



Solfege I: “Stepping Stones To Reading Music”

9, 30-minute videos

Instructor: Diane Geller

Produced by Palomar College

Textbook and other materials:

333 Reading Exercises, Zoltan Kodaly, Revised English Edition, Geoffrey Russell-Smith, Publisher Boosey and Hawkes, 1972

Just Five, Robert E. Kersey, Publisher Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp, 1972

Two-Part American Songs, Book Two, Mark Williams, Publisher Southern Music Company, 1988

This beginning skills course will focus on sight-singing, ear training, keyboard and written skills to develop the ability to sing at sight by means of relative and absolute solmization, recognition of pitches and intervals with accurate intonation.

Video # 1: “First Steps to Music Reading: The Musical Road Map”

Introduction of terms: “Solfege”, “Beat”, “Rhythm”, basic rhythms, beginning melodic intervals: “So-Mi”, and “So-“La”. Following the Musical Road Map for successful practice: 5 Main “Zones”: Rhythm, Intervals, Scales, Exercise/Song Literature, 2-part Singing.

Video # 2: “Counting Your Steps”

Introduction to 2/4 meter, rhythm reading and writing. Melodic review of “So-Mi”, and “La-So-Mi”, “Mi-So-“La”. Adding the 4th: “Mi-La”, “La-Mi”. Practicing these melodic sounds in intervals, scales, exercises, songs, and 2-part singing.

Video # 3: “Stepping Up the Pace and Down The Scale”

Continuing with more advanced rhythms. Introduction to 4/4 and 3/4 meter. Adding “Re” and “Do” to the mix: new combinations of intervals: “Mi-Re-“Do”, and “So-Mi-Re-Do”. Practicing these melodic sounds in intervals, scales, exercises, songs, and 2-part singing.

Video # 4: “ Five Singing Stepping Stones: Introducing the Pentatone Scale” Continuing with syncopation and dotted rhythms, introducing 16th note rhythms.

Introduction of the simple pentatonic scale: “Do-Re-Mi-So-La” in intervals, exercises, songs, and 2-part singing. Also preparation for 2-part skill: singing and playing on keyboard simultaneously.

Video # 5: “A Note Worth Repeating... Extending the Simple Pentatone Up and Down”

Review of rhythms and meters learned so far with reading and writing. Adding High “Do”, “Low “So” , and “Low “La” to the pentatone scale: Extended Pentatone in intervals, exercises, songs, and 2-part singing. Demonstration of 2-part skill: singing and playing on keyboard simultaneously.

Video #6: “ Is it a Mutation?—No It’s An Interval Drill!”

Learning to hear intervals by changing the tonics of the pentatone scales. More practice with 16th note rhythms, and advanced rhythms. Five different flavors: ending the pentatone on different tonics: “Do”, “Re”, Mi”, “So”, and “La”. “Mutation”: Changing from one scale to another on the same starting pitch. Practice with “Re” “Do—Low “La”, Low “So” in intervals, exercises, songs, and 2-part singing.

Video #7: “Advancing Steps in Rhythm and Melody”

Hearing what you see and seeing what you hear and read: Rhythmic and Melodic Dictation of concepts studied so far. Practice with “Mi” “Re” “Do—Low “La”, Low “So” in intervals, exercises, songs, and 2-part singing.

Video #8: “Stepping Up To New Levels of Musicianship”

Review of 6/8 Meter and rhythm Groups I, II, and III, Introduction of Triplets. Savoring the five “flavors”: practicing the five pentatone scales in intervals, exercises, songs, and 2-part singing.

Video #9: “Stepping Toward the ‘Final’—But Not Final Steps!”

Practicing for all skill levels of the Final exam: rhythm dictation, mutating the five pentatone scales, Sight-reading exercises, presenting song literature, singing 2-pt. literature, singing and playing on keyboard.