IMAGINE YOUR STUDENTS BECOMING INDEPENDENT SIGHT-READERS!

This book provides a systematic process for improving:

- sight-singing skills
- integration of auditory, kinesthetic and visual learning styles in reading music
- overall musicianship

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ABOUT THIS BOOK

• This book consists of unison melodies written in the treble and bass clefs.
• You may read in either clef. For effective skill development, you should sing in the clef in which your repertoire is written.
• When octaves are notated, use the octave which best suits your range and need.

BECOMING AN INSIGHTFUL MUSIC READER

Each melody in this book includes helpful information featuring learning strategies designed to assist you in becoming an insightful music reader.

• Realize that each of these ideas can be applied to other melodies in this book.
• Capitalize on these learning strategies and use them to improve your overall musicianship.
• Be creative in getting the maximum benefit from this information.

As an insightful music reader your increasing depth of understanding and skill level will enable you to continue to develop your overall musicianship.

These strategies are divided into four categories:

VISUAL
Focus on visually identifying key and meter signatures, specific intervals, melodic contour, and chords built on DO (I), FA (IV), and SOL (V). Develop the ability to scan the score rapidly and to recognize repeated patterns.

AUDITORY
Focus on hearing with your inner ear (audiation) as you identify the sound of a major scale, the intervals from DO to DO, familiar tonal patterns, and chord outlines.

KINESTHETIC
Focus on movement (kinesthetic expression) to keep a steady beat, perform rhythmic patterns, and accent the downbeat and groupings of notes (conducting). Show spatial relationships of intervals and melodic contour with hand signs and gestures.

CHALLENGE
Demonstrate your success in using a multi-sensory approach to sight-singing by accepting these challenges to “reach for the stars.”

CORRELATING THE KEYBOARD AND GRAND STAFF

The grand staff and keyboard, which can be found on the inside back cover, reinforce the multi-sensory approach of this book. By examining the keyboard, you can increase your understanding of the distance between pitches.

Seeing and touching intervals on the keyboard will help you acquire a visual and kinesthetic understanding of these distances. Accessing an actual keyboard will enable you to feel, hear and see each interval as you continue to develop your tonal vocabulary.
Key of D Major

D Major Scale

Scale on Keyboard

Chords Built on DO (I), FA (IV) and SOL (V)

Preparatory Drill: Chords Built on DO (I), FA (IV) and SOL (V)

Preparatory Drill: Rhythm

Melodies

Maintain your sense of tonality and keep moving forward without hesitating, especially when intervals seem challenging.
Appendix E
Using the Keyboard to Understand the Structure of a Major Scale

1. The formula for the notes which form a major scale is whole (W) and half (H) steps in this pattern: W W H W W H. Half steps (H) occur between the third and fourth steps (MI-FA) and the seventh and eighth steps (TI-D0).
2. The C Major scale naturally fits this formula, using all white keys on the keyboard.
3. To create major scales on other pitches, use black notes to adjust the intervals to fit the formula. A white note lowered to a black note is called a flat (b). A white note raised to a black note, is called a sharp (#). The flats or sharps used are shown in the key signature for that particular scale. To gain a better understanding, use the keyboard to build major scales beginning on F and G.
4. In the F scale, it is necessary to lower the fourth step of the scale, B, to B flat to fulfill the major scale formula.
5. In the G scale, it is necessary to raise the seventh step of the scale, F, to F sharp to fulfill the major scale formula.
Appendix C

“The Interval Song”

Ascending and Descending Intervals Beginning on DO

Do Re Major Second

Do Mi Major Third

Do Fa Perfect Fourth

Do Sol Perfect Fifth

Do La Major Sixth

Do Ti Major Seventh

Do Do Perfect Octave

Do Ti Minor Second

Do La Minor Third

Do Sol Perfect Fourth

Do Fa Perfect Fifth

Do Mi Minor Sixth

Do Re Minor Seventh

Do Do Perfect Octave

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A GUIDE FOR THE EFFECTIVE USE OF THIS BOOK

*Insightful* singers adopt a systematic approach to music reading and follow it until accuracy is achieved.

1. Sing the major scale as written. Each scale reflects the range of the melodies for the given key.
2. Refer to the keyboard to visualize the placement of whole and half steps.
3. Sing the DO (I), FA (IV) and SOL (V) chords as outlined.
4. Establish and maintain a steady beat with physical movement.
5. Chant the rhythm using your preferred counting system.
6. Scan and audiate the intervals in the melody using solfege syllables.
7. Chant and sign the solfege syllables in rhythm.
8. Audiate, then sing the DO chord using solfege syllables.
9. Select a comfortable reading tempo and sing the melody on solfege, in rhythm, as you continue to hand sign.
10. Review any pitches that were uncertain by isolating and practicing the intervals around them.
11. Increase the tempo gradually and repeat the process until accuracy is attained.
12. Strive to combine musical accuracy with expressive phrasing while incorporating rhythmic stress and dynamic contrast.
13. Repeat the exercises until you can sing them with ease. Remember, your goal is mastery of each melody.
14. **Always use your best, well-produced and well-supported tone.**

Trust the process. As you become secure in this method, you will find yourself moving more rapidly through these steps.

*A good musician is the ultimate multi-tasker!**
Challenge Melodies

Active rhythmic patterns and unusual skips and leaps which are not always part of the I, IV and V tonality add to the challenge of this section. To achieve accuracy, study rhythm and pitch separately in preparation for applying insightful skills in singing the melody.

Scan carefully to locate ascending intervals of the fourth, fifth, sixth and octave as well as descending intervals of the third, fourth and fifth. Audiate each until secure.

This melody contains eight intervals larger than a third. Audiate each carefully during preparation, relating each to the notes of the I, IV and V chords.

Focus on the rhythmic patterns while comparing the groupings of notes. How would the three quarter notes in measures 2 and 6 be grouped, counted and conducted?
Key of F Major

F Major Scale

Scale on Keyboard

Chords Built on DO (I), FA (IV) and SOL (V)

Preparatory Drill: Chords Built on DO (I), FA (IV) and SOL (V)

Preparatory Drill: Rhythm

Melodies

Sing with a supported tone and avoid breathing at every bar line.

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