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Ex. 1

C Major C D E F G A B C

do re mi fa sol si ti do

The image shows a musical staff in treble clef with a common time signature (C). The notes of the C major scale are written as quarter notes: C (first line), D (second line), E (third space), F (fourth space), G (fifth space), A (first space below the staff), B (second space below the staff), and C (third space below the staff). Below each note is its corresponding solfege syllable: do, re, mi, fa, sol, si, ti, do.

Video #1
Reading
in C Major

In the following examples we will learn to read music notation using the notes of the C, F & G Major scales.

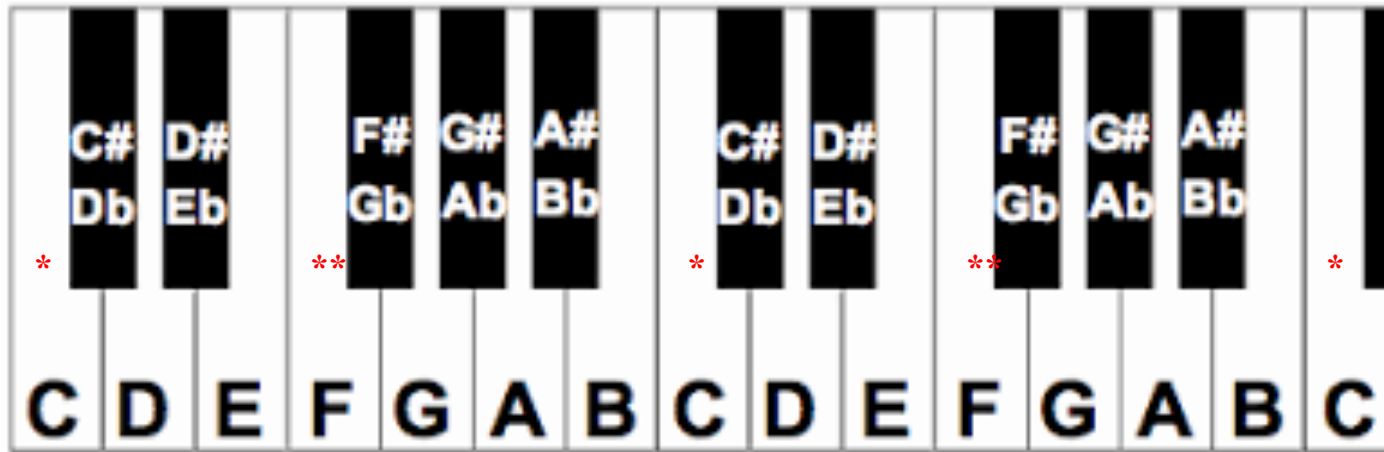
Make sure you are familiar with the note names (a, b, c, etc.) and their positions on the staff.

You should also be familiar by now with the solfege syllables (do, re, mi etc...)

Sing along with the recording when prompted. Rewind to repeat a section as many times as you wish. Stop the recording to study the examples from the workbook as much as you feel is necessary before going on to the next section.

INTRO TO SIGHT SINGING

You will see images of the piano keyboard throughout the video. Familiarize yourself with the note locations, if you haven't already.



As you can see, the black keys are arranged in a distinct pattern i.e. groups of two and groups of three. They have sharp names and flat names, for example C# & Db are the same pitch but the key determines which name is used. More on that later.

For now, study to recognize the note positions for example:

- * The note C is always to the left of the group of two black notes.
 - ** The note F is always to the left of the group of *three* black notes.
- There are no black notes between E & F, and B & C.

INTRO TO SIGHT SINGING

Ex. 2

The 4/4 just after the treble clef indicates the time signature.

This means each measure receives 4 beats.

C Major

do re mi fa sol si ti do

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Note Durations:

Notes have sound or pitch but in music they also have duration, that is how long do they sound.

The example below is entirely composed of notes that sound for 'two beats' (except for the last one).

You recognize such notes by their hollow 'heads' attached to a 'stem'. We call them '**half notes**'.

Ex. 3

do re mi fa sol si ti do

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Half notes (Whole Note)

INTRO TO SIGHT SINGING

Ex. 4

| ----bar 1-----||----bar 2-----||----bar 3-----||----bar 4-----| (whole note) 4 beats

1-2 3-4 1-2 3-4 1-2 3-4 1-2-3-4

The numbers below the staff are the beats in each bar (the space between the vertical lines).

Read and count the example like this:

Whole notes have no stem.

Ex. 5


d r m r r m f m f s l s l t d

1-2 3-4 1-2 3-4 1-2 3-4 1-2-3-4

INTRO TO SIGHT SINGING

The following example has a mix of half notes (2 beats) and whole notes (4 beats).

A musical staff in 4/4 time showing a sequence of notes: a half note 'd' (beats 1-2), a half note 't' (beats 3-4), a whole note 'l' (beats 1-4), a half note 't' (beats 1-2), a half note 'l' (beats 3-4), a whole note 's' (beats 1-4), a half note 'l' (beats 1-2), a half note 's' (beats 3-4), a half note 'f' (beats 1-2), a half note 'm' (beats 3-4), a half note 'r' (beats 1-2), and a whole note (beats 3-4). Below the staff are the syllables 'd t l t l s l s f m r' and the beat counts '1-2 3-4 1-2-3-4 1-2 3-4 1-2-3-4 etc...'. The notes are placed on the lines of the staff: 'd' on the first line, 't' on the second line, 'l' on the first space, 't' on the second space, 'l' on the third space, 's' on the first space, 'l' on the second space, 's' on the third space, 'f' on the first space, 'm' on the second space, and 'r' on the third space.

The following example uses quarter notes.  You recognize them by the **solid head** and stem. They receive one (1) beat.

Ex. 6

A musical staff in 4/4 time showing a sequence of quarter notes: 'd' (beats 1-2), 't' (beats 3-4), 'l' (beats 1-2), 't' (beats 3-4), 'l' (beats 1-2), 's' (beats 3-4), 'l' (beats 1-2), 's' (beats 3-4), 'f' (beats 1-2), 'm' (beats 3-4), 'r' (beats 1-2), and a whole note (beats 3-4). Below the staff are the syllables 'd t l t l s l s f m r' and the beat counts '1-2- 3-4 1-2- 3-4 1-2- 3-4 1-2- 3-4 etc...'. The notes are placed on the lines of the staff: 'd' on the first line, 't' on the second line, 'l' on the first space, 't' on the second space, 'l' on the third space, 's' on the first space, 'l' on the second space, 's' on the third space, 'f' on the first space, 'm' on the second space, and 'r' on the third space. A box labeled 'quarter notes' has an arrow pointing to the first two notes. An arrow labeled 'Solid head' points to the solid black head of the first note. An arrow labeled 'Stem' points to the vertical stem of the first note.

INTRO TO SIGHT SINGING

Perform the following two examples. They are both in 4/4, uses quarter, half and whole notes.

This time, try using a 4/4 conducting pattern.

Ex. 7

1 - 2 - 3 - 4 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 etc...

Ex. 8

1 - 2 - 3 - 4 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 etc...