

# SINGING COMPANION LESSON BOOK - Bass Clef

Name:

36 COMPREHENSIVE LESSONS from Malovance, Wieneke, Melodia and Burgmayer





## **ABOUT THE SINGING COMPANION**

The **Singing Companion** is a carefully graded, step-by-step approach to reading music at first sight, commonly known as *sight-singing*. The 36 lessons of *The Singing Companion* follow and reinforce the pitch and rhythm sequence of the six levels (Levels Primer through Five) of the M.A.P. (Music Arts Proficiency) Voice form. The teaching goals, correlated music theory concepts and introduction of *solfege* syllables are presented in the colored boxes at the start of each lesson.

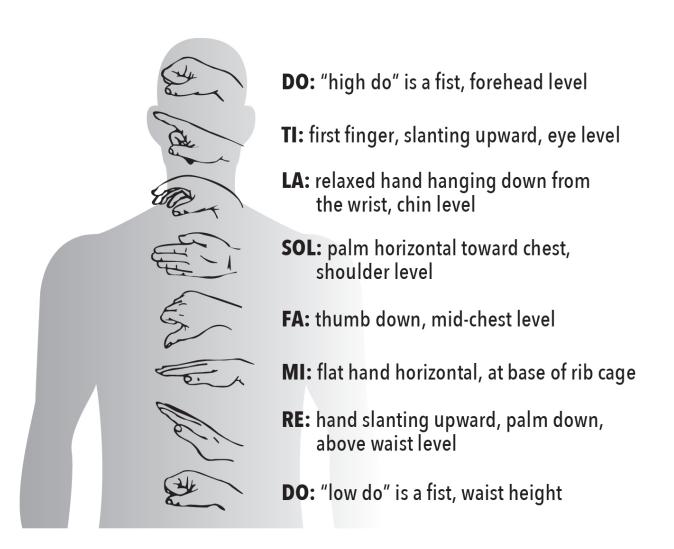
The aim is for singers and instrumentalists of all ages to be able to hear and sing musical phrases, aided only by a starting pitch and sense of key. After giving the initial pitch and solfege syllable, the instructor is encouraged to count off and beat time to encourage rhythm accuracy. This acquired musical literacy will speed the learning of music, and increase confidence and pleasure in making music.

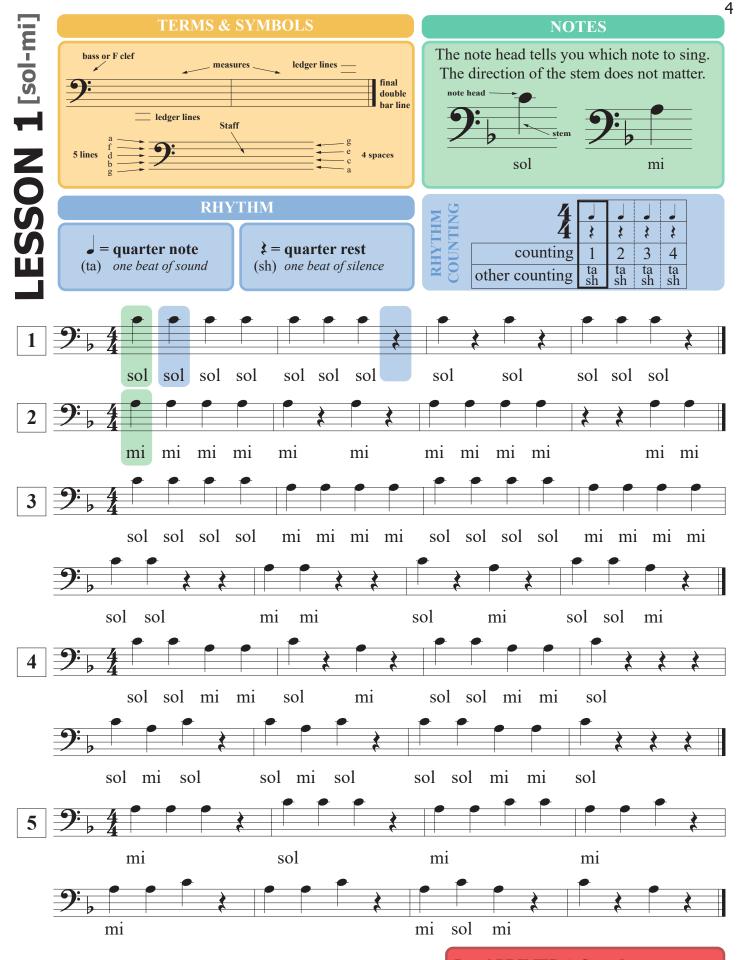
Exercises are adapted from the three levels of *The Weineke Method* (Philip E. & Valore Walters Weineke, ©1985, out of print) and the time-honored *Melodia* (Samuel W. Cole & Leo R. Lewis, ©1909, public domain). Additional exercises were written by Beth Malovance and Dr. Harold Burgmayer, with editorial assistance from Priscilla Burgmayer and Dr. Beatrice Holz. Typesetting was by Marty Thomas, with educational heading content and layout by Beth Malovance.



### **CURWEN HAND SIGNS**

The application of *solfeggio* is best reinforced by using the Curwen hand signs or by adjusting your hand by levels to help indicate the pitches going up or down. This aids in connecting physically to what you hear and will also help show the contour of the melody. Pay careful attention to placement of the hand in relationship to the body. Use the diagram below to help you.





Level PRIMER A Complete: \_

### **NOTES**

### **TERMS & SYMBOLS**

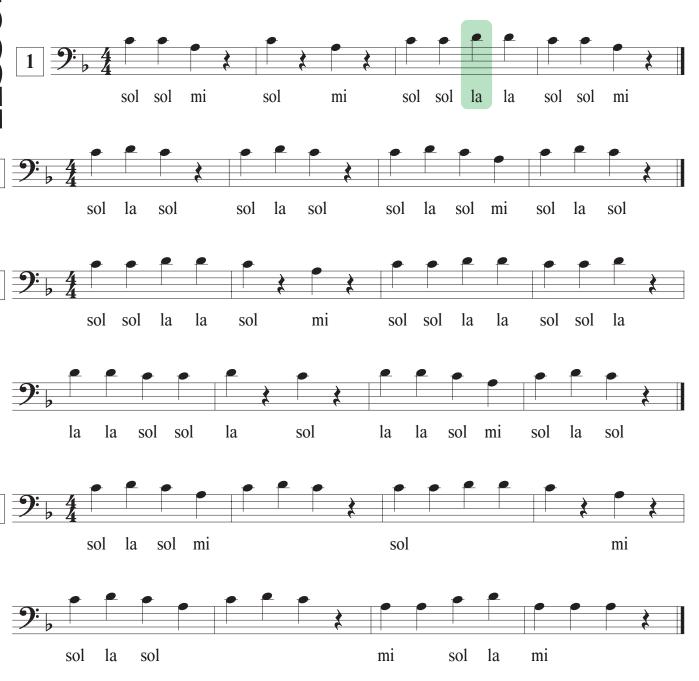
### TIPS

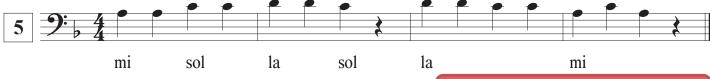


Always use the Curwen hand signs when singing in solfege. Make sure you are doing these at the correct height on your body. This will help you place the notes because you will be following the contour of the melody with your hand signs. See page number three for a complete diagram.

# Always remember to use good posture:

- 1. Feet slightly apart
- 2. Knees straight but not locked
- 3. Ribs high
- 4. Shoulders down
- 5. Chin parallel with the floor
- 6. Keep dropped jaw

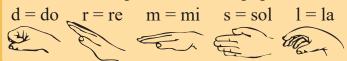




**Level PRIMER B Complete:** 

### TERMS & SVMROLS

These are abbreviations for the solfege syllables and will be used throughout the following lessons. Use the hand signs below while singing.



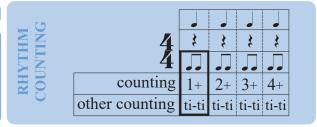


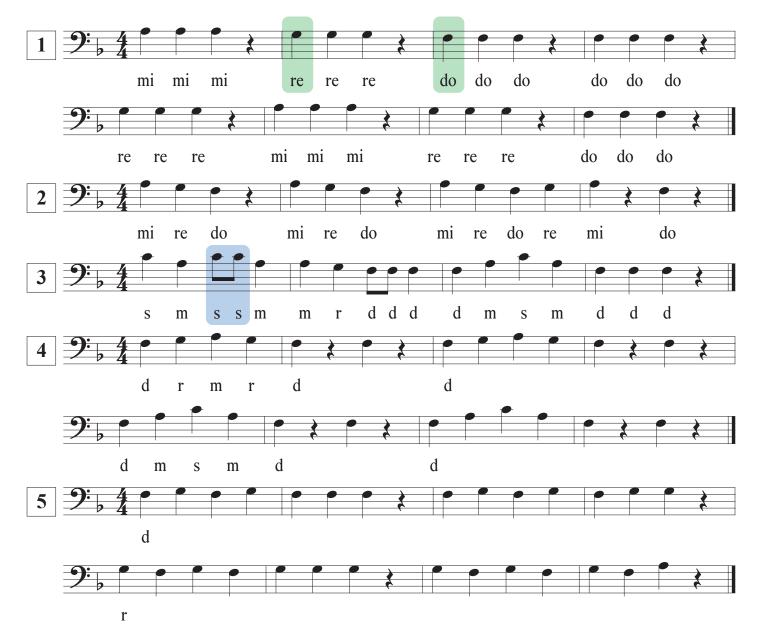
**NOTES** 

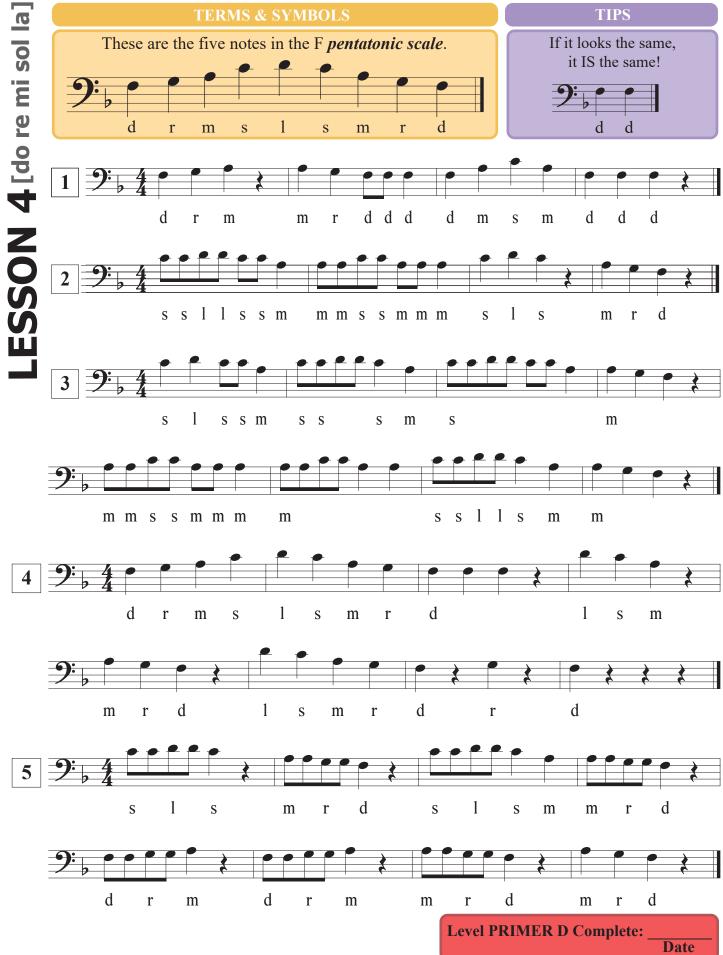
### **RHYTHM**

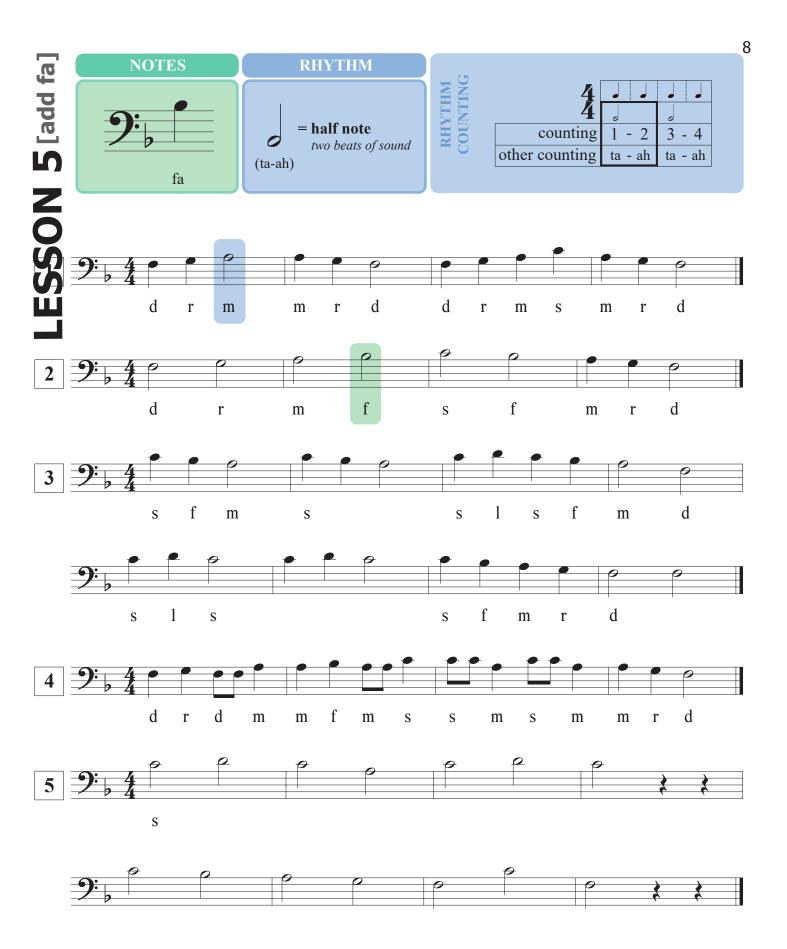


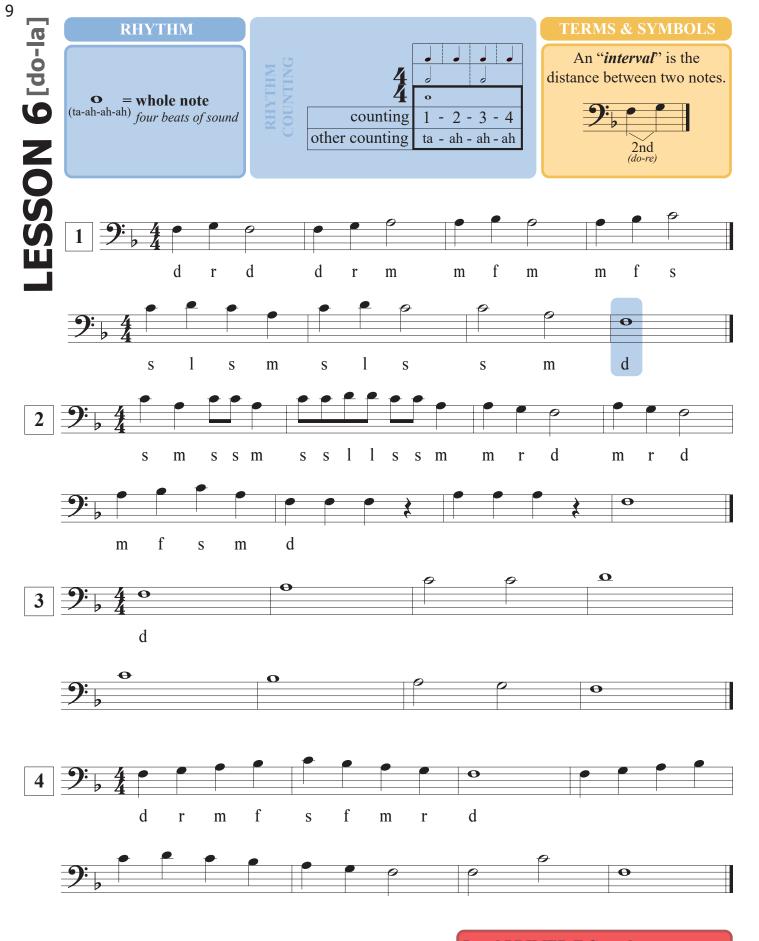


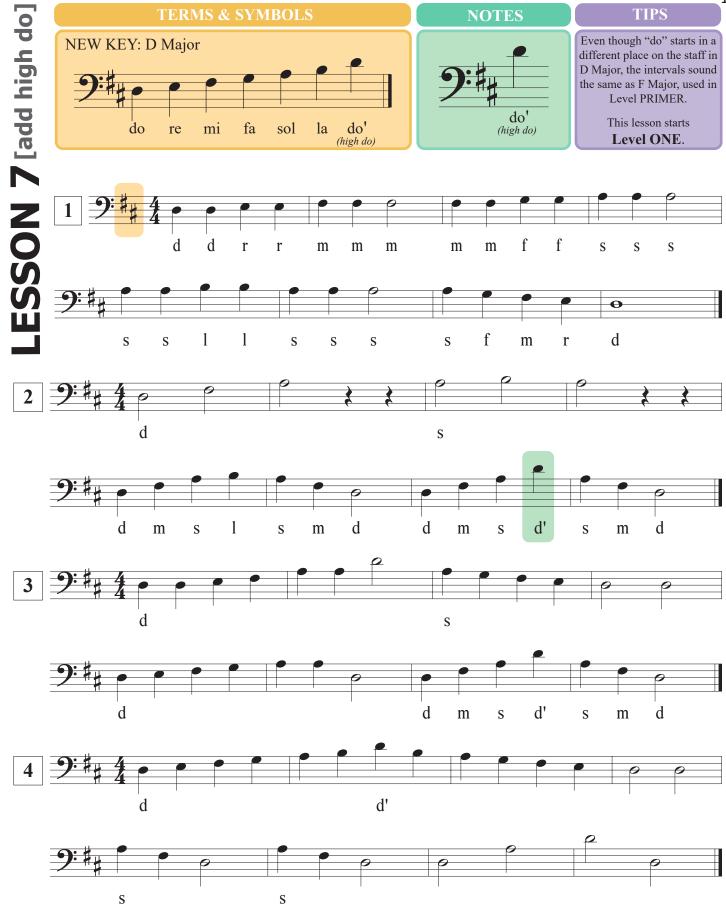












**Level ONE A Complete:** 

Intervals for Major 2nd, Major 3rd and a Major Triad:















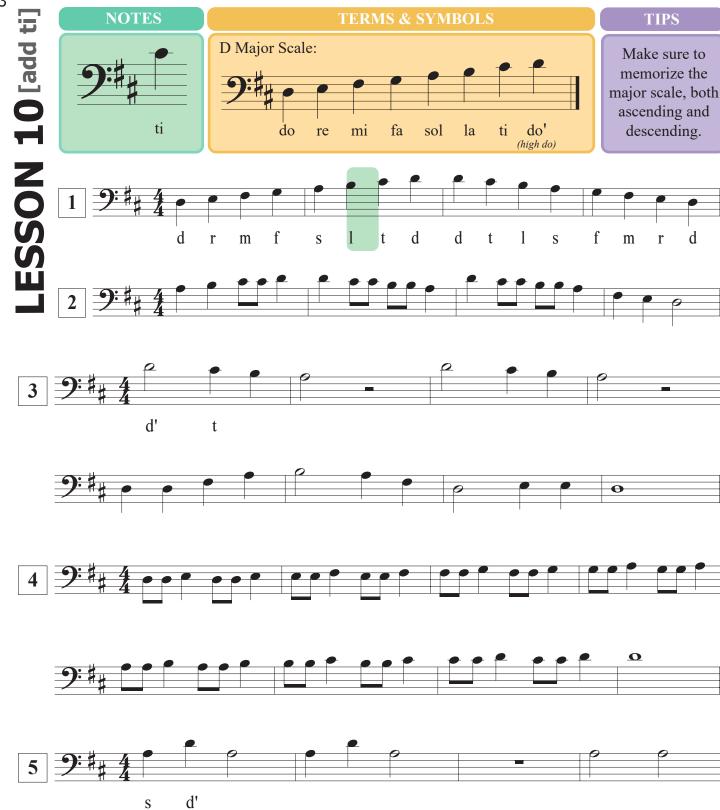








**Level ONE C Complete:** 



d

r



As a reminder, use the solfege syllables and hand signs below while singing. This aids in connecting physically to what you hear aurally and will help show contour as well. Low "do" starts at the belly button and each hand sign gradually gets higher ending around nose height for high "do".





**Level ONE F Complete:** 

do

re

### **TERMS & SYMBOLS**

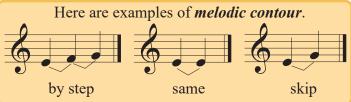
# NEW KEY: C Major

sol

la

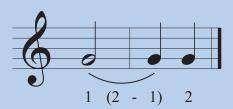
fa Ledger lines are small lines above and below the staff to add more notes to the range. Here we have one line bleow the staff to give us do (C) in C Major.

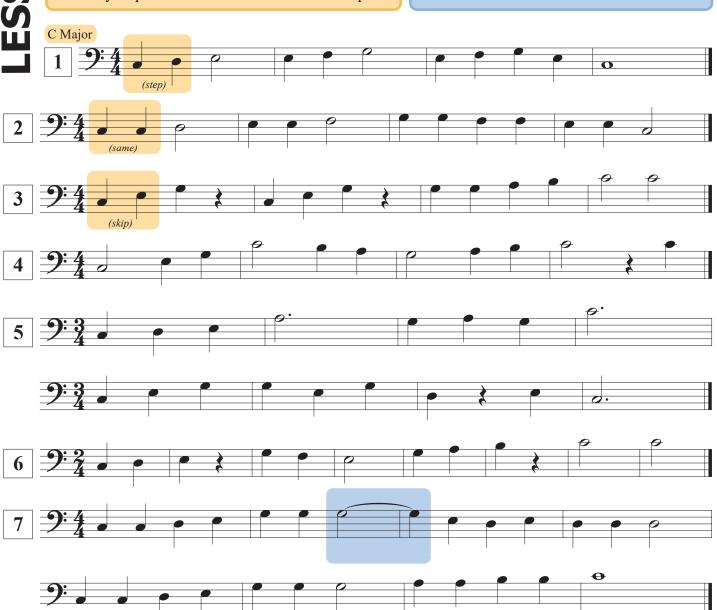
mi



### RHYTHM

A tie connects two notes that are the same, turning them into a single note. You would start the singing on the half note and hold all the way through the end of the *tied* quarter note. In this example, the tied note gets three beats (3 + 1) or 2 + 1 = 3).





### **RHYTHM**

The whole rest indicates an entire measure of silence. Earlier, in Lesson 9 it was introduced as four beats of silence in 4/4 time. Below are examples of a whole rest used in 2/4 and 3/4 time signatures. No matter what the time signature is, the whole rest equals an entire measure of silence.



**Level TWO A Complete:** 

When using moveable do, "do" changes depending on the key signature. So far, we have used F Major (Lessons 1-6), D Major (Lessons 7-12), and C Major (Lesson 13). Now in Lesson 14 we will add G Major. Always remember to check the key signature when figuring out the starting solfege syllable.







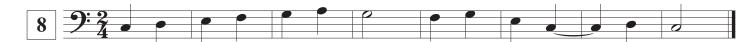






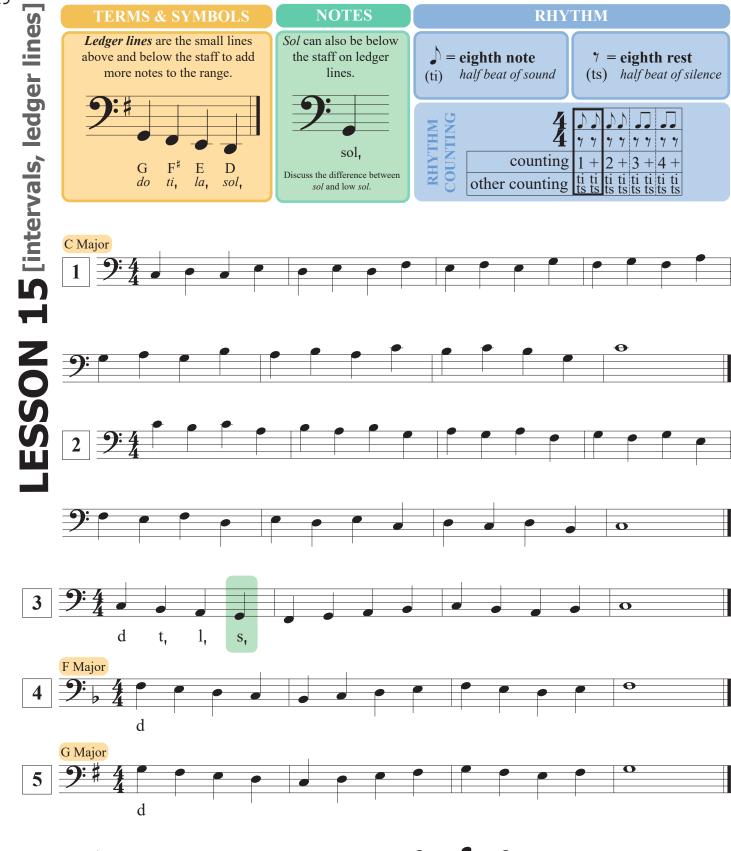




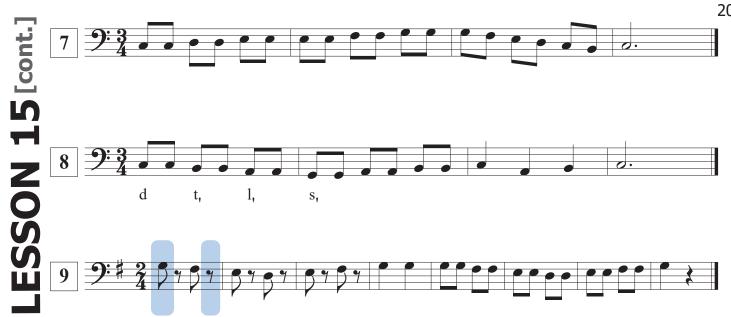
























The interval below is a P4 (perfect fourth) going from *do* to *fa* and sounds like the start of "Here Comes the Bride."





**NOTES** 

### TIPS

When learning intervals, start by singing up or down stepwise until you reach the destination note. See the example below. The notes within the bracket should be sung while learning the interval. Once this has been established, take the



bracketed notes out and think them only.

This is a great way to learn all new intervals throughout this book.





**Level TWO D Complete:** 

### **NOTES**

### RHYTHM REVIEW

The interval below is a P5 (perfect fifth) going from do to sol and sounds like the start of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."



The scale can be extended higher and lower than do and high do. This is high *fa* and low *sol*.



= quarter note one beat of sound



= eighth note half beat of sound

= half note two beats of sound

= dotted half note

• = whole note four beats of sound

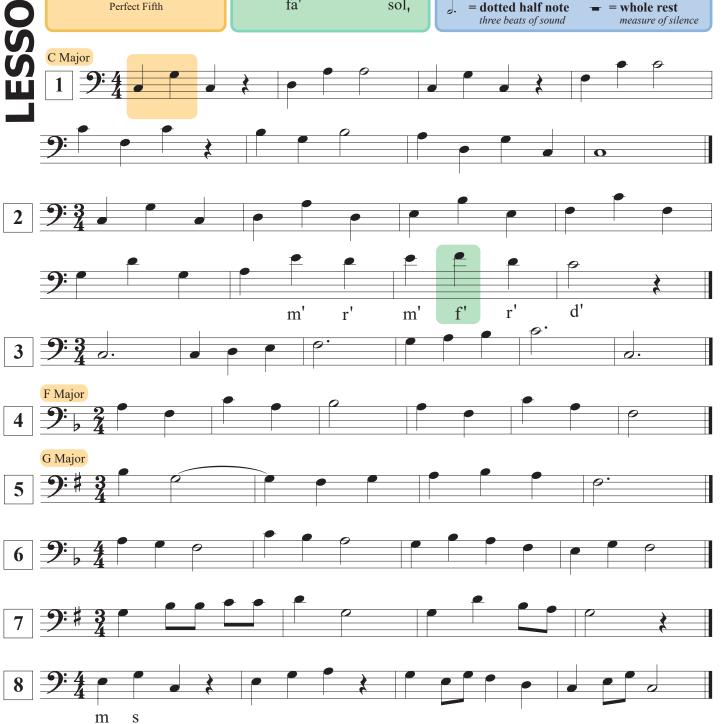
= quarter rest

one beat of silence

= eighth rest half beat of silence

= half rest two beats of silence

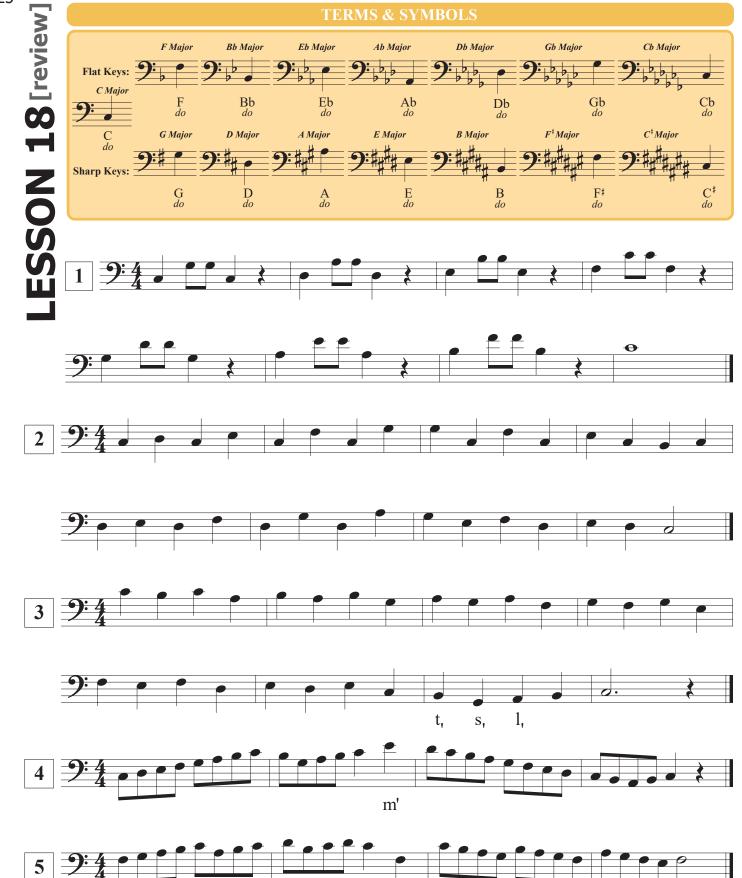
whole rest







**Level TWO E Complete:** 











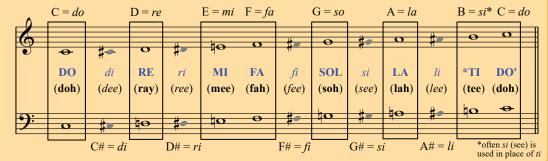






### **NOTES**

The chromatic scale is comprised entirely of half steps. Below you see the solfege syllables and their pronunciation for each ascending half step. Remember when using "*movable do*," *do* is always the first note of the scale, which is determined by the key signature.





G natural



Below are the key signatures and starting "do" solfeggio for every sharp key signature. Before you sing an exercise, always state the key, what pitch do is, and the starting solfege pitch.





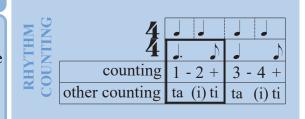


### **TIPS**

A "*pick-up*" is a note that precedes the first downbeat of the start of a piece or phrase. Do not put a strong emphasis on this note but instead, lead to the downbeat.

### RHYTHM

-- dotted quarter note
(ta-(i)) one and a half beats
of sound



















Level THREE C Complete: \_

### **TERMS & SYMBOLS**

1st and 2nd endings are used when different endings should 2 be played at the end of a

repeated passage.

Repeat signs enclose a passage that should be played more than once.

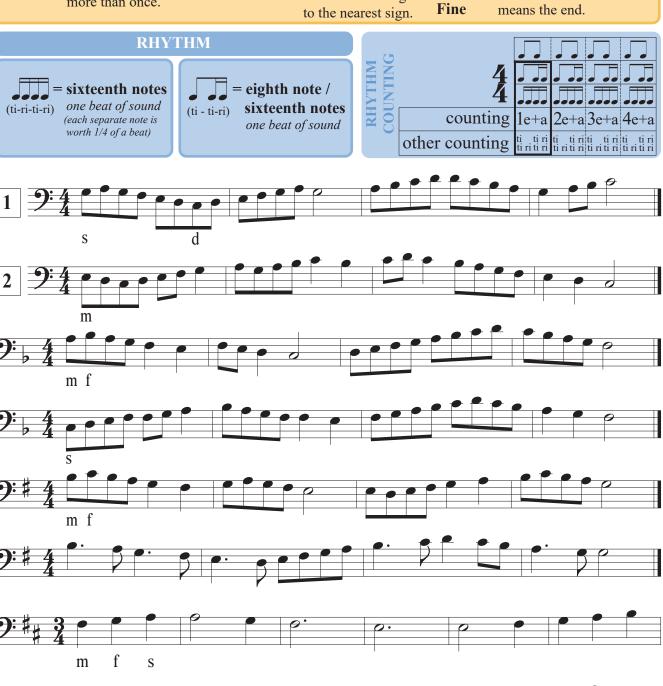
and is used with the marking D.S.

D.S. Dal Segno means "from the sign" and indicates to go

Segno means "sign" 

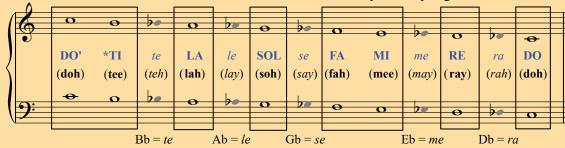
Coda Coda indicates a forward jump to the ending passage.

> D.C. Da Capo means "from the top" and indicates to repeat from the beginning.





The chromatic scale is comprised entirely of half steps. Below you see the solfege syllables and their pronunciation for each descending half step. Remember when using "*movable do*," *do* is always the first note of the scale, which is determined by the key signature.



A perfect (P) interval includes unison, octaves, fourths and fifths.

A **major (M)** interval is only used for seconds, thirds, sixths and sevenths within the key signature.

A **minor (m)** interval occurs when a major interval is made one half step smaller. This can happen by lowering the top note or raising the bottom note.

A **diminished (dim)** interval is created when a perfect or minor interval is made one half step smaller and the interval number is not changed.

### **RHYTHM**

**Syncopation** is a shifting of the normal accent within a phrase and placing it off the beat. More simply put, it means playing "off-beat."

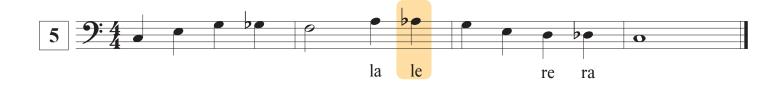










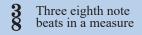




Below are the key signatures and starting "do" solfeggio for every flat key signature. **Before** you sing an exercise, **always** state the key, what pitch do is, and the starting solfege pitch.



# RHYTHM



- Six eighth note beats in a measure
- Nine eighth note beats in a measure
- Six quarter note beats in a measure

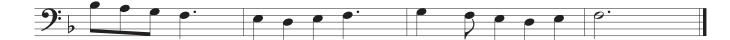






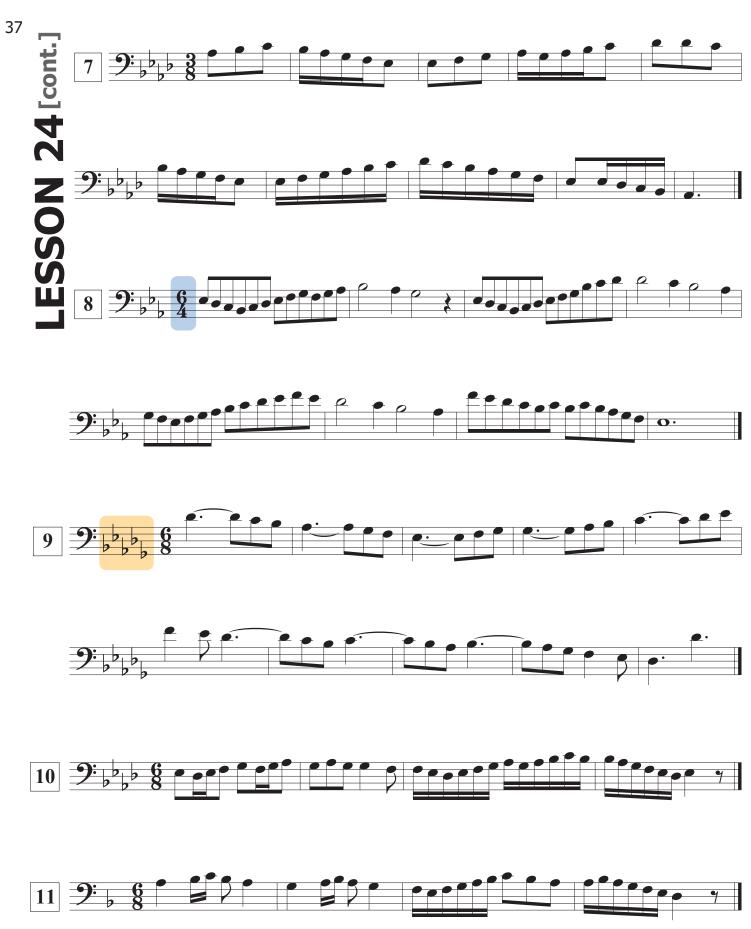












# RHYTHM

# TIPS

A *duet* is when two individuals sing independent musical lines. One person should sing the top staff in treble clef while a second person sings the bottom line in *bass clef*. Read the music *vertically* to see how your part interacts with the other. Recognize if you are singing in unison, harmony or reeating the previous line. This will help you sing together.



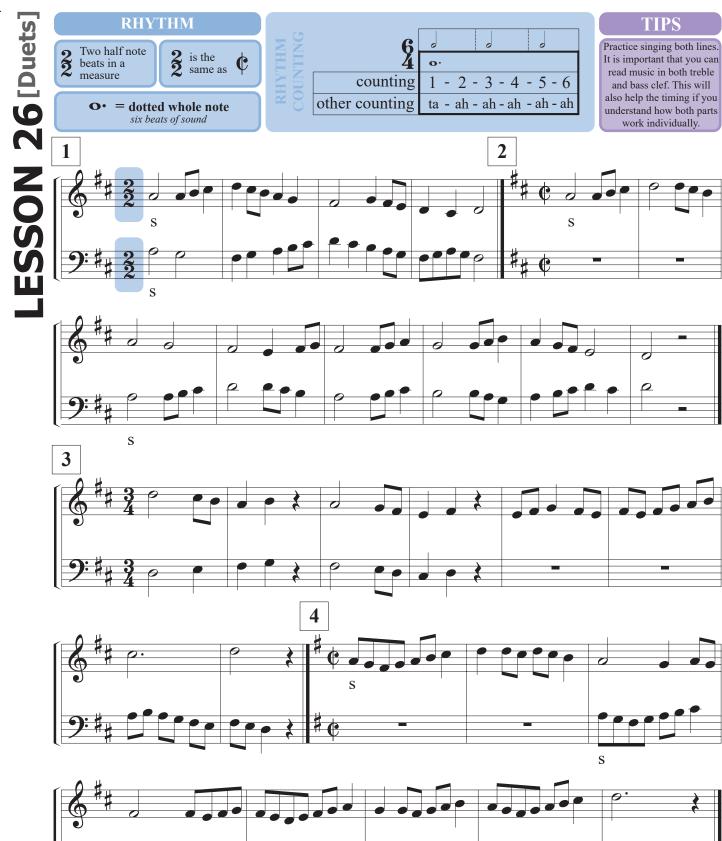
Cut time or alla breve is a 4/4 time signature that has been rhythmically "cut in half" to manipulate the rhythm. This can be thought of as twice as fast, or in 2/2 time.

Always remember to identify the time signature, which note gets the beat and what beat the exercise starts on. Next identify the key signature and the starting pitch. Repeat this for each exercise until it becomes a habit.



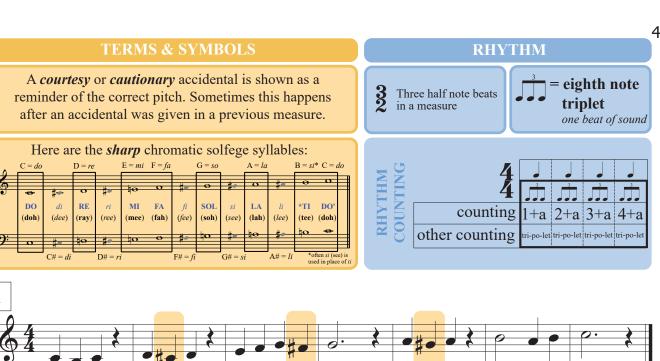


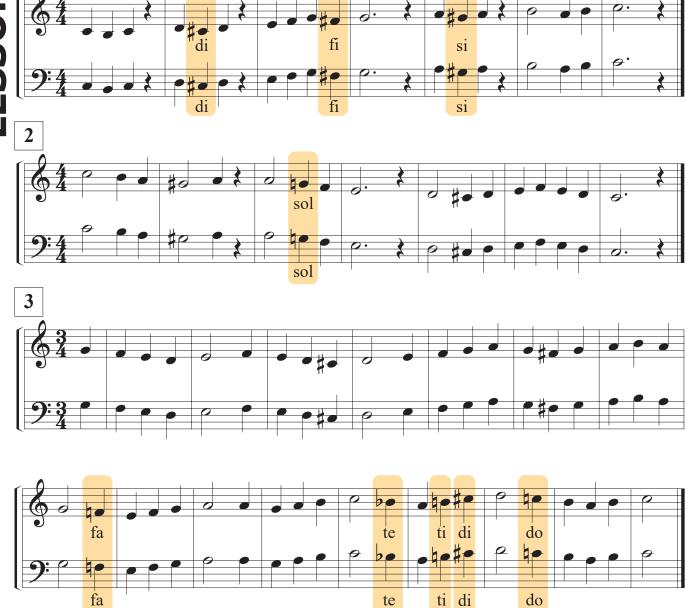






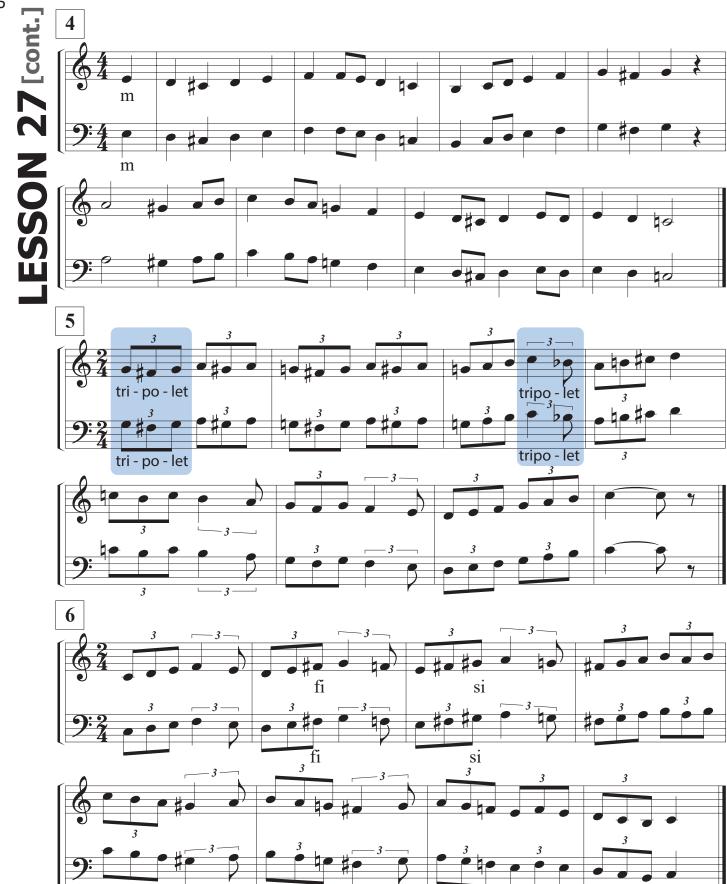






te

do



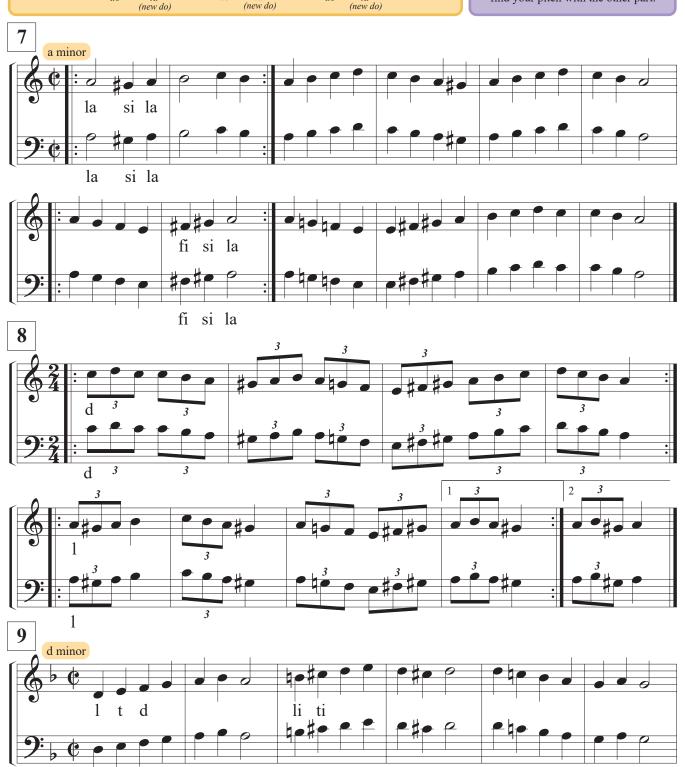
Minor scales share the same key signatures as major scales, but instead of starting on do, the minor



**TIPS** 

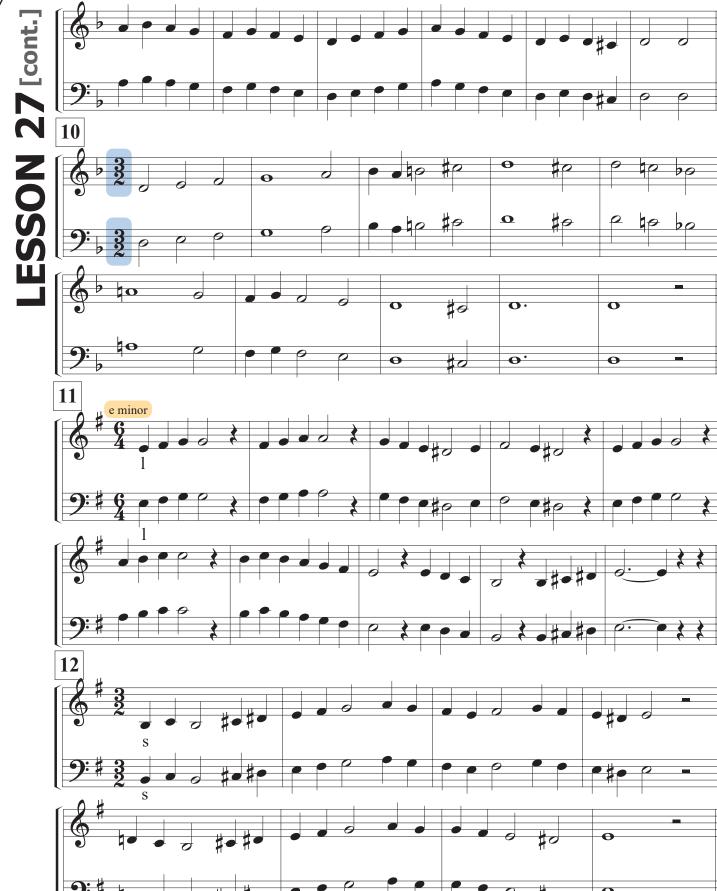
Make sure to check the "road map" before you start singing by checking for *repeat signs*, *1st and 2nd endings*, etc.

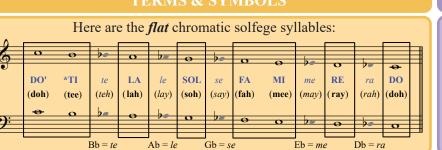
Also look to see where you are singing in *unison* (together). This can help you find your pitch with the other part.



li ti

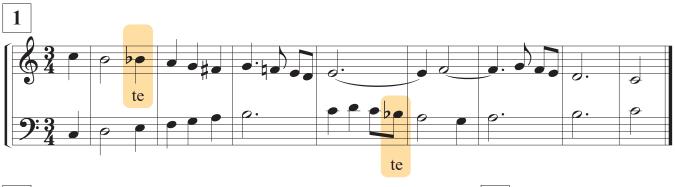
d





# **TIPS**

Always remember to take care of your voice. As you start to sing more and more, you need to hydrate and rest as well. Never strain your voice. If it hurts, stop. Never sing to the edge of your voice. Listen to your body and make good decisions for your overall vocal health.



















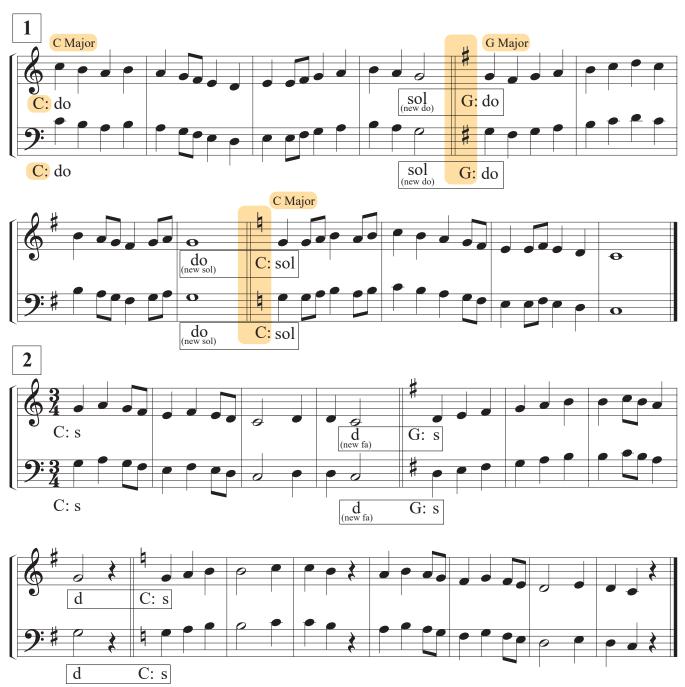






**Modulation** is the term used to describe the changing of a key within a piece of music. In these exercises, notice that the key signature changes before you reach the final double bar. Exercise number one starts in C Major (inidcated by C:) and "c" is do. At measure five, (after the double bar line,) the key shifts to G Major (G:), where the new do is now "g." Four bars later, the key changes back to C Major (C:), with "c" again as do.

In some exercises, like number three, five and six, there may be hints of a key change, signaled by a number of chromatically altered tones. If the key does not change significantly, use the chromatic *solfeggio* within that same key signature.





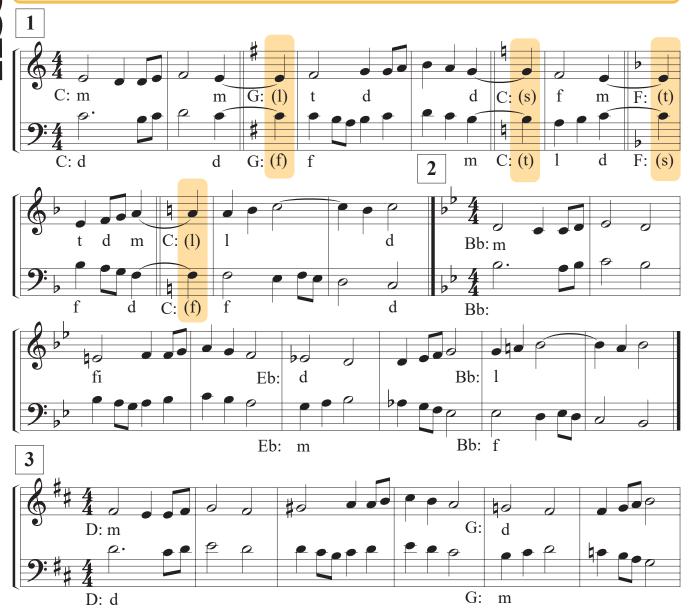




Here is a review of all *twelve major key signatures* and the respective *do*. When changing key in the middle of a tie you will not change the syllable but instead, think it. This way you are not affecting the rhythm. You will see the *solfege* to be thought, within parenthesis. It is important to hear this syllable in your mind, so that you can anticipate the note you are going to next.



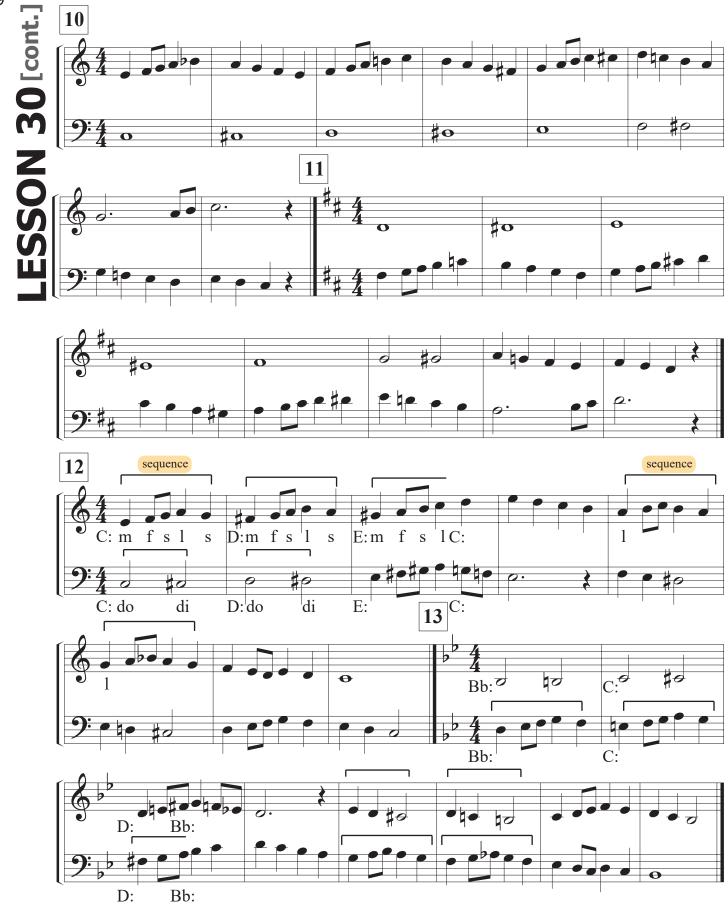
Look out for *sequences* within the music. A *sequence* is a succession of repetitions of a melodic phrase or harmonic pattern, each starting at different pitch levels. The succession of pitch intervals or harmonics within the sequence rise or fall by the same or similar intervals.





LESSON 30 [cont.]







## TIPS



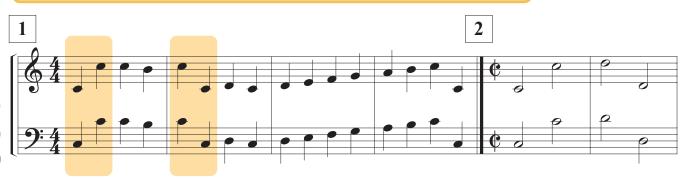
**Minor scales** share the same key signatures as major scales, but instead of starting on do, the minor scale starts on la.

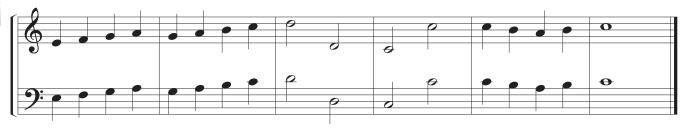
Also, we can learn to sing the **minor scale** by singing la to la.

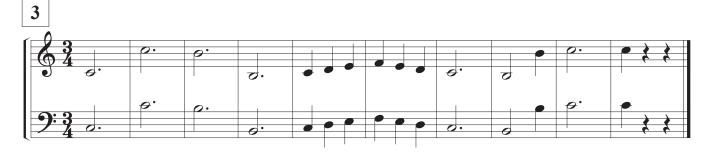


REMINDER:

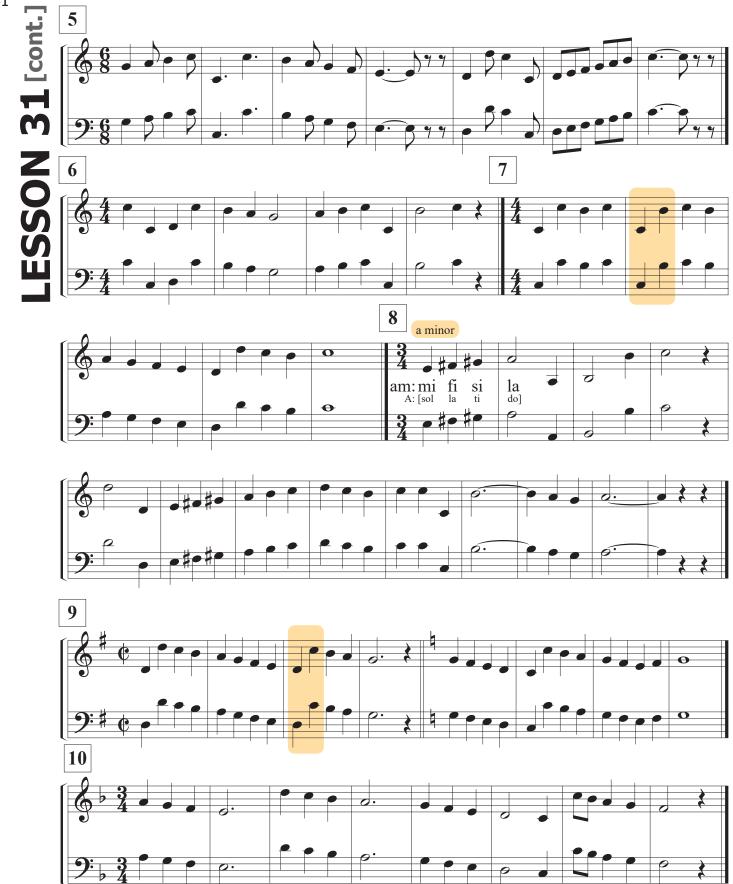
Always remember to identify the time signature, which note gets the beat and what beat the exercise starts on. Next identify the key signature and the starting pitch. Repeat this for each exercise until it becomes a habit.

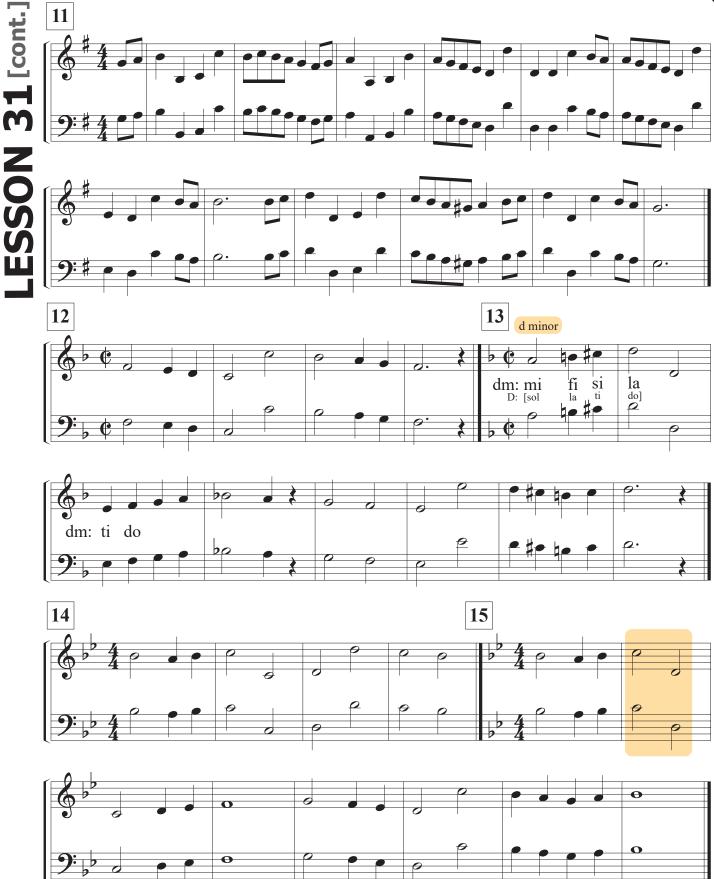








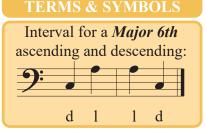




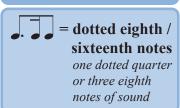


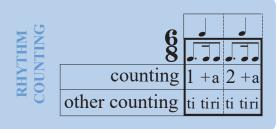
Level FIVE A Complete: \_

Date



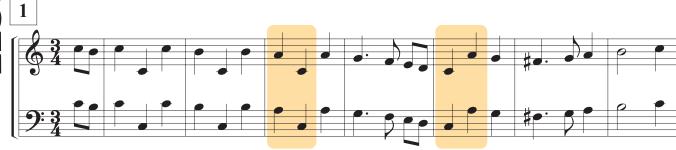
# **RHYTHM**

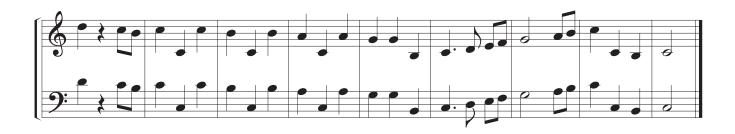




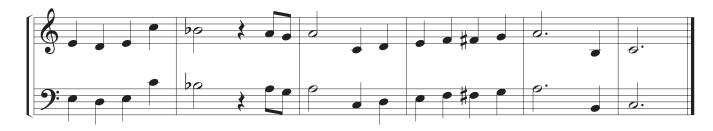
## **TIPS**

Now that you are singing larger intervals, you need to be aware of how to place the notes properly with your voice. Be sure to keep the throat open and maintain your sense of vertical space within the mouth by making all sounds "spacious, high and forward." This should help you to float easily into the upper *tessitura*.











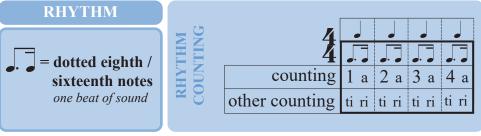




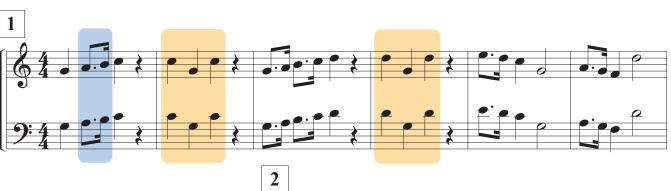




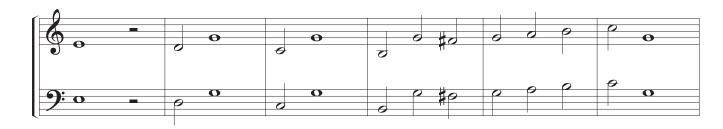




Sometimes intervals of a perfect fifth and an octave can sound similar due to the open nature of the perfect interval. Be sure that you are taking care to place the notes correctly.







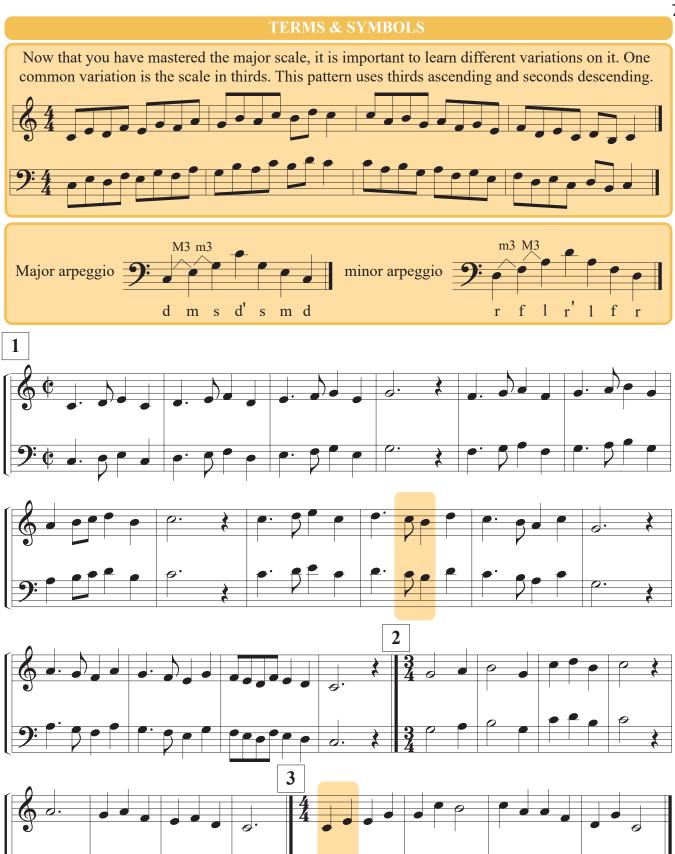


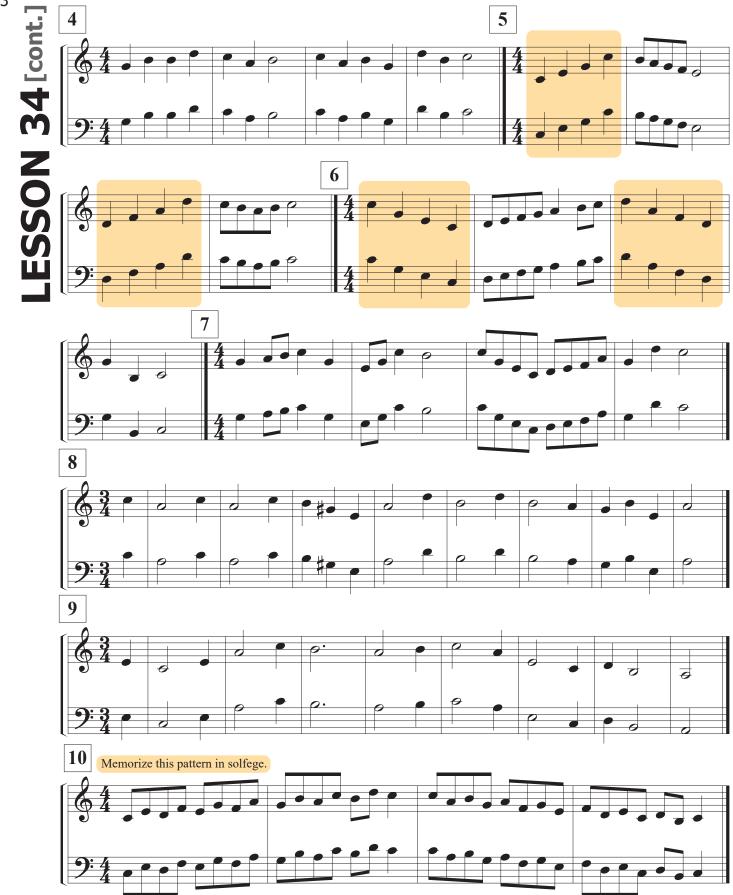


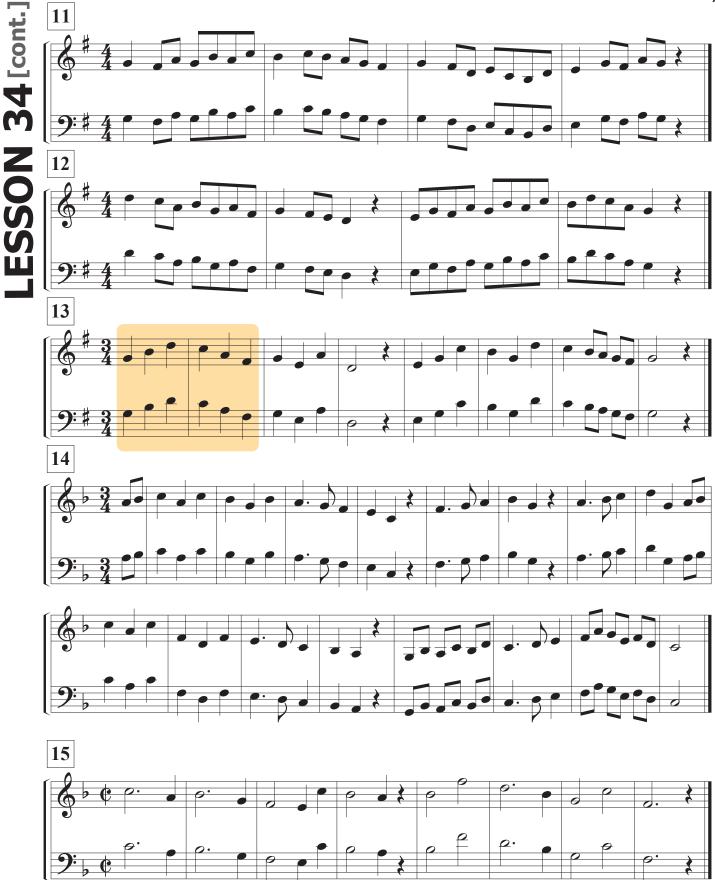










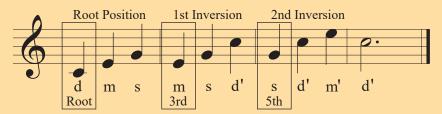




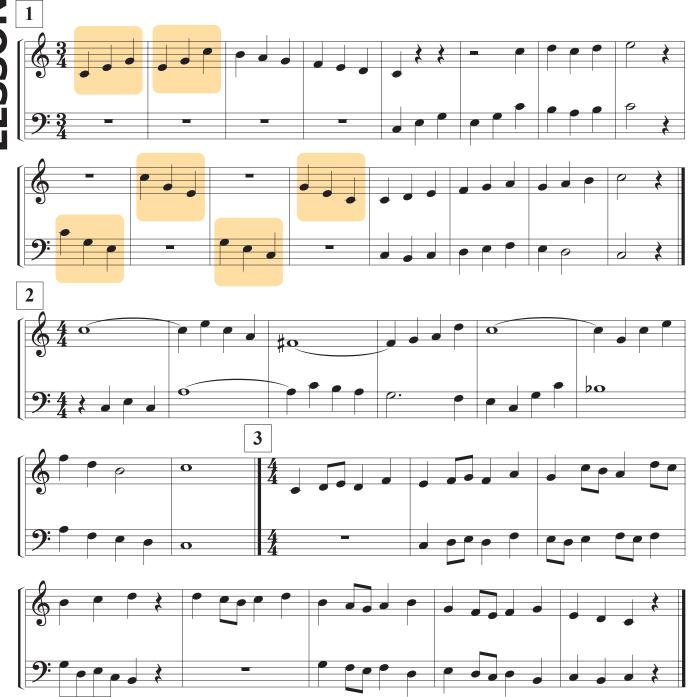
## **TERMS & SYMBOLS**

TIPS

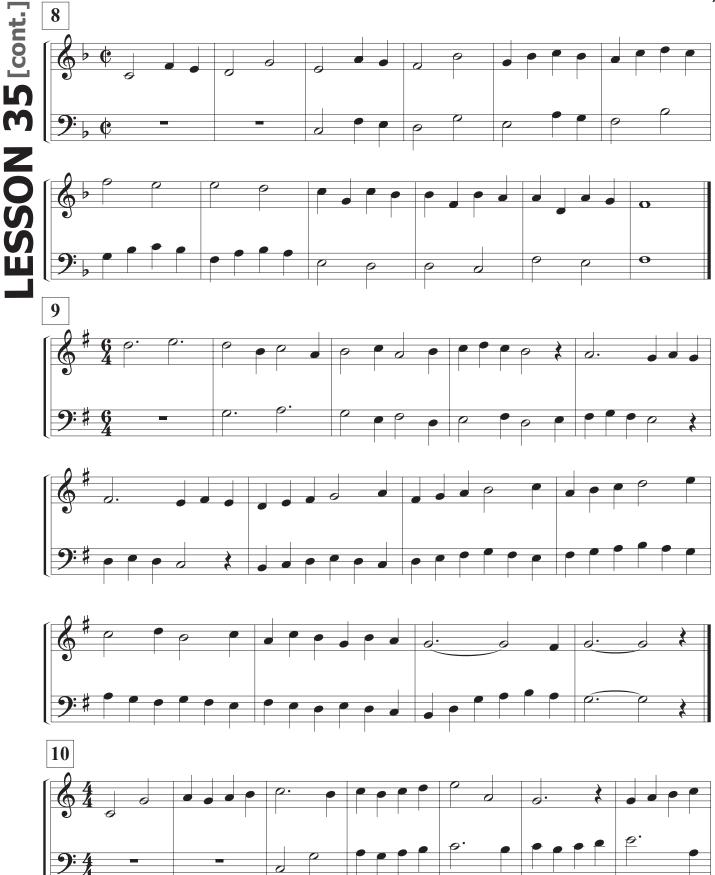
To *invert* a triad, move the relative octave of any note in the triad either up or down. A triad in *root position* (*d-m-s*) can be inverted to *first inversion* (*m-s-d'*) or *second inversion* (*s-d'-m'*).



Breath support is essential to singing. Be sure to fill up completely and do not raise your shoulders or allow tension in your body. You should take a low breath that will fill back and chest cavity as well. Inhale a quiet breath, wide and deep, to fill the back and chest cavity.













Congratulations, this is your final lesson in the Singing Companion. You are now able to read music with reasonable accuracy and skill. Continue to improve your sight-singing skills. Look for groups that you can perform with at the Corps, Divisional, Territorial and Community levels. Find leadership opportunities and teach others. Use solfege whenever you can to sort out musical lines. Even as you are singing more difficult music, do not forget the basics. Always aim for a free and pure sound, using great posture and proper breath support.











Interval	Solfege*	ASCENDING	
Perfect octave	P8 do do¹	Some-where over the rainbow I'm singin' in the rain Chest-nuts roasting	
Major seventh	M7 do ti	Some-where o-ver the rainbow Superman theme I love's you Por-gy	
minor seventh	m7 do te	There's a place for us (Somewhere) Star Trek theme (original-1 <sup>st</sup> two notes)	
Major sixth	M6  o  do la	My bon-nie lies over the ocean  Dash-ing through the snow  It came upon the midnight clear  For he's a jolly good fellow	
minor sixth	m6 do le	Where do <u>I be</u> -gin (Love Story) <u>When Mo</u> -ses was in (Go Down Moses)  The Entertainer (3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> notes)	
Perfect fifth	P5 do sol	Twinkle, twinkle little star God rest ye merry gentlemen Star Wars opening (1st two notes)	
Tritone (aug4, dim5)	+4 °5  do fi do se	<u>Ma-ri</u> -a (West Side Story) Simpsons theme	
Perfect fourth	P4  do fa	A-maz-ing grace Here's comes the bride We wish you a merry Christmas O Christ-mas tree	
Major third	M3 do mi	Oh, when the saints Kum-ba-yah Sweet hour of prayer	
minor third	m3 do me	What child is this? (Greensleeves) O Can-ada (Canadian anthem) Go to sleep (Brahms Iullaby)	
Major second	M2 do re	Peo-ple, people who need peo-ple Fre-re Jacques Ru-dolph the red-nosed reindeer	
minor second	m2 do ra	Jaws (theme) <u>I'm dream</u> -ing of a white Christmas	

\*Solfege syllables are indicated using moveable "do."

Interval	Solfege*	DECENDING	
211001741	<b>∧</b> P8	Be pre-sent at our table, Lord	
Perfect octave		(tune: Congress)	
		Peace on the earth	
	$lackbox{lack}{lackbox{lack}{o}^{1}} lackbox{lackbox{lackbox}{o}}{do^{1}}$	(It Came Upon the Midnight Clear)	
Major seventh	M7	Try to re-mem <u>-ber</u> the <u>kind</u>	
minor seventh	m7	All I ask for is one love, one <u>life-time</u> The Girl with the Flaxen Hair (1 <sup>st</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> notes)	
Major sixth	M6 la do	No-body knows the trouble	
minor sixth	m6 le do	Where do I begin (Love Story)	
Perfect fifth	P5 sol do	Flint-stones, meet the Flint-stones	
Tritone (aug4, dim5)	+4 °5 fi do se do		
Perfect fourth	P4  fa do	O <u>come all</u> ye faithful <u>I've been</u> workin' on the railroad  Eine Kleine Nachtmusik	
Major third	M3 mi do	Swing low, sweet chariot Sum-mer-time (Gershwin) Symphony No. 5 fate motto (Beethoven)	
minor third	m3 me do	Hey Jude (Beatles) Fros-ty the snowman Je-sus loves me (sol-mi-mi-re)	
Major second	M2 re do	Yes-ter-day (Beatles) Mem-ories light the corners	
minor second	m2 ra do	Fur Elise (Beethoven)  Joy to the world (do-ti-la-sol)  O lit-tle town of Bethlehem	

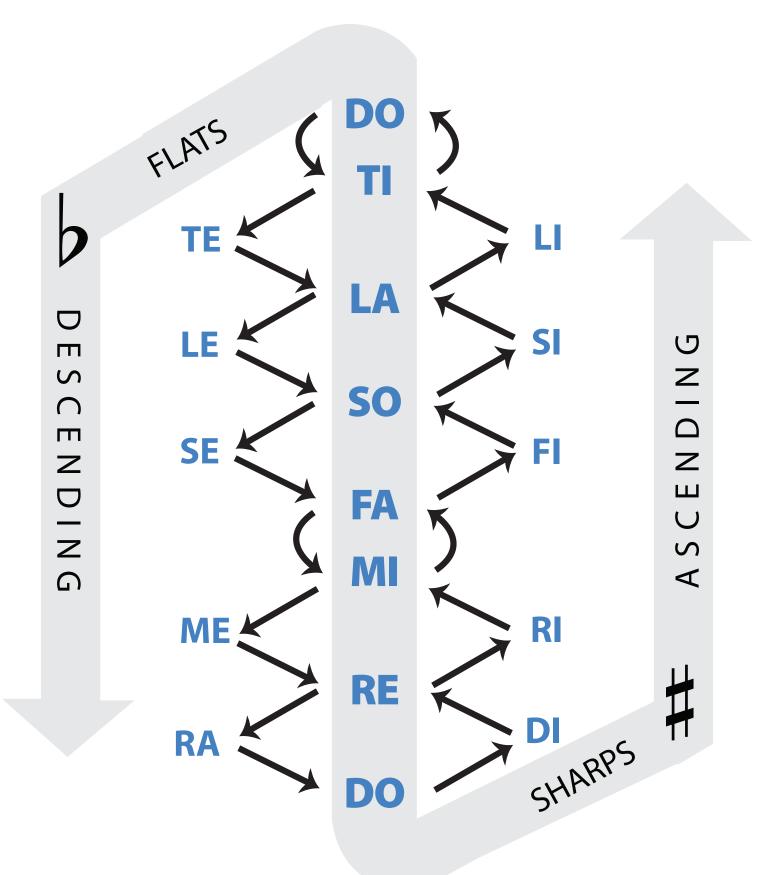
\*Solfege syllables are indicated using moveable "do."

RHYTHM	KODALY SYI	LABLES	TAKADIMI	COUNTING		
Duple Time (2/4, 3/4, 4/4)						
	ta (tah)	ALTERNATIVE COUNTING "GORDON"	ta (tah)*	1		
л	ti-ti (tee-tee)	ta-ti*	ta di	1 + (an)		
	ta-ah		ta	1 - 2		
J.	ta-ah-ah		ta	1 - 2 - 3		
o	ta-ah-ah-ah		ta	1 - 2 - 3 - 4		
7 }	sh <i>or</i> ts, sh-m, sh-m-m-m, ts-ts, ts-ts-ts-ts**		(ta)	rest		
<b>J</b> . <b>J</b> )	ta-i-ti	ta-(ah)-ti	ta mi	1_(2)+		
١	syn-co-pa		ta di mi	1 an_da		
, <del>,,,,</del>	ti-ri-ti-ri	ta-ki-ti-ki*	ta ka di mi	1 e + a		
, TH	ti-ti-ri	ta-ti-ki*	ta di mi	1 _ + a		
FI	ti-ri-ti	ta-ki-ti*	ta ka di _	1 e + _		
J	tim-ri	ta-kim*	ta mi	1 a		
FJ.	ti-rim	ta-kim*	ta ka	1 e		
Compound Time (6/8, 9/8, 12/8)						
	tri-po-let		ta ki da	1 an da		
III.	ti-ti-ti ti-ti-ti	ta-ti-ti ta-ti-ti	ta ki da ta ki da	1 an da 2 an da		
1 11 1	ta-ti ta-ti		ta _ da ta _ da	1 da 2 da		
ות ות	ti-ta ti-ta		ta ki ta ki	1 an 2 an		
J. J.	ta- ta-	tam - tam	ta ta	1 2		

<sup>\*</sup> Ta is always on the beat, no matter what rhythmic value in these examples.

\*\* The whole rest equals one entire measure regardless of the time signature.

(i.e. 2 beats in 2/4 time, 3 beats in 3/4 time, etc.)



## **SOLFEGE TREE**

Chromatic Scale (each represents a half step)