

You Have To Hear It To Sing It! **Games, Tools and Exercises for Sight Reading Skills**

Objectives:

1. To provide skill building exercises leading toward proficiency in the following sight reading requirements:
 - Pitch memory and tone matching
 - Meter identification
 - Recognition and performance of rhythmic values
 - Establishment of interval clarity
 - Recognition and tuning of basic barbershop chords
2. To practice the exercises and apply the skills directly to sight reading four part barbershop arrangements.
3. To enjoy the process!

The ability to read music, to look at the written page and have it make sense, adds a powerful dimension to a singer's confidence. It builds ease in memorizing the music for performance. When you can read music, you will be able to look at a line of music and mentally "hear" how it sounds. In this class we will use exercises to give you an understanding of music notation and sight reading skills so you can use your new knowledge as your wings.

BE LIKE THE BIRD

*Be like the bird, who
Halting in his flight
On limb too slight
Feels it give way beneath him.
Yet sings
Knowing he hath wings.*

Victor Hugo

Scale Exercises for warm up, tonal center, key establishment and tuning:

- A. 1, 121, 12321, 131, 1234321, 141, 123454321, 151, etc.
- B. 8, 878, 87678, 868, 8765678, 858, 876545678, 848, etc.
- C. Sing both of the above exercises together, pausing to listen to the tuning of each interval.
- D. Divide the group and have one half maintain a single pitch while the other half sings the scale. Vary the sustained pitch and listen for the new relationships.
- E. Use of basic barbershop chord intervals:

1 3 5 3 1 Tonic

1 4 6 4 1 Subdominant

5 7 2 4 Dominant 7th (Barbershop 7th) Often inverted to 7 2 4 5
7 2 4 5

- F. Use of 4-part chords for pitch memory, tuning and balance:

Tenor: 5 6 5 5 5

Lead: 3 4 3 4 3

Bari: 3 4 3 2 3











Bass: 1 1 1 7 1
↓

Note: all highlighted notes must be sung on the high side of the pitch in order for the chords to ring.




G) Use of scale exercise for tuning, balance and breath support:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 8 8 8	Tenor
1 2 3 4 5 6 6 6, 5	Lead
1 1 1 2 3 4 4 4 3	Baritone
8 7 6 6, 5 4 5 4 9 9 8	Bass

Rhythm Patterns and Note Values in Common Time:

Whole note		whole rest		4 beats
Half note		half rest		2 beats
Quarter note		quarter rest		1 beat
Eighth note		eighth rest		1/2 beat
Sixteenth note		sixteenth rest		1/4 beat

Writing a dot behind a note adds half the value of that note to the total number of beats.












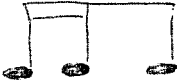




For example, a dotted half note		would receive 3 beats
a dotted quarter		would receive 1 1/2
and a dotted eighth		would receive 3/4 of a beat

“Jazz Music” Rhythm Words

In the four lines below, use the corresponding words for the note values.

 Jazz  Music  Won't you sing some

 Barbershop  I love the

“The Name Game:”

Use notation to write the rhythm of the names of students in the class and create a pattern of notation for all to perform.