

The Basics of Reading Music

Week Six: Putting it all together

We started our course looking at some real choir music and then gradually learned to identify the various elements on the page.

EXERCISE 1: Look at this music and identify each of the following elements.

Musical score for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano. The score includes lyrics and various musical notations. Numbered circles 1-10 point to specific elements:

- ①: Soprano staff, first measure.
- ②: Alto staff, first measure.
- ③: Tenor staff, first measure.
- ④: Soprano staff, dynamic marking *mp*.
- ⑤: Soprano staff, tempo marking *Moderato, molto espressivo*.
- ⑥: Soprano staff, phrasing marking *dolce e legato*.
- ⑦: Piano staff, tempo marking *Moderato, molto espressivo*.
- ⑧: Alto staff, phrasing marking *dolce e legato*.
- ⑨: Tenor staff, first measure.
- ⑩: Tenor staff, first measure.

	This is the/a/an:	It means:
①		
②		
③		
④		
⑤		
⑥		
⑦		
⑧		
⑨		
⑩		

We learnt to name each of the pitches using fun rhymes and counting up and down.

EXERCISE 2: Complete the following rhymes.



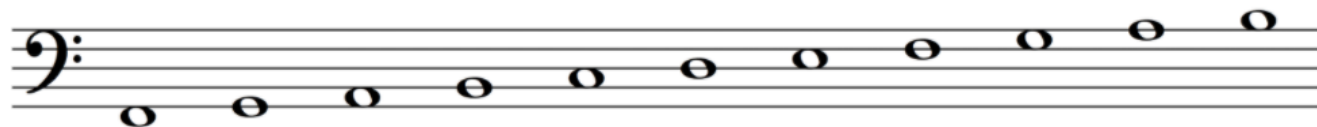













Now, write the names of the following pitches.







We learnt the most common note values (lengths) and their corresponding rests.

EXERCISE 3: Complete the following table.

Length in Beats	Name (Choose US or UK)	Note	Rest
	Semibreve or Whole Note		
1			
	Semiquaver or Sixteenth Note		
3			
	Demisemiquaver or Thirty Second Note		
	Minim or Half Note		
1/2			





We've had a go at a lot of "musical maths" using dotted and undotted notes; now we're going to combine them and throw in our rest values too!




EXERCISE 4: Calculate these musical sums.

1.  +  -  =

4.  +  -  =

2.  +  -  +  =

5.  +  -  +  =

3.  +  -  =

An easy way to prepare to clap a rhythm is to write the numbers of the beats underneath. This is a great way to practise until you can do it confidently.

1 (2) (3) 4 + 1 2 (3) (4) (1) 2 3 4 1 2 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 3 4

EXERCISE 5: Write the beats below each example and the clap these rhythms.

We learned the difference between slurs and ties.

EXERCISE 6: Draw circles around the slurs and draw squares around the ties.

And we started to put it all together in our very first tunes!

Remember, when you sing something by sight, you need to check ALL the elements of the music – the clef, key signature, time signature, whether there are any big leaps, any accidentals and also the performance directions.

EXERCISE 7: Singing by Sight:



CONGRATULATIONS!

You have completed “Reading Music for Singers: Beginner” and are now well on your way to understanding the various elements of your choir music. Keep practising and keep singing!