

Musicianship for Singers: Intermediate 1
Int1(1S) Revision reading and singing dotted notes and tied notes in F major

Title	P17: Reading treble and bass staves together
Question(s)	How can I read a score vertically? Why is it helpful to read another part as well as my own?
Activity	Introducing and revising reading notes in treble and bass clef in diatonic melodies in C, G, D, F and Bb major Find and sing notes on the keyboard, relevant to these melodies Sing parts in the clef a singer does not normally sing
Note	<i>Re-run P3, P4, P5, P6 and P7 as necessary. Intermediate 1 level depends on singers being able to read vertically, and read both treble and bass clef fluently.</i>

Title	Rhythm revision: Reading, counting and singing rhythms featuring dotted notes and tied notes in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 time signatures
Question(s)	How do I read and sing rhythms featuring dotted notes and tied notes in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 time signatures?
Activity	Externalising the pulse Reading, counting and singing rhythms featuring dotted notes and tied notes in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 time signatures Counting 1e+a 2e+a etc

Study and sing 'Wild Mountain Thyme.' Answer the following questions, feel free to work in teams with the people around you.

1. How many staves and systems does this music have? What groups of performers do you need to perform this music?
2. Look through the whole piece. What is the structure of this music, and where does the music repeat?
3. What key is this piece of music in? How do you know this? What are the notes in this scale?
4. Work out the rhythm of the melody (the top staff marked 'voices'), counting the pulse dots. Try speaking the rhythm with numbers. Sing the melody.
5. Sing the harmony 1, 2, 3 and bass parts. Start with the part you normally sing. Work out the pitch you start on, and find your starting note on the keyboard. You can check the starting note of each two bar phrase, and then test yourself by linking the phrases to sing a four bar phrase, and then longer and longer. See if you can work out the next note from the previous one. Are there any patterns in the music to help you?
6. An extra challenge: Sing the harmony 1, 2, 3 and bass parts again, swapping to the other clef. There's a reminder of the notes in the treble and bass clef below.
7. Look at verse 3 'If my true love she were gone.' How does this compare to the rhythm of verse 1? How do you know the rhythm is different?
8. Sing from bar 30 to the end, either choosing the part you normally sing, or one in a different clef if you fancy a challenge.

Some helpful information*Staves and Systems*

The staff (UK) or staff (US) is five horizontal lines read from left to right. Each staff must have a clef written at the start of it. Each voice may have its own staff in choral music, and the parts are joined together by a long bar line running vertically through each staff.

A collection of staves joined together like this is called a system. In a score with several different groups of performers, the staves are subdivided into groups of like type, with a square bracket for voice or instrument groups or curly brace for keyboard instruments.

Counting rhythms with pulse numbers

Counting rhythms works as follows. You say out loud the pattern of the rhythm notation, so you don't speak a rest or a beat that is tied over.

Count the pulse numbers on the appropriate beat. Rests are sounded in the thinking voice:

Numbers in brackets are in the thinking voice

1 2 3 4 1 (2) 3 (4)

A beat subdivided by two is 1 + (and):

Numbers in brackets are in the thinking voice

1 2 + 3 + 4 1 (2) 3 (4)

by three is 1 + a:

Numbers in brackets are in the thinking voice

1 2 + a 1 2 1 (2)

by four is 1 e + a. Notice how combinations of quavers and semiquavers work:

Numbers in brackets are in the thinking voice

1 2 + 3 e + a 4 + a 1 e + 2 (3) (4)

Dotted notes going over a beat and notes tied over a beat are sounded in the thinking voice:

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Numbers in brackets are in the thinking voice

1 (2) + 3 a 4 (1) + 2 3 4 1 (2) (3) (4)

Finding notes of the treble and bass clef on the keyboard

A reminder of where the notes are on the keyboard:

Keyboard → c d e f g a b c1 d1 e1 f1 g1 a1 b1 c2

Treble staff

Bass staff