

TUBA

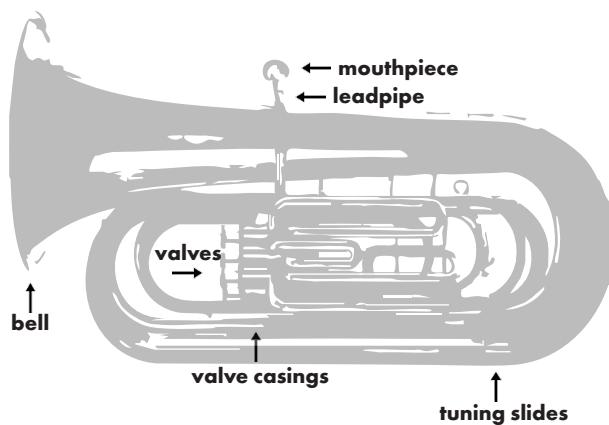
# THE LET'S PLAY BAND METHOD

***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. Breath 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)

REST      REST

(E)      (E)      (E)

REST      REST

(E-flat) (E-flat) (E-flat) (E-flat)      (F) (F) (F) (F)      (E-flat) (E-flat) (E-flat) (E-flat)

**D**

REST REST REST

D D D D

REST REST REST

D D D D E♭ E♭ E♭ E♭ F F F F

C C C C

REST REST REST

C C C C E♭ E♭ E♭ E♭ E♭ D D D D

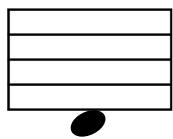
B B B B

REST REST REST

Bb Bb Bb Bb C D E♭ E♭ D C Bb

# Fingerings

F



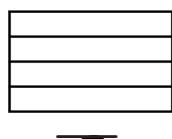
○○○

Eb



●○○

D



●●○

*mf*  
mezzo forte  
“medium loud”

## music theory



**whole note**

sustain sound 4 beats



**whole rest**

count 4 beats rest

1

### Lift Off



*mf*

2

### Around The Room



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

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

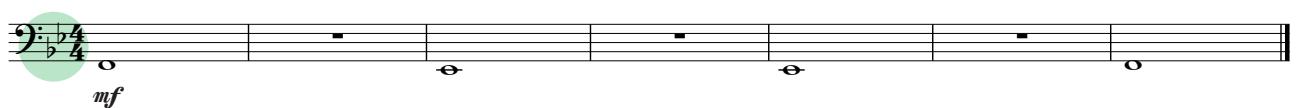


3

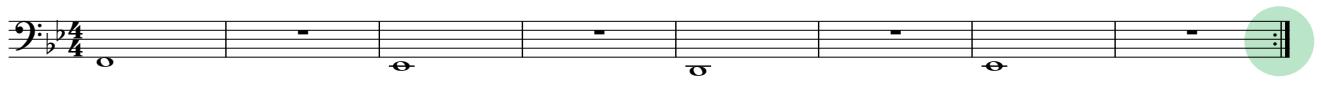
### Stargazing



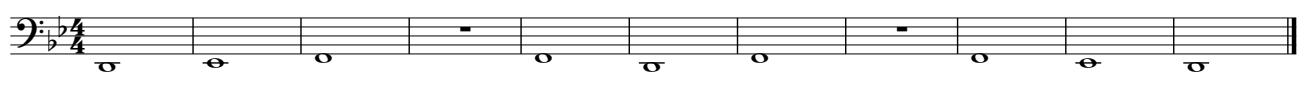
4

*Oracle*

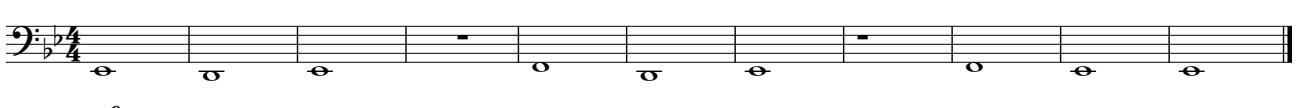
5

*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



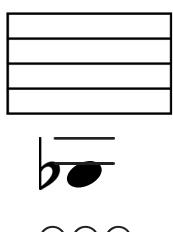
**“Subwoofer Lullaby”**  
from the *Minecraft Soundtrack*

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

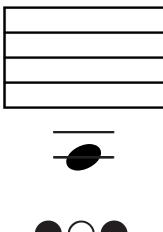


# Fingerings

**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



*mp*



10

*Hot Cross Buns*

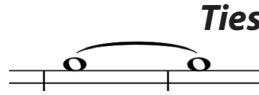
English Folk Song



## time signature

**4**  
**4**

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

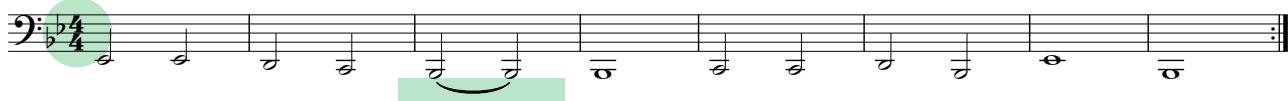


**Ties** combines the values of two notes. Don't tongue the second note

# 11

### Country Walk

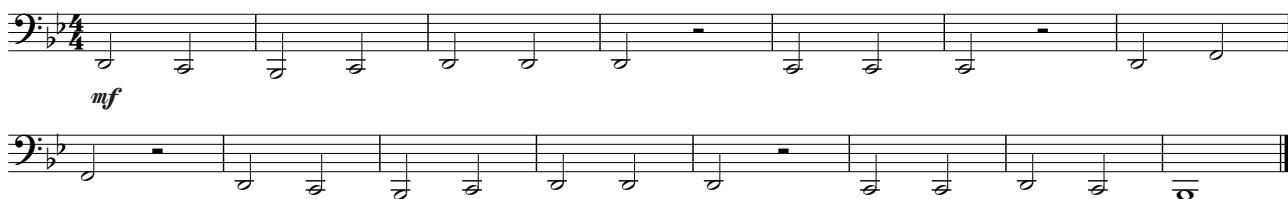
French Folk Song



# 12

### Merrily We Roll Along

Charlie Tobias



# 13

### Down By The Station

Traditional



### Ola Gjeilo



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

**"Still"**  
by Ola Gjeilo



### "Hey Ya!"

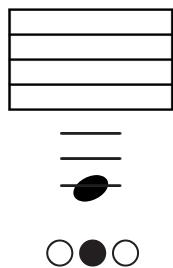
by Outkast (2003)

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

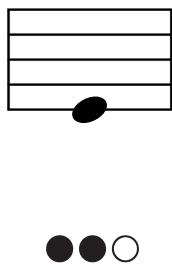


# Fingerings

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





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

1. 2.

## 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



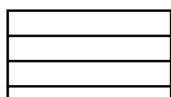
### **“Look What You Made Me Do”** by Taylor Swift (2017)

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



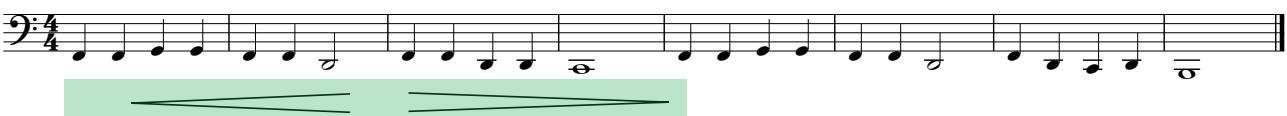
**pp**

,

**21**

*Ha'Kyo Jung*

Korean Folk Song



**22**

*Rondo alla Turca*

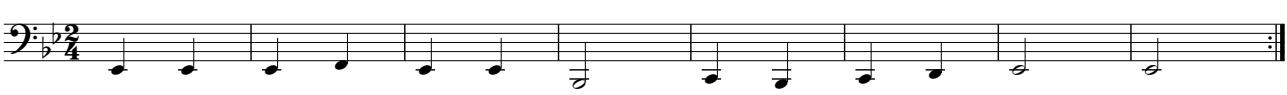
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



**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



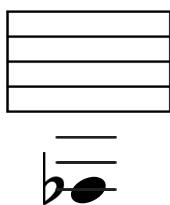
**"You Should See Me In A Crown"**  
by Billie Eilish (2019)

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

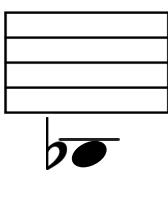


# Fingerings

**Ab**



**D<sub>b</sub>**



**"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

Andante



**time signatures**

**2 3 4** *beats in a measure*  
**4** *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:

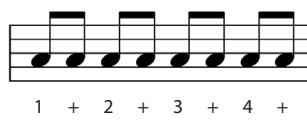


**3** beats in a measure  
**4** quarter note gets the beat

*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 Ezekial Saw The Wheel

African American Spiritual



**Slur**

connect two notes by  
only tonguing the  
first one

**35****Bonjour Mes Amis**

French Folk Song



**Bonjour Mes Amis**

French Folk Song

2:4

*mf*

2:4

**36****Chiapanecas**

Mexican Folk Song



**Chiapanecas**

Mexican Folk Song

2:3

*f*

*mf*

*ff*

1. 2.

**37****Goodbye Old Paint**

Charley Willis



**Goodbye Old Paint**

Charley Willis

2:3

2:3

**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"**

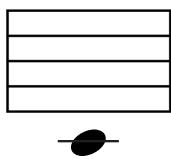
by Queen (1977)

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



# Fingerings

**E**



○●○

**Ab**



●○○

*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

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:





47

*Academic Festival Overture*

Johannes Brahms



48

*Lo Yisa Goy*

Israeli Folk Song



49

*Skip To My Lou*

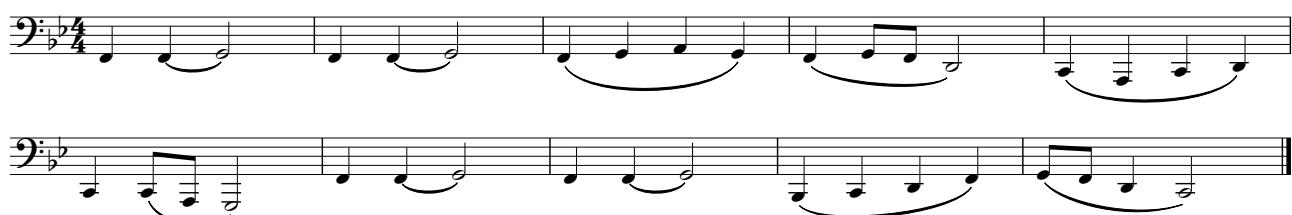
American Folk Song



50

*Sakura*

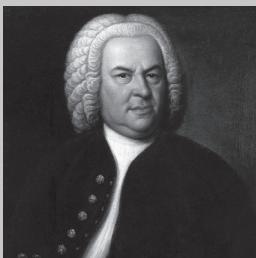
Japanese Folk Song



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

Andante



56

*Little Donkey*

Eric Boswell



57

*Ode To Joy*

Music score for 'Ode To Joy' in 2/4 time, B-flat major. The score consists of two staves of music with a dynamic marking 'fp' (fortissimo) in a green circle.

58

*Arirang*

Music score for 'Arirang' in 3/4 time, B-flat major. The score consists of two staves of music.

59

*New World Symphony*

Music score for 'New World Symphony' in 2/4 time, B-flat major. The score consists of two staves of music.

60

*Kum Ba Yah*

Andante



Music score for 'Kum Ba Yah' in 2/4 time, B-flat major. The score consists of two staves of music. Dynamic markings '1.' and '2.' are indicated above the staves, and 'fp' (fortissimo) is marked below the second staff.

61

*Hey Ho, Nobody's Home*

Music score for 'Hey Ho, Nobody's Home' in 2/4 time, B-flat major. The score consists of two staves of music with dynamic markings 'mf', 'fp', and 'mf'.

***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



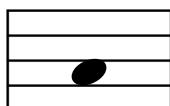
***"Married Life"***  
from the Up Soundtrack (2009)

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



D.C. al Coda

**63**

### Aloha Oe

Lili'uokalani



**64**

### Loch Lomond

Scottish Folk Song



65

**Maple Leaf Rag**

Allegro



Scott Joplin

66

**El Juego Chirimbole**

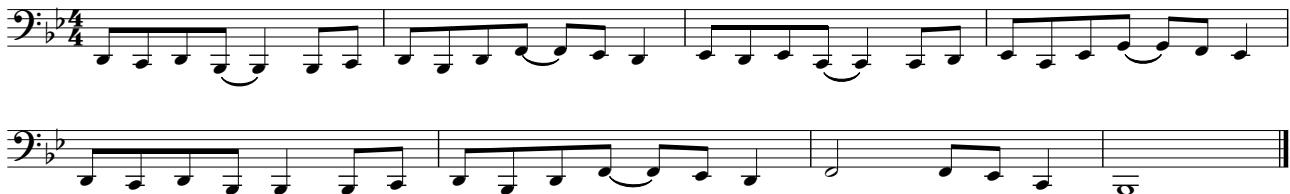
Spanish Folk Song



67

**Rock A My Soul**

African American Spiritual

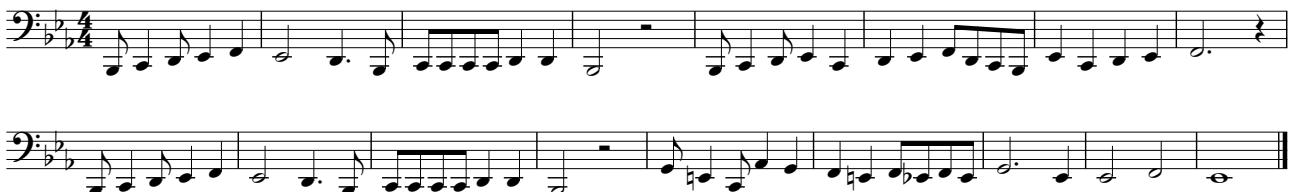


68

**Give My Regards To Broadway**

Allegro

George M. Cohan

**Billie Holiday**

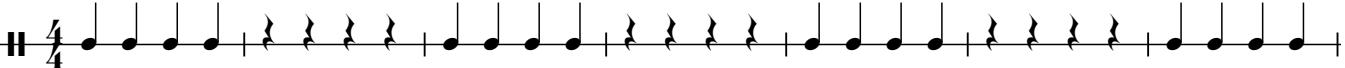
Billie Holiday was a celebrated jazz and swing vocalist who would influence pop singing for decades to come. Her vocal style was greatly influenced by the sounds of jazz instrumentalists.

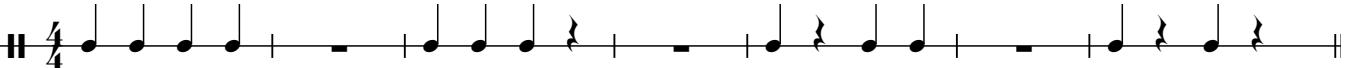
**"God Bless The Child"**  
by Billie Holiday**"Megalovania"**  
by Toby Fox (2015)

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



# Rhythm Reading

1 

2 

3 

4 

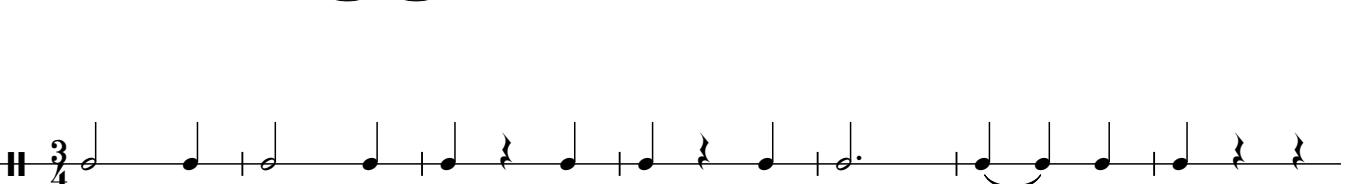
5 

6 

7 

8 

9 

10 

# 5 Note Scales

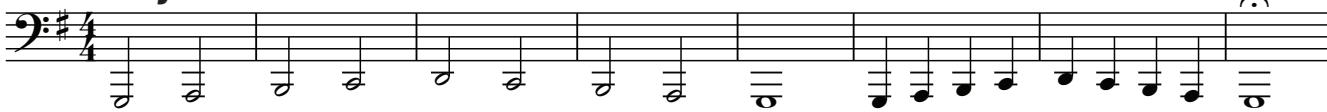
27

## D Major Scale



A musical staff in 4/4 time, common time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of five notes: D, E, F#, G, and A. The notes are distributed across the first four lines of the staff, with a rest on the fifth line.

## G Major Scale



A musical staff in 4/4 time, common time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of five notes: G, A, B, C, and D. The notes are distributed across the first four lines of the staff, with a rest on the fifth line.

## C Major Scale



A musical staff in 4/4 time, common time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of five notes: C, D, E, F#, and G. The notes are distributed across the first four lines of the staff, with a rest on the fifth line.

## F Major Scale



A musical staff in 4/4 time, common time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of five notes: F, G, A, B, and C. The notes are distributed across the first four lines of the staff, with a rest on the fifth line.

## Bb Major Scale



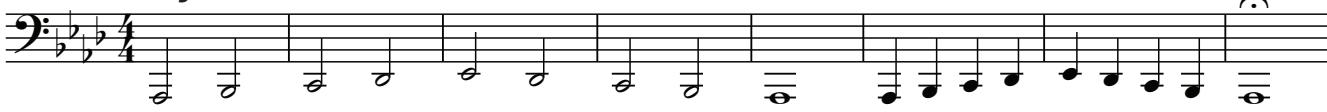
A musical staff in 4/4 time, common time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of five notes: Bb, C, D, E, and F. The notes are distributed across the first four lines of the staff, with a rest on the fifth line.

## Eb Major Scale



A musical staff in 4/4 time, common time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of five notes: Eb, F, G, A, and Bb. The notes are distributed across the first four lines of the staff, with a rest on the fifth line.

## Ab Major Scale



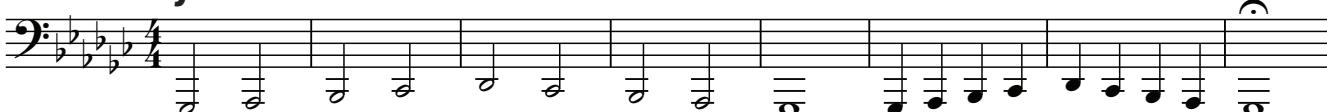
A musical staff in 4/4 time, common time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of five notes: Ab, Bb, C, D, and E. The notes are distributed across the first four lines of the staff, with a rest on the fifth line.

## Db Major Scale



A musical staff in 4/4 time, common time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of five notes: Db, E, F, G, and Ab. The notes are distributed across the first four lines of the staff, with a rest on the fifth line.

## Eb Major Scale



A musical staff in 4/4 time, common time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of five notes: Eb, F, G, A, and Bb. The notes are distributed across the first four lines of the staff, with a rest on the fifth line.

## B Major Scale



A musical staff in 4/4 time, common time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of five notes: B, C, D, E, and F. The notes are distributed across the first four lines of the staff, with a rest on the fifth line.

## E Major Scale



A musical staff in 4/4 time, common time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of five notes: E, F, G, A, and B. The notes are distributed across the first four lines of the staff, with a rest on the fifth line.

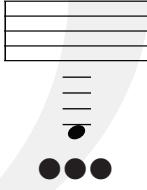
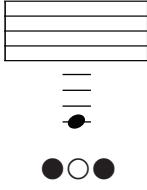
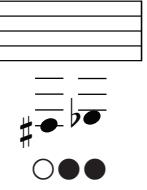
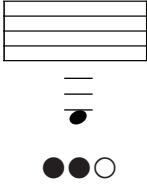
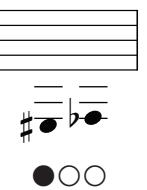
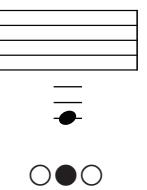
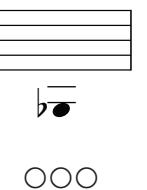
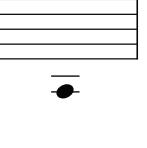
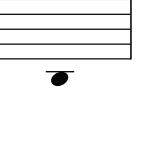
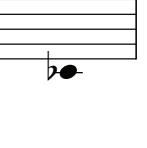
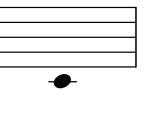
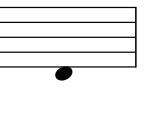
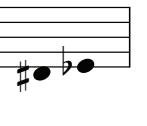
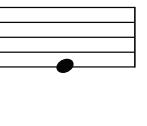
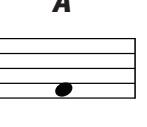
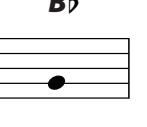
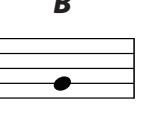
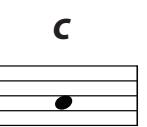
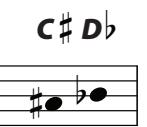
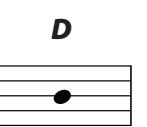
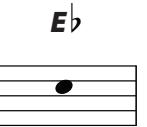
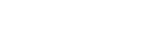
## A Major Scale



A musical staff in 4/4 time, common time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of five notes: A, B, C, D, and E. The notes are distributed across the first four lines of the staff, with a rest on the fifth line.

# Tuba Fingering Chart



<b>E</b> 	<b>F</b> 	<b>F♯ G♭</b> 	<b>G</b> 
<b>G♯ A♭</b> 	<b>A</b> 	<b>B♭</b> 	<b>B</b> 
<b>C</b> 	<b>C♯ D♭</b> 	<b>D</b> 	<b>E♭</b> 
<b>E</b> 	<b>F</b> 	<b>F♯ G♭</b> 	<b>G</b> 
<b>G♯ A♭</b> 	<b>A</b> 	<b>B♭</b> 	<b>B</b> 
<b>C</b> 	<b>C♯ D♭</b> 	<b>D</b> 	<b>E♭</b> 
<b>E</b> 	<b>F</b> 	<b>F♯ G♭</b> 	<b>G</b> 