

APPENDIX I

Proposed Special Clefs

For Very Low and

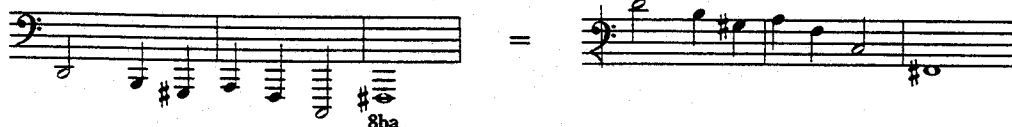
Very High Notes

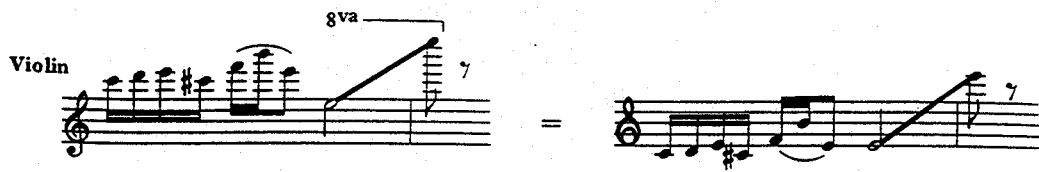
The practical ranges of most instruments have been gradually expanding for two centuries, and some are beginning to become notationally unmanageable. The indications “8va _____” and “8ba _____,” traditional answers to the problem of excessive ledger lines, have never been satisfactory. The introduction of two special clefs—two octaves higher than the treble clef and two octaves lower than the bass clef, respectively—clarifies the notation of passages in extreme registers, making them easier to read and less cumbersome to write than they are with the traditional “8va” and “8ba” signs. Anyone wishing to adopt these “descant” and “contrabass” clefs in their scores must explain them, since very few players will have seen them before.



The following examples should make clear the usefulness of the new signs.

Contrabass Tuba





These clefs have the further advantage of enabling the notation of all parts in a concert-pitch score at actual pitch, eliminating octave transpositions entirely.