**TOP SHOW MUSIC** 



# "MY VERY FIRST CONCERT AND BEYOND" 2025

## CONDUCTOR



# A Band development album of tunes using three, four or five notes and; beyond.

Inspired by the "Bayside Beginners' Music Camp", this collection of very easy tunes for a "first" concert performance, is playable by any size group with any combination of instruments.

Fingering diagrams, lyrics for songs and explanations of signs and terminology are included.

### Notes for Teacher/Conductor

Like all new tutors, there will be new and old material. Some old methods will be challenged as will some of these newer approaches. Remember that this is a "band" method, not an individual lesson method and therefore "line of best fit" is the main focus.

First up is the starting note. For decades, in band rooms and not necessarily private studios, we taught concert Bb as the first note which for the majority of instruments was "C". At a later stage it changed to concert "D" i.e. "E" for most band instruments. This brought difficulties for mostly the Brass instruments because for many, this was too high and often unachievable. Also for F Brass and Eb brass, in the unison pitch system the starting notes became even more difficult, as was the case also for Eb Clarinets. Flutes had the problem of the first fingering change being from "D" to "C".

So the bullet has been bitten with two changes: 1, a return to Concert Bb as the starting place and, 2, a return to F & Eb brass and clarinets learning the same written notes as the Bb instruments. Having worked for many years in both systems, I still find that the lesser of two evils is the controlled parallel 4ths or 5ths of written same notes as opposed to the somewhat uncontrollable miss-pitching in the unison sound system. Obviously, this cannot continue and as such, when the fourth note is introduced, steps are taken to remedy this situation. Speaking of the fourth note, there are so many advantages of going down to Concert "A", that this has been chosen as the 4<sup>th</sup> note.

Percussion is also a problem, so all four aspects are dealt with separately, Mallets, Timps., Drums and, Auxiliary. When you go to the downloads page, you may choose how to set-up your percussion books and print as required. The Drums section is focused on concert percussion, not marching percussion. Thus, the drums line, has been designed to be read by just one person and playable on the drum kit or, read by more than one person who may then play on individual instruments. The ability to teach, with or without drum kit, is facilitated.

Dividing the lessons into "Stages", is the delivery method for developmental material with (generally) one new note introduced per stage. Instead of adhering to the numerical sequence 1,2,3,4, etc, the student, under your supervision, may move around inside the "Stage" and, there is plenty of material to facilitate this. Particularly when Stage Three is achieved, there is enough material for a whole three note beginner band concert. How many times have we seen a student bog down on the same lesson or exercise when there is no logical reason for it. When this happens move on to another one that has the same teaching points, just in a different order. Each student should however, be competent with the aspects and teaching points contained in the knowledge/concept boxes before moving past them

Lyrics are shown when they exist and/or known. The advantages are 1, sing the song to play it better; 2, the words will have commas and full stops to indicate correct breath points; 3, students may be rotated through groups of players or singers which, is especially good for concerts, and 4, getting students to sing, or at least read the words, has identified students who actually need vision correction which, is sometimes one of the reasons why the student cannot read the music.

Solos, duets, trios etc: Simple piano/guitar/mp3 accompanied solos are introduced from stage three, giving another aspect to the students' competencies. Many of the melodies can be played as accompanied solos and/or as full band unison performance. At stage four, duets are introduced and then all melodies are in duet form thus providing much material for duet recitals.

In Stage four, trios are introduced and continued for all melodies. Also KODALY, Sol-Far, Body Percussion eta; is introduced.

At the beginning of all Stages, the teaching points and competencies are shown so if a student has forgotten something, just go back through the teaching points list and then go to the "box" for that information. There are some written tests for which, all the answers may be found at previous places in the stages.

Stage Six introduces concert F and a time change. Time signatures have not yet been used because experience has shown that students aren't reading them. So now that time is changing, introduce Time signatures. Similar, Dynamics have not yet been used

Stage Seven is the big step because now, there is no new note but, band arrangements are introduced where there is now one part per instrument. The exceptions are; Flute and Oboe still in Unison as are Alto and Tenor Saxes. The bass line is in unison for Bassoon, Bass/Tenor Clarinet, Baritone Sax, Euphonium, Baritone, Trombone, Eb & Bb Basses, left hand of the Piano, Bass Guitar, Cello and String Bass if you have them. There are also cues to assist where some instruments may be missing.

Stage Eight introduces no new note again but, paired same pitch quavers are introduced to give Ta ta Titti ta, Ta titi Ta ta, Titi ta Ta ta and Ta ta Ta titi. Also, quartets are introduced in which part "C", to assist those students still struggling with the new note, does not have that new note.

Stage Nine in response to colleague requests, introduces both middle and low Concert "G" the reason being that for so many instruments, there is no finger/position change, so now is a good time to really demonstrate the need for correct air support when changing pitches. Also at this point, in recognition of the fact that many students have moved ahead a lot faster than others, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> parts are introduced where the 2<sup>nd</sup> part does not have the new note(s).

Stage Ten introduces Concert E so now mode changes can be introduced and, chromatic fingering for E and Eb. Other concepts such as, Cesura and Passing Notes are added

Stage Eleven introduces both middle and Low Concert Ab which again adds to chromatic fingering and more modes. This brings the student up to Queensland Education Dept Level one.

From here, additional notes are focused on the lower end of the instrument to allow bass instruments to produce those lower notes and, assist in preparing clarinet players to cross the break.

All Stages have a set of band charts which comply to each stage's parametres. Thus, each new band chart introduces the new concepts in the same order as the teaching points are introduced. This greatly assists in developing the concept of "Teaching Through Repertoire"

Many tutors do not provide enough reinforcement of teaching points before moving ono the next, thus requiring teachers to provide supplementary material. This is not the case here. Reinforcement is built-in with plenty of examples and, supplementary material is not required.

Further Stages will continue to develop students in a "step by step" process.

Any suggestions or queries, please to direct to Top Show Music via tsm@topshowmusic.com.au

#### ENJOY

### SOME ELEMENTARY TERMS AND SIGNS

STAVE - The five lines and four spaces in between which and upon which our music is written.

BAR LINES - the vertical lines which divide the stave into segments END BAR LINE - The very last one has an extra and thicker bar line. BAR - a segment of the stave between two bar lines. DOUBLE BAR LINE - to draw our attention to something extra special, two bar lines are drawn at the end of that bar. G (or Treble ) Clef - It is an old way of writting the letter "G". Can you see the similarity to today's "*G*" or "g" Because it is drawn by starting around the 2nd. bottom line, this line is thus called G All other lines and spaces are named in alphabetical order using only the first seven letters - thus after G, we start again at A The names of the spaces For line names, remember the sentence spell the word FACE <u>Every Good Boy D</u>eserves <u>F</u>avour. CAN YOU MAKE UP SOME OTHERS? You can use your hand to help remember these names -Just like the stave has five lines, your hand has five fingers (including the thumb). Between these fingers there are four spaces - call them FA C E Therefore you have a "face" in your hand to help you remember the names of the lines and spaces TIME SIGNATURE - The two numbers, one above the other, at the beginning of the stave and after the Clef. The top number tells us the number of beats (or counts) in a bar and the bottom number tells us the value of each beat This is the most common time signature (four four). The top number 4 means that there are four beats (or counts) to a bar. The bottom number 4 refers to crotchets (because there are 4 crotchets in a semibreve) thus the value of each "beat" or "count" is one crotchet. When the bottom number is 4, the following shapes (notes) have the values shown -Semibreve (4 beats/counts), Minim (2 beats counts) Crotchet (1 beat/count) 
Crotchet. Quaver (1/2 beat/count) Quaver. It make no difference whether the stem is up or down The tail of a quaver

starting on a beat is joined to the next quaver.

### Notes for Flute and Oboe

Correct posture:

Sit on the front of the chair, feet flat on the floor, back and neck straight, face forward and, shoulders level.



When assembling your instrument, always hold it with both hands close to the joint being assembled. Not doing this runs the risk of breaking the joint or, putting it out of shape.



Incorrect and damaging



Correct and safe.



Correct posture, neck, shoulders, head and back all straight, no bends or twists.

**Flute** embouchure: When you hold the head joint to your lips, the lip plate should rest just under the bottom and, lightly against your chin, and held steady but without too much pressure. The tube of the head joint should be parallel to your lips. Keep your head up to allow for an open airway through your throat. In general, your lips should cover about ¼ of the flute embouchure hole. To start, form your lips to make a "*pooh*" sound across the hole of the flute. This is the most basic way to think about forming your embouchure for playing.

**Oboe** embouchure: Chin down and firm, and the tongue down in the mouth. The "oo" syllable will help in making the embouchure relaxed and resonant. You should avoid a tightlipped "ee" mouth shape.



After the oboe reed has been properly soaked, place the reed on the bottom lip



with the tip of the reed at the line on the bottom lip where the dry part changes to moist. Gently roll the bottom lip in so that the reed barely extends into the mouth – only a few millimetres. Now bring the top lip down gently, against the bottom lip to seal in the air. Remember to keep the "oo" mouth shape to keep the reed in the proper position.

### Notes for Bassoon

Correct posture:

Sit on the front of the chair, feet flat on the floor, back and neck straight, face forward and, shoulders level.



Because the body of a bassoon is made from natural wood, the instrument is very susceptible to sudden changes in temperature or humidity. Damage or warping of the instrument can prevent the sections from joining together smoothly.

Please note the following points:

- Before assembling a bassoon, apply cork grease all the way around the joint cork as well as the bocal (mouthpiece) joint cork. When assembling the instrument, take care not to apply unreasonable force to any of the keys. (Where a joint is wound with thread, it is not necessary to apply cork grease)
- When playing in warm or cold places, before you start playing, wait for the whole instrument to adjust to the temperature of the air which surrounds you. (Sudden changes to the temperature of the instrument can cause keys to jam, joints between sections to align poorly, and other defects.)
- Dry any moisture around the surfaces of the joints.
- Where possible, use a cleaning swab to dry any moisture inside the instrument in breaks during performances.
- Take care to thoroughly dry any moisture inside the instrument after playing.
- Do not leave the moist cleaning swap in the bassoon case. Dry it outside the case first.



Basson fingers must engage the instrument at right angles to the instrument. The reed must be very wet to play properly, Bassoon players should have a small, sealable container in which to keep the reed moist.

Best embouchure is relaxed round with just a slight roll-in of the lips or pucker, and relaxed. Think of how the lips would be if using a drinking straw, or, whistling. Thin, wide, lips around teeth, biting embouchure is never correct. If your bassoon has both a leg rest and, a neck strap, make sure that they are properly adjusted to still allow for comfortable movement when breathing.



### Correct posture:

**Notes for Clarinet** 

Sit on the front of the chair, feet flat on the floor, back and neck straight, face forward and, shoulders level.

When assembling your instrument, always hold it with both hands close to the joint being assembled.

Not doing this runs the risk of breaking the joint or, putting it out of shape. But never apply pressure to the working parts of the instrument



Incorrect and damaging

Correct and safe.

The bridge joint must be perfectly aligned.

The reed should be placed with the top of the reed level with the top of the mouthpiece, and with part of the "dirty" part of the reed showing above the ligature.



For correct embouchure, roll the bottom lip over the bottom teeth, place about a thumb nail length of the reed into the mouth and, on top of the bottom lip. Now, gently bring the teeth down onto the reed then close the top lip. The mouthpiece should be in the mouth at approximately 45° Never apply pressure to the reed with the teeth, always just use lip pressure.

As you progress, reed brands and sizes will need to change.

After cleaning your instrument, the cloth must not be left in your instrument's case. If it is left there, the moisture just goes back into you instrument. Remember, always drop the pullthrough into the clarinet parts from narrow end to wide end.







### **Notes for Saxophone**

Correct posture:

Sit on the front of the chair, feet flat on the floor, back and neck straight, face forward and, shoulders level.





When assembling your instrument, always hold it with both hands close to the joint being assembled. Not doing this runs the risk of breaking the joint or, putting it out of shape. To the left is incorrect and damaging.



When attaching the reed, the reed should be placed with the top of the reed level with the top of the mouthpiece, and with part of the "dirty" part of the reed showing above the ligature.

For correct embouchure, roll the bottom lip over the bottom teeth, place about a thumb nail length of the reed into the mouth and, on top of the bottom lip. Now, gently bring to teeth down onto the reed then close the top lip. The mouthpiece should be in the mouth at approximately 90°. Never apply pressure to the reed with the teeth, always



just use lip pressure. As you progress, reed brands and sizes will need to change.



Remember that the holes in the saxophone are positioned so that the left hand comes across the front of the body and, the right hand is positioned down at the side of your body. The instrument should not rest on the chair as is incorrectly shown at left.

After cleaning your instrument, the cloth must not be left in your instrument's case. If it is left there, the moisture just goes back into you instrument. Remember, always insert the cleaning apparatus drop into the saxophone parts from narrow end to wide end.

### Notes for Bb Brass

Correct posture: Sit on the front of the chair, feet flat on the floor, back and neck straight, face forward and, shoulders level.

One of the big problems for brass is not only that you have to produce your own sound by vibrating through your lips AKA Buzzing, but also having the correct hand and/or finger positions. Correct embouchure is with the head level and, the mouthpiece coming straight out. The lips should be slightly curled inwards (say "wee um"), the corners of the

mouth upwards (smile) and, the cheeks never puffing outwards. Now attach the instrument to the mouth piece.

Some texts incorrectly advocate grasping or clutching the instruments. To play as best as possible, there should be a gentle grip with the left hand and, an open-handed use of the right hand. It is incorrect to say to hold the instrument with the right hand. The left hand holds and, the right hand does the playing. For Trombone, the right hand needs to be relaxed and flexible, do not grasp the trombone.

For the fingers to work properly there must be no tension in the right hand and, the fingers must make contact with the valves at an angle which is inline with the direction of the valve stems, NOT perpendicular as many examples incorrectly show. The left hand will assist by lightly holding the instrument and allowing it to tilt so that the valves tilt toward to fingers. In particular, cornets and trumpets are designed with a "centre of gravity" which allows the instrument to naturally tilt to the right thus, bringing the valve caps closer to the right hand.

On many occasions, your valves will stick while you are playing in response to which, most people stop playing, look at the valve assembly, push the valves up and down and find no problem. Upon resuming playing, the valves again stick and the same procedure is carried-out and sometimes more valve oil is applied and, when playing is resumed the sticking problem also resumes. This is most likely due to incorrect holding and finger positions. Check you right hand are the fingers pushing straight down or, are you playing with maybe your knuckles and therefore, are pushing the valves sideways,

Another big false idea is that the ring or the hook in front of the valves is for holding with the right little finger whilst playing. WRONG!! That ring or hook is for when you are not playing and want to give the left hand a rest.



Notice that in picture on the left, the valves or not standing straight up but rather tilt to the right, this is the natural balance position. Note that in this photo, it is the final bend in the tubing that is vertical.

Note that in the photo to the right, the fingers of the right hand are coming over the top and then, down onto the valves, so as to push them straight down the valve line. Note the gap underneath the right hand and, that it is the fingertips, not the knuckles, that are in contact with the

valves. Most certainly, the palm of the right hand is not touching the instrument. It should also be noted in this photo that the left hand is grasping instead of holding gently and, is not allowing the valves to tilt towards the fingers.



Note that for Trombone, the method of holding the Trombone with the left hand (some trombones do not have the thumb trigger). The index finger is controlling the left /right rotation of the trombone. Note the picture to the left, does not show that when the right hand is not holding the slide, the left little finger should be under the slide cross bar to stop the slide from falling off. Never trust the lock. The right hand should be



relaxed, and just lightly holding the slide cross bar with the tips of the thumb and index finger. The slide should be moved by the wrist, not the elbow.

For Tubas (Baritone, Euphonium & Bass), your left hand wraps around the instrument. Exactly where the hand holds, will depend on your body's size, the instrument's, size and, the position of the 4th (if any) valve. Do not lower your head to the mouthpiece, bring it to your mouth. You may want to use a stand to support the larger instruments.

### Notes for Lower Brass

Correct posture:

Sit on the front of the chair, feet flat on the floor, back and neck straight, face forward and, shoulders level.

One of the big problems for brass is not only that you have to produce your own sound by vibrating through AKA Buzzing, your lips but also having the correct hand and/or figure positions. Correct embouchure is with the head level and, the mouthpiece coming straight out. The lips should be slightly curled inwards (say "wee um"), the corners of the mouth upwards (smile) and, the cheeks never puffing outwards. Now attach the instrument to the mouthpiece.



Some texts incorrectly advocate grasping or clutching the instruments. To play as best as possible, there should be a gentle but firm, grip with the left hand. For valved instruments, an open-handed use of the right hand is required. It is incorrect to say to hold the instrument with the right hand. The left hand holds and, the right hand does the playing. For Trombone, the right hand needs to be relaxed and flexible, do not grasp the trombone.

For the fingers to work properly there must be no tension in the right hand and, the fingers must make contact with the valves at an angle which is inline with the direction of the valve stems, NOT perpendicular as many examples show. The left hand will assist by lightly holding the instrument and allowing it to tilt so that the valves tilt toward to fingers. Note that some instruments have a (right) thumb ring which if incorrectly placed, will prevent the fingers from getting on top of the valves. Some players will have the same problem because of the smaller hands.

On many occasions, your valves will stick while you are playing, in response to which most people stop playing, look at the valve assembly, push the valves up and down and find no problem. Upon resuming playing the valves again stick and the same procedure is carried-out and sometimes more valve oil is applied and, when playing is resumed the sticking problem also resumes. This is most likely due to incorrect holding and finger positions. Check you right hand – are the fingers pushing straight down or, are you playing with maybe your knuckles and therefore, are pushing the valves sideways,



Note that for Trombone, the method of holding with the left hand (some trombones do not have the thumb trigger). The index finger is controlling the left /right rotation of the trombone. The picture to the right does not show that when the right hand is not holding the slide, the little finger should be under the slide cross bar to stop the slide from falling off. Never trust the lock. The right hand should be relaxed, and



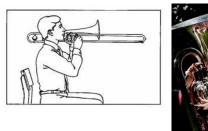
just lightly holding the slide cross bar with the tips of the thumb and index finger. The slide should be moved by the wrist, not the elbow.

For Tubas (Baritone, Euphonium & Bass), your left hand wraps around the instrument. Exactly where the hand holds, will depend on your body's size, the instrument's, size and, the position of the 4<sup>th</sup> (if any) valve. Do not lower your head to the mouth piece, bring it to your mouth. You may want to use a stand to support the larger instruments.

Incorrect posture



Good Posture



### Notes for Eb Brass

#### Correct posture:

Sit on the front of the chair, feet flat on the floor, back and neck straight, face forward and, shoulders level.

Some Tutor books use the unison sound system which means that all instruments use notes that sound the same, even though they are written differently. This however requires the Eb brass students to start to play on inappropriately difficult notes. Therefore, this tutor provides an alternative set of beginner notes that are more easily playable by students. This then gives another problem of the notes



not sounding the same as the other students. However, this is considered to be the "lesser of two evils". Be aware that for the time being, your notes will sound different but, as you learn more notes, they will start to have the same sound.

One of the big problems for brass is not only that you have to produce your own sound by vibrating through AKA Buzzing, your lips but also having the correct hand and/or figure positions. Correct embouchure is with the head level and, the mouthpiece coming straight out. The lips should be slightly curled inwards (say "wee um"), the corners of the mouth upwards (smile) and, the cheeks never puffing outwards. Now attach the instrument to the mouth piece. Do not let he instrument drop down and don't tilt your head forward to compensate. This will cause our throat to close and therefore restrict the air flow.



All these instruments are members of the Tuba sub-family of Brass instruments. This is because the diameter of most of the tubing is constantly getting wider, as opposed to the trumpet sub-family where the diameter is mainly constant.

The Eb horn has two names in common usage. The inventor, Adolphe Sax, called it an Alto horn because it plays in what is called the Alto range of sounds. For some reason, the name tenor horn is now also used even though Adolphe Sax at the same time invented a Bb horn which, because it plays in the Tenor voice Range, he called the Tenor Horn (Tenor Saxhorn). The Eb bass plays in the Baritone/bass and was called Bass Saxhorn.

Note the holding position of the Eb Horn. It is often seen to be tucked under the left arm which is incorrect because the player then tilts the head downward to reach the mouthpiece. The head must face forward to open the throat and thus the instrument must be raised to match the level of the lips.

This becomes fatiguing because of the weight, so lower it to a resting position as often as possible.

For Tubas (Horns, Baritones, Euphoniums & Basses), your left hand wraps around the instrument. Exactly where the hand holds, will depend on your body's size, the instrument's size and, the position of the 4<sup>th</sup> (if any) valve. Do not lower your head to the mouthpiece, bring it to your mouth. You may want to use a stand to support the larger instruments.

NB: The Eb Cornet & Trumpet are not mentioned here because they are covered in the Bb Cornet/Trumpet book.

### Notes for F Brass

#### Correct posture:

Sit on the front of the chair, feet flat on the floor, back and neck straight, face forward and, shoulders level.

Some Tutor books use the unison sound system which means that all instruments use notes that sound the same even though they are written differently. This however requires the F brass students to start to play on inappropriately difficult notes. Therefore, this tutor provides an alternative set of beginner notes that are more easily playable by students. This then gives another problem of the notes not sounding



the same as the other students. However, this is considered to be the "lesser of two evils". Be aware that for the time being, your notes will sound different but, as you learn more notes, they will start to have the same sound.

NB: The F Horn is played with the left fingers, not the right-hand fingers.

One of the big problems for brass is not only that you have to produce your own sound by vibrating through AKA Buzzing, your lips but also having the correct hand and/or figure positions. Correct embouchure is with the head level and, the mouthpiece coming straight out. The lips should be slightly curled inwards (say "wee um"), the corners of the mouth upwards (smile) and, the cheeks never puffing outwards. Now attach the instrument to the mouth piece.



This instrument is also a member of the Tuba sub-family of Brass instruments. This is because the diameter of most of the tubing is constantly getting wider, as opposed to the trumpet sub-family where the diameter is mainly constant. Having said that, the F Horn tubing expands at a very slow rate which, is why it responds better with its higher notes than with its lower notes.

The F horn is called a French horn because of its French hunting horn origins although, the modern instrument is now said to be more German than French.

Note the holding position. The head must face forward to open the throat and thus the instrument must be raised to match the level of the lips. The right hand is especially important to get correct. It often looks like the right hand is holding the instrument against the body but if fact, the back of the hand is pushing against the outer side of the bell and, holding the horn upwards.

Because of the weight, this becomes fatiguing so there is often a tendency to allow the horn to be incorrectly placed on the lap, on the leg or, on the chair. When you are not playing, lower it to a resting position as often as possible. The right hand supports the horn from inside the bell upwards and away from the body. The reason for this will be taught in future lessons.

The fingering seems different to the other brass instruments, but it is just that your notes are written an octave lower so, look at the other brass charts for 8 notes higher and you will see that it's the same. Notes that this is for the rotars/valves 1, 2, and 3. The 4<sup>th</sup> one behaves very differently to the fourth on other brass.

### Notes for Guitar

This tuition book differs greatly for other Guitar text and tutors. The reason is that in this programme, there are other instruments being played at the same time and in the same lesson. Therefore this programme, which is a "line of best fit", allows any instruments to do the same lesson at the same time. Another advantage is that you will get to play with other students at this early stage of development.

Correct posture:

Sit on the front of the chair, feet flat on the floor, back and neck

straight, face forward and, shoulders level. However for guitar the left foot must be raised.

The guitar must be held at approx. 45° to allow the fingers of both hands, cross the stings at an angle of 90°



Incorrect Posture



Correct Posture

The guitar is played by plucking with the right thumb nail and the fingernails. If this method is used, then the thumb and the fingers of the right hand have dedicated strings to play. The alternative is to use a plectrum in which case, it is held between the right thumb and index finger. Time will tell exactly how you hold it and which size suits you best.

The left hand finger tips, press on the strings in the appropriate frets to produce the appropriate notes. The left fingers will also be dedicated to a particular fret.

The left thumb should be placed underneath the neck to allow the left fingers to arch over the strings so that the under parts of the fingers do not touch any of the other strings.





To understand guitar picking and chord diagrams, the left fingers are numbered and, the right fingers are given letter names relating to the "Latin" (Italian) names for those fingers. Note that traditionally, the right little finger is not used.

See also the notes for Bass Guitar.

Correct posture:

Sit on the front of the chair, feet flat on the floor, back and neck straight, face forward and, shoulders level.



The guitar must be held at approx. 45° to allow the fingers to cross the stings at an angle of 90°



Incorrect





Bass Guitar strings are plucked. Keep the fingers at an angle of 90°. Also, keep the neck high so that the left hand fingers are at 90° to the neck so that the fingers can "walk" across the strings.

If you balance the guitar on your leg or, by using a neckstrap when standing, there should be no need to balance or, support, the guitar with the left hand. The left hand must not be constrained by the guitar neck but rather, must be free to move across the neck as well as up and down the neck. This is one reason why choosing the correct guitar for you is important.

If you play left handed, the same principles apply: neck at 45°, fingers at 90° to the strings, and, guitar balanced so that the right hand is not supporting its weight.



### **Notes for Cello**

This tuition book differs greatly for other Cello text and tutors. The reason is that in this programme, there are other instruments being played at the same time and in the same lesson. Therefore this programme, which is a "line of best fit", allows any instruments to do the same lesson at the same time. Another advantage is that you will get to play with other instruments at this early stage of development.





Correct posture:

Sit on the front of the chair, feet flat on the floor and shoulder width apart. Your back and neck should be kept straight, face relaxed and forward and, shoulders level.

The cello should rest on your chest, on your left thigh with your right knee free of the cello. Your left hand

should be placed in the middle of the strings.

Hold the bow with the thumb and the first two fingers of your right hand. Make sure you apply even pressure when drawing the bow across the string.





Note the angle at which the Cello rests against the player's body, Note also the angle and length of the end pin and, the position of the end pin holder.

As always, consult with your teacher if you are having problems or, are feeling uncomfortable.

### Notes for Piano or any Electric Keyboard

This tuition book differs greatly from other piano text and tutors. The reason is that in this programme, there are other instruments being played at the same time and in the same lesson, Therefore this programme which is a "line of best fit", allows any instruments to do the same lesson at the same time. Another advantage is that you will get to play with other instruments at this early stage of development. Therefore in this programme, you will learn Bb Scale instead of the traditional C scale.

#### Correct posture:

Sit on the front of the chair, feet flat on the floor, back and neck straight, face forward and, shoulders level.

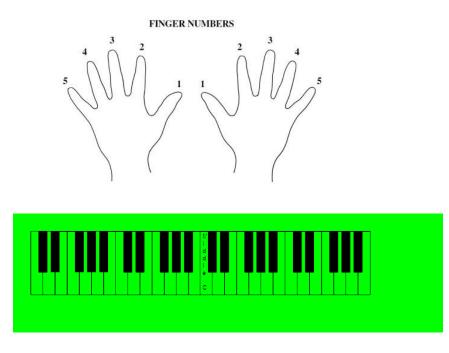




Sit in front of "Middle C", and at a comfortable distance from the keyboard so that the hands can arch over the keys. This allow the fingers to come down onto the keys.

The official name for the piano is "Piano Forte". You will learn in later lesson that these are two Latin (Italian) words meaning "gentle" and "strong". When the Piano was invented, it was the first keyboard instrument that could change volume while being played. I.e. you could play gently and produce a gentle sound or, play strongly and produce a strong sound. This caused a massive change in the way that orchestral music was constructed, and, lead to the piano becoming the most common and, main instrument of choice.

The fingering indicated in each lesson is a generic one for the early lessons. As you progress, these might need to be changed to correctly play a certain passage. But, learn the rule first, so that you will understand when it is time to make the exception. The fingering is indicated by placing a number under the notes. The numbers relate to the particular thumb or finger show below.



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### Notes for Percussion

This tuition book differs greatly from other percussion text and tutors.

The reason is that in this programme, there are other instruments being played at the same time and in the same lesson. This programme, which is a "line of best fit", allows any instruments to do the same lesson at the same time. Another advantage is that you will get to play with other students and, their instruments, at this early stage of development.

Also, this is a band percussion system, so all tuition is aimed at the "all round" percussionist although, it is understood that as you progress, you may begin to excel in specific areas of percussion.

A major problem is that there is great inconsistency on how to write for percussion. Therefore, different signs will not mean the same thing in different publications, especially for drum kit where many publishers have not yet accepted that the drum kit is for one player whereas drums, are played by multiple players. Many publishers still print Kit music as if it is to be read and played by at least three players which, historically, is how it used to be, but not the modern way.

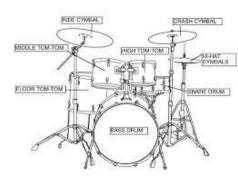
This problem has been addressed, and concert percussion will align with drum kit percussion. Marching percussion is different again and is addressed separately in the Marching Band tuition book.

For drums, there are two methods of holding the sticks. One is called "Traditional" because of the tradition of drums being carried on the side (thus the term "side drum") requiring the two sticks (originally only one) to be held differently. The other is called "Matched" because the sticks are held the same way and, is mainly used for concert percussion. How to hold, will be explained with each new instrument.

In this programme, the modern "Band" approach is used for percussion groups but still, is aimed at possibly just the one player. The early concert percussion lessons are aimed towards playing individual percussion instruments but at the same time, may also be played on Drum KIt. Thus, the symbols and positions on the stave are aimed at contemporary Drum Kit music where note positions are related to the position of the particular part of the Drum Kit to be played, e.g. feet are low and cymbals are high.

Visualise looking at the drum kit through the five lines of the stave. From bottom to top"

- Hands Cymbals Hi hats, Ride and Crash.
- Hands Cymbals Hi hats, Ride and Crash.
- Hands Tom Toms, usually three
- Hands Snare drum



Feet - Bass and Hi Hat pedals, next up is the snare drum.

Different players will adjust these to different positions but generally, the Crash Cymbal is the highest and therefore, is written higher.

Timps, Glockenspiel and, Xylophone etc are played with matched grip. Never place a finger on top of the sticks (AKA Mallets). Also play with an action that seems like you are pulling the notes out of these instruments.

Auxiliary Percussion is the collective name for basically everything else in the percussion section e.g. Tambourine, Triangles, Hand Cymbals, Spoons, Cowbells etc. You may hear other terms such as "traps", "bits and pieces" and jokingly, the "kitchen sink department". Despite jocular terminology, all of these instruments have a correct method of playing which needs to be learned. In this publication, there is on sign/position for one thing, as opposed to some publishers who use the same sign for different things and that add words to say what is meant. In today's faster passed music, this is too cumbersome.

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### STAGE ONE

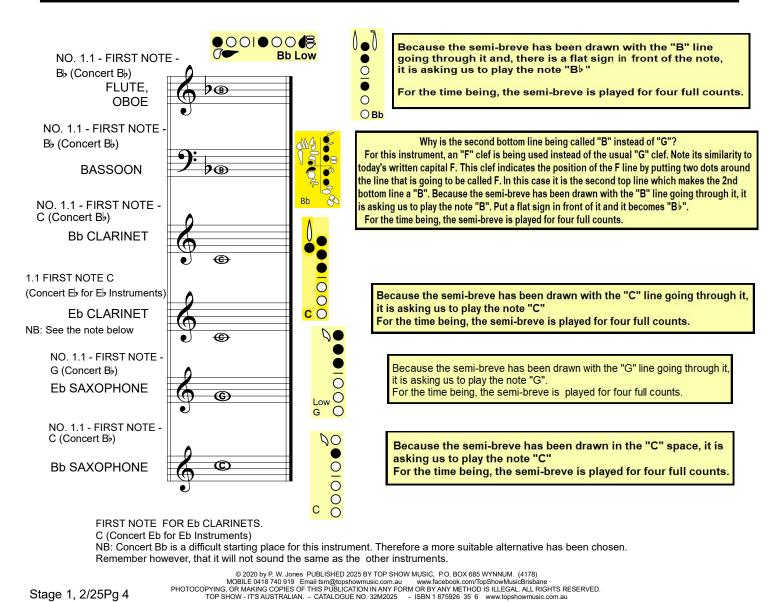
Learning and using the note Concert "Bb" (pronounced B Flat),

the note shape Semi-Breve o and its value of four counts,

the Semi-breve rest shape, - and its value of four counts (rest means silence), || End bar line (the end of the music)

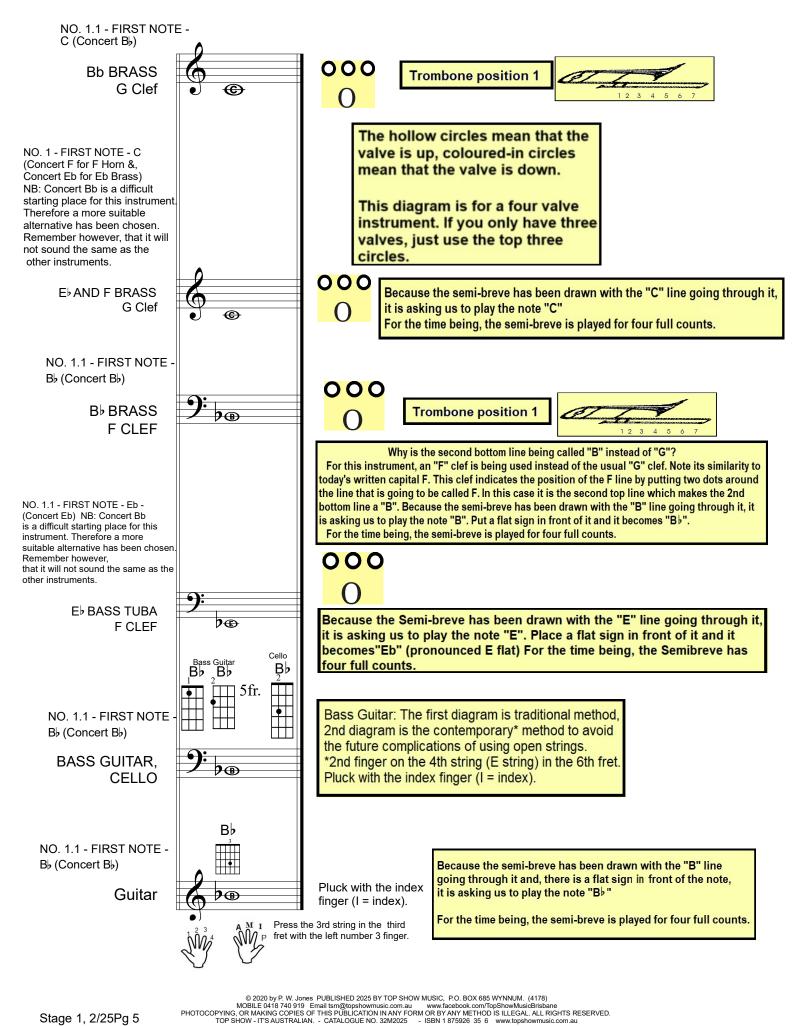
When most of our music ideas were being formalised, the main instrument was the Concert Piano. In addition, instrument makers had little commonality with the size of the instruments they made and, little commonality with the sounds made and the names given to those notes. Some notes with the same name did not sound the same. All players had to know which note on the "Concert Piano", sounded the same as "C" on their own instrument. In this lesson, we will learn the note that sounds the same as Bb on the piano i.e. Concert Bb.

The term "Concert" means that even though your note may have a different name, the sound you make is the same as the note if played on a "Concert Piano". Some students' note is called "Bb" but some may have a note called C or G or F. They make the same sound as Concert Bb.



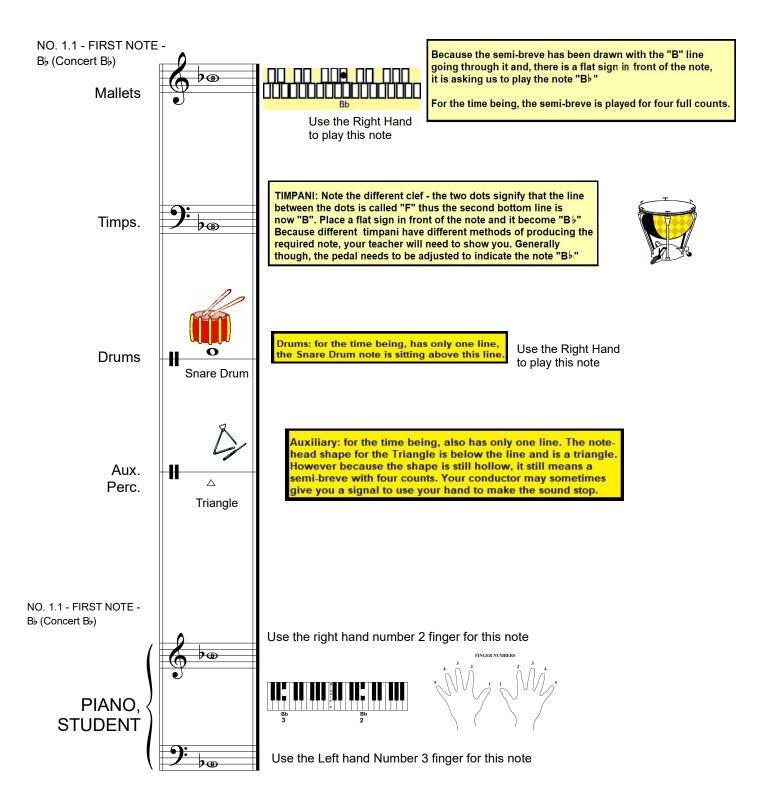
Stage 1, 2/25Pg 4 Stage 1/25 - P1

### Page 4B



Stage 1, 2/25Pg 5 Stage 1/25 - P2

First Con 25, Stages -1,2 Score Pt 1, 1:04 AM 10/01/2025



LEDGER LINE - (Not yet used on all instruments.) When we want to use notes that are higher or lower than the five lines in the stave, we draw just the part of the next line or lines that are needed. This additional part of a line is called a "ledger line".

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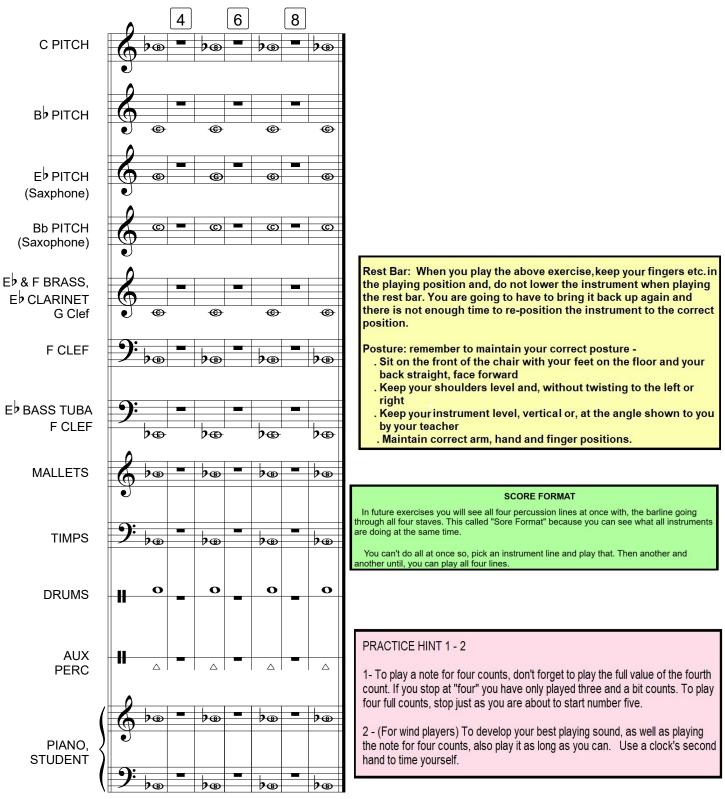
First Con 25, Stages -1,2 Score Pt 1, 1:04 AM 10/01/2025

#### NO. 1.2 - SEMI-BREVE REST



Note that the semi-breve rest shape is hanging (slung) below a Line. Note - "S" for Semi-breve, "S" for Slung. It has a value of four full counts of silence

#### NO. 1.3 - COMBINING NOTE AND REST

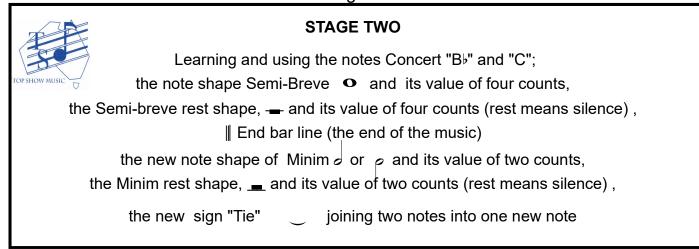


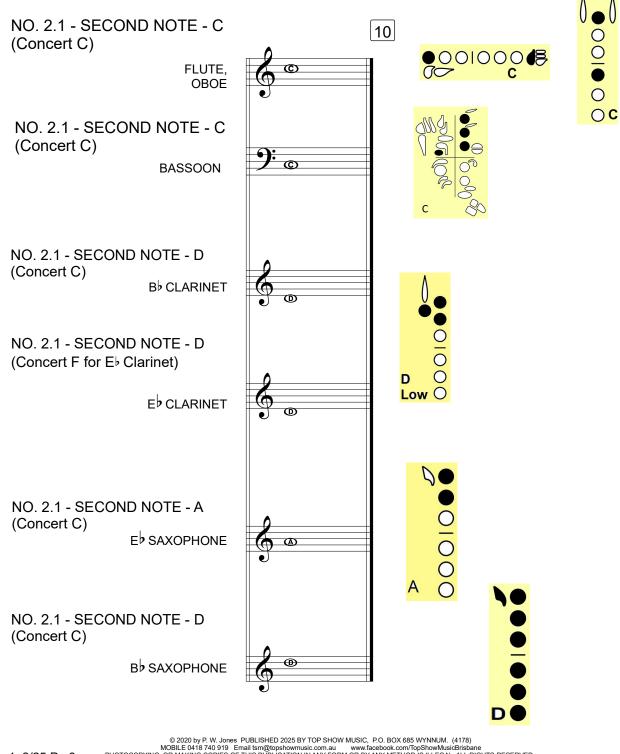
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Stage 1, 2/25 Pg 7 Stage 1/5 - P4

First Con 25, Stages -1,2. Pt 2 1:08 AM 10/01/2025

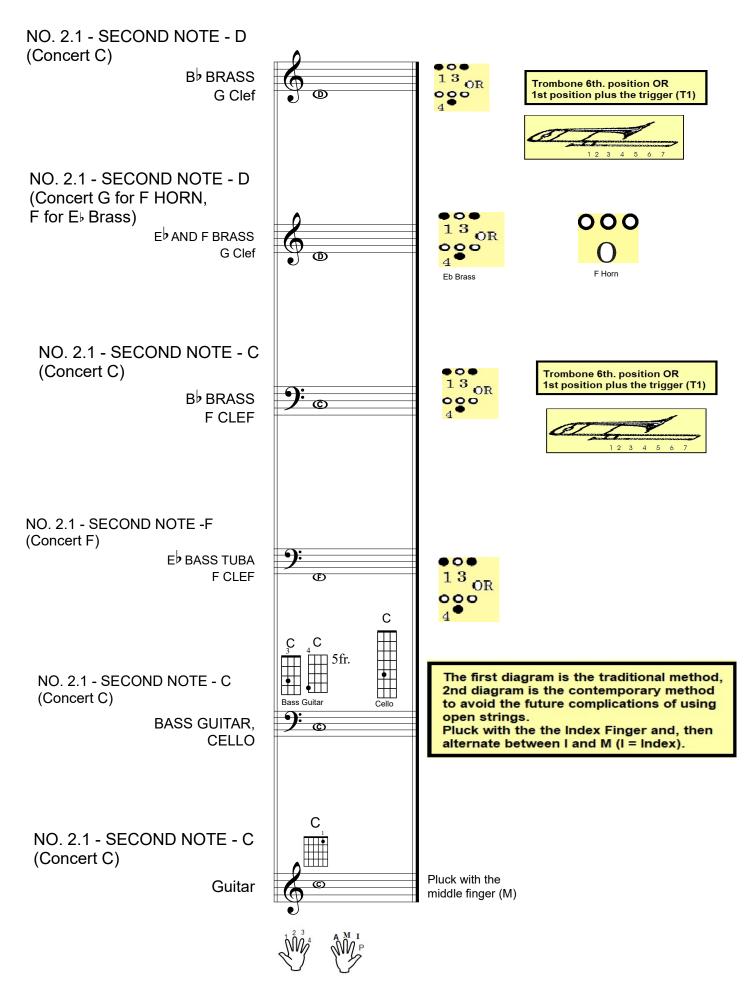
Page 6





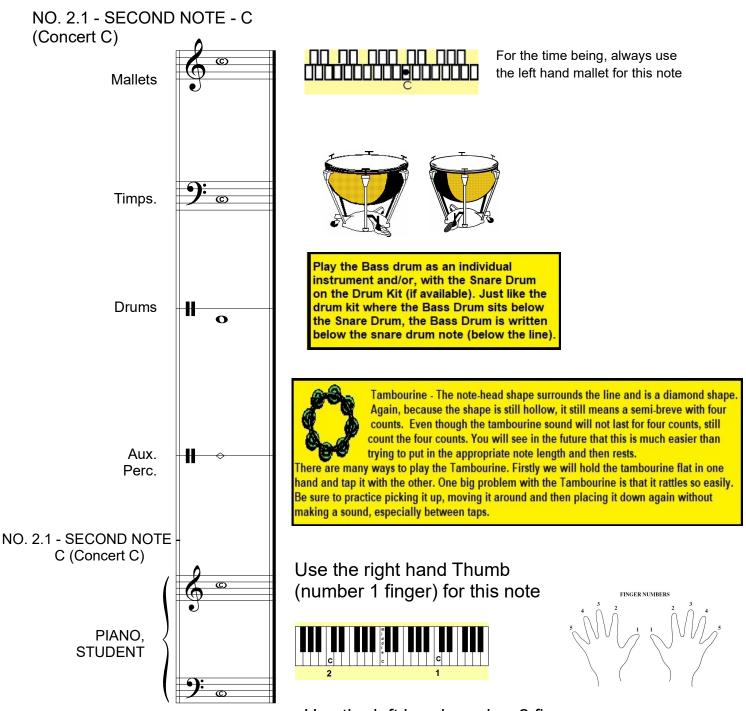
Stage 1, 2/25 Pg 8 Stage 2/25 - P1 © 2020 by P. W. Jones PUBLISHED 2025 BY TOP SHOW MUSIC, P.O. BOX 685 WYNNUM. (4178) MOBILE 0418 740 919 Email tsm@topshowmusic.com.au www.facebook.com/TopShowMusiCBrisbane PHOTOCOPYING, OR MAKING COPIES OF THIS PUBLICATION IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY METHOD IS ILLEGAL. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. TOP SHOW - IT'S AUSTRALIAN. - CATALOGUE NO. 32M2025 - ISBN 1875926 35 6 www.topshowmusic.com.au First Con 25, Stages -1,2 Pt 3 1:20 AM 10/01/2025

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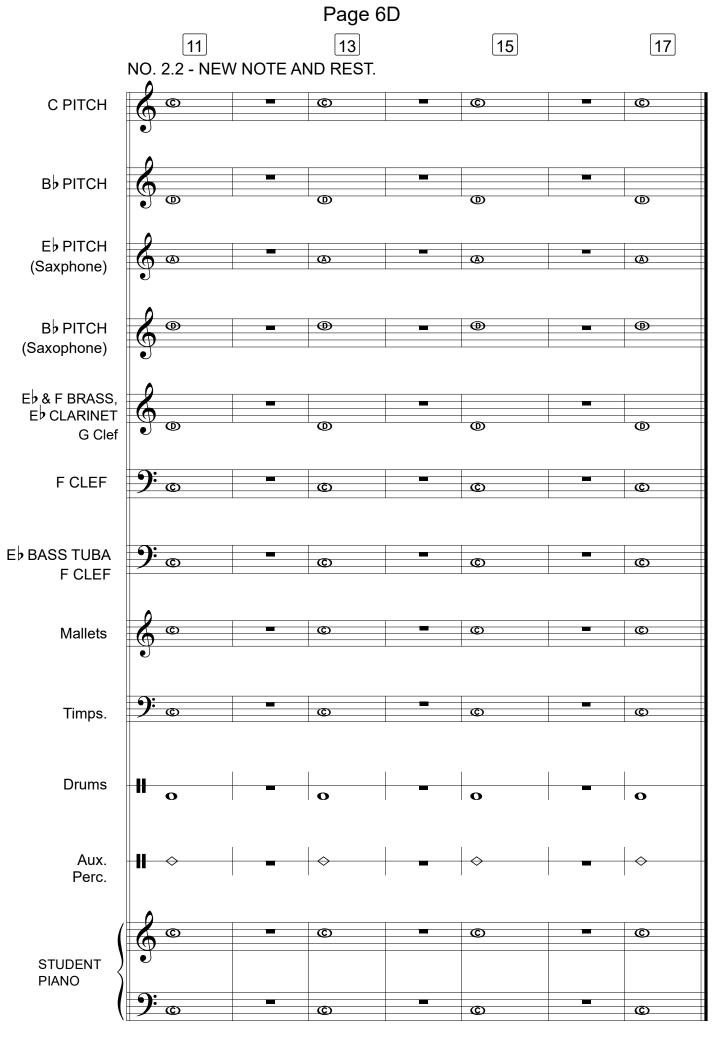


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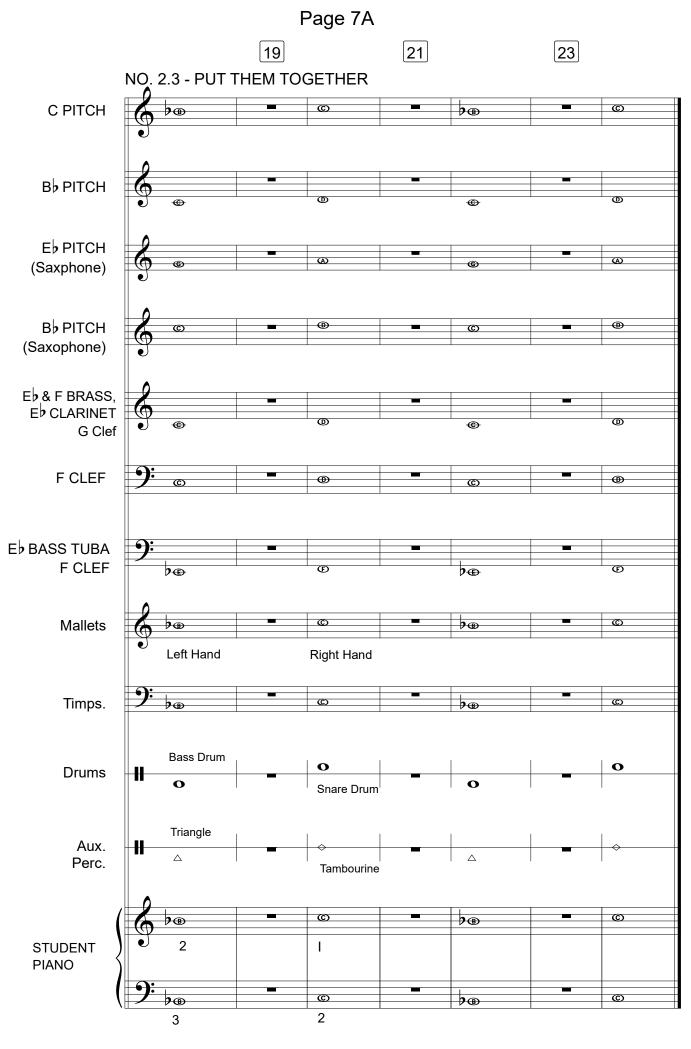
Stage 1, 2/25 Pg 9 Stage 2/25 - P2



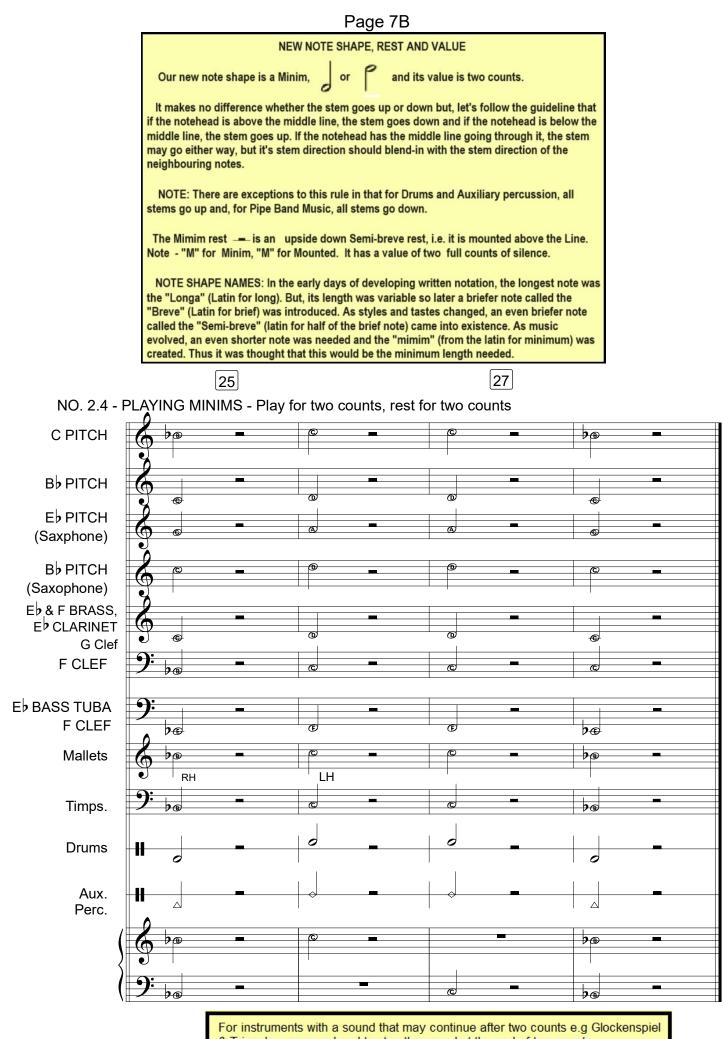
Use the left hand number 2 finger, the one next to the thumb



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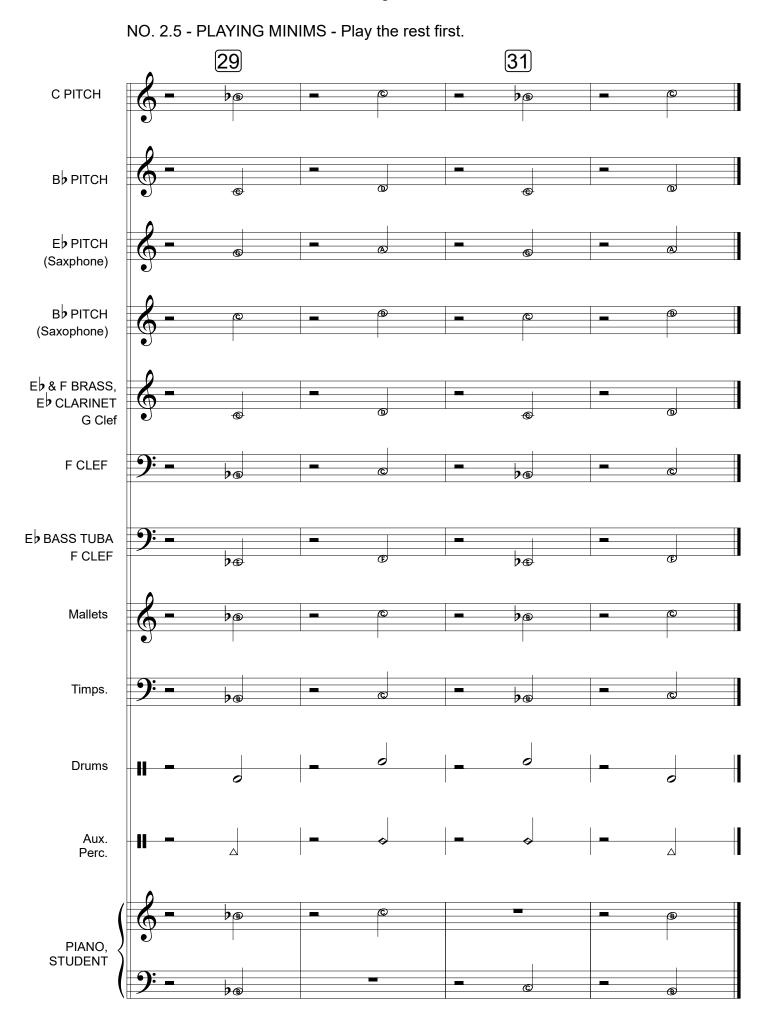


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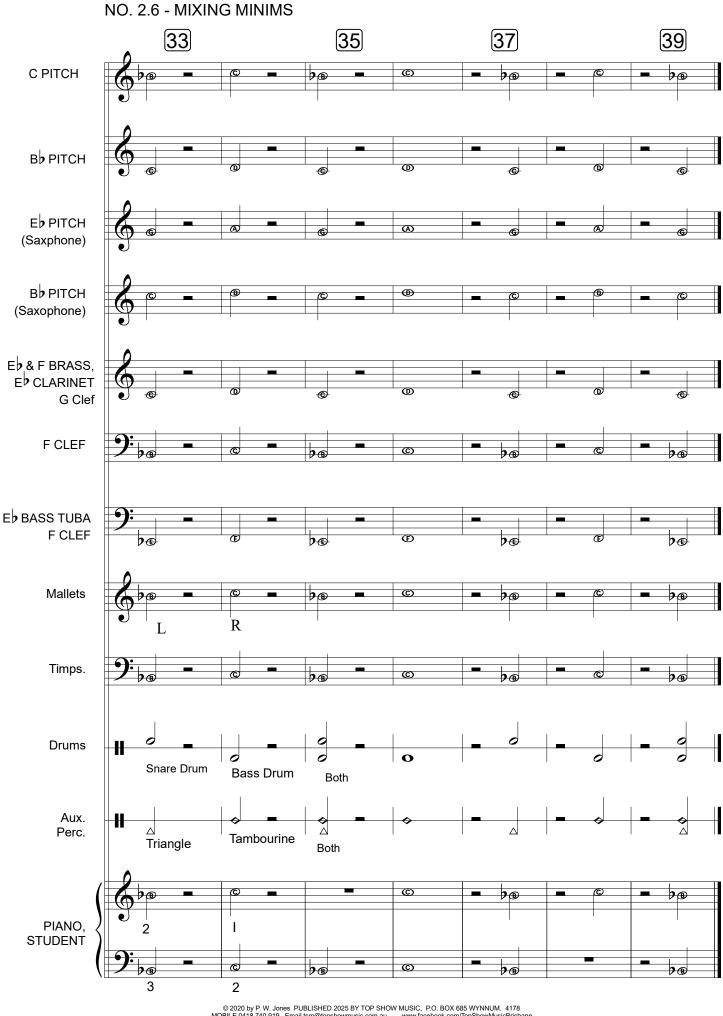
& Triangle, use your hand to stop the sound at the end of two counts.

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Stage 1, 2/25 P 14 Stage 2/25 - P 7 © 2020 by P. W. Jones PUBLISHED 2025 BY TOP SHOW MUSIC, P.O. BOX 685 WYNNUM. 4178 MOBILE 0418 740 919 Email tsm@topshowmusic.com.au www.facebook.com/TopShowMusicBrisbane PHOTOCOPYING, OR MAKING COPIES OF THIS PUBLICATION IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY METHOD IS ILLEGAL. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. TOP SHOW - IT'S AUSTRALIAN. - CATALOGUE NO. 32M2025 - ISBN 1 875926 35 6 www.topshowmusic.com.au First Con 25, Stages -1,2 Pt 5 2:08 AM 10/01/2025

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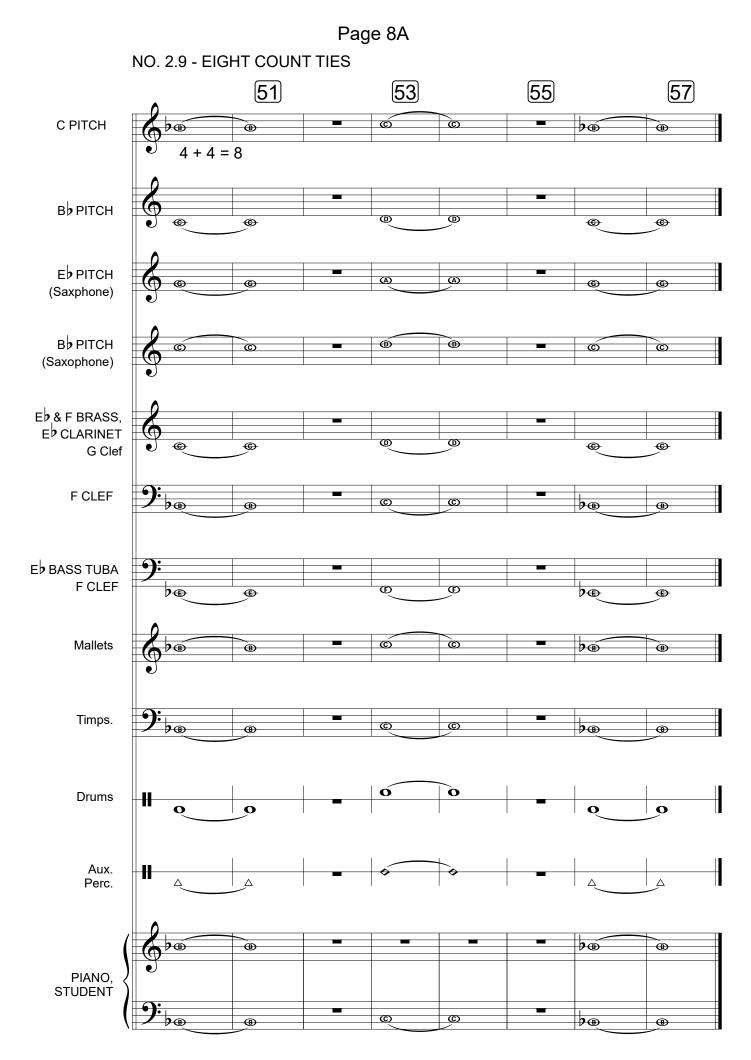


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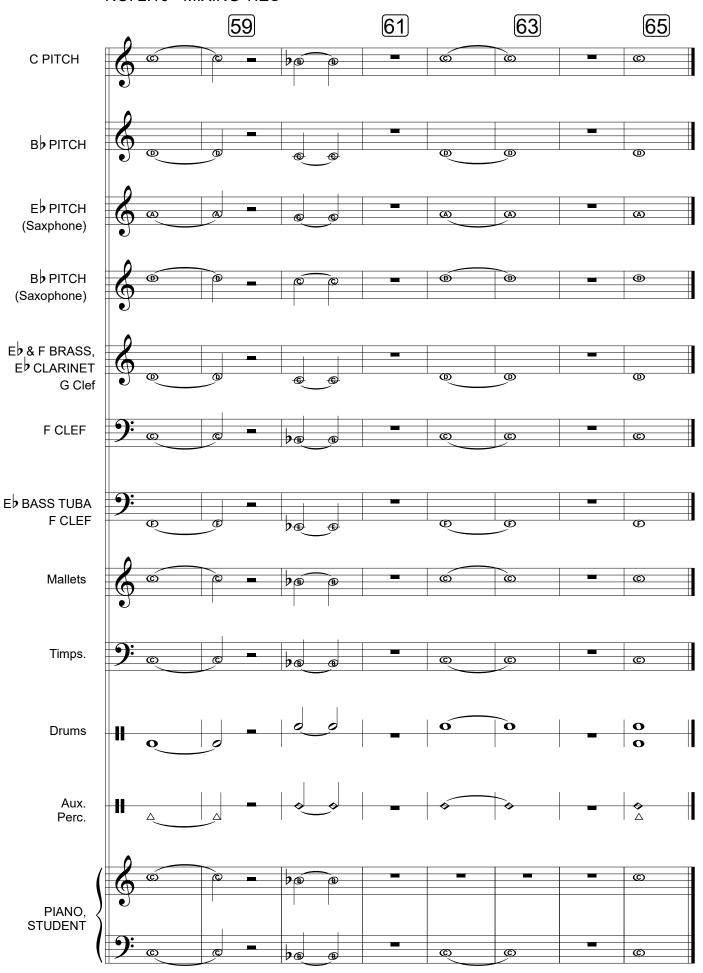
Stage 2/25 - P 9

First Con 25, Stages -1,2 Pt 5 2:08 AM 10/01/2025

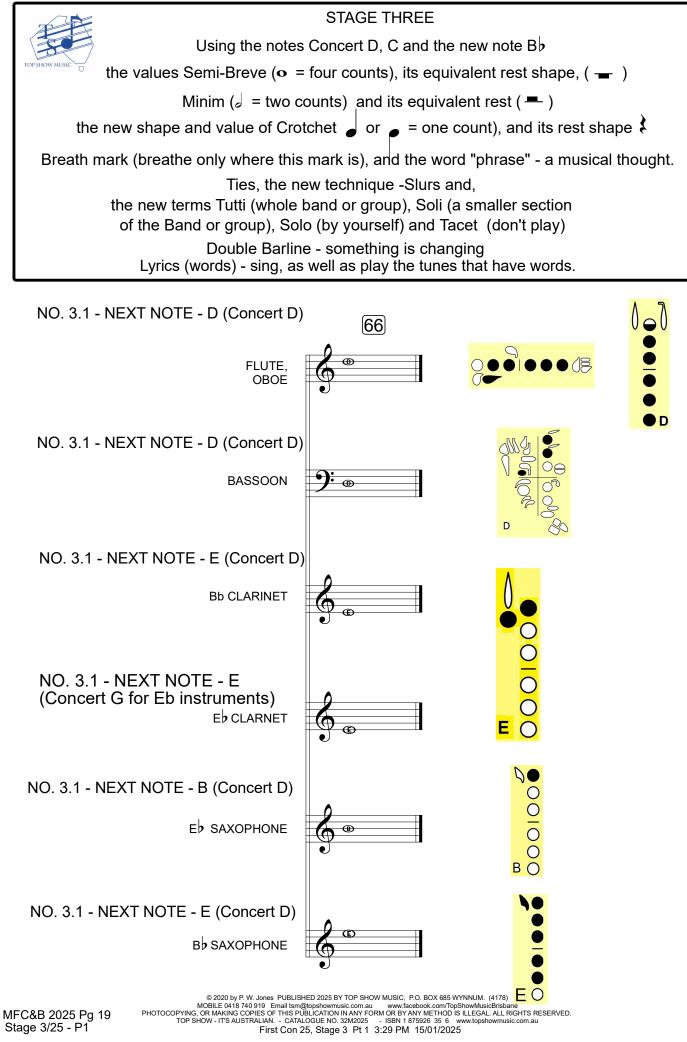


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NO. 2.10 - MIXING TIES

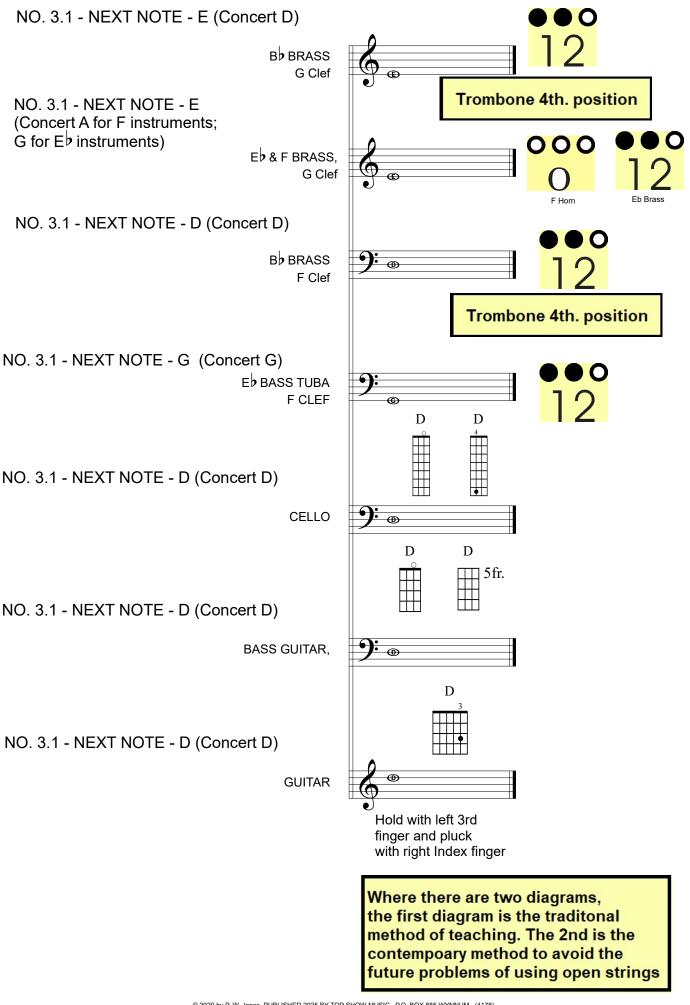


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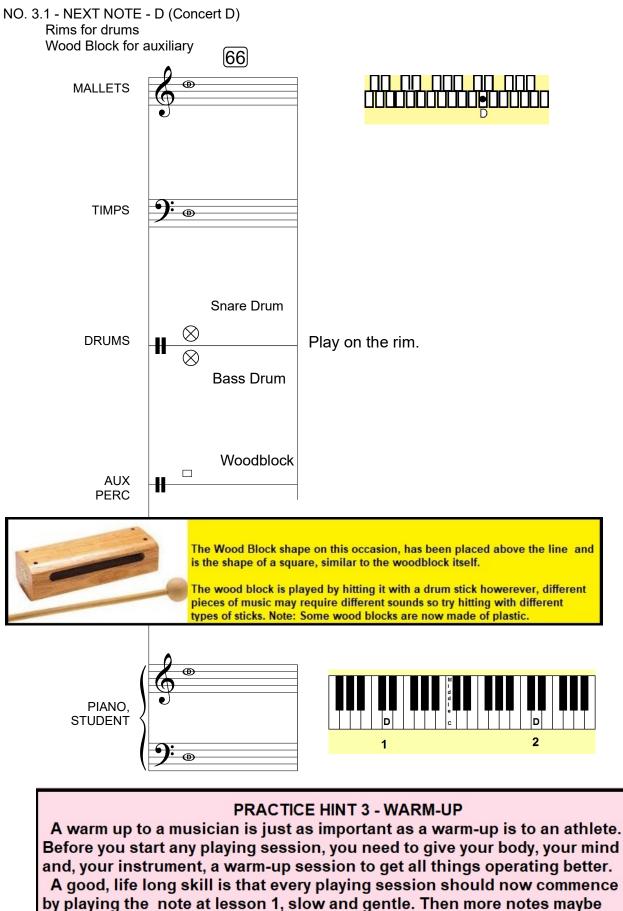


Stage 3/25 - P1

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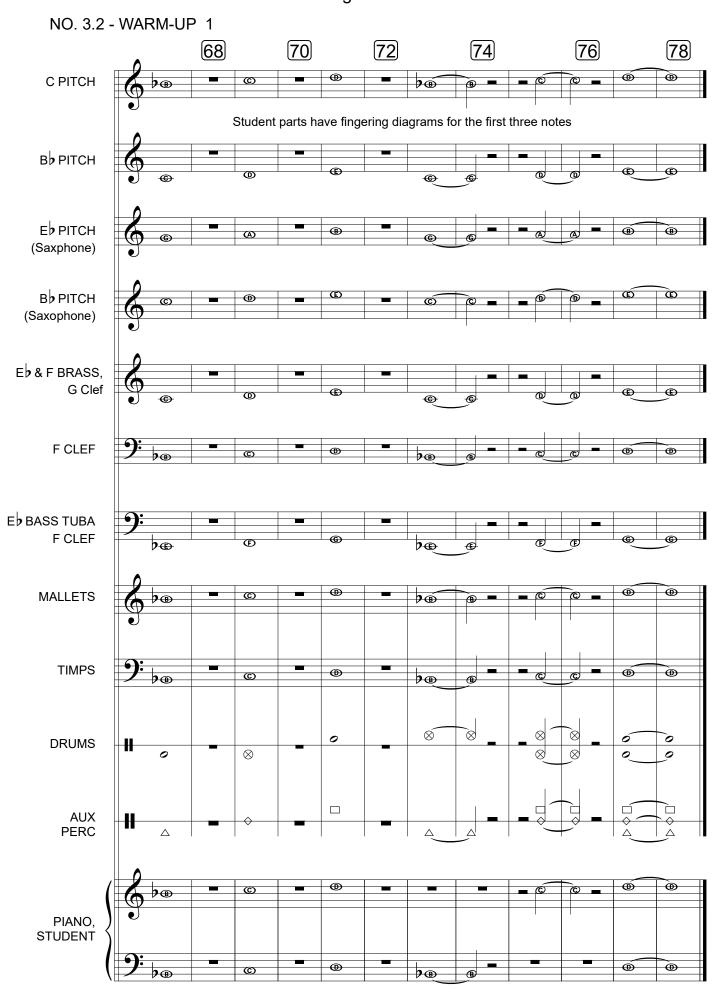


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Warm-ups in this book not only help to prepare for the coming lesson or practice session, but also revise the teaching points we have already learnt.

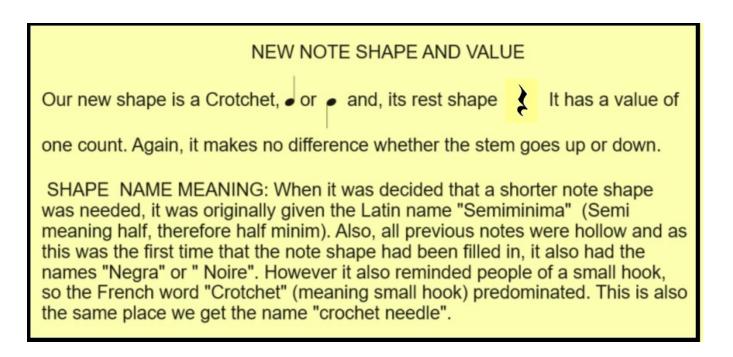
Page 9D



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MFC&B 2025 Pg 22 Stage 3/25 - P4 Page 10A

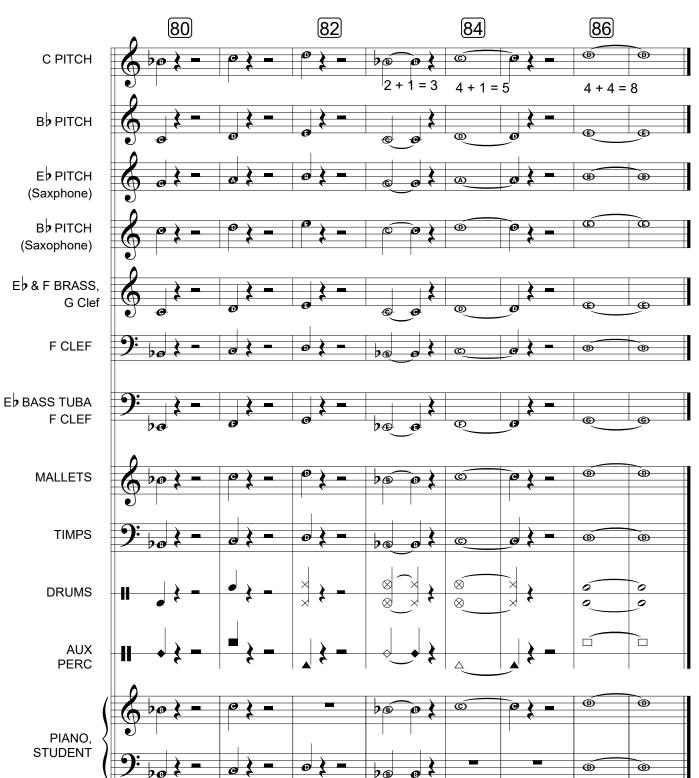


# NO. 3.3 - ONE COUNT NOTE AND ONE COUNT REST.

C PITCH

Remember that to play a one count note properly, you must play up to the next count i.e. two

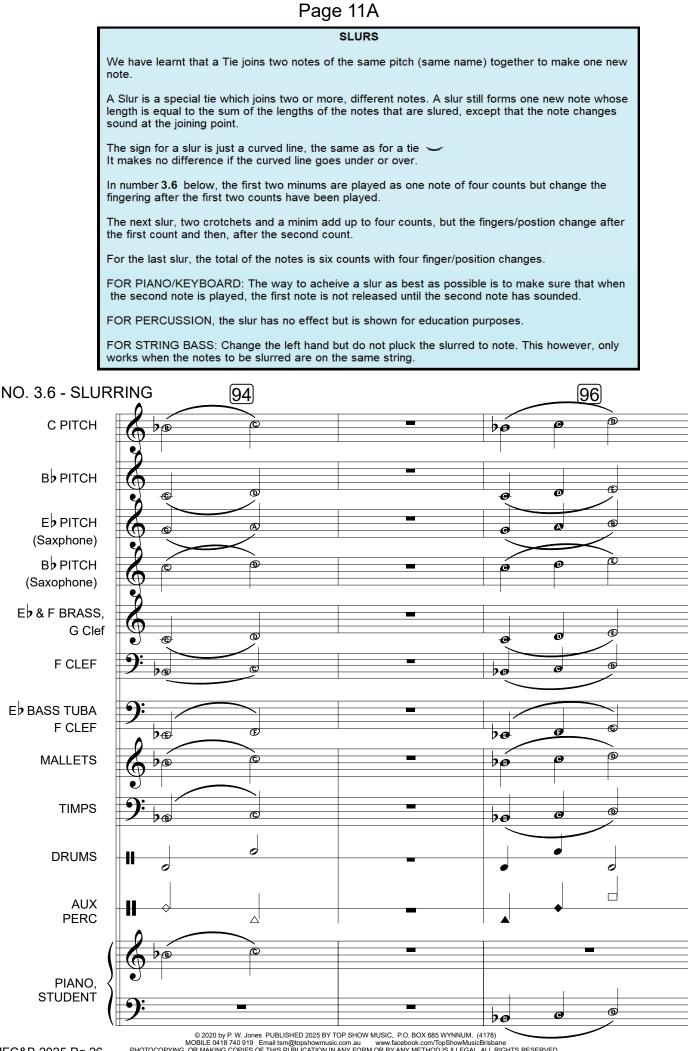
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NO. 3.4 - USING CROTCHETS



MFC&B 2025 Pg 25 Stage 3/25 - P7



MFC&B 2025 Pg 26 Stage 3/25 - P8



NO. 3.6 - SLURRING - Continued

MFC&B 2025 Pg 27 Stage 3/25 - P9

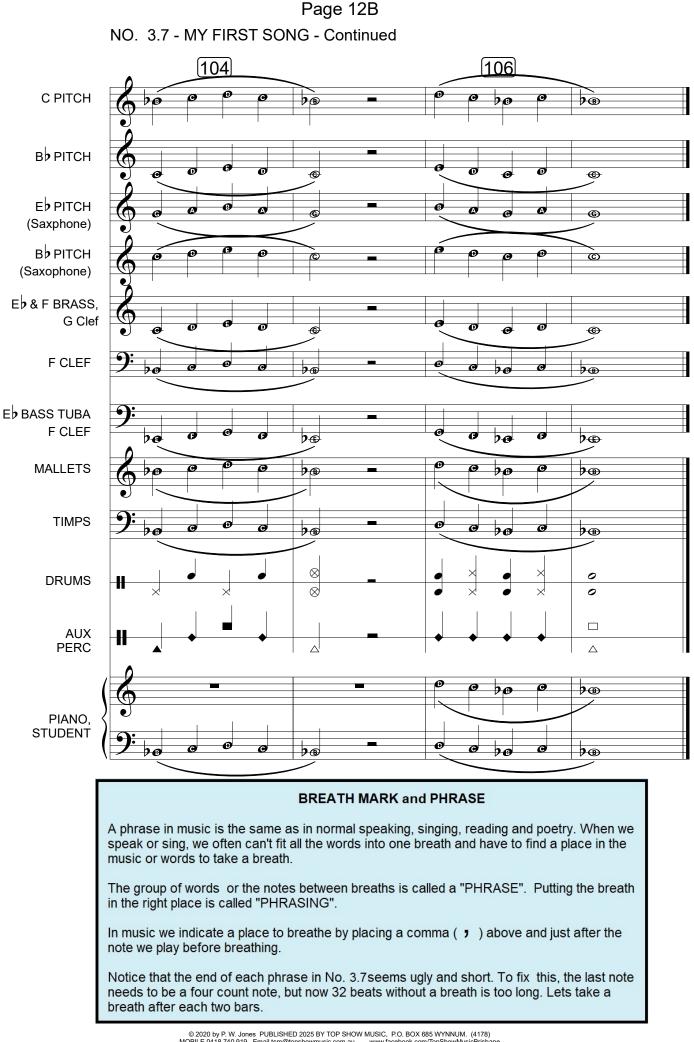
#### EXTRA STAVE

Just like the words in books, music doesn't always fit on the one stave (line) and we have to use extra staves below the first stave. When music is continued on the next stave, there is no "end bar line" which therefore means go straight on to the next stave.



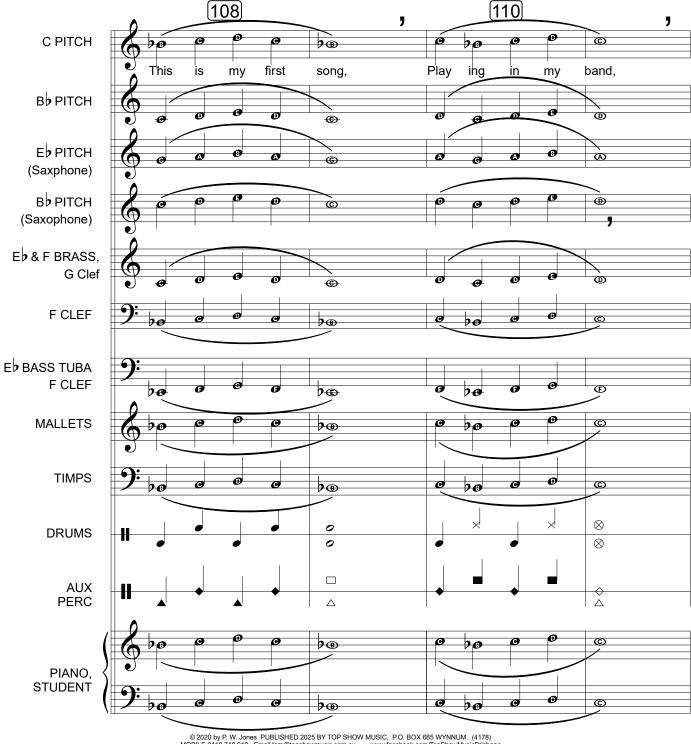
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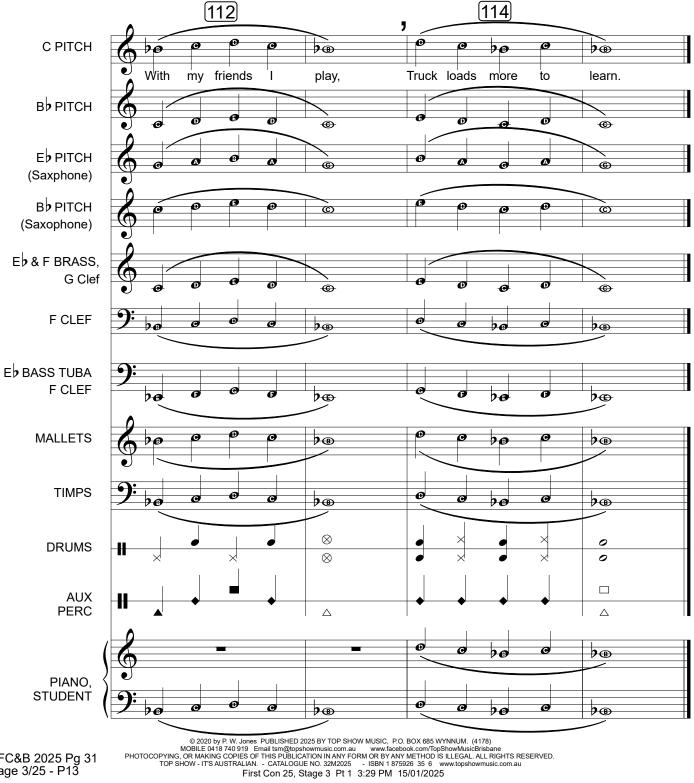
## LYRICS

To be able to play music as best as possible, it is most important to know the story that goes with that music. Although, some music does not have a story, most music with a story has lyrics, So if music does have lyrics, it is important to learn the lyrics and, be able to sing them as well. Doing this will empower you to play the music with greater passion and, accuracy.



NO. 3.8 - MY FIRST SONG (With breath marks and, words)

MFC&B 2025 Pg 30 Stage 3/25 - P12



NO. 3.8 - MY FIRST SONG (With breath marks and, words) - Continued

MFC&B 2025 Pg 31 Stage 3/25 - P13

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## TONGUING

On many occasions, the next note is the same as the note we just played. If we slur the second note, it just makes the first note longer, therefore, we must re-start the next note. We do this by "tapping" the back of the lips (or reed) with the tongue. Doing this is called "Tonguing", even though for percussion, you just restrike the note.

It is very important to make sure that you do not stop the airflow while doing this and, NEVER take a breath at the same time. If we do this we are breaking the phrase.

Always wait for the breath mark to take the breath. When tonguing, think of the word "toe" which will help keep the throat open and the air flowing. The next exercise has four crotchets in a row so therefore think "Toe Toe Toe Toe".

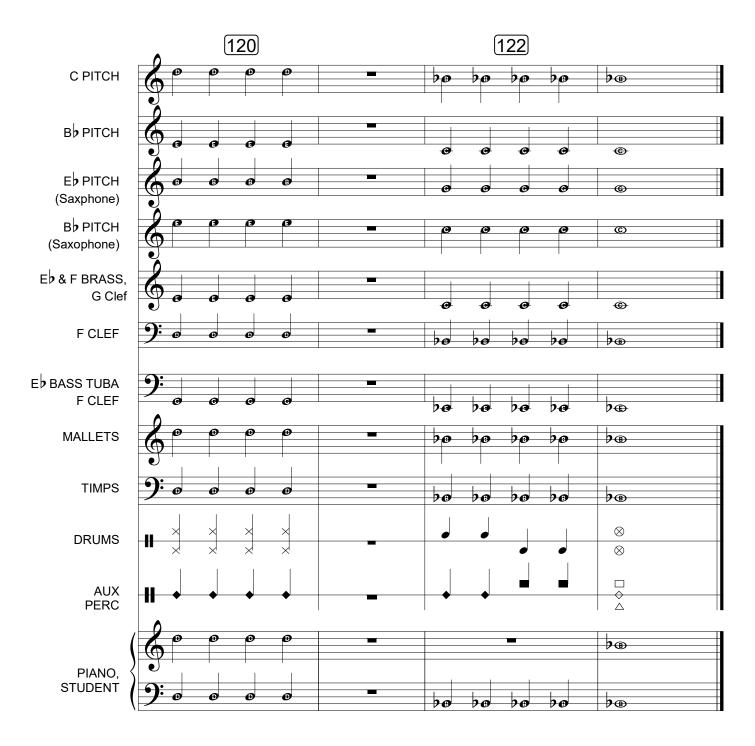


Stage 3/25 - P14

First Con 25, Stage 3 Pt 1 3:29 PM 15/01/2025

# NB: Tonguing does not apply to Percusion. For Keyboard and Stings, restrick/rebow to note

NO. 3.9 - FOUR IN A ROW - Continued



MFC&B 2025 Pg 33 Stage 3/25 - P15

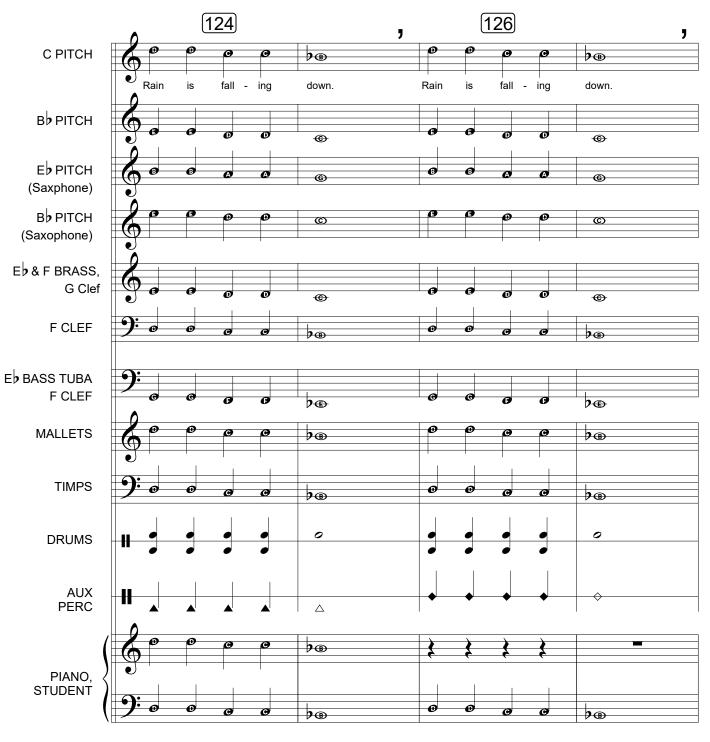
## TONGUING AND CHANGING NOTES

One of the great uses of slurring is to show singers that the next note is part of the word of syllable already being sung. Therefore, if there is a new word of syllable, the note should not be slurred but tongued instead. It is also common to change the note at the same time.

In the next song, all notes have a new word of syllable, therfore every note is to be tongued.

NB: for practice purposes, we will still have some slurs that cover word or syllable changes

REMEMBER, do not stop the air flow or breathe until you get to the breath mark - TOE TOE TOE TOE



NO. 3.10 - RAIN IS FALLING DOWN.

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NO. 3.10 - RAIN IS FALLING DOWN - Continued



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#### ACCIDENTAL RULE:

NOTE - some instruments are not yet using flats.

For those players using flats, In bar 144, the flat sign has been placed in front of only the first of the "B"s. From now on we will have a rule that for each bar, the flat sign is only placed in front of the first of the notes that are the same.

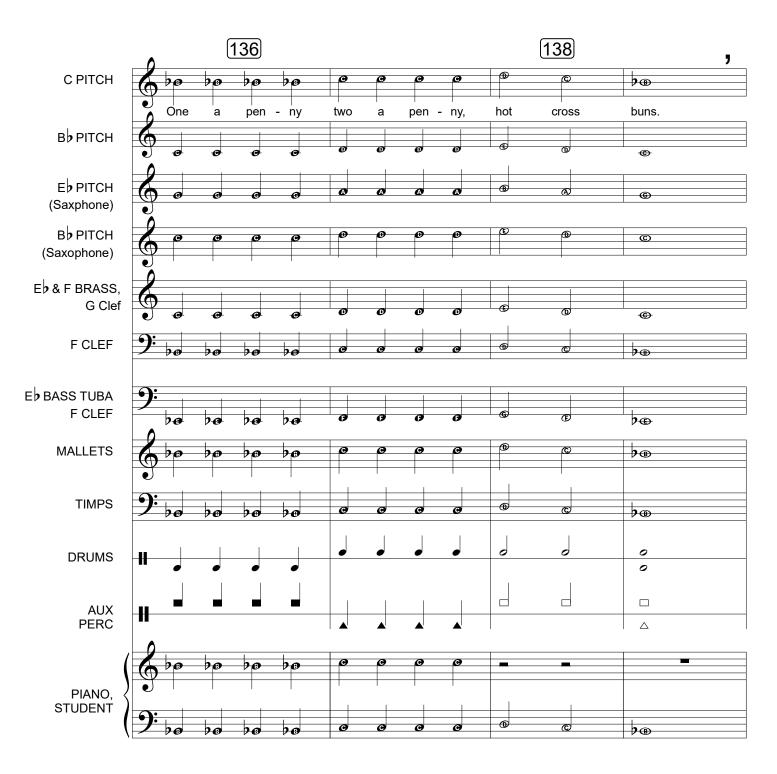
ACCIDENTAL RULE 1: Once a flat sign has been placed in a bar, it refers to all subsequent notes on the same line or space and, is cancelled by the next Bar Line.

ALSO Rule 2 (Look back at EX 3.2 & 3.4) When a note with an accidental is "tied" to the next note, the Accidental does not have to be rewritten, even if there is a barline between them, because, they are joined to make one new note.



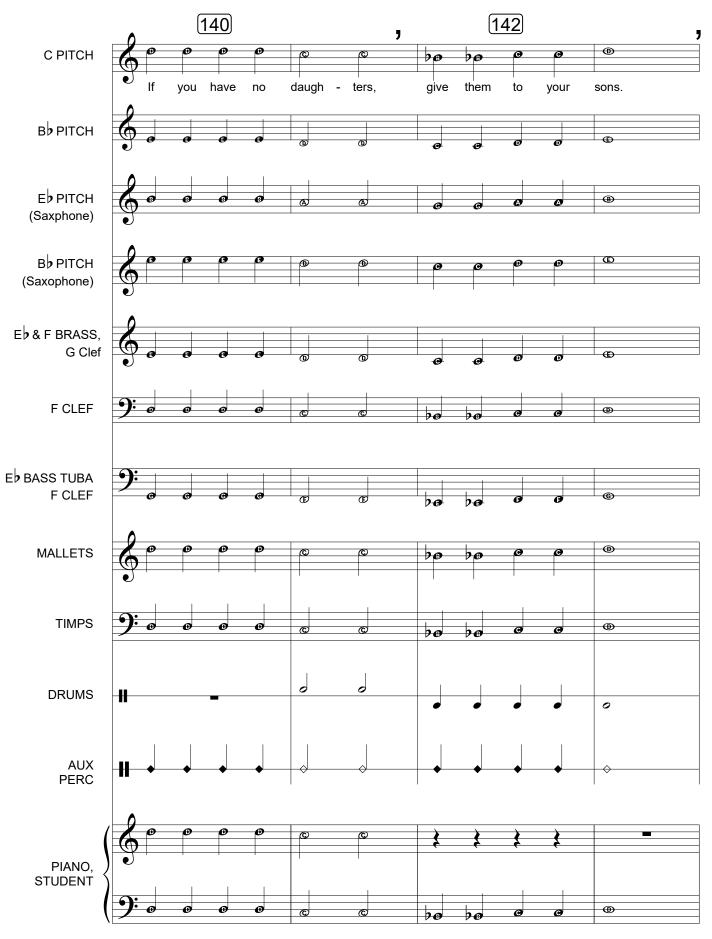
MFC&B 2025 Pg 36 Stage 3/25 - P18

Page 14B

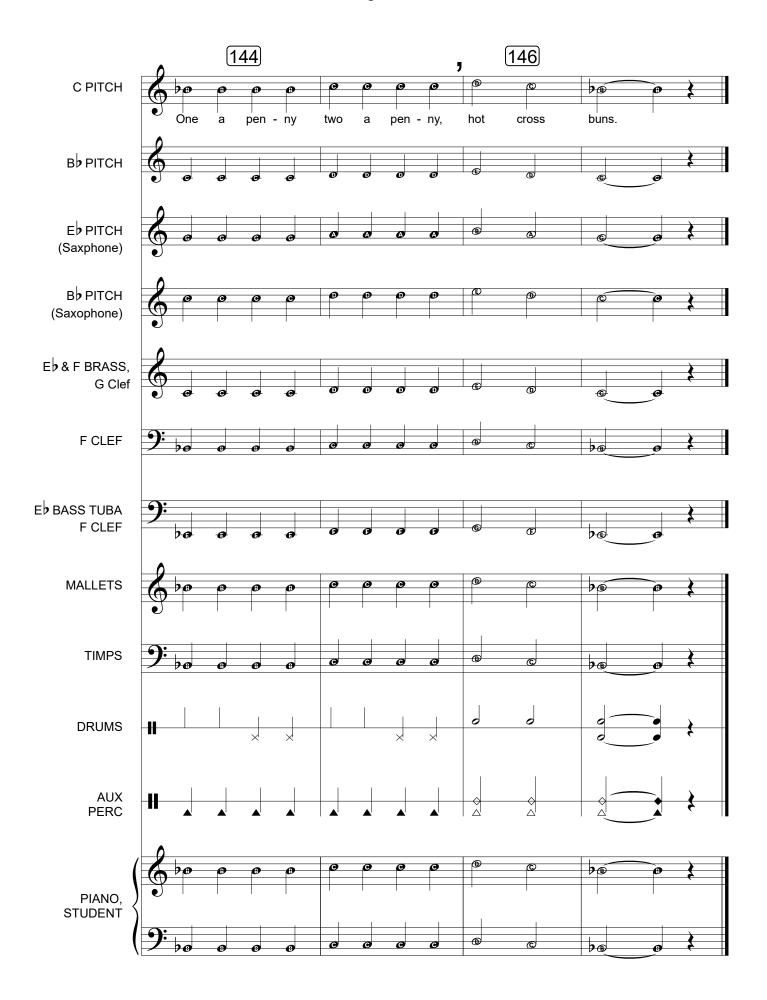


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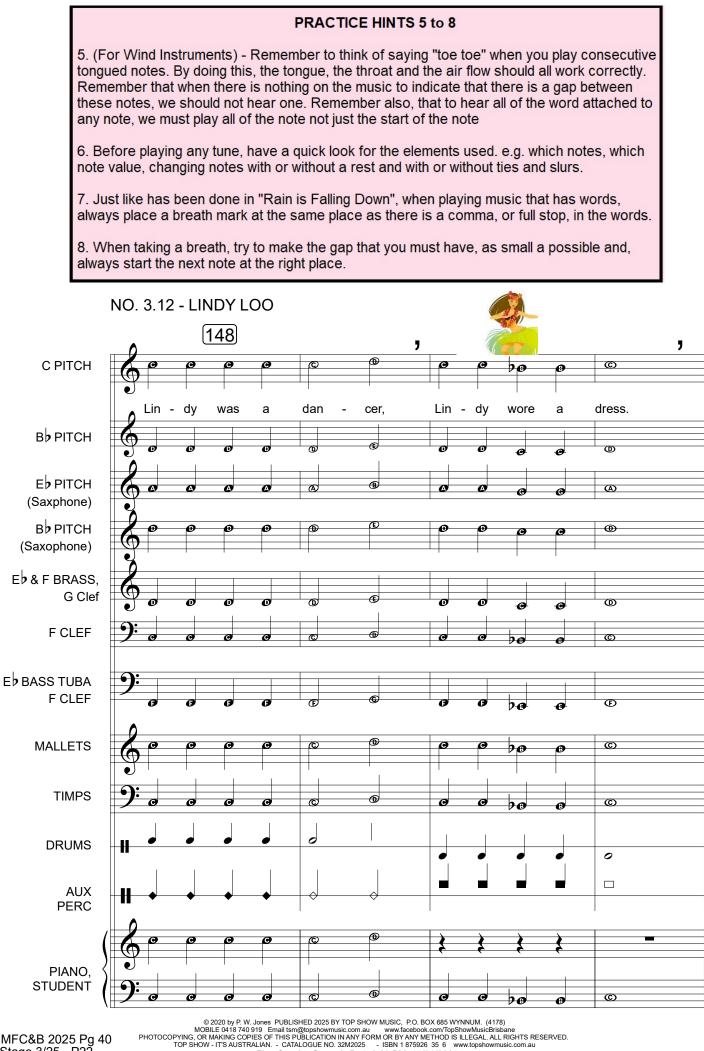
Page 14C NO. 3.11 - HOT CROSS BUNS - Continued



Page 14D



Page 14E, 15A



MFC&B 2025 Pg 40 Stage 3/25 - P22

First Con 25, Stage 3 Pt 1 3:29 PM 15/01/2025



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## **TUTTI, SOLI, SOLO and TACET**

Sometimes we can make the music sound better or more interesting by changing who is playing.

Sometimes we could ask a player, or a section, to not play at all, this is called "Tacet".

Maybe only a section or small group should play, this is called "Soli".

Maybe only one person is asked to play, this is called "Solo".

When we want every one to play again, it is called "Tutti".



## NO. 3.13 - DOWN BY THE STATION

MFC&B 2025 Pg 42 Stage 3/25 - P24

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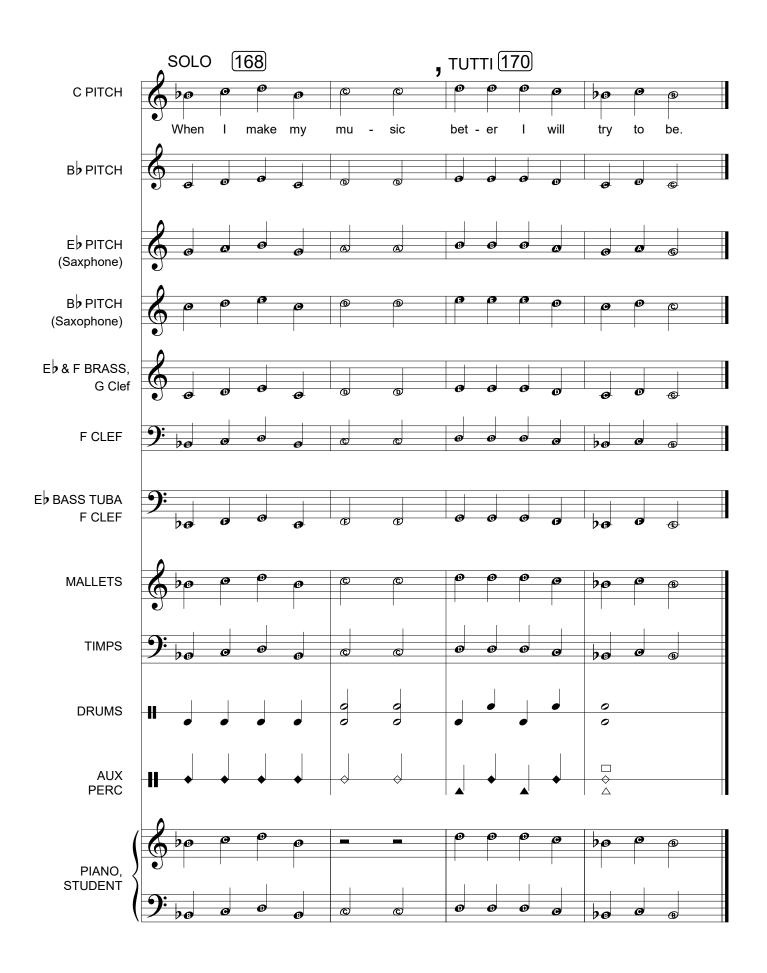
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My Very First Concert & Beyond



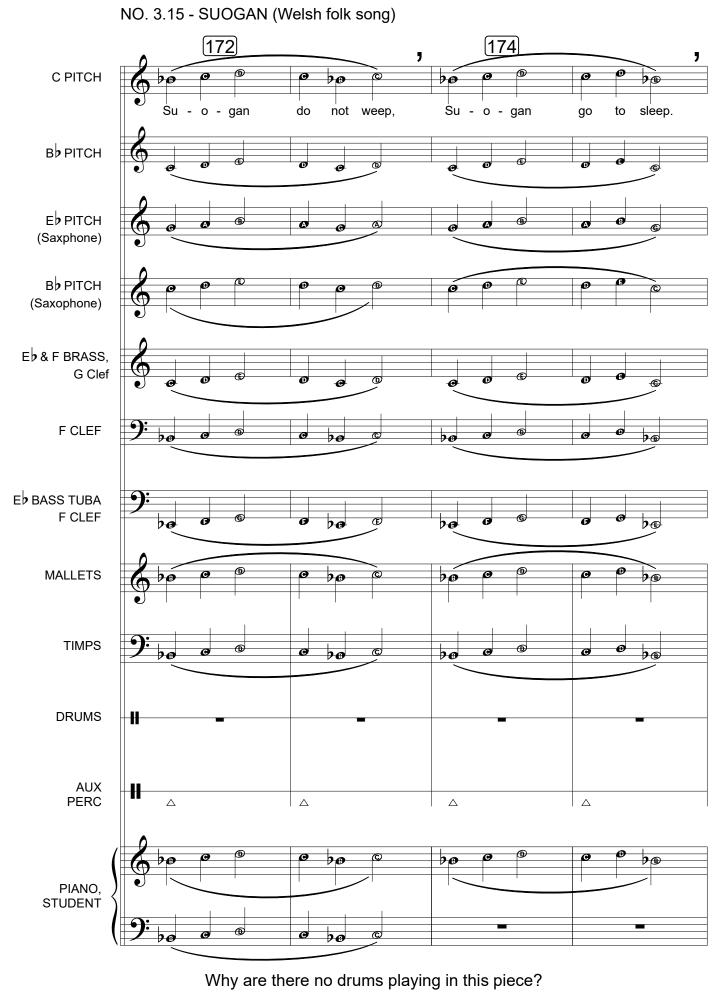
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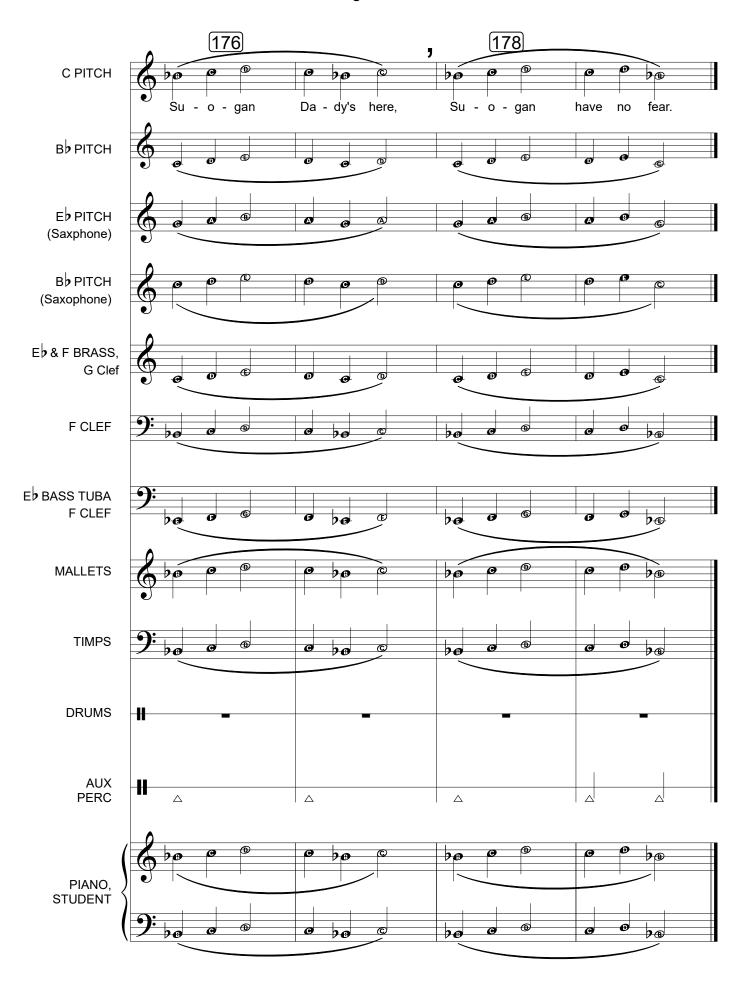
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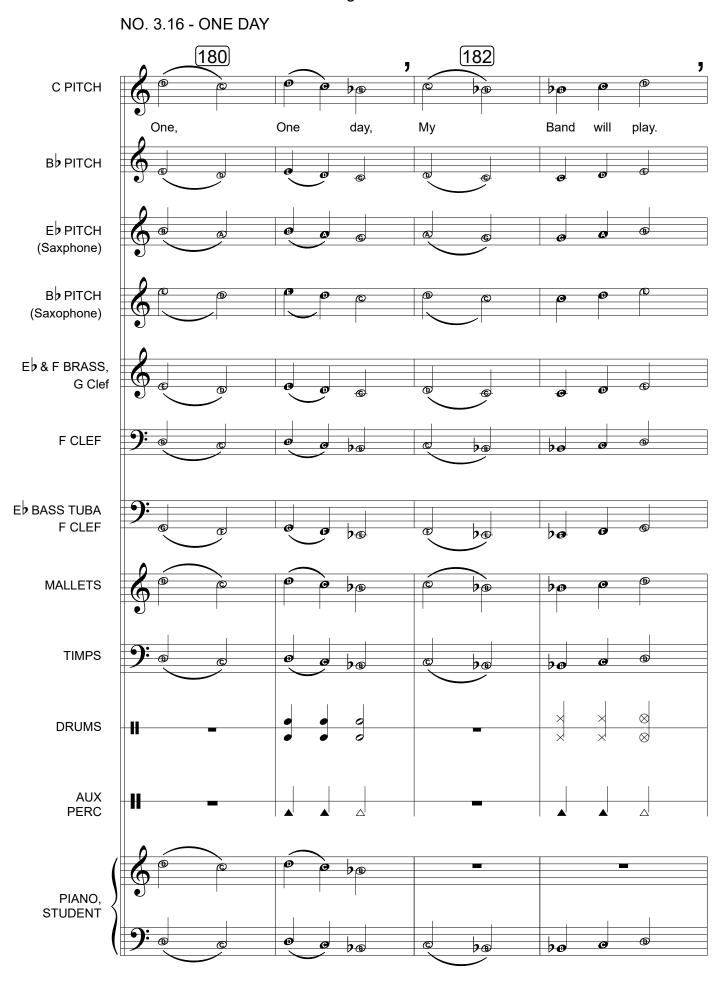
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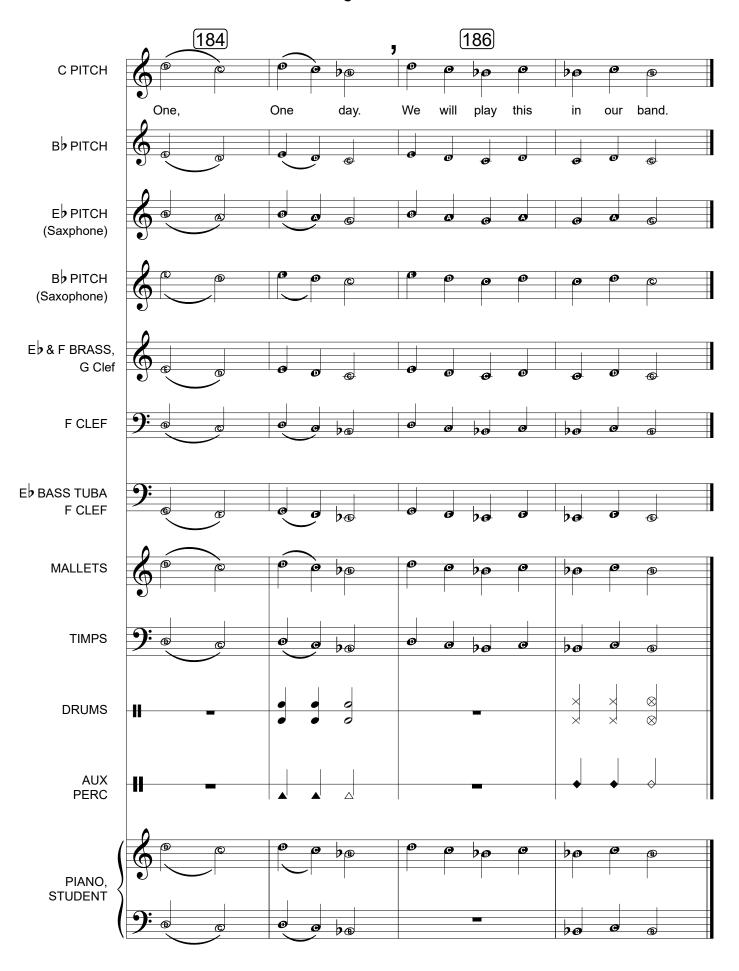
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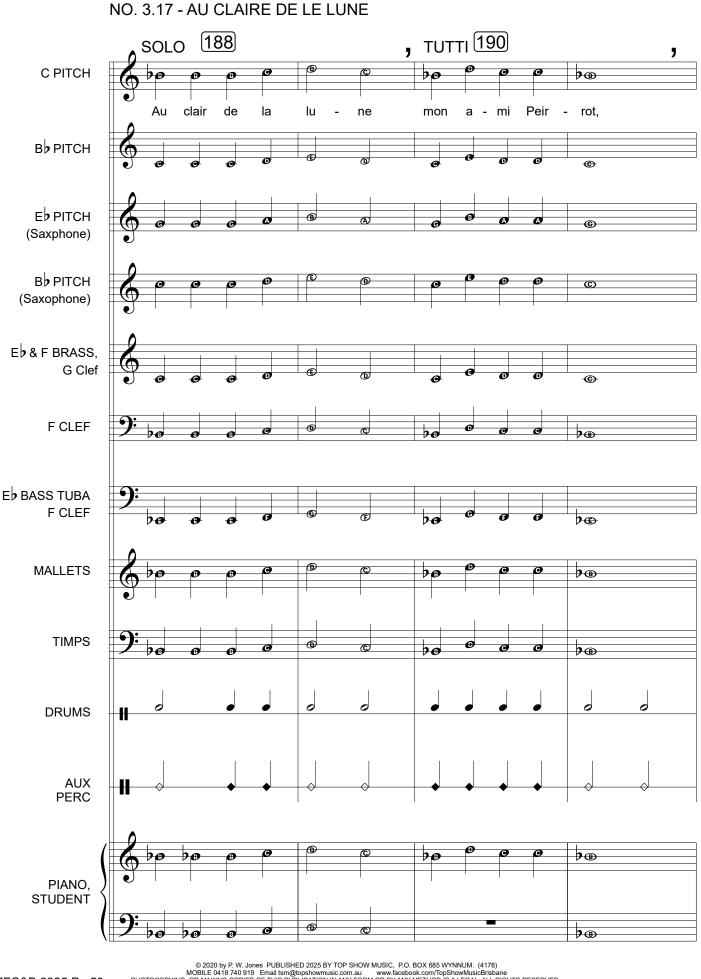


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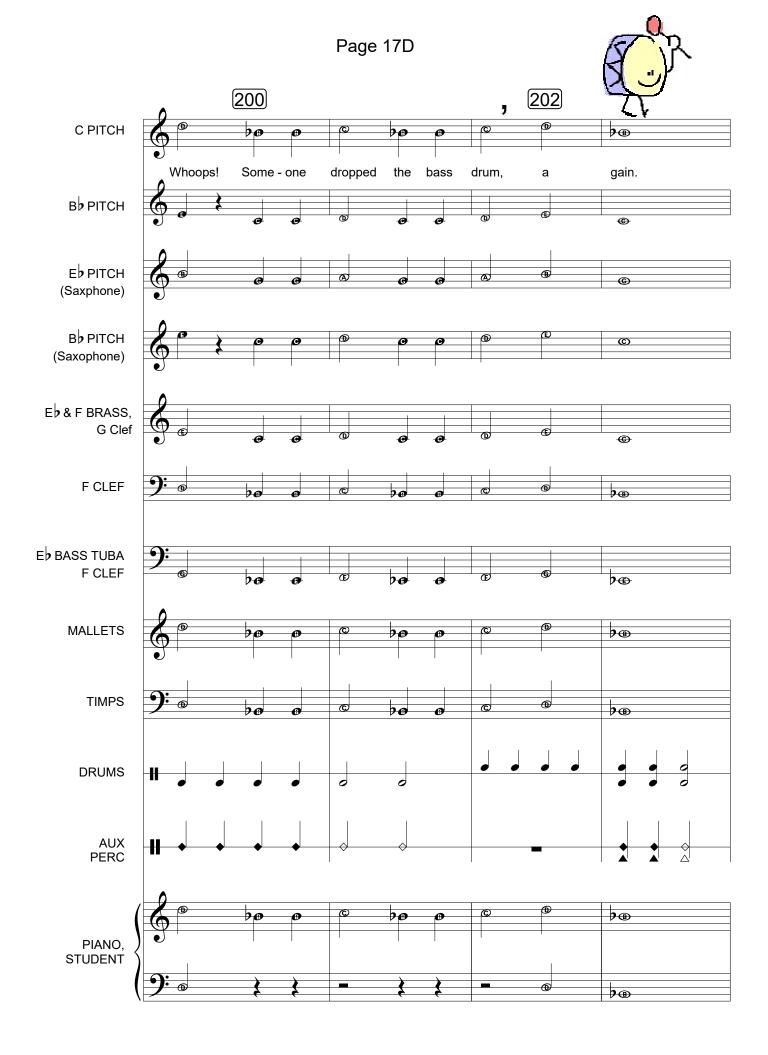


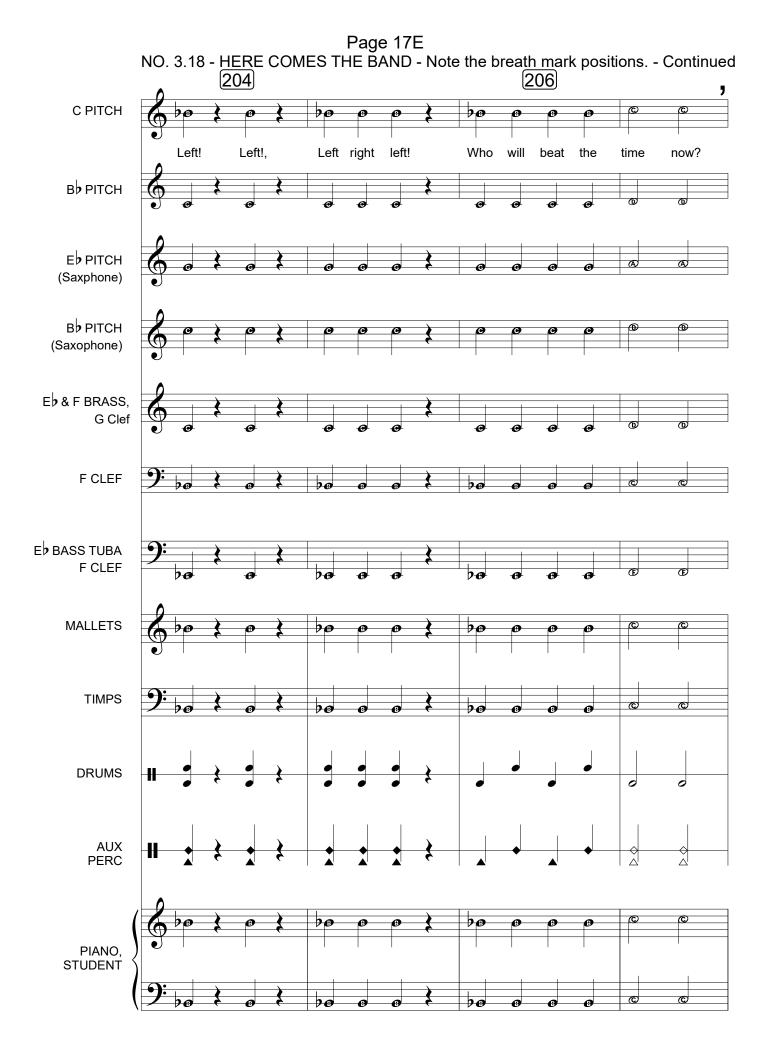
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## **ALPHA NOTES**

So far we have been able to see the name of a note which is written inside the note. This has been useful but, it is not the usual way of writing music. We should all be able to recognise each note by its position on the stave.

From here onwards, we will start to delete the Alpha Notes and, replace them with standard notes



NO.3.19 - HEAR THE BELLS

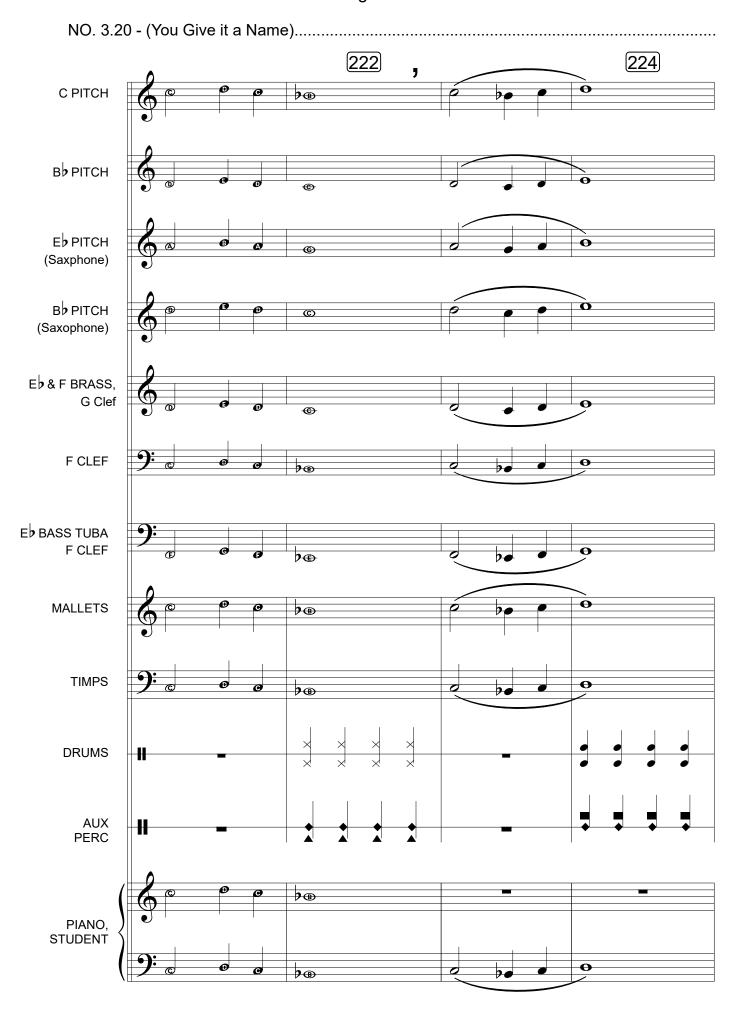
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#### PIANO ACCOMPANIED SOLOS

A common method of performing a whole piece as a solo is to have a backing part which is played as an accompaniment part to the solo part. The most common method is to have a piano player (pianist) play the backing part. The pianist is said to accompany the soloist.

It is also becoming common for the accompaniment to be played digitally as e.g. a CD, lpad or MP3 file. The accompaniment may also be played by a guitarist which is why Guitar Chords are also shown on the piano part.

It is also common for the solo part and accompaniment to be shown on the one part so that both players can see what the other player is doing. It is also common for the accompaniment to play a short passage before the soloist starts playing. This is called an Introduction and has been done for the the piano accompanied solos at Numbers 3.21, 3.23 and 3.25.



NB: The piano part shown is for concert pitch performances. For the Eb and F brass, their part has a special transposed piano accompaniment so that it matches the actual pitch being sounded by those instruments.



MFC&B 2025 Pg 61 Stage 3/25

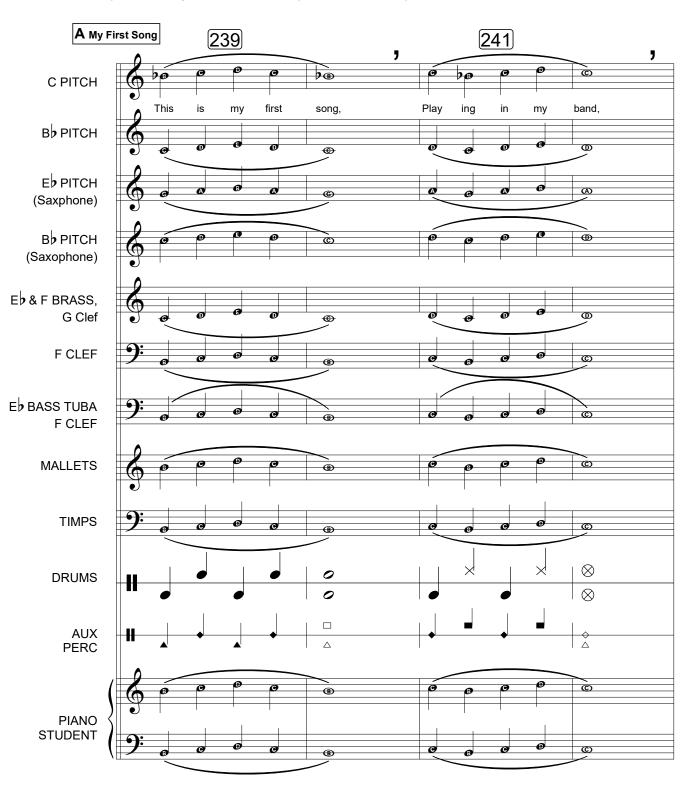
## MEDLEY

A Medley is a group of tunes or songs, played one after the other, to form one larger piece of music.

## **REHEARSAL MARKS**

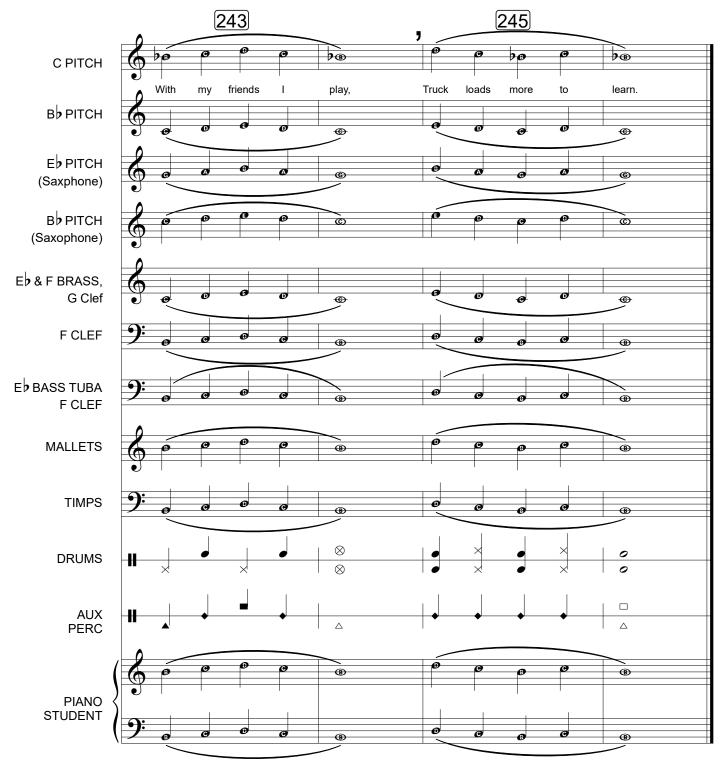
You will in this medley, see some alpha characters in boxes, These are called "Rehearsal Marks". Bar numbers show exactely which bar we may be discussing, but as our tunes get longer, it is sometimes quicker to identify a section of the music by using these alpha reference boxes.

NO. 3.22 - FIRST CONCERT MEDLEY



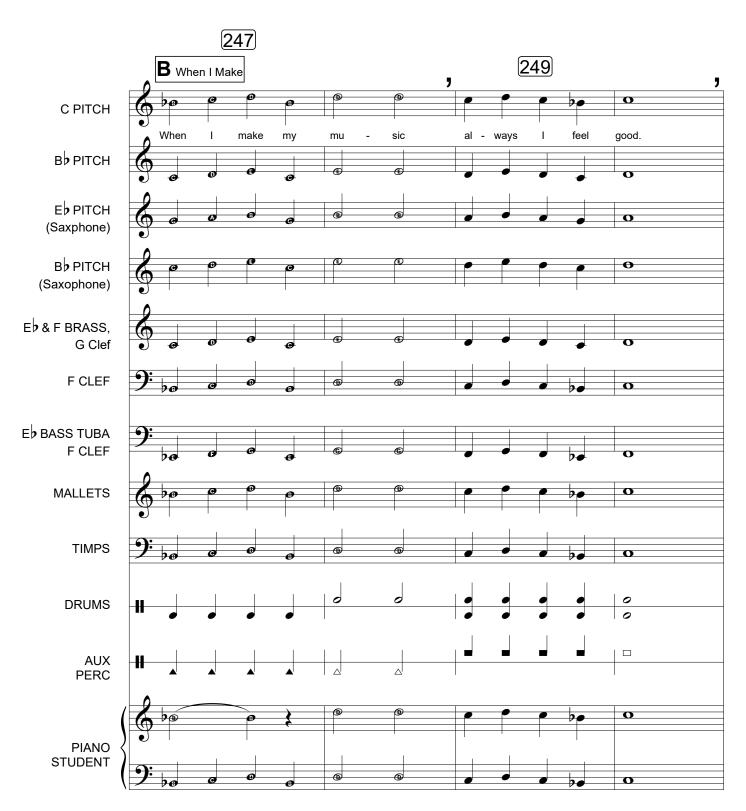
My First Song, When I make My Music, Down by the Station, Hot Cross Buns.

MFC&B 2025 Pg 62 Stage 3/25



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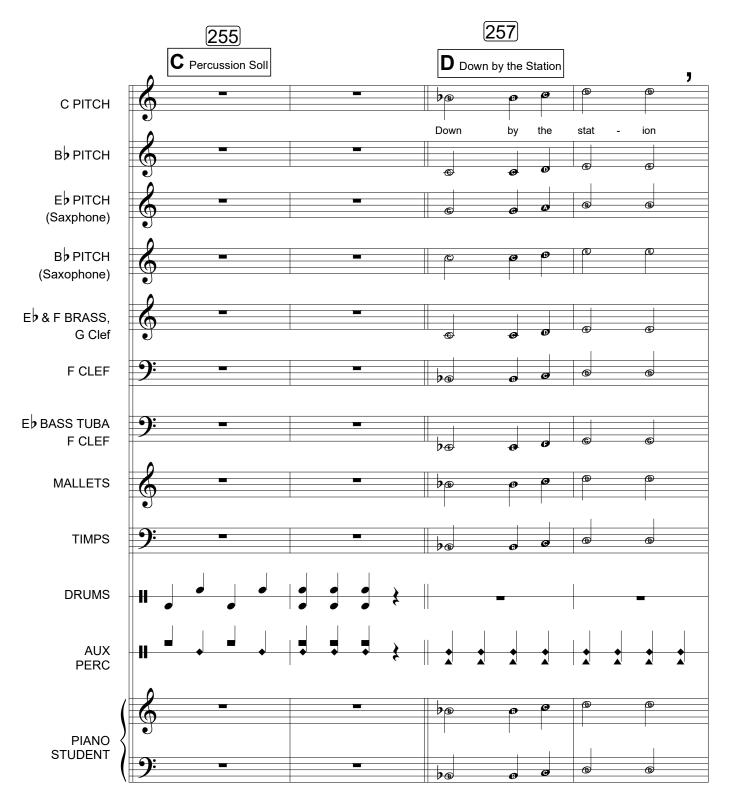
# NO. 3.22 - FIRST CONCERT MEDLEY- Continued

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NO. 3.22 - FIRST CONCERT MEDLEY- Continued

MFC&B 2025 Pg 66 Stage 3/25

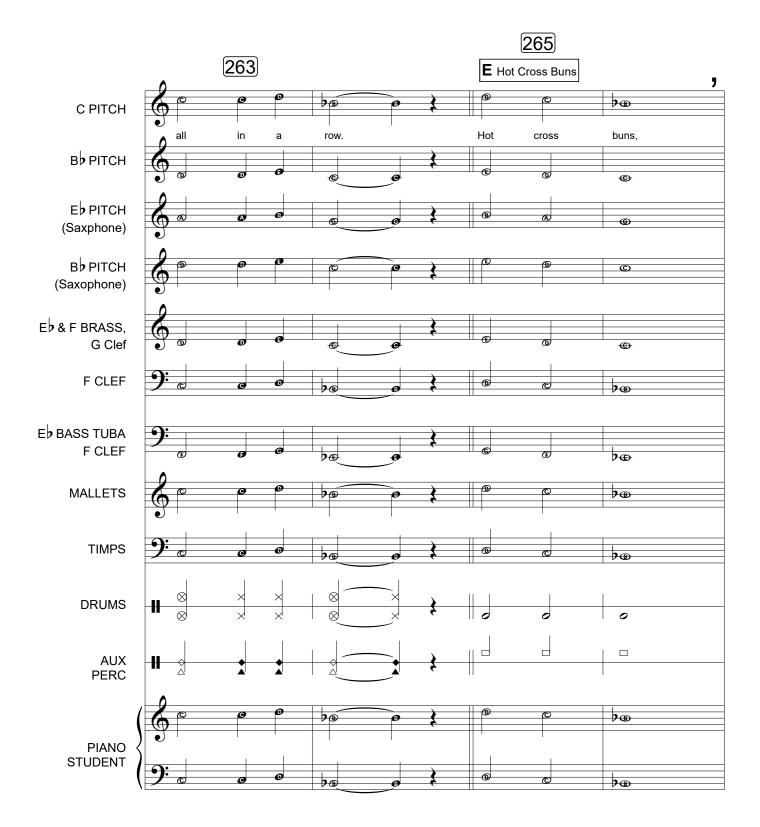
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# NO. 3.22 - FIRST CONCERT MEDLEY- Continued



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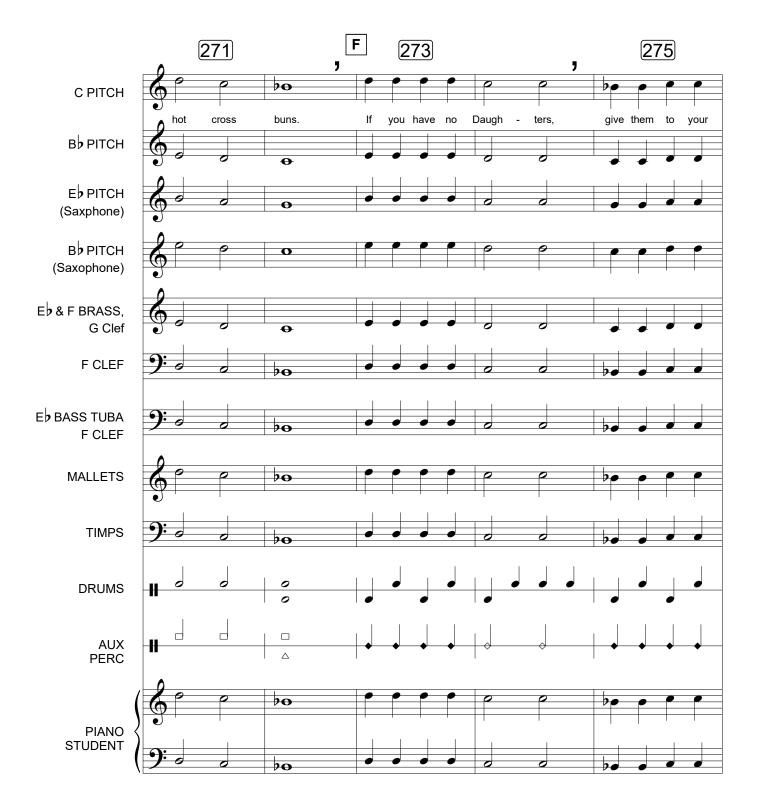
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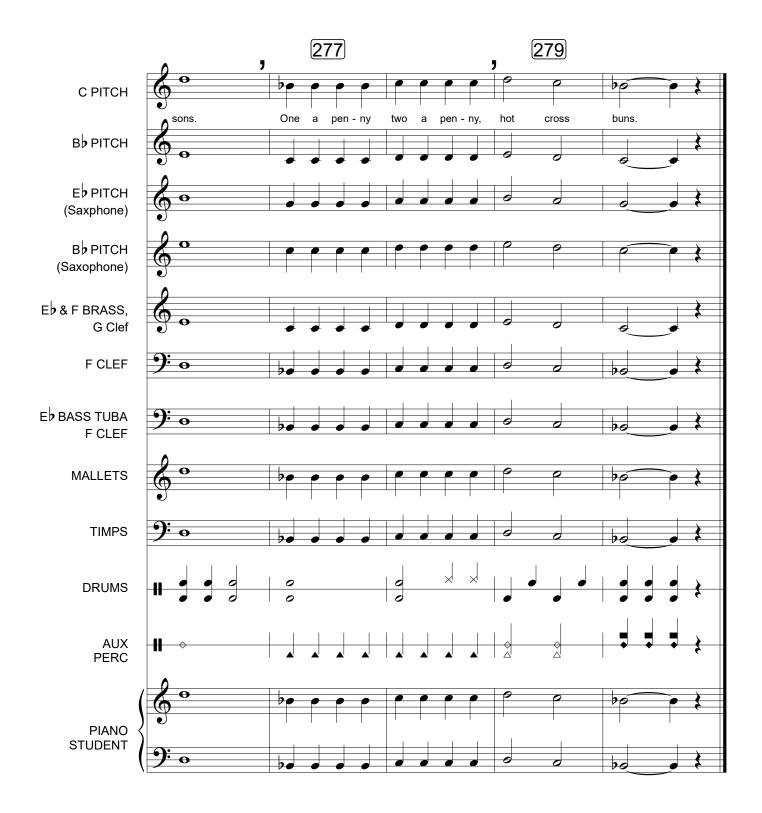
# NO. 3.22 - FIRST CONCERT MEDLEY- Continued



MFC&B 2025 Pg 70 Stage 3/25

# DOUBLE BARLINE

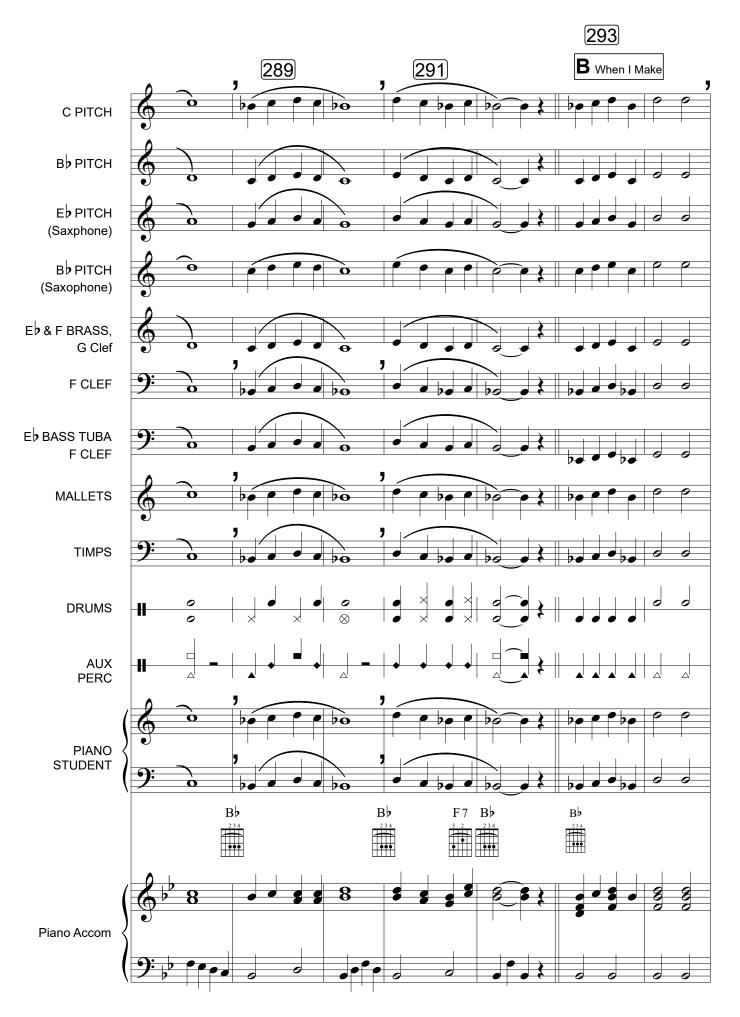
You may have noticed that at the begining of each tune or song, there are two barlines. This is called a double barline and is different to an end barline. The double barline indicates that something is changing. In number 3.21, you should have noticed the double barline where you start to play. In numbers 3.22 & 3.23, there are several double barlines which, in this case indicate the end of one song and the start of another.





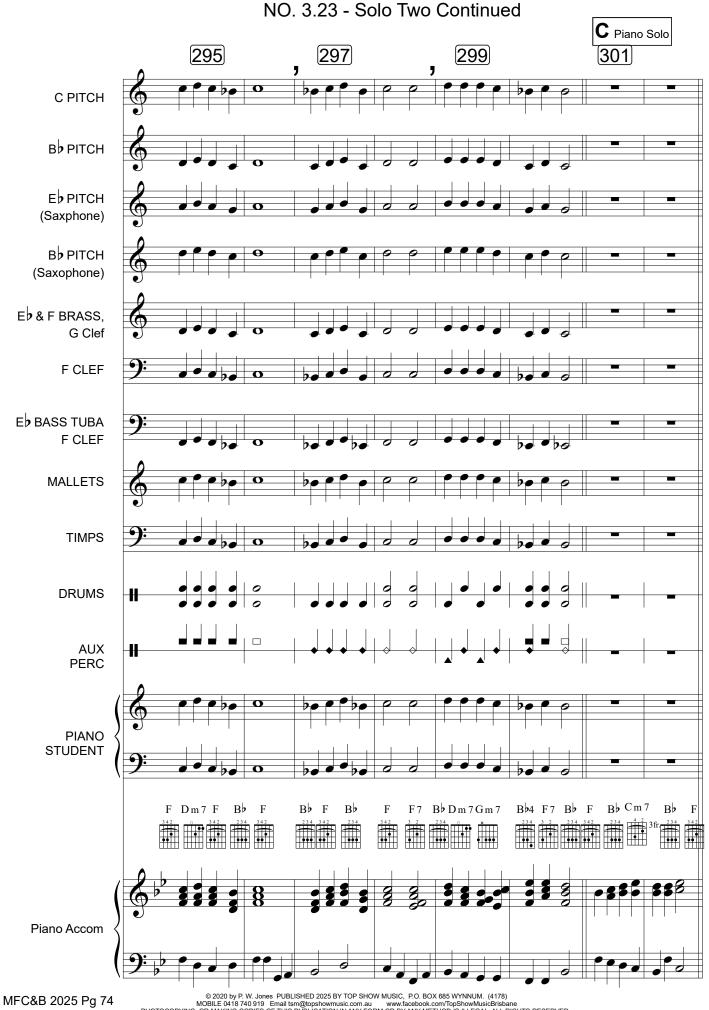
Stage 3/25

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MFC&B 2025 Pg 73 Stage 3/25

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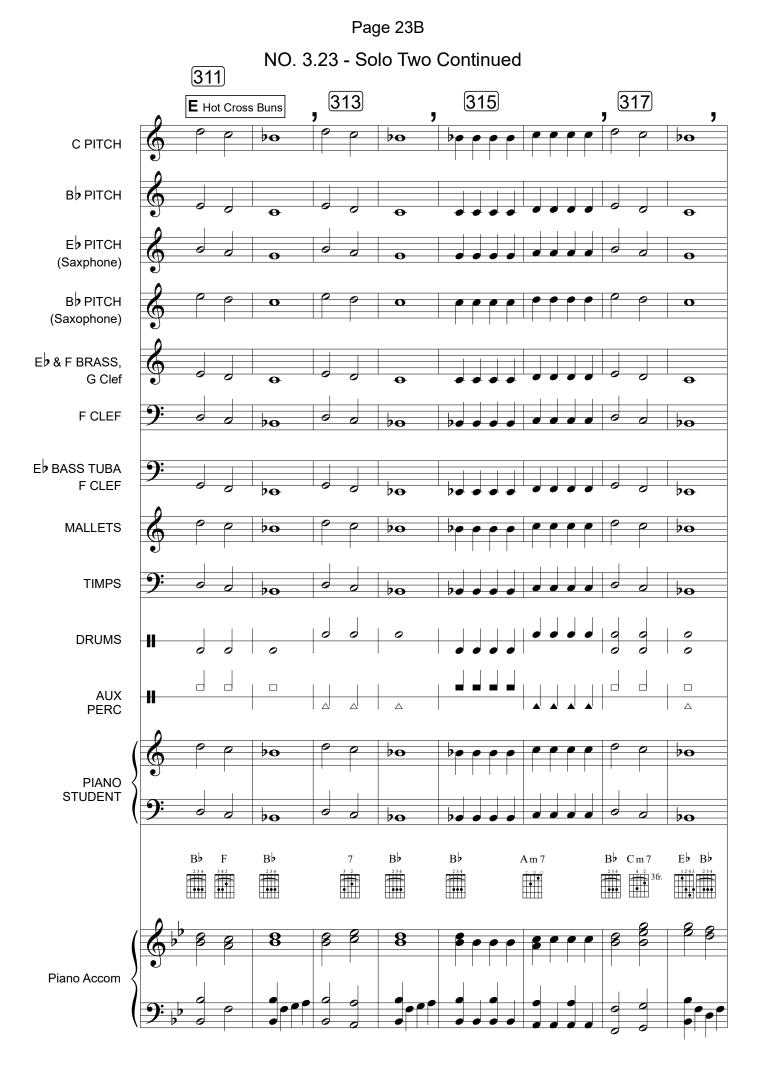


Stage 3/25

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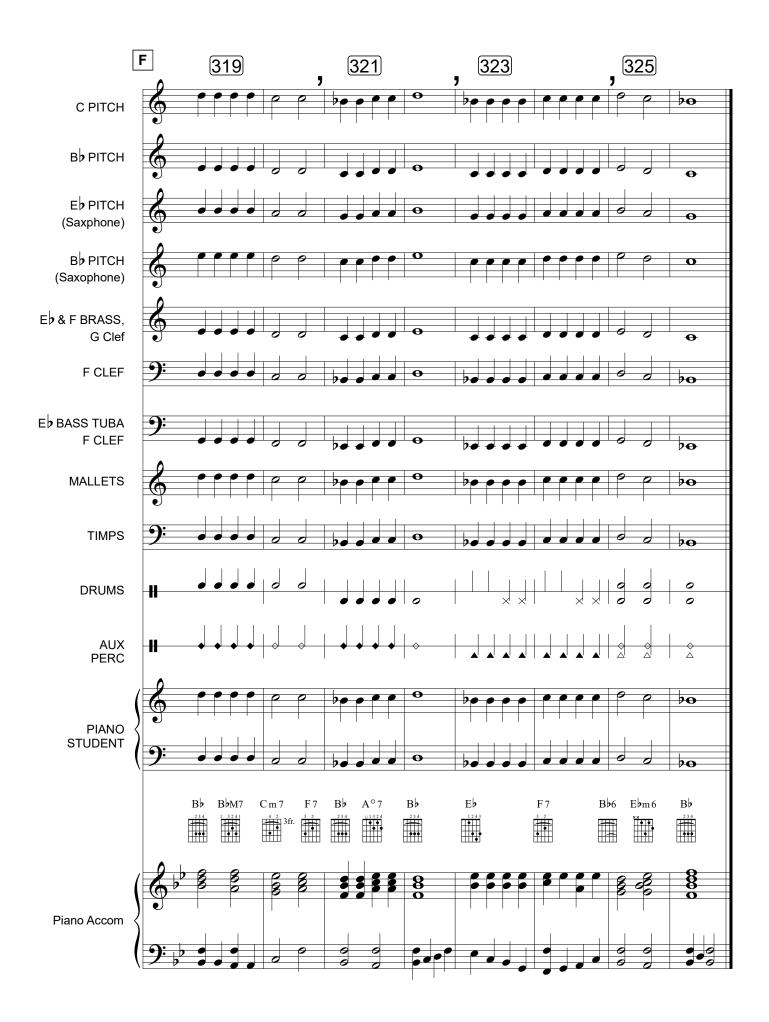


MFC&B 2025 Pg 75 Stage 3/25



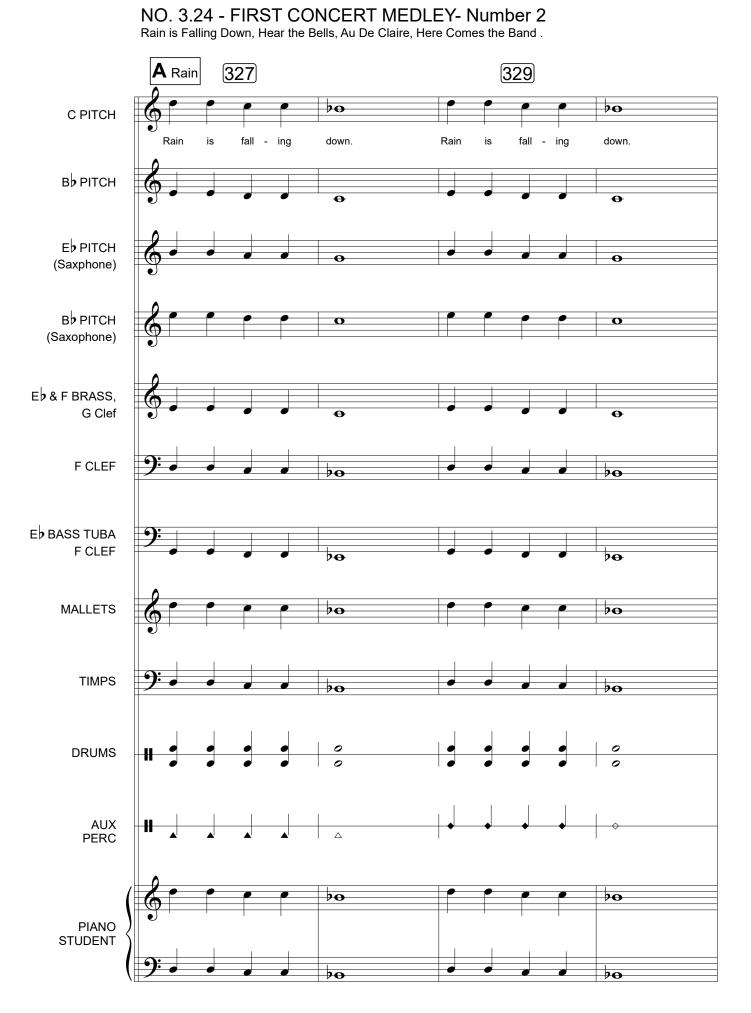
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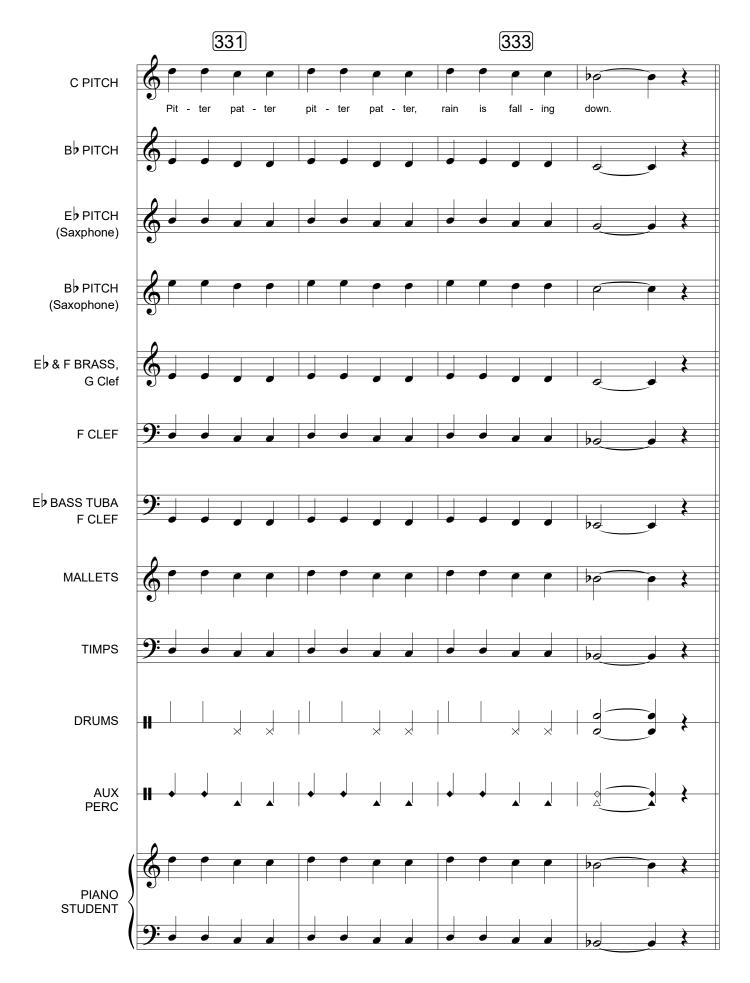
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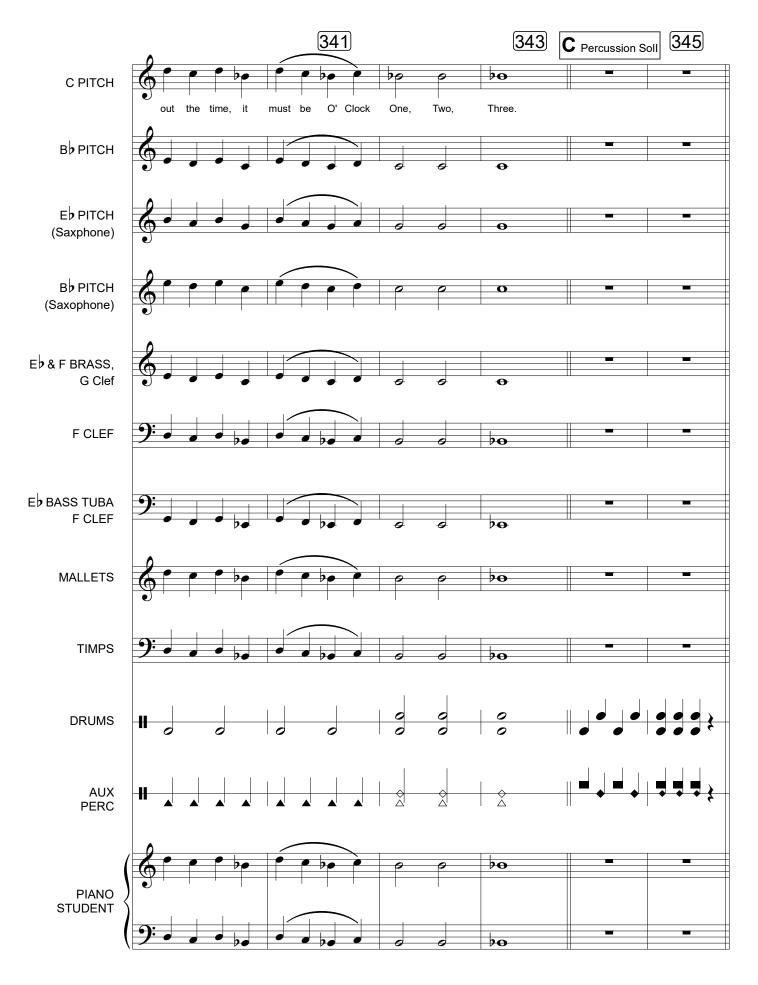
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MFC&B 2025 Pg 80 Stage 3/25

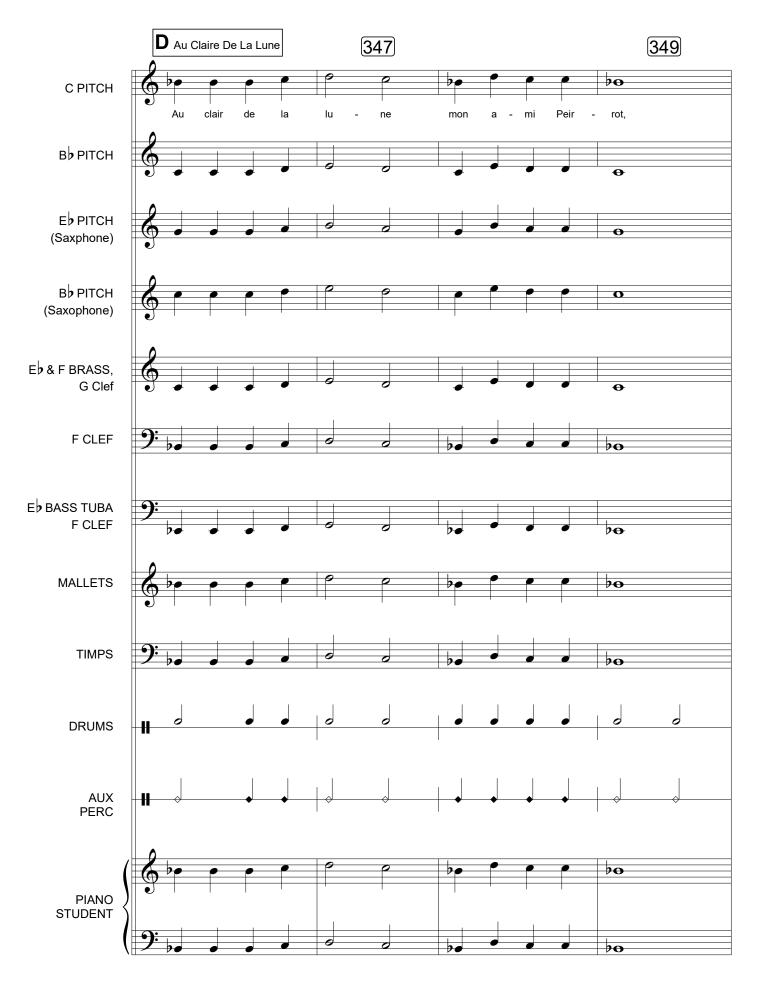
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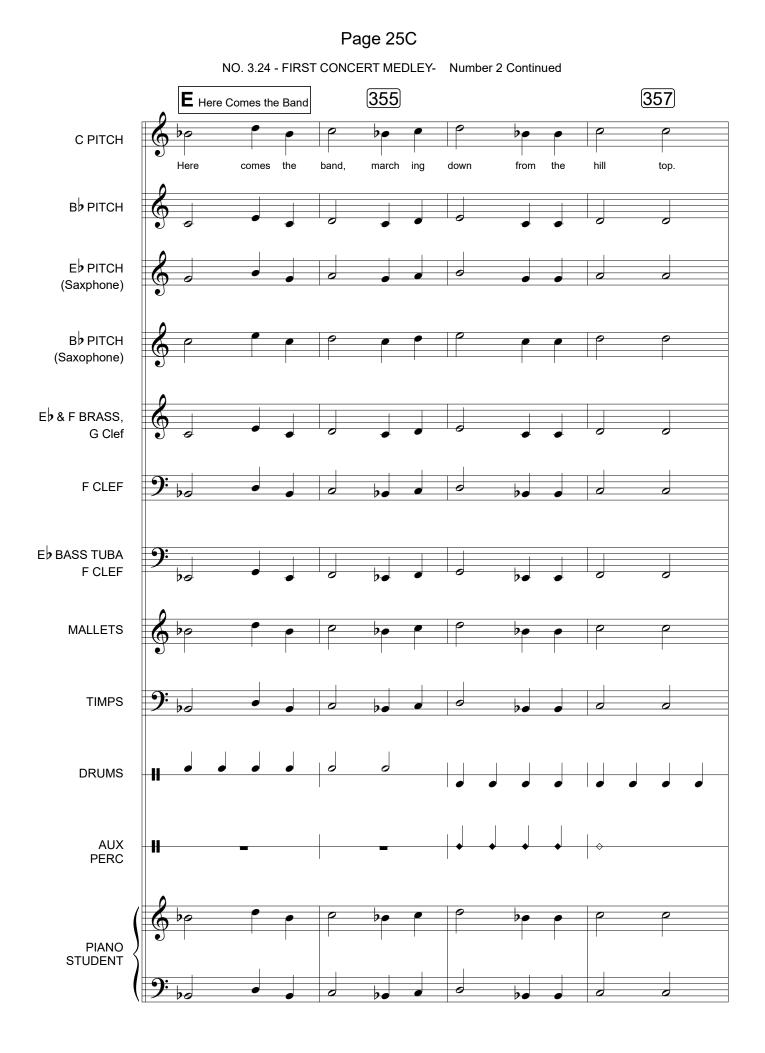
#### NO. 3.24 - FIRST CONCERT MEDLEY- Number 2 Continued



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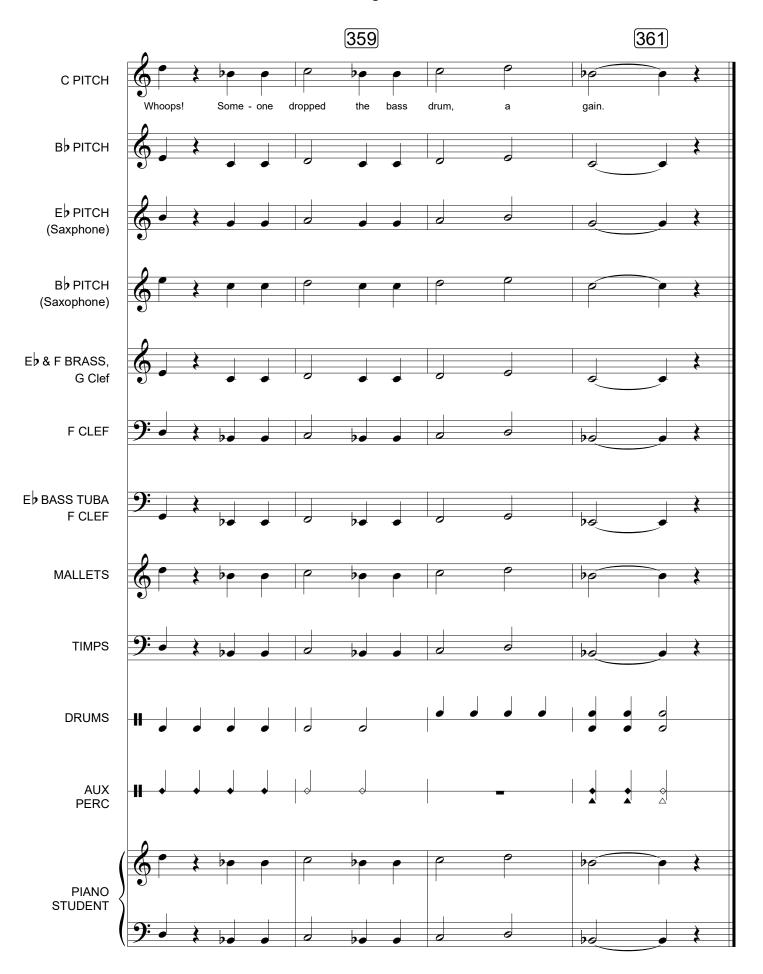
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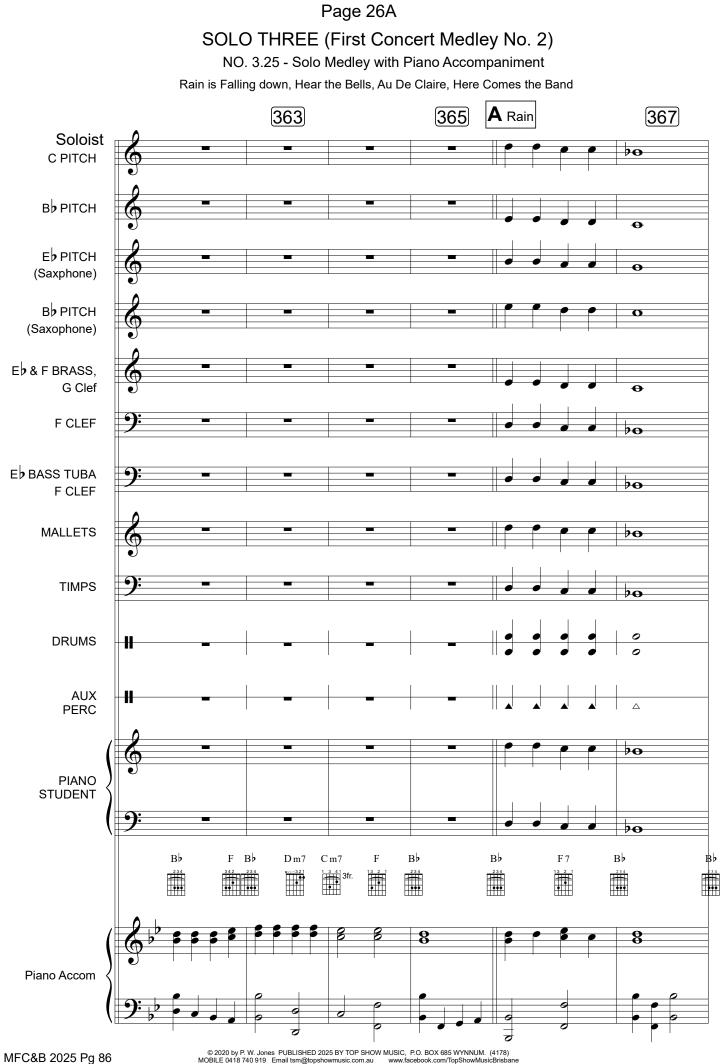


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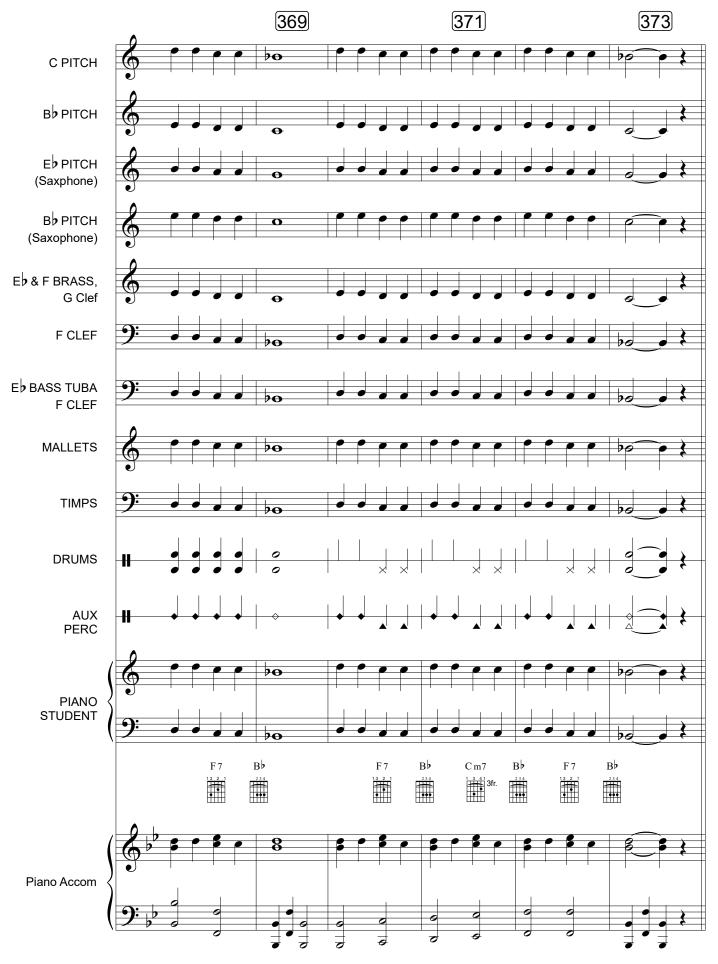


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Stage 3/25

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MFC&B 2025 Pg 87 Stage 3/25

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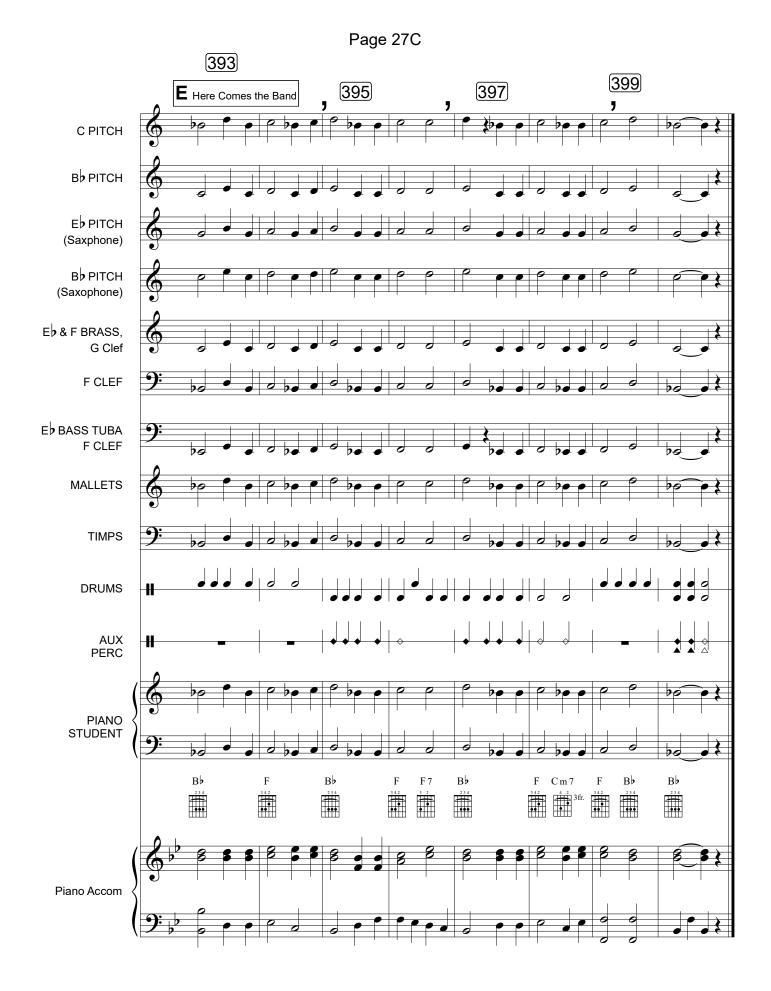


MFC&B 2025 Pg 88 Stage 3/25

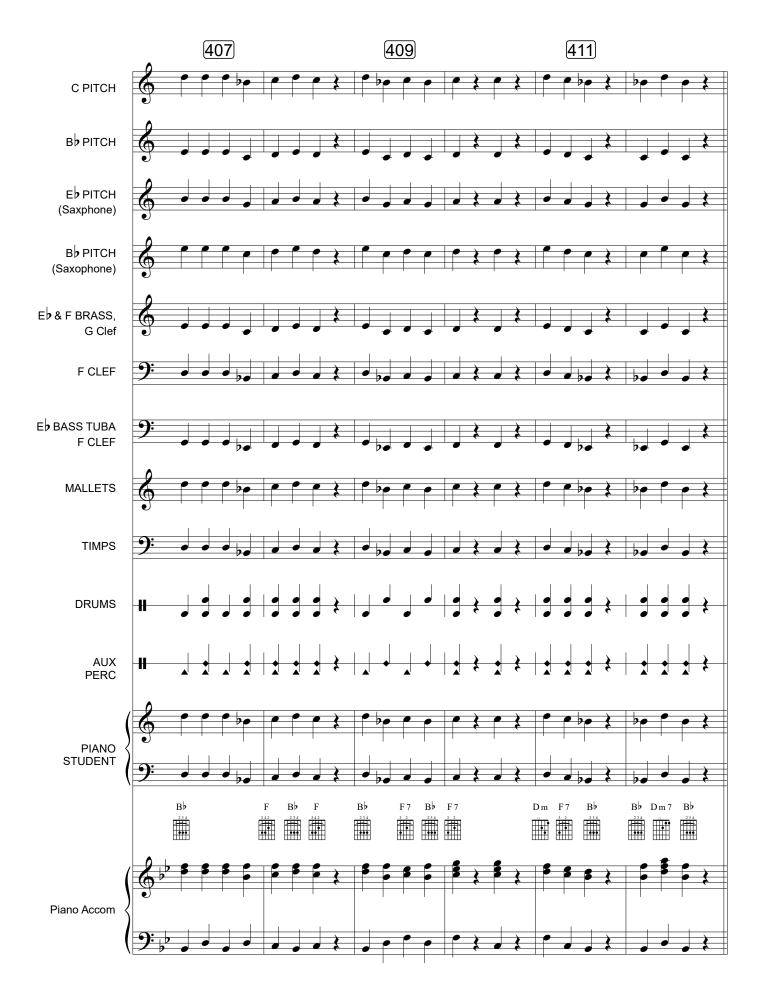
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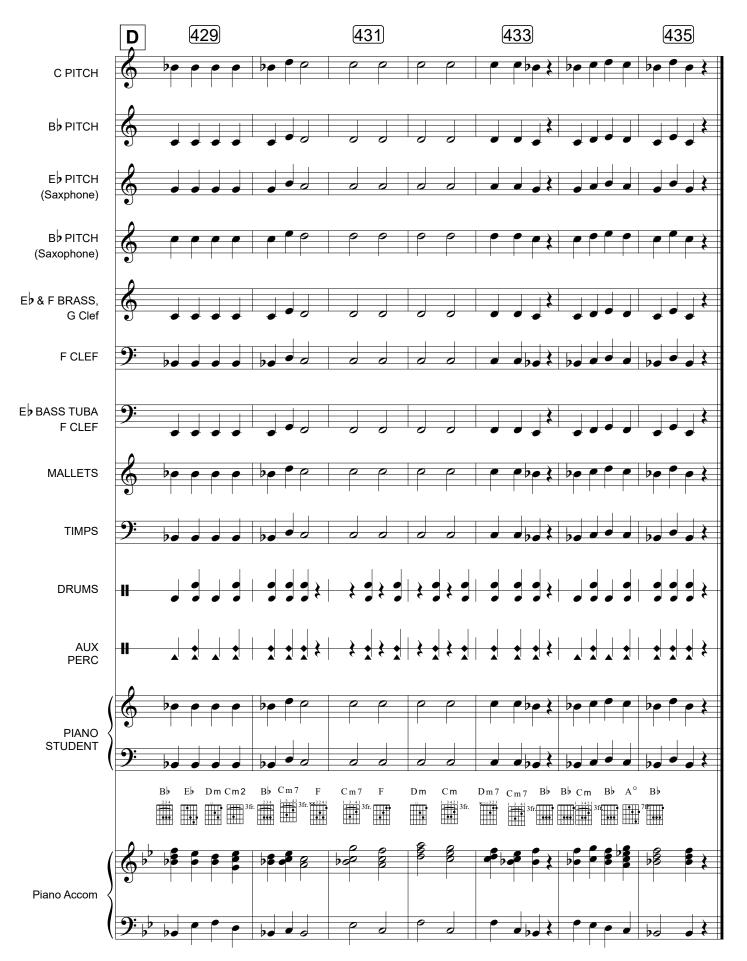
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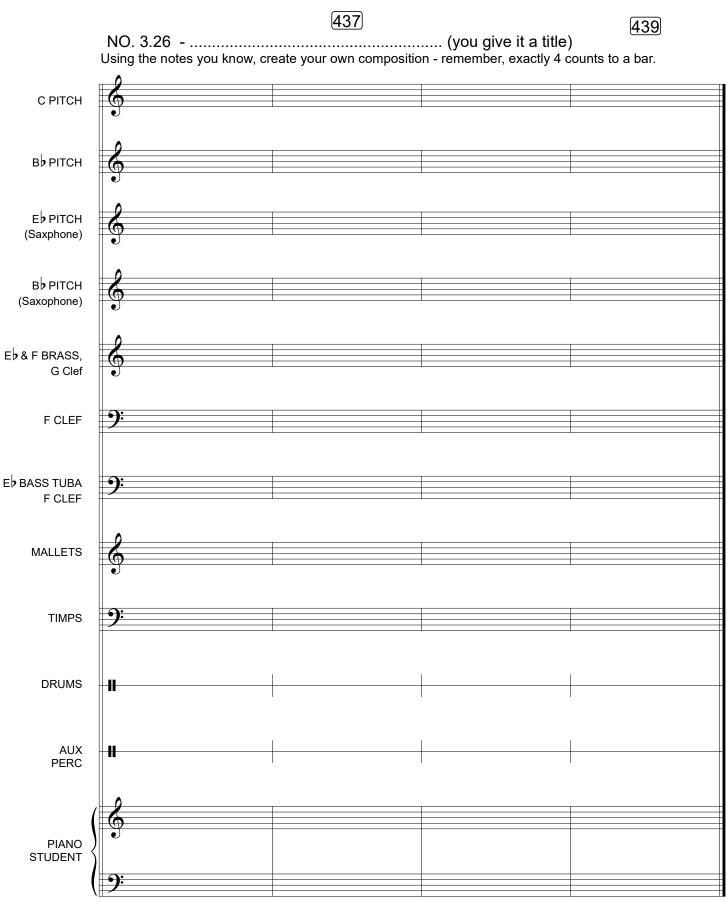




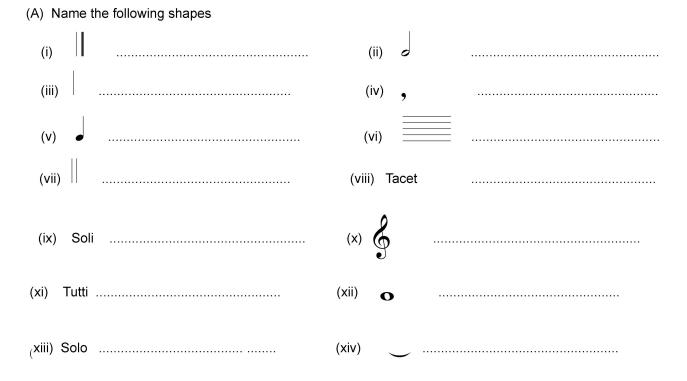
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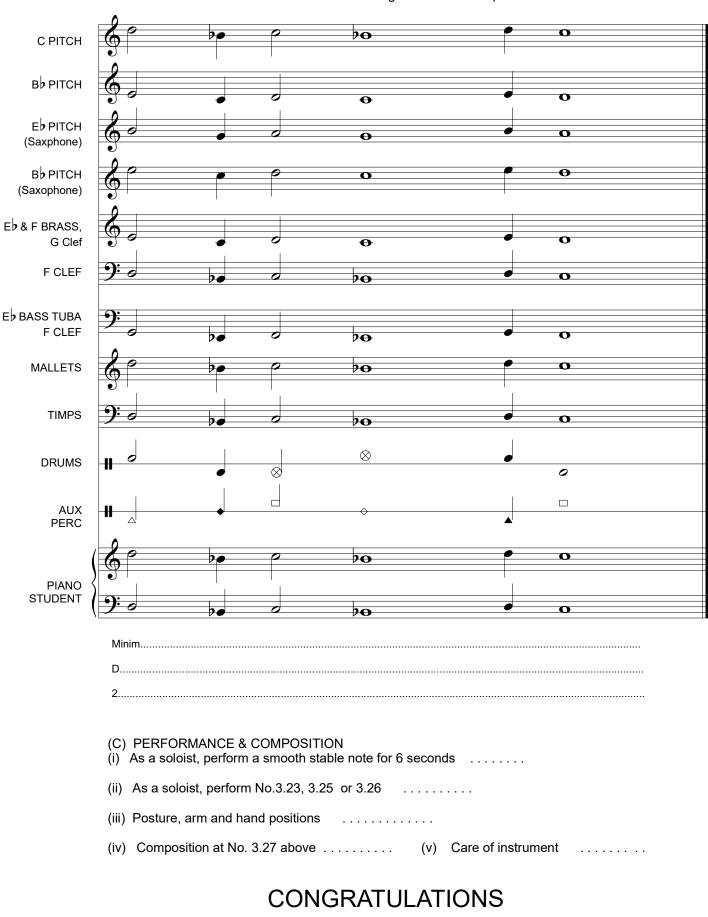
# WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT?



### KNOWLEDGE CHECK.



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(B) Below the following notes, write their names and, its no of counts. The answers to the first note are given as an example.

YOU HAVE COMPLETED STAGE THREE OF YOUR FIRST CONCERT PREPARATION. NOW LET'S FINISH THE OTHER STAGES!