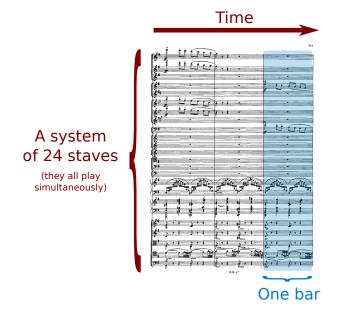
How to read a musical score

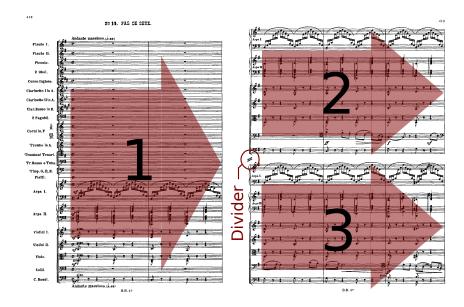
Time proceeds from left to right.

A *staff* contains music for a particular instrument, or group of instruments. Multiple staves are connected to form a *system* of music that plays simultaneously.



Time is divided into small segments called *bars* (or *measures*). They are separated by vertical lines, called *bar lines*. The left and right edge of each system are also bar lines.

A staff can be *omitted* if the corresponding instrument has nothing to do. As a consequence, it is sometimes possible to fit more than one system of music on a single page. The systems are then separated by *divider* symbols.



On the very first page, each staff is marked with the name of the corresponding instrument (or group of instruments). To identify the same staff on subsequent pages, look for the matching bracket and clef.

