

BASSOON
OR
TENOROON
METHOD

Sample

ADAM SCHWALJE

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“PRE-MARY” BASICS: MUSIC

NOTES

Music is made up of notes, which are also called pitches. Some pitches are lower, like the rumble of traffic or the bark of a big dog. Other pitches are high, like the singing of a bird or the yipping of a small dog. The bassoon plays the lower pitches.

NOTE NAMES: THERE IS NO H!

Notes are named with the letters A to G. Then, the names start back at A again. So, the note names are: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, etc.

Say the note alphabet starting on different note names, until you get back to where you started: for example, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D

TIME

To make music, notes are played at certain times. Pulse is lots of steady notes in a row, like your own pulse, or the ticking of a clock. Pulse can be felt on the inside, and doesn't always have to be heard.

Find your pulse, either in your neck or your wrist. Notice how steady the heartbeats are. Try keeping time with it by tapping on your leg.

List some other things in everyday life that create a pulse.

See if you can find the pulse in your favorite music. Tap along, dance along, or snap your fingers!

In music, pulse is often organized into groups of two, three, or four beats. How can you tell? Well, the first beat of each group is louder than the others. Each group is called a measure.

Listening Game:

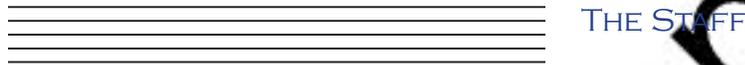
Whenever you hear music, try to count to four over and over again, along with the music.

See if you can get the number "one" to go together with the loudest beat in each measure.

WRITING MUSIC DOWN

There are two ways to know what notes to play. You can either listen to a recording and learn how to play like the recording. Or, you can read music off of a page, like reading a book.

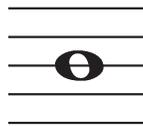
Today, music is written using a five-line guide, called the staff.



Notes are drawn on the staff using dots or circles.

If a line goes through the note, it is called a "line note"

LINE NOTE



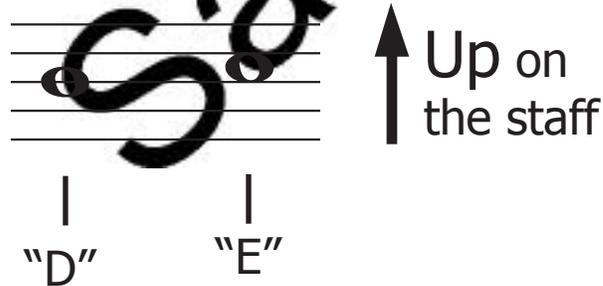
Color all of the line notes green

Notes that fall in between the lines are called "space notes."



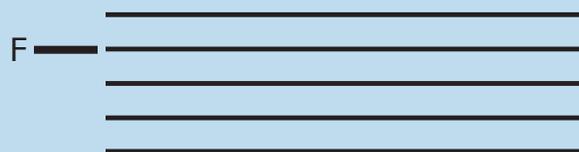
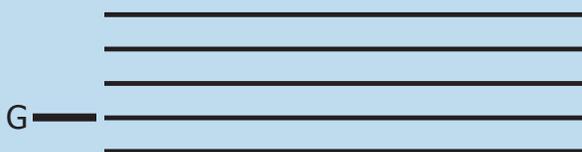
Color all of the space notes blue

Up on the staff means the next letter of the music alphabet, or the next higher note.



Once you know the name of one line, you can say what the names of all the rest of the lines and spaces are.

Game: Fill in the note names for the rest of the lines and spaces, given the name of one line.



There is a special shape, called a clef, that tells you the note name for one line:

TREBLE CLEF OR "G" CLEF



This shows where the note "g" is. It sort of looks like the letter G, doesn't it?

BASS CLEF OR "F" CLEF



This shows where the note "f" is. Do you agree that it looks like the letter F?

The bassoon plays mostly with the bass clef. There is an easy way to remember the line and space notes of the bass clef:

Line notes (up): Good Boys Do Fine Always

Space notes (up): All Cows Eat Grass

Game: come up with your own saying to help you remember the line notes and space notes of the bass clef.

“PRE-MARY” BASICS: BASSOON

PUTTING TOGETHER THE BASSOON

The bassoon is VERY FRAGILE!!! Please wait to put it together until you meet with your teacher.

PARTS OF THE BASSOON

Boot



Tenor Joint



Long Joint



Bell



Bocal



Reed



REEDS

Talk to your teacher about where to get reeds.

HOW TO CARRY THE BASSOON

1. Remove the reed and bocal from the instrument when you carry it around. Place the bocal in the bell so that it won't get bent! Carry your reeds in a specially designed reed case.

2. Only lift the bassoon from the boot, not from any of the other joints.
3. Take special care carrying the instrument up or down stairs, around corners, etc.

HOW TO HOLD THE BASSOON

BRING THE BASSOON TO YOU, DON'T GO TO THE BASSOON!
The height of the bassoon should be adjusted so that the reed goes right into your mouth as you sit up straight. Music can usually be read most easily over the right side of the instrument, unless you are playing the tenoroon.

The bassoon needs to be balanced properly so that you are not holding up the entire instrument with the left hand. This will make it easier to play. Here are some tips:

1. It is often better to sit back in the chair than to sit on the edge of the chair. You can use the back rest for support.
2. Lifting your right leg by putting your foot on a thick book can decrease pressure on the left hand.
3. If the bassoon is constantly slipping downward, try wrapping a long seat strap around your left leg. Or, try a fabric-covered seat for extra grip.

BREATHING

The bassoon is a woodwind instrument. It is 1) often made of wood, and 2) powered by wind. Your air makes the bassoon sound when you breathe out.

DISCUSSION:

- 1) Name other instruments that are powered by air.
- 2) Name the other woodwind instruments.
- 3) Which of these are not made of wood? Why are they still included in our group?

Breathing is a very important part of playing the bassoon. It is the gas in the engine of the bassoon. You should practice breathing every day (just think what would happen if you didn't!). Be sure to check with your teacher to make sure that you are breathing correctly.

EMBOUCHURE

Embouchure is a fancy name for the special way you hold your lips and mouth when you play. It is one of the most important elements of playing the bassoon.

TONGUING

1. Place the tip of the tongue on the tip of the reed so that no air can be blown through the reed.
2. Start building up air pressure but don't let any air through the reed.
3. Move the tongue down and away from the reed, and keep blowing. Now a note should sound!

Practice embouchure and tonguing first on the reed only, then the reed + bocal.

MARY TIME

QUARTER NOTE

"PLUM"



The quarter note lasts one beat.

TIME SIGNATURE



4 beats per measure

Quarter note gets one beat

MEASURE

Group of beats

BAR LINE

Separates each measure

QUARTER REST



The quarter rest lasts one beat of silence.

WHISPER: *rest rest rest rest*

FINAL BAR LINE



The end of a piece or a section of music

SAY THE RHYTHMS:



Ma - ry had a lit - tle lamb. Ma ry had a lit - tle lamb.



Lit - tle lamb lit - tle lamb lit - tle lamb lit - tle lamb.



Ma - ry had a lit - tle lamb whose fleece was white as snow.



FIRST NOTES!

E

LEFT THUMBS FINGERS

RIGHT THUMBS FINGERS

D

LEFT THUMBS FINGERS

RIGHT THUMBS FINGERS

C

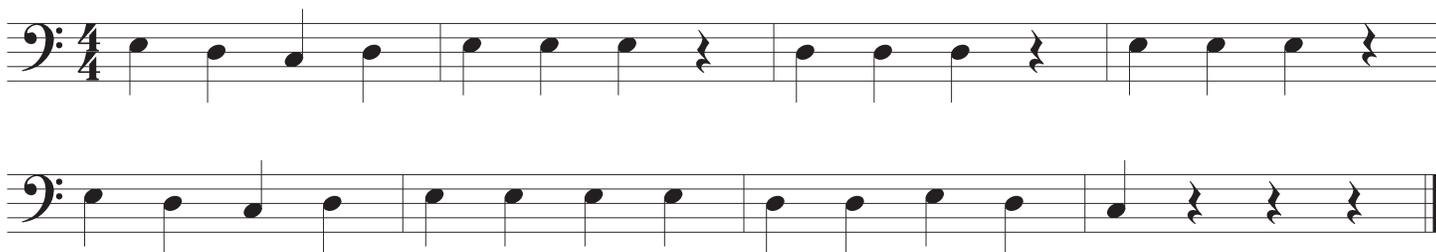
LEFT THUMBS FINGERS

RIGHT THUMBS FINGERS

TRY THESE IN ONE BREATH

MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB

Folk Song



LYRICS

Sing the tune with the following lyrics:

Mary had a little lamb,
Little lamb, little lamb,
Mary had a little lamb,
Its fleece was white as snow

And everywhere that Mary went,
Mary went, Mary went,
Everywhere that Mary went
The lamb was sure to go

It followed her to school one day
School one day, school one day
It followed her to school one day
Which was against the rules.

It made the children laugh and play,
Laugh and play, laugh and play,
It made the children laugh and play
To see a lamb at school

And so the teacher turned it out,
Turned it out, turned it out,
And so the teacher turned it out,
But still it lingered near

And waited patiently about,
Patiently about, patiently about,
And waited patiently about
Till Mary did appear

"Why does the lamb love Mary so?"
Love Mary so? Love Mary so?
"Why does the lamb love Mary so?"
The eager children cry

"Why, Mary loves the lamb, you know."
Loves the lamb, you know, loves the
lamb, you know
"Why, Mary loves the lamb, you know."
The teacher did reply

HCB TIME

EIGHTH NOTES "APPLE"

An eighth note looks like a quarter note with a flag.



There are two eighth notes for every beat.



Sometimes the stems on eighth notes are joined together.



TERMS

COMMON TIME

C is another way of writing



C

is sometimes called "common time"

C plum plum plum plum | a - pple a - pple a - pple a - pple | plum plum plum (rest) ||

SAY THE RHYTHMS:

C plum plum plum plum | eighth notes eighth notes | plum plum plum (rest) ||

C plum plum plum (rest) | plum plum plum (rest) | eighth notes eighth notes | plum plum plum (rest) ||

Musician 1

Musician 2

Musical notation for Musician 1 and Musician 2 in common time. Musician 1 plays a melody of quarter notes, and Musician 2 plays a bass line of eighth notes.

HOT CROSS BUNS

Folk Song

Musical notation for the first staff of the duet in common time.

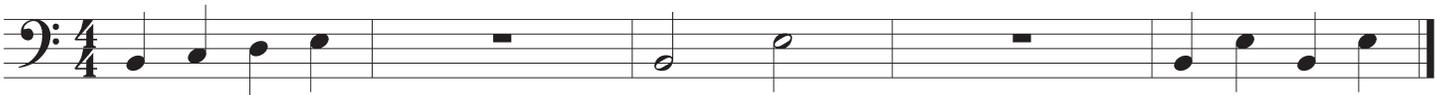
DUET

Musical notation for the second staff of the duet in 4/4 time.

Musical notation for the third and fourth staves of the duet in 4/4 time.

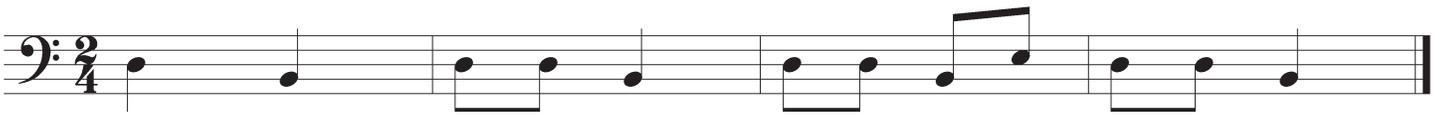


Sample

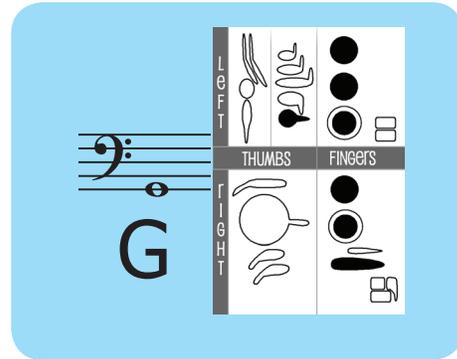
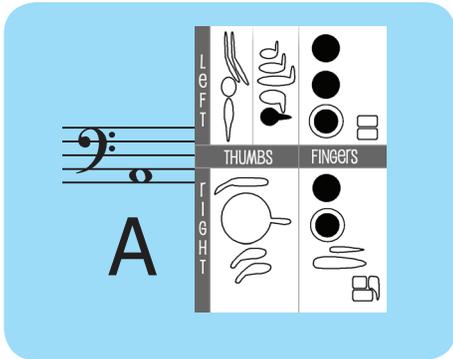


RAIN, RAIN GO AWAY

Folk Song



NEW NOTES!



CUCKOO TIME

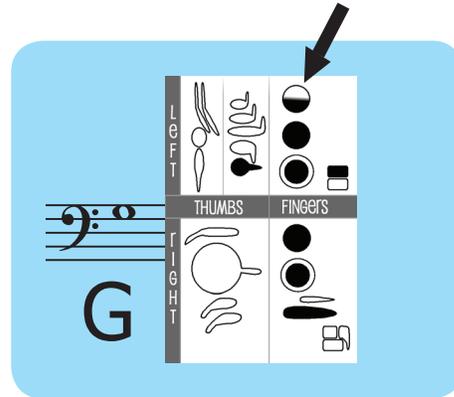
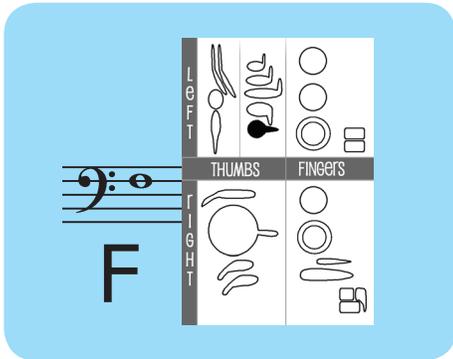
$\frac{3}{4}$ — 3 beats per measure
 — Quarter note gets one beat

Sample



NEW NOTES!

This is a half-hole. It is formed by sliding the first finger of the left hand downward.



Sample

WINTER TIME

THE DOT A dot after a note increases its length by half.



2 beats + 1 beat (half of 2 beats) = 3 beats



GOODBYE TO WINTER

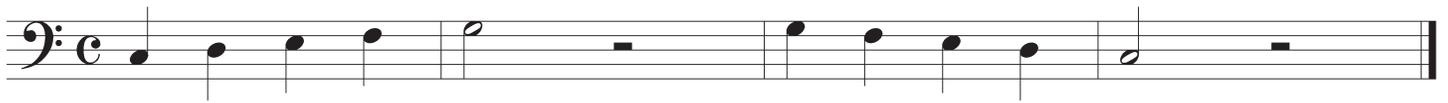
Folk Song



LIGHTLY NOTES

SCALE STEPS C SCALE

Scale means "stairway" in Italian. Playing a scale is like walking up and down steps, one at a time.



SKIPPING STEPS C ARPEGGIO



TERMS

TEMPO How fast or slow music goes.

ITALIAN

Many musical terms are from the Italian language.

MODERATO A moderate tempo, not fast and not slow.

LIGHTLY ROW

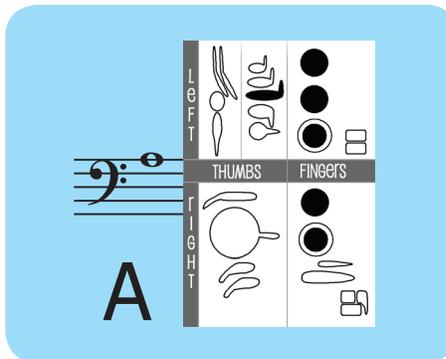
Folk Song

Moderato



NEW NOTE!

The keys suggested for the left hand thumb for the notes A, Bb, B, and C are called "flick" keys or "vent" keys. Talk to your teacher about the proper use of these keys.



Sample

TWINKLE TONGUING

STACCATO

Separated. Staccato does not necessarily mean short.

In general, a staccato dot over or under the notehead decreases the note value by half.

Be sure to end the note with your air, not with your tongue.



TWINKLE TIME

SIXTEENTH NOTES "WATERMELON"

Sixteenth notes have two flags. Sometimes, these are joined together with a beam.



There are four sixteenth notes per beat.



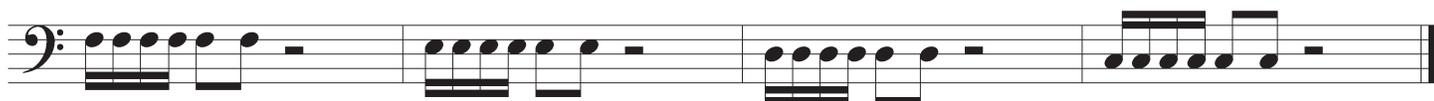
TWINKLE TERMS

BREATH
MARK



Breathe out, then in as needed

breathe: out, in



TWINKLE VARIATIONS

S. Suzuki

Mark where you will breathe in each of the following variations.

CHATTANOOGA CHOO-CHOO

$\frac{4}{4}$ ||
 chatt-a-noo-ga choo-choo chatt-a-noo-ga choo-choo

TWINKLE VARIATIONS

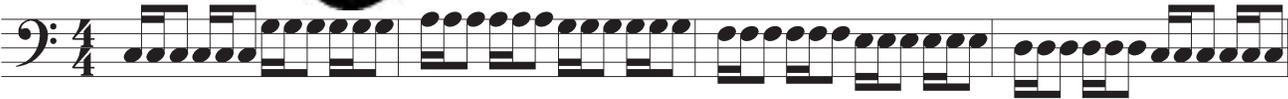
HAMBURGER

4/4  ||
ham - bur - ger ham - bur - ger ham - bur - ger ham - bur ger



ELEPHANT

4/4  ||
el - e - phant el - e - phant el - e - phant el - e - phant



TWINKLE VARIATIONS

FLYING TONE $\frac{4}{4}$ 



Sample

TWINKLE THEME



TERMS

DYNAMICS

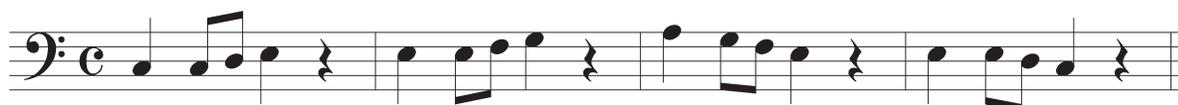
How loud or soft music is.

FORTE

f

LOUD!

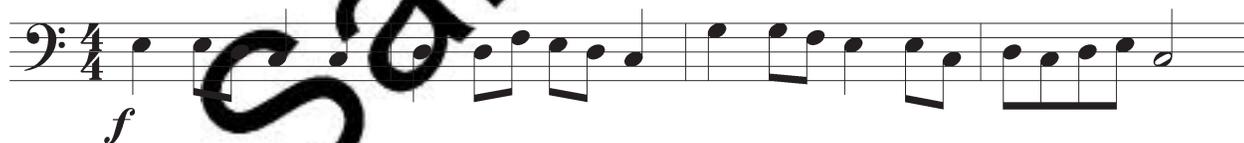
NANCY NOTES



old gray goose is dead

GO TELL AUNT NANCY

Folk Song



LYRICS

Go tell Aunt Nancy, go tell Aunt Nancy
Go tell Aunt Nancy the old gray goose is dead

She was a-saving for her feather bed
Died in a mill pond on its head

Go tell Aunt Nancy, etc.

TRAY TERM

MEZZO-FORTE

mf

Medium-loud, not too loud and not too soft.

OLD DOG TRAY

Stephen Foster



STEPHEN FOSTER
(1826-1864)



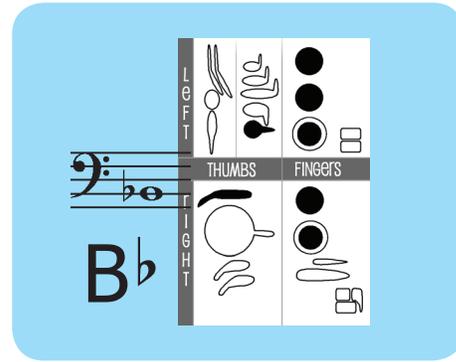
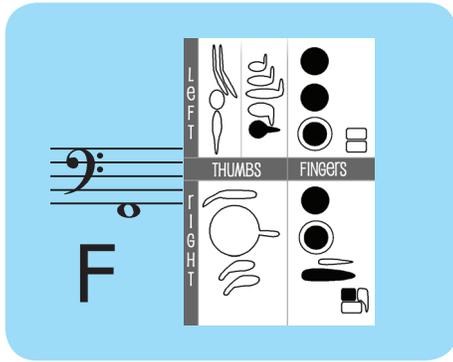
Songwriter Stephen Foster wrote some of America's favorite songs. His songs include "Oh! Susanna," "My Old Kentucky Home," "Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair," and "Old Dog Tray."

Suggested Listening:
American Dreamer: Songs of Stephen Foster

LYRICS

Old dog Tray's ever faithful,
Grief cannot drive him away,
He's gentle, he is kind;
I'll never, never find
A better friend than old dog Tray

NEW NOTES!



Sample

TERMS

DA CAPO "the head:" go to the beginning.

FINE the end.

HALF STEP The difference in pitch between notes on the piano that are next to each other, either black or white keys.

WHOLE STEP Two half steps.

SHARP # Raise the next note by a half step.

FLAT b Lower the next note by a half step.

KEY SIGNATURE A listing of flats or sharps at the beginning of a piece, that last for the whole piece.



NEW KEY!

Scales come in many different types. One is called the Major scale. Any Major scale has all whole steps EXCEPT for half steps between the third and fourth notes, and between the seventh and eighth notes.

Label the whole steps "W" and the half steps "H":

A musical staff in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The notes are: G2, A2, Bb2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3. Below the staff are seven horizontal dashes corresponding to the intervals between the notes: G-A, A-Bb, Bb-C, C-D, D-E, E-F, F-G.

F MAJOR SCALE

A musical staff in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: G2, A2, Bb2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, Bb3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4. There are rests for the 9th and 14th notes.

F MAJOR ARPEGGIO

Two musical staves in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The first staff shows the notes G2, A2, Bb2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3. The second staff shows the notes G2, A2, Bb2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3 with rests for the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th notes.

FRENCH CHILDREN'S SONG

Folk Song

Four musical staves in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: G2, A2, Bb2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, Bb3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff ends with a double bar line and the word "Fine". The third staff ends with a double bar line. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line and the words "Da Capo al Fine".

SYMPHONY 1

Gustav Mahler

*To play as a round, the second player should start when the first player gets to the star.

Austrian composer Gustav Mahler was best known for his symphonies and songs. The melody from the third movement of his first symphony is based on the popular children’s song “Are You Sleeping.” Can you tell what instrument plays it first? How about second?

GUSTAV MAHLER (1860-1911)



Suggested Listening: Mahler *Symphony no. 1* (Titan), movement 3