

Dictation

Part I: Rhythm

Echo chanting rhythm patterns using the three-step process builds aural-oral vocabulary and translation skills. Please notice that during the first and second step of the Phase I process, the student echo chants with inflection first on a neutral syllable and then on rhythm syllables (names/labels the sounds). During the third step, the student listens to the instructor or a partner perform a rhythm pattern on a neutral syllable (bum) and then echo translates the pattern chanting on tonal syllables.

Chapter 2, Simple Meter: Quarter Note = Beat Unit, Divided Beat

Developing Aural-Oral Translation Skills

Practice chanting and naming patterns (Section 2.3) using the three-step process with your instructor or student partner, or individually via the MP3 files of the rhythm patterns for Part I, Chapter 2 located on the companion website.

Rhythm Shorthand

Using a shorthand method can facilitate the writing portion of the learning process. Ultimately the goal is to develop the level of proficiency to the point where the shorthand is no longer needed.

Lines representing the beats are drawn in each measure. Notes with a duration longer than one beat are tied together for the appropriate duration; the corresponding rests are represented by an uppercase “R”. A slash is used for divided beats; rests on the upbeat of a divided beat are indicated by a lower case ‘r’ after the beat bar; rests on the downbeat of a divided beat are indicated by a lower case ‘r’ before the beat bar.

Suggested shorthand symbols for Part I, Chapter 2 are illustrated below.

Simple Meter: Quarter Note = Beat Unit, Divided Beat — Chapter 2, Part I

1

Dictation Shorthand

Quarter Note = Beat Unit

2

3

4

5 R R R

6 R

Rhythm Shorthand Procedure

Listen as your instructor or student partner plays or chants on a neutral syllable, a rhythm pattern (Section 2.3) or via the MP3 files for Part I, Chapter 2 located on the companion website. Transcribe the rhythm using the shorthand above and the procedure below.

Rhythm Shorthand Procedure, cont.

- First playing: 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. 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 Section 2.4 as well as the additional reading exercises available on the companion website can be used for dictation.

Rhythm Shorthand Templates — Chapter 2, Part I

Short Hand	1.					2.							
Notation	$\frac{2}{4}$					$\frac{2}{4}$							
Short Hand	3.					4.							
Notation	$\frac{2}{4}$					$\frac{2}{4}$							
Short Hand	5.												
Notation	$\frac{3}{4}$												
Short Hand	6.												
Notation	$\frac{3}{4}$												
Short Hand	7.												
Notation	$\frac{4}{4}$												
Short Hand	8.												
Notation	$\frac{4}{4}$												
Short Hand	9.												
Notation	$\frac{4}{4}$												