

Dictation

Part I: Rhythm

Developing Aural-Oral Translation Skills

Refining aural-oral translation skills in mixed meters takes consistent practice via the three-step process. Echo chant and echo translate (Beat Constant and Beat Division Constant) patterns (26.2) with your instructor or student partner, or individually via the MP3 files of Chapter 26 on the companion website.

Rhythm Shorthand

Review the rhythm shorthand keys from previous chapters for simple and compound meters.

Asymmetrical Meters; Chapter 26, Part I

Rhythm Shorthand Procedure

Listen as your instructor or student partner plays or chants on a neutral syllable, rhythm patterns (Beat Constant and Division Constant), rhythm exercises (Section 26.2), and additional reading exercises (Chapter 26, companion website) or individually via the MP3 files (Chapter 26, companion website), and then notate the rhythm using the shorthand above and the procedure below.

- First playing: Write with one hand and quietly use the appropriate beat division motions with the other hand. Following the beat division motions 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 Chapter 26 as well as the additional reading exercises available on the companion website can be used for dictation.

