

# Sequential Melodic Sight Reading Lesson Outline

## National Standards for Music Education

- 5. Reading and notating music.
- 6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
- 7. Evaluating music and music performances.

## DESE-Missouri Knowledge Standards

Goal 1

## DESE-Missouri Performance Standards

1.4, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 2.5, 3.1, 3.2, 4.4

Subject Area: Choral/Vocal Ensembles

Grade Range: 4-12

All singers need strong sight reading skills. Increased study of melodic sight reading can lead to a higher level of melodic comprehension, improved performance, retention, and accuracy of intervals. These skills can be achieved by instituting a twice weekly, (or more) sequential melodic sight reading program.

Materials Needed: SmartMusic, method of projection in classroom-large TV or projector, speaker(s) to play accompaniment and/or recording of group singing back to classroom, SmartMusic microphone or other microphone, paper/pencils.

Time Allowance: 1- 4 minutes each class period used; suggested use on alternating days throughout a whole semester, or year.

Objectives:

1. **Students will actively engage in weekly melodic sight reading in a sequential progression.**
2. **Students will sight sing using director's desired method (i.e. solfeggio/numbers), and count/clap rhythm patterns within their area curriculum; demonstrating mastery of those melodies**

## Lesson

**Step 1: Using SmartMusic Method Books, determine which book is an appropriate starting point for your singers based on their level and curriculum. After choosing a book, click on it and view the entire directory of melodies. Click on a song title and it will open. Once the selection is open your students can begin to sight sing. Choose Click On to enable the metronome click to continue when the students sing. The Cursor will automatically be visible when reading from the Method Books. This will**

help your class visually follow the melodic patterns. (For many students, this is the key to gain the critical recognition of the relationship of how the pulse stays constant as pitches and rhythms are read.) Both the Click and Cursor can be removed as the class progresses.

- **Step 2:** Click Record when desired and the class will hear an audible count-off, and then the students can begin sight singing the melody displayed in time with the metronome click.
- **Step 3:** When the exercise is completed, SmartMusic will automatically save the audio recording and then give the option of playing it back for the group; allowing them to immediately hear how accurately they performed the melody together. Click on Preview for the class to hear their collective reading effort. Students receive automatic, immediate feedback on their sight reading. The recording can be **SAVED**, if desired, as part of “class participation/cooperative learning” points that all students could share; adding motivation and incentive. The instructor may decide on a percentage of class mastery before proceeding to the next melody.
- **Step 4:** The teacher may decide to simply move to the next melodic exercise; and click Next. The next melody automatically is displayed on the screen and the metronome and cursor will remain **ON**, unless you remove them. Choose Play, and your group will have a new melody to read.
- **Step 5:** Continue to open as many melodies your class will read and sight sing that day.

# Sequential Melodic Sight Reading Supplemental Instructor Ideas and Activities

## Assignment Suggestions

1. The teacher can choose to select a set number of exercises to be read per day or week. For example, read two melodies every other day and record only one per class period. This would ensure that very few minutes are used for this activity. (Alternate days can be used to sight read using the instructor's chosen sight reading book, SmartMusic Rhythms from Exercises, choral part reading, or other materials.)
2. Click on **TEMPO** to adapt the exercise to the level of students, either faster or slower. For adaptations for visually impaired students, the instructor can click on **PRINT** to print the melodies in advance, and enlarge them, as needed.
3. A teacher's aide or trusted student could easily operate the SmartMusic Method Book melodies for the class. The teacher is free to move around the room checking student effort, take the roll, or attend to other classroom matters while learning continues and no class time is wasted.
4. Choose trombone for bass clef melody reading, and flute, oboe, or trumpet for treble clef reading.

## Indicators of Success

### Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to:

1. Actively interpret and sight sing melodies cooperatively that are within the scope and sequence of their curriculum.
2. Analyze their accuracy by listening to the recording of their sight reading.
3. Achieve improved interval recognition and rhythm reading retention, progressing as a group and individually.

## Assessment

1. Students will demonstrate correct melodic sight singing as achieved by the entire class using a SmartMusic's Method Books.
2. (Optional) Students could individually sight sing a melody at a SmartMusic station, then record and **SAVE** their effort for instructor to hear and assess. Students with SmartMusic School Sponsored Home Subscriptions could be assigned to sight sing several melodies, record and e-mail their results to instructor.

3. (Optional) Students could demonstrate their melodic retention by using pencil and paper to correctly notate a melody from a selection not previously sung using the method of melodic dictation. The instructor could sing, play on a piano, or use the SmartMusic Method Book choosing the Solo to play, while not showing the melody on screen to the class.
4. Open a melody to sight sing and have it projected for the entire group to see. Assign students to quickly write down the pitch numbers/solfeggio for the melody.

#### Lesson Extensions

1. Assign individual students, groups of two, or small groups to sight sing a specific set of melodies for reinforcement and/or assessment at a computer station or in a practice room. Their collective singing could be recorded, saved to a pre-made folder, and averaged together with other areas of assessment.
2. Divide the choir into sections or use their voice sections and host a “Melodic Sight Singing Competition”. Determine a minimum accuracy score such as 100% rhythms, all pitches correct in the first round and offer a “one pitch error freebie”, etc. Continue sight singing melodies in the sequence as they are presented in the Method Books to determine a winning group. This activity could be used as an incentive or reward, or for changing the class routine.
3. For extra credit, any student could sight sing as many melodies from ANY Method Book as they desire. The student could save their recording, and e-mail or save their score on a classroom work station computer. To ensure that a student is honest and does not “practice” or “listen” to the melody prior to sight reading, an instructor may choose to have students also use the SmartMusic Practice Report. Students start the Practice Report when they begin using the program and it keeps a running “timer” of how long the student spends on an area. Students could print or e-mail the instructor their Practice Report along with their sight reading recording.
4. Challenge students to correctly sight sing the melodies selected at increasingly faster tempos and to strive for 100% accuracy.
5. Assign “Sight Reading Partners” by pairing students of varying abilities together. Separate into cooperative learning groups and sight sing a set of melodies printed from the Method Book. Play a continuous metronome click to assist students to maintain a steady beat.
6. Vary how the class sight sings the Method Book melodies: a capella, with the SmartMusic accompaniment playing, or with just the metronome click playing.
7. Assign alternating groups of students to sight singing specific measures. For example, assign the first row of students to sight sing the first measure of the melody, and then the next row could sing the second measure, etc.

# **SmartMusic Method Books**

## **Melodies for Vocalists/Choral Groups to Sight Sing**

### **from Essential Elements 2000**

Melodies are listed in order of how they appear sequentially in SmartMusic.

- 26 Essential Elements Quiz (Do to So)
- 29 Remix (P4 ascending sequence)
- 33 Deep Pockets (Do/Ti and Re-Ti-Do)
- 40 Rhythm Rap (eighths + quarters clapping)
- 46 Rhythm Rap (2/4 clap)
- 47 Two By Two (2/4 Do-Mi-So +scale movement)
- 50 So Clap The Dynamics
- 63 New Directions (key signature B flat-standard melodic sight reading)
- 64 The Nobles (ties)
- 65 Essential Elements Quiz (4/4 with pick up/intervals up to 8va)
- 66 Rhythm Rap (3/4)
- 67 Three Beat Jam
- 74 Cossack Dance
- 75 Basic Blues
- 77 Sakura, Sakura
- 80 The Big Air Stream
- 82 Air Time
- 84 Essential Elements Quiz
- 86 Tone Builder (good for sequence of descending intervals)
- 87 Rhythm Builder
- 88 Technique Trax
- 91 Banana Boat Song (not very recognizable)
- 92 Razor's Edge (good for accidentals)
- 93 The Music Box
- 95 Smooth Operator
- 96 Gliding Along
- 97 Trombone Rag (P5/P4 descending)
- 98 Essential Elements Quiz (3/4, accidentals, D.C.)
- 99 Take The Lead
- 100 The Cold Wind
- 101 Phraseology (accidentals in minor key)
- 102 Satin Latin
- 103 Minuet (Duet A and B-print one, divide group to read)
- 105 Naturally (2/4 & accidentals)
- 106 March Militaire
- 107 The Flat Zone (flats as accidentals)
- 109 Bottom Bass Boogie (A/B Duet + accidentals)
- 110 Rhythm Rap (clap)
- 111 The Dot Always Counts (dotted quarter/eighth patterns/good for reinforcing rhythm reading)
- 115 Rhythm Rap (begin syncopation)
- 116 The Turnaround (same rhythm as 115, but has half step pitch changes only)
- 119 Grenadilla Gorilla Jump (P4/P5 up/down)
- 120 Jumpin' Up and Down (" ")
- 121 Grenadilla Gorilla (var. of 119)
- 122 Jumpin' For Joy (more interval leaps)
- 123 Grenadilla Gorilla (more var.)
- 124 Jumpin' Jacks
- 125 Essential Elements Quiz (large intervals/minor)
- 126 Grenadilla Gorilla (4<sup>th</sup> variation)
- 127 Three Is The Count (3/4 in minor, then altered to major/back to minor)

- 129 Technique Trax (minor, altered to major, back to minor)
- 130 Crossing Over
- 133 Kum Ba Ya (Trio- only read B & C-harmony parts)
- 134 Botany Bay (good, typical melodic SR)
- 135 Technique Trax (“twisty” scale degrees)
- 137 Essential Creativity (all quarters w/odd, intervals)
- 138 Easy Gorilla Jumps
- 139 Technique Trax
- 140 More Technique Traxs
- 141 German Folk Song (3/4 semi-familiar)
- 143 Lowland Gorilla Walk (great for Do to Ti/8 to 7 downward half steps)
- 144 Smooth Sailing
- 145 More Gorilla Jumps (minor)
- 146 Full Coverage (Fa to Mi,/4 to 3 and Do/Ti/8-7 half steps reinforcement of the scale)
- 149 Scale & Arpeggio
- 154 Range & Flexibility Builder (P4 descending/+accidentals)
- 155 Technique Trax (“twisty” scale step sequences)
- 156 Chorale (Bach-may be familiar to some/not all)
- 157 Hatikvah (pure minor-lots of melodic intervals)
- 158 Rhythm Rap (clap rhythm)
- 159 Eighth Note March
- 161 Rhythm Rap (clap rhythm/syncopation)
- 162 Eighth Notes Off The Beat
- 163 Eighth Note Scramble
- 164 Essential Elements Quiz
- 165 Dancing Melody
- 166 El Capitan (vague variation of melody/large interval leaps/active rhythm)
- 169 Snake Charmer (“visual” enharmonics)
- 170 Dark Shadows (Harmonic minor, dotted quarter/eighth patterns, some enharmonics)
- 171 Close Encounters (minor + enharmonics)
- 173 Notes In Disguise (2/4, minor-lots of accidentals)
- 174 Half Steppin’ (most of chromatic scale)
- 177 Theme from Sym. 7 by Beethoven-(Trio-Good for Music History/Appreciation Class/or for a choir singing a Beethoven work to look for similarities, NOT for sight reading. Parts B/C are harmony)
- 178 Capriccio Italien (familiar to some, ¾ with a pick up)
- 181 Essential Elements Quiz (scale presented with rhythms of increasing difficulty)
- 182 Eine Kleine Nachtmusic (Mozart, for Music History/Appreciation, or comparison for choir if singing a Mozart work. NOT for Sight Singing)
- 186 Swing Low (Duet, B only for harmony sight reading)
- 187 La Bamba (Duet, B only for harmony sight reading)
- Bonus Tracks-Celtic Dreams (lots of dotted quarters)
- Bonus- Groove Blues
- Bonus-Mystery Island (modal)
- Bonus-Pedal To Metal (minor/rhythmic)
- Bonus-New Spirit March

**To find the best pitch area to sight read use this tip:  
 From the INSTRUMENT tab (located on the top left side of the SmartMusic controls) Choose trombone for bass clef sight reading, and for treble clef choose from, oboe flute, or trumpet etc.**