

ALTO SAXOPHONE

THE

LET'S PLAY

BAND

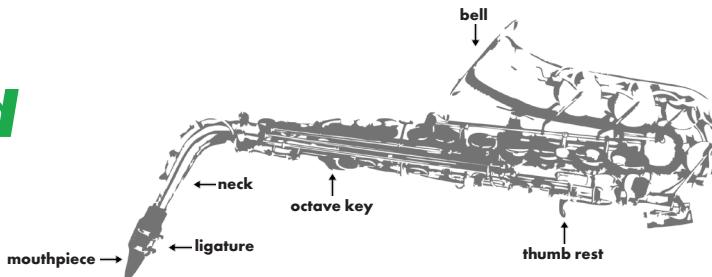
METHOD

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J.J. Johnson, Percussion Contributor, Daniel Lenzer, Bassoon Contributor
Instrument fingering font from MusicTeacherTools.com

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Getting Started



Assembling Your Instrument

Before assembling your instrument, put the thin end of your reed in your mouth. Loosen the neck screw and attach the neck to the body of the instrument. It should point away from the keys. Tighten the neck screw. Insert the mouthpiece gently to the neck. The opening of the mouthpiece should be facing straight down. About $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cork on the neck should remain showing.

Holding Your Instrument

(Right Hand) The instrument should rest on the side of the right thumb at the base of the nail, with the ball of the thumb resting against the body of the instrument. The right pinky finger should rest lightly on the C key with the rest of the fingers resting on the remaining buttons.

(Left Hand) The left thumb operates the octave key and should be placed diagonally so that the fleshy part of the thumb rests on the plate provided for it. The left pinky finger should rest lightly on the G# key with the remaining fingers contacting the rest of the buttons. Fingers should remain curved naturally and should remain in contact with their key or button at all times.

Getting A Sound

Moisten your reed by putting the thin end in your mouth. Place the flat side of the reed up against the flat side of the mouthpiece with the thin end of the reed almost in line with the tip of the mouthpiece so only a hairline can be seen above the reed. Carefully slide the ligature down around the reed. Make sure it's loose enough to fit down below the half circle shaved into the reed. Then tighten the screws of the ligature holding the reed in place. Roll your bottom lip over your bottom teeth. Position the mouthpiece on your bottom lip so about half an inch of reed is in your mouth. Your top teeth should rest on top of the mouthpiece. Close your mouth around the mouthpiece, keeping your chin down.

Playing Position

Many athletes have learned there is a proper way to approach the plate or the free throw line for the highest probability for success; it's the same way when playing an instrument! The following strategies have been proven to ensure the highest probability of achieving the fullest and richest tone quality on your instrument:

- Keep both feet flat on the floor
- Keep your shoulders down and relaxed
- Think about sitting up straight and making yourself as tall as possible

***Bring your instrument up to you,
don't slouch down to reach your instrument!***



Air Support

Your instrument is a *wind* instrument. The air you put into the instrument is the key ingredient to the best possible sound. Take each breath in slowly and steadily through your mouth, not your nose. When you breathe out, keep your mouth and throat open and relaxed. Think about using "warm" air. Practice exhaling warm air onto your hand as if you were trying to fog up a window or mirror.

Instrument Care

Wipe off any extra moisture before returning your reed to the reed case. Run your swab through the mouthpiece before returning it to the instrument case. Mouthpieces should be washed weekly with warm water. Make sure you let it air dry before returning to the case. Put the swab into the bell end of the instrument and pull through the top end.

Let's Play!



fermata

“Keep holding the note until your conductor indicates for you to stop”

REST

For a musician, a rest isn't a break, we're always counting or watching the conductor to see when we get to play again!

D

REST

REST

C

REST

REST

REST

B

Notes: B, REST, B, REST, B

Notes: B, B, B, REST, C, C, C, REST, D, D, D, D

A

Notes: A, REST, A, REST, A

Notes: A, A, A, A, REST, A, A, B, B, REST, B, B, A, A

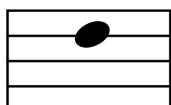
G

Notes: G, REST, G, REST, G

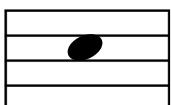
Notes: G, G, G, G, REST, G, A, B, C, REST, C, B, A, G

Fingerings

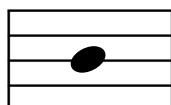
D



C



B



mf
mezzo forte
“medium loud”

music theory

 **whole note**
sustain sound 4 beats

 **whole rest**
count 4 beats rest

1 Lift Off



2 Around The Room



Low Brass/Low WW Horns/Altos Trumpets Fl/Ob/Cl

* if a dynamic marking is not listed, mezzo forte is implied

3 Stargazing



4

Oracle

repeat sign
go back to the beginning,
or another repeat sign

5

Interstellar

6

Memory

7

Three Note Funk
Herbie Hancock

Herbie Hancock is an American pianist that during his time with the Miles Davis Quintet, started playing jazz piano like no one ever had before. He was one of the inventors of a new subgenre of jazz called "Post-Bop."

"Watermelon Man"
by Herbie Hancock



"Subwoofer Lullaby"
from the Minecraft Soundtrack

Get extra practice playing **whole notes** and the note **"Concert D"** by scanning the QR Play Button below.

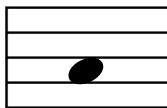


Fingerings

G



A



mp
mezzo piano
“medium soft”

music theory



half note

sustain sound 2 beats



half rest

count 2 beats rest

8

Au Claire de la Lune

Welsh Folk Song



9

Cardiff By The Sea

French Folk Song

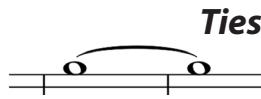


10

Hot Cross Buns

English Folk Song

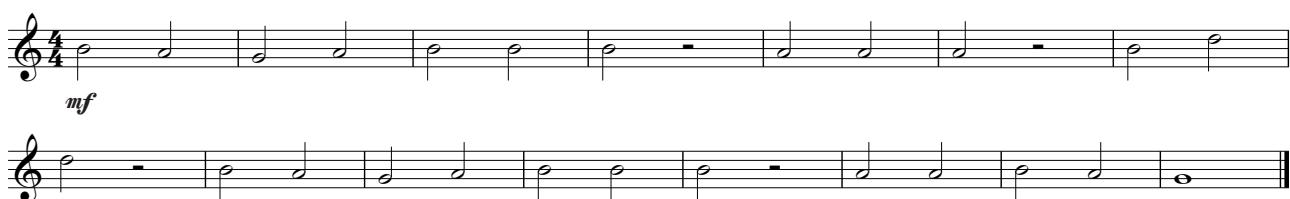


time signature**4**
4**beats** in a measure
quarter note gets the beat**Ties**combines the values
of two notes. Don't
tongue the second note**11****Country Walk**

French Folk Song

**12****Merrily We Roll Along**

Charlie Tobias

**13****Down By The Station**

Traditional

**Ola Gjeilo**

Ola Gjeilo is a Norwegian composer and pianist currently residing in Manhattan. He is primarily a choral **composer**, meaning he writes pieces of music to be sung by choirs. He is best known for his works "Dreamweaver" and "The River".

"Still"
by Ola Gjeilo

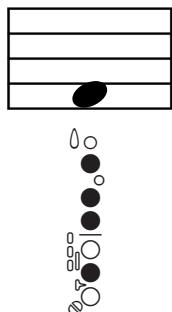
**"Hey Ya!"**
by Outkast (2003)

Get extra practice playing **half notes** and the notes "**Concert C and Bb**" by scanning the QR Play Button below:

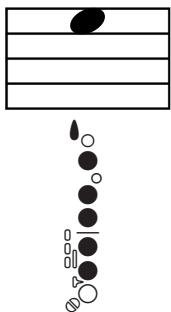


Fingerings

F#



E



breath mark

the best spot to take a deep breath through your mouth



music theory



quarter note
gets 1 beat



quarter rest
count 1 beat

14

Stodola Pumpa

Czech Folk Song



15

Jingle Bells

James Lord Pierpont



16

Go Tell Aunt Rhody

American Folk Song





fermata

hold the note out longer

1st and 2nd Endings *some repeats indicate a different ending to*

*some repeats indicate
a different ending to
play for each time
through*

17 *Jasmine Flower*

Chinese Folk Song



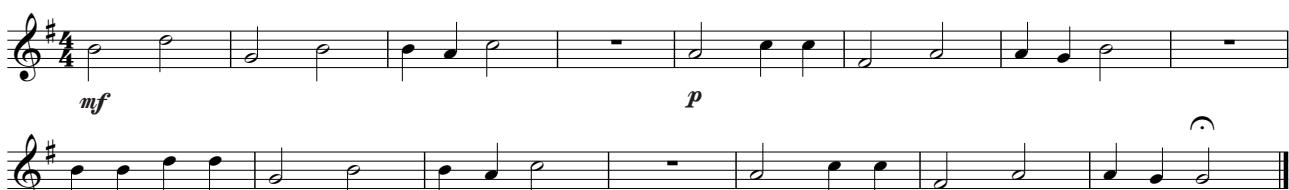
18 Surprise Symphony

Joseph Haydn



19 *Mary Ann*

Jamaican Folk Song



The Kronos Quartet



The Kronos Quartet is a string quartet based in San Francisco. A **quartet** is a musical ensemble consisting of four musicians. Kronos has been in existence since 1973 and has had over nine hundred musical pieces composed for them.

“Lux Aeterna” by The Kronos Quartet



“Look What You Made Me Do” by Taylor Swift (2017)

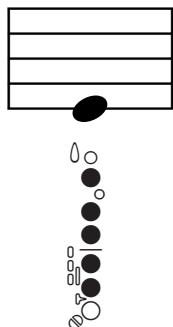
Look What You Made by Taylor Swift (2017)

Get extra practice playing **quarter notes** by scanning the QR Play Button below:



Fingerings

E



pp
pianissimo
“very soft”

music theory



cresc.

crescendo
gradually get louder



decresc.

decrescendo
gradually get softer

20

Also Sprach Zarathustra

Richard Strauss



pp

21

Ha'Kyo Jung

Korean Folk Song



22

Rondo alla Turca

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



23

Good King Wenceslas

Finnish Folk Song



pick up notes

notes that happen
before the first full
measure

24 The Bridge At Avignon

French Folk Song



25 Up On The Housetop

Benjamin Hanby



26 A Tisket A Tasket

American Folk Song



Aretha Franklin



Aretha Franklin was a vocalist and pianist who is still regarded today as the "Queen of Soul. **Soul** is a style of music that combines elements of gospel, rhythm and blues and jazz and became popular in the U.S. in the 1950s and 60s.

"A Tisket A Tasket"
by Aretha Franklin



"You Should See Me In A Crown"

by Billie Eilish (2019)

Get extra practice playing **quarter notes** and the note "**Concert G**" by scanning the QR Play Button below:

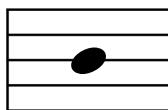


Fingerings

F



Bb



C

“common time”

*another way of
indicating $\frac{4}{4}$ time*

music theory

“accidentals”

- ♭ flat lowers the sound of the note
- ♯ sharp raises the sound of the note
- ♮ natural cancels out a sharp or flat

27

Mary Had A Little Lamb

American Folk Song



28

Jolly Old Saint Nicholas

James R. Murray, words by Emily Clark Huntington Miller



29

Love Somebody

Andante

Joan Whitney, Alex Kramer



time signatures

2 3 4 beats in a measure
quarter note gets the beat

tempo - how fast or slow to play

Andante	Moderato	Allegro
slow	medium	fast

30

Dredyl, Dredyl

Allegro

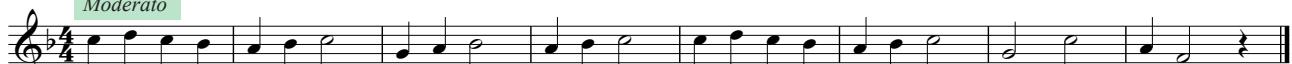


Israeli Folk Song

31

London Bridge

Moderato



English Folk Song

32

Amigas

* if a tempo marking is not listed, Moderato is implied



Hispanic Folk Song

"Duke" Ellington



Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington was a **prolific** jazz composer, meaning he wrote a great number of jazz compositions, many which are still considered 'standards' today. The "Duke" helped propel jazz to being regarded on the same level as classical music.

"Mood Indigo"
 by Duke Ellington



"Carol of the Bells"
 by Transiberian Orchestra (1996)

Get extra practice playing in $\frac{3}{4}$ time and the notes "**Concert Ab and Db**" by scanning the QR Play Button below:



3 *beats in a measure*
4 *quarter note gets the beat*

ff
fortissimo
“very loud”

music theory

eighth notes



$$1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +$$

*two eighth notes
fit equally into
each beat*

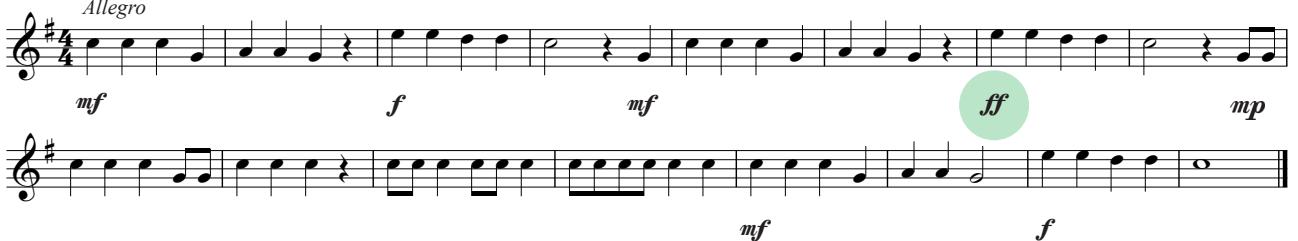


“Cantaloupe Island” by Herbie Hancock

33 *Old Macdonald*

Old Macdonald

British Folk Song



34 *Ezekial Saw The Wheel*

African American Spiritual



Slur

connect two notes by
only tonguing the
first one

35

Bonjour Mes Amis

French Folk Song



Sheet music for Bonjour Mes Amis. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves of music with various notes and rests. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*.

36

Chiapanecas

Mexican Folk Song



Sheet music for Chiapanecas. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of two staves of music with various notes and rests. Dynamics include *f*, *mf*, and *ff*.

37

Goodbye Old Paint

Charley Willis



Sheet music for Goodbye Old Paint. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of two staves of music with various notes and rests. A slur is indicated above the first note of the second staff.

Miles Davis

Miles Davis was an American trumpeter and bandleader that became one of the most influential figures in 20th century music. Throughout his career he continued to innovate and find new ways to play the trumpet and compose music.

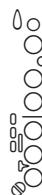
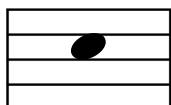
"All Blues"
by Miles Davis**"We Will Rock You"**
by Queen (1977)

Get extra practice playing **eighth notes** and the notes **"Concert Ab and Db"** by scanning the QR Play Button below:



Fingerings

C#



F



sfz
sforzando piano
 “attack the note forte
 and hold it piano”

music theory

dotted half note



when a dot is placed beside a note it adds half the original value to the note.
 Dotted half notes get 3 beats.

38

Theme from Symphony No. 1

Johannes Brahms



39

Roses

Hispanic Folk Song

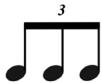


40

Oranges and Lemons

English Folk Song



triplets

three notes that are playing evenly within one beat

articulation - a special way to play a note

tenuto
long

staccato
short

accent
emphasized

41

"Spring" from Four Seasons

Allegro

Antonio Vivaldi



42

It Had To Be You

Isham Jones



43

Minka, Minka

Allegro

Ukrainian Folk Song


Samuel Barber

Samuel Barber was one of the most celebrated American composers of the 20th century. While many composers of the time were experimenting with new harmonies, Samuel chose notes in his compositions that more reflected a 19th-century harmonic understanding.

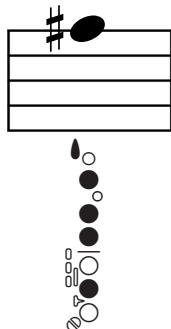
"Adagio for Strings"
by Samuel Barber**"Star Wars Theme"**
by John Williams (1977)

Get extra practice playing **triplets** and the note **"Concert High Ab"** by scanning the QR Play Button below:

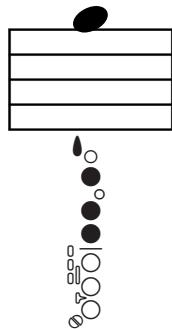


Fingerings

F#



G



eighth rest
rest half a beat

music theory

eighth note runs



When multiple eighth note pairs occur in a row they maintain the same rhythm and timing. Keep your air going!



“Maiden Voyage” by Herbie Hancock

44

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

English Folk Song



mp

45

“Morning” from Peer Gynt

Edvard Grieg

Andante



p

46

Frere Jacques

French Folk Song



mf

47

Academic Festival Overture

Johannes Brahms



48

Lo Yisa Goy

Israeli Folk Song



49

Skip To My Lou

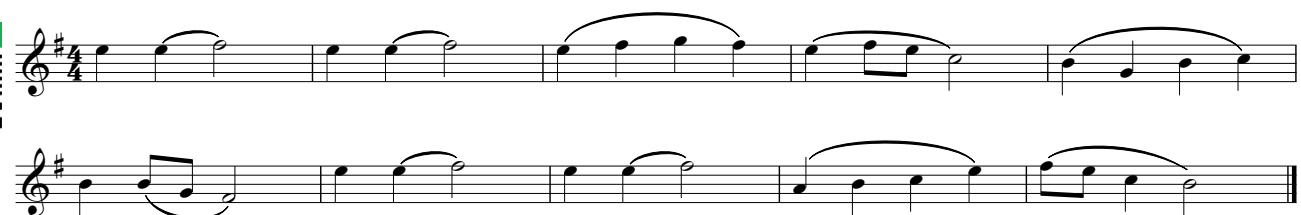
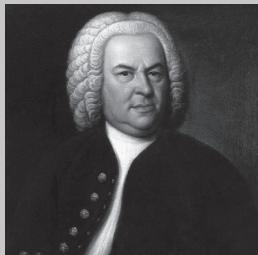
American Folk Song



50

Sakura

Japanese Folk Song

**Johann Sebastian Bach**

Johann Sebastian Bach was a German composer and probably the most recognizable composer of the Baroque Era. The **Baroque Era** was the musical time period in Western Music between 1600-1750 and happened right before the Classical Era.

"Musette"
by J.S. Bach**"Heathens"**

by Twenty One Pilots (2016)

Get extra practice playing **eighth note runs** and the note **"Concert High A"** by scanning the QR Play Button below:



“syncopated” rhythms
*rhythms that emphasize
 the “& count” or weak beat*



fp
forte piano
 “attack the phrase forte
 and continue at piano”

music theory

dotted quarter note



Just like dotted half notes, a dotted quarter gets an extra half of the original value. Getting one and a half beats puts the note or rest after it on the “up” beat or “& count”.

53 *Tzena, Tzena*

Jewish Folk Song



54 *San Sereni*

Spanish Folk Song



55 *Prince Of Denmark's March*

Henry Wood



56 *Little Donkey*

Eric Boswell



57

Ode To Joy

Ludwig van Beethoven



Music score for Ode To Joy in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves of music with a dynamic marking *fp* (fortissimo) in a green circle on the second staff.

58

Arirang

Korean Folk Song



Music score for Arirang in G major, 2/4 time. The score consists of two staves of music.

59

New World Symphony

Anton Dvorak



Music score for New World Symphony in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves of music.

60

Kum Ba Yah

African American Spiritual



Music score for Kum Ba Yah in G major, 4/4 time. The score includes two staves of music, a tempo marking *Andante*, and dynamic markings *1.* and *fp* (fortissimo) on the second staff.

61

Hey Ho, Nobody's Home

English Folk Song



Music score for Hey Ho, Nobody's Home in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves of music with dynamic markings *mf* (mezzo-forte), *fp* (fortissimo), and *mf* (mezzo-forte).

Bette Midler

Bette Midler is an American singer and songwriter who made her motion picture debut in the 1979 film "The Rose". Her recording of the title song became a chart hit and helped propel her award-winning career in showbusiness of over half a century.

"The Rose"
by Amanda McBroom

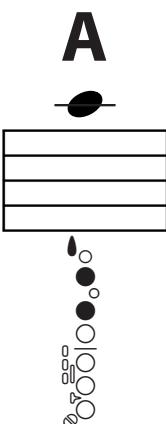


"Married Life"
from the Up Soundtrack (2009)

Get extra practice playing **dotted quarter notes** and **syncopated rhythms** by scanning the QR Play Button below:



Fingerings



D.C. al Coda

D.C. or "da capo" al Coda means to go to the beginning and then go to the Coda. After playing the measure that says "To Coda" jump to the measure with the Coda sign.

62

The Charleston

Allegro



James P. Johnson

To Coda

63

Aloha Oe



Lili'uokalani

64

Loch Lomond

Scottish Folk Song



65 *Maple Leaf Rag*

Allegro



Scott Joplin



66 *El Juego Chirimbolo*

Spanish Folk Song



67 *Rock A My Soul*

African American Spiritual



68 *Give My Regards To Broadway*

Allegro

George M. Cohan



Billie Holiday



Billie Holiday was a celebrated jazz and swing vocalist who would influence pop singing for decades to come. Her vocal style was greatly influenced by the sounds of jazz instrumentalists.

“God Bless The Child” by Billie Holiday



“Megalovania” by Toby Fox (2015)

Get extra practice playing advanced **syncopated rhythms** and **Concert High C** by scanning the QR Play Button below:



Rhythm Reading

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

5 Note Scales

27

B Major Scale (D Concert)

Musical staff for B Major Scale (D Concert) in 4/4 time, treble clef, with 3 sharps. The scale consists of the notes D, E, F#, G, and A.

E Major Scale (G Concert)

Musical staff for E Major Scale (G Concert) in 4/4 time, treble clef, with 2 sharps. The scale consists of the notes E, F#, G, A, and B.

C Major Scale (C Concert)

Musical staff for C Major Scale (C Concert) in 4/4 time, treble clef, with 1 sharp. The scale consists of the notes C, D, E, F#, and G.

D Major Scale (F Concert)

Musical staff for D Major Scale (F Concert) in 4/4 time, treble clef, with 1 sharp. The scale consists of the notes D, E, F#, G, and A.

G Major Scale (Bb Concert)

Musical staff for G Major Scale (Bb Concert) in 4/4 time, treble clef, with 1 sharp. The scale consists of the notes G, A, Bb, C, and D.

C Major Scale (Eb Concert)

Musical staff for C Major Scale (Eb Concert) in 4/4 time, treble clef, with 1 sharp. The scale consists of the notes C, D, E, F#, and G.

F Major Scale (Ab Concert)

Musical staff for F Major Scale (Ab Concert) in 4/4 time, treble clef, with 1 sharp. The scale consists of the notes F, G, A, Bb, and C.

Bb Major Scale (Db Concert)

Musical staff for Bb Major Scale (Db Concert) in 4/4 time, treble clef, with 1 sharp. The scale consists of the notes Bb, C, D, E, and F#.

Eb Major Scale (Gb Concert)

Musical staff for Eb Major Scale (Gb Concert) in 4/4 time, treble clef, with 1 sharp. The scale consists of the notes Eb, F#, G, A, and Bb.

Ab Major Scale (B Concert)

Musical staff for Ab Major Scale (B Concert) in 4/4 time, treble clef, with 1 sharp. The scale consists of the notes Ab, Bb, C, D, and E.

Db Major Scale (E Concert)

Musical staff for Db Major Scale (E Concert) in 4/4 time, treble clef, with 1 sharp. The scale consists of the notes Db, E, F#, G, and A.

F# Major Scale (A Concert)

Musical staff for F# Major Scale (A Concert) in 4/4 time, treble clef, with 2 sharps. The scale consists of the notes F#, G, A, Bb, and C#.

Alto Sax Fingering Chart

