



Online Interactive Choir Lessons

Click on this link for the Google Slides Presentation:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1LLP-ZNqdlO9x9ZdJIKwDFB33mtTE5uyIHC S9S3Pg7IY/edit?usp=sharing>

Click on this link for the student answer sheet:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1GXQWqR2s3feONGGm-H4Cr_Z3bQLmCPcFqgR2 nwj1XkE/edit?usp=sharing

YOU WILL NEED TO MAKE A COPY OF THE STUDENT ANSWER FORM BEFORE USING IT. Do not use the form without first making a copy. After making a copy, you will be prompted to reconnect the folder for student submissions. Click “relink”.

I'm always trying to make these lessons better, so please send me feedback and ideas to admin@jdfrizzell.com!

High School Choir Primer

Introduction to score reading



The musical alphabet uses the letters A through G

A B C D E F G

The letters continue in either direction.

A B C D E F G

E F G **A B C D E F G A B C**

This is what the beginning of most of your music will look like.

Key Signature

Treble Clef

Time Signature

Arpeggio

Bar Line

Quarter Rest

Staff

1.

Soprano

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do
1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Alto

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do
1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Tenor

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do
1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Bass Clef

Bass

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do
1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Bracket

Sometimes it may look like this. Notice there are two parts on one staff-- part I would sing the top note and part II would sing the bottom. Part III has a staff to themselves.

The musical score is presented in two systems. The top system features three vocal parts: Part I and Part II are written on a single staff with a treble clef, while Part III has its own staff with a bass clef. All three parts are in 4/4 time and key of D major. Part I and II have whole rests for the first four measures, followed by a double bar line and then a half note G4. Part III also has whole rests for the first four measures, followed by a double bar line and then a half note G3. The lyrics 'A - gnus' are written below the notes. Dynamics include a piano (*p*) marking above the notes in the fifth measure of each part. The bottom system shows the piano accompaniment, with both hands in 4/4 time and key of D major. The right hand plays chords and moving lines, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note pedal point. The dynamics are marked *mp* (mezzo-piano) for the first four measures and *p* (piano) for the last measure. The text 'pedal harmonically throughout' is written below the left hand. A tempo marking of ♩ = 75 is placed above the first measure of the vocal parts and the piano accompaniment.

♩ = 75

Part I
Part II

Part III

A - gnus

A - gnus

Piano

mp

p

pedal harmonically throughout

There's also a piano part that **accompanies** the choir.

The **staff** is a set of five horizontal lines and four spaces. Each line or space holds a different note, or pitch.

Multiple
staves are
called
staves

Key Signature
Treble Clef
Time Signature
Arpeggio
Bar Line
Quarter Rest
Staff

1. Soprano

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do
1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Alto

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do
1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Tenor

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do
1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Bass Clef

Bass

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do
1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

The **bracket** (or brace) groups together different staves into one **system**.

A musical score for four voices: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The score is written on four staves, each with a treble clef for Soprano, Alto, and Tenor, and a bass clef for Bass. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. A yellow bracket on the left side groups all four staves together, labeled "Bracket". A red line with a dot labeled "1." points to the first measure of the Soprano staff. A red line with a dot labeled "8" points to the first measure of the Bass staff. A red line with a dot labeled "Key Signature" points to the B-flat symbol. A red line with a dot labeled "Treble Clef" points to the treble clef on the Soprano staff. A red line with a dot labeled "Time Signature" points to the 4/4 time signature. A red line with a dot labeled "Arpeggio" points to the first measure of the Soprano staff, which contains a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth rest, then a quarter note, and a half note. A red line with a dot labeled "Bar Line" points to the bar line after the eighth measure. A red line with a dot labeled "Quarter Rest" points to the quarter rest in the eleventh measure of the Soprano staff. A red line with a dot labeled "Staff" points to the Soprano staff. The lyrics are: "Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do". The numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 3, 1, 1, 7, 1, 2, 1, 1 are written below the lyrics.

Key Signature

Treble Clef

Time Signature

Arpeggio

Bar Line

Quarter Rest

Staff

1.

Soprano

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do

1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Alto

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do

1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Tenor

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do

1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Bass Clef

Bass

8

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do

1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Bracket

In between two **systems**, there is usually some open space. Recognizing this space helps you follow your part from one system to the next.

The **bracket** also helps you recognize each system separately.

Alto

Tenor

Bass Clef

Bass

Bracket

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do
1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do
1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do
1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

This space separates the staff systems. You can identify separate systems by the brackets on the left side of each system. See that when you get to the end of your staff in one system, you go to the same staff on the next system. For example, the soprano part is the top line of every system.

5

Half Rest

Measure

S

A

do re mi sol mi sol mi fa re fa re mi re do
1 2 3 5 3 5 3 4 2 4 2 3 2 1

do re mi sol mi sol mi fa re fa re mi re do
1 2 3 5 3 5 3 4 2 4 2 3 2 1

A **measure** is a segment of time in a piece of music defined by a certain number of beats.

1.

Measure *Arpeggio* *Bar Line* *Quarter Rest* *Staff*

Soprano

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do
1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Alto

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do
1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Tenor

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do
1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Bass Clef

Bass

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do
1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Measures are separated by **bar lines**.

Key Signature

Treble Clef

Time Signature

Arpeggio

Bar Line

Quarter Rest

Staff

1.

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass Clef

Bass

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do

1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do

1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do

1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do

1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

The **time signature** tells us how many beats are in a given measure.

The image displays a musical score for four voices: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The score is written in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The Soprano part is marked with a '1.' and a 'Treble Clef'. The Alto part is marked with an '8' and a 'Bass Clef'. The Tenor part is marked with a 'Bass Clef'. The Bass part is marked with a 'Bass Clef'. The time signature '4/4' is highlighted in yellow in the Soprano part. The key signature is indicated by a B-flat symbol. The score includes a 'Key Signature' label, a 'Time Signature' label, an 'Arpeggio' label, a 'Bar Line' label, and a 'Quarter Rest' label. The lyrics are 'Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do' with numbered fingerings: 1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1. The Soprano part is marked with a '1.' and a 'Treble Clef'. The Alto part is marked with an '8' and a 'Bass Clef'. The Tenor part is marked with a 'Bass Clef'. The Bass part is marked with a 'Bass Clef'. The time signature '4/4' is highlighted in yellow in the Soprano part. The key signature is indicated by a B-flat symbol. The score includes a 'Key Signature' label, a 'Time Signature' label, an 'Arpeggio' label, a 'Bar Line' label, and a 'Quarter Rest' label. The lyrics are 'Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do' with numbered fingerings: 1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1.

Key Signature

Treble Clef

Time Signature

Arpeggio

Bar Line

Quarter Rest

Staff

Soprano

1.

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do

1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Alto

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do

1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Tenor

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do

1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Bass

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do

1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

The top number of a time signature tells us how many beats there are in a measure.

4

In this instance, there are four beats in the measure

4

The bottom number of a time signature tells what kind of note gets the beat.

4

4

In this instance, the quarter note gets the beat

For each time signature, tell how many notes are in a measure and what note value gets the beat.

3
4

2
4

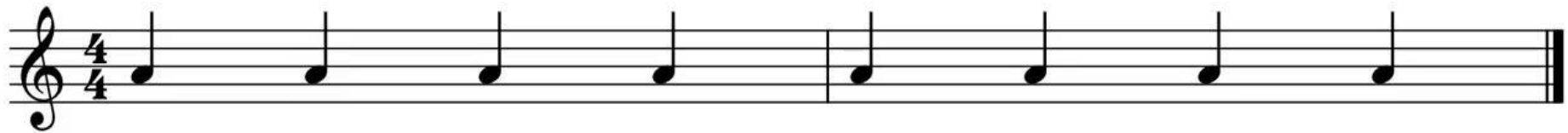
4
4

2
2

4
8

3
8

There are different note values that each have their own duration.



Quarter Notes get 1 beat in 4/4 time

There are different note values that each have their own duration.



Half Notes get 2 beats in 4/4 time

There are different note values that each have their own duration.



Whole Notes get 4 beats in 4/4 time

There are different note values that each have their own duration.



An example with all of these note values

The **bass clef** is used for lower voices. It centers around the fourth line, F.

Key Signature

Treble Clef

Time Signature

Quarter Rest

Staff

Bracket

1.

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass Clef

Bass

Arpeggio

Bar Line

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do

1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

The lines on the bass clef are GBDFA



An easy way to remember this is the acronym
Good Boys Do Fine Always

The spaces on the bass clef are ACEG



An easy way to remember this is the acronym
All Cows Eat Grass

The treble clef is used for higher voices

Key Signature
Treble Clef
Time Signature
Arpeggio
Bar Line
Quarter Rest
Staff

1.

Soprano

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do
1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Alto

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do
1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Tenor

Bass Clef

8

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do
1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Bass

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do
1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

The lines on the treble clef are E G B D F



An easy way to remember this is the acronym
Elvis' **G**uitar **B**roke **D**own **F**riday

The spaces on the treble clef are F A C E



An easy way to remember this is the word FACE!

The **key signature** tells us where the tonal center is. If you use solfege, the tonal center is “do”. If you use numbers, the tonal center is 1.

This is the key of F, one flat.

An easy way to remember that is “One F is F”, as in one flat is the key of F.

You’ll learn more about key signatures in future lessons!

Key Signature
Treble Clef
Time Signature
Arpeggio
Bar Line
Quarter Rest
Staff

1.

Soprano

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do
1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Alto

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do
1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Tenor

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do
1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

Bass Clef

Bass

Do re mi fa sol mi do do ti do re do do
1 2 3 4 5 3 1 1 7 1 2 1 1

The image shows a musical score for four voices: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The key signature is one flat (F major), and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes solfege syllables (Do, re, mi, fa, sol, mi, do, do, ti, do, re, do, do) and fingerings (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 3, 1, 1, 7, 1, 2, 1, 1). Labels point to the key signature, treble clef, time signature, arpeggio, bar line, quarter rest, and staff. A '1.' is placed at the beginning of the Soprano staff.

Now let's practice singing each note in this example slowly, one at a time, out of tempo.

The image displays a four-part vocal exercise in 4/4 time, featuring soprano, alto, tenor, and bass staves. The key signature is one flat (Bb). The melody is a simple scale exercise: Do (C4), re (D4), mi (E4), fa (F4), sol (G4), mi (E4), do (C4), do (C4), ti (Bb3), do (C4), re (D4), do (C4), do (C4). The exercise is designed for slow, out-of-tempo practice, with each note held for a full measure. The notes are written as quarter notes for the first seven measures and as half notes for the last two measures. The lyrics are written below the notes, and fingerings are indicated by numbers 1 through 7.

Staff	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Soprano	Do	re	mi	fa	sol	mi	do	do	ti	do	re	do	do
Alto	Do	re	mi	fa	sol	mi	do	do	ti	do	re	do	do
Tenor	Do	re	mi	fa	sol	mi	do	do	ti	do	re	do	do
Bass	Do	re	mi	fa	sol	mi	do	do	ti	do	re	do	do



Now let's practice singing this system a bit faster and in tempo! Make sure you are keeping the beat either in your head or by tapping on your side.

The image displays a four-part vocal exercise in 4/4 time, written for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass voices. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The melody for all parts is identical, consisting of 14 measures. The first measure contains four eighth notes (Do, re, mi, fa), the second measure contains two eighth notes (sol, mi) followed by a half note (do), the third measure contains four eighth notes (do, ti, do, re), and the final two measures each contain a half note (do) followed by a quarter rest. Solfège syllables are written below the notes, and numbers 1-7 indicate fingerings. A small '8' is placed below the first measure of the Tenor staff. A speaker icon is located in the bottom left corner.

Measure	Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass
1	Do	Do	Do	Do
2	re	re	re	re
3	mi	mi	mi	mi
4	fa	fa	fa	fa
5	sol	sol	sol	sol
6	mi	mi	mi	mi
7	do	do	do	do
8	do	do	do	do
9	ti	ti	ti	ti
10	do	do	do	do
11	re	re	re	re
12	do	do	do	do
13	do	do	do	do
14	do	do	do	do

Now record yourself singing this example. You may use the recording to help.

The image displays a musical score for a four-part vocal exercise in 4/4 time. The score is written for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass voices. Each staff begins with a treble clef (except for the Bass staff which has a bass clef) and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with rests in the final two measures of each staff. Below each staff, the solfège syllables and their corresponding fingerings are provided.

Staff	Measure 1	Measure 2	Measure 3	Measure 4	Measure 5	Measure 6	Measure 7	Measure 8	Measure 9	Measure 10	Measure 11	Measure 12
Soprano	Do	re	mi	fa	sol	mi	do	do	ti	do	re	do
Alto	Do	re	mi	fa	sol	mi	do	do	ti	do	re	do
Tenor	Do	re	mi	fa	sol	mi	do	do	ti	do	re	do
Bass	Do	re	mi	fa	sol	mi	do	do	ti	do	re	do

Fingerings (from Soprano to Bass):

Staff	Measure 1	Measure 2	Measure 3	Measure 4	Measure 5	Measure 6	Measure 7	Measure 8	Measure 9	Measure 10	Measure 11	Measure 12
Soprano	1	2	3	4	5	3	1	1	7	1	2	1
Alto	1	2	3	4	5	3	1	1	7	1	2	1
Tenor	1	2	3	4	5	3	1	1	7	1	2	1
Bass	1	2	3	4	5	3	1	1	7	1	2	1



Go on to the next system of music. Practice singing your notes one at a time, then sing it in tempo. This is sightreading example 2.

The image displays a musical score for four voices: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The music is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melodic line with corresponding solfège syllables and fingerings written below. The Soprano, Alto, and Tenor parts begin with a whole note rest in the first measure, while the Bass part begins with a half note rest. All parts conclude with a whole note 'do' in the final measure.

Measure	Soprano (S)	Alto (A)	Tenor (T)	Bass (B)
1	do (1)	do (1)	do (1)	do (1)
2	re (2)	re (2)	re (2)	re (2)
3	mi (3)	mi (3)	mi (3)	mi (3)
4	sol (5)	sol (5)	sol (5)	sol (5)
5	mi (3)	mi (3)	mi (3)	mi (3)
6	sol (5)	sol (5)	sol (5)	sol (5)
7	mi (3)	mi (3)	mi (3)	mi (3)
8	fa (4)	fa (4)	fa (4)	fa (4)
9	re (2)	re (2)	re (2)	re (2)
10	fa (4)	fa (4)	fa (4)	fa (4)
11	re (2)	re (2)	re (2)	re (2)
12	mi (3)	mi (3)	mi (3)	mi (3)
13	re (2)	re (2)	re (2)	re (2)
14	do (1)	do (1)	do (1)	do (1)



Record yourself singing this sightreading example 2. You may use the recording to help.

The image displays a four-part vocal score for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The music is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each part consists of 12 measures. The lyrics are 'do re mi sol mi sol mi fa re fa re mi re do' with corresponding fingerings (1-5) written below. The Soprano, Alto, and Tenor parts begin with a half rest in the first measure, while the Bass part begins with a whole note 'do' (1). The Tenor part has an octave sign (8) below the first measure. The lyrics and fingerings are repeated for each part.

Part	Measure	Lyrics	Fingerings
S	1	do	1
	2	re	2
	3	mi	3
	4	sol	5
	5	mi	3
	6	sol	5
	7	mi	3
	8	fa	4
	9	re	2
	10	fa	4
	11	re	2
	12	mi re do	3 2 1
A	1	do	1
	2	re	2
	3	mi	3
	4	sol	5
	5	mi	3
	6	sol	5
	7	mi	3
	8	fa	4
	9	re	2
	10	fa	4
	11	re	2
	12	mi re do	3 2 1
T	1	do	1
	2	re	2
	3	mi	3
	4	sol	5
	5	mi	3
	6	sol	5
	7	mi	3
	8	fa	4
	9	re	2
	10	fa	4
	11	re	2
	12	mi re do	3 2 1
B	1	do	1
	2	re	2
	3	mi	3
	4	sol	5
	5	mi	3
	6	sol	5
	7	mi	3
	8	fa	4
	9	re	2
	10	fa	4
	11	re	2
	12	mi re do	3 2 1



Dynamics are the measurement of volume, or intensity, in music.

p

piano
Soft

mp

mezzo piano
medium soft

mf

mezzo forte
medium loud

f

forte
loud

Practice this example with dynamics.

A musical score for a vocal exercise in 4/4 time, written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes, with lyrics written below. The exercise is divided into two dynamic sections. The first section starts with a *p* (piano) dynamic and includes the lyrics "Do ti do re". The second section begins with a *crescendo* marking, indicated by a red wedge and a downward arrow, leading to a *f* (forte) dynamic for the lyrics "mi fa mi fa mi". This is followed by a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic for "re". The third section starts with a *decrescendo* marking, indicated by a red wedge and a downward arrow, leading to a *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic for "do ti", and finally a *p* (piano) dynamic for the final "do".

p *crescendo* *f* *mf* *decrescendo* *mp* *p*

Do ti do re mi fa mi fa mi re do ti do



Record yourself singing this example. You may use the recording for help.

The musical score is written on a single staff in 4/4 time, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes, with lyrics written below the staff. The dynamics and performance instructions are as follows:

- Do ti do re**: Starts with a *p* (piano) dynamic marking.
- mi fa mi fa mi**: A crescendo is indicated by a red wedge and a green arrow pointing down to the staff, leading to a *f* (forte) dynamic marking.
- re**: A *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic marking is present.
- do ti do**: A decrescendo is indicated by a red wedge and a green arrow pointing down to the staff, leading to a *p* (piano) dynamic marking.

The score ends with a double bar line.



Articulations define the attack and decay of a note.

Legato means to sing or play notes in a smooth and connected manner.

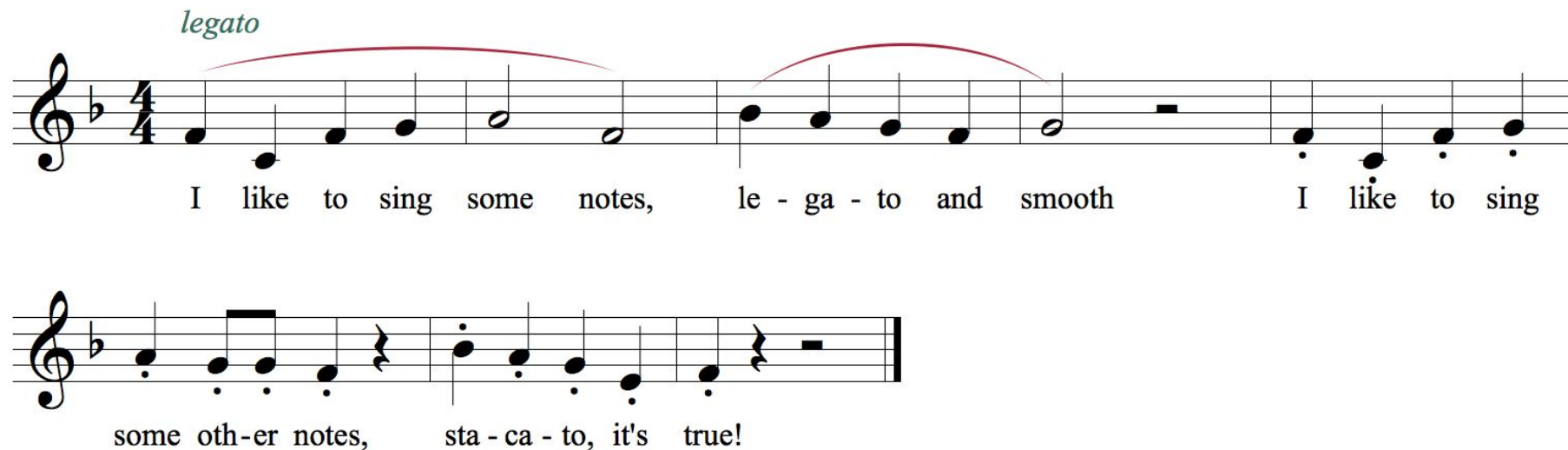
Legato is shown in music with either the word “legato” or a curved line called a **slur**.

Staccato means to sing or play notes with separation between them.

Staccato is shown in music using a dot above or below a notehead.

Practice this example using legato and staccato articulations.

legato



I like to sing some notes, le - ga - to and smooth I like to sing

some oth-er notes, sta - ca - to, it's true!



Now record yourself singing this example on your own with only the piano playing with you.

legato

I like to sing some notes, le - ga - to and smooth I like to sing

some oth-er notes, sta - ca - to, it's true!

