

Part I: Rhythm Dictation

Dictation involves recognizing and translating aural vocabulary and then transcribing it into notation.

Chapter 4, Simple Meter: Terms and Symbols

Developing Aural-Oral Translation Skills

To build and reinforce translating aural-oral rhythm vocabulary, practice chanting and naming patterns (Section 3.3, 2.3, 1.3) using the three-step process with your instructor or student partner, as well as individually via the MP3 files of the rhythm patterns in Part I, Chapters 1-3 located on the Oxford Companion website.

Rhythm Shorthand

Using a shorthand method can facilitate the symbolic transcription of the above translated aural sounds. Notes with a duration longer than one beat are tied together for the appropriate duration. A dotted quarter note – eighth pattern is indicated by a tie from the first beat to the second beat; a slash is placed on the second beat. See the chart below for additional tied and extension dot patterns.

Suggested shorthand symbols for Part I, Chapters 1-4 are illustrated below.

Simple Meter: Quarter Note = Beat Unit; Review: Chapters 1-4, Part I

Dictation Shorthand	1	2	3	4	5	
Quarter Note = Beat Unit						
	6	7	8	9	10	11

Rhythm Shorthand Procedure

Listen as your instructor or student partner plays or chants on a neutral syllable, a rhythm pattern (Section 3.3, 2.3, 1.3), rhythm exercises (Section 3.4, 2.4, 1.4) and additional reading exercises (Part I, Chapters 1-3, companion website) or via the MP3 files (Part I, Chapters 1-3, companion website) and then notate the rhythm using the shorthand above and the procedure below.

- First playing: Write with one hand and quietly use a down-up motion with the other hand. Following the down-up (↓↑) motion of each beat can be visual and kinesthetic aids in determining the rhythm. Isolate each beat and mark the appropriate shorthand. If the rhythm on a particular beat or two cannot be determined, continue to move forward focusing on the ensuing beats.
- Second playing: On the second playing, readdress the missing beats.
- Third playing: Review your shorthand and make any necessary adjustments.
- Transcribe the rhythm shorthand into notation on the staff.

As your skills improve, gradually increase the length of each dictation exercise. All or part of each reading exercise in Sections 3.4, 2.4 and 1.4 as well as the additional reading exercises available on the companion website can be used for dictation.

Rhythm Shorthand Templates — Chapters 1-4, Part I

Short Hand	1.		2.	
Notation	$\frac{2}{4}$		$\frac{2}{4}$	
Short Hand	3.		4.	
Notation	$\frac{2}{4}$		$\frac{2}{4}$	
Short Hand	5.			
Notation	$\frac{3}{4}$			
Short Hand	6.			
Notation	$\frac{3}{4}$			
Short Hand	7.			
Notation	$\frac{3}{4}$			
Short Hand	8.			
Notation	$\frac{3}{4}$			
Short Hand	9.			
Notation	$\frac{4}{4}$			
Short Hand	10.			
Notation	$\frac{4}{4}$			
Short Hand	11.			
Notation	$\frac{4}{4}$			