

Musical knowledge 1: the essentials

Layers of sound

Melody = tune. One note at a time. Can be sung or played on an instrument.

1. **Melody**



See opposite

2. **Chords**



Bass line = the lowest part. One note at a time.

3. **A bass line**



Played on a **low-pitched instrument** such as bass guitar, cello, double bass, tuba.

4.

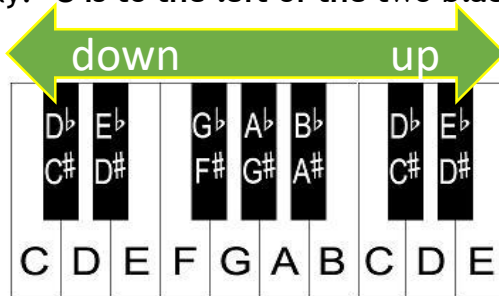
A beat



Beat = rhythm. Played on **unpitched instruments** such as **drums**.

Notes on a keyboard

- Notes are in **alphabetical order, going up to G**
- Say: 'C is to the left of the two black keys: C D E F G A B'



A note by itself CANNOT be major or minor!

- Every **black note** has two names: **sharp #** and **flat b**
- Flat** = **lower** than white note
- Sharp** = **higher** than white note

Chords

- Chord = **2+ notes played together**

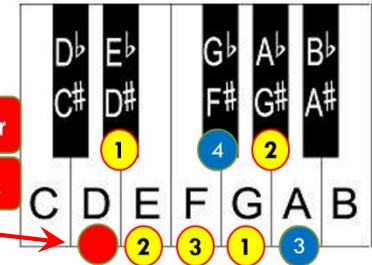


- Chords can be **major or minor**

Major = 4 then 3 semitones.
Sounds **happy**

Minor = 3 then 4 semitones.
Sounds **sad**

Semitone = the next note, counting white AND black



The bottom note of the chord = the **root**.
The **root** gives its name to the chord.

D major
D F# A

- Chords are usually played on the **keyboard, guitar, or ukulele.**

