

Level 1 Lesson 4

Activity 1: Solfa and *mi, re, do*



Click on this video to learn about solfa and the handsigns.



Sing "Hot Cross Buns" as you point to the given rhythm.

Click on this audio icon to hear "Hot Cross Buns" being sung with the words if required.

Hot Cross Buns - Rhythmic Pattern



Sing the song again using the words "high" when you sing the highest pitch, "mid" (or "middle") when you sing the middle pitch, and "low" when you sing the lowest pitch.

For example, the first three notes would be sung:

High Middle Low *etc*

Hot Cross Buns - Solfa



Sing the song again using the words *mi* instead of "high", *re* instead of "middle" and *do* instead of "low". Click on this audio icon to hear "Hot Cross Buns" being sung using *mi, re* and *do*.

These new notes names are called **solfa** names.

Solfa names can be shortened if preferred:

Catch a Flea



Sing "Catch a Flea" in solfa as you point to the given rhythm. Complete the solfa of the notes you sing. Click on this audio icon to hear "Catch a Flea" being sung in solfa.

Activity 2: Handsigns

Each of the solfa note names has a matching handsign:



Activity 3: Melodic Sightreading



Click on this video icon to learn about Melodic Sightreading.

Read the rhythm names, in your head then out loud, of **Melodic Sightreading 1** and **2** below, while tapping or conducting the beat.

Sing the melodies in solfa, in your head then out loud, while showing the handsigns. Click on the audio icons below to hear the melodies being sung in solfa if required.



Melodic Sightreading 1

d r m r d d r m m m r d



Melodic Sightreading 2

d r m d d r m m m r d d d

Level 1 Lesson 4 - Worksheet

Questions 10 and 11 can be found in the *Musicianship & Aural Training for the Secondary School, Level 1 Books*, page 8.

Question 10: Melodic Recognition. Follow these instructions to complete this question.

Sightread each of the following melodies by reading each in rhythm names, in your head, then out loud, while tapping or conducting the beat. Then, sing the melody in solfa, in your head, then out loud, while showing the handsigns.



Click on this audio icon to hear the three rhythms for **Question 10: Melodic Recognition** being played in a different order from that seen below. You will hear four beats of click track plus the starting note before each playing begins.

As you listen, write a number in each box beside each rhythm showing the order they are played in.


d r d r m r d

d r m m m r d

d r m d d r d

Level 1 Lesson 4 - Worksheet continued

Question 11: Melodic Dictation. Follow these instructions to complete this question.

 Click on this audio icon to hear the rhythm for **Question 11: Melodic Dictation** played five times. Each playing will be preceded by four beats of click track plus the starting note.

First playing: listen and quietly tap the beat.

Second playing: point to the rhythm and listen for *mi* (the high pitch sound), *re* (the middle pitch sound) and *do* (the low pitch sound).

Third and fourth playings: write the solfa beneath each note.

Fifth and final playing: sing the melody you have written, in solfa, to correct any errors if necessary.



 **Listening Activity.**

 Using the timings given in each question below, listen to and/or watch the **The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra by Benjamin Britten** by clicking on the audio or video icons.

For each excerpt, name the main instrument(s) you hear in each variation then circle two of the "Tone Colour Descriptive Words" that best describe the tone colour (timbre) of this instrument. The first has been done for you.

1. Audio: 2'01" to 2'35" and/or Video: 4'12" to 4'36"

Main Instrument(s) Flute, Piccolo Sweet Rich **Bright** Dark **Clear** Breathy

2. Audio: 2'35" to 3'35" and/or Video: 4'47" to 5'52"

Main Instrument(s) _____ Shrill Mellow Reedy Heavy Nasal Light

3. Audio: 3'35" to 4'18" and/or Video: 5'59" to 6'46"

Main Instrument(s) _____ Mellow Piercing Warm Resonant Breathy

4. Audio: 4'18" to 5'15" and/or Video: 6'52" to 7'44"

Main Instrument(s) _____ Reedy Brassy Clear Pure Bright Dark

5. Audio: 5'15" to 5'53" and/or Video: 8'02" to 8'35"

Main Instrument(s) _____ Warm Light Vibrant Dark Clear Breathy

6. Audio: 5'53" to 6.54" and/or Video: 8'46" to 9'55"

Main Instrument(s) _____ Shrill Mellow Bright Reverberant Heavy

7. Audio: 6'54" to 8'00" and/or Video: 10'00" to 11'22"

Main Instrument(s) _____ Rich Brassy Clear Bright Resonant