

Short Score vs Open Score



SATB music can be written two different ways: **short score** and **open score**.

Short Score is written on two staves bracketed together. The two higher voices are written on the treble staff and the lower voices on the bass staff. There are special rules in short score writing:

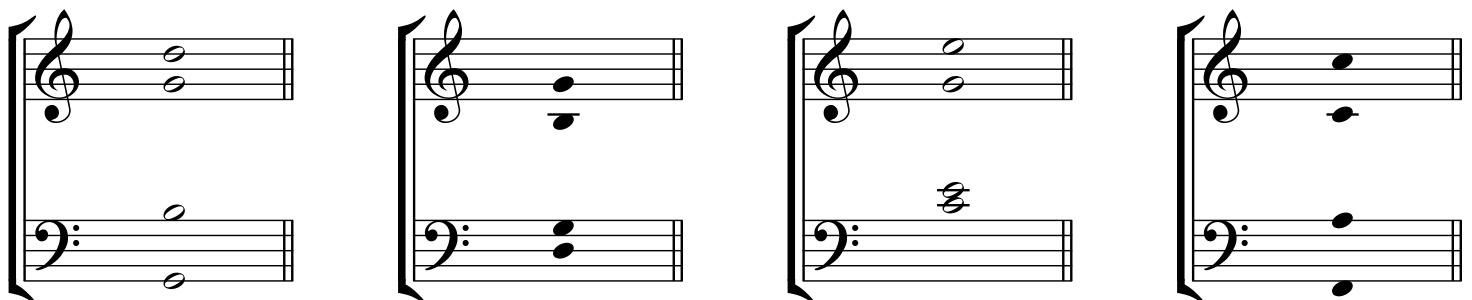


Soprano and Alto voices are always written in the treble clef. The Soprano stems go UP, and the Alto stems go DOWN.


Tenor and Bass voices are always written in the bass clef. The Tenor stems go UP, and the Bass stems go DOWN.


Did you read that stuff about stems carefully? Stems follow special rules in short score so that it's easy to follow each part, and so that the stems don't crash into each other! Most of the time the stems are going in the wrong direction according to the normal rules.

Add stems to the four parts in these chords. (Remember, going from top to bottom it's up-down-up-down)



In short score, if two voices sing the same note, it has to be made obvious there are

two parts. You'll either see two stems on one note, like this: , or two notes

written side-by-side, like this  if they have different rhythmic values, or

this  if both parts sing notes that have no stems!

Open score is written on **FOUR** staves bracketed together. Each voice gets its own line!

- ★ each voice gets its own
stave
- ★ stem rules revert to
normal (phev!)
- ★ the tenor part is written
an octave higher, in the
treble clef! (The little '8'
hanging off the clef indicates this.)

Here is a passage by Purcell which shows four vocal parts (open score) and a piano part at the bottom which is actually the same notes written in short score. Fill in the missing bars, converting the parts from short to open score and vice versa! Remember, you will have to:

- ★ (short score to open score) put the tenor part **up an octave**, in the treble clef, or
- ★ (open score to short score) put the tenor part **down an octave**, in the bass clef, and
- ★ make sure the stems are following the rules for short/open score!

Let's Score



In your exam you'll have to convert short score to open score and vice versa. Let's practice!

Bach

Boyce

Watch out for the unison parts in this first extract, adapted from Attwood.

A musical score for two staves in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The top staff contains a series of chords and notes, including a whole note chord in the first measure. The bottom staff contains a series of chords and notes, including a whole note chord in the first measure.

A blank musical score for four staves, consisting of three treble clefs and one bass clef.

Schumann

A musical score for four staves in 2/4 time, key of D major. The top staff contains a series of notes and stems, including a dotted quarter note in the first measure. The bottom staff contains a series of notes and stems, including a dotted quarter note in the first measure.



Have you
checked
and
double
checked
all your
stems???

A blank musical score for two staves, consisting of one treble clef and one bass clef.

Oh, sorry, but there's still more on this page. At least you'll be an expert by the end!!!

Grieg (adapted)

Musical score for Grieg (adapted) in C major, common time. The score consists of four staves. The first three staves are treble clef, and the fourth is bass clef. The music features a simple melody with a triplet of eighth notes in the final measure of each staff.

Two empty musical staves, one treble clef and one bass clef, for practice or continuation.

Schubert

Musical score for Schubert in B-flat major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves. The music features a melody with a fermata on the final note and a bass line with a similar fermata.

Four empty musical staves, two treble clef and two bass clef, for practice or continuation.