

STANDARD NOTATION VERSUS RHYTHM NOTATION

Some notes sound higher in pitch than others. Pitch is the degree of height or depth of a sound. The notes in *standard notation* involve *pitch*. In standard notation, notes are written on a five line *staff* as shown on the diagram below. The location of the notes on the staff determines the pitch. Our five-line staff below has notes of different pitch. The higher the note is on the staff, the higher it sounds.



Besides standard notation we also have *rhythm notation*. This system is used to illustrate rhythm patterns. Rhythm notation looks a little different than standard notation. It is written on a one-line staff, and the notes don't involve pitch. Notes written in standard notation will have oval heads, while rhythm notation uses oblong shapes and lines. See a comparison below where the standard notation appears on the left measure of each staff while the rhythm notation is on the right.

STANDARD NOTATION

RHYTHM NOTATION

Whole notes

Half notes

Quarter notes

Eighth notes

Even though rhythm notation looks a little different than standard notation, in both of them the notes serve the same function for measuring time. The value of time for each of the previous notes is discussed in the following topic.