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### Basic Ear Training 1

Lesson 1:  
Conducting as an Ear Training Tool

This lesson is excerpted from an online course. While the navigation links on each page are not active, all of the multimedia interactions are. Have fun!

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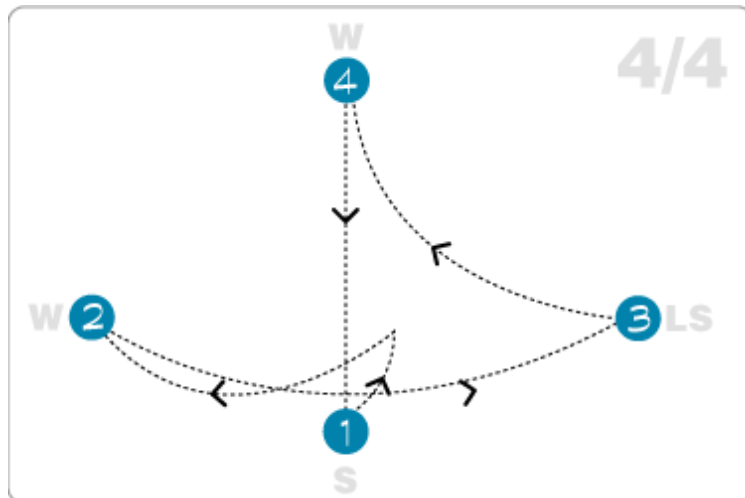
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## Conducting and Singing in 4/4



Click the image to start the video.

Here is the 4/4 conducting pattern.



"S" indicates a strong beat, "W" a weak beat, and "LS" a less strong beat.

Conductors always conduct the measures/pulse of the music with the right hand. Let's count two measures of 4/4 while conducting the above beat pattern with your right hand. There will be a two measure count-off, then begin conducting.

The pattern gives you a visual picture of the pulse of the music. The first beat is the strongest, the second weak, the third beat is strong but not as strong as the first, and the fourth beat is weak. Conducting measures the beat and the pulse of the music. When you're conducting a 4/4 pattern, really lean into beats 1 and 3.

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Now, let's conduct the 4/4 pattern and sing the following whole-note rhythmic example. Sing the syllable "doo" and hold each note for the full four counts. The comma (,) above the staff is a breath mark. Make sure you take a breath before singing each note. There will be a 2-measure countoff. Conduct along, and sing the pitch with the piano. The symbol C ("c" for "common time") is another way of expressing 4/4 time.



The whole rest looks like this:



It's a heavy rest, and it hangs below the line.

When you see this rest, you rest for a whole measure. Sing the next example alternating between the whole note and the whole rest while conducting.



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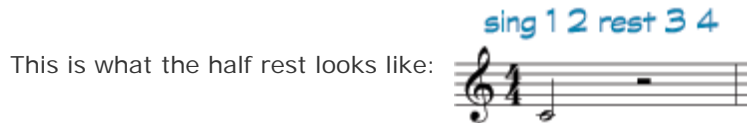
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## Conducting and Singing in 4/4



Now let's conduct and sing half notes with a two measure count off. The half note gets two counts and emphasizes beats 1 and 3 (the strong pulses of each measure). Breathe after each measure.



Sing and conduct the next example, alternating between the half note and the half rest.



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**Conducting and Singing in 4/4**



Finally, let's conduct and sing quarter notes with a 2-measure countoff. Each quarter note gets one beat. Listen to the different pulses in 4/4 time. Again, breathe after each measure. Remember to sing the syllable "doo" for each quarter note.



Here's the quarter rest, where you rest for one beat:



Sing and conduct the next example, alternating between the quarter note and the quarter rest.



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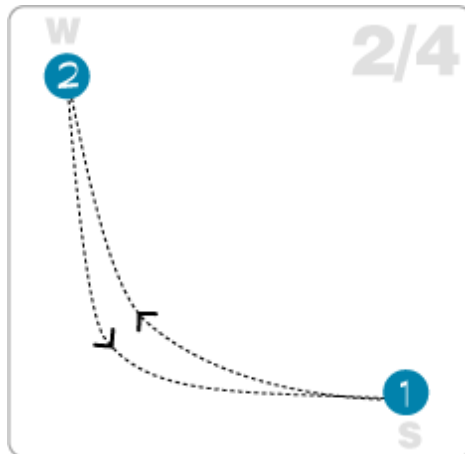
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**Conducting and Singing in 2/4**



Click the image to start the video.

This is the 2/4 conducting pattern.



"S" indicates a strong beat and "W" a weak beat.

Let's count two measures of 2/4 while conducting the above beat pattern with your right hand. Listen for the two measure count off and then conduct the pattern.

In 2/4, the first beat is strong, the second weak. Conducting measures the beat and the pulse of the music. When you're conducting a 2/4 pattern, really lean into beat 1 and rebound on beat 2.

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Now, let's conduct the 2/4 pattern and sing the following half note rhythmic example. Use the syllable "doo," and hold each note for the full two counts. The half note marks the pulse of each measure. Listen for the 2-measure countoff.



As you know, the quarter note gets one beat and marks the pulse of each beat in 2/4 time. Let's conduct in 2/4 and sing the next example. Remember to rebound off of the strong beat 1 into beat 2.



Sing the next example alternating between the quarter note and the quarter rest.



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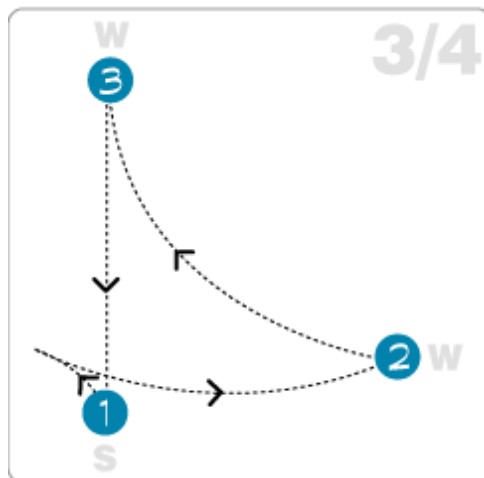
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**Conducting and Singing in 3/4**



Click the image to start the video.

Here is the 3/4 conducting pattern.



"S" indicates a strong beat and "W" a weak beat.

Let's count two measures of 3/4 while conducting the above beat pattern with your right hand.

In 3/4 time, the first beat is the strongest, and the second and third beats are weak. When you're conducting a 3/4 pattern, beat 1 is large, and beats 2 and 3 have much less emphasis.

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## Conducting and Singing in 3/4



Now, let's conduct the 3/4 pattern and sing the following dotted-half-note rhythmic example. The dot adds half of the value to a note; so a dotted half note gets three beats.

2 beats + . = 3 beats

Use the syllable "doo," and hold each note for the full three counts. The dotted half note marks the pulse of each measure. Listen for the 2-measure countoff, and then sing with the piano.

Let's sing and conduct the following examples using the syllable "doo." Wait for the 2-measure countoff, then sing with the piano. Remember that the quarter rest gets one beat rest. Sing the half note for the full two counts and rest on the third beat.

Sing and conduct the quarter note example in 3/4. Wait for the 2-measure countoff.



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**Conducting and Singing in 3/4**



Sing and conduct the following quarter-rest exercises. Each exercise has a two-measure countoff. After the countoff, sing along with the piano.



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