Braille Music Basics
Lea Nagel

Names of the notes (upper part of the cell)
musical name: c d e f g a b
braille music: Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ Ⓕ Ⓖ Ⓗ

Time value (lower part of the cell)
blank = quaver (eighth)
dot 6: crotchet (quarter)
dot 3: minim (half)
dots 36: semibreve (whole)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>note</th>
<th>c</th>
<th>d</th>
<th>e</th>
<th>f</th>
<th>g</th>
<th>a</th>
<th>b</th>
<th>rest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>quaver</td>
<td>Ⓐ</td>
<td>Ⓑ</td>
<td>Ⓒ</td>
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<td>Ⓔ</td>
<td>Ⓕ</td>
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<tr>
<td>crotchet</td>
<td>Ⓐ</td>
<td>Ⓑ</td>
<td>Ⓒ</td>
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<td>Ⓔ</td>
<td>Ⓕ</td>
<td>Ⓖ</td>
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<tr>
<td>minim</td>
<td>Ⓐ</td>
<td>Ⓑ</td>
<td>Ⓒ</td>
<td>Ⓓ</td>
<td>Ⓔ</td>
<td>Ⓕ</td>
<td>Ⓖ</td>
<td>Ⓗ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>semibreve</td>
<td>Ⓐ</td>
<td>Ⓑ</td>
<td>Ⓒ</td>
<td>Ⓓ</td>
<td>Ⓔ</td>
<td>Ⓕ</td>
<td>Ⓖ</td>
<td>Ⓗ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 backers shows the beginning of a braille music symbol in braille instructions or notes. It has been omitted from this print copy.

space goes between each measure or bar

 backers: light double bar
 backers: heavy double bar
 backers: forward repeat
 backers: backward repeat

 backers: sharp
 backers: flat
 backers: natural
 backers: tie. After first of the 2 notes same pitch.
 backers: slur. After first of the 2 notes.
 backers: begin phrase. Goes before first note.
 backers: end phrase. Goes after last note.
dotted note eg ••••
•••• time signature eg 4 4 time

key signatures

one sharp
3 flats
4 flats
7 sharps

Octaves (starting with the lowest c on the piano)

first octave
second
third
fourth
fifth
sixth
seventh

Marking octaves:
Never mark a second or third
Always mark a sixth or more
Fourth or fifth only if it is in a new octave

More braille music notation

begin words within the music – not always used.
end words within the music-not always used.
repeat. If in the middle of the bar, repeat part of the bar.
repeat. If spaced before and after, repeat whole bar.
repeat bar 3 times.
repeat bars 4 to 6.

staccato. Goes before the note.

accent
Doubling:
a doubled sign means the sign is repeated until it is cancelled by a single one of the same sign.

Piano music:
- Written on the left margin: bar 1.
- Written on the left margin: bar 7.
- Right hand.
- Left hand.
- Separator.

Interval signs for playing chords:
- Second
- Third
- Fourth
- Fifth
- Sixth
- Seventh
- Eighth

Piano fingering. Goes straight after the note:
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5