

TIPS FOR GREAT SIGHTREADING

1. Always note the key signature, meter, clefs and tempo indications at the beginning of the piece. Be sure to spot any places where these change.
2. When reading books, you probably know that fast readers don't move their lips as they read. The same thing goes for reading notes- **PLAY WITHOUT PAUSING ON EVERY NOTE.**
3. Just as you wouldn't point to each word when reading a sentence, try to read your music **WITHOUT LOOKING DOWN AT THE KEYBOARD.**
4. Get in the habit of **LOOKING AHEAD** - try to take in one or two measures ahead of where you are.
5. **READ CHORDS FROM THE BOTTOM UP.**

In order to train your reflexes to respond properly to the notes printed on a page of music, it is important to play music at sight without changing speed or stopping. The signals seen by your eyes must be instantly translated to motions by your hands and feet.

The best way to accomplish this training is by using a metronome. But it is essential that the tempo of the metronome's clicks corresponds with your present level of ability. Choose a tempo slow enough to enable you to play the piece you choose with a minimum number of mistakes (but not so slow that there is no challenge at all).

If you hit wrong notes, **DON'T CORRECT THEM.** Keep moving at all times. Once you have completed a piece, make a pencil notation of the exact metronome marking you used and the date, and go on to the next piece. **DO NOT REPEAT THE PIECE. ALWAYS MOVE AHEAD TO ANOTHER PIECE.**

