

Rehearsing at Home

Mark up your score!!

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- Write your translation if it's in a foreign language, dynamics, breath marks, circle parts to work on at home, mark changes in time/key signature, write the next note at the end of a system/page (CUSTOS), etc.

Rhythm

Time Signature

Simple Meter: Usually a 4 or 2 for the bottom number, top number divisible by 2.
Main beats are divided in to two parts (e.g. 2 eighth notes per quarter note)

The image shows a musical score for a chorus in 4/4 time. The score is written for Tenor and Bass, with two parts (I and II) for each. The time signature is 4/4. The music is marked *pp* (pianissimo). The lyrics are: "A - ve Ma - ri - - - a, gra - ti - a ple - - - -
ple - na, Do - - mi - nus te - cum, be - ne -
na. Do - mi - nus te - cum, be - ne - dic - ta". The score includes a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The music is written in a simple meter, with the main beats divided into two parts (e.g., 2 eighth notes per quarter note). The score is divided into three systems, each with a measure number (1, 5, and 8) and a rehearsal mark (8). A footnote at the bottom states: "* A small ensemble may be used."

Time Signature

Compound time - usually an 8 (sometimes 16) on the bottom, top number is divisible by 3. Main beats are divided into three parts (e.g. a dotted quarter note main beat, divided into 3 eighth notes).

The image shows a musical score for a vocal piece. The score is written in three systems, each with a vocal line (soprano and bass clefs) and a piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs). The time signature is compound time, specifically 8/8, indicated by the '8' on the bottom line of the time signature. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The first system features a vocal line with the lyrics "Si vous me di.siez que l'en - ev - er for morning you" and a piano accompaniment. The second system features a vocal line with the lyrics "nu - i Vous vient du ciel trop fleu.ri d'as - tres, Dé - chi.rant les di.vins ca - sigh, The stars I will hide and their won - der, The splendour of heav'n tear a -". The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *dim.* (diminuendo). The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands.

Time signatures

Especially in compound time, it's helpful to look at the piano accompaniment (if there is one), and to mark where the main beats are.

The image shows a musical score with two systems. The first system features a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The time signature changes from 6/8 to 3/4, then to 6/8, and finally to 3/4. Red triangles are drawn above the vocal line to mark the first beat of each measure. Blue vertical lines are drawn through the piano accompaniment to mark the main beats. The lyrics are: "Si vous me di.siez que l'en . ev . er for morning you". The second system continues the piano accompaniment with lyrics: ".nui . . . Vous vient du ciel trop fleu.ri d'as . très, Dé . chi.rant les di . vins ca . sigh, . . . The stars I will hide and their won . der, The splendour of heav'n' tear a .". The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf* and *dim.*.

Rhythm

- Look through the song and mark the time signature, with a special mark whenever the time signature changes
- Speak or count the rhythm with no text (do small sections at a time!)

3 subitement et très exactement le double plus lent

2 Soli *très doux et très lié*
P

S
Il te faut un man - teau rou - ge,

A
PP *très mystérieux*
(solo) Il te faut un man - teau rou ge, Des gants roug' un mas - que rou - ge,

T
(les autres) l'ou - ge.
PP *très mystérieux*
Il te faut un man - teau rou ge, Des gants roug' un mas - que rou - ge,

B
P *très sec*
Il te faut un man - teau rou - ge

Text/Language

- If a piece is in a foreign language, consider asking the conductor (or section leader) for an audio file of the spoken text, if they don't provide one automatically. Even in a language many have sung in, this provides consistency.

IPA

- Learn 6-10 IPA symbols to use as tools!

IPA to Sound Conversion Chart

Vowels

i	see, heat
ɪ	hit, sitting
e	eight, way
ɛ	met, bed
æ	cat, black
a	arm, father
u	blue, food
ʊ	put, cook
o	home, go
ɔ	horse, ought
ʌ	cup, luck
ə	away, cinema
aɪ	five, eye
aw	now, out
ɔj	boy, join

Consonants

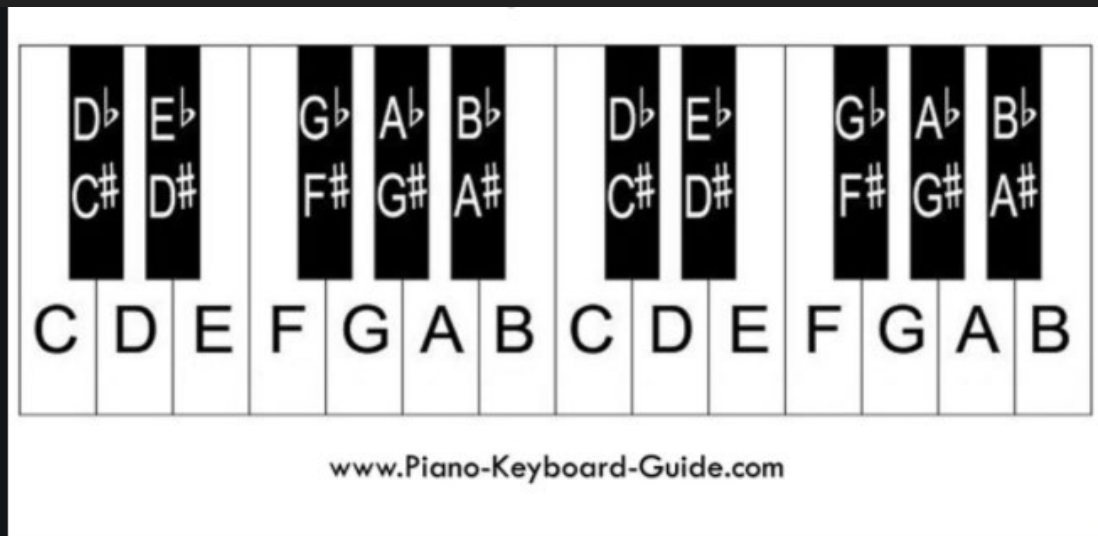
b	bad, lab
p	pet, map
v	voice, five
f	find, if
θ	think, both
ð	this, mother
d	due, lady
t	tea, get
z	zoo, lazy
s	sun, miss
ʒ	pleasure, vision
ʃ	she, crash
dʒ	just, large
tʃ	check, church
g	give, flag
k	cat, back
h	how, hello
m	man, lemon
n	no, ten
ŋ	sing, finger
l	leg, little
r	red, try
r	butter, water
w	wet, window
j	yes, yellow

Text/Language

- Write a full translation in to your score so you're reminded what you're singing about during rehearsals
- Practice speaking the text IN RHYTHM - if you can do this, adding the notes in rehearsal will be SO much easier
- Look for repetition in the text, and practice in small sections

Learning notes

- If you have a piano or keyboard at home, great! But even if you don't it's worth it to learn the notes on the piano and have a keyboard app on your phone/tablet/computer available for plunking notes.



Learning notes

Circle specific “trouble spots” during rehearsal that you want to look at while rehearsing at home (active vs. passive rehearsing)

Runs

- Look for patterns/sequences
- Break in to sections to practice - always add the first note of the next section, to make joining them together easier.

The image shows a musical score for a vocal piece, likely a church cantata, with the lyrics "un-ser Herrscher, des-sen". The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a vocal line and a keyboard accompaniment. The vocal line is divided into two systems, each starting with a section marker 'A'. The first system of the vocal line has three runs highlighted with colored circles: a red circle around the first run, a blue circle around the second run, and a green circle around the third run. The keyboard accompaniment consists of a right-hand part with chords and a left-hand part with a simple bass line. The lyrics are: "un-ser Herrscher, des-sen" (first system) and "un-ser Herrscher, un-ser Herrscher, des-sen" (second system).

Learning notes

- Singing along to recordings - can be a great tool for hearing the relationships between parts, orchestra/piano, etc.
- Ask your conductor if they can recommend a favorite recording - more likely to be closer in style, tempo, etc. to what you're going to do!
- Many choirs, and websites, offer midi files of one vocal line at a time, usually played by a keyboard or other electronic sound.
- Active vs. Passive rehearsing and practicing
- Remember, practice makes permanent, not perfect, so if you're not sure of notes, rhythm, or text pronunciation at home, check them with your conductor or section leader before you ingrain them by repetition.