Developing Sight Readers!

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What does “sight reading” mean?

- Polished Performance at first reading
- Hear/Feel/Observe/Do
- Reading with understanding and meaning

What are you learning to do?

- Fit rhythm to a pulse rather than making the pulse fit the rhythm.
- Stretch your ability to do more than one thing at a time.
- Let internal singing tell your body what and how to play.
- Establish a sequence of eye, recognition, voice/hand, executed with a steady pulse.
- Recognize groupings in a beat.
- Recognize groups of notes in a measure or phrase, organized by beats.
- Recognize patterns.
- Move your eye ahead to prepare for the next idea.
- Play one measure (or group while looking ahead to another.

What is not sight-reading?

- Reading finger numbers
- Imitation from an outside source
- Translating music symbols like a foreign language

How is it prepared?

- Pre-Reading skills
  - Pulse and Singing
  - Pitch
  - Rhythm
  - Symbols
  - Improvisation

Pitch

- Sing
- Know the Alphabet
- Know your Fingerboard
- Know the Staff
- Building Scales
- Eye and Ear
- Dictation
- Intervals

Rhythm

- Listening and Feeling
- Listen and Play
- 11 Basic Rhythms
- Time Signatures
- Rhythmic Sentences
- Relationships
- Tempo Markings

Symbols

- Flash Cards Definitions and Vocabulary (46)
- Keys
- Notation

Improvisation

- Listen and Play
- Creating Musical Ideas

READY TO READ

- Activities in
  - Pitch
  - Rhythm
  - Symbols
  - Improvisation
- Materials

Sight Reading is Easy

- Four Books times four instruments
  - Violin
  - Viola
  - Cello
  - String Bass
- Guide
- Encyclopedia of Musical Information
- Rhythm Dictionary

Sight Reading is Easy at a Glance

- In All books
  - A Unison Approach if needed
  - Fingering Charts
  - Step by Step Instructions
  - Bowing and Left Hand Skills Development
  - Icon Reminders

Icons

Book 1—Let’s Go!

- Simple Time
- Finger Patterns 1 and 2
- Vocabulary Review
- Quick start for String Bass

Book 2—Moving Forward

- Sub-Divisions in 2
- Flat keys F Bb and Eb Major
- Relative minor keys include Natural, Melodic & Harmonic Scales
- Introduce Open Hand x
- Introduce Open Hand Pivot/Shift
- High and Low 2 and 3 Practice for vln/vla
- Shifting Practice for Bass

Open Hand Pivot/Shift

- **P** pivot on first finger
- **—** open string

Book 3—Sixteenth Notes and Other Things

- Sixteenth notes and rests,
- 32nd notes
- Eighth note pulse
- Cut Time
- Syncopation
- Sharp Keys G D A
- Relative minor keys include Natural, Melodic & Harmonic Scales
- Double Sharps and flats

Book 4—Music in Threes and Finishing Things

- Compound Time
- Eighth Note Pulse
- Triplets
- Duplets
- Double Dots
- Cross Rhythms
- Fives
- Ornamentation
- Musical Short Hand

Important Components

- Keep going, no stops
- Sing in aloud or in your head what you want
- Use the foot to keep the beat
  - Play to your foot, not beat your foot to the music

How to Help

- Pencil Pointing
- Card Covering
- Foot Priming
- Teacher/Parent Pulse Modeling
- “How did it go?”
- Regular and Consistent Reading
- Persistence

Advanced Applications

- The last in the Reading Series
- Orchestral Preparation
- Chamber Music Preparation
- Improvisation
- Composition
- Theory Study
- Essay Interviews by Brandon Vamos, Eric Kim, Chicago Symphony Members, Carl van Wyk, Renata Bratt

Sight Reading is Easy

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By

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For

Violin/Viola/Cello/String Bass

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