

Dictation

Part I: Rhythm

Chapter 13

More Terms and Symbols

Developing Aural-Oral Translation Skills

Practice chanting and naming patterns (Chapters 1.3-12.3) using the three-step process with your instructor or student partner, or individually via the MP3 files of the rhythm patterns for Part I, Chapters 1-12 located on the Oxford Learning Link.

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.

Review the suggested shorthand symbols for Part I, Chapters 1-12 on the Oxford Learning Link.

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 12 as well as the additional reading exercises available on the companion website can be used for dictation.

Rhythm Shorthand Templates —Part I—Compound Meters

The image displays two sets of rhythm shorthand templates for compound meters. Each set includes a shorthand line and three musical staves. The first set is for two measures, labeled '1.' and '2.', and the second set is for three measures, labeled '3.'. The shorthand line consists of vertical lines representing beats, with a double bar line separating the measures. The musical staves show the corresponding time signatures: 6/8, 6/4, and 6/16. A legend on the left indicates that a quarter note symbol represents one beat unit.

Rhythm Shorthand Templates — Part I—Simple Meters

Short Hand	A					B					C					
Quarter Note = 1 beat	$\frac{2}{4}$					$\frac{2}{4}$					$\frac{2}{4}$					
Eighth Note = 1 beat	$\frac{2}{8}$					$\frac{2}{8}$					$\frac{2}{8}$					
Half Note = 1 beat	$\frac{2}{2}$					$\frac{2}{2}$					$\frac{2}{2}$					

Short Hand	D															
Quarter Note = 1 beat	$\frac{4}{4}$															
Eighth Note = 1 beat	$\frac{4}{8}$															
Half Note = 1 beat	$\frac{4}{2}$															

Short Hand	E															
Quarter Note = 1 beat	$\frac{3}{4}$															
Eighth Note = 1 beat	$\frac{3}{8}$															
Half Note = 1 beat	$\frac{3}{2}$															

Short Hand	F															
Quarter Note = 1 beat	$\frac{4}{4}$															
Eighth Note = 1 beat	$\frac{4}{8}$															
Half Note = 1 beat	$\frac{4}{2}$															

Short Hand	G															
Quarter Note = 1 beat	$\frac{3}{4}$															
Eighth Note = 1 beat	$\frac{3}{8}$															
Half Note = 1 beat	$\frac{3}{2}$															