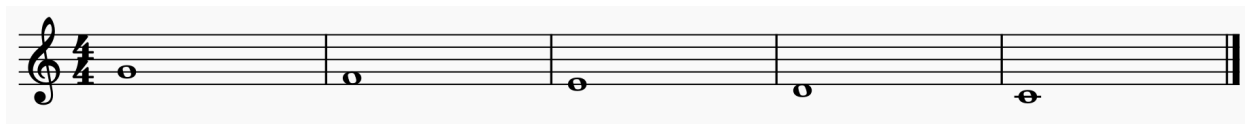


Lesson 11 – Reading the Notes

Warm-Up – Tone Builder

Play the notes in the staff below slowly as **whole notes**, then as **half notes**, and finally as **quarter notes**. Start from the first note as written and go down, then turn around and go back up to the first note in the score. Keep every note steady and focus on producing clean, long tones on your instrument.



Reading the Notes



Willie explained: “Now it’s time to read the staff like a map. Lines and spaces, ledger lines below and above — each note has its own home. Reading lets you see the music before you play it.”

Music Theory

The staff is like a ladder for music. It has **five lines and four spaces**, and every line or space is a home for a note.

- The **ledger line below the staff** shows **middle C (Claudia)**. A ledger line is a small helper line outside the staff so we can still read the note clearly.
- The **space just below the staff** is **D (Daniel)**.
- The **first line** is **E (Ella)**.
- The **first space** is **F (Felix)**.
- The **second line** is **G (Grace)**.

This piece is a **reading exercise**. It uses the same form as Lesson 10: two phrases, the first ending open on G, the second closing on Claudia C with a cadence. The goal is not to learn a new form but to practice reading and following the notes carefully, step by step.

How many phrases do you see in this piece?

Which phrase ends open on G, and which closes on Claudia C?

How does reading the notes help you play the cadence more confidently?

Music History

Have musicians used these same lines and spaces for hundreds of years?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Why is learning the staff important?

Reflection

Reflection – Everyone

Could you match each note's name (C, D, E, F, G) to its correct place on the staff?

Reflection – Challenge

Which note position was the trickiest for you to remember, and how will you practice it?
