

BASSOON

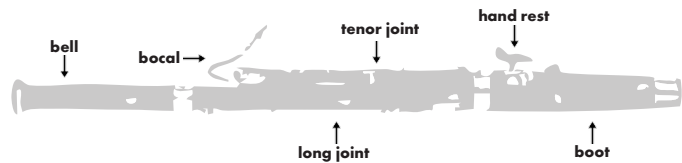
T H E
LET'S PLAY
BAND
METHOD

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

Start soaking your reed in a small container of water. Either make sure you have your neck strap or have a seat strap laying across your seat before you sit down. Insert the smaller end of the long joint into the larger hole in the double joint (boot). Insert the tenor joint into the other opening of the double joint. Make sure the lock is in place by adjusting the long joint. Use your thumb to push down the key on the bell and gently connect it to the long joint, making sure the bars connect. Attach your instrument to the seat strap or neck strap. Gently push the bocal into the small opening in the tenor joint. Make sure to light up the vent hole with the whisper key pad.

Holding Your Instrument

Left Hand

The wood of the bassoon should balance on the base of the first finger. Your hand should be in a position where the thumb can comfortably reach the whisper key. Make sure your hand is not touching the rod on the side of the instrument. Your left pinky finger should rest lightly on the D-sharp key. The rest of your fingers should cover the three remaining tone holes.

Right Hand

The pinky finger of your right hand should lightly rest on the F key without depressing it. The remaining fingers should cover the three remaining tone holes. The thumb will come to rest lightly on the E Key.

Getting A Sound

Make sure to start soaking your reed in a small container of water before you start assembling your instrument. Place the tip of the reed on the center of the bottom lip, then push your lip in with the reed just enough so your lower lip is over your bottom teeth. Your jaw should be pulled back slightly. Roll your top lip over your top teeth and close your mouth around the reed. Your lips should act as a cushion around the reed. Never touch your teeth to the reed. Your reed should be far enough in so that your top lip is almost touching the first wire.

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

Remove the reed and carefully blow out any extra condensation before returning it to the reed case. After removing the bocal, lightly blow air through it to remove any extra condensation. The instrument should be taken apart in the reverse order. After removing each section, run it through with a cloth swab or cleaning rod before returning to the case.

Let's Play!

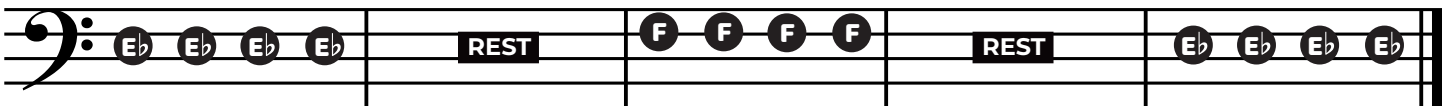
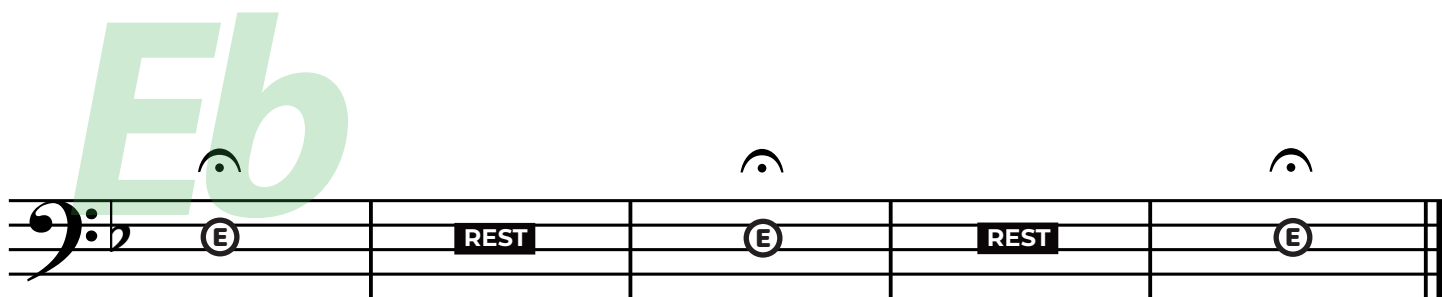
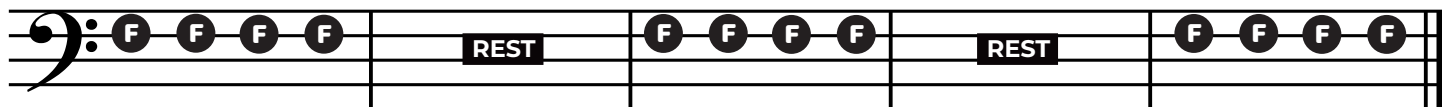
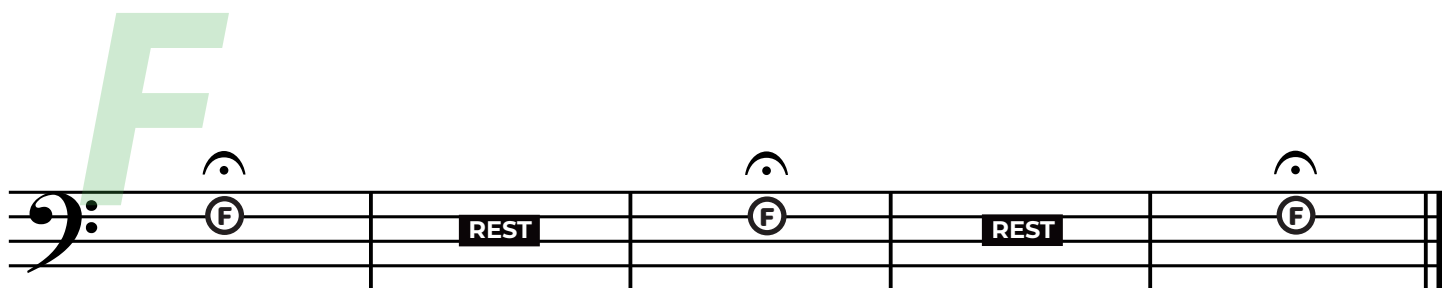


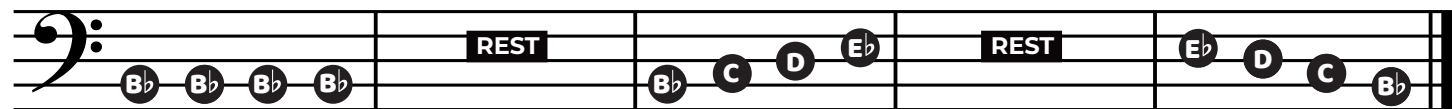
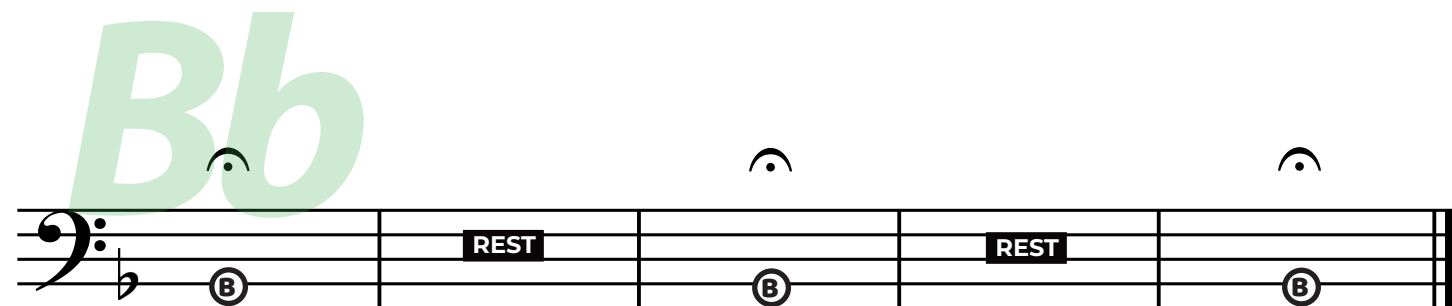
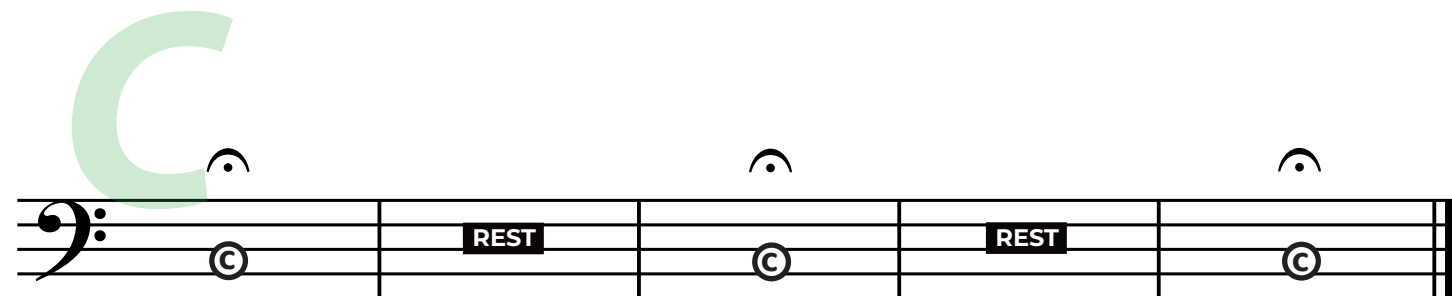
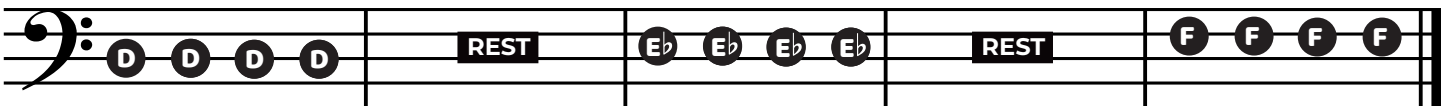
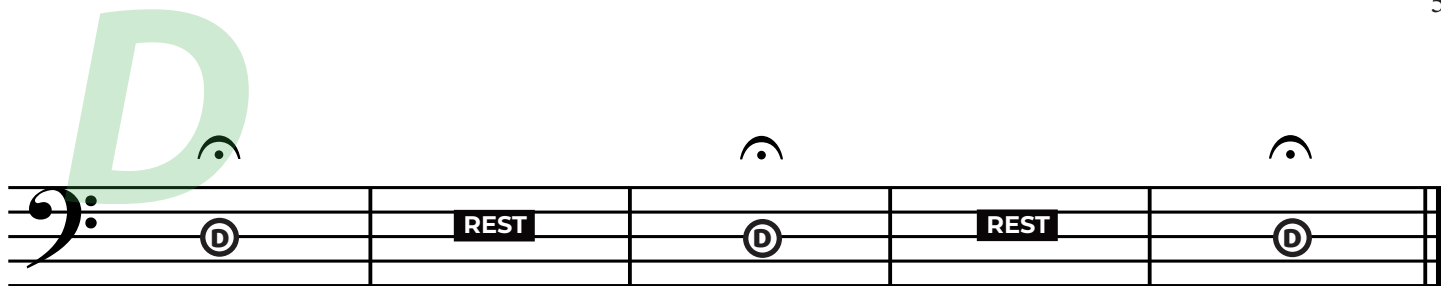
fermata

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

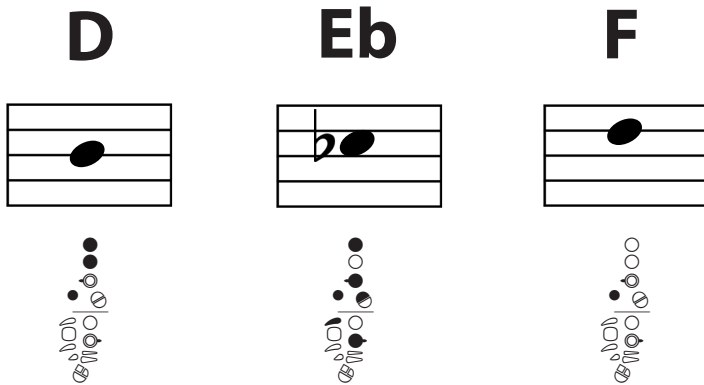
REST

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





Fingerings



mf
mezzo forte
 “medium loud”

music theory



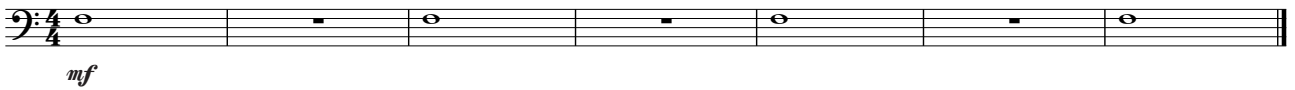
whole note
 sustain sound 4 beats



whole rest
 count 4 beats rest

1

Lift Off



2

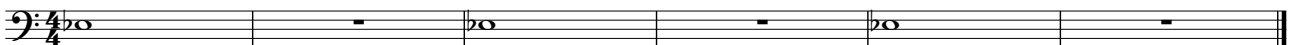
Around The Room



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

3

Stargazing

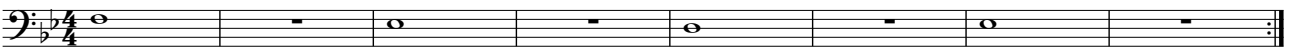


time signature

4 beats in a measure
4 quarter note gets the beat

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**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

Fingerings

Bb

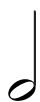


C



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



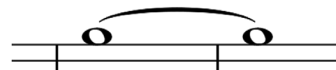
10

Hot Cross Buns

English Folk Song



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

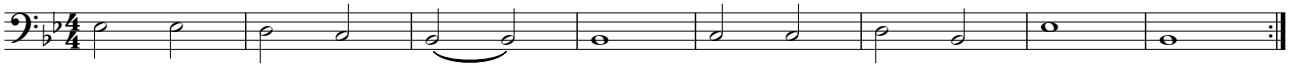


Ties combines the values
of two notes. Don't
tongue the second note

11

Country Walk

French Folk Song



12

Merrily We Roll Along

Charlie Tobias



13

Down By The Station

Traditional



Ola Gjeilo

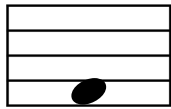
Ola Gjeilo is a Norwegian composer and pianist currently residing in Manhattan. He is primarily a choral **composer**, meaning he writes pieces of music to be sung by choirs. He is best known for his works "Dreamweaver" and "The River".



"Still" by Ola Gjeilo

Fingerings

A



G



,

breath mark
the best spot to take a deep
breath through your mouth

p
piano
“soft”



“half hole”

cover this hole only halfway,
experiment to get it to
sound just right

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

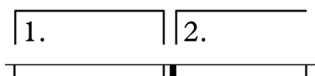




fermata

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



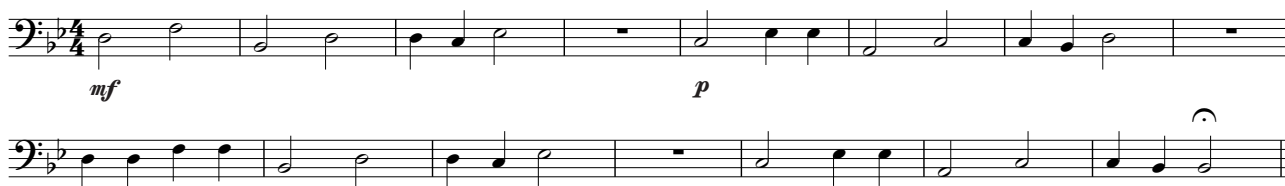
18 Surprise Symphony

Joseph Haydn



19 Mary Ann

Jamaican Folk Song



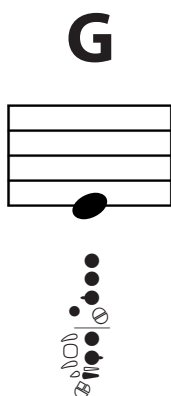
The Kronos Quartet

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

Fingerings



pp
pianissimo
 “very soft”

music theory



cresc.

crescendo
 gradually get louder



decresc.

decrescendo
 gradually get softer

20

Also Sprach Zarathustra

Richard Strauss



21

Ha'Kyo Jung

Korean Folk Song



22

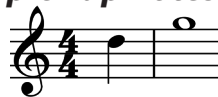
Rondo alla Turca

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



2 beats in a measure
4 quarter note gets the beat

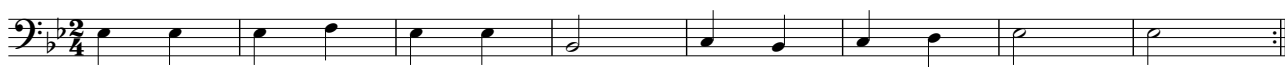
pick up notes



notes that happen
before the first full
measure

23 Good King Wenceslas

Finnish Folk Song



24 The Bridge At Avignon

French Folk Song



25 Up On The Housetop

Benjamin Hanby



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.

26 A Tisket A Tasket

American Folk Song



Fingerings

Ab



Db



C

"common time"

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

music theory

"accidentals"

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

27

Mary Had A Little Lamb

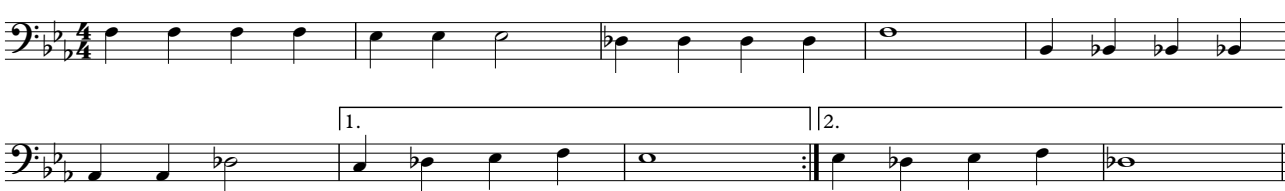
American Folk Song



28

Jolly Old Saint Nicholas

James R. Murray, words by Emily Clark Huntington Miller



29

Love Somebody

Joan Whitney, Alex Kramer

Andante



tempo - how fast or slow to play

Andante
slow

Moderato
medium

Allegro
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

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



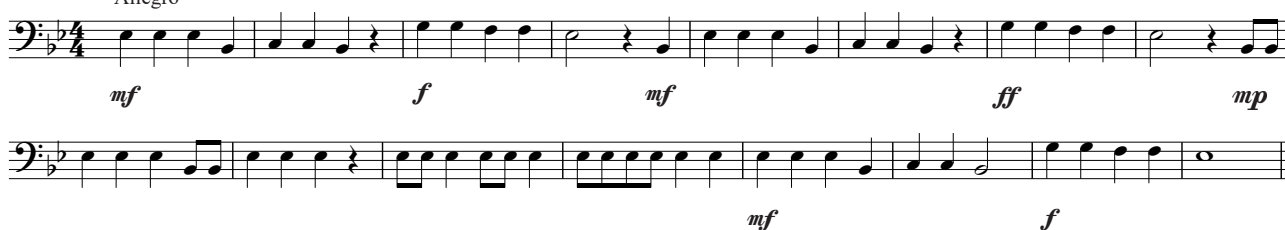
“Cantaloupe Island” by Herbie Hancock

33

Old Macdonald

British Folk Song

Allegro



34

Ezekial Saw The Wheel

African American Spiritual





35

Bonjour Mes Amis

French Folk Song



36

Chiapanecas

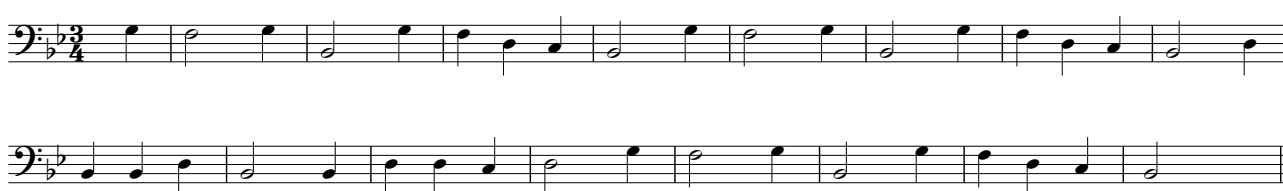
Mexican Folk Song



37

Goodbye Old Paint

Charley Willis



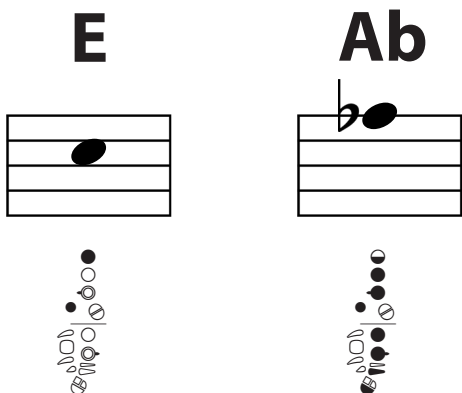
Miles Davis

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

Fingerings



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

Andante



39

Roses

Hispanic Folk Song



40

Oranges and Lemons

English Folk Song

Allegro



articulation - a special way to play a note

tenuto
long

staccato
short

accent
emphasized

41

"Spring" from Four Seasons

Antonio Vivaldi

Allegro



42

It Had To Be You

Isham Jones



43

Minka, Minka

Ukrainian Folk Song

Allegro



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

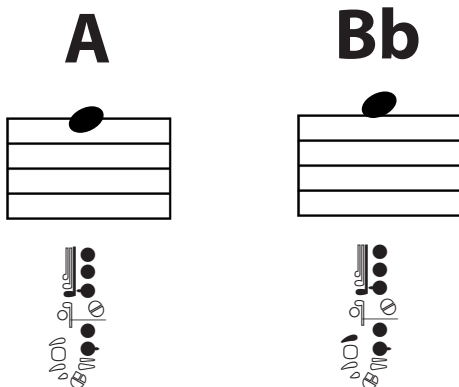


"Bye, Bye Birdie" by Charles Strouse



"Freddie Freeloader" by Miles Davis

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!

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

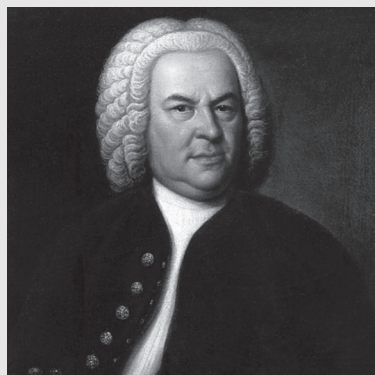
American Folk Song



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.

51

Musette

Allegro

*"Maiden Voyage" by Herbie Hancock*

"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

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

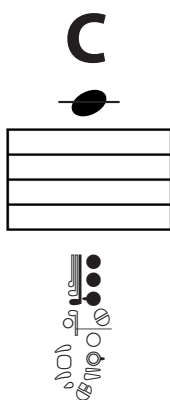
*Bette Midler*

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" written by Amanda McBroom

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

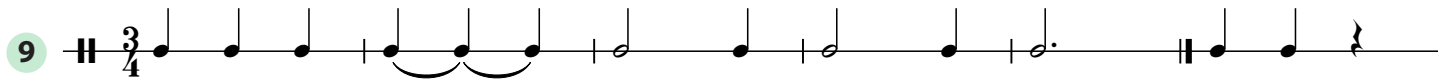
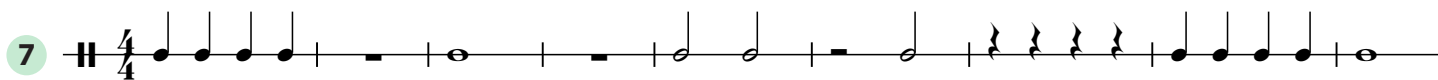
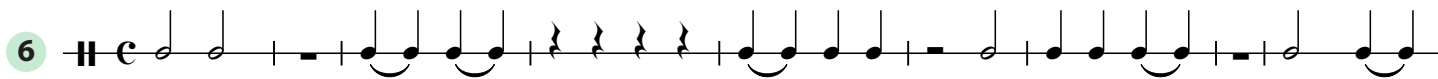
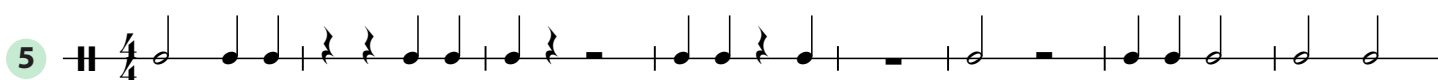
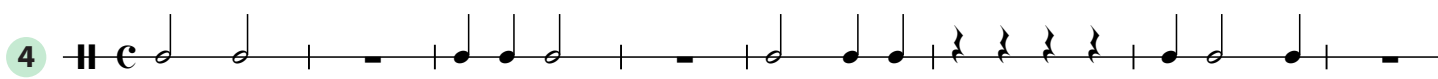
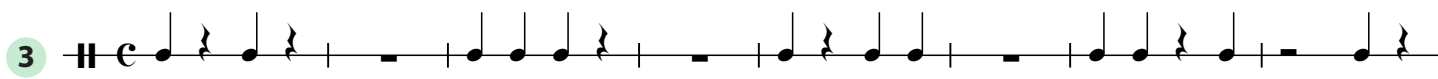
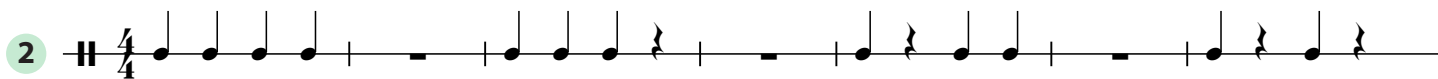
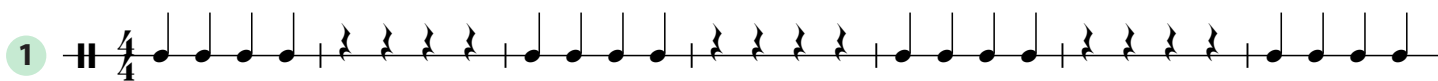
George M. Cohan

**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***

Rhythm Reading



5 Note Scales

D Major Scale



G Major Scale



C Major Scale



F Major Scale



Bb Major Scale



Eb Major Scale



Ab Major Scale



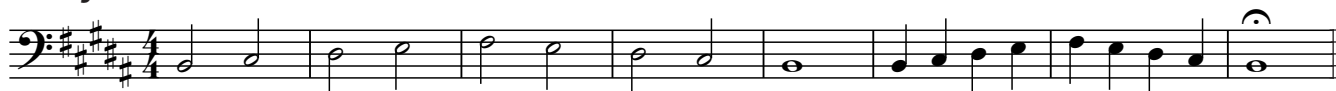
Db Major Scale



Gb Major Scale



B Major Scale



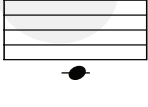
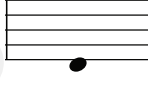

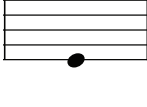

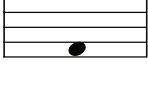
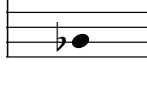
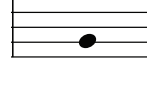
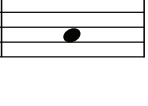

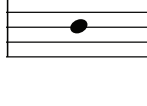

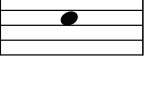
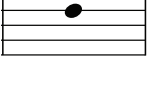

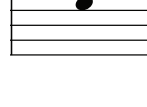

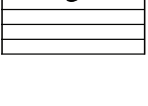
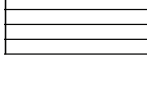
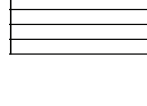
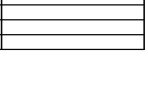
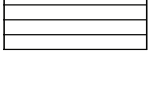
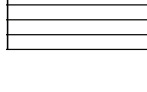
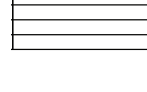
E Major Scale




A Major Scale



Bassoon Fingering Chart

E 	F 	F# Gb 	G 
G# Ab 	A 	Bb 	B 
C 	C# Db 	D 	Eb 
E 	F 	F# Gb 	G 
G# Ab 	A 	Bb 	B 
C 	C# Db 	D 	Eb 

 **"half hole"**
 cover this hole only halfway,
 experiment to get it to
 sound just right