

GNote2.3 - Phil's Notation for Guitar with 4 Lines per staff

Philip Rhoades 2014.02.08

I have always had a problem with Traditional musical Notation (TN) and I have a number of criteria for a new Guitar-centric Alternative Notation (AN). For background to the following see:

<http://musicnotation.org>

and

<http://clairnote.org> .

The intention of developing a new notation is to speed up my initial learning and playing of musical scores but if I am going to be iconoclastic about this exercise then with respect to any new AN:

0. It has to use an equal temperament, chromatic scale - no key signatures and no sharps, flats or accidentals.
1. Five lines on a staff is too many.
2. Two lines or less is too few (three or more notes in the spaces between lines is too many).
3. I experimented with hollow oval head shapes to represent open strings but realised I was already conditioned to the conventional meaning of half and full notes.
4. If I used hollow heads for open strings then note duration could be done by different tails and other mechanisms but TN won out in this regard.
5. I am not really concerned about vertical space saving on the staves at the moment - readability (for worsening eyesight) is most important for me now.
6. The bottom base note should start from E (ie open String 6).
7. The middle note should be E (ie String 4, fret 2).
8. All staves should be identical in their note order.

So this is the current result:

- Four lines per staff and combined 'treble' and 'bass' staves into a 'master' staff;
- One or two notes only in spaces between lines;
- From low E to high E on the guitar (open String 6 to open String 1) is 25 notes and fits nicely!

Op. 3

E F F# G G# A A# B C C# D D# E

5 E F F# G G# A A# B C C# D D# E

9 Key of C

13 C Chord G Chord