

Dictation

Part II: Tonal & Melodic

Chapter 8: Major and Minor Modes; Compound Meters, Dotted Quarter Notes = Beat Unit

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: Major and Minor Modes

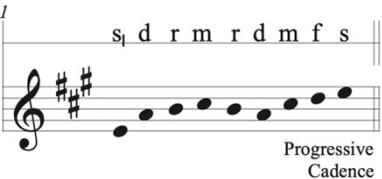
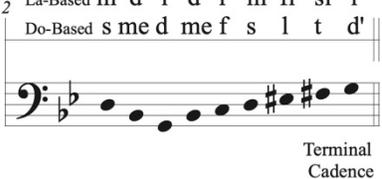
Developing Aural-Oral Translation Skills

Practice naming patterns using the three-step aural-oral process with your instructor or student partner and independently via the Part II, MP3 files of the minor tonal patterns (chapters 3, 6 and 7) and the major tonal patterns (chapters 1 and 2) on the companion website.

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

Major		Minor	
Tonal Syllables	1 s ₁ d r m r d m f s	Tonal Syllables	2 La-Based m d l d r m fi si l' Do-Based s me d me f s l t d'
Tonal Notation		Tonal Notation	

Melodic Dictation: Major and Minor Modes; Compound Meter, Dotted Quarter Note = Beat

Melodic Shorthand Procedure

Using a shorthand method can facilitate the development of dictation skills as it allows one to write as fast as it's heard while allowing time for musical memory skills to develop. Write with one hand and quietly use a down-up motion with the other hand. Following the down-up-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 5.5 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 8 are illustrated below.

Melodic Dictation

As skills improve, gradually increase the length of each dictation exercise. Reading exercises in Section 8.4, 8.8 and 8.9 as well as Chapter 8, Part II, Additional Reading Exercises located on the companion website, can be used for dictation.

Solfège Syllables	1.	d	m	m	r	d	m	f	s	s ₁	d	r	m	f	m	d	r	r		
Rhythm Shorthand																				
Melodic Transcription																				
																			Progressive Cadence	
Solfège Syllables	2.	Do-Based	d	d	r	r	me	f	me	r	d	t	d	me	f	s	l	t	d	
		La-Based	l	l	t	t	d	r	d	t	l	si	l	d	r	m	fi	si	l	
Rhythm Shorthand																				
Melodic Transcription																				
																				Terminal Cadence

Tonal Templates — Chapter 8, 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		

Melodic Templates [Duple Compound] — Chapter 8, Part II

The instructor will indicate the key signature.

Tonal Syllables

1.

Short Hand

♩ = Beat Unit

Tonal Syllables

2.

Short Hand

♩ = Beat Unit

Tonal Syllables

3.

Short Hand

♩ = Beat Unit

Tonal Syllables

4.

Short Hand

♩ = Beat Unit

Tonal Syllables

5.

Short Hand

♩ = Beat Unit

Tonal Syllables

6.

Short Hand

♩ = Beat Unit

Tonal Syllables

7.

Short Hand

♩ = Beat Unit

Melodic Templates [Multi-Compound] — Chapter 8, Part II

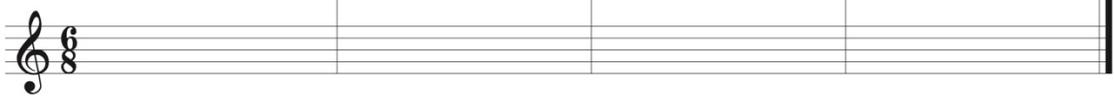
The instructor will indicate the key signature.

Tonal Syllables 1.

Short Hand



♩ = Beat Unit



Tonal Syllables 2.

Short Hand



♩ = Beat Unit



Tonal Syllables 3.

Short Hand



♩ = Beat Unit



Tonal Syllables 4.

Short Hand



♩ = Beat Unit

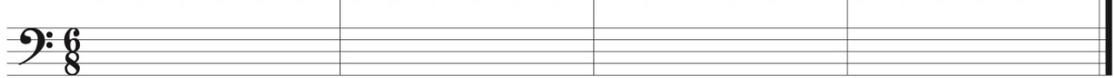


Tonal Syllables 5.

Short Hand



♩ = Beat Unit

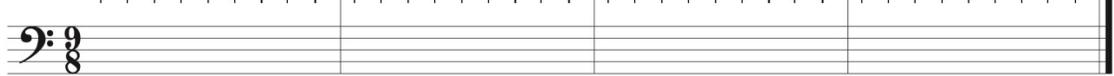


Tonal Syllables 6.

Short Hand



♩ = Beat Unit



Tonal Syllables 7.

Short Hand



♩ = Beat Unit

