

Sight Singing Adventures for Piano Players

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Exploring the circle of fifths.

Change soh for each new set. (Go as far as you can.) Play while you sing the solfa words in your vocal range. Go slowly.

d r m f s d r m f s d r m f s d r m f s

Major scale aural awareness.

Play and sing this solfa sentence forwards and backwards. Do the same in G major and D major from memory. Use L and R hands.

d r m f s f m r d r m f s l t d

The intervals of the arpeggio.

Play this sentence and then sing it in solfa without the piano. Use the interval distances as the words e.g. 4th 4th 3rd 3rd 3rd etc.

d s m d m s d s d s m d m s d
4th 4th 3rd 3rd 3rd 3rd 4th 4th 4th 4th 3rd 3rd 3rd 3rd 5th

- Name/play/sing each interval. (3rd up; 3rd down; 5th up; 4th up etc.) After finding the first note, look only at the music.
- In a soft voice, fill in the notes of the solfa scale that go in between each of these intervals. Sing the written notes more loudly.

d m s d

Chordal awareness to predict the sound of the next note. Learning to play interval distances without looking at the hands.

Play the first note and then work out the pitch of each note in the rest of this sentence. Sing using letter names and then solfa words.

d r m f s f m r d r m f s l t d

Finger stretch estimation for playing wide-apart notes without looking at the hands. (Stretch fingers a moment before playing.)

Predict the sound of each note before you play it by hearing it in your head first. This will help you decide which finger to use.

d m s d

Advanced level pitch accuracy to sing note letter names, interval distances and solfa.

- Play this exercise slowly to hear the ascending and descending scale pattern.
- Play just the C notes while you fill in the scale notes with your voice, using solfa words.
- Sing the intervals using the words: Second, third third, fourth fourth ... oct-ave, sev-enth etc

Sec-ond third fourth etc un-i-son.

Each exercise above is the foundation for many off-shoots and extension ideas for the teacher and student. Writing these ideas on a whiteboard is quicker and more practical than using pencil, (eraser) and manuscript paper. Advantages of the whiteboard method include being able to be read notation from a distance by several people and easy editing.

Ideas can be photographed for home revision, as a record of the lesson, and for building a personal repertoire.