

# THE FAMILIAR UNKNOWN— STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL SIGHT READING

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***What we have not named or beheld as a symbol escapes our notice.***

W.H. Auden (1907-1973)

What we do not already know how to sing, we cannot sight read.

Echo sing → Encode → Decode



*Welcome to this session sponsored by the Texas Music Educators Conference. TMEC is your link to the Music Educators National Conference (MENC): The National Association for Music Education. We hope you find the information in this session helpful in your teaching.*

*TMEC/MENC has many great resources for you. We encourage you to come by our booths in the exhibit area. TMEC is Booth #8100 and MENC is Booth #8096.*

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*If we can be of any further assistance to you, please feel free to contact us.*

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# SING ALONG :: MEMORIZE :: INTERNALIZE

*echo Sing as notated*

*vary rhythms*

*add ornaments (neighbors and passing tones)*



*Sing melodies - memorize - internalize*




**:: ENCODE THE MUSIC :: SING AND NOTATE ::**

*Ex. Sing and notate*


D D R    t D R    M M F    M R D    R D t    D



D D R    t D R    M M F    M R D    R D t    D

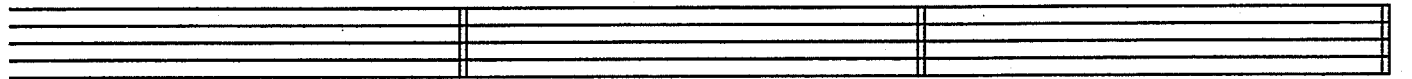


D D R    t D R    M M F    M R D    R D t    D

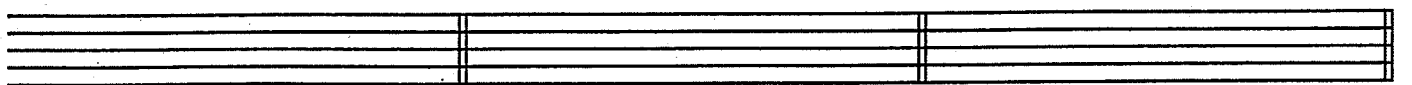



**:: ENCODE THE MUSIC :: SING AND NOTATE ::**

S M D M S (L T) D'    S M D M S (L T) D'    S M D M S (L T) D'



S M D M S D'    S M D M S D'    S M D M S D'



# Guidelines for

# Successful

# Sight

# Singing

1 Check the time signature.

3/2      4/4      7/8      3/1

5/4      4/2      3/8      6/4

2 Scan the music. Find the shortest rhythmic value.

3

Pause to ask yourself:  
"How fast can I read  
the shortest rhythmic value?"  
(Be realistic...)

Now, set your tempo a little bit slower.

5 Scan the music again.  
Focus on any rhythmic pattern that may be tricky.  
Figure it out. Figure it out. Figure it out.

**Go!** 6 **Count the rhythm.**  
One Two Three Four    One Two Three-and Four    One-e-and-a Two-and Three-da Four

7 Identify the key signature.

b b b    # # # # # # # #    b b b b    # # #    b b b b b

Tonicize

8

(sing the key's scale and the primary chords).

D E F# G A B C# D D C# B A G F# E D

D F# A D    G B D G    A C# E A    D F# A D

Scan the music again.

Sing with your mental voice.

Listen for scalar motion.

Listen for arpeggios and ornamented arpeggios.  
Figure out any odd leaps or tricky portions.

# 10 Sight Sing Successfully!