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Section 1 - Melody

Video teaching this concept



Sheets of sightreading exercises - including audio

Sightread the following melodies: "Lara's Song" and "James's Song" by first saying the rhythm names of the notes while tapping or conducting the beat, then by singing the notes in solfa and letter names.

Use this process for all scales, interval exercises, melodic examples and completed transcription exercises throughout this book.

Clear, concise academic information and explanations.

Click on the associated sightreading sheet icon: for more sightreading exercises.



Lara's Song

Examples designed for students to sing - helping to cement their understanding of the new concepts.

MP3 of examples given

Smith

mi fa so so etc

When a melody such as "Lara's Song" has been written using only notes from the scale of C Major (and ends on C) we say that this composition is in the **key of C Major**.



James's Song

Smith

do re mi do etc

W

Stem Direction Rules

Worksheet consolidating new knowledge

When notes are written on a staff, there are rules to follow for the direction of the stems.

If the note is above the middle line of the staff then the stem must go down and is attached to the front of the notehead.



If the note is below the middle line the stem must go up and is attached to the back of the notehead.



If the note is on the middle line the stem may go up or down.

The stem rule: Stems are written **down before** or **up after**.

Melodic Transcription

Blue bar in margin indicating important, basic, academic information

A **Melodic Transcription** is a dictation exercise where a melody (with or without accompanying parts) is played several times so that it may be notated in solfa or on the staff.

Violet bar in margin indicating additional, relevant information.

A shorthand version of solfa omits the last letter of each solfa name. For example **mi** becomes **m**.



Practice Question 2: Melodic Transcription

Practice Questions provide a worked through solution for each question type

1. Study the melodic transcription below. The melody to be transcribed is in C Major, therefore, write the C Major scale on the treble staff given with solfa and letter names beneath each note:

Answers shaded in teacher book

d r m f s l t d'
 C D E F G A B C

This is your **transcription scale** and needs to be written for **EVERY** melodic transcription.

2. Sing this scale in solfa and letter names.
3. The melody for Practice Question 2 will be played several times. Before it begins, note the rhythm of the melody given above the staff. The solfa of the starting note is given under the first crotchet of this rhythm.
4. The first time you hear the melody, listen and point to the rhythm above the staff. If you **recognise** any notes (such as the tonic: *do* or the dominant: *so*) write the solfa of these notes under the rhythm where you heard them. You may remember the solfa of the last few notes as these will remain in your internal memory.
5. Use further playings of the melody to continue writing the solfa you hear under the rhythm. When you are (fairly) sure your solfa is correct write this as notes on the staff. (Do not leave this until the end as looking at the notes written on the staff can help you find mistakes).
6. Have the notes of this melody on the staff before the final playing. Use the final playing to check your completed melody by singing it in solfa in your head as you listen.

Melodic Transcription

m f s f m r d

CD track MP3 file for transcription exercises

1/06

Some melodic transcription exercises will **not** provide the rhythm of the melody. In these exercises, first complete the rhythmic shorthand (as if completing a rhythmic transcription exercise) then add the solfa beneath the strokes you have made for each note before writing these notes onto the staff.

Melodic Clever Echo Practice Video



As with all completed and corrected transcriptions, sing through in rhythm names, solfa with handsigns and in letter names.

Clever Echo is a practical **instant melodic dictation** practice activity.

Click on the Clever Echo icon:  in the left margin, for the practice video.



A further way to practice melody is to compose melodies using known melodic elements and scale forms. Then sing these in solfa, with handsigns and in letter names.

Worksheet 4

Worksheet with theory and aural transcription exercises

Transcription Scale for **S1 Melodic Transcriptions 1, 2 and 3.**

d *r* *m* *f* *s* *l* *t* *d'*
 C D E F G A B C

S1 Melodic Transcription 1

$\frac{2}{4}$ *d* *r* *m* *r* *d*

1/07

S1 Melodic Transcription 2

$\frac{2}{4}$ *d* *r* *m* *f* *s* *m* *d*

1/08

S1 Melodic Transcription 3

$\frac{2}{4}$ *d* *r* *m* *f* *s* *f* *m* *r* *m* *r* *d*

1/09

W

S1 Melodic Composition Create a simple C Major melody by writing the rhythm on the top rhythm staff, the solfa underneath this rhythm and then transferring this onto the treble staff below. Sing in solfa and letter names once you have finished.

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