

## Sight-Reading Practice

You've been given a set of simple melodies with which to practice your sightreading, plus a set of report sheets to turn in as documentation of having completed the assignment.

As you complete your reading of a page of the assignment, write down the date, and any comments that you might have to make. (These could be: I went too fast; I went too slow; I did a few pieces twice, etc. This is optional—you may leave the “Comments” area blank if you prefer.)

Here are a few tips to make your sightreading practice as rewarding as possible:

- Practice every day; try to avoid cramming in a bunch of reading late in the week.
- Sing at a slow tempo—never sight-read at “performance” tempo.
- Read a piece *once*; unless you absolutely butchered the thing, there is no purpose in doing it again.
- Keep going, no matter what happens—even if you're just standing there counting beats.
- Be sure to cultivate good habits while reading: conduct, use the syllables, and be mindful of your rhythm and tempo.

Good sight-reading practice is ever so slightly boring—not truly enervating, but without drama. Think of it as a relaxing undertaking, rather than something unpleasant to be endured. It's perfectly OK if the material seems “too easy” for sightreading practice; in fact, that's the way it should be. Too many people compromise their sightreading development by attempting to read overly difficult material, in fact. *Ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny*: start simple and increase the complexity gradually—just the way you learned to play in the first place.