

**ELEMENTARY THEORY
OF MUSIC: A REFERENCE
BOOK FOR CHILDREN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649247004

Elementary Theory of Music: A Reference Book for Children by M. R. Black & M. B. Black

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M. R. BLACK & M. B. BLACK

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OF MUSIC: A REFERENCE
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Elementary Theory of Music

A REFERENCE BOOK FOR
CHILDREN

BY
M. R. AND M. B. BLACK



CHARLES W. HOMEYER & CO.
332 BOYLSTON STREET :: BOSTON, MASS.

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✓ Mus 295.37

HARVARD COLLEGE
 June 13, 1923
 LIBRARY

Gratis.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
1. Keyboard	1
2. The Staff	4
3. Scales and Keys	11
4. Time	17
5. Signs and Words used in Music	22
6. Classified Intervals	24
7. Chords	28
8. Form	31
9. Ornaments	33
10. Some Rules for Practice	36
Short Sketches of the Great Composers	37

FOREWORD

In view of the amount of time given to the study of music by the average child, the authors have felt the need of a reference book, simple in language, and limited in scope, which could be used to keep in review, knowledge already acquired.

The catechetical form has been adopted, as being the most expedient method of review for young children, and the sketches of the Composers may be used in connection with the Perry Prints.

BOSTON, *October, 1913.*

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ELEMENTARY THEORY

CHAPTER I.

The Keyboard.

1. How many keys (or notes) are there on the Piano-forte?

There are eighty-eight; fifty-two white and thirty-six black. The black keys are divided into groups of twos and threes; but the white keys are not divided at all.

2. How many letters are there in the musical alphabet?

Seven: a, b, c, d, e, f, g.

3. If we have only seven letters, how can we name all the other keys?

By dividing the keyboard into octaves and using the seven letters over and over.

4. What is an octave?

Eight notes, or the distance from any note to the next note of the same name.

5. How can you tell one octave from another?

By their different octave names, each beginning on C.

6. What are these octave names?

Beginning with the lowest C, they are Contra, Large, small, one line, two line, three line, four line, five line.

7. Name the notes below contra C.

Subcontra A; subcontra B.

8. Describe a whole tone.
Any two notes with one note between them.
9. What is the sign used for a whole tone?
A straight line. —
10. Describe a half tone.
Any two notes so close that there is no note between them.
11. What is the sign used for a half tone?
A half circle. ◡
12. What is the sign used for a sharp?
Two upright lines with two lines slanting across. #
13. When a sharp is placed before a note, which way does the note travel?
It travels **up** a half tone.
14. What is the sign used for a flat?
One upright line with a loop on the right side. ♭
15. When a flat is placed before a note, which way does the note travel?
It travels **down** a half tone.
16. What is the sign used for a natural?
A little square with the left side higher and the right side lower. ♮
17. Why is a natural used before a note?
Because a natural cancels any sharp or flat and returns the note to its own place.
18. What is the sign used for a double sharp?
Two slanting lines that are crossed. ×
19. When a double sharp is used before a note, how far does it travel?
It travels up **two** half tones.

20. What is the sign used for a double flat?

Two flat signs, side by side. ♭♭

21. When a double flat is placed before a note, how far does it travel?

It travels down two half tones.