

# Dictation

## Part I: Rhythm

### Developing Aural-Oral Translation Skills

Practice chanting and naming patterns (Section 10.3) using the three-step process with your instructor or student partner, or individually via the MP3 files of the rhythm patterns for Part I, Chapter 10 located on the companion website.

### Rhythm Shorthand

Using a shorthand method can facilitate the writing portion of the learning process. Ultimately the goal is to develop the level of proficiency to the point where the shorthand is no longer needed.

Suggested shorthand symbols for Part I, Chapter 10 are illustrated below.

### *Simple Meter: Quarter Note = Beat Unit; Borrowed Beat Division; Chapter 10, Part I*

The image displays two musical staves. The top staff is labeled "Dictation Shorthand" and the bottom staff is labeled "Quarter Note = Beat Unit". The notation includes vertical lines, beams, and numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) indicating beat divisions and groupings. The shorthand symbols are placed above the staff, and the corresponding musical notation (quarter notes, eighth notes, and rests) is placed below the staff.

### Rhythm Shorthand Procedure

Write with one hand and quietly patsch/tap the beat with the other hand. Following the down-up motion of each beat can be an aid 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. On the second playing, readdress the missing beats. Make any necessary adjustments during the third playing and then transcribe the rhythm shorthand into notation.

As your skills improve, gradually increase the length of each dictation exercise. All or part of each reading exercise in Chapter 10 as well as the additional reading exercises available on the companion website can be used for dictation.

