

TOP SHOW MUSIC



"MY VERY FIRST CONCERT AND BEYOND"

2026

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

BASS GUITAR



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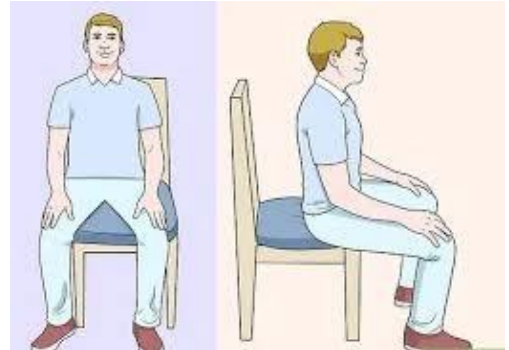
Fingering diagrams, lyrics for songs and explanations of signs and terminology are included.

See also the notes for Bass Guitar.

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 strings at an angle of 90°



Incorrect



correct



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.





STAGE ONE

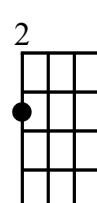
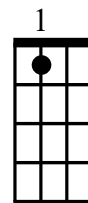
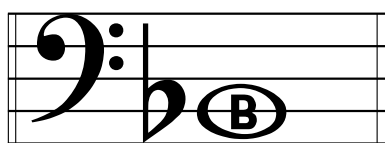
Learning and using the note Concert "B $\flat$ " (pronounced B Flat),
the note shape Semi-Breve  and its value of four counts,

the Semi-breve rest shape,  and its value of four counts (rest means silence) ,
|| End barline (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 B $\flat$ on the piano i.e. Concert B $\flat$.

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 "B $\flat$ " but some may have a note called C or G or F. They make the same sound as Concert B $\flat$.

NO. 1.1- FIRST NOTE - B $\flat$ (Concert B $\flat$)



5fr.

Bass Guitar: The first diagram is traditional method, the 2nd diagram is the contemporary method to avoid the future complications of using open strings.

2nd finger on the 4th string (E string) in the 6th fret. Pluck with the index finger (I = index).

Why is the second bottom line being called "B" instead of "G"?

For this instrument, an "F" clef is being used instead of the usual "G" clef. Note its similarity to today's written capital F. This clef indicates the position of the F line by putting two dots around the line that is going to be called F. In this case it is the second top line which makes the 2nd bottom line a "B". Because the semi-breve has been drawn with the "B" line going through it, it is asking us to play the note "B". Put a flat sign in front of it and it becomes "B $\flat$ ".

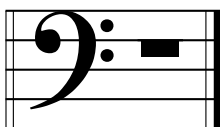
For the time being, the semi-breve is played for four full counts.

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 staff, 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".

NO. 1.2 - SEMI-BREVE REST

2



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

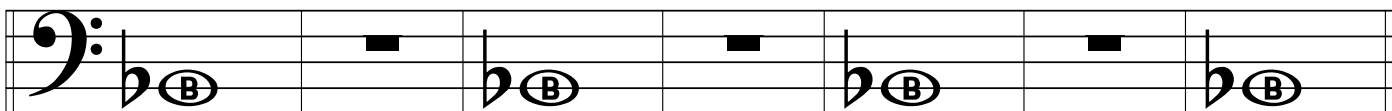
NO. 1.3 - COMBINING NOTE AND REST (Play for four, rest for four)

3

5

7

9



Use the I finger, then alternate between I and M

Rest Bar: When you play the above exercise, keep your fingers etc. in the playing position and, do not lower the instrument when playing the rest bar. You are going to have to bring it back up again and there is not enough time to re-position the instrument to the correct position.

Posture: remember to maintain your correct posture -

- . Sit on the front of the chair with your feet on the floor and your back straight, face forward
- . Keep your shoulders level and, without twisting to the left or right
- . Keep your instrument level, vertical or, at the angle shown to you by your teacher
- . Maintain correct arm, hand and finger positions.

PRACTICE HINT 1 - 2

1- To play a note for four counts, don't forget to play the full value of the fourth count. If you stop at "four" you have only played three and a bit counts. To play four full counts, stop just as you are about to start number five.

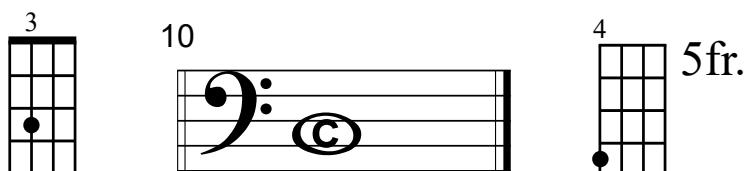
2 - (For wind players) To develop your best playing sound, as well as playing the note for four counts, also play it as long as you can. Use a clock's second hand to time yourself.



STAGE TWO

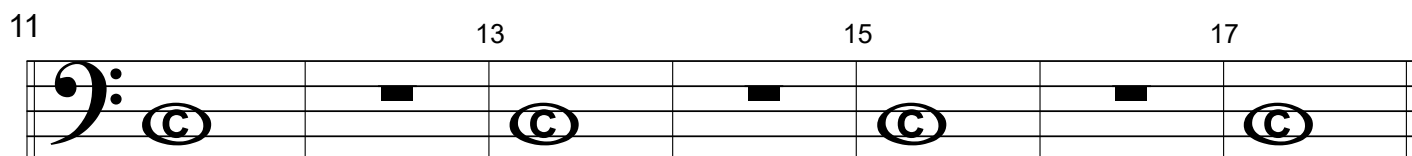
Learning and using the notes Concert "B $\flat$ " and "C";
 the note shape Semi-Breve and its value of four counts,
 the Semi-breve rest shape, and its value of four counts (rest means silence) ,
 || End bar line (the end of the music)
 the new note shape of Minim or and its value of two counts,
 the Minim rest shape, and its value of two counts (rest means silence) ,
 the new sign "Tie" joining two notes to make one new note

NO. 2.1 - SECOND NOTE - C (Concert C) Bass Drum, & Tambourine.

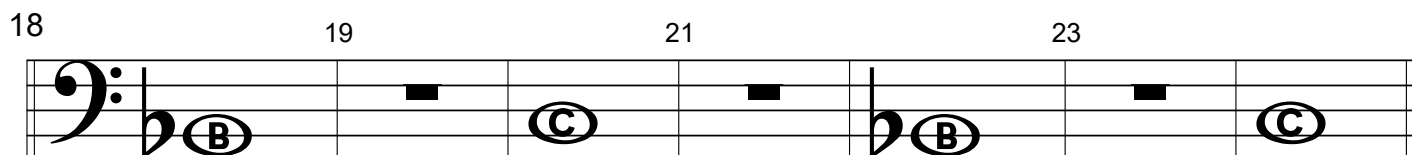


Bass Guitar: The first diagram is traditional method, the 2nd diagram is the contemporary method to avoid the future complications of using open strings.
 4th finger on the 4th string (E string) in the 8th fret. Pluck with the middle finger (M = middle).

NO. 2.2 - NEW NOTE AND REST.



NO. 2.3 - PUT THEM TOGETHER



NEW NOTE SHAPE, REST AND VALUE

Our new note shape is a Minim,  or  and its value is two counts.

It makes no difference whether the stem goes up or down but, let's follow the guideline that if the notehead is above the middle line, the stem goes down and if the notehead is below the middle line, the stem goes up. If the notehead has the middle line going through it, the stem may go either way, but it's stem direction should blend-in with the stem direction of the neighbouring notes.

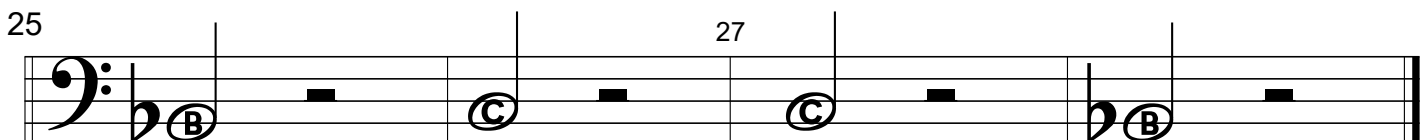
NOTE: There are exceptions to this rule in that for Drums and Auxiliary Percussion, all stems go up and, for Pipe Band Music, all stems go down.

The Minim rest  is an upside down Semi-breve rest, i.e. it is mounted above the Line. Note - "M" for Minim, "M" for Mounted. It has a value of two full counts of silence.

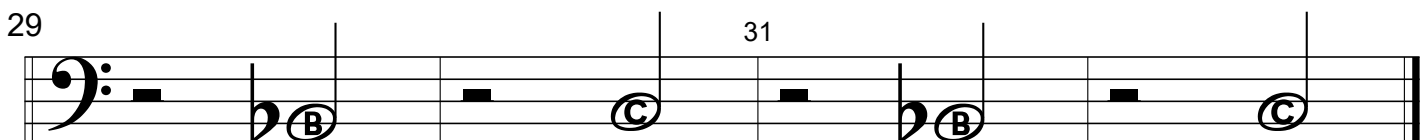
NOTE SHAPE NAMES: In the early days of developing written notation, the longest note was the "Maxima" (Latin for largest). But, its length was variable so a shorter note called the "Longa" (Latin for long) was introduced whose length, was also variable so an even shorter note, "Breve" (Latin for brief) was introduced. Again, variations required a shorter note, so the "Semi-Breve" (half a breve) came into existence. As music evolved shorter notes were invented, the next being the "Minim" (Latin for minimum). Thus it was thought that this would now be the shortest note needed but, as we will learn later, this was not the case.

NO. 2.4 - PLAYING MINIMS -

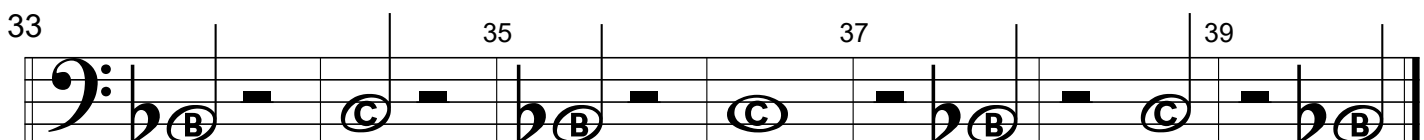
Play for two counts, rest for two counts



NO. 2.5 - PLAYING MINIMS - Play the rest first.



NO. 2.6 - PALINDROME. (Why do you think that this has the name "Palindrome?")



TIE

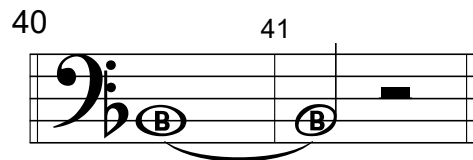
A tie is a musical plus sign which is used to add two notes together to make one new note.

A tie is a way of making new notes of different lengths than the single notes we know. It also allows us to make notes that start in one bar and finish in another bar. The sign for a tie is just a curved line  which joins the two notes together.

Before you play this exercise, write the new count value of the tied notes.

NB: If you have accidentals (sharps or flats) on the first note of a tied pair, the accidental applies to the second note also. Remember, the tie creates one new note therefore, the accidental does not need to show on the second of the tied notes.

NO. 2.7 - TWO NOTES TIED



$$4 \text{ counts} + 2 \text{ counts} = 6 \text{ counts}$$

NO. 2.8 - MORE TIED NOTES

$4 + 2 = 6$ $2 + 2 = 4$

NO. 2.9 - EIGHT COUNT TIES

$4 + 4 = 8$

NO. 2.10 - MIXING TIES



STAGE THREE

Using the notes Concert B $\flat$, C and the new note D

the values Semi-Breve (♩ = four counts), its equivalent rest shape, (—)

Minim (♩ = two counts) and its equivalent rest (—)

the new shape and value of Crotchet (♩ or ♩ = one count), and its rest shape (—)

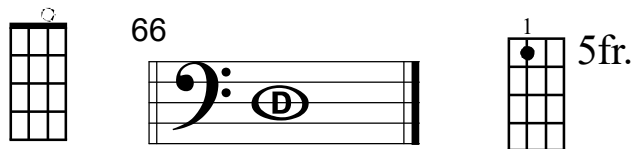
' Breath mark (breathe only where this mark is), and the word "phrase" - a musical thought.

Ties, the new technique -Slurs and,
the new terms Tutti (whole band or group), Soli (a smaller section
of the Band or group), Solo (by yourself) and Tacet (don't play)

Double Barline - something is changing

Lyrics (words) - sing, as well as play the tunes that have words.

NO. 3.1 - NEXT NOTE - D (Concert D)



PRACTICE HINT 3 - WARM-UP

A warm up to a musician is just as important as a warm-up is to an athlete. Before you start any playing session, you need to give your body, your mind and, your instrument, a warm-up session to get all things operating better.

A good, life long skill is that every playing session should now commence by playing the note at lesson 1, slow and gentle. Then more notes maybe included, stonger and faster.

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.

NO. 3.2 - WARM-UP 1 and, REVISION

67 69 71 73 75 77

NOTE SHAPE AND VALUE

Our new note shape is a Crotchet,  or  and, its rest shape 

It has a value of 1 count. Again, it makes no difference whether the stem goes up or down.

SHAPE NAME MEANING: When it was decided that a shorter note shape was needed, it was originally given the Latin name "Semiminima" (semi meaning half, therefore half the minimum). Also, at about the same time there was a big change in technology i.e. the invention of paper to replace the existing parchment. Paper however absorbed the ink much quicker and thus created notes much bigger than intended. Therefore the decision was made to make all notes hollow to avoid all the ink but crotchets were so small that the ink didn't "run". So, now we have all hollow notes except for the crotchet

The crotchet, being the only note that was filled-in, also got the names "Negra" or "Noire". However, it also reminded people of a small hook, so the French word "crotchet" meaning a small hook, became the popular name. This is also the same place we get the name "crochet needle".

No 3.3 - ONE COUNT NOTE AND ONE COUNT REST.

79



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

No 3.4 - USING CROTCHETS

80 81 83 85 87



2 + 1 = 3 4 + 1 = 5 4 + 4 = 8

3.5 - MORE CROTCHETS

88 89 91 93



PRACTICE HINT 4

Always have a pencil and rubber with you.
You will need to write little messages on your music
which, may later want to rub out

SLURS

We have learnt that a Tie joins two notes of the same pitch (same name) together to make one new note.

A Slur is a special tie which joins two or more, different notes. A slur still forms one new note whose length is equal to the sum of the lengths of the notes that are slurred, except that the note changes sound at the joining point.

The sign for a slur is just a curved line, the same as for a tie . It makes no difference if the curved line goes under or over.

In number 3.6 below, the first two minims are played as one note of four counts but change the fingering after the first two counts have been played.

The next slur, two crotchets and a minim add up to four counts, but the fingers/position change after the first count and then, after the second count.

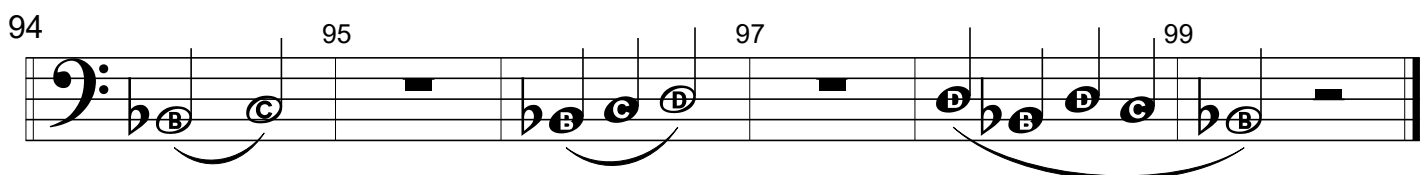
For the last slur, the total of the notes is six counts with four finger/position changes.

FOR PIANO/KEYBOARD: The way to achieve a slur as best as possible is to make sure that when the second note is played, the first note is not released until the second note has sounded.

FOR PERCUSSION, the slur has no effect but is shown for education purposes.

FOR STRING BASS: Change the left hand but do not pluck the slurred note. This however, only works when the notes to be slurred are on the same string.

No 3.6 - SLURRING



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 barline" which therefore means go straight on to the next stave.

NO. 3.7 - MY FIRST SONG

100 101 103 104 105 107

BREATH MARK and PHRASE

A phrase in music is the same as in normal speaking, singing, reading and poetry. When we speak or sing, we often can't fit all the words into one breath and have to find a place in the music or words to take a breath.

The group of words or the notes between breaths is called a "PHRASE". Putting the breath in the right place is called "PHRASING".

In music we indicate a place to breathe by placing a comma (,) above and just after the note we play before breathing.

Notice that the end of each phrase in No. 3.7 seems ugly and short. To fix this, the last note needs to be a four count note, but now 32 beats without a breath is too long. Lets take a breath after each two bars.

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)

108 109 111 112 113 115

This is my first song, Play ing in my band,

With my friends I play, Truck loads more to learn.

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".

NO. 3.9 - FOUR IN A ROW

116

117

119

120

121

123

TONGUING AND CHANGING NOTES

One of the great uses of slurring is to show singers that the next note is part of the word or syllable already being sung. Therefore, if there is a new word or 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 or syllable, therefore 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.

124

125

127

128

129

131

Rain is fall - ing down. Rain is fall - ing down.

Pit - ter pat - ter pit - ter pat - ter, rain is fall - ing down.



NO. 3.12 - LINDY LOO

148 149 151

Lin - dy was a dan - cer, Lin - dy wore a dress.

152 153 155

Lin - dy made her dress from bits of grass and string.

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

156 SOLO 157 TUTTI 159

Down by the stat - ion ear - ly in the morn - ing.

160 SOLO 161 TUTTI 163

See the lit - tle puf - fing bill - ies all in a row.



NO. 3.14 - WHEN I MAKE MY MUSIC.

164 SOLO 165 , TUTTI 167

When I make my mu - sic al - ways I feel good.

168 SOLO 169 , TUTTI 171

When I make my mu - sic bet - er I will try to be.

NO. 3.15 - SUOGAN (Welsh folk song)

172 173 , 175 ,

Su - o - gan do not weep, Su - o - gan go to sleep.

Why are there no drums playing in this piece?

176 177 , 179

Su - o - gan Da - dy's here, Su - o - gan have no fear.

NO. 3.16 - ONE DAY

180 181 , 183 ,

One, One day, My Band will play.

184 185 , 187

One, One day. We will play this in our band.

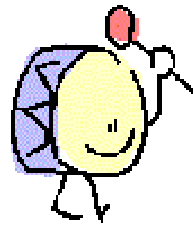
NO. 3.17- AU CLAIRE DE LE LUNE

188 SOLO , TUTTI 189 191

Au clair de la lu - ne mon a - mi Peir - rot,

192 SOLO , TUTTI 193 195

Pre - te moi ta plu - me pour e - crire un mot.



NO. 3.18 - HERE COMES THE BAND

- Note the breath mark positions.

196 197 , 199 ,

Here comes the band, march ing down from the hill top.

200 201 , 203 ,

Whoops! Some - one dropped the bass drum, a gain.

204 205 207 ,

Left! Left!, Left right left! Who will beat the time now?

208 209 , 211

Rat a tat. Johnn - y in his red coat. Left right left!

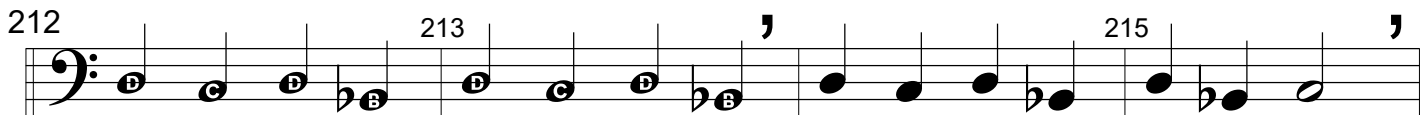
ALPHA NOTES

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 staff.

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



NO.3.19 - HEAR THE BELLS

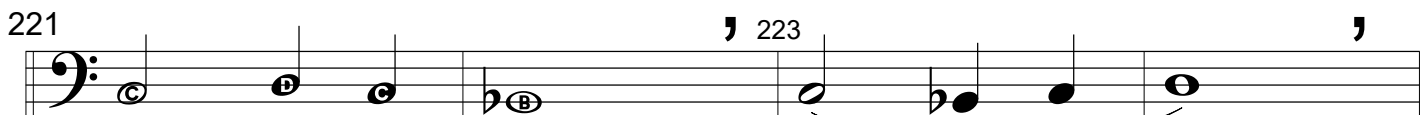


Hear the bells ring in the town clock. The bells tell us it's O' clock.



Hear the bells count out the time, it must be O' Clock One, Two, Three.

NO. 3.20 - (You Give it a Name).....



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, Ipad 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.

SOLO ONE

Solo with Piano Accompaniment

No. 3.21 - OFF TO BAND.

229

231

233

Soloist

Off to Band, here we go. Play all our

Accomp-niment

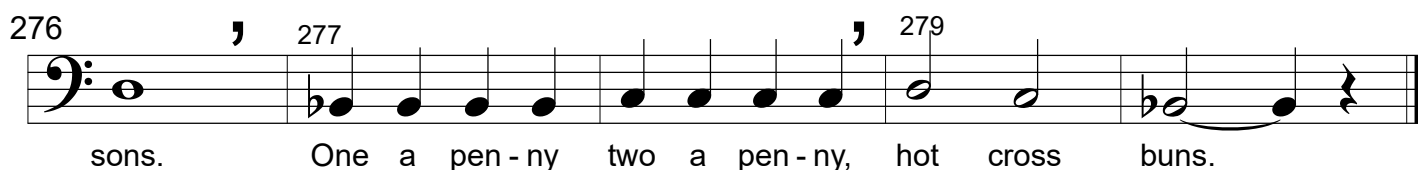
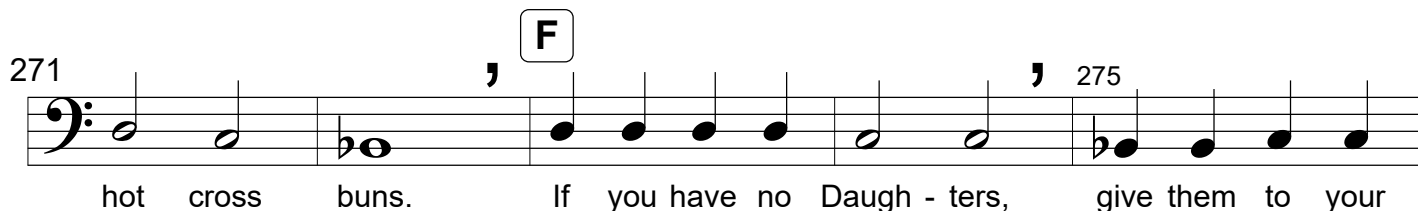
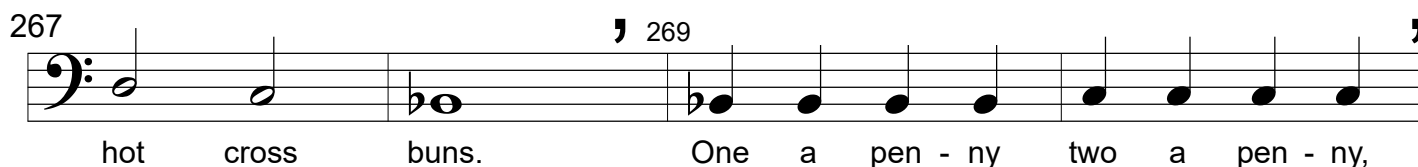
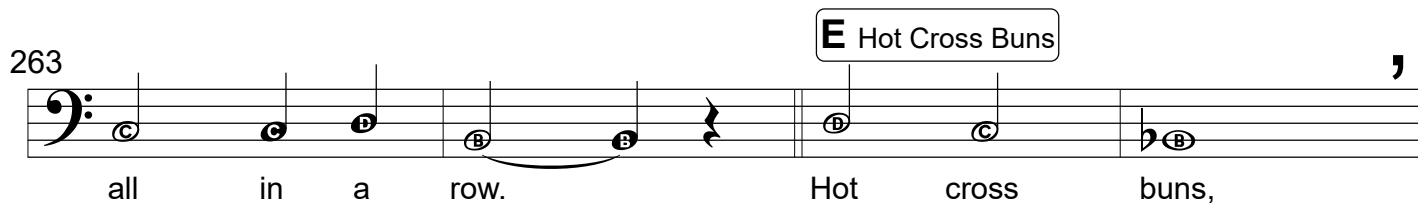
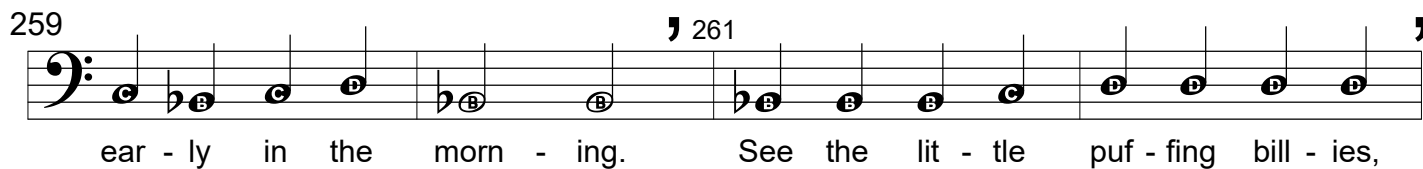
234

235

237

mus-ic notes. Play our songs, learn some more. Mak-ing mus-ic is such fun.

The musical score for 'Off to Band' is presented in two systems. The first system (measures 229-233) shows the Soloist part in bass clef and the Piano Accompaniment in treble and bass clefs. The Soloist part begins with a whole rest in measure 229, followed by a half note G2 in measure 231, and then a half note G2 in measure 233. The Piano Accompaniment part provides harmonic support with chords Bb, F7, Bb, Cm7, Bb, F, F7, and Bb. The second system (measures 234-237) continues the Soloist part with half notes G2, A2, B2, and G2. The Piano Accompaniment part continues with chords F, Cm7, D, Bb, F, F7, Bb, F, Bb, F7, and Bb. The score includes lyrics and guitar chord diagrams for the piano part.

C Percussion Soli**D** Down by the Station**DOUBLE BARLINE**

You may have noticed that at the beginning 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.

SOLO TWO

NO. 3.23 - Solo Medley with Piano Accompaniment

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

A My First Song

281 283 285 287

Soloist

Accomp-

288 289 291 295

B When I Make

296 297 299 301

C Piano Solo

D Down by the Station

305 307 309

Chord progression for 'Down by the Station': Bb, F, Bb, C, Cm7, Bb, Bb, F, Bb, Dm7, Cm7. The score includes a bass line, a grand staff with guitar chords and fingerings, and a piano accompaniment.

E Hot Cross Buns

310 313 315 317

Chord progression for 'Hot Cross Buns': Bb, Bb, F, Bb, 7, Bb, Bb, Am7, Bb, Cm7. The score includes a bass line, a grand staff with guitar chords and fingerings, and a piano accompaniment.

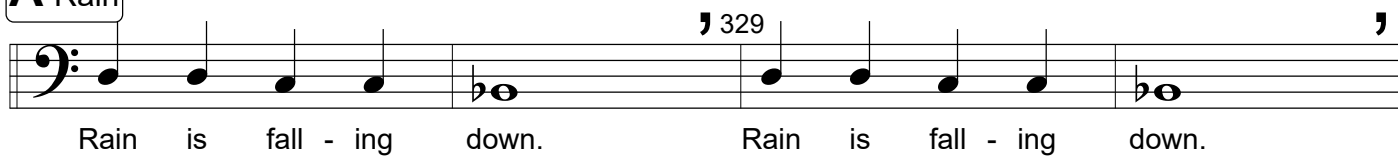
F

318 321 323 325

Chord progression for section F: Eb, Bb, Bb, Bbm7, Cm7F7, Bb, A°7, Bb, Eb, F7, Bb6, Ebm6, Bb. The score includes a bass line, a grand staff with guitar chords and fingerings, and a piano accompaniment.

NO. 3.24 - FIRST CONCERT MEDLEY, Number 2

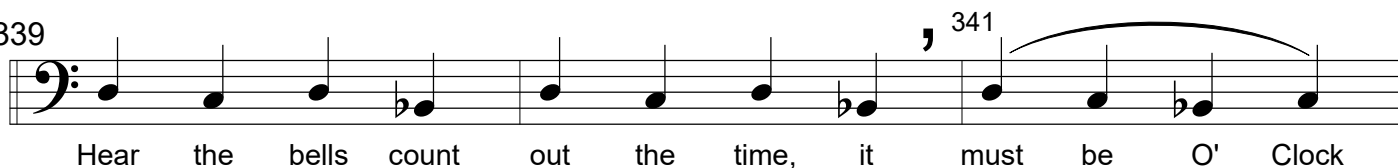
Rain is Falling Down, Hear the Bells Ring, Au Claire, Here Comes the Band.

A Rain

331

**B** Hear the Bells Ring

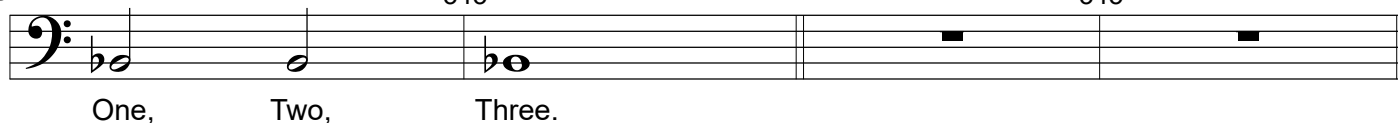
339

**C** Percussion Soli

342

343

345



D Au Claire De La Lune

Musical notation for the bass line of the song. It consists of two measures. The first measure contains five notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, and D3, with a measure number '347' above the D3 note. The second measure contains four notes: D3, C3, B2, and A2, with a measure number '349' above the A2 note. A double bar line is placed between the two measures.

Au clair de la lu - ne mon a - mi Peir - rot,

350  351  353

Pre - te moi ta plu - me pour e - cire un mot.

E Here Comes the Band

Here comes the band, march ing down from the hill top.

358 

SOLO THREE (First Concert Medley No. 2)

NO. 3.25 - Solo Medley with Piano Accompaniment

Rain is falling down, Hear the Bells, Au De Claire, Here Comes the Band

A Rain

362 363 365 367

Soloist

Accompanist

368 369 371 373

B Hear the Bells Ring

375 377 379

C Piano Solo**D** Au Claire De La Lune ,

380 381 383

387 389 391

E Here Comes the Band

395 397 399

SOLO FOUR
NO. 3.26 - Solo with Piano Accompaniment 4
MARCHING OUT

NB - No breath marks so, breathe only at the rests.

A

401 403 405

Soloist

Accompanist

407 409 411

413 415 417

B

419

421

C

423

425

427

D

430

431

433

435

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT?

NO. 3.27 - (you give it a title)

Using the notes you know, create your own composition - remember, exactly 4 counts to a bar.

436 437 439

KNOWLEDGE CHECK.

(A) Name the following shapes

- (i)
- (ii)
- (iii)
- (iv)
- (v)
- (vi)
- (vii)
- (viii) Tacet
- (ix) Soli
- (x)
- (xi) Tutti
- (xii)
- (xiii) Solo
- (xiv)

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

440

Minim.....
...D.....
...2.....

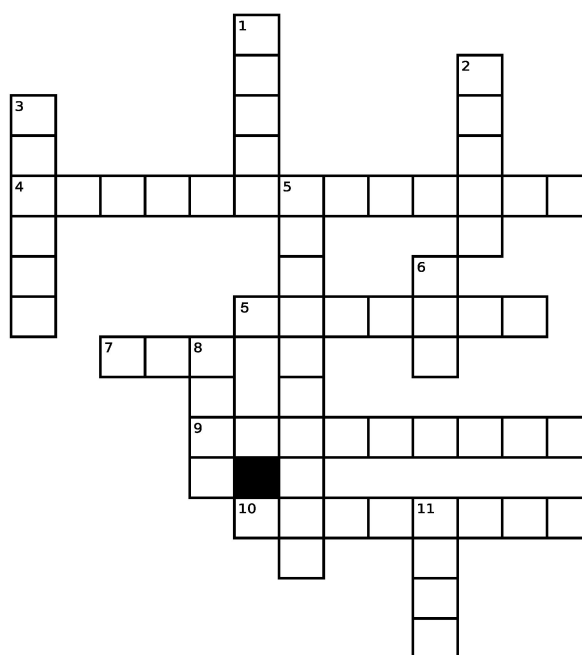
(C) PERFORMANCE & COMPOSITION

- (i) As a soloist, perform a smooth stable note for 6 seconds
- (ii) As a soloist, perform No.3.23, 3.25 or 3.26
- (iii) Posture, arm and hand positions
- (iv) Composition at No. 3.27 above (v) Care of instrument

CONGRATULATIONS

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

Stage Three Crossword Puzzle



Down:

1. The five line on which we write our music
2. A two count note
3. a group of small tunes played together
5. Shows where we should breath
6. Joins two notes to make one new note
8. Where we don't play
11. Gives the names to the lines an spaces

Across:

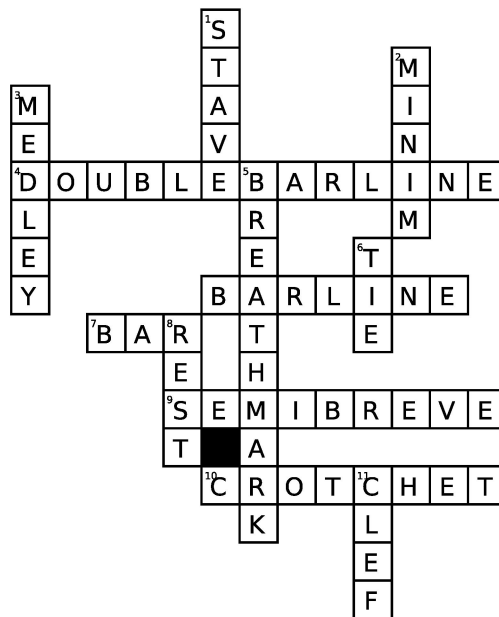
4. Shows that something is changing in the music
5. Divides the music in small sections
7. Small section of 4 counts
9. A four count note
10. A one count note



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Stage Three Crossword Puzzle



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