

Sight Reading 101

Rule Number One is : DO NOT look at the first note!

- ♣ Start with an OVERVIEW!
Work with the BIG ideas first, then work inward towards the details.
- ♣ Things like key, meter, tempo – these are an example of BIG ideas.
- ♣ The general length of the patterns, figures, or phrases, is another BIG idea.
- ♣ Identify any rhythmic motif or patterns you can find in the first 4 – 8 measures.
- ♣ Read for the *shape* of a line before looking at the 1st note.
- ♣ Are the notes in the figure moving *up*, *down* or *both* ?
- ♣ Identify any dynamics and articulations present in the first 8 measures.
- ♣ Reading the distance (*called an interval*) between the notes begins with recognition of notes that are *skipping* from notes that are *stepping*.
- ♣ Learn to recognize the 7 intervals that are found within a scale, by shape on the staff, as well as by sound.
- ♣ Know the 12 *Major triads*, and 12 *Minor triads*, each in root position.
- ♣ Learn to recognize the *triads* and their *inversions*.
- ♣ Begin learning to recognize the *Primary Chords* in each key. in any inversion.
- ♣ Begin learning to recognize accompaniment patterns such as Alberti bass.
- ♣ Begin learning to spell with mastery all 30 major and minor keys in music.