

ALTO SAXOPHONE

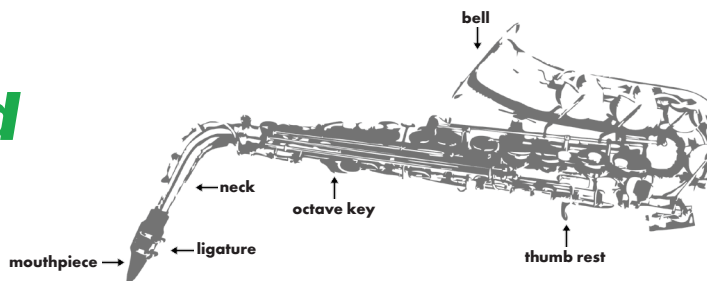
T H E
LET'S PLAY
BAND
METHOD

Edited and Arranged by Derrick Maxey

Special thanks to: Grayson Switzer, Designer, Emily Jones, Designer,
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!

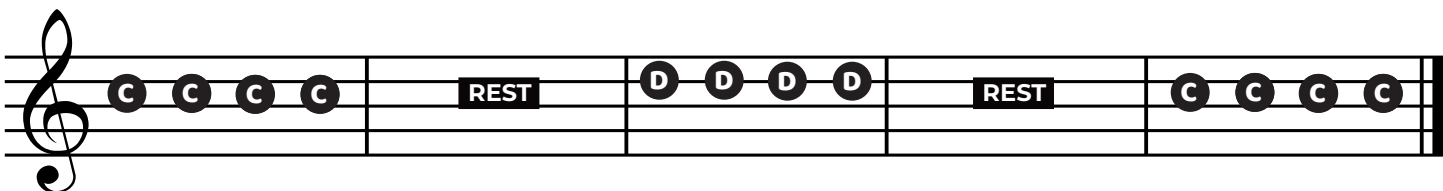
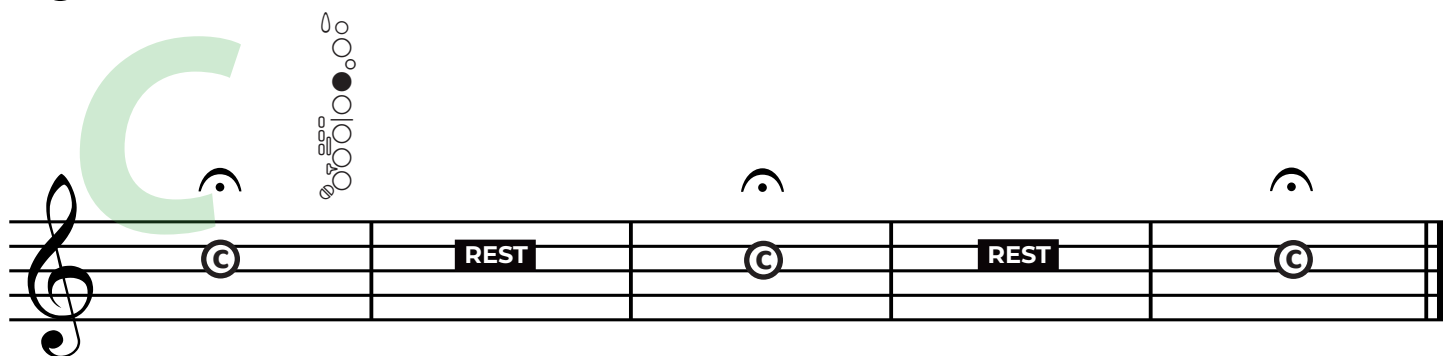
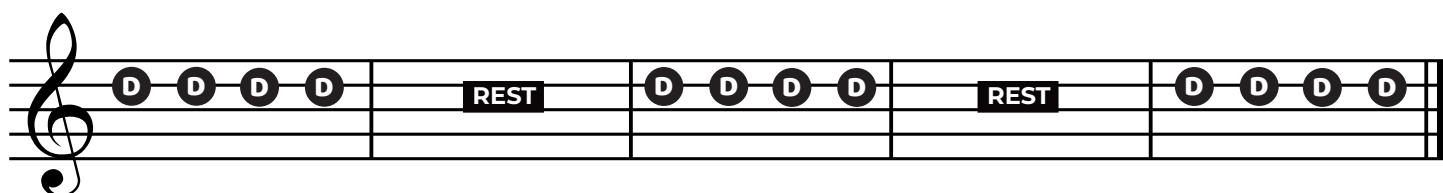
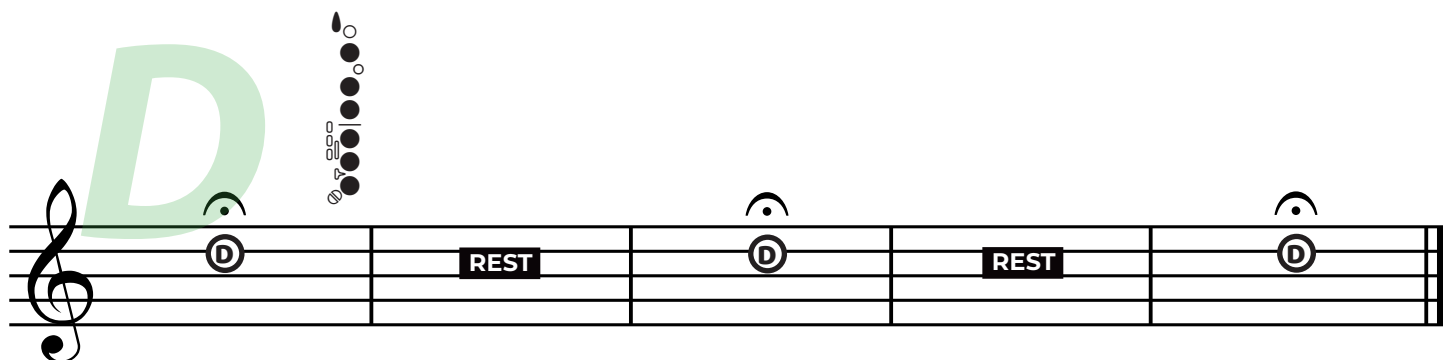


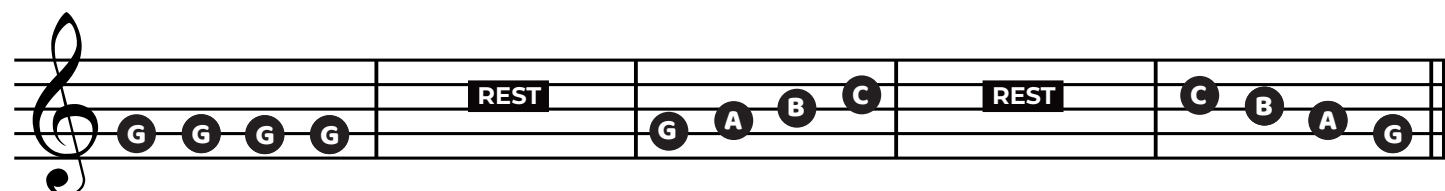
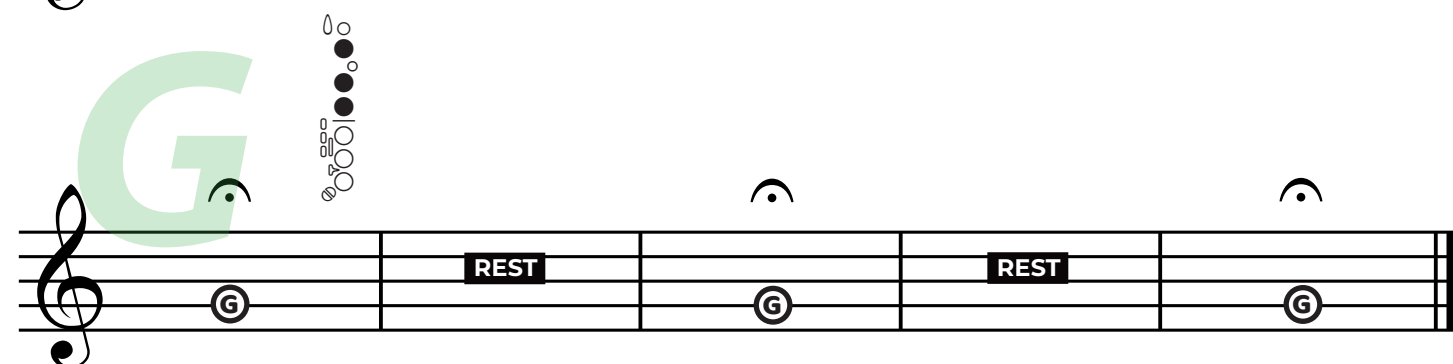
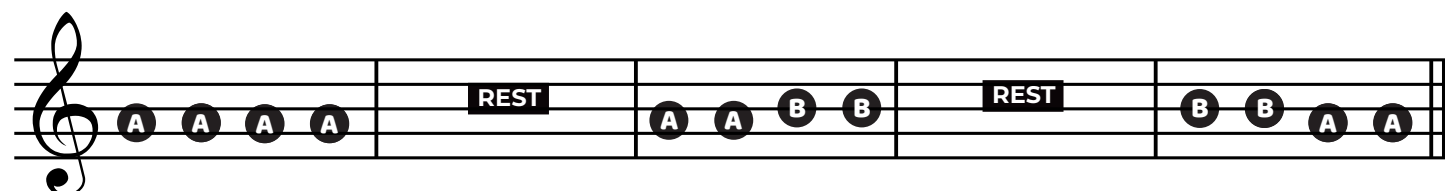
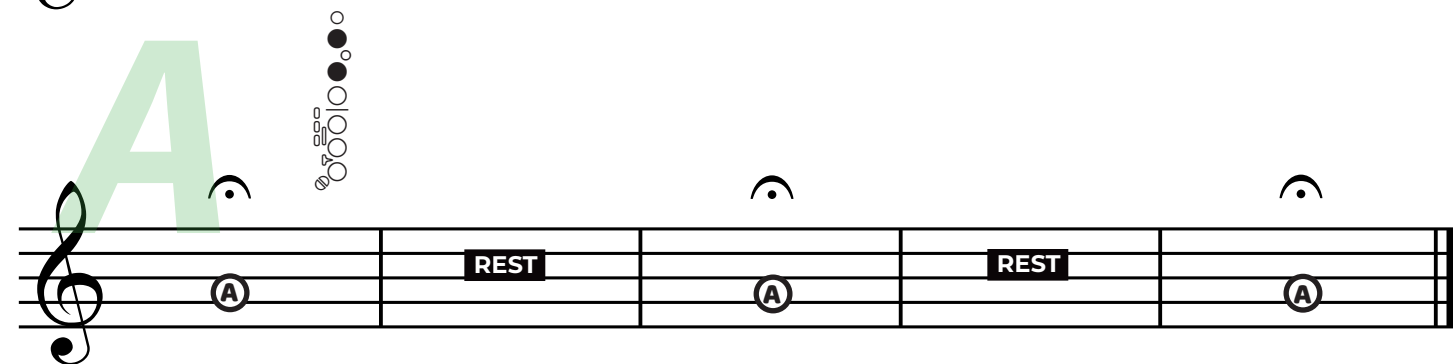
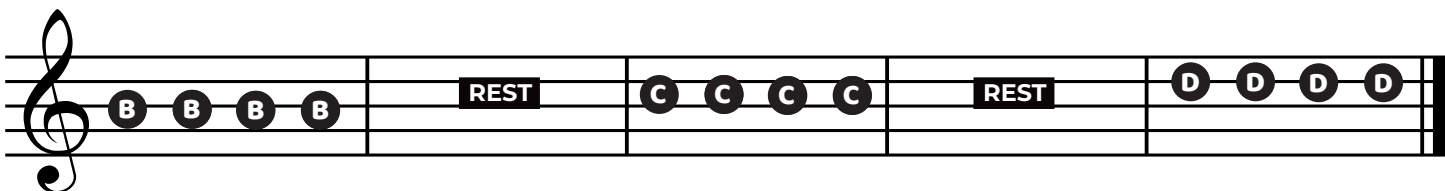
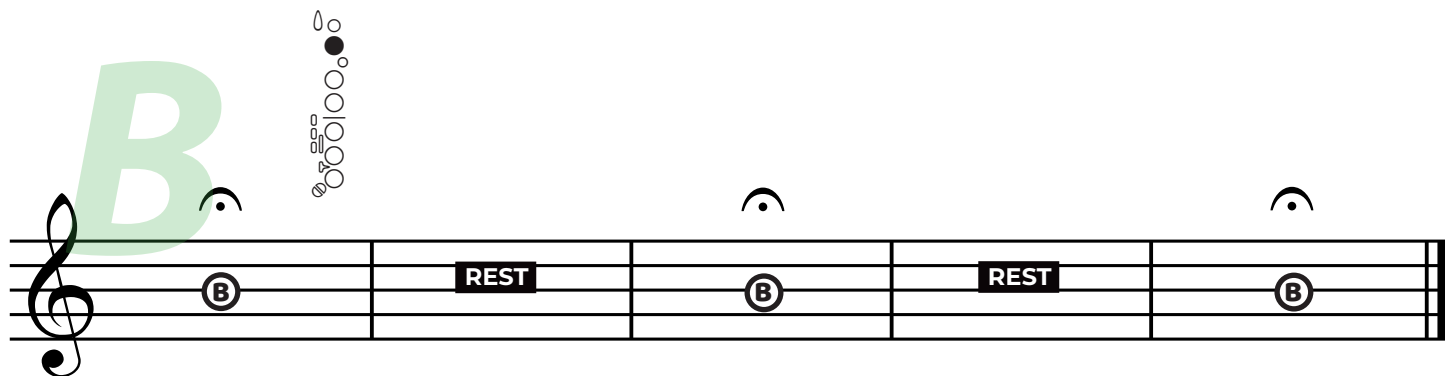
fermata

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

REST

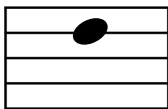
For a musician, a rest isn't a break,
we're always counting or watching the
conductor to see when we get to play again!





Fingerings

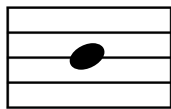
D



C



B



mf
mezzo forte
“medium loud”

music theory



whole note
sustain sound 4 beats



whole rest
count 4 beats rest

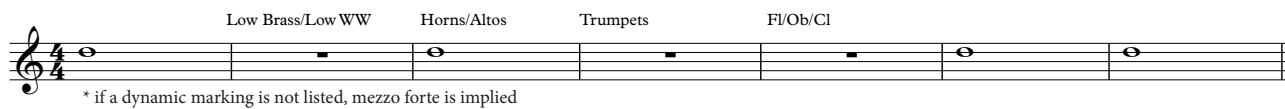
1

Lift Off



2

Around The Room



3

Stargazing



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

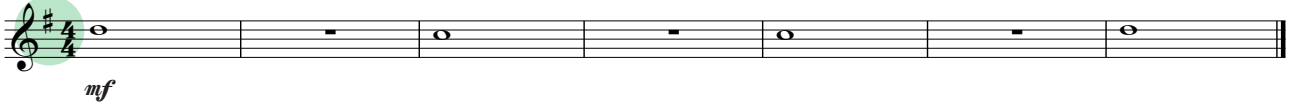
key signature



an accidental can appear before the
 note, or at the beginning of the line
 in what's called the 'key signature'

4

Oracle



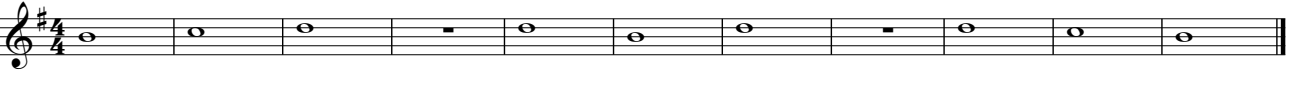
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Interstellar



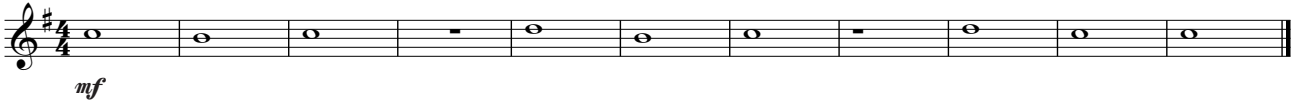
6

Memory

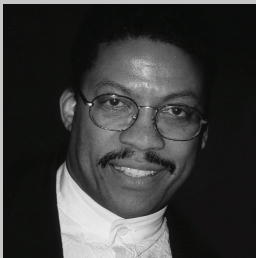


7

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."

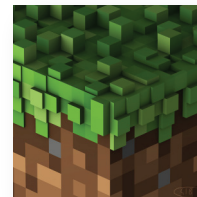
"Watermelon Man"
 by Herbie Hancock



"Subwoofer Lullaby"

from the Minecraft Soundtrack

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

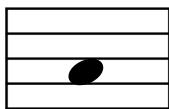


Fingerings

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



mp

10

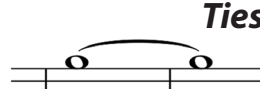
Hot Cross Buns

English Folk Song



time signature

4 beats in a measure
4 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

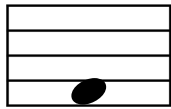
**"Hey Ya!"**

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

p
piano
“soft”

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

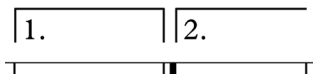




fermata

hold the note out longer

1st and 2nd Endings some repeats indicate a different ending to play for each time through



17 Jasmine Flower

Chinese Folk Song



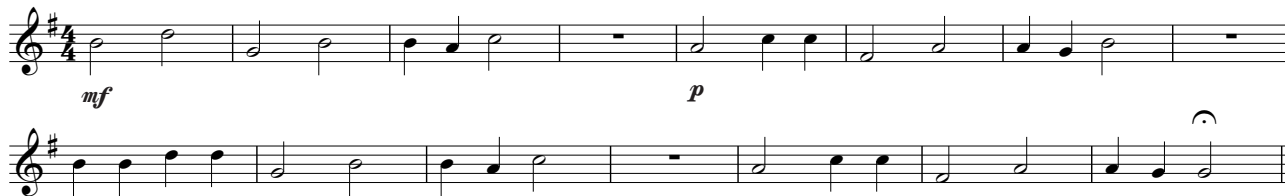
18 Surprise Symphony

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)

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





decrescendo
gradually get softer

The first staff of music is in 2/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of the following notes: D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (half), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

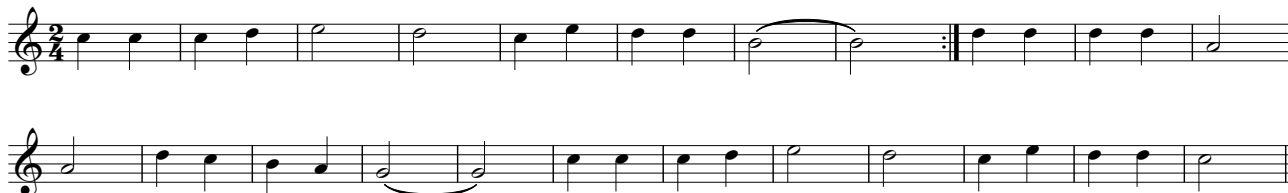
pick up notes

notes that happen
before the first full
measure

24

The Bridge At Avignon

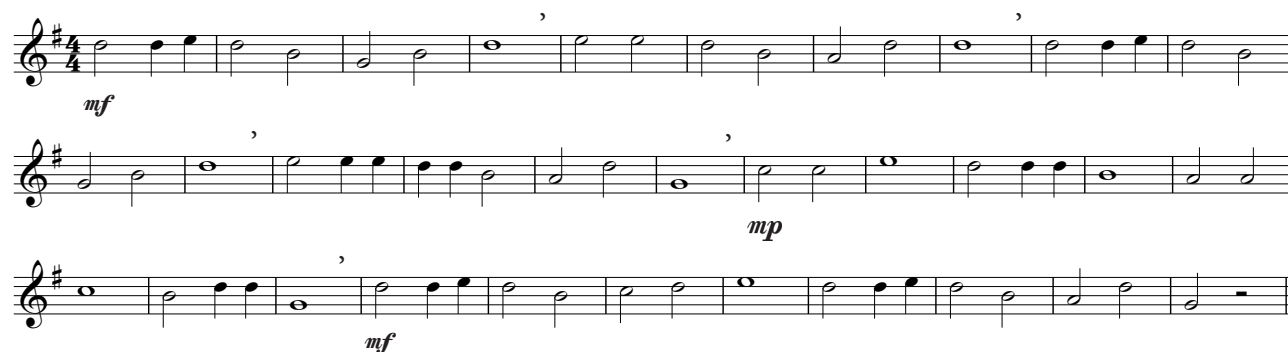
French Folk Song



25

Up On The Housetop

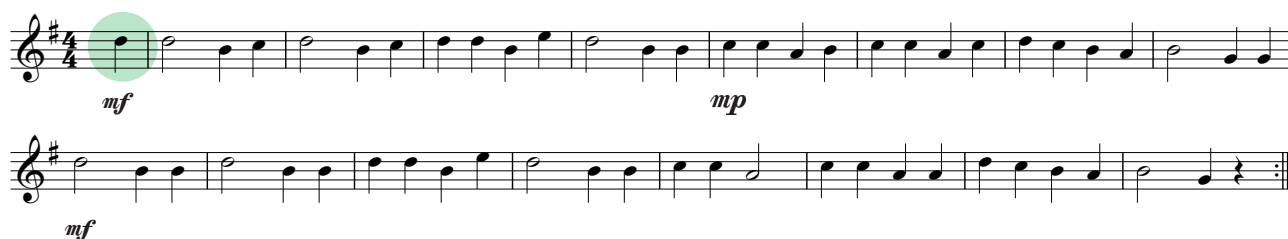
Benjamin Hanby



26

A Tisket A Tasket

American Folk Song

**Aretha Franklin**

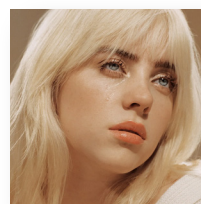
Aretha Franklin was a vocalist and pianist who is still regarded today as the "Queen of Soul." **Soul** is a style of music that combines elements of gospel, rhythm and blues and jazz and became popular in the U.S. in the 1950s and 60s.

"A Tisket A Tasket"
by Aretha Franklin

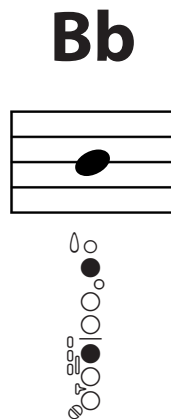
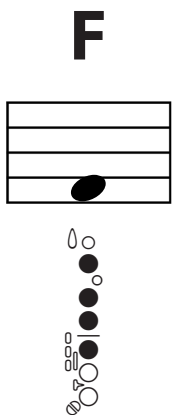


"You Should See Me In A Crown"
by Billie Eilish (2019)

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



Fingerings



C
"common time"
 another way of
 indicating $\frac{4}{4}$ time

music theory

"accidentals"

- b flat** lowers the sound of the note
- # sharp** raises the sound of the note
- natural** cancels out a sharp or flat



Mary Had A Little Lamb

American Folk Song



Jolly Old Saint Nicholas

James R. Murray, words by Emily Clark Huntington Miller



Love Somebody

Joan Whitney, Alex Kramer



time signatures

$\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ **beats in a measure**
quarter note gets the beat

tempo - how fast or slow to play

Andante
slow

Moderato
medium

Allegro
fast

30

Dredyl, Dredyl

Israeli Folk Song



31

London Bridge

English Folk Song



32

Amigas

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



two eighth notes
 fit equally into
 each beat



“Cantaloupe Island” by Herbie Hancock

33

Old Macdonald

British Folk Song



Allegro

mf f mf ff mp

mf f

34

Ezekial Saw The Wheel

African American Spiritual



mp



35 Bonjour Mes Amis

French Folk Song



36 Chiapanecas

Mexican Folk Song



37 Goodbye Old Paint

Charley Willis



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

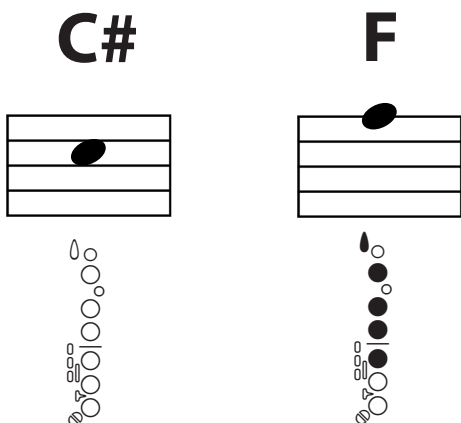


"We Will Rock You" by Queen (1977)

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



Fingerings



sfz
sfortzando 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

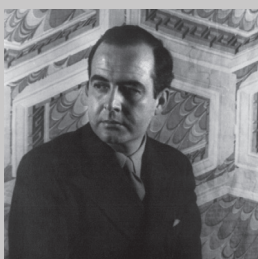
Isham Jones



43

Minka, Minka*Allegro*

Ukrainian Folk Song

**Samuel Barber**

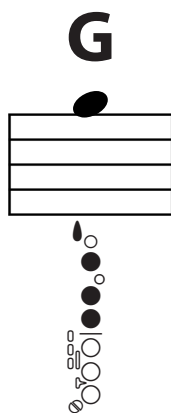
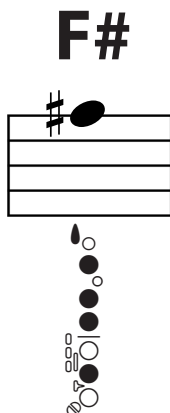
Samuel Barber was one of the most celebrated American composers of the 20th century. While many composers of the time were experimenting with new harmonies, Samuel chose notes in his compositions that more reflected a 19th-century harmonic understanding.

"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



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



45

"Morning" from Peer Gynt

Edvard Grieg



46

Frere Jacques

French Folk Song



47

Academic Festival Overture

Johannes Brahms



48

Lo Yisa Goy

Israeli Folk Song



49

Skip To My Lou

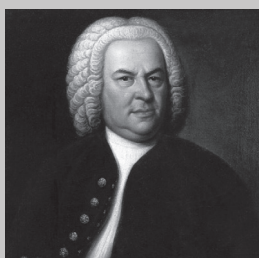
American Folk Song



50

Sakura

Japanese Folk Song

**Johann Sebastian Bach**

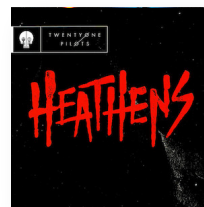
Johann Sebastian Bach was a German composer and probably the most recognizable composer of the Baroque Era. The **Baroque Era** was the musical time period in Western Music between 1600-1750 and happened right before the Classical Era.

"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:



The first three measures of the exercise are shown. The first measure contains a quarter note, a quarter rest, and an eighth note. The second measure contains a dotted quarter note, an eighth note, and a quarter note. The third measure contains two eighth notes, a quarter note, and another eighth note.

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

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



The first staff of music is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two measures. The first measure contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The second measure contains a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F#4. The staff ends with a double bar line.

54



55



The first system of the musical score is for the vocal part. It begins with the tempo marking 'Andante' and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The melody starts on a whole note G4, followed by a half note A4, and then a quarter note B4. This is followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The first ending is marked with a bracket and the number '1.', consisting of a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note G4. The second ending is marked with a bracket and the number '2.', consisting of an eighth note G4, an eighth note A4, a quarter note B4, and a half note G4. The system ends with a double bar line.

56



57 **Ode To Joy**

Ludwig van Beethoven

58 **Arirang**

Korean Folk Song

59 **New World Symphony**

Anton Dvorak

60 **Kum Ba Yah**

African American Spiritual

61 **Hey Ho, Nobody's Home**

English Folk Song

**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

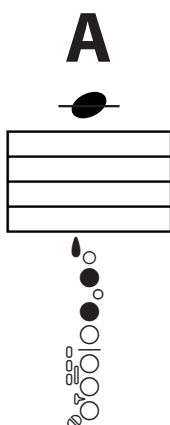


"Married Life"
from the *Up* Soundtrack (2009)

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



Musical notation for 'The Charleston' in 4/4 time. The first staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The second staff continues the melody. The third staff has a key signature change to two flats (Bb, Eb) and a common time signature (C). The fourth staff has a key signature change to one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The notation includes various rhythmic values and a Coda sign at the end.

63

Aloha Oe

Lili'uokalani



Musical notation for 'Aloha Oe' in 4/4 time. The first staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The second staff continues the melody. The notation includes various rhythmic values and a Coda sign at the end.

64

Loch Lomond

Scottish Folk Song



Musical notation for 'Loch Lomond' in 4/4 time. The first staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The second staff continues the melody. The notation includes various rhythmic values and a Coda sign at the end.

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



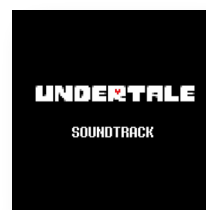
Billie Holiday was a celebrated jazz and swing vocalist who would influence pop singing for decades to come. Her vocal style was greatly influenced by the sounds of jazz instrumentalists.

"God Bless The Child"
by Billie Holiday

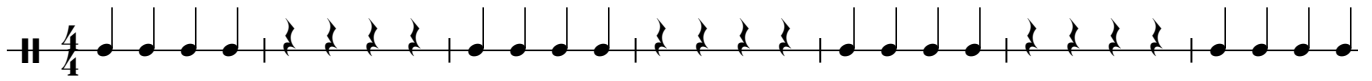
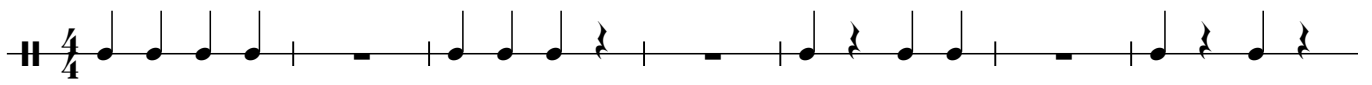
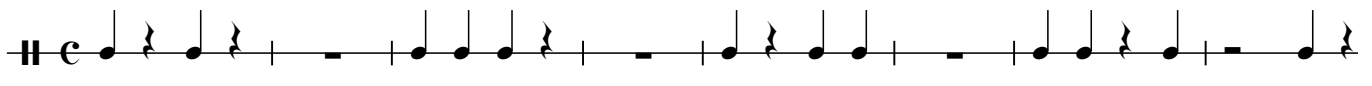
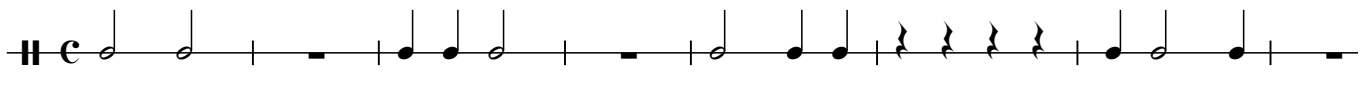
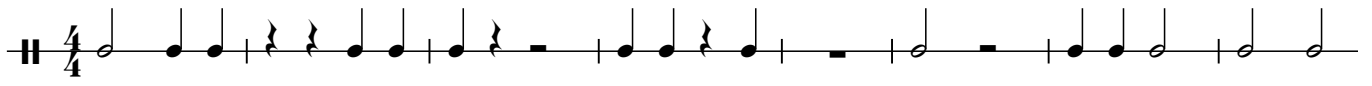







"Megalovania" by Toby Fox (2015)

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

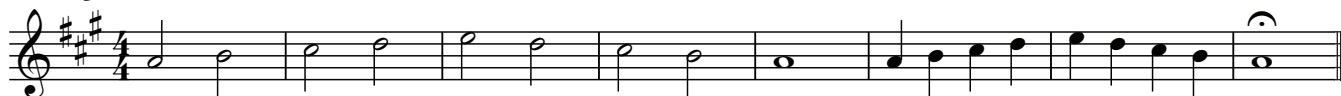
B Major Scale (D Concert)



E Major Scale (G Concert)



C Major Scale (C Concert)



D Major Scale (F Concert)



G Major Scale (Bb Concert)



C Major Scale (Eb Concert)



F Major Scale (Ab Concert)



Bb Major Scale (Db Concert)



Eb Major Scale (Gb Concert)



Ab Major Scale (B Concert)




Db Major Scale (E Concert)

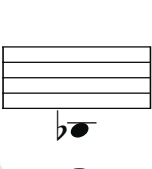
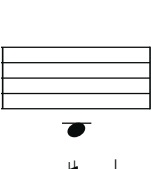
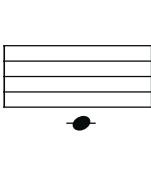
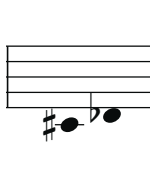



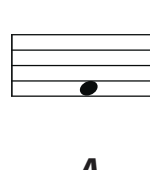
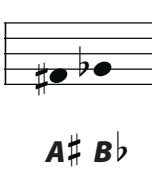
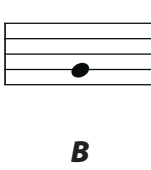
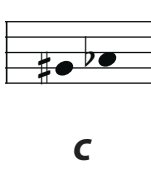
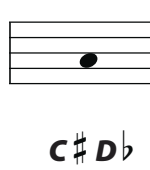
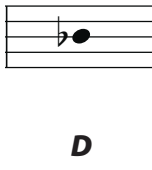

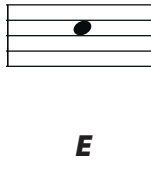
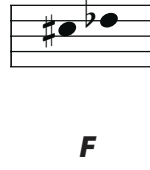
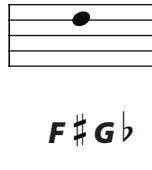


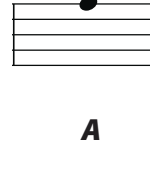
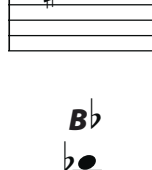
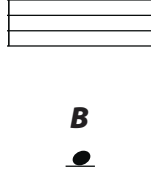
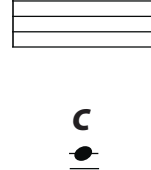
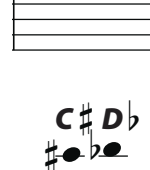
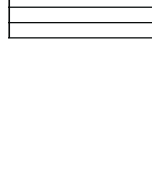
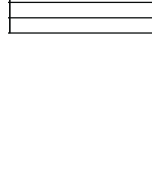
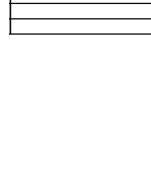
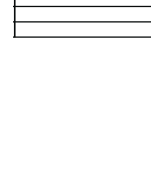


F# Major Scale (A Concert)



Alto Sax Fingering Chart



| B\flat | B | C | C\sharp D\flat |
|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| D | D\sharp E\flat | E | F |
|  |  |  |  |
| F\sharp G\flat | G | G\sharp A\flat | A |
|  |  |  |  |
| A\sharp B\flat | B | C | C\sharp D\flat |
|  |  |  |  |
| D | D\sharp E\flat | E | F |
|  |  |  |  |
| F\sharp G\flat | G | G\sharp A\flat | A |
|  |  |  |  |
| B\flat | B | C | C\sharp D\flat |
|  |  |  |  |