

Dictation

Part I: Rhythm

Dictation involves recognizing and translating aural vocabulary and then transcribing it into notation.

Chapter 6, Simple Meter: Half Note = Beat Unit; Divided Beat

Developing Aural-Oral Translation Skills

Review the rhythm patterns in Chapters 1-3 and Chapter 6.3 using the three-step process with your instructor or student partner, as well as individually via the MP3 files of the rhythm patterns in Part I, Chapter 6, located on the companion website.

Rhythm Shorthand

Review the shorthand for rhythms found in Chapters 1-3 and Chapter 6. See the chart below for transferring the shorthand to another simple meter.

Suggested shorthand symbols for Part I, Chapter 6 are illustrated below.

Simple Meter: Half Note = Beat Unit; Divided Beat — Chapter 6, Part I

<p>Dictation Shorthand</p> <p>Half Note = Beat Unit</p> <p>Quarter Note = Beat Unit</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>R R R</p>	<p>4</p>
	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>r r</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>R r</p>	

Rhythm Shorthand Procedure

Listen as your instructor or student partner plays or chants on a neutral syllable, a rhythm pattern (Section 6.3), rhythm exercises (Section 6.4) and additional reading exercises (Part I, Chapter 6, companion website) or individually via the MP3 files (Part I, Chapter 6, companion website) and then notate the rhythm using the shorthand above and the procedure below.

- First playing: Write with one hand and quietly use a down-up motion with the other hand. Following the down-up ($\downarrow\uparrow$) motion of each beat can be visual and kinesthetic aids in determining the rhythm. Isolate each beat and mark the appropriate shorthand. If the rhythm on a particular beat or two cannot be determined, continue to move forward focusing on the ensuing beats.
- Second playing: On the second playing, readdress the missing beats.
- Third playing: Review your shorthand and make any necessary adjustments.
- Transcribe the rhythm shorthand into notation on the staff.

As your skills improve, gradually increase the length of each dictation exercise. All or part of each reading exercise in Section 6.4 as well as the additional reading exercises available on the companion website can be used for dictation.

Rhythm Shorthand Templates — Chapter 6, Part I

Short Hand	A							B						C						
Quarter Note = Beat	$\frac{2}{4}$							$\frac{2}{4}$						$\frac{2}{4}$						
Half Note = Beat	$\frac{2}{2}$							$\frac{2}{2}$						$\frac{2}{2}$						

Short Hand	D																			
Quarter Note = Beat	$\frac{4}{4}$																			
Half Note = Beat	$\frac{4}{2}$																			

Short Hand	E																			
Quarter Note = Beat	$\frac{3}{4}$																			
Half Note = Beat	$\frac{3}{2}$																			

Short Hand	F																			
Quarter Note = Beat	$\frac{4}{4}$																			
Half Note = Beat	$\frac{4}{2}$																			