

Dictation

Part II: Tonal & Melodic

Chapter 4: Diatonic Steps and Tonic Triad in the Major Scale; Simple Meters, Divided Beat

Recognizing, translating and then transcribing aural-oral rhythm and tonal vocabulary into notation are essential skills in the dictation process. Since dictation and reading skills work hand in hand, developing dictation skills positively impacts reading skills and vice versa.

Tonal Dictation: Diatonic Steps and Tonic Triad in Major Scale

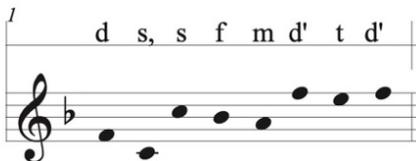
Developing Aural-Oral Translation Skills

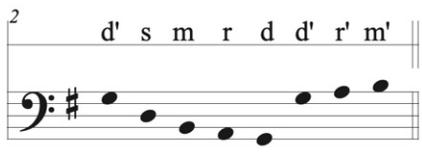
To build aural-oral tonal vocabulary and reinforce translating skills, practice singing and labeling patterns (Section 4.3) using the three-step aural-oral process with your instructor or student partner, or independently via the MP3 files of the tonal patterns for Part II, Chapter 4, located on the companion website. Keep in mind that the third step is aural-oral dictation. The next step would be to notate it on an iconic graph (depicts interval quality) or a staff.

Tonal Procedure

- On the first playing/singing, write the first letter of each tonal syllable. Draw a question mark if a particular pitch cannot be determined and then move forward focusing on the ensuing pitches.
- On the second playing/singing, address the missing pitch(es).
- Translate the tonal syllables into notation by using note heads to indicate the pitches on the staff.

Tonal Dictation and Notation

Tonal Syllables	1 d s, s f m d' t d'
Tonal Notation	

Tonal Syllables	2 d' s m r d d' r' m'
Tonal Notation	

Melodic Dictation: Diatonic Steps and Tonic Triad in Major Scale; Simple Meters, Divided Beat

Melodic Shorthand Procedure

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.

Write the first letter of each tonal syllable above the beat lines and mark the appropriate rhythm shorthand on the beat lines. See Part I, Chapter 2.5 for the rhythm shorthand key that corresponds to this chapter.

- First playing: focus on only the rhythm or tonal aspect, preferably your strongest element.
- Second playing: focus on the other element.
- Third playing: address missing rhythms or pitches and make any necessary adjustments.
- Transcribe the rhythm shorthand and tonal syllables into notation on the staff.

Suggested melodic shorthand symbols for Part II, Chapter 4 are illustrated below.

Melodic Dictation

Tonal Syllables	d	rr	m	ff	s	s	l	s	fm	rd	t	t	d					
Rhythm Shorthand	$\frac{4}{4}$		†		†		U		R		† _r	† _r	†	†		†	U	
Melodic Transcription																		

As skills improve, gradually increase the length of each dictation exercise. All or part of each reading exercise in Section 4.4 as well as Chapter 4 in Part II of Additional Reading Exercises located on the companion website, can also be used for dictation.

Tonal Templates — Chapter 4, Part II

Tonal Syllables	1.													2.																																		
Tonal Notation																																																
Tonal Syllables	3.													4.																																		
Tonal Notation																																																
Tonal Syllables	5.													6.																																		
Tonal Notation																																																
Tonal Syllables	7.													8.																																		
Tonal Notation																																																
Tonal Syllables	9.													10.																																		
Tonal Notation																																																
Tonal Syllables	11.													12.																																		
Tonal Notation																																																

Melodic Templates — Chapter 4, Part II

The instructor will indicate the key signature.

Tonal Syllables 1. 2.

Short Hand

Notation

Tonal Syllables 3. 4.

Short Hand

Notation

Tonal Syllables 5.

Short Hand

Notation

Tonal Syllables 6.

Short Hand

Notation

Tonal Syllables 7.

Short Hand

Notation

Tonal Syllables 8.

Short Hand

Notation

Tonal Syllables 9.

Short Hand

Notation