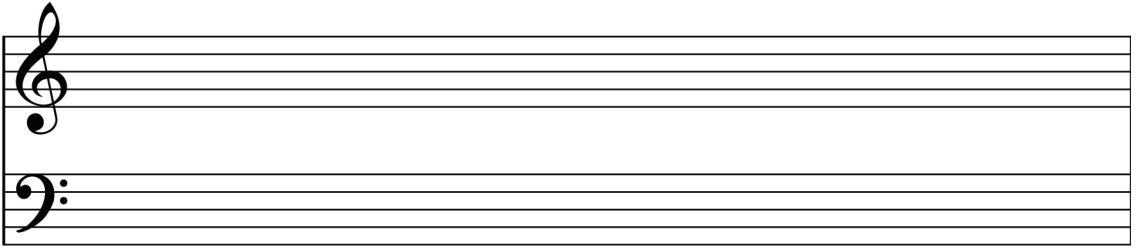
The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation.
Psalm 118:14



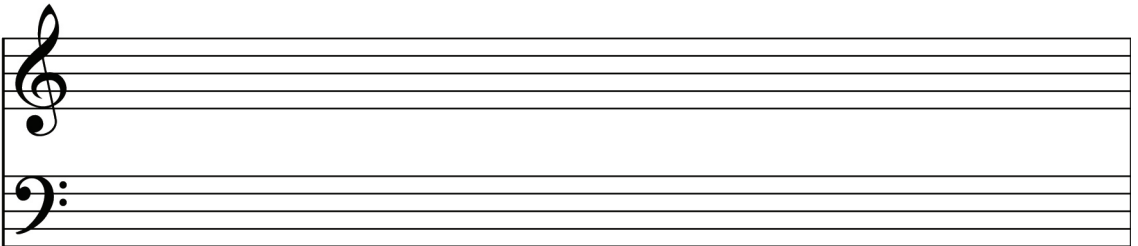
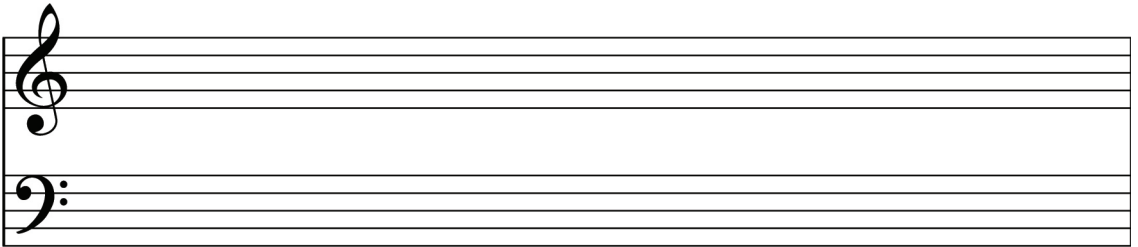
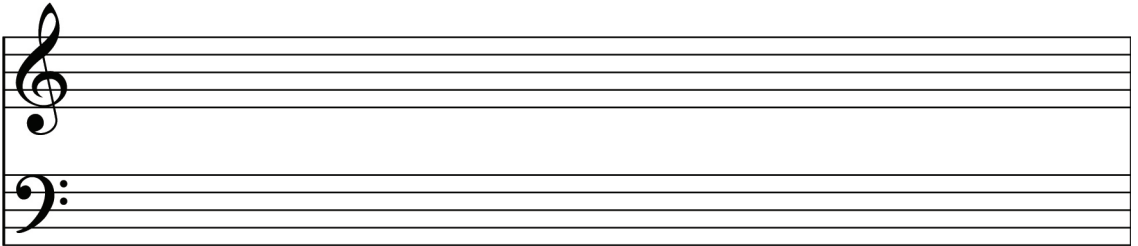
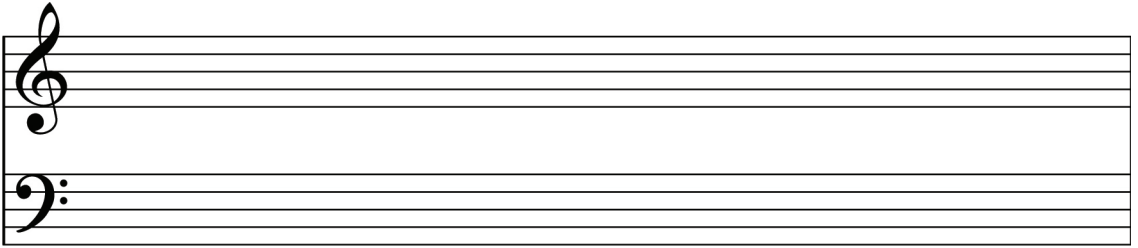
I call to remembrance my song in the night:
I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search.
Psalm 77:6

The image contains ten sets of blank musical staves, arranged vertically. Each set consists of five horizontal lines, providing a template for musical notation.

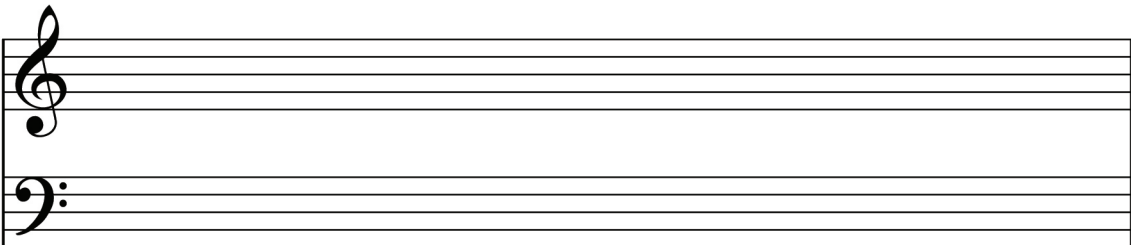
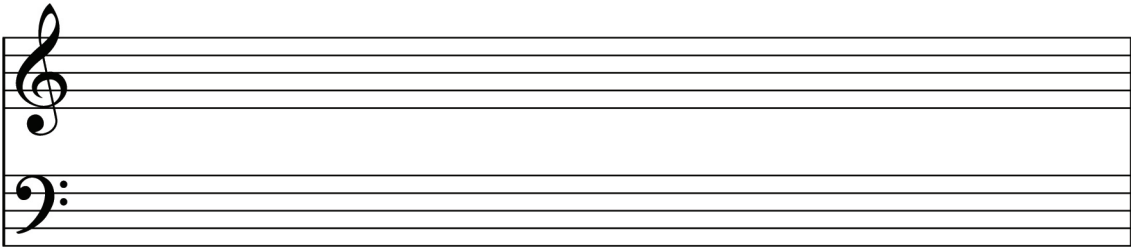
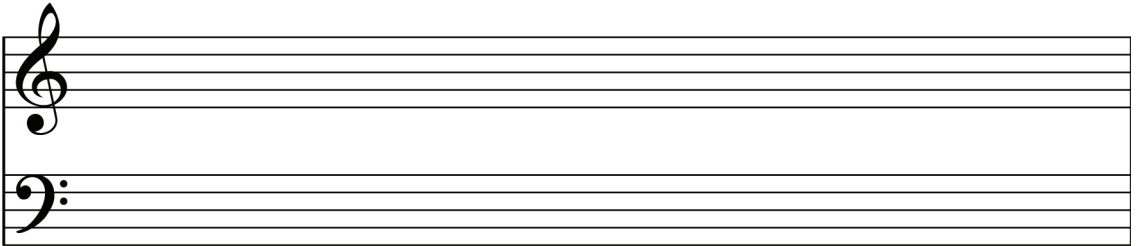
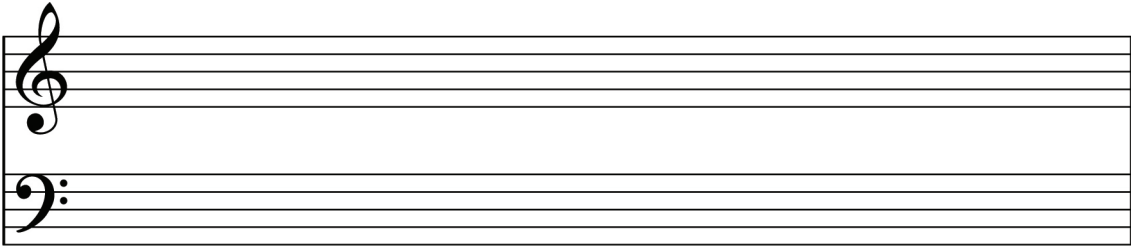
So will I sing praise unto thy name forever, that I may daily perform my vows.
Psalm 61:8



My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing unto thee;
and my soul, which thou hast redeemed.
Psalm 71:23

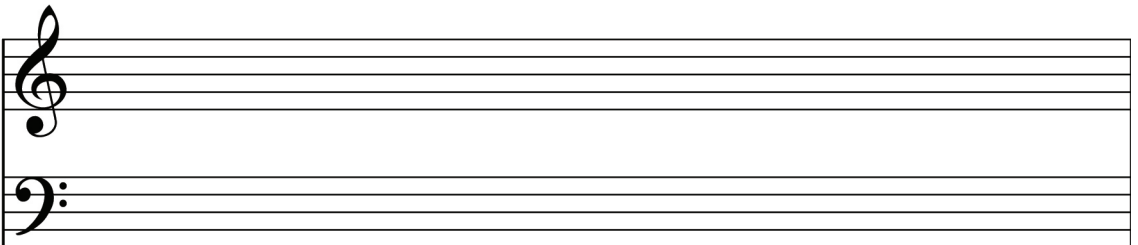
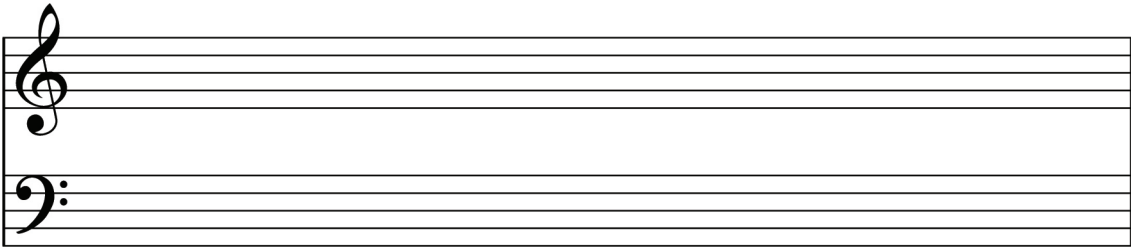
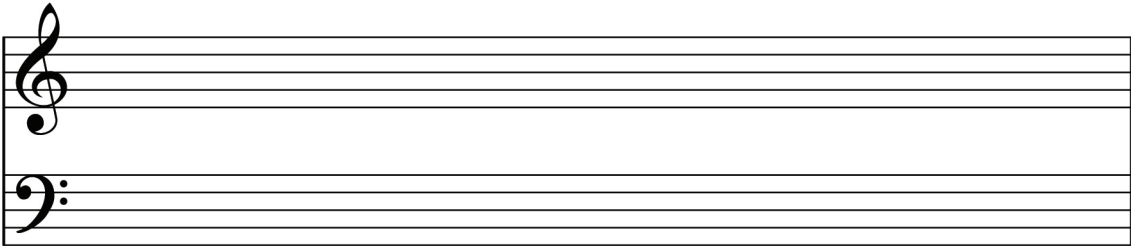
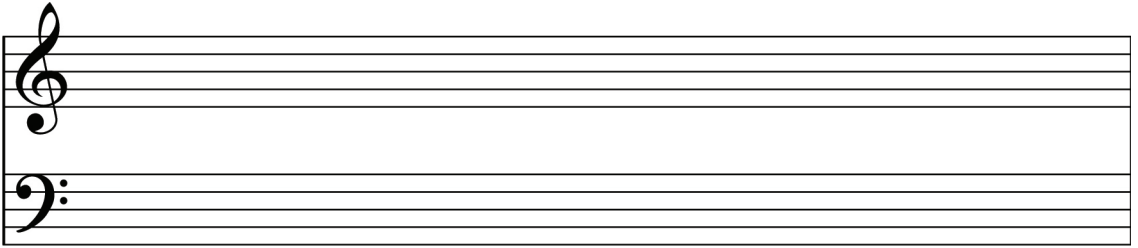


Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works.
Psalm 105:2

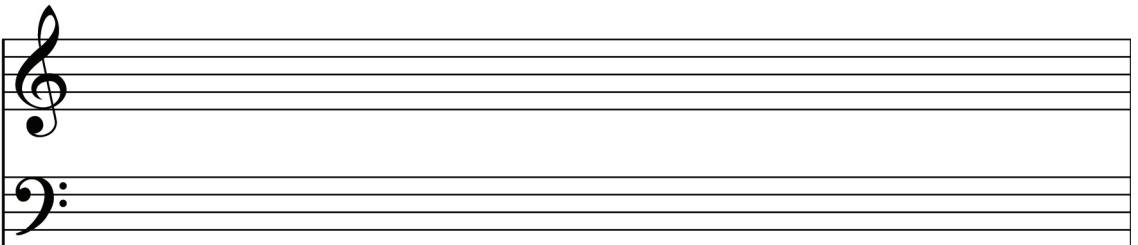
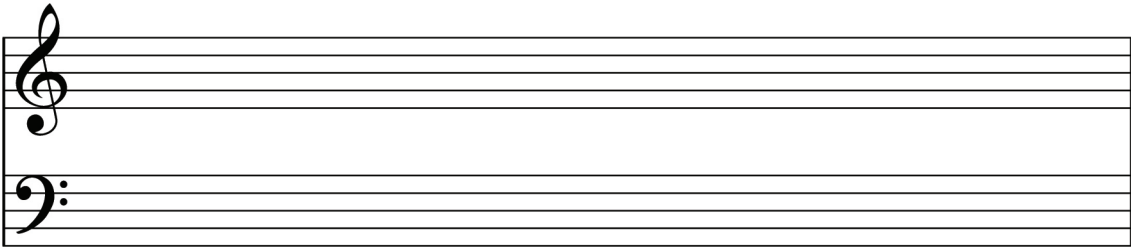
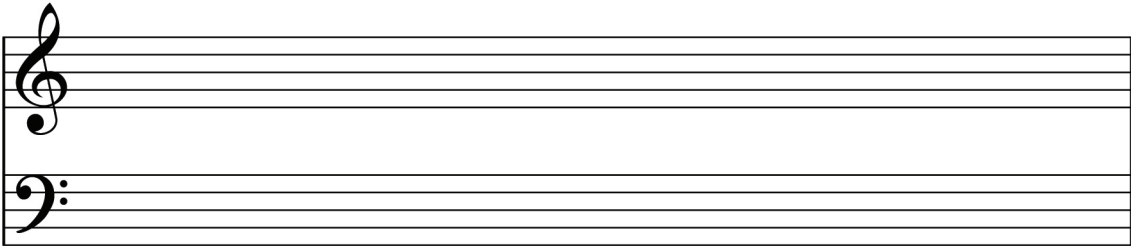
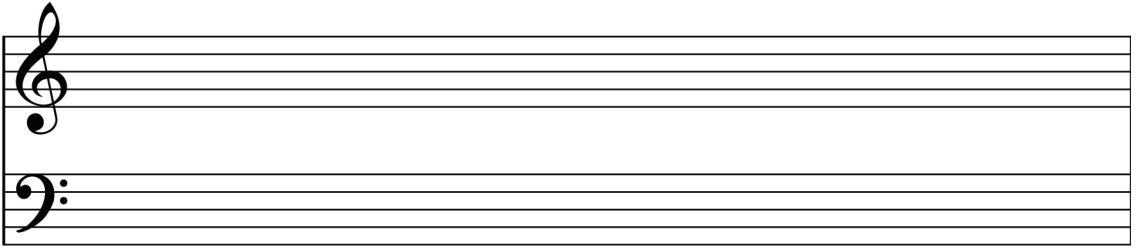


Hear, O ye kings; give ear, O ye princes; I, even I, will sing unto the LORD;
I will sing praise to the LORD God of Israel.

Judges 5:3



Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the LORD: for great is the glory of the LORD.
Psalm 138:5



Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song,
and his praise in the congregation of saints.
Psalm 149:1

