Saxophone

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This Book Belongs To:



Fundamental Music Instruction



<u>First Songs for Band</u> – a beginner's "starter kit".

The goal of this book is to help the very beginning student explore the first sounds, begin a study of basic rhythmic playing, learn to play in a smooth, pleasing fashion and master several notes appropriate for this level of study, all leading to the ability to perform both on a solo level and as part of an ensemble.

To make the most progress possible, a student must find a quiet place to practice and get in the habit of truly listening to the sounds being produced. Learning to critique one's sound is the best tool for building a lasting mastery of musicianship on every level. The music in this book is sequential from initial sounds to songs that are appropriate for the first performance to the beginnings of intermediate and advanced level ensemble materials.

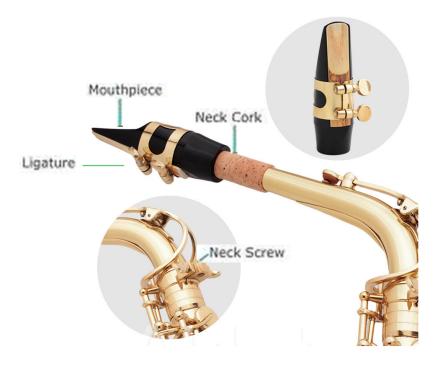
If you patiently and consistently study the lessons enclosed, you will embark on a journey of musical performance that will set the tone for a lifetime of musical experience.

Ed Kelly, Fundamental Music Instruction Administrator

Congratulations on your choice of instruments!

You are playing one of the most expressive of all wind instruments.

Your saxophone assembly includes a few main parts of your instrument:



- The Goose Neck
- The Main Body
- Mouthpiece
- Reed
- Ligature (the gizmo that clamps the reed onto the mouthpiece)

The first thing to be aware of is that some of the keywork (rods, keys etc.) can get bent. Normal light pressure is fine, but if you have to force anything, things could get bent out of whack. During any of the assembly, if you are in doubt, wait until you are with the teacher.









Assemble your Saxophone:

(Working with the mouthpiece)

1. Moisten the reed. Your reed should be moistened with water, or your own saliva.











- 2. Put on the reed. Place the reed on the mouthpiece so the flat side of the reed is against the mouthpiece opening.
- 3. Ensure that the reed is vertical and aligned with the mouthpiece.
- 4. Slip the ligature over the mouthpiece and reed. Make sure that the ligature is low enough that it is covering the bark of the reed and not the carved part of the reed. Tighten the ligature to secure the reed's placement.

Special considerations about the reed.

The most important part of your Saxophone is your reed. When you blow air across the reed, the reed is vibrated to create your Saxophone's beautiful signature sound. Thus, great care must be taken to ensure that the reed is properly moistened, and is protected to prevent cracking, chipping, or any other damage.

Do your best to avoid touching the tip of the reed with anything - fingers, the ligature, mouthpiece cap



Adjust the sax to you. Many parts are adjustable and the idea is for the sax to come to you, not for you to twist to get to it. The parts that adjust are the Neck Strap, which moves up and down, the Sax Neck, which goes left and right and the Mouthpiece which spins from side to side so you can set your head angle without bending your neck at all. **Let the Neck Strap take the weight of the Saxophone.**



Left Hand Position:

The fingers should form a C.

Your Left Hand

• The left hand thumb goes on the back of the sax on a thumb rest.

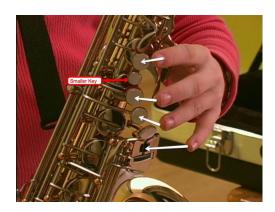


• The next 3 fingers go on the buttons (Keys) opposite the thumb.

Many Saxes have 3 big white (or pearl) Keys with one little key in between the first two.

The 3 fingers go on these bigger 3 Keys.

Some Saxes have an extra big white button above where the 3 fingers go. You can tell by looking and counting how many white buttons you see in the left hand area. If you see a total of 5, skip the first one, put your index finger one the second one, skip the little 3rd one and put the next 2 fingers on the last 2 buttons. It should pretty much fit your hand and will be very natural after a few sessions. You pinky will just hover over a complicated key with 4 gold buttons and rollers between them. Thumb, 1, 2, 3 is the left hand.



Your Right Hand

The right hand is easy. Your thumb goes in the thumb rest on the inside close to you, and your fingers go 1, 2, 3 on the only 3 white or pearl Keys in a row on the opposite side of your thumb. Your hand can pretty much find these keys without even looking. Your pinky will hover over 2 gold keys with rollers. It will not be needed for a while.

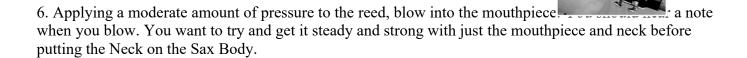




Making your first sound:

Start with the neck and mouthpiece only. It is easier to set your mouth with just the mouthpiece to practice blowing and the neck gives you a nice handle.

- 1. Say the word "aah". This should create an opening without any tension.
- 2. Roll about half of your bottom lip over your teeth.
- 3. Take the mouthpiece and place it on the center of your bottom lip and slide your mouthpiece into your mouth.
- 4. Close your mouth slowly, letting your top teeth touch the top of the mouthpiece. But make sure that you do not bite down. (Your teeth will touch the top of the Mouthpiece and your top lip is used to make a seal around it so air does not get out. Your bottom lip covers your bottom teeth and acts as a cushion between the Reed and bottom teeth).
- 5. Keep the corners firm. Your chin should be pointed down and flat.



Whisper the sound "Too" at the beginning of each tone - make sure to continue the sound for at least 4 seconds.

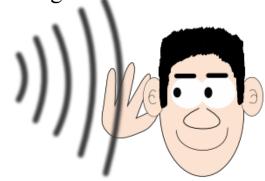
(Whispering "Too" does not stop your air-stream - think of the tongue as a dart - quickly touch the reed and quickly move it away so the air-stream does not stop.

A Musical **Tone** & a Basic **Sound** are not the same thing!

Obviously we often use these words interchangeably, but when you are learning an instrument like the saxophone, it's very useful to consider them separately.

<u>A Musical Tone</u>: is the end result after you have used your technique and listening skills as a musician to manipulate the basic sound into something that is a "Pleasing, conversational Tone"

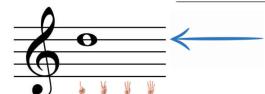
A Basic Sound: you can think of this as the "raw" unprocessed sound of your saxophone. (Sometimes resembling a onk or S ueek)



Hint: More breath = more Volume but more Volume does not always = a Musical Tone

(This does not stop your air-stream - think of the tongue as a dart - quickly touch the reed and quickly move it away so the air-stream does not stop.

Whole Note "D"



Read D on the "Music Staff"
This 2nd line from the top is
the D Line

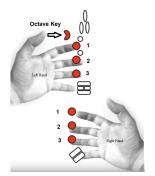




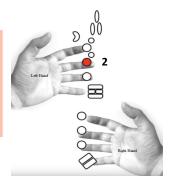


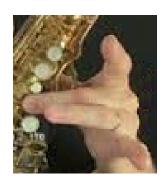
Quarter D's





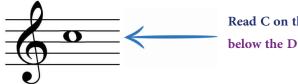
To Change note from D to C - keep pressure on the Left Hand Middle Finger Key and remove pressure from every other Key





Looong Tone C

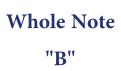




Read C on the Music Staff The "Space" below the D Line is for the C Note

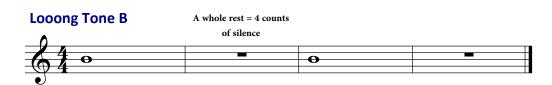
Quarter C's







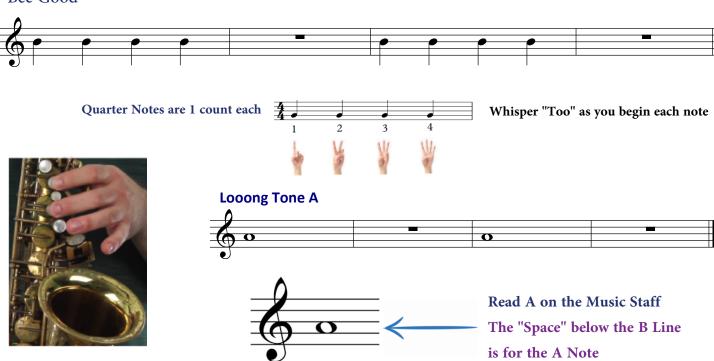




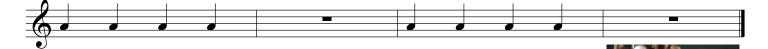
What if it goes wrong?

- 1. Check your Reed (is it set properly is it cracked?
- 2. Are you holding the Sax correctly?
- 3. Are you pressing the B key properly (Avoid the side keys A.K.A. "the poison keys"
- 4. Are you using "the magic spot" on the reed (too much reed =honk/squeek, too little reed = no sound at all because the reed can not vibrate)

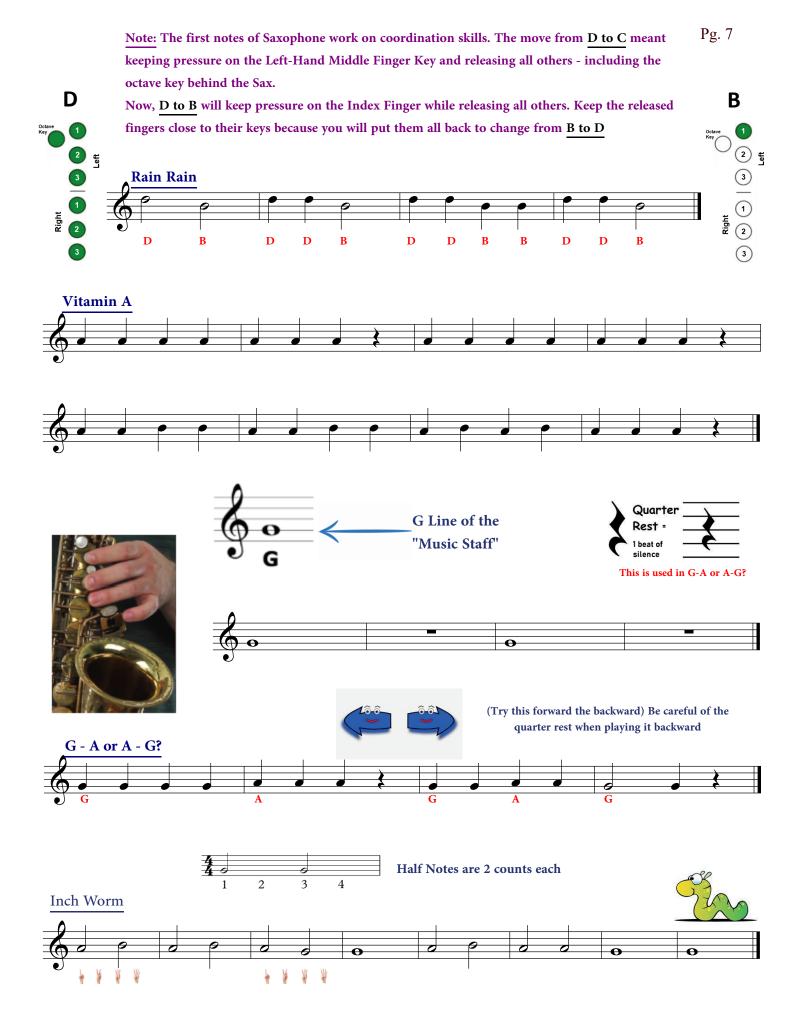




Space, the Final Frontier



Space the pointer and Middle fingers to "skip" this small key





First Songs For Band

The Top portion of the page focuses on B - A and G.

The bottom of the page includes more advanced material for students who are ready

Continue to work for a smooth, Legato style with a warm, pleasing tone

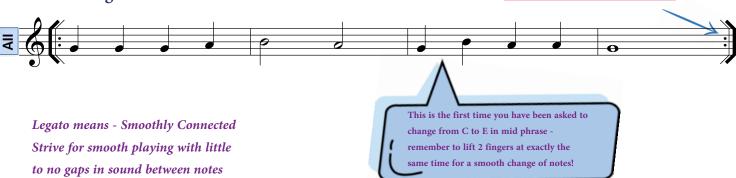
Hot Cross Buns



Apache Warrior



French Song



First Songs for Musicianship

Each Page will include pieces that will help develop musicality (Rhythm, Phrasing, Breath Control - support reading skills)

They are meant for students who need an extra challenge (If not, simply move on to page 9)

Go Tell Aunt Rhodie



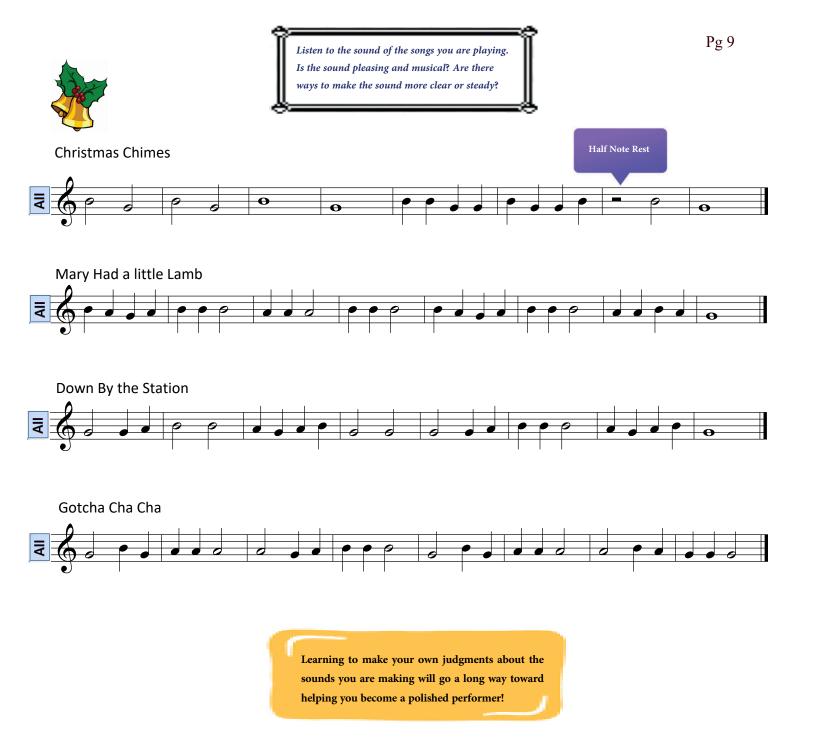
Speed - start at a medium pace and build up to a speed that will allow you to play each 2 measure phrase in one breath

This is a repeat sign, which means to go back to the beginning and play

this line again

Tisket A Tasket

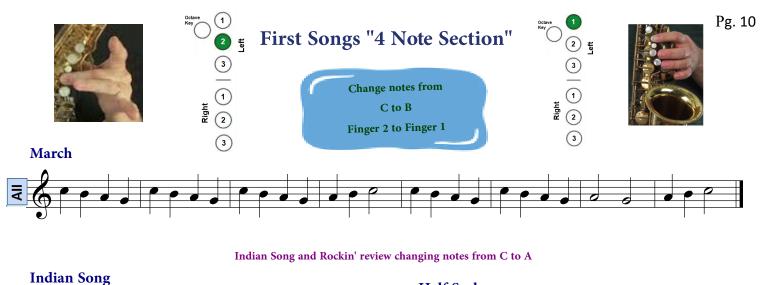




A Curved line connecting groups of notes or measures is a "Phrase Marking" for the Legato style (Smoothly Connected) Try to play all the notes of a phrase in 1 breath - this may mean you will have to play at a fast enough speed to make this possible.

First Songs for Musicianship

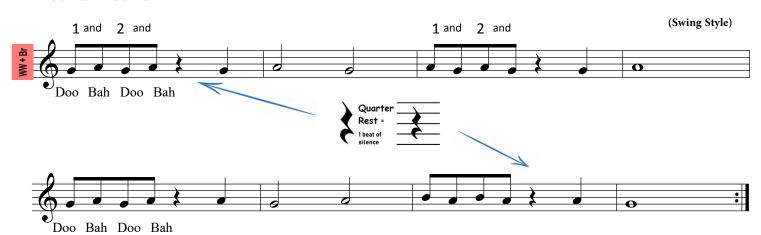


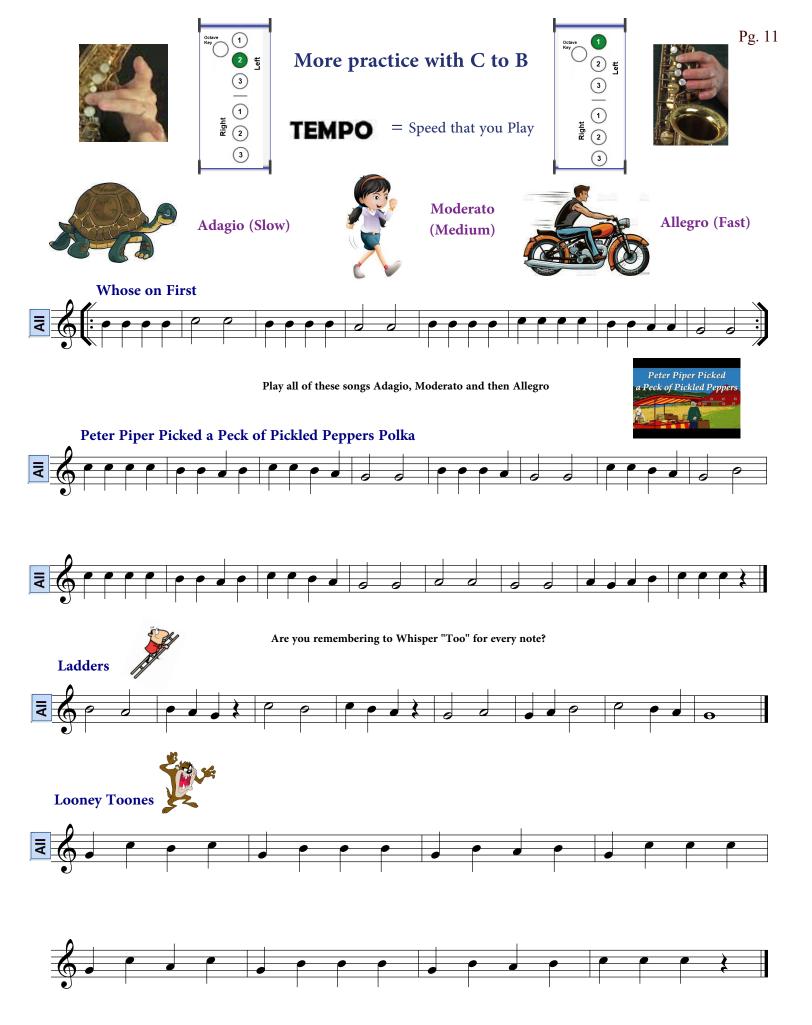




First Songs for Musicianship



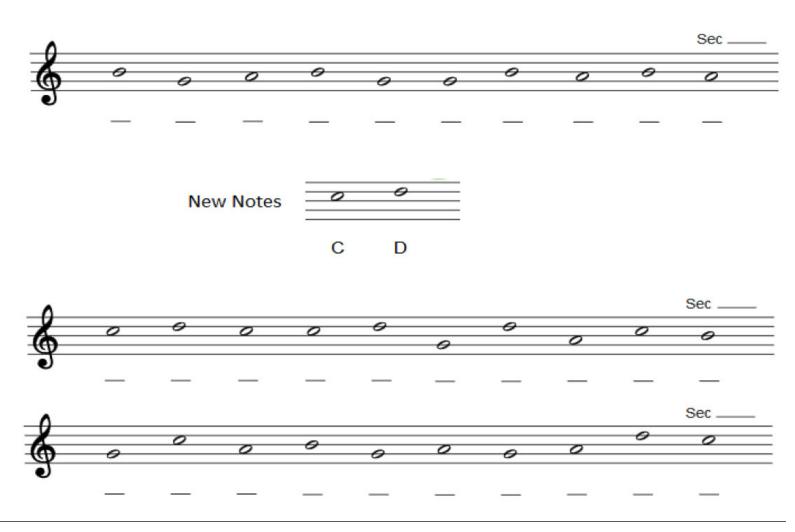




How fast can you identify these notes?



(Put down how many seconds it took you for each line)



Try adding Right Hand Keys (follow the pictures)





Playing Right Hand Notes as Low Tones requires you to remember to keep the bottom lip curled while you create a rounder shape inside your mouth for warmer slower air to sound the tones - Here is a good technique:

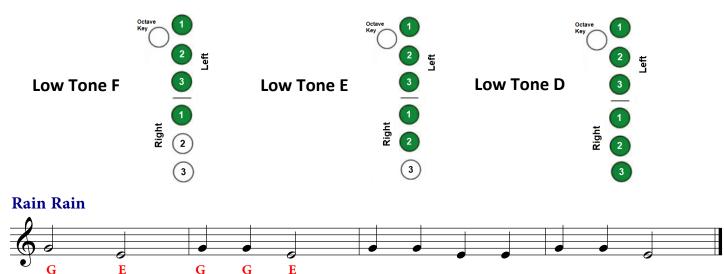
Fogging Up a Mirror

When you blow out don't do it the way you blow out candles on a birthday cake. Instead blow out as though you are fogging up a mirror.

This helps you do 2 important things automatically.

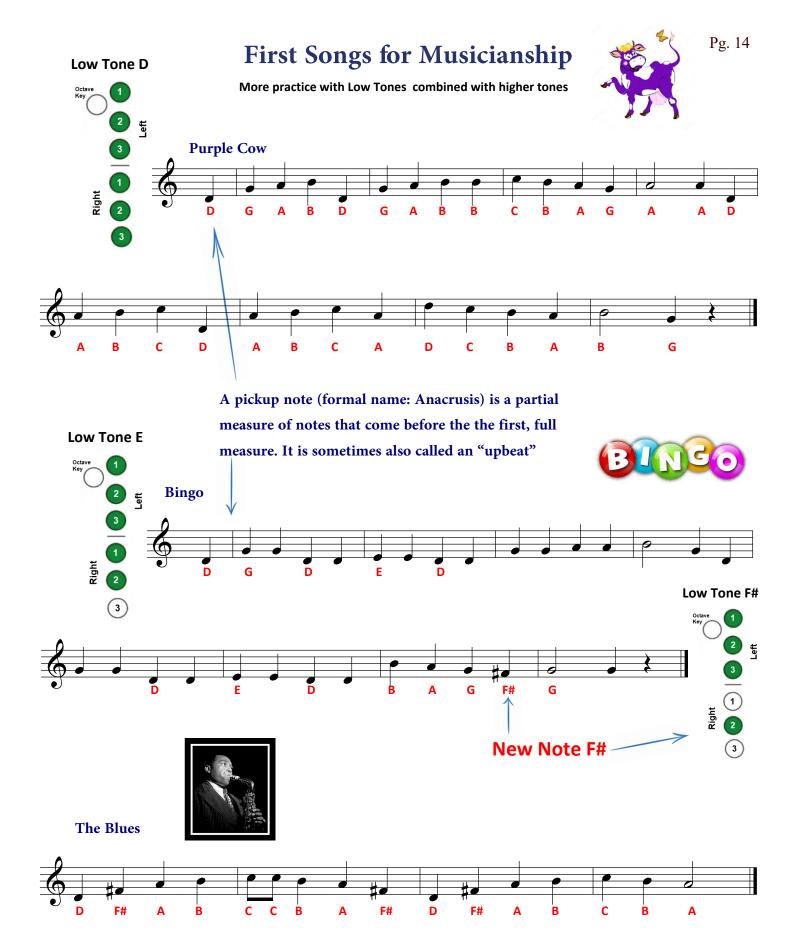
- It opens up the throat and lowers the tongue out of the way. This will give you a more open and round sound and makes a big difference for getting the low notes to come out.
- This helps to automatically regulate the controlled release of the air.

Practice "Fogging Up a Mirror" on your hand with your embouchure set and notice the difference.



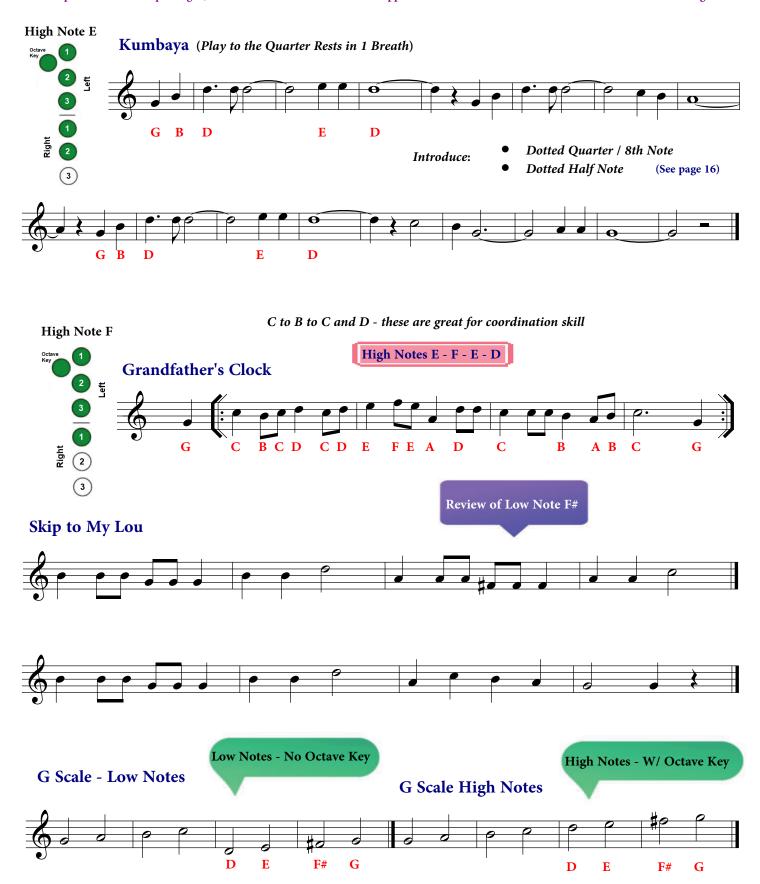
Cold Soggy Buns





= Sharp Sign - this raises the pitch
(if you play and compare F and F# you will hear the difference)

There are "Low Note" Versions of D - E - F - F# - G and High Note Versions. The obvious difference is Low Notes do not use the Octave Key and High Notes do. The bigger conversation is about Embouchure and Breath Control. Low notes require an open Throated "Ahh" Sound and High Notes require an "EEE" Shape tongue, throat and corners of the mouth. Support of the air-stream is vital to the success of both low and high notes



Refer to Page 16 for new concepts (Tied Notes - Dotted Notes

First Songs "Review 5 Note Section"

There will be several new concepts introduced in the next few pages: (Refer back to this page as these concepts are introduced)

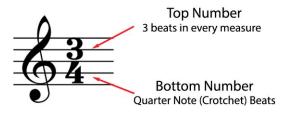
New Repeat Signs;

- D.S. al Fine means to start back at the "Segno" mark and continue playing until you reach the bar-line, marked with the word fine. This command stands for dal segno al fine, and literally means "[play] from the sign to the end." (segno sign)
- 1st and 2nd Endings Many times the composer will want to repeat a passage of music exactly as it was played the first time, with the exception of the final few notes or measures. In this case, the composer will use first and second endings.

New Time Signature:

Until Now, we have been using
"Common Time"
known as the 4/4 Time Signature

3/4 Time Signature



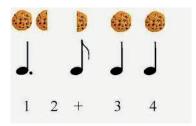
Dotted Rhythms: Adding a Dot next to a note increases the length of the note by Half

Example: A Half Note with a Dot adds 1 more beat



Here is an explanation using cookies for understanding

Quarter Notes with a Dot



First Songs "Review 5 Note Section"

Oats Peas and Beans

Play this Adagio - Moderato - Allegro



Play 7 Note phrases (Take a new beath on each quarter note rest)



Remember -the tongue gives a clear beginning to each note but does not stop the steady air-stream - play smooth phrases

Rain Rain (Each time this appears - it has a new set of notes)

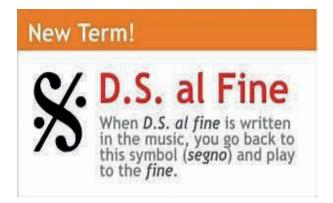




Play this Adagio - Moderato - Allegro









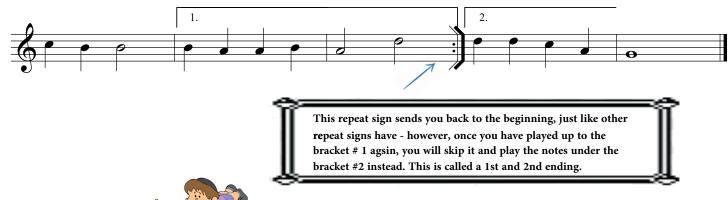


Remember to work on playing many notes in 1 breath – part of doing this is playing at a faster Tempo (speed)



Jingle Bells















Review: Dotted Notes

2 beats . 3 beats

1 beat . 1½ beats

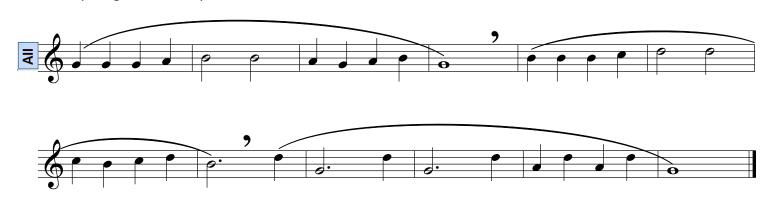
New Marking: The breath mark tells you where to take a breath in a piece of music

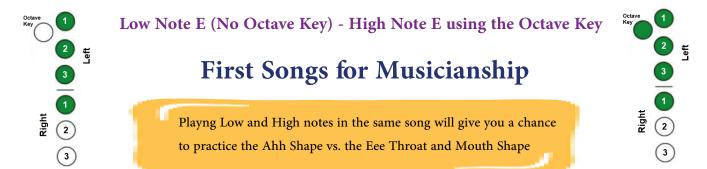
Review of Phrase Markings - This making is for Legato Style playing

Small World

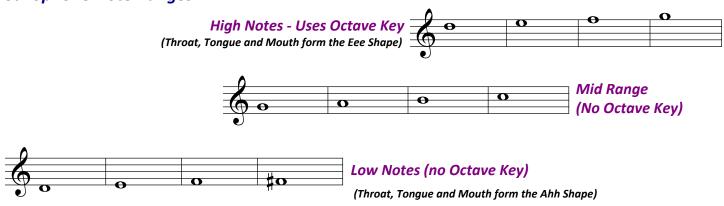


Sweetly Sings the Donkey

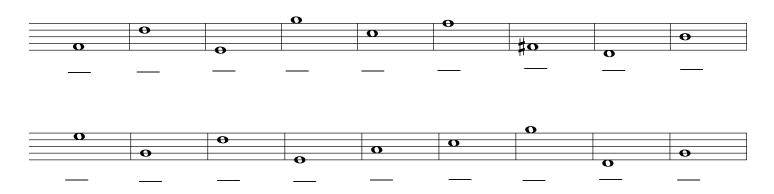








1. Draw a treble clef at the beginning of the staff and write the letter name of each note.



Legato and Ties

A phrase marking (Legato) is a curved line connection two or more notes of different pitches.

Legato passages should be played as smoothly as possible.

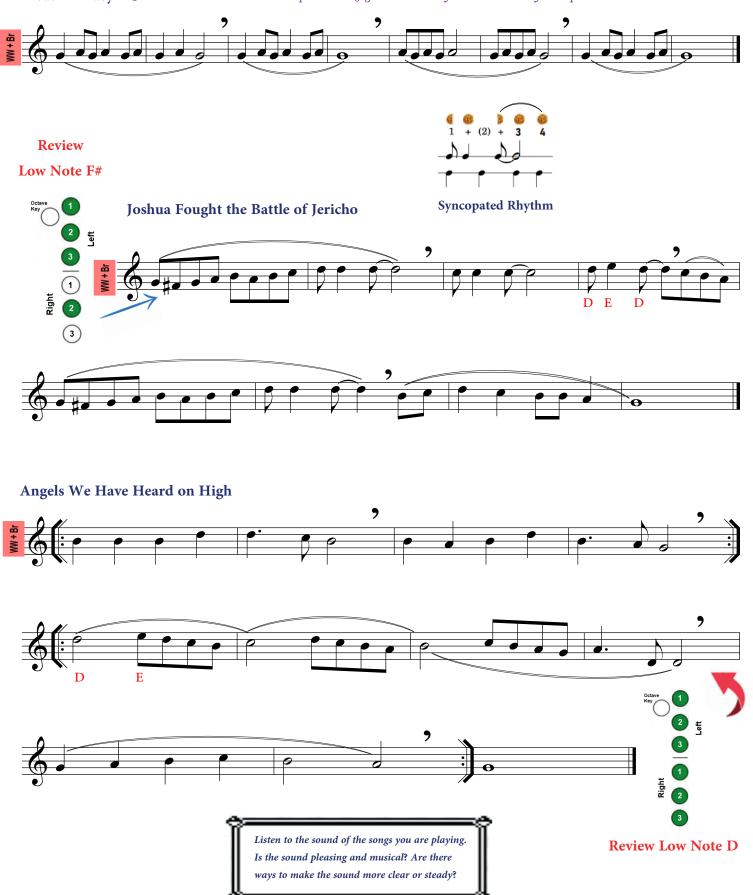
2. Draw in the Phrase Marking for each Dotted Line

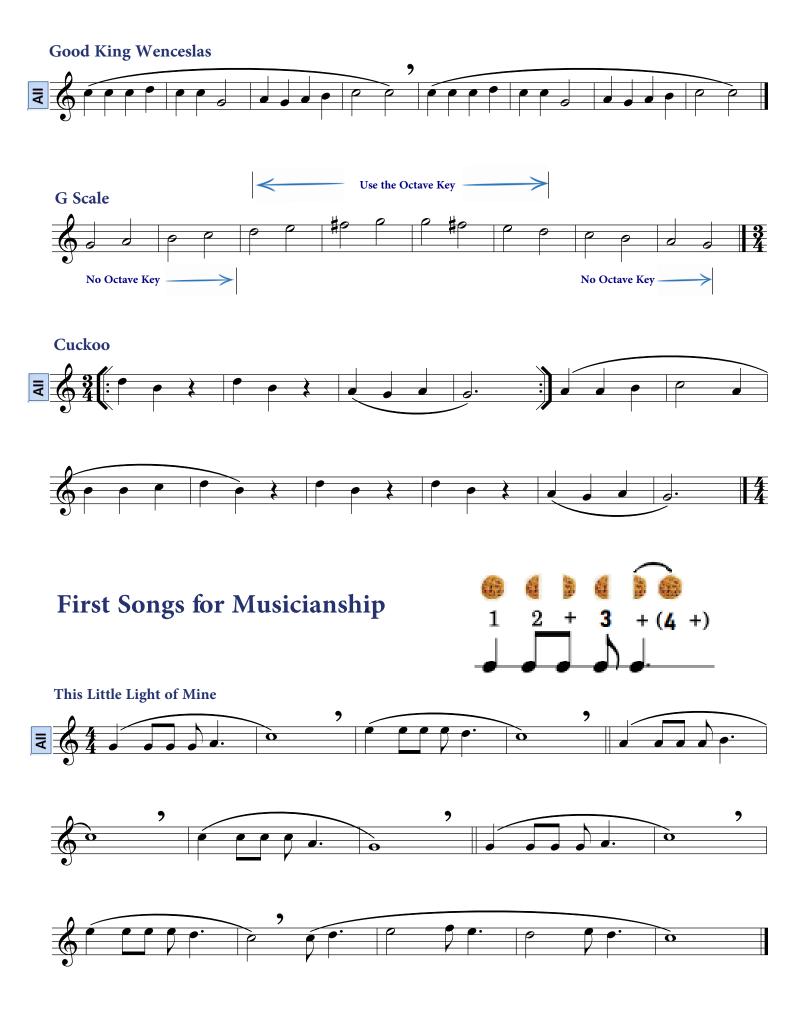


3. Write the total number of beats for each set of Tied Notes

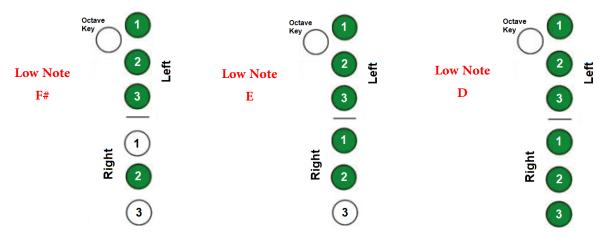


Breathin' Easy Reminder: The curved line is called a phrase marking which reminds you to use 1 breath for the phrases





Intermediate Music Section



Rain Rain



Factors that affect Tone: 1) air speed 2) tongue position and 3) grip.

Slow air = flat, unsteady, unclear sound. Fast air = vibrant, steady, clear sound.

March





Low tongue position (ah) = unfocused. High tongue position (ee) = focused.

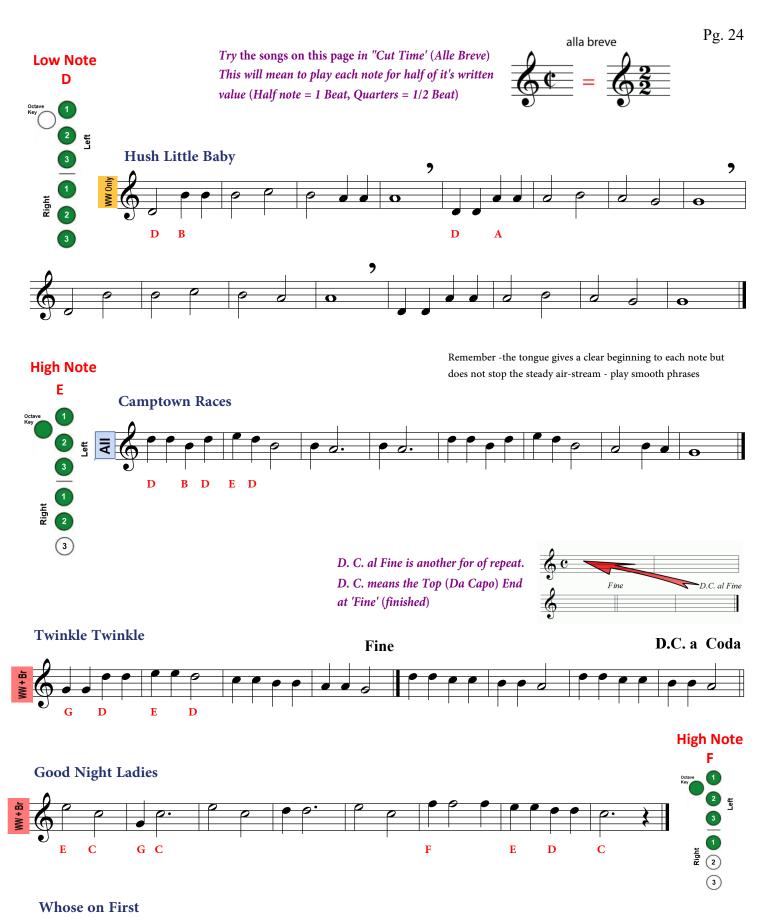
Corners should squeeze in towards the mouthpiece. The bottom lip should be visible with slight amount rolled over the bottom teeth to cushion the reed. - pointed chin

Mary Had a Little Lamb

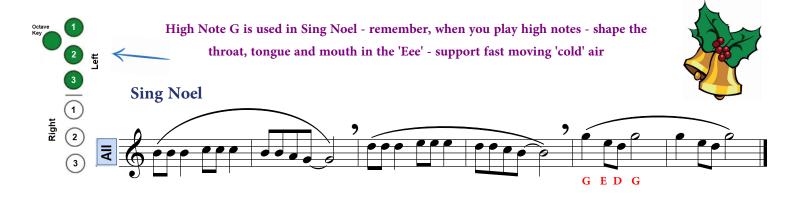




Breath Control and the correct embouchure are key to producing a pleasing tone for these Low Notes

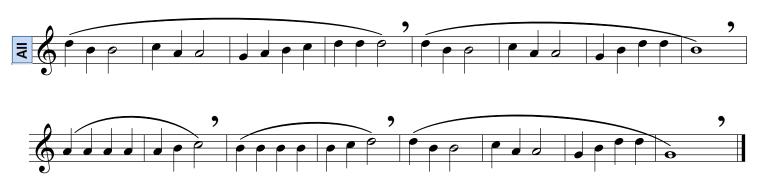


E F E D C



Tone, Embouchure (mouth shape) and Breath Control are primary to playing a smooth legato phrase Be sure to listen to the sound you create and adjust as needed until it is as musical as possible.

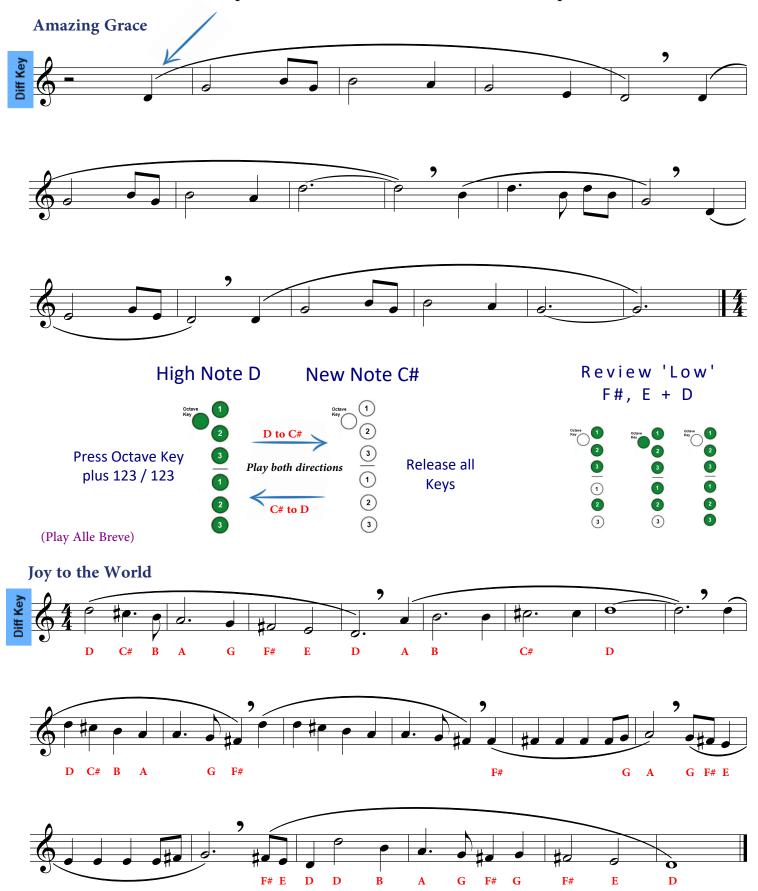




Silent Night has a wide range of notes - all the way from High Note F to Low Note C (which is used for the 1st time here). This is a wonderful opportunity to work on the control needed to play Low, Medium and High Notes with an even, controlled tone. Support the air-stream with your stomach muscles so the air is always steady. Adjust the Tongue,



Review: In music, an anacrusis (also known as a pickup) is a note which precedes the first downbeat in a bar in a musical phrase.



First Songs for Band



"On Parade"

Saxophone 2







Saxophone 1

(to be added after learning Saxophone 2)









This song focuses on the notes C,B,A,G but then adds High Notes E and D Practice both the lower and Higher parts (Seeing 2 notes like this means "Divisi" and you choose one of the parts while another student plays the other)

Holiday March

Alto Sax 2



Holiday March



This song focuses on "Skipping Notes"



Olympic Theme

Saxophone 2















Saxophone2 reviews the "Low Note F#"

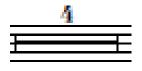
(a note using the 2nd finger of the Right Hand)



Olympic Theme

Saxophone 1





This black boxes with numbers over them means you will rest 4 measures (count 4 beats of rest for each measure - or-count to 4, 4 times)

I'm a Believer

Saxophone 1





I'm a believer

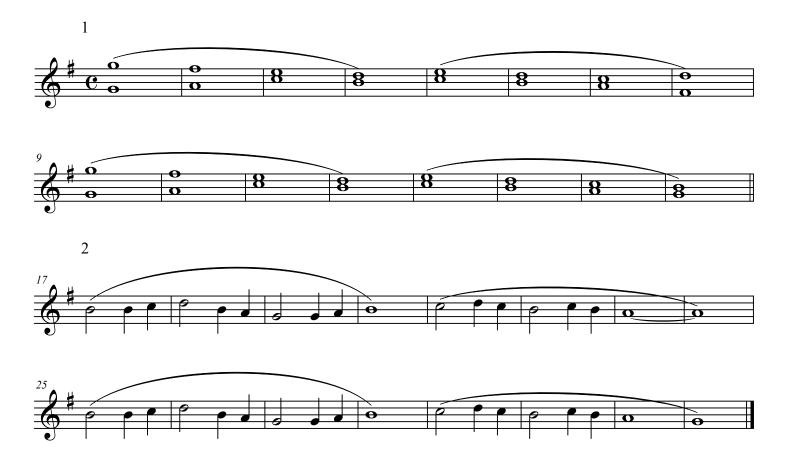
I'm a Believer





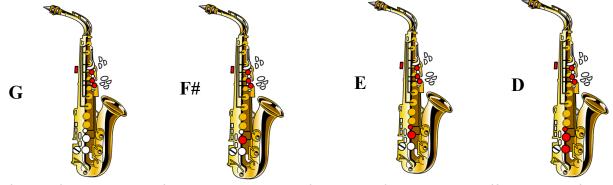
Alto Sax

Seek Ye First



Review of Legato Style

In the song "Seek Ye First" you will be asked to play long phrases in 1 Breath. First get comfortable with the song and then play it much faster so the 1st 10 notes are played in 1 breath



The Higher Notes in the 1st section introduce G and F# - You will now use the Octave Key (Left Hand Thumb key in the back of the Sax)

Be sure to maintain a strong "Embochure" with the corners of your mouth pulled back so that you do not 'Puff your Cheeks"



Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Alto Sax. 1



Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

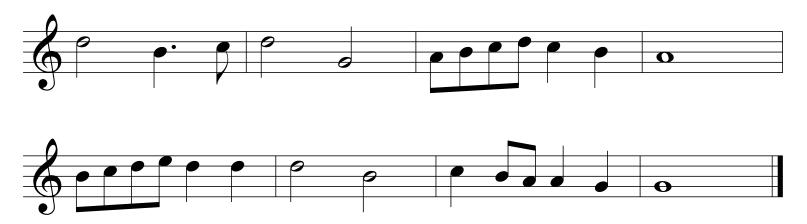


Saxophone 1



Hail the Conquering Hero

Saxophone 1





Hail the Conquering Hero

Saxophone 2





Alto Sax 1



The Crusaders

(All the F's are Natural except for Bars 37+38)

