



PHIL

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ESSENTIAL
SIGHT READING
FOR BASS:
PART 3

SBL Course Workbook



ESSENTIAL SIGHT READING FOR BASS:

PART 3

with Phil Mann

COURSE DESCRIPTION

We've already looked at clefs, measures and some of the basic components that make up written notation. In Part 3 of this series we delve deeper into reading rhythms.

Although tab is great for showing you where to play on the fretboard, learning to read notation will give you a far greater knowledge of music in general. Even if you don't want to become a demon sight-reader, just a small amount of information can take you a long way.

And so, with the basics already covered in Part 1 and Part 2, let's get into Part 3!

LESSON 1

Before we get started, let's have a reminder about what we've covered so far. We've come a long way in a short space of time! Each of these stages is really important so don't forget to look back over the basics and keep improving them. Don't feel bad if you haven't kept up – just work at your own pace and make sure you are comfortable with each stage before moving on to the next.



LESSON 2

In **Lesson 2** we will start looking at eighth notes (also known as quavers). Since the notes in these exercises can be played on the open E and A strings, we will focus primarily on rhythm.

Studio Example:



5



Exercise #1



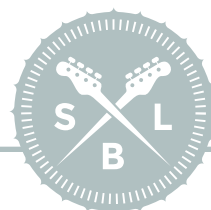
5



Exercise #2



5



LESSON 3

In **Lesson 3** we'll continue to talk about eighth notes and explore more rhythmic variations. If you look at the last bar of the Studio Example you'll notice that, even though all the notes are beamed, the middle of the bar is always visible.

Studio Example:



5



Exercise #1



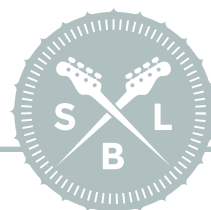
5



Exercise #2



5



LESSON 4

In **Lesson 4** your processing skills will be pushed further. Analyze each exercise and look for landmarks. Remember that the purpose of these exercises is to get proficient at reading eighth note rhythms. If you're struggling with the exercises, start by clapping the rhythms, internalize them, and then try it with your bass.

Studio Example:



5



Exercise #1



9



Exercise #2



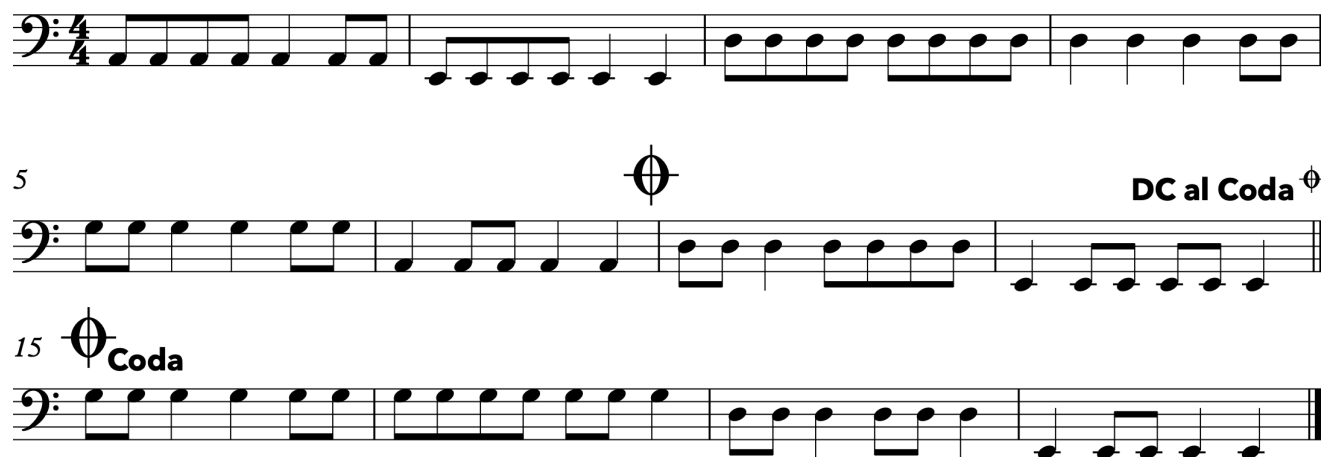
7



LESSON 5

In **Lesson 5** we will incorporate two new elements: Da Capo al Coda (D.C. al Coda) and Da Segno al Coda (D.S. al Coda). These symbols indicate how to navigate sheet music. D.C. takes you to the beginning of the piece and D.S. takes you to the Segno symbol. Remember to not jump to the coda until you are told to.

Studio Example 1:

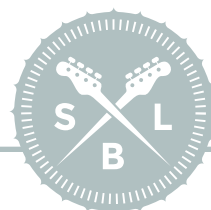


Studio Example 1 shows a musical score in 4/4 time. The first staff contains measures 1 through 4. The second staff begins at measure 5 and includes a Coda symbol (a circle with a cross) above the staff. The third staff begins at measure 15 and includes the text "Coda" next to a Coda symbol. The fourth staff continues the music from measure 15.

Studio Example 2:



Studio Example 2 shows a musical score in 4/4 time. The first staff contains measures 1 through 4. The second staff begins at measure 5 and includes a Segno symbol (an 'S' with a cross) above the staff. The third staff begins at measure 11 and includes the text "Coda" next to a Coda symbol. The fourth staff continues the music from measure 11.



LESSON 5

Exercise #1

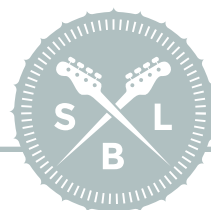


Exercise #1 is written in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. The first staff contains 12 measures of music, ending with a Coda symbol (a circle with a cross). The second staff begins at measure 5 and contains 8 measures, ending with the instruction "DC al Coda" and a Coda symbol. The third staff begins at measure 13 and contains 8 measures, ending with a double bar line. The Coda symbol is also present at the start of the third staff.

Exercise #2



Exercise #2 is written in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. The first staff contains 10 measures of music, ending with a Coda symbol. The second staff begins at measure 5 and contains 8 measures, ending with the instruction "DC al Coda" and a Coda symbol. The third staff begins at measure 11 and contains 8 measures, ending with a double bar line. The Coda symbol is also present at the start of the third staff.



LESSON 5

Exercise #3



Exercise #3 is written in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. The first staff contains four measures of music. The second staff begins with a measure rest labeled '5', followed by a repeat sign, a measure rest, and then the text 'D al Coda' with a coda symbol. The third staff begins with a measure rest labeled '11', followed by the word 'Coda' and a coda symbol, and then continues with musical notation.

Exercise #4



Exercise #4 is written in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. The first staff contains four measures of music. The second staff begins with a measure rest labeled '5', followed by a repeat sign, a measure rest, and then the text 'D al Coda' with a coda symbol. The third staff begins with a measure rest labeled '13', followed by the word 'Coda' and a coda symbol, and then continues with musical notation.



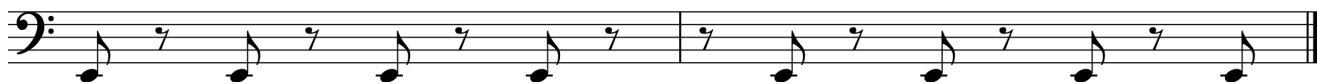
LESSON 6

In **Lesson 6** will focus on eighth note rests. Even though eighth note rests have a small duration, the silence has to be noticeable. Recommended book for rhythm sight reading: Modern Reading Text in 4/4 by Louis Bellson.

Studio Example:



3



Exercise #1



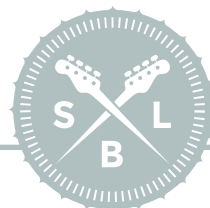
5



Exercise #2



5



LESSON 7

In **Lesson 7** you'll be introduced to a new variation of the Da Capo (D.C.) family: D.C. al fine. Essentially, the instruction is to go to the beginning of the exercise and play it until the end (solid double bar line).

Studio Example:

5 **DC al fine**

17

Exercise #1

5 **DC al fine**

17



LESSON 7

Exercise #2



LESSON 8

The exercises in **Lesson 8** will contain all the learned concepts throughout Part 3 of this sight reading course. You'll also be presented with a D.S. al fine (Da Segno al fine) sign. This sign instructs you to jump to the Segno mark and play the rest of the exercise (fine).

Studio Example:



Studio Example musical notation in bass clef, 4/4 time. The notation consists of three staves. The first staff contains measures 1 through 4, ending with a Segno symbol (S with a cross). The second staff is labeled with a '5' at the beginning and contains measures 5 through 8, ending with a D.S. al fine symbol (D with a cross and the text 'al fine'). The third staff is labeled with a '15' at the beginning and contains measures 15 through 18, ending with a double bar line.

Exercise #1



Exercise #1 musical notation in bass clef, 4/4 time. The notation consists of three staves. The first staff contains measures 1 through 4, ending with a Segno symbol (S with a cross). The second staff is labeled with a '5' at the beginning and contains measures 5 through 8, ending with a D.S. al fine symbol (D with a cross and the text 'al fine'). The third staff is labeled with a '15' at the beginning and contains measures 15 through 18, ending with a double bar line.



LESSON 8

Exercise #2

