



ClariNotes



Sight Reading Tips

Hickman, David. *Music Speed Reading for Beginners*. Manchester: Music Exchange, 1986.

1) Exercises that are missing key signatures, stems, beams, and time signatures.



2) These exercises have a specific rhythm, yet are missing key signatures, stems, and beams.



3) Find music to sight read each day. It can be anything, but you can only sight read once.

"DO YOU ENJOY SIGHT READING?"

I ask this question to all of my students. Those who like to sight read are those who are good at sight reading. Those who don't like to sight read are usually afraid of it and struggle to keep up. The following steps can make sight reading fun and successful.

- Practice counting and fingering the rhythms with a metronome. Use a counting system. When sight reading, the correct rhythm is more important than the correct pitches. (Correct notes are nice too.)
- Try to not stop and fix mistakes. Force yourself to keep going. You can only sight read a piece once, the next time you play it you are now practicing the piece.
- Learn all of your major and minor scales, arpeggios, and thirds. These are the building blocks of music. Find the patterns while you sight read and look ahead at least one beat.

The above exercises help to train your eye to see the spatial relationship between note heads. In the first one, you can choose to play in eighth notes, triplets, or sixteenth notes. Remember to try these exercises in every key.

About This Newsletter

My intention for this newsletter is to offer tips and techniques for teaching and playing clarinet. It is designed for teachers and students alike. The clarinet is unlike many of the other woodwinds in approach to voicing, articulation, and register change. I hope that this will become a great resource for anyone wanting to improve their clarinet technique.

Feel free to contact me with questions.

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