

TUBA

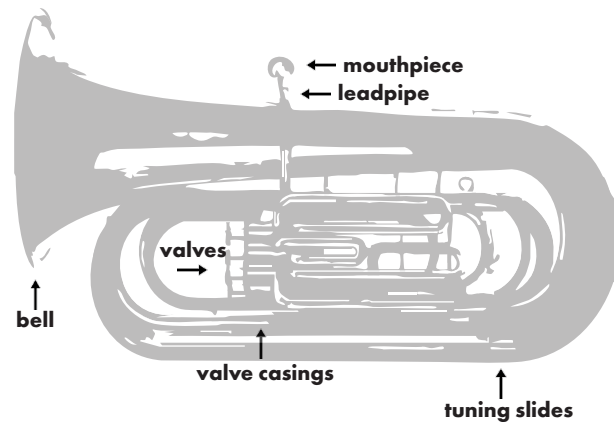
T H E
LET'S PLAY
BAND
METHOD

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

The tuba should rest in your lap so that your mouthpiece reaches your mouth comfortably. Shorter or younger players can rest the tuba on the chair between their legs. Lightly twist the mouthpiece into the leadpipe. Curve the first three fingers of your right hand naturally and place your fingertips on top of the first three valves. Wrap your left arm around the bottom of the instrument. Your hand can grip the third valve slide or the tubing next to this slide.

Holding Your Instrument

Rest the tuba on your lap with the lead pipe facing toward you. The fingertips will rest on the tips of the valves and the thumb should rest under the nearest pipe section or thumb ring if available, keeping your wrist straight and curving your fingers naturally. Be sure you can comfortably reach the mouthpiece. The legs may need to be farther apart or the instrument may need to rest on the seat to achieve a comfortable angle.

Getting A Sound

Lick your lips. Close your mouth naturally. Lower your jaw slightly to separate your teeth. Place the mouthpiece lightly up against the center of your lips. Don't push in very hard. Breathe in through the corners of your mouth, keeping your mouthpiece anchored to your top lip. Blow through your lips while keeping them lightly together.

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

Before putting your instrument away for the day, push in all the tuning slides. Pull them out the appropriate amount each day when you first get out your instrument. This will prevent them from getting stuck. Dark, valve oil residue will build up over time on your valves. This can be cleaned off periodically with a treated cotton flannel cloth. For rotary valves, applying a couple dots of valve oil at the base of the rotor can help keep them moving smoothly.

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!

F

○○○ ○

REST REST

F F F

REST REST

F F F F F F F F F F F F

E_b

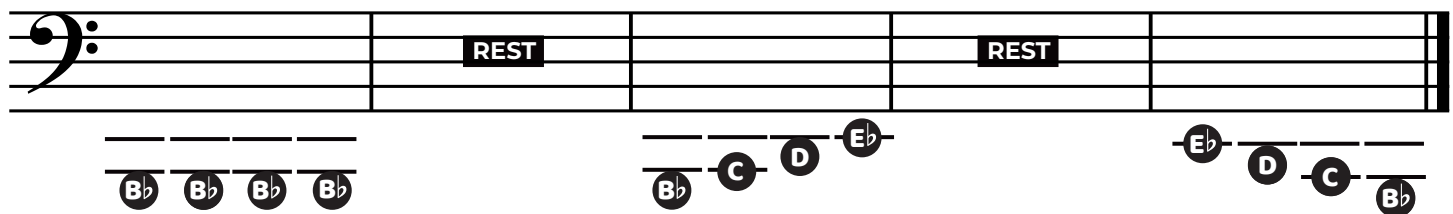
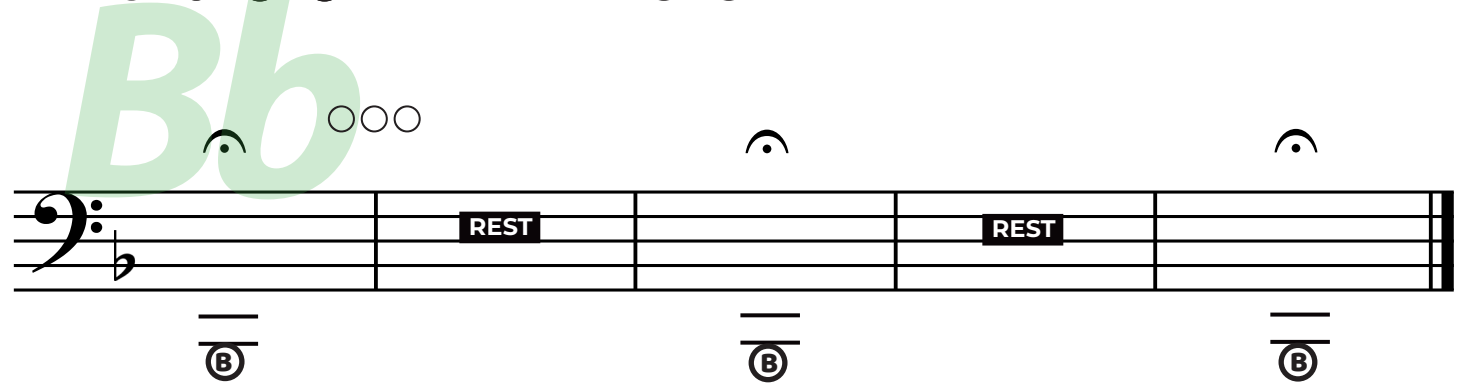
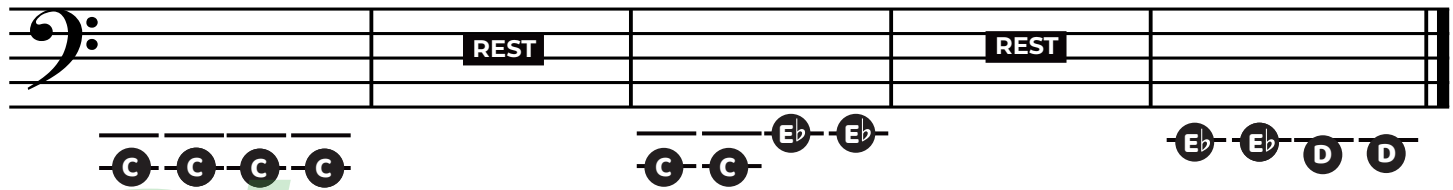
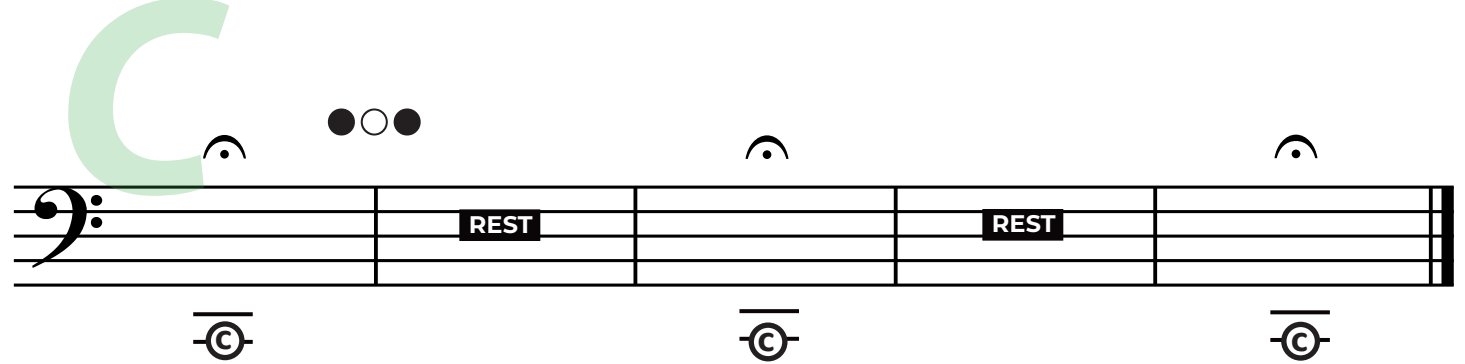
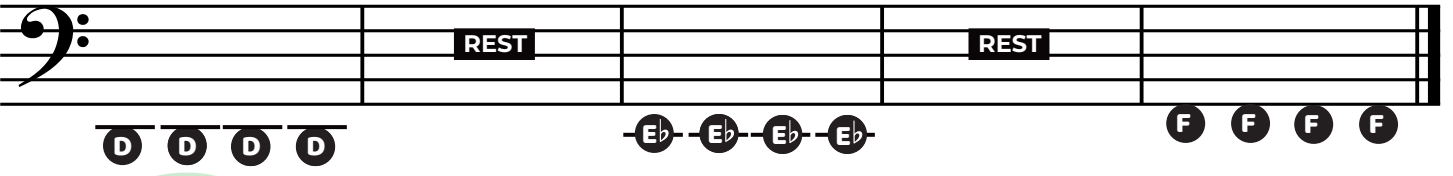
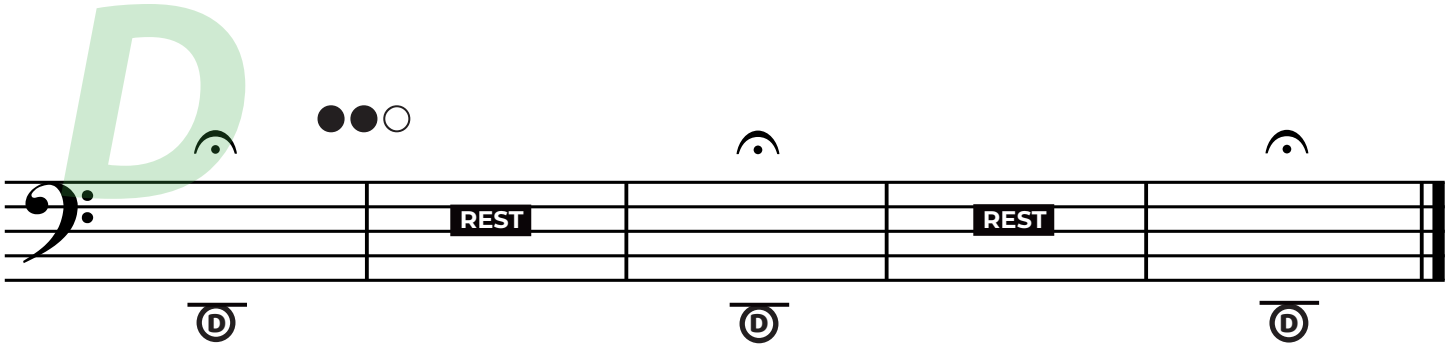
● ○ ○

REST REST

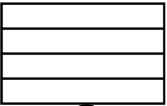
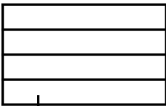

E_b E_b E_b E_b

REST REST

E_b E_b E_b E_b F F F F E_b E_b E_b E_b



Fingerings

F	E_b	D
		
○○○	●○○	●●○

mf
mezzo forte
 “medium loud”

music theory

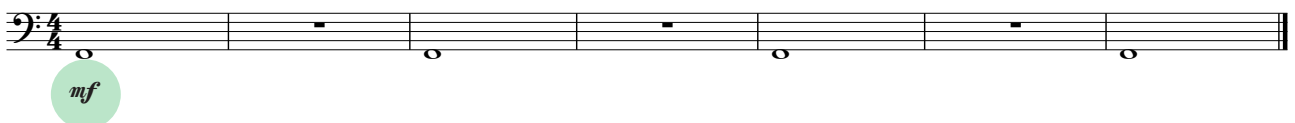
 **whole note**
 sustain sound 4 beats

 **whole rest**
 count 4 beats rest

1

Lift Off

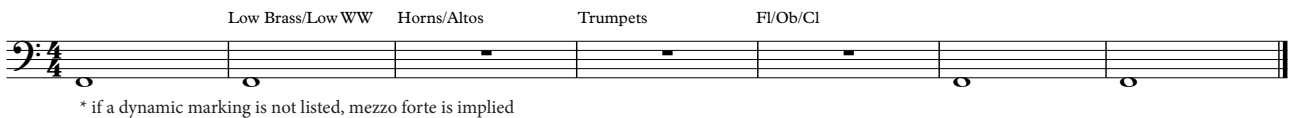




2

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

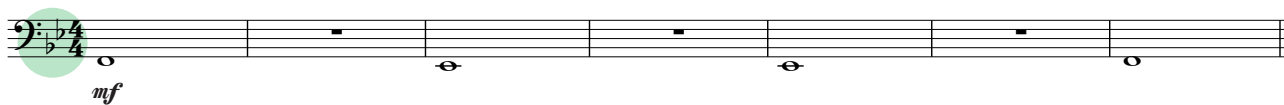
key signature



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



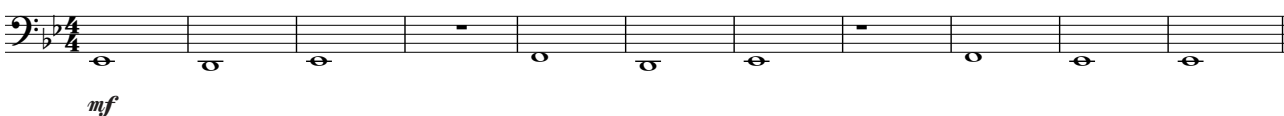
6

Memory

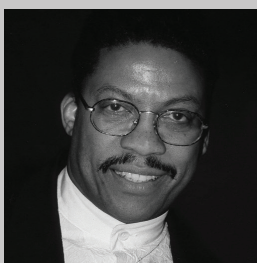


7

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."

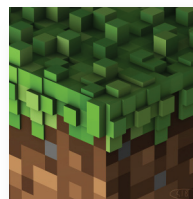
"Watermelon Man"
by Herbie Hancock



"Subwoofer Lullaby"

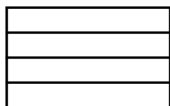
from the Minecraft Soundtrack

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

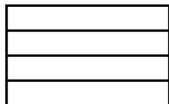


Fingerings

Bb

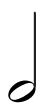


C



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



time signature

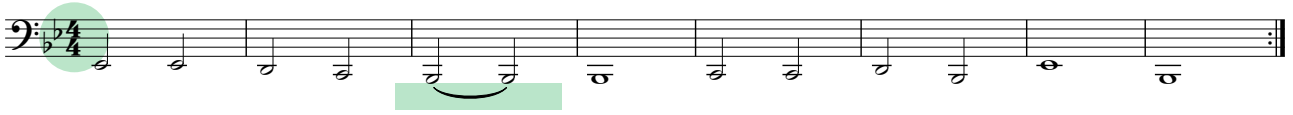
4 beats in a measure
4 quarter note gets the beat



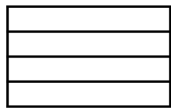
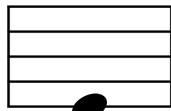
11

Country Walk

French Folk Song



Fingerings

A

G


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

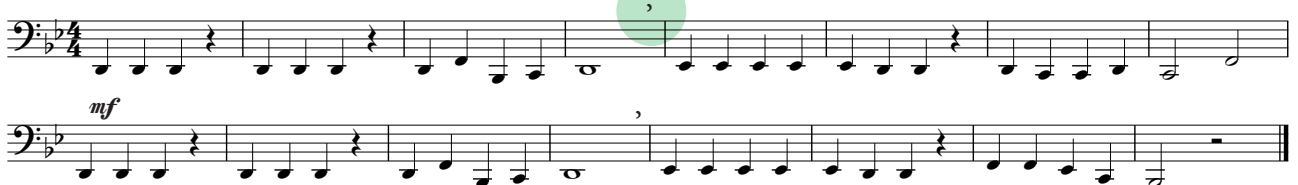
Stodola Pumpa

Czech Folk Song


15

Jingle Bells

James Lord Pierpont


16

Go Tell Aunt Rhody

American Folk Song

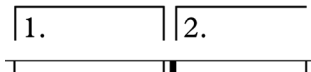




fermata

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



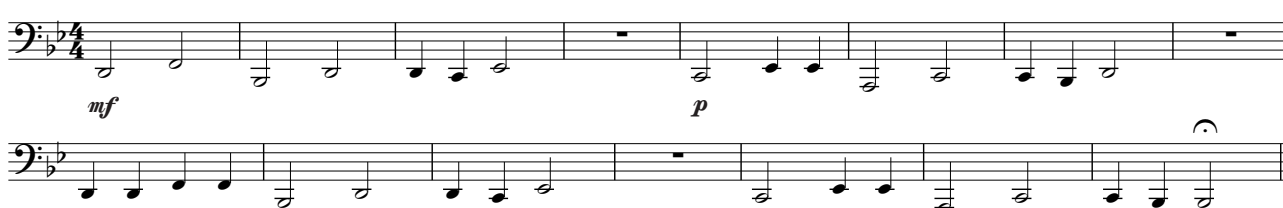
18 Surprise Symphony

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"

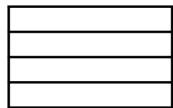
by Taylor Swift (2017)

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



Fingerings

G



pp
pianissimo
"very soft"

music theory



cresc.

crescendo
gradually get louder



decresc.

decrescendo
gradually get softer

20

Also Sprach Zarathustra

Richard Strauss

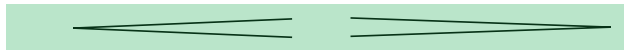


pp

21

Ha'Kyo Jung

Korean Folk Song



22

Rondo alla Turca

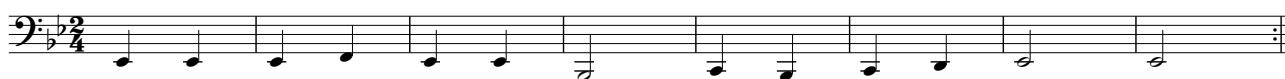
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



23

Good King Wenceslas

Finnish Folk Song



2 beats in a measure
4 quarter note gets the beat

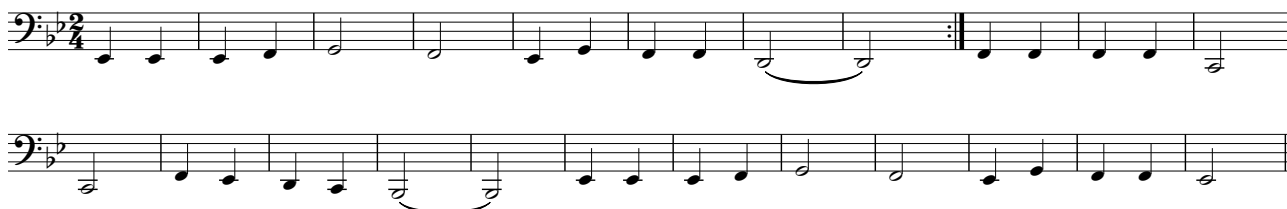
pick up notes



notes that happen
before the first full
measure

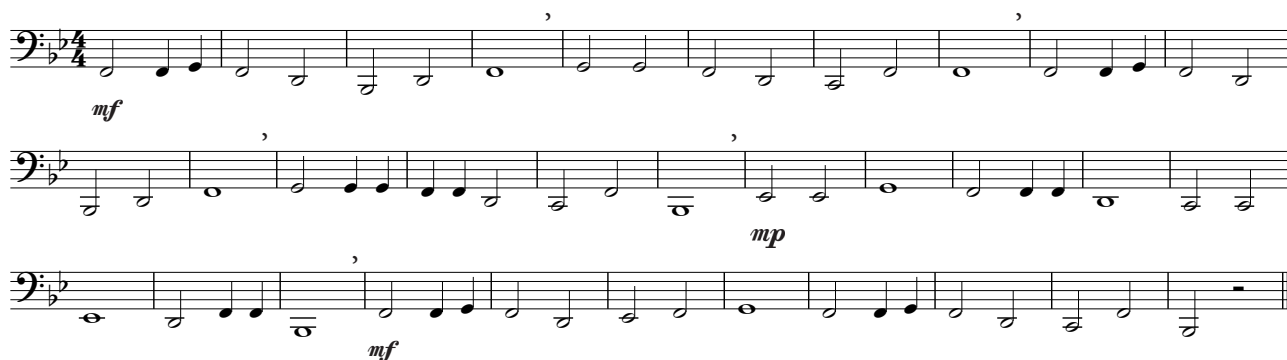
24 The Bridge At Avignon

French Folk Song



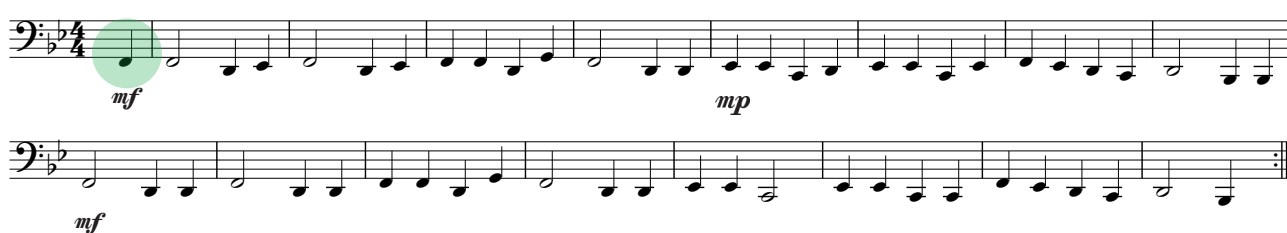
25 Up On The Housetop

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.

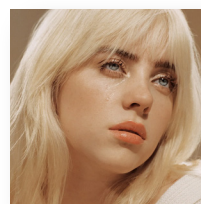
"A Tisket A Tasket"
by Aretha Franklin



"You Should See Me In A Crown"

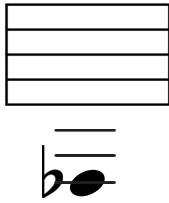
by Billie Eilish (2019)

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

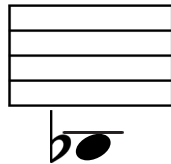


Fingerings

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

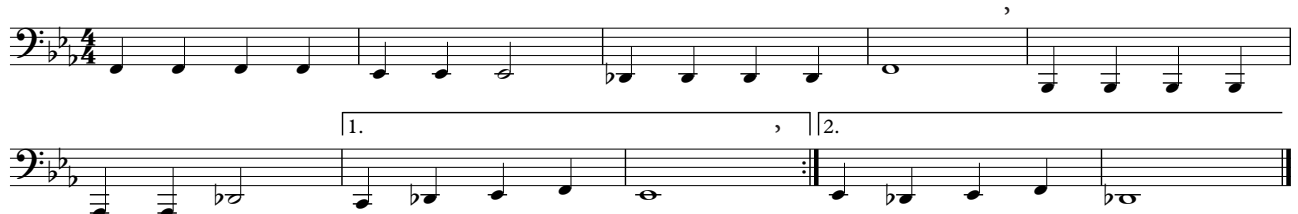
American Folk Song



28

Jolly Old Saint Nicholas

James R. Murray, words by Emily Clark Huntington Miller



29

Love Somebody

Joan Whitney, Alex Kramer



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



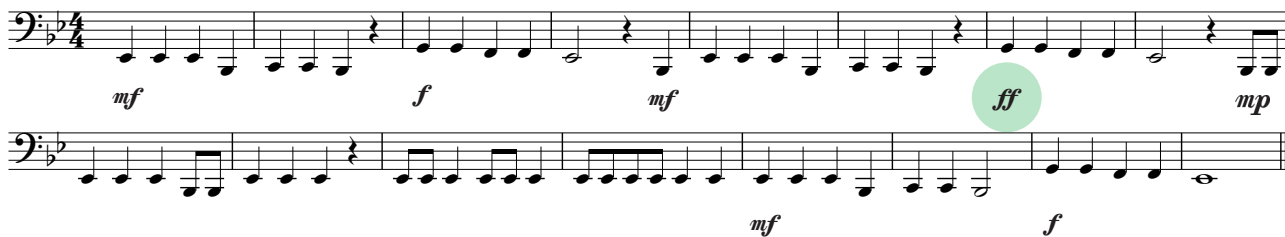
“Cantaloupe Island” by Herbie Hancock

33

Old Macdonald

Allegro

British Folk Song



34

Ezekiel 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*

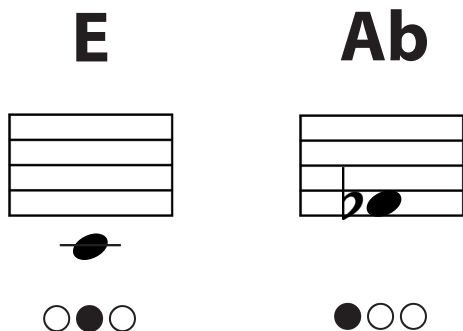


"We Will Rock You"
by Queen (1977)

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



Fingerings



sforzando
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

Andante

Johannes Brahms



39

Roses

Hispanic Folk Song



40

Oranges and Lemons

Allegro

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

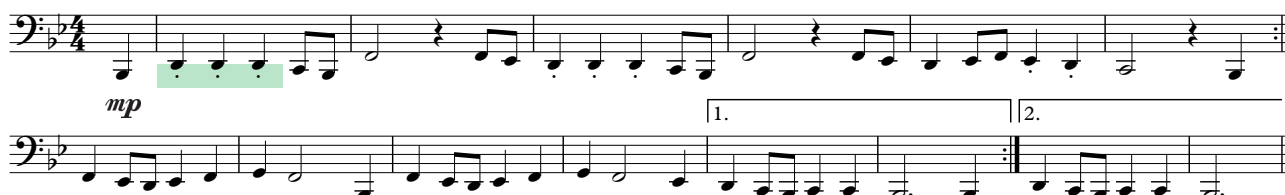
accent
emphasized

41

"Spring" from Four Seasons

Allegro

Antonio Vivaldi



42

It Had To Be You

Isham Jones

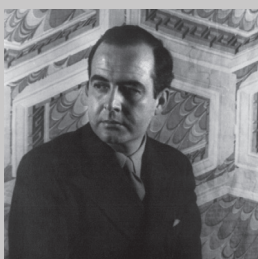


43

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

A

Bb


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

Andante

Edvard Grieg


46

Frere Jacques

French Folk Song



47 Academic Festival Overture

Johannes Brahms



48 Lo Yisa Goy

Israeli Folk Song



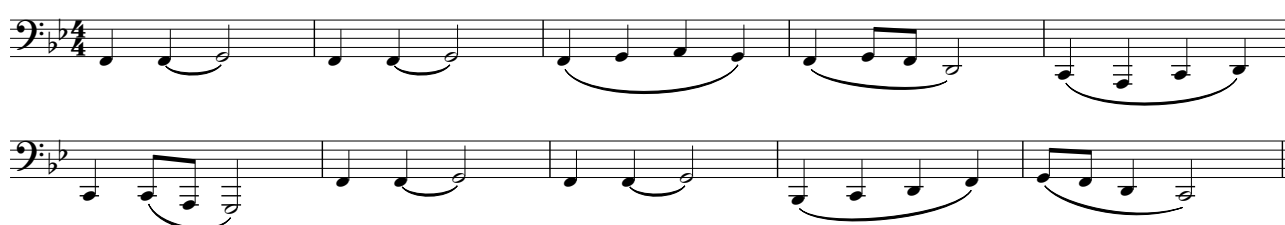
49 Skip To My Lou

American Folk Song



50 Sakura

Japanese Folk Song

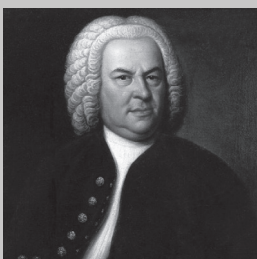


51 Musette

Allegro



Johann Sebastian Bach



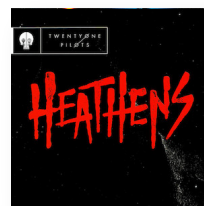
Johann Sebastian Bach was a German composer and probably the most recognizable composer of the Baroque Era. The **Baroque Era** was the musical time period in Western Music between 1600-1750 and happened right before the Classical Era.

"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

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



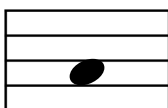
"Married Life"
from the *Up* Soundtrack (2009)

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



Fingerings

C



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



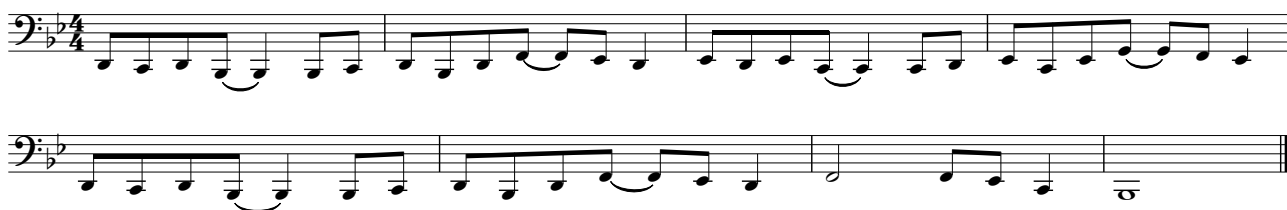
66 El Juego Chirimbolo

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.

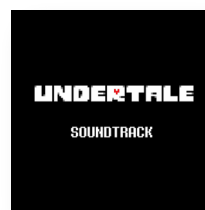
"God Bless The Child"
by Billie Holiday



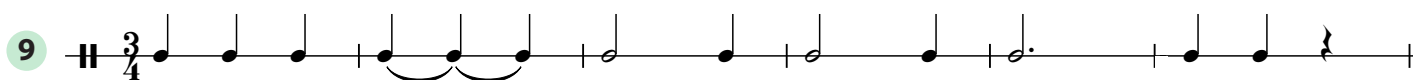
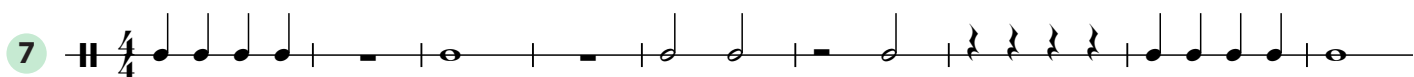
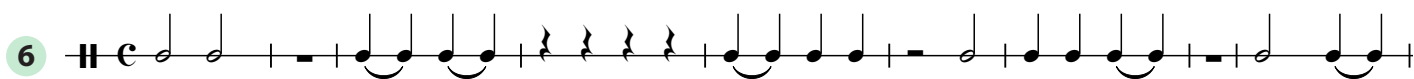
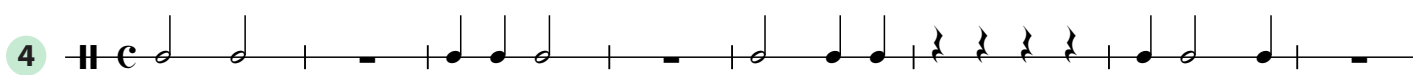
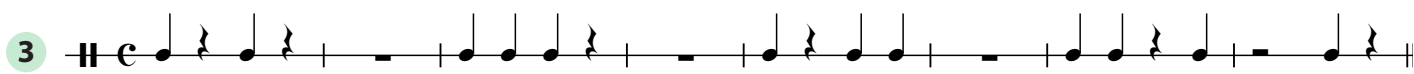
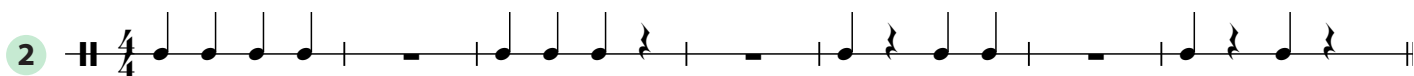
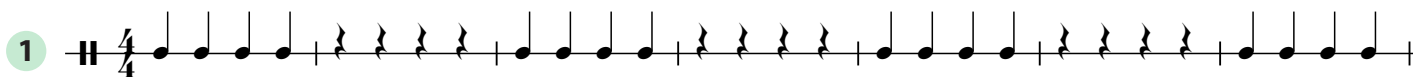
"Megalovania"

by Toby Fox (2015)

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



Rhythm Reading



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



Eb Major Scale



B Major Scale



E Major Scale

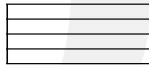




A Major Scale






Tuba Fingering Chart


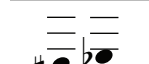

E




F

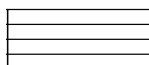
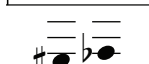

F# Gb

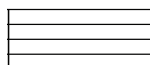
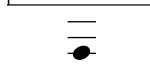

G

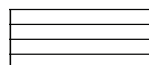
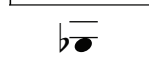

G# Ab

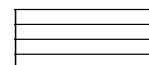
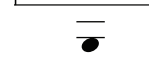

A

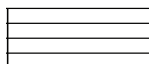


Bb

B

C

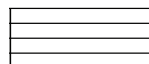






C# Db

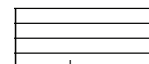
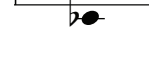





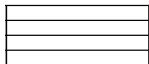


D

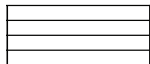


Eb

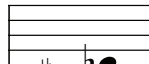


E

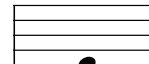


F

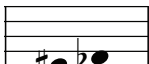
F# Gb

G

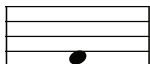






G# Ab











A




Bb




B




C

C# Db

D

Eb

