

fig. 2 Examples of Clef Formatting for SATB Recorder Quartet

① Written Played Sounds

Musical notation for Example 1. It shows four staves: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The Soprano staff uses a Transposing G Clef (one line below the staff). The Alto and Tenor staves use Treble Clefs. The Bass staff uses a Transposing F Clef (one line below the staff). The notation is divided into three columns: 'Written', 'Played', and 'Sounds'. In the 'Written' column, notes are placed on the lines as if they were the actual pitch. In the 'Played' column, notes are placed on the lines as if they were the actual pitch. In the 'Sounds' column, notes are placed on the lines as if they were the actual pitch.

√ Preferred

This format, using the **Transposing G Clef** for the soprano, the **Treble Clef** for both the alto and the tenor, and the **Transposing F Clef** for the bass is found in most modern editions from the late twentieth century to present day. It is completely unambiguous as far as pitch is concerned, clearly defining the proper octave placement of each line.

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Musical notation for Example 2. It shows four staves: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The Soprano and Alto staves use Treble Clefs. The Tenor staff uses a Transposing G Clef (one line below the staff). The Bass staff uses a Bass Clef. The notation is divided into three columns: 'Written', 'Played', and 'Sounds'. In the 'Written' column, notes are placed on the lines as if they were the actual pitch. In the 'Played' column, notes are placed on the lines as if they were the actual pitch. In the 'Sounds' column, notes are placed on the lines as if they were the actual pitch.

This format using the **Treble Clef** for both the soprano and the alto, the **Transposing G Clef** for the tenor, and the **Bass Clef** for the bass is commonly found in mid-twentieth century editions, and modern re-issues, of music primarily from the renaissance and earlier. The important thing to remember about this format is that the Transposing (down) G Clef will sound an octave below the clef(s) above it. Working with the knowledge that both the soprano and the bass sound an octave higher than written, it then becomes necessary to transpose the alto line up an octave, as it sounds as written. The tenor will then be read as notated.

③

Musical notation for Example 3. It shows four staves: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The Soprano staff uses a Treble Clef. The Alto and Tenor staves use Transposing G Clefs (one line below the staff). The Bass staff uses a Bass Clef. The notation is divided into three columns: 'Written', 'Played', and 'Sounds'. In the 'Written' column, notes are placed on the lines as if they were the actual pitch. In the 'Played' column, notes are placed on the lines as if they were the actual pitch. In the 'Sounds' column, notes are placed on the lines as if they were the actual pitch.

This format is similar to example (2) in that it also uses the Transposing (down) G Clef, but in this instance, it is found in both the alto and the tenor lines. Again, since the soprano and bass both sound up the octave, they will read their lines as written, and sounding up, while the alto and the tenor will read their lines as written, and sound at pitch.

Note: Observe that all three examples will sound the same when played correctly.