

Singing to Learn!

Orff style basics for Elementary Choirs

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

The 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 -

Backstraight, 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 use of ostinatos is very typical in the Orff process. The benefits include:

- Immediate positive results with reasonably complicated material.
- Helps with class management by keeping everyone involved and focused.
- Builds memory.
- Builds confidence and helps overcome shyness.
- Promotes a feeling of working together in an ensemble and listening to each other.

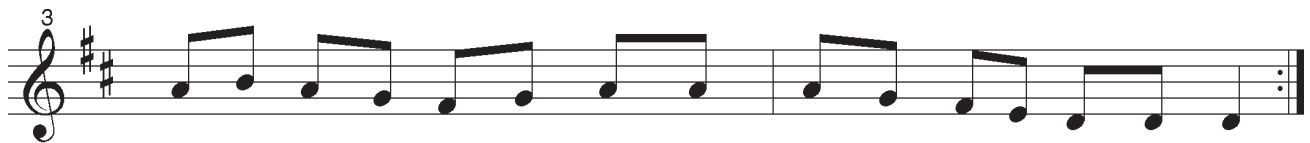
The Four Points of Breath:

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,
An - gels guard you
Al - le - lu - ia,

don't you cry,
while you sleep,
Al - le - lu.

You'll be an an - gel
Pray to the Lord
Al - le - lu - ia,

by and by.
soul to keep.
Al - le - lu.

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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

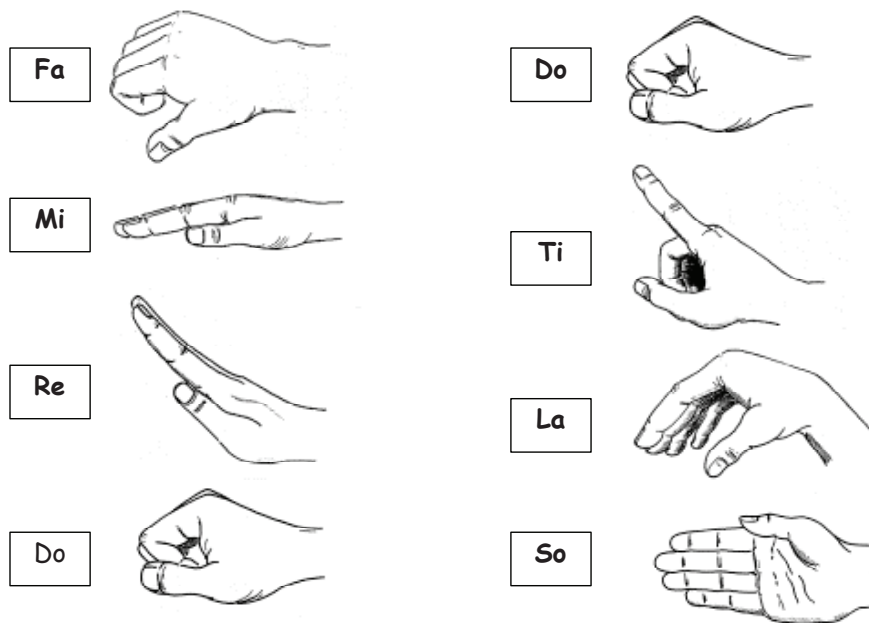
Some like it cold and some like it hot! But

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

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Solfege - A concrete sight reading system for children.

The Cerwin Hand Signs



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.

The Application - "Sing Winter" Sight Read

The Wrap - Up

Sounds of the Singing School

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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.

17



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

4.

25



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.

33



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.

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

Hand Drum 1

Hand Drum 2

Hand Drum 3

Hand Drum 4

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Process:

- Sight read each 4-measure pattern. Include dynamics and playing technique.
- Assign parts by category of instrument. (Woods, Metals, Rattles, Drums)
- Combine any two patterns and play as a duet. Try all possible duets.
- Combine any three patterns and repeat.
- Combine all four patterns.

Add Movement:

- Let each group work together to make a formation.
- Add self-space movement within the formation.
- Make sure the movements and formation work well with the assigned rhythm.
- Share.
- Combine the groups w movement in various combinations.
- Make a form:
 - All begin in a group formation. (rows, a circle, etc.) and play all four parts (tutti) once.
 - Teacher plays simple pulse while each group travels to a corner.
 - Teacher indicates which group or combination of groups will play.
 - Teacher plays simple pulse while each group travels to the original group formation. Play once. Fini!

Credits:

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.

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.

Ware Patrick. Sing Winter. Beatin' Path Publications. 302 East College Street, Bridgewater, VA 22812.

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

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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Solfege Practice Sheet

Autumn Leaves - BMH

1. 
do do re mi la so mi re do do so do re mi do mi


so so mi la so so mi do la do so la do la do

The Peace Round - Jean Ritchie

2. 
la so la la mi la la ti ti do re ti


mi re mi do re mi do ti la mi

Ah, Poor Bird - trad.

3. 
la ti do do re mi

**(add #2)*


mi la la si la mi mi re do ti la