

Singing to Learn!

Basics for Choir

Session Proposal - San Jose - 2007
By Brent Holl

*"If I knew I had eight hours
to cut a tree, I'd spend six of them
sharpening the axe." - Abraham
Lincoln*

The Four Basics:

Posture - "The position of the limbs or the carriage of the body as a whole." - Random House Collegiate Dictionary.

The Definition of Posture

arr. BMH
from The Random House
Collegiate Dictionary

The definition
The po - si - tion, po - si - tion, po - si - tion, of the limbs, limbs, limbs, or the

Ost #1
Back straight, feet on the Back straight, feet on the floor

Ost #2
Head and shoul - ders neu - tral, ba - by

car-riage, car-riage, car - riage, of the bo - dy, bo - dy, bo - dy, as a

Back straight, feet on the Back straight, feet on the floor

Head and shoul - ders neu - tral, ba - by

whole, as a whole. The po -

Back straight, feet on the Back straight, feet on the floor

Head and shoul - ders neu - tral, ba - by

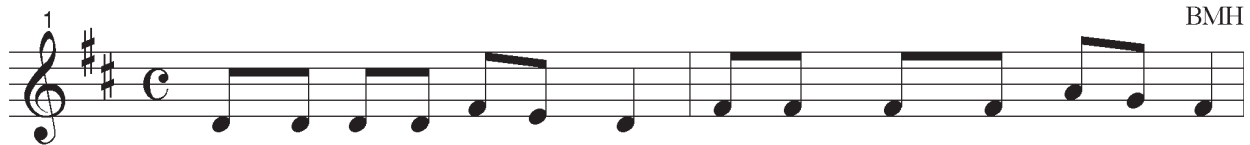
The Four Points of Posture:

- 1 Both Feet on the floor with body in balance.
- 2 Ears to toes in a straight line. (Back Straight? Not really!)
- 3 Head and Shoulders in a neutral, balanced position.
- 4 The carriage of the body should be alert, but RELAXED.

The Four Points of Breath:

- 1 Breathe deeply with the diaphragm.
- 2 Breathe on the vowel sound so no one can hear.
- 3 Control the exhale to support the sound.
- 4 Maintain a relaxed but alert facial and body posture.

Breathe



Breathe in with the di - a - phragm, Sit up straight and start to jam.



Catch a breath so no one hears, And put some mu-sic in their ears.

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The Four Points of Vowels:

- 1 Vowel formation is essential.
- 2 Singing the Vowels colors the tone from dark to light.
- 3 Vowels are sung "North and South."
- 4 Singing vowels opens the voice and releases the head tone.

HUSH LITTLE BABY

1. 2. BRENT M. HOLL

Hush lit - tle ba - by, don't you cry,
An - gels guard you while you sleep,
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu.

3. 4.

You'll be an an - gel by and by.
Pray to the Lord your soul to keep.
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu.

The Four Points of Consonants:

- 1 Consonants make it easy to understand words.
- 2 Consonants highlight the rhythm.
- 3 Consonants must be articulated "Al Dente."
- 4 Consonants are fun to practice with Tongue Twisters!

SOME LIKE IT!

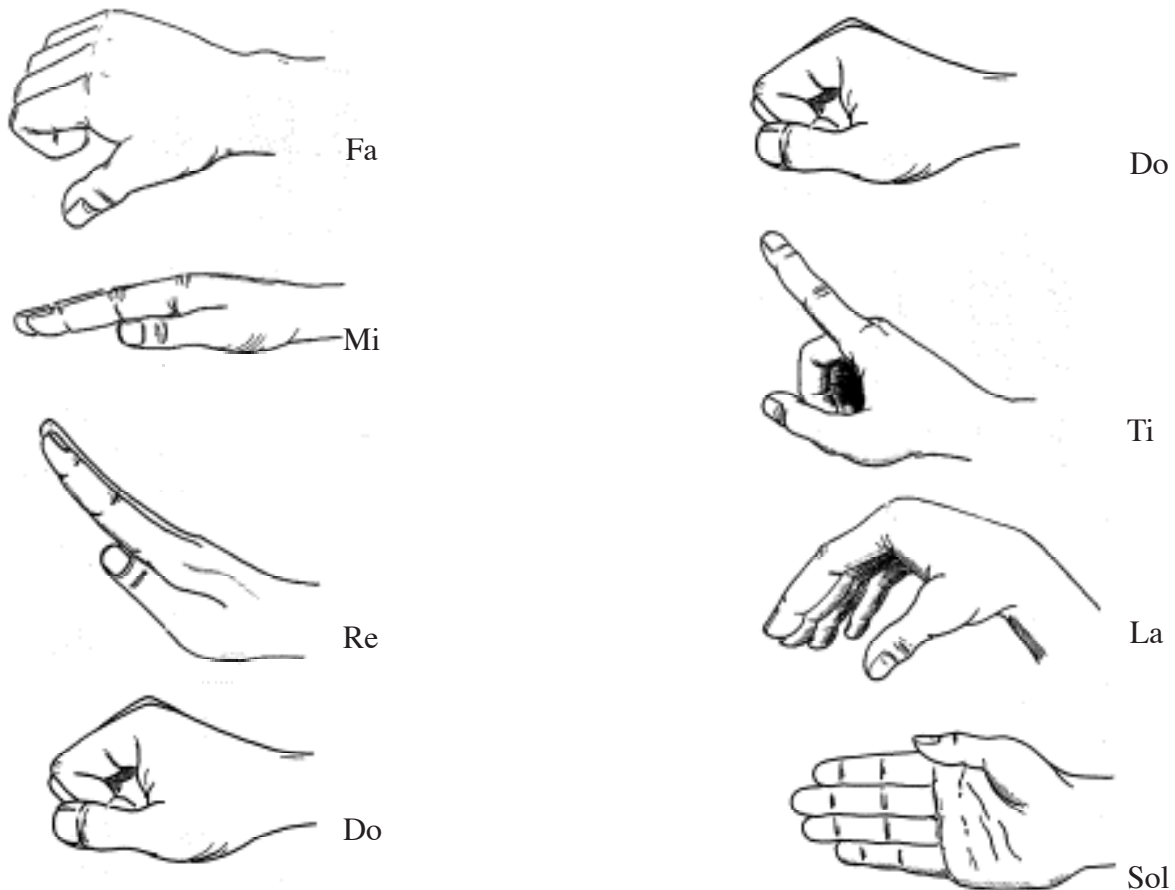
1. 2. 3. 4. BRENT M. HOLL

Some like it cold and some like it hot! But

5 some just don't like it wheth-er or not!

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Solfege - A concrete sight reading system for children.



The Basics:

- 1 The Solfege Scale - Practice hand signs as you sing the major scale from Do to Re and back. Try it in 2 and 3 part canon.
- 2 Solfege Practice Sheet #1 - The Routine:
 - ◇ Students must use two hands with hand signs.
 - ◇ Students eyes must be on the music.
 - ◇ Each example gets sung three times each day until test time.
- 3 Harmony a tres - The Routine: (a separate handout)
 - ◇ Hand sign singing continues but now we sing in three part harmony.
 - ◇ Each line is sung by everyone once.
 - ◇ Three lines are sung in harmony once.

The Wrap - Up

Sounds of the Singing School

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classes by all session participants! See Credit
5, p. 7.

1.



Now for a song of the sing - ing school, And the sounds you there may

4



hear, Of the do re mi and the A B C and the voi - ces ring - ing clear,

2.



La la

13




Lines and spa - ces, clefs and keys, All must tell with ease.

3/2



Keep the time with ac - cent strong, Full and clear the tones pro - long,

4/2




Do re mi fa so la ti do is the ma - jor scale you know,

29



Ev - en dou - ble tri - ple mea - sure too, are a - mong the ma - ny things we do,

5/3



Oh, ah, ay, ee, bo, bah, bay, bee, Please sit up straight I say,

37



ho, ho, ho ha, ha, ha Drive dull care a - way.

The Application - "Sing Winter" Sight Read

And Finally... Rhythm

Sight reading rhythm is an important and FUN way to build sight reading skills:

Put these rhythms on the board:

Four in a Row

Chris Judah-Lauder

The image shows four staves of musical notation for hand drums, labeled Hand Drum 1, Hand Drum 2, Hand Drum 3, and Hand Drum 4. Each staff is in 4/4 time and contains a sequence of rhythmic patterns. Hand Drum 1 has a pattern of quarter notes with eighth rests. Hand Drum 2 has a pattern of quarter notes with eighth notes. Hand Drum 3 has a pattern of quarter notes with eighth notes, followed by a rest, and then a pattern of quarter notes with eighth notes. Hand Drum 4 has a pattern of quarter notes with eighth rests. The notation includes stems, beams, and rests, with a double bar line at the end of each staff.

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Perform these in many different ways, including:

Body instruments
Hand Drums
with movement!
Have Fun!

Credits:

1 Holl, Brent M. Canons Too! - An Active Study in Part Singing for Grades 3 - 8.
Beatin' Path Publications, Ltd. 302 East College Street, Bridgewater, VA. 22812. www.beatinpathpublications.com.

2 Judah-Lauder, Chris. Hand Drums on the Move - Hand Drum Activities for Grades 1 - 8.
Beatin' Path Publications, Ltd. 302 East College Street, Bridgewater, VA. 22812.
www.beatinpathpublications.com.

4 Artman, Ruth. Early One Morning. Heritage Music Press. HV346. 501 E. Third St. Dayton OH 45401-0802.

5 2007 Sight-Singing Catalog. Masterworks Press. 6706 Miner Drive SW, Olympia, WA 98512. 1-800-300-9229. www.MasterworksPress.com

6 Urdang, Laurence, Editor in Chief. The Random House College Dictionary. © 1975 by Random House, Inc. 201 E. 50th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022.

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