

Music

**How does a bass line 'ground' the music?**

Miss Charatan



# Quick task: Order the instruments from lowest to highest in pitch.



Harpsichord



Recorder

Cello



Piano



Violin



Trumpet

Lowest



Highest



# Who would you choose for what part?

## Sort them!

Melody

Accompaniment

Cello

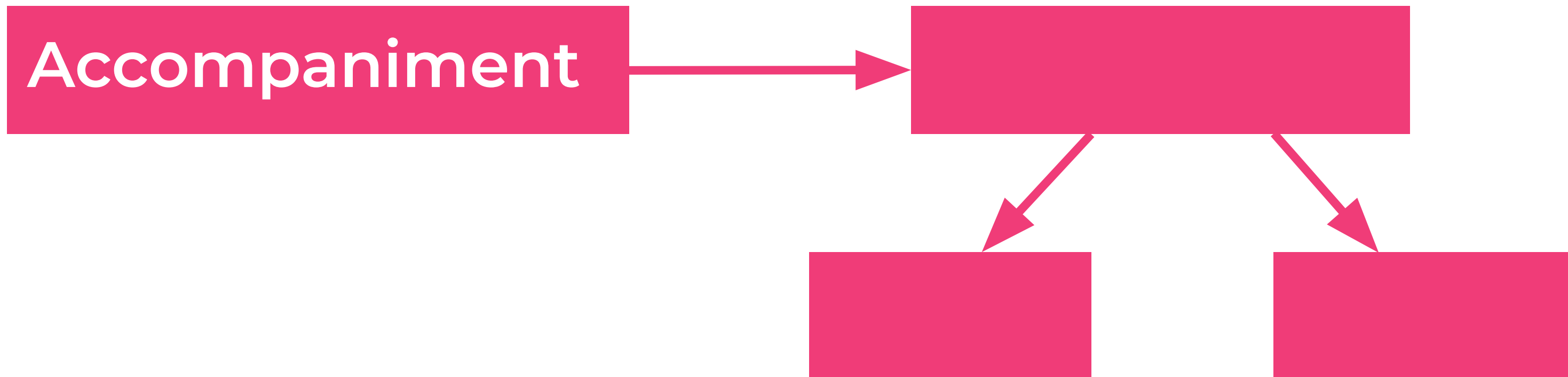
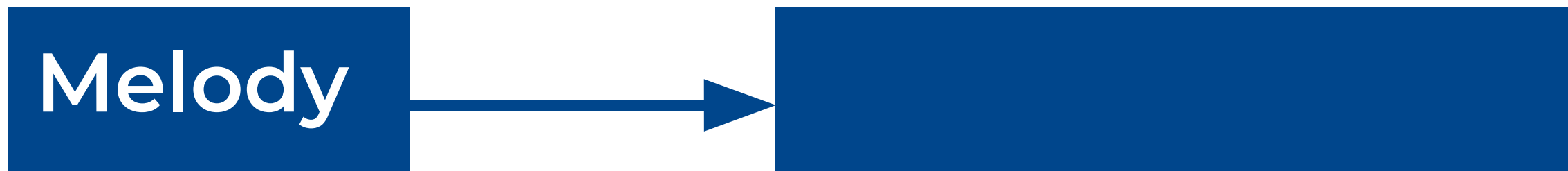
Violins

Recorder

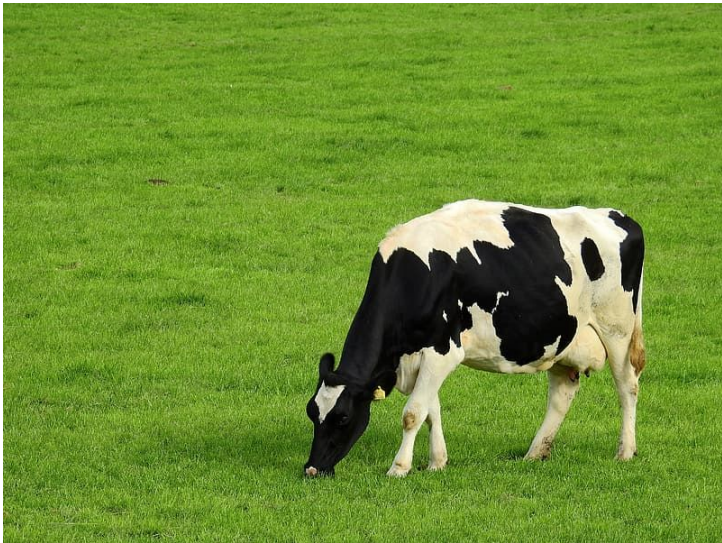
Harpsichord



# Quick quiz - fill in the blanks.



# Bass Clef



Bass clef musical staff with five whole notes: A, C, E, G. The notes are labeled below the staff: A, C<sub>ows</sub>, E<sub>at</sub>, G<sub>rass</sub>. To the right of the staff, the notes are labeled vertically: G, E, C, A.

Bass clef musical staff with five whole notes: G, B, D, F, A. The notes are labeled below the staff: G<sub>rizzly</sub>, B<sub>ears</sub>, D<sub>on't</sub>, F<sub>ly</sub>, A<sub>irplanes!</sub>. To the right of the staff, the notes are labeled vertically: A, F, D, B, G.

Bass clef musical staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The staff contains six eighth notes: F#, C#, F#, C#, F#, C#.



# Label the notes



Why is it important to always look at the clef when you label the notes?

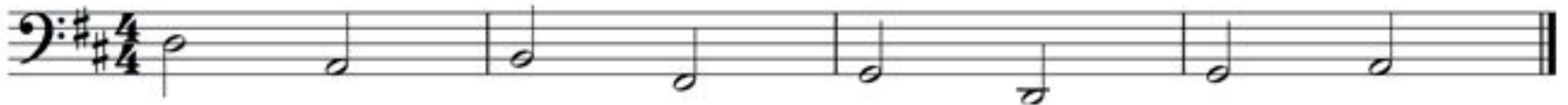




# Listen to the audio clip of the ground bass in the worksheet, play and analyse

- Does the melody move in **steps** or **leaps**?
- Does it **ascend** or **descend**?
- How **long** is it?
- What **notes** does it start and end on?

**Ground  
Bass**



# Listen to the audio clip of Pachelbel's Canon in D in the worksheet

- What instruments are playing the ground bass?
- Does the ground bass change in any way?
- Can you come up with a definition for a ground bass?





# Playing the ground bass

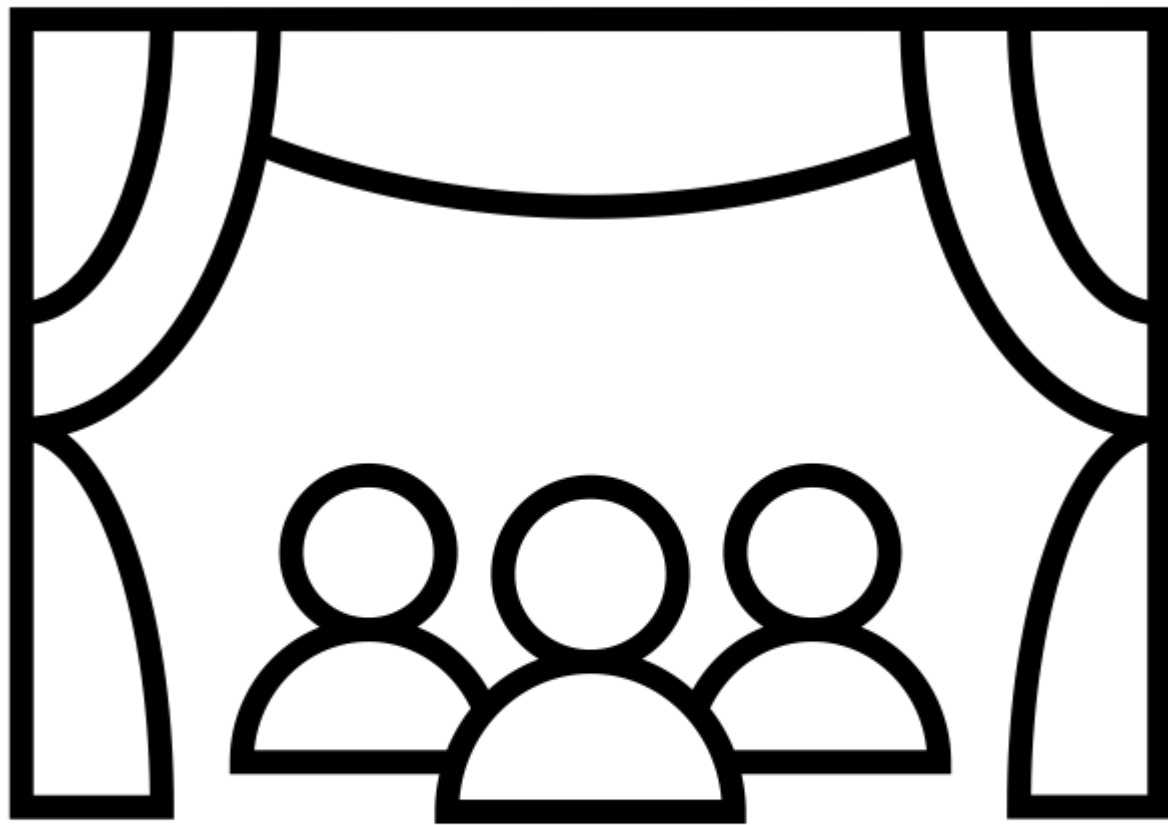
- What hand on the keyboard should you use for the bass clef? What fingers should you use?
- If you are on another instrument, what part of your instrument will you play it in? (what pitch?)
- How long are the notes?

1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2

D A B F# G D G A



# Perform the ground bass as part of the basso continuo



Your options:

- Perform the ground bass in your left hand, and other melodies in your right.
- Perform with a member of your household.
- Perform with my backing track (you can find this on the worksheet)



# Melodies 1 and 2

1

Musical notation for Melody 1 in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 4/4 time. The melody consists of eight notes across four measures. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above the notes. The notes are: F# (quarter), E (quarter), D (quarter), C# (quarter), B (quarter), A (quarter), B (quarter), and C# (quarter).

F#      E      D      C#

B      A      B      C#

2

Musical notation for Melody 2 in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 4/4 time. The melody consists of eight notes across four measures. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above the notes. The notes are: D (quarter), C# (quarter), B (quarter), A (quarter), G (quarter), F# (quarter), G (quarter), and E (quarter).

D      C#      B      A

G      F#      G      E



3

D F# A G F# D F# E

D B D A G B A G

4

A F# F#G F#E D D D E D C#

B D DCBCA

5

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

6

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

DCBCA A G D C#



**Fill in the blanks.**

**How does a bass line 'ground' the music?**

Lowest, ground bass, bass line, changing melodies,  
basso continuo, bass viol, repeated, Baroque music

A  is the  part in a piece of music. A  is the  
word for a  bass line in  that goes underneath  
 This helps to ground the music and keep it  
stable.

The ground bass is played by the  typically a   
and harpsichord.



# References

- Slide [2] - [Wikimedia Commons] - [Tomwsulcer] - [ Harpsichord]
- Slide [2] - [Wikimedia Commons] - [PJ] - [Trumpet 1]
- Slide [2] - [Wikimedia Commons] - [w:user:Neville] - [Baroque repro trumpet]
- Slide [2] - [Wikimedia Commons] - [David Schou] - [Baroque violin Walter Mahr, 2010]
- Slide [2] - [Wikimedia Commons] - [Georg Feitscher] - [Cello front side]
- Slide [5] - [Wikimedia Commons] - [Tony Hisgett] - [Grizzly Bear 6]
- Slide [5] - [Pixabay] - [DoomSlayer] - [Plane Aviation Jet]
- Slide [5] - [Pikrepo] - [black and white cow eating grasses]
- Slide [10] - [The noun project] - [Agra Srinivas] - [Audience]

