



Overture by Grażyna Bacewicz

BRaille PERFORMANCE NOTES

Written by Sally-Anne Zimmermann

Royal Institute of the Blind, Music Advisory Service

Music you hear can be written down in all kinds of ways. The people who play in an orchestra have a piece of written music: it shows them what they are to play. The conductor has every player's music written down: that is called a "score". Some musicians when they listen to pieces of music follow the score, a bit like you listen to a commentator while you watch netball or football on the television.

For people who find it difficult to read print or cannot read print at all, there are special ways of writing music. Some people who have poor eyesight, or who find visual materials hard to understand, may use Modified Stave Notation. Some people who cannot see at all use their index fingers to read bumps on thick paper, called Braille music. Braille music was invented by Louis Braille, who was a musician. The Braille music is shown by print dots. For each example a second version is given with the braille signs explained. This explanation is called a Talking Score. Talking Scores are used by people who used to be able to read ordinary printed music but can no longer do so.

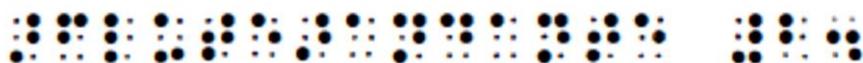
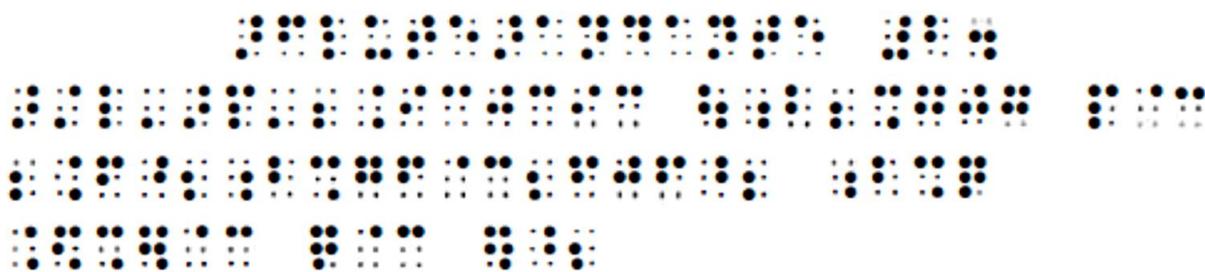
Here are some examples from the score of Grażyna Bacewicz's "Overture". If you have downloaded the free notation package MuseScore you can also hear each extract. After you have decoded the music, have a go at listening to the Overture and seeing if you can detect these excerpts. Then there are few questions for you to test out your decoding skills.

Andante
Flute

The first staff of music is written on a treble clef with a 2/4 time signature. It begins with a half rest. The first measure contains a triplet of eighth notes: G4, A4, and B4, all beamed together and marked with a 'p' (piano) dynamic. The second measure contains a single eighth note G4. The third measure contains a triplet of eighth notes: A4, B4, and C5, all beamed together. A sharp sign (#) is placed above the first note of this triplet.

The second staff of music continues on a treble clef. It starts with a quarter rest. The first measure contains a quarter note G4. The second measure contains a triplet of eighth notes: A4, B4, and C5, all beamed together, with a sharp sign (#) above the first note. The third measure contains a triplet of eighth notes: B4, C5, and D5, all beamed together. The fourth measure contains a quarter note D5 with a sharp sign (#) above it.

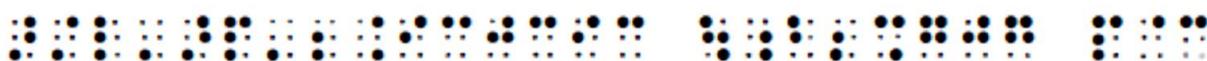
The third staff of music continues on a treble clef. It begins with a quarter note G4. The second measure contains a quarter note A4 with a sharp sign (#) above it. The third measure contains a quarter note B4. The fourth measure contains a quarter note C5.



flute

andante

2 4



Treble clef, piano, triplet, fifth octave, A quaver, slur, B quaver, slur, A quaver, slur, bar line, G crotchet, start phrasing slur, triplet, sharp, F quaver, B quaver, F quaver, bar line, E minim, tied, bar line,



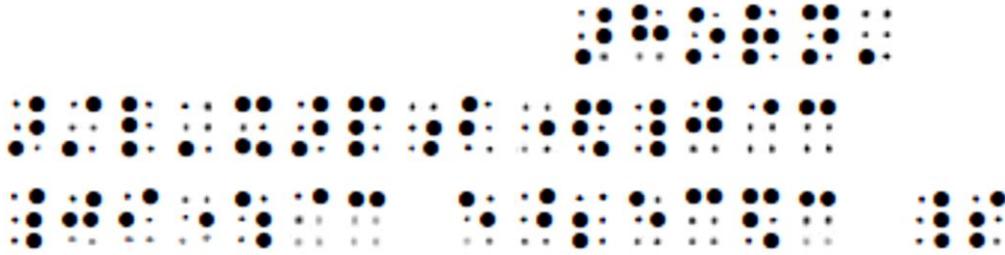
triplet, fifth octave, E quaver, end phrasing slur, start phrasing slur, sharp, F quaver, E quaver, tied, triplet, E quaver, B quaver, E quaver, end phrasing slur, bar line, start phrasing slur, sharp, F minim, bar line, bar line,



fifth octave, E crotchet, sharp, F crotchet, tied, bar line, F minim, tied, bar line, F crotchet, end phrasing slur

Horn

The image shows a musical score for a Horn. It consists of two staves of music. The top staff begins with a fermata over a whole note G4. This is followed by a series of notes: a quarter note F#4, an eighth note E4, a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note B3. A slur covers the notes from F#4 to B3. A dynamic marking *p* is placed below the staff. The bottom staff continues the melodic line with a slur over a quarter note A3, a quarter note G3, a quarter note F3, and a half note E3. A slur also covers the notes from A3 to E3.



horn

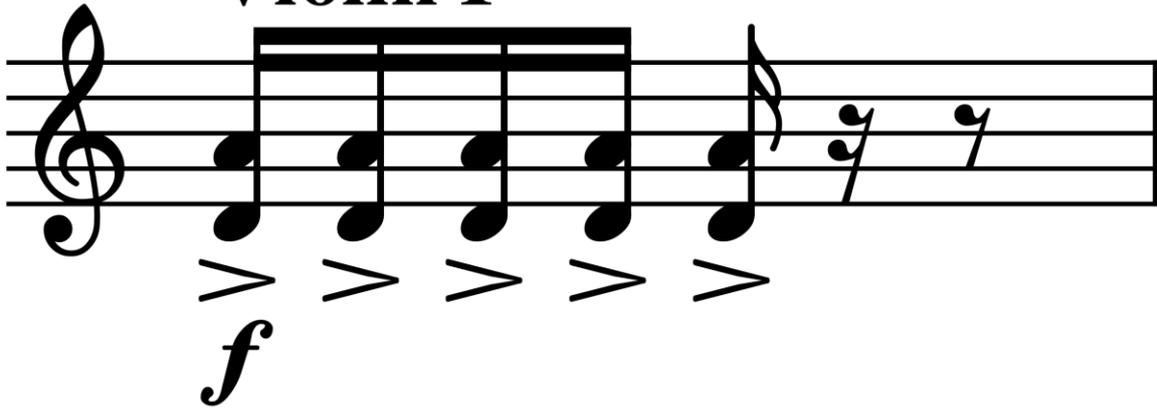


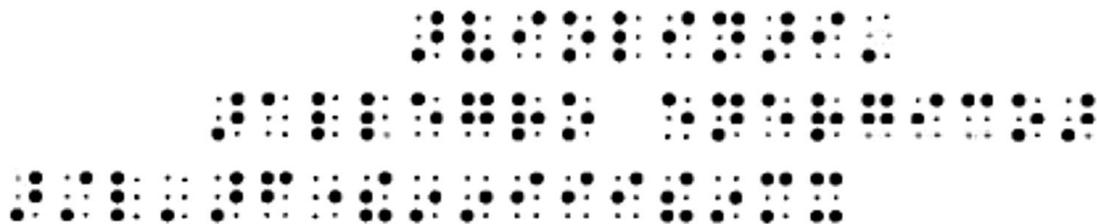
treble clef, quaver rest, piano, start phrasing slur, fourth octave, E crotchet, third octave, B quaver, tied, bar line,



third octave, B quaver, A quaver, fourth octave, D crotchet, tied, bar line, D quaver, end phrasing slur, D quaver, slur, E crotchet, slur, bar line, third octave, A minim

Allegro energico
Violin I





violin I



allegro energico

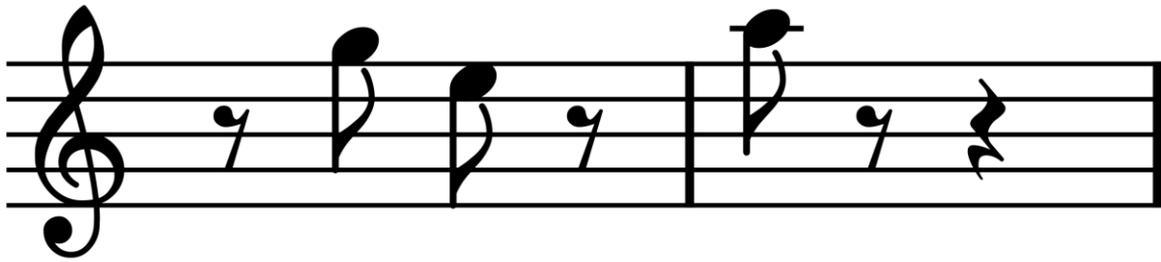


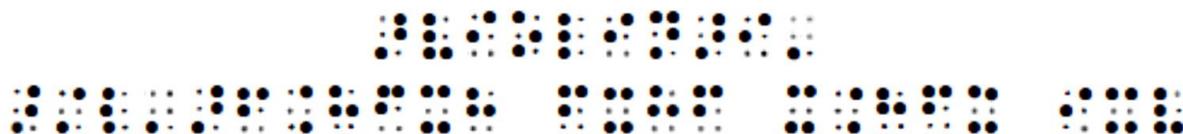
treble clef, forte, fourth octave, A semiquaver, continuous fifth intervals, A quaver, A quaver, A quaver, A semiquaver, fifth interval, semiquaver rest, quaver rest

Violin I

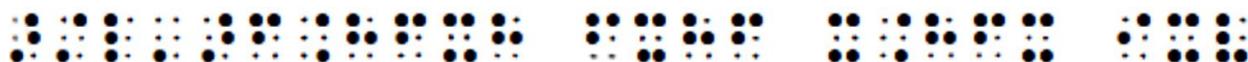


f





violin I

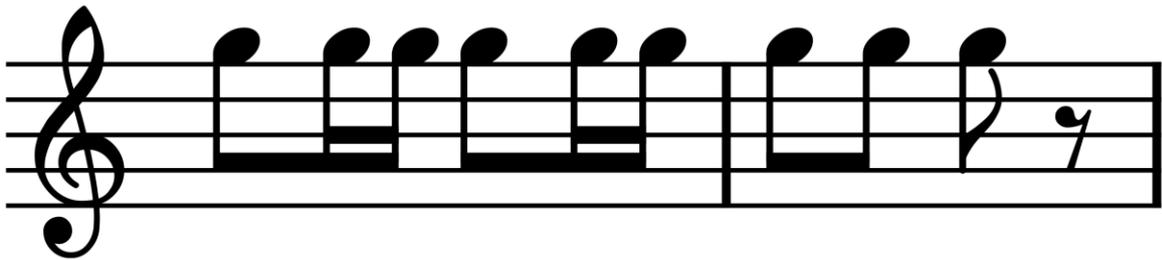
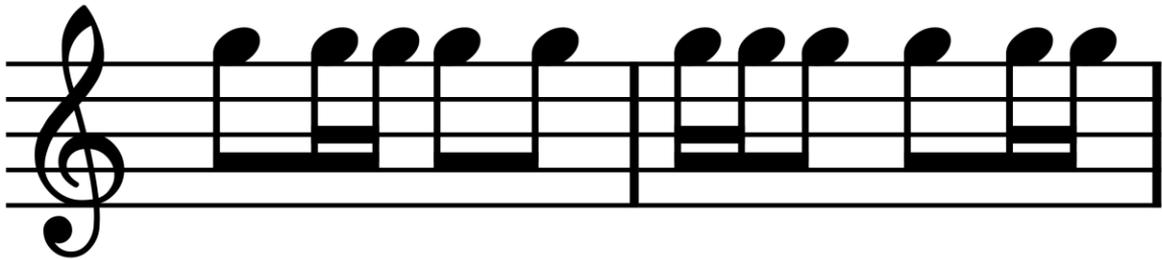


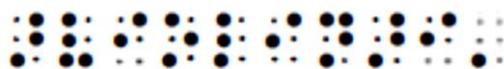
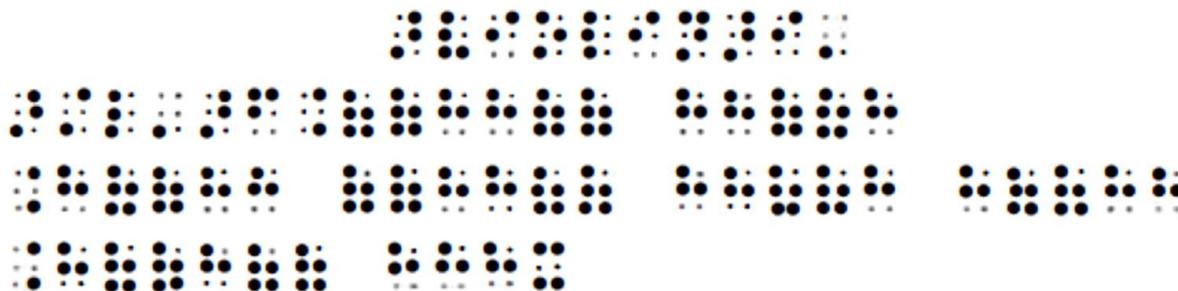
treble clef, forte, fifth octave, G quaver, E quaver, quaver rest, G quaver, bar line, E quaver, quaver rest, G quaver, E quaver, bar line, quaver rest, fifth octave, G quaver, E quaver, quaver rest, bar line, A quaver, quaver rest, crotchet rest

Violin I



f





Violin I



treble clef, forte, fifth octave, G semiquaver, G semiquaver, G quaver, G quaver, G semi, G semi, bar line, G quaver, G quaver, G semi, G semi, G quaver, bar line, bar line,

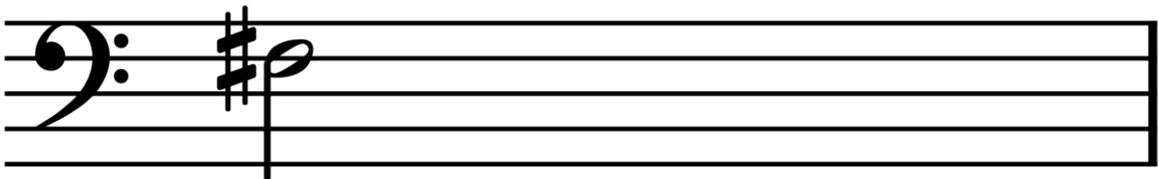
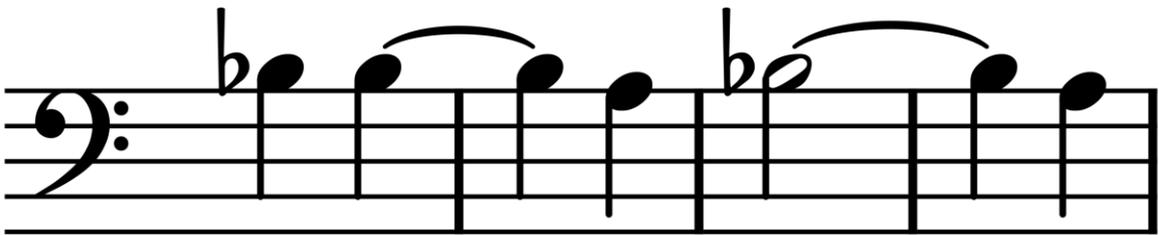
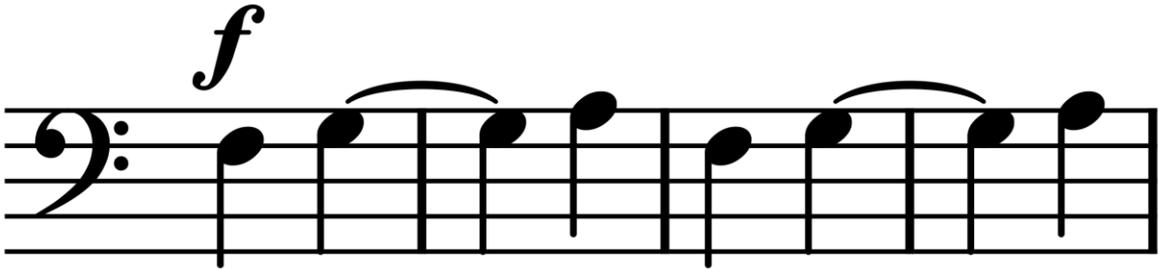


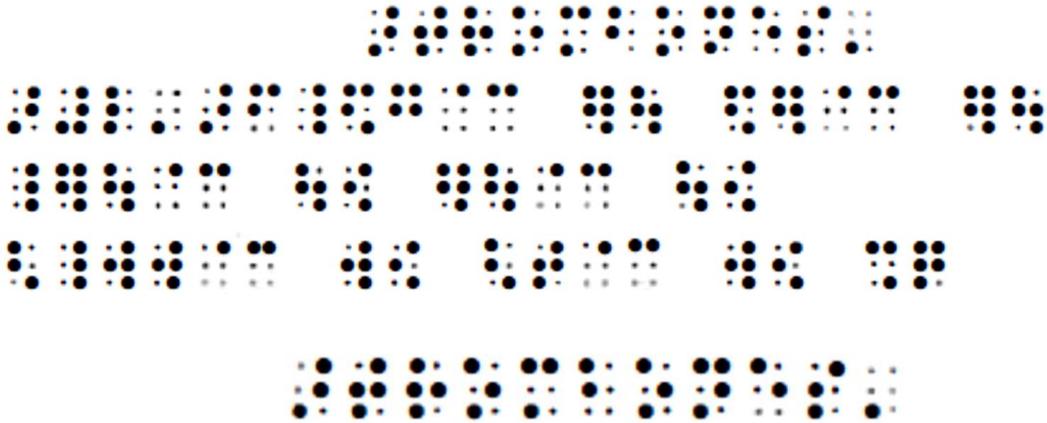
fifth octave, G quaver, G semi, G semi, G quaver, G quaver, bar line, G semi, G semi, G quaver, G quaver, G semi, G semi, bar line, G quaver, G quaver, G semi, G semi, G quaver, bar line, G quaver, G semi, G semi, G quaver, G quaver, bar line



fifth octave, G quaver, G semi, G semi, G quaver, G semi, G semi, bar line, G quaver, G quaver, G quaver, quaver rest

Trombones





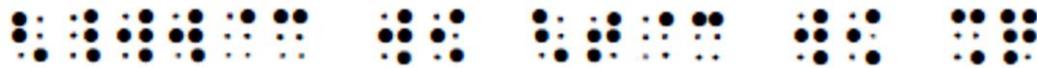
trombones



bass clef, forte, third octave, E crotchet, F crotchet, tied, bar line, F crotchet, G crotchet, bar line, E crotchet, F crotchet, tied, bar line, F crotchet, G crotchet, bar line

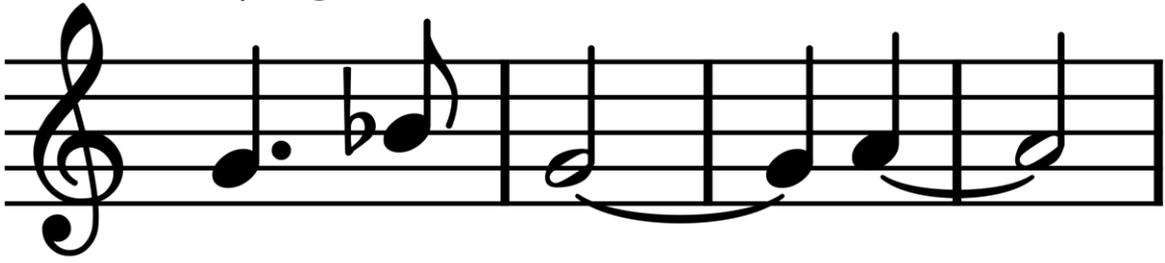


third octave, F crotchet, G crotchet, tied, bar line, G crotchet, A crotchet, bar line, F crotchet, G crotchet, tied, bar line, G crotchet, A crotchet, bar line, bar line,

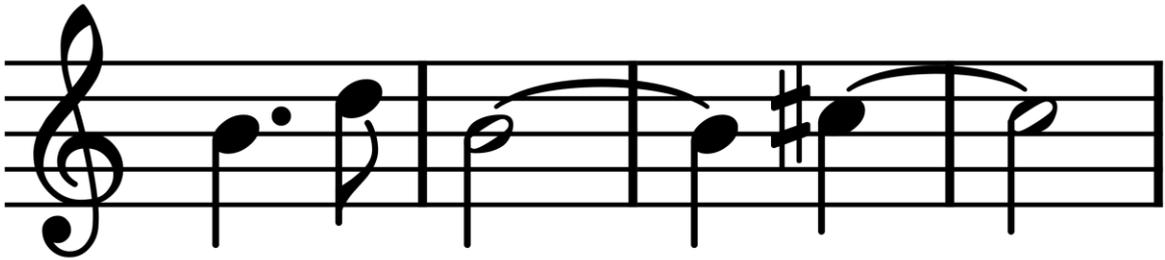


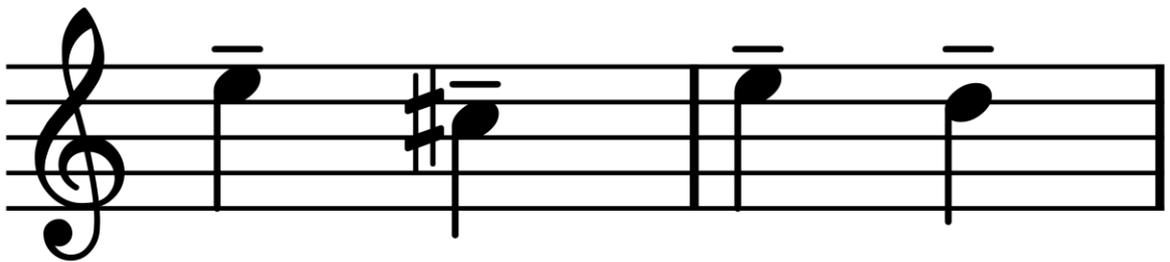
flat, third octave, B crotchet, B crotchet, tied, bar line, B crotchet, A crotchet, bar line, flat, B minim, tied, bar line, B crotchet, A crotchet, bar line, sharp, F minim

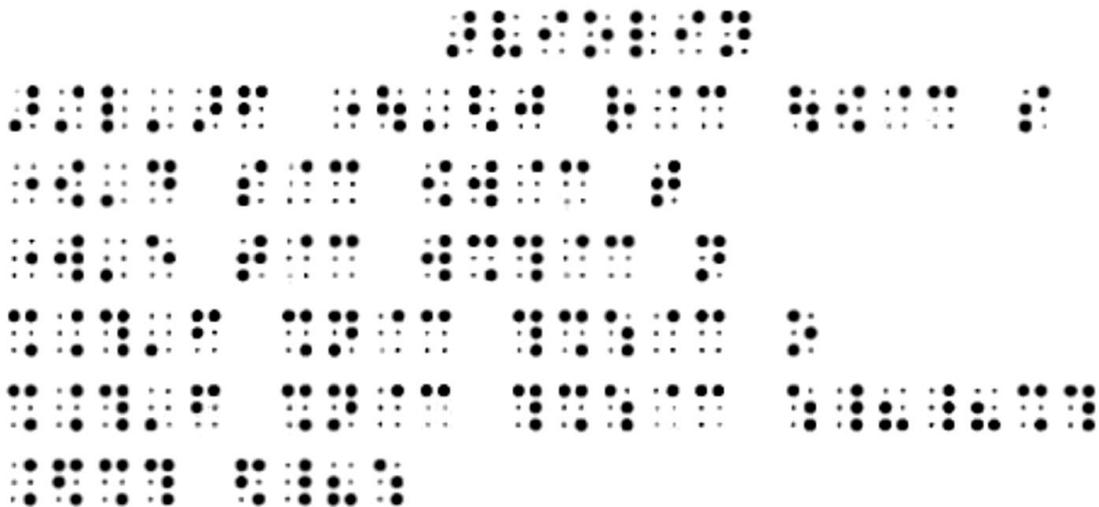
Violin



f







violin



treble clef, f , fourth octave, dotted G crotchet, flat, B quaver, bar line, G minim, tied, bar line, G crotchet, A crotchet, tied, bar line, A minim, bar line, bar line,



fourth octave, dotted A crotchet, C quaver, bar line, A minim, tied, bar line, A crotchet, B crotchet, tied, bar line, B minim, bar line



fourth octave, dotted B crotchet, D quaver, bar line, B minim, tied, bar line, B crotchet, sharp, C crotchet, tied, bar line, C minim, bar line



sharp, fifth octave, dotted C crotchet, E quaver, bar line, sharp, C minim, tied, bar line, C crotchet, sharp, D crotchet, tied, bar line, D minim, bar line,



bar line, sharp, fifth octave, dotted C crotchet, E quaver, bar line, sharp, C minim, tied, bar line, C crotchet, sharp, D crotchet, tied, bar line, D crotchet, tenuto, tenuto, sharp, C crotchet, bar line,

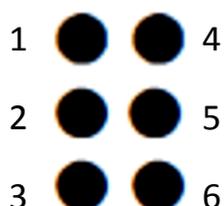


bar line, fifth octave, E crotchet, sharp, C crotchet, bar line, E crotchet, tenuto, D crotchet

Quiz

One way of doing the quiz is to save a few egg boxes (for six eggs) and borrow some ping pong balls. You can then show your answers to your friends...

Each Braille cell is made up of six dots, two columns of three dots. These dots are usually numbered as follows:



The main cells in Braille music show the pitch (note name) and the duration (note length) as in print stave notation. Braille music and literary (word) braille use the same six dots which is very clever.

1. Can you work out which dot shows a note is a crotchet (quarter note) long?
2. Can you work out which dots are used for each of the following letters in literary braille: a, b, d, e, f, g?
3. Can you work out what you think "c" would be in literary braille from the pattern you have as your answer in 2?
4. Pitches in braille music use dots 1,2,3,4 only. (How clever is that!) They do not use A, B, C, D, E, F and G though. Can you work out what letters are used? (Try to find some quavers/eighth notes for this.)
5. The Braille music shows everything that is in the print version. Two different signs are used for the phrasing and slur marks in the print, which are the eyebrow, umbrella like lines over several notes at a time. Can you work out what signs are for open a phrase and close a phrase?
6. What are the Braille music dots for a flat and for a sharp?
7. One extract is very short and has the first violins playing two open strings at the same time. Please find that extract on page six. Why does

the braille need to be written in a different way to the print to show the chord of D and A?

8. Another extra sign in braille you will see occasionally is dot 5 or dot 4 and 6, or dot 4, 5, 6. Look at the beginning of the last line of each excerpt and you will find these. Can you work out what they might mean?
9. Most instruments with the tune play the higher pitched notes but one extract here is played by lower pitched instruments, the trombones. Look carefully at the beginning of the first full line of music for the trombones. What is different to similar places in all the other extracts?
10. Find another sign. Number the cell dots. What do you think this might show?