

SIGHT READING ADJUDICATOR SCRIPT

Introduction and General Instructions

(As the choir is entering the room, determine that the proper level and voicing are correct for the group.)



Good morning/afternoon. My name is _____. I am the sight reading adjudicator. There are two sections to the sight reading procedure, a rhythmic section and a melodic section. The process for each 8-measure section is similar. You will have a study period, a practice performance and a performance that is judged. I will lead you through the rhythmic section. Your teacher will work with you on the melodic section.

Rhythmic Sight Reading

On my signal, you will turn the example over. You have one minute to study the example silently. I will then set the tempo on the metronome and lead you through the exercise, once for practice and a second time for a grade.

Study Period Your one minute of study begins now.

(demonstrate beat counts)

(Use  = 66 for 3/4 and 4/4 time, and  = 54 for 6/8 time) (Explain that 6/8 is compound time, and that although only two beats are felt, the music is subdivided into six 8th note counts.)

I will be using a metronome to set and maintain the tempo throughout the exercise. When clapping, please use two fingers, (demonstrate) so everyone will be able to hear the metronome and stay with the beat. This is how I will count off for 4/4 time, 1, 2, 3, begin. (for 3/4 time, 1, 2, begin; for 6/8 time, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, begin.) Remember to keep your tempo steady.

First Performance

Remember, this performance is not being adjudicated. (Count off with the metronome.)

Second Performance (Adjudicated) (Count off and begin the second performance.)

Melodic Reading Instructions

During the melodic section, your director will be given five minutes to study the melodic example with you, with the following guidelines:

- The director may indicate key or time signatures or point out certain difficult passages and talk about them.
- The director may choose to have the choir practice the rhythms aloud, or speak through the example on solfege syllables.
- Curwen hand signs may be used by the students and director at any time.
- There is to be no vocalizing (singing or humming) of the melodic example, by the director or choir, with one exception (below).

Optional Silent Reading: The director may choose to have students read silently through the example without vocalizing. To facilitate this internal reading, at your director's request, I will play the scale and tonic chord of the melodic sight reading example followed by the starting pitch for each section. The chorus may sing along with the scale and hum their starting pitch(es). I will establish tonality and give starting pitches only once during the five-minute study period.

At the conclusion of the study period, I will play the scale, tonic chord and starting pitches, and you may sing along. Your director sets and maintains a tempo, and leads you through the exercise, once for practice and a second time for a grade. After the practice performance, you will be given **one additional minute for study**. I will establish tonality before the performance that counts.

Melodic Sight Reading

Study Period - Five Minutes

You may begin your five minutes of study. (Establish tonality upon request, only once. Play the scale from "do to do," the tonic chord and the starting pitch or pitches. Students are allowed to sing along with the scale and hum their starting pitch.)

Establish Tonality

First Performance (not adjudicated) During this first performance, the director may conduct, tap, snap, or clap a steady pulse but may not sing, speak, tap, snap, or clap exact rhythms for the choir.

Study Period, one minute

You have one minute to discuss the example. Remember, there is to be no vocalizing.

Establish Tonality

Second Performance (adjudicated)