

Music

How does a bass line 'ground' the music?

Miss Charatan



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



Harpsichord



Recorder



Violin



Cello

Piano



Trumpet

Lowest

Highest



Who would you choose for what part?

Sort them!

Melody

Accompaniment

Cello

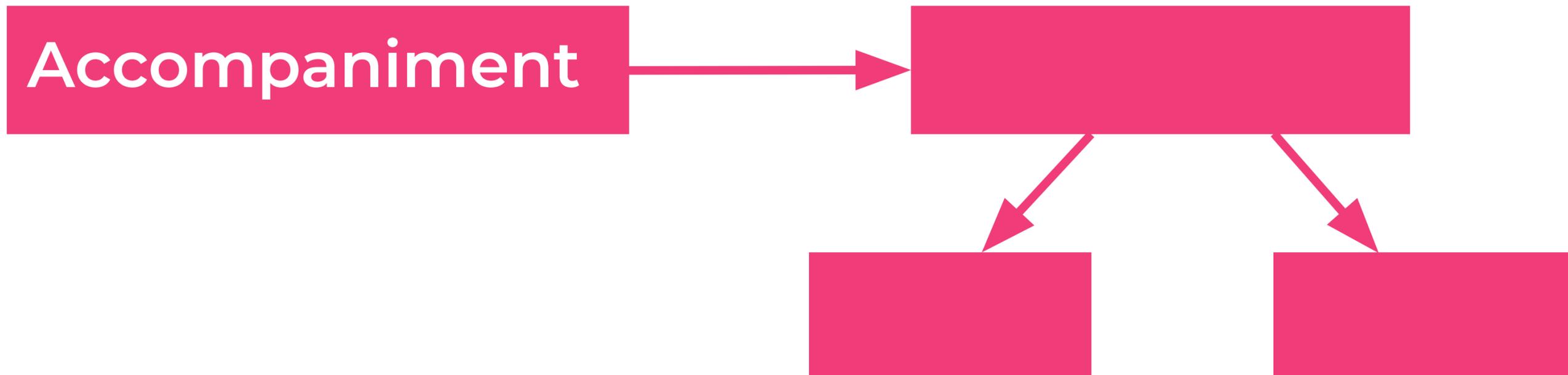
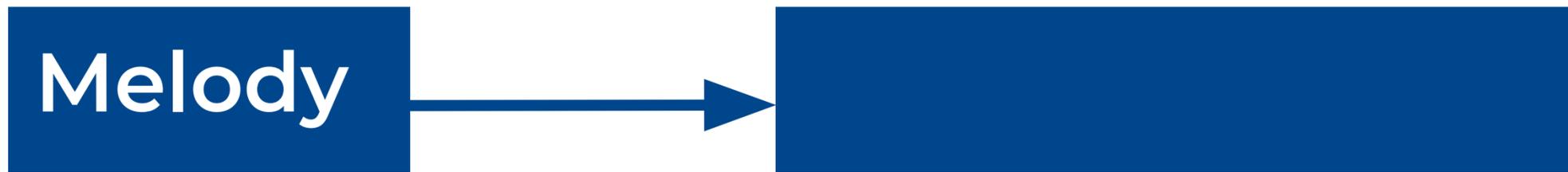
Violins

Recorder

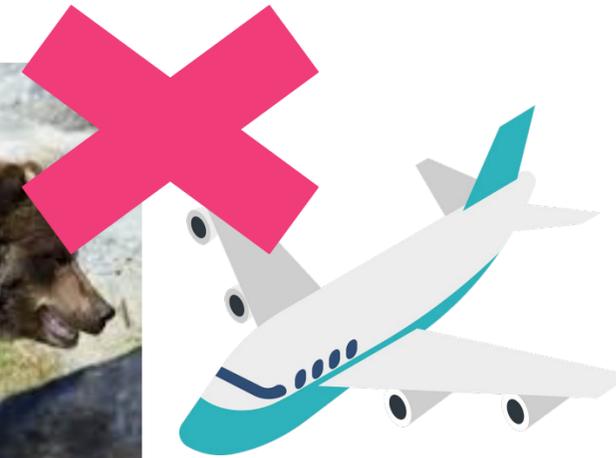
Harpsichord



Quick quiz - fill in the blanks.



Bass Clef



Bass clef staff with notes and lyrics: A^{ll} C^{ows} E^{at} G^{rass}. The notes are on the lines A, C, E, G. A legend on the right shows the line letters G, E, C, A.

Bass clef staff with notes and lyrics: G^{rizzly} B^{ears} D^{on't} F^{ly} A^{irplanes!}. The notes are on the lines G, B, D, F, A. A legend on the right shows the line letters A, F, D, B, G.

Bass clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It contains a sequence of six quarter 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

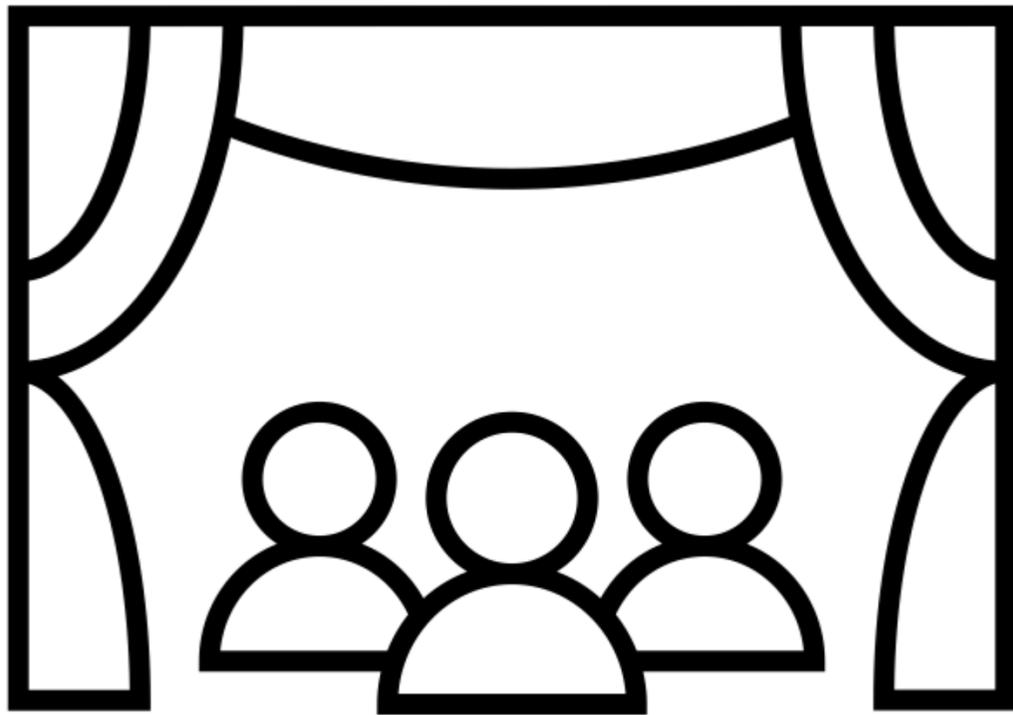
- What hand on the keyboard should you use for the bass clef? What fingers should you use?
- If you are on another instrument, what part of your instrument will you play it in? (what pitch?)
- How long are the notes?

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: F# (quarter), E (quarter), D (quarter), C# (quarter), B (quarter), A (quarter), B (quarter), and C# (quarter). Fingerings are indicated above the notes: 3 for F#, 1 for D, 4 for C#, 1 for B, 3 for A, 4 for B, and 2 for C#. A box below the notes contains the letters B, A, B, and 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: D (quarter), C# (quarter), B (quarter), A (quarter), G (quarter), F# (quarter), G (quarter), and E (quarter). Fingerings are indicated above the notes: 5 for D, 1 for B, 3 for A, 4 for G, and 2 for E. A box below the notes contains the letters G, F#, G, and 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 DCBCA 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:Nevilley] - [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]

