

BASS CLARINET

**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. (If your bass clarinet is in two sections) Hold the lower section in your hand avoiding putting pressure on any keys or rods. Gently twist the bell onto the cork of the lower section. Gently twist the upper section and lower sections together, making sure the bridge key connects and again avoiding putting pressure on any key or rods to avoid damage. Gently twist the bell onto the end of the lower section while holding the key down on the bell. The bell opening should be in line with the line of keys on the front of the instrument. Insert the end pin and adjust to a comfortable height.

Insert the mouthpiece to the neck and attach the neck to the top of the top joint. The opening of the mouthpiece should be facing straight down. You may need to adjust your end pin again for a comfortable playing position.

## Holding Your Instrument

The side of your right thumb should be positioned under the thumb rest. Your first three fingers in each hand cover the tone holes. Make sure to use the fleshy “pad” of each finger, not the fingertip, to cover each tone hole. Keep your elbows out naturally. The instrument rests on the end peg.

## 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 in line with the tip of the mouthpiece. 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 and corners of your mouth firm.

## ***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. Shake out any extra moisture from the neck and bell sections before returning them to the case. Put the swab into the bottom end of the instrument and pull through the top end. (If your bass clarinet is in two sections, carefully twist them apart being sure to keep your palms away from bending any of the longer keys.) Always make sure each section is dry before returning to the case.

# Let's Play!



## *fermata*

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

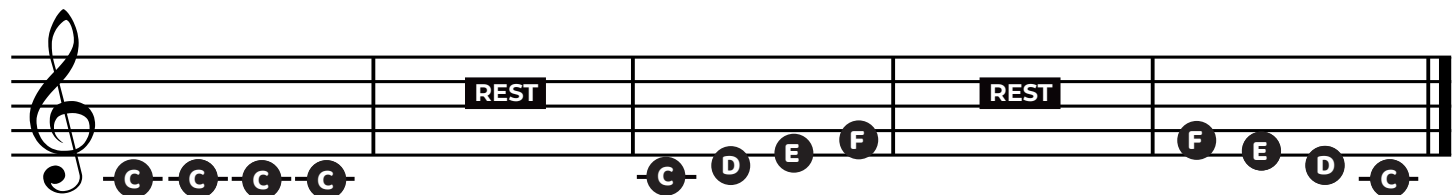
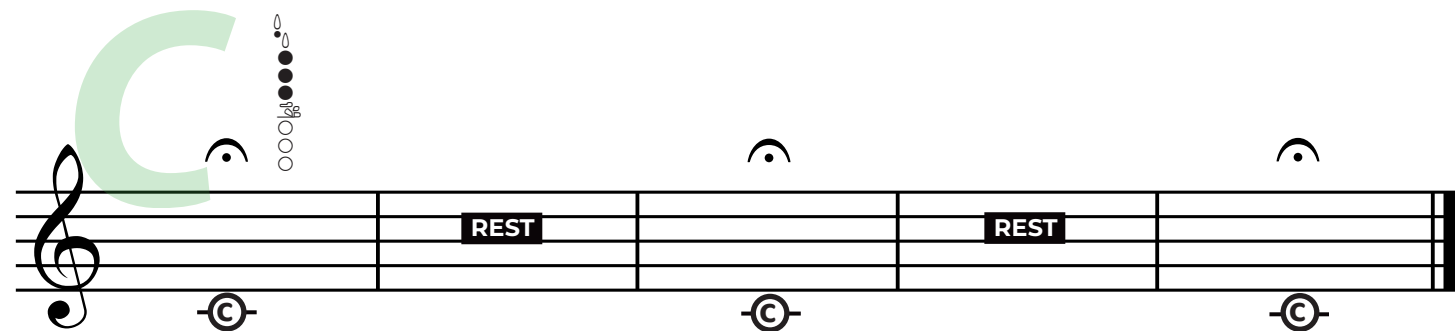
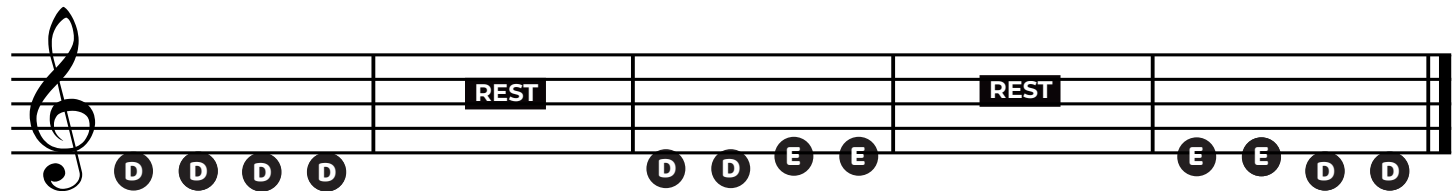
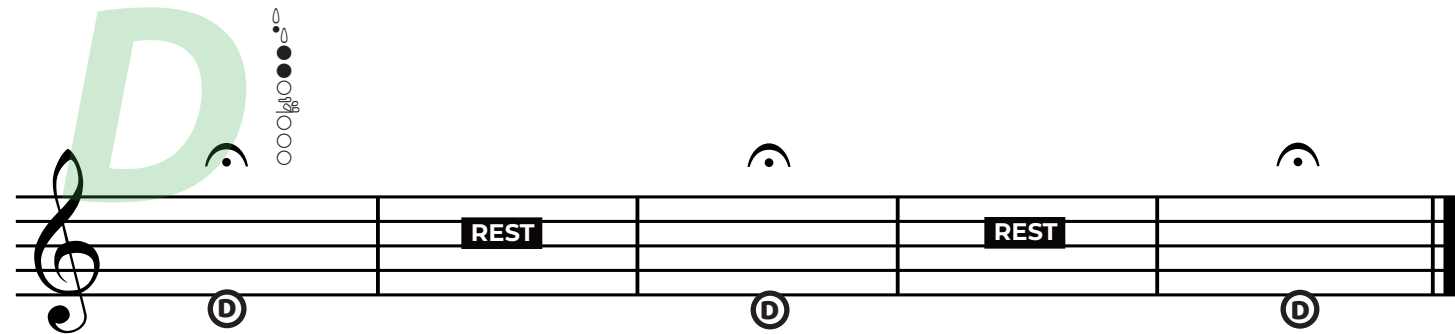
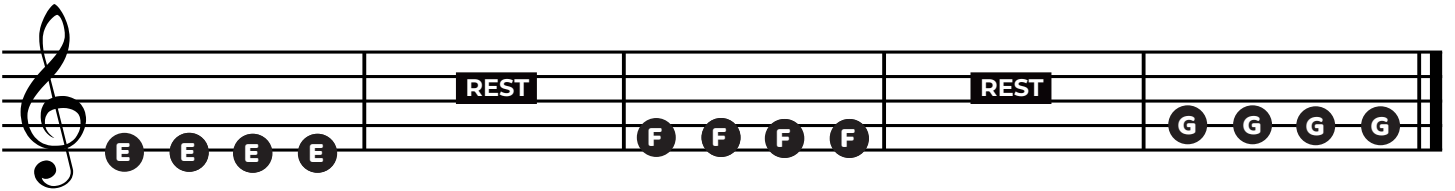
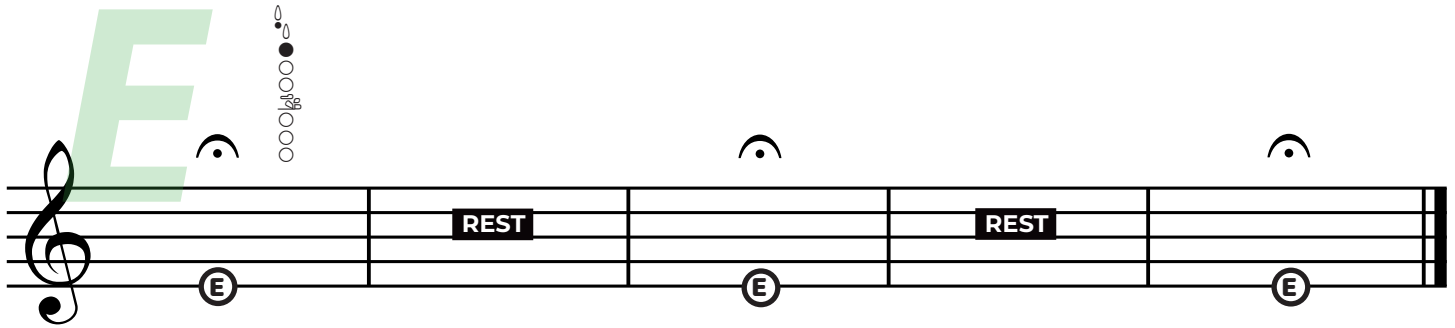
## REST

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

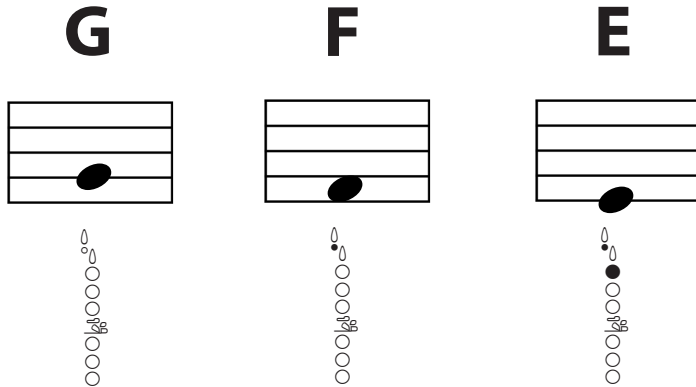
**G**

**F**





# Fingerings



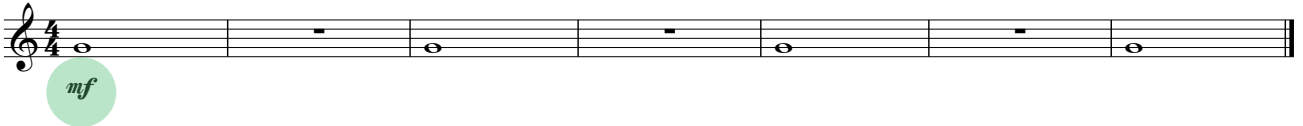
*mf*  
**mezzo forte**  
 "medium loud"

## music theory

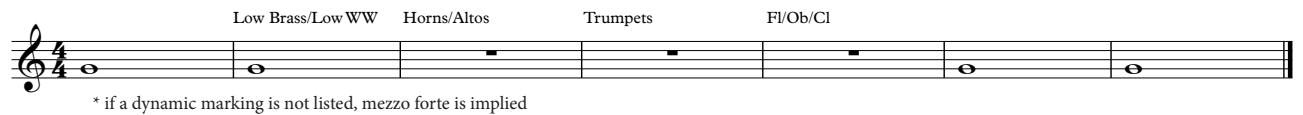
 **whole note**  
 sustain sound 4 beats

 **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



**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



5

#### Interstellar



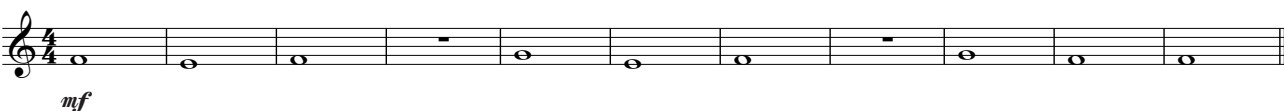
6

#### Memory

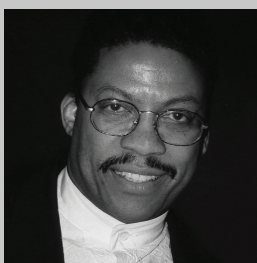


7

#### 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."

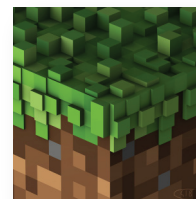
**"Watermelon Man"**  
by Herbie Hancock



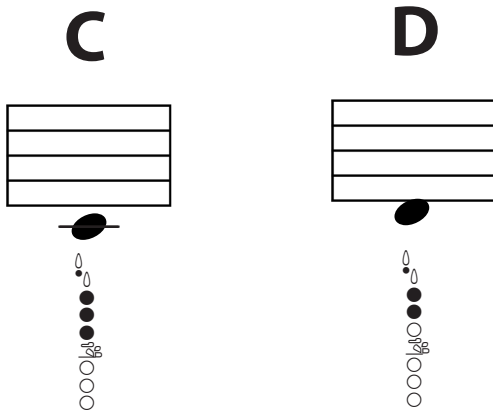
### "Subwoofer Lullaby"

from the Minecraft Soundtrack

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



# Fingerings



*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

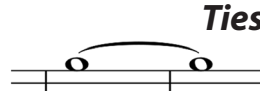
### Hot Cross Buns

English Folk Song



**time signature**

**4** 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**

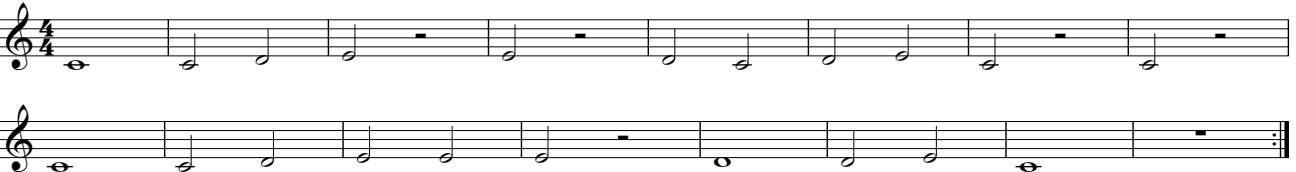
Charlie Tobias



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

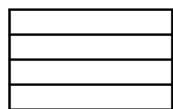
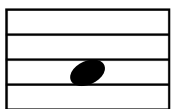
**"Hey Ya!"**

by Outkast (2003)

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



# Fingerings

**B**

**A**


**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**

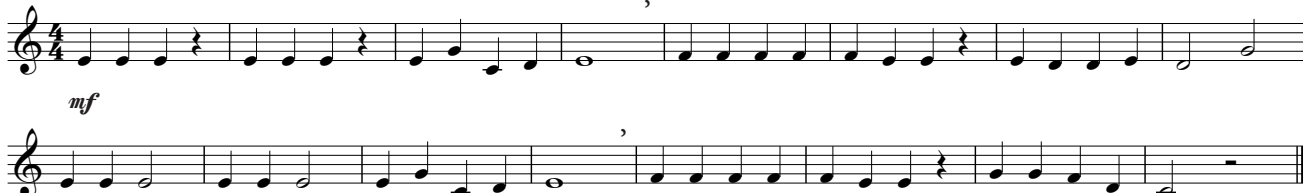
### Stodola Pumpa

Czech Folk Song


**15**

### Jingle Bells

James Lord Pierpont


**16**

### Go Tell Aunt Rhody

American Folk Song

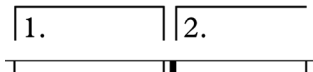




**fermata**

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



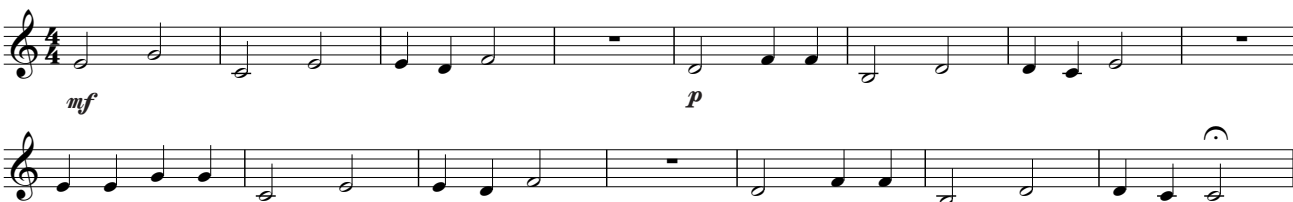
## 18 Surprise Symphony

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"

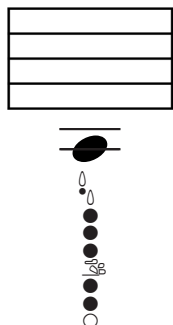
by Taylor Swift (2017)

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



# Fingerings

**A**



*pp*  
pianissimo  
"very soft"

## music theory

*cresc.*

**crescendo**  
gradually get louder

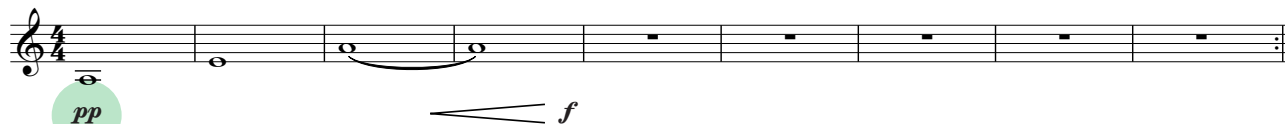
*decresc.*

**decrescendo**  
gradually get softer

20

**Also Sprach Zarathustra**

Richard Strauss



21

**Ha'Kyo Jung**

Korean Folk Song



22

**Rondo alla Turca**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



23

**Good King Wenceslas**

Finnish Folk Song





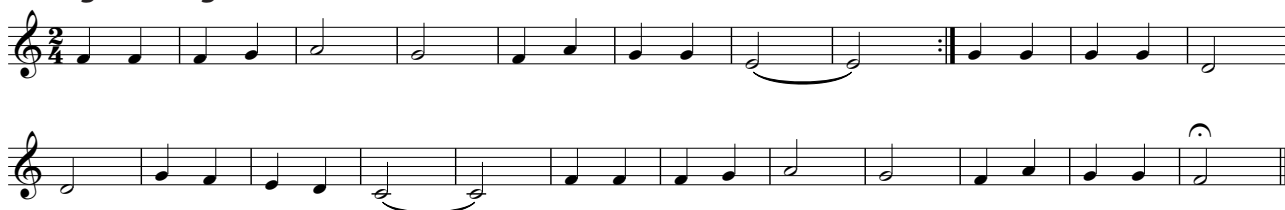
**pick up notes**

notes that happen  
before the first full  
measure

24

**The Bridge At Avignon**

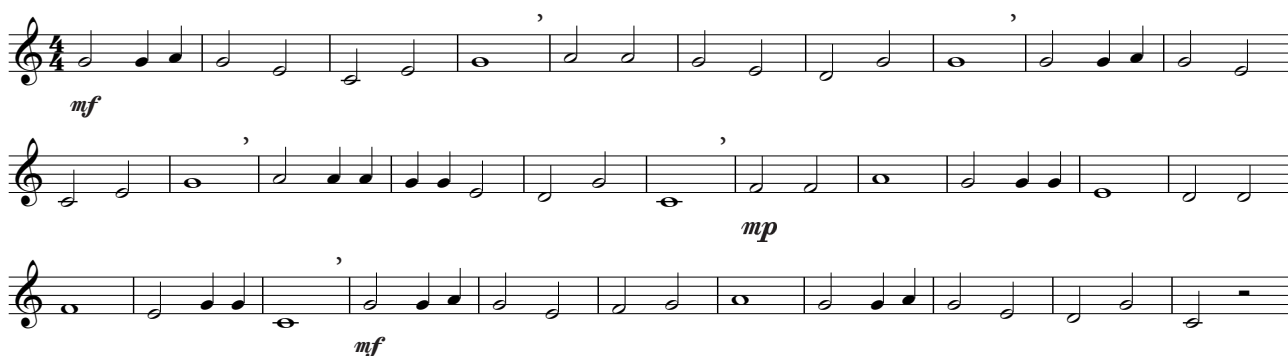
French Folk Song



25

**Up On The Housetop**

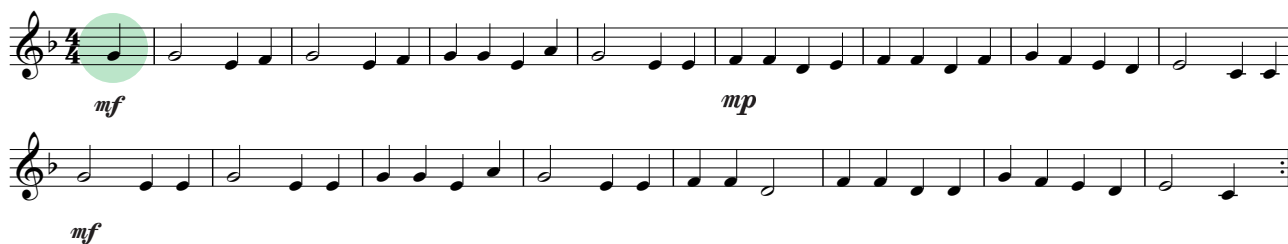
Benjamin Hanby



26

**A Tisket A Tasket**

American Folk Song

**Aretha Franklin**

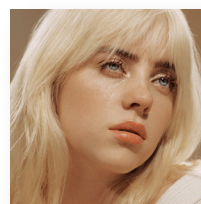
Aretha Franklin was a vocalist and pianist who is still regarded today as the "Queen of Soul." **Soul** is a style of music that combines elements of gospel, rhythm and blues and jazz and became popular in the U.S. in the 1950s and 60s.

**"A Tisket A Tasket"**  
by Aretha Franklin



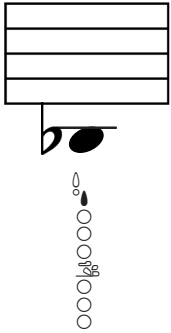
**"You Should See Me In A Crown"**  
by Billie Eilish (2019)

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

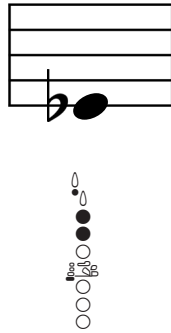


# Fingerings

**Bb**



**Eb**



**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

27

### Mary Had A Little Lamb

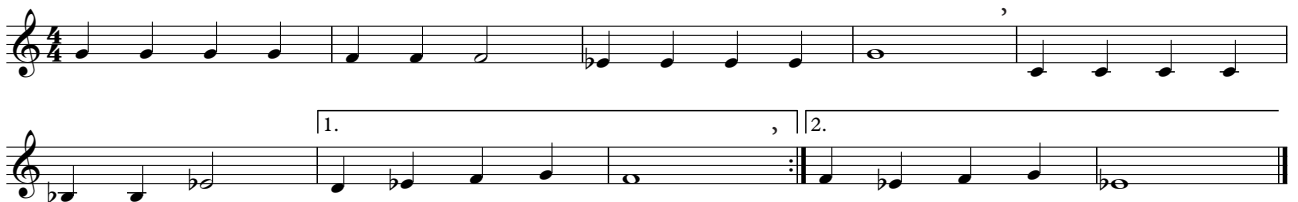
American Folk Song



28

### Jolly Old Saint Nicholas

James R. Murray, words by Emily Clark Huntington Miller



29

### Love Somebody

Joan Whitney, Alex Kramer



## 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

Allegro



31

### London Bridge

English Folk Song

Moderato



32

### Amigas

Hispanic Folk Song

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



## "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

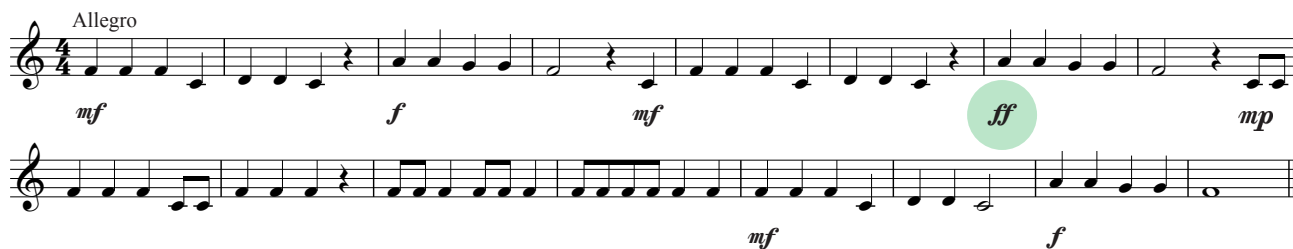


## “Cantaloupe Island” by Herbie Hancock

33

### Old Macdonald

British Folk Song



34

### Ezekial Saw The Wheel

African American Spiritual





35

**Bonjour Mes Amis**

French Folk Song



36

**Chiapanecas**

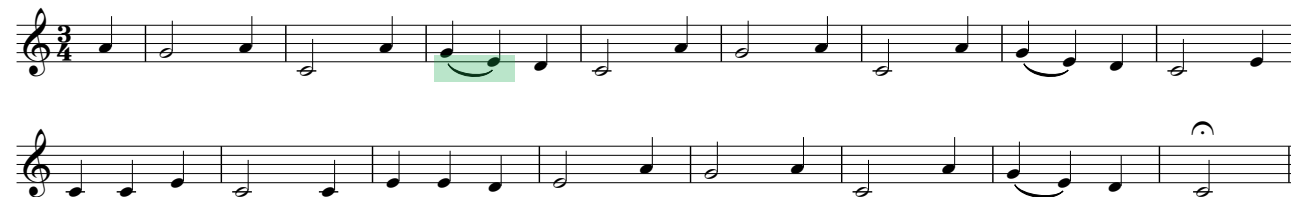
Mexican Folk Song



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



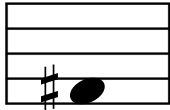
**"We Will Rock You"**  
by Queen (1977)

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

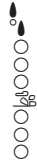
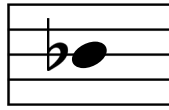


# Fingerings

**F#**



**Bb**



*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

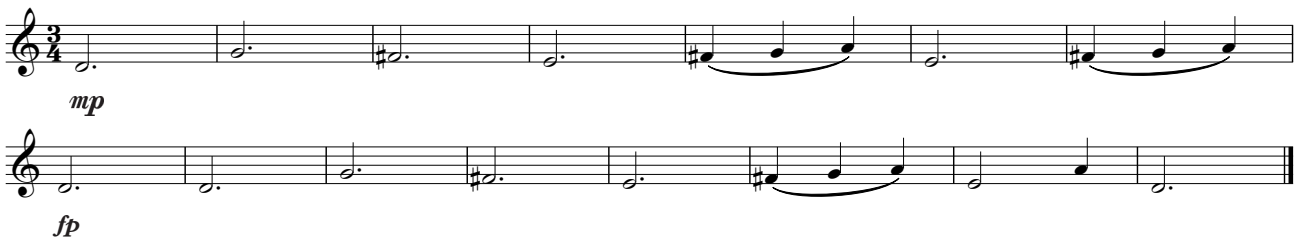
Johannes Brahms



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

Antonio Vivaldi

Allegro



# 42

## It Had To Be You

Isham Jones



# 43

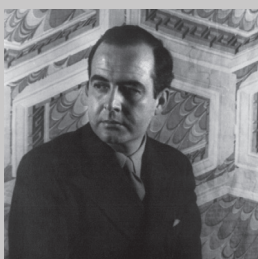
## Minka, Minka

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



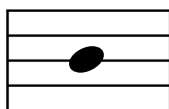
**"Star Wars Theme"**  
by John Williams (1977)

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



# Fingerings

B



C



*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



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



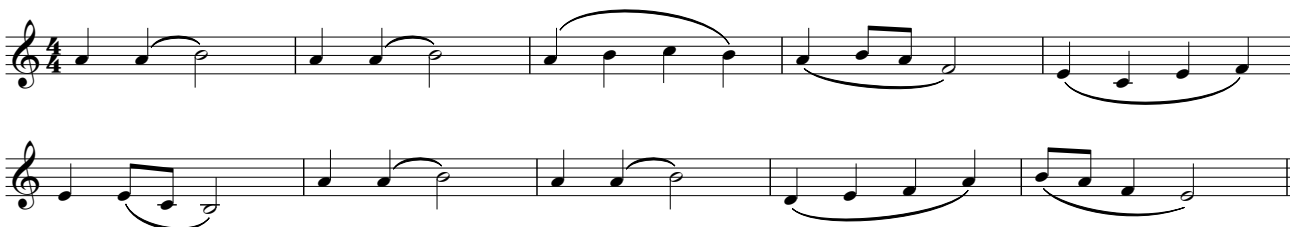
# 49 Skip To My Lou

American Folk Song



# 50 Sakura

Japanese Folk Song

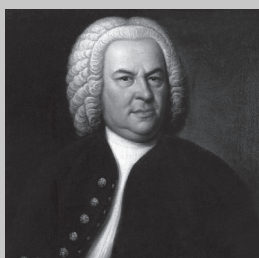


# 51 Musette

Allegro



## Johann Sebastian Bach



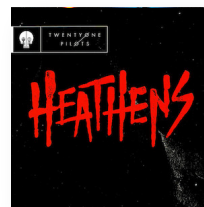
Johann Sebastian Bach was a German composer and probably the most recognizable composer of the Baroque Era. The **Baroque Era** was the musical time period in Western Music between 1600-1750 and happened right before the Classical Era.

**"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



58

**Arirang**

Korean Folk Song



59

**New World Symphony**

Anton Dvorak



60

**Kum Ba Yah**

African American Spiritual

Andante



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



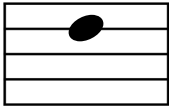
**"Married Life"**  
from the Up Soundtrack (2009)

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



# Fingerings

**D**



## 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

James P. Johnson

Allegro

To Coda



63

### Aloha Oe

Lili'uokalani



64

### Loch Lomond

Scottish Folk Song



# 65 Maple Leaf Rag

Scott Joplin



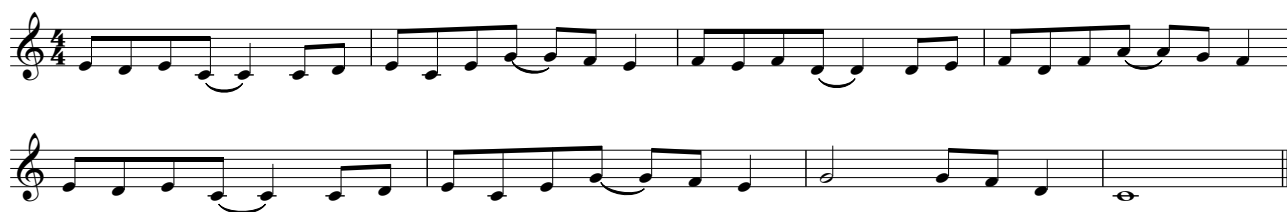
# 66 El Juego Chirimbolo

Spanish Folk Song



# 67 Rock A My Soul

African American Spiritual



# 68 Give My Regards To Broadway

George M. Cohan



## Billie Holiday



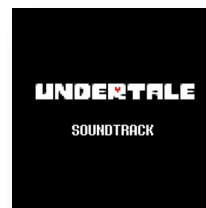
Billie Holiday was a celebrated jazz and swing vocalist who would influence pop singing for decades to come. Her vocal style was greatly influenced by the sounds of jazz instrumentalists.

### "God Bless The Child" by Billie Holiday

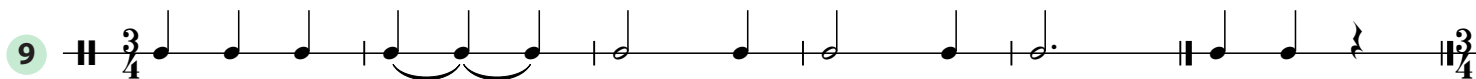
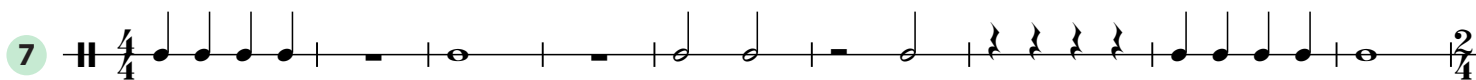
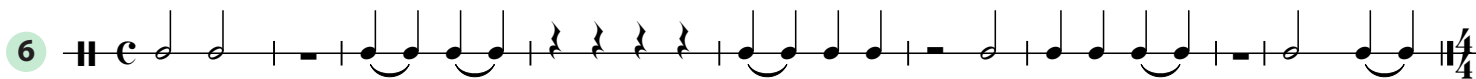
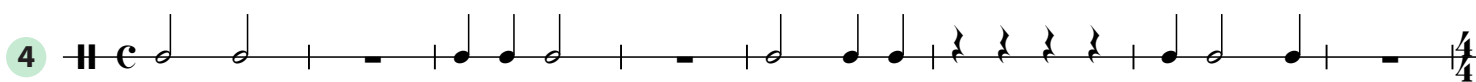
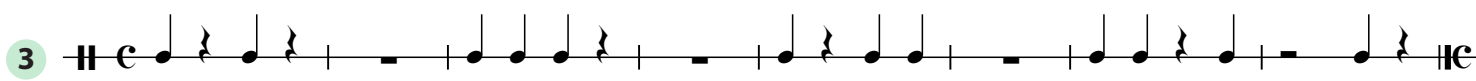
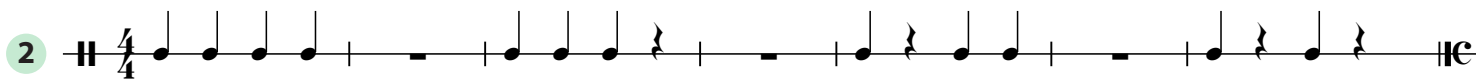


### "Megalovania" by Toby Fox (2015)

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



# Rhythm Reading



# 5 Note Scales

## **E Major Scale (D Concert)**



## **A Major Scale (G Concert)**



## **D Major Scale (C Concert)**



## **G Major Scale (F Concert)**



## **C Major Scale (Bb Concert)**



## **F Major Scale (Eb Concert)**



## **Bb Major Scale (Ab Concert)**



## **Eb Major Scale (Db Concert)**



## **Ab Major Scale (Gb Concert)**



## **Db Major Scale (B Concert)**



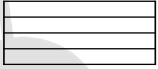

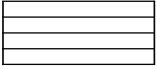

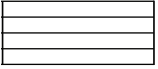

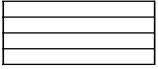

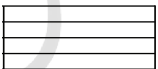

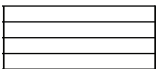

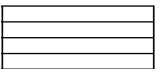

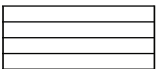

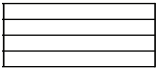

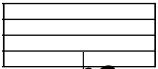

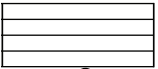
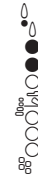
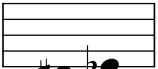
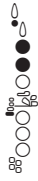
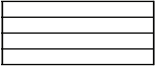
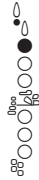

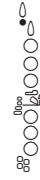

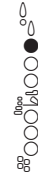

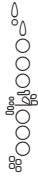

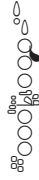



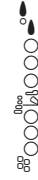




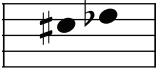



## **F# Major Scale (E Concert)**



## **B Major Scale (A Concert)**



# Clarinet Fingering Chart

<b>E</b>  	<b>F</b>  	<b>F# Gb</b>  	<b>G</b>  
<b>G# Ab</b>  	<b>A</b>  	<b>A# Bb</b>  	<b>B</b>  
<b>C</b>  	<b>C# Db</b>  	<b>D</b>  	<b>D# Eb</b>  
<b>E</b>  	<b>F</b>  	<b>F# Gb</b>  	<b>G</b>  
<b>G# Ab</b>  	<b>A</b>  	<b>A# Bb</b>  	<b>B</b>  
<b>C</b>  	<b>C# Db</b>  	<b>D</b>  	<b>D# Eb</b> 