nuvo

Play It Today!

jHorn

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METHOD BOOK
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Introducing Nuvo WindStars!

This book is part of the NUVO "Play it Today" series. It has been prepared and edited by four widely experienced music educators to provide a basis for playing or teaching with NUVO instruments. Introducing basic technique and enough notes to play simple fun tunes solo or in a group. This is the perfect method for developing the necessary skills to further explore the wealth of music you can play with your NUVO instrument.

One of the great things about NUVO instruments is that they are all in the key of C (concert pitch) which means you can share music across instruments. You can even add piano, guitar, ukulele or other classroom instruments to create a band! NUVO instruments are also 100% waterproof which make them durable travel instruments and easy to disinfect.

NUVO has also created the WindStars Curriculum; a pre-band program for Elementary Schools using DOOD, TOOT, jSAX, jFlute, Clarinéo and jHorn. WindStars Teacher and Student Books are available for purchase through NUVO dealers. Supporting materials such as instructional videos, backing tracks and printable files are available as free downloads from the WindStars website: www.nuvo-windstars.com. You can also view the instructional videos on our WindStars YouTube channel. When you have learned all of the music in this book, you can search new tunes on the WindStars website!

Why not perform at your school or in your local community? If you'd like to share your WindStars or individual performance videos, please contact us through the Nuvo or WindStars websites.

For more information, please visit www.nuvo-instrumental.com and www.nuvo-windstars.com

MORE KIDS, MORE MUSIC, MORE FUN!

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jHorn – Play it Today Book

The jHorn is fantastic fun to play and a great way to introduce younger players to the joy of playing brass instruments. This "Play it Today" book will guide you through the basics of playing the instrument and reading music notation. You do not need prior experience playing an instrument or reading music notation. This book is written to be used either on your own or as part of a larger group or class. You can play these tunes with other C instruments such as recorders, xylophones and ukuleles.

Nuvo Super-Stars & Certificate

Look out for the 9 stars as you progress through the book. You can color them in when you reach them to show that you have learnt everything up to that point. You can also color the stars below to track your progress.

When you have finished the book, and can play all the tunes, you can print out the "Play it Today" certificate, fill in your name and put it on your wall!

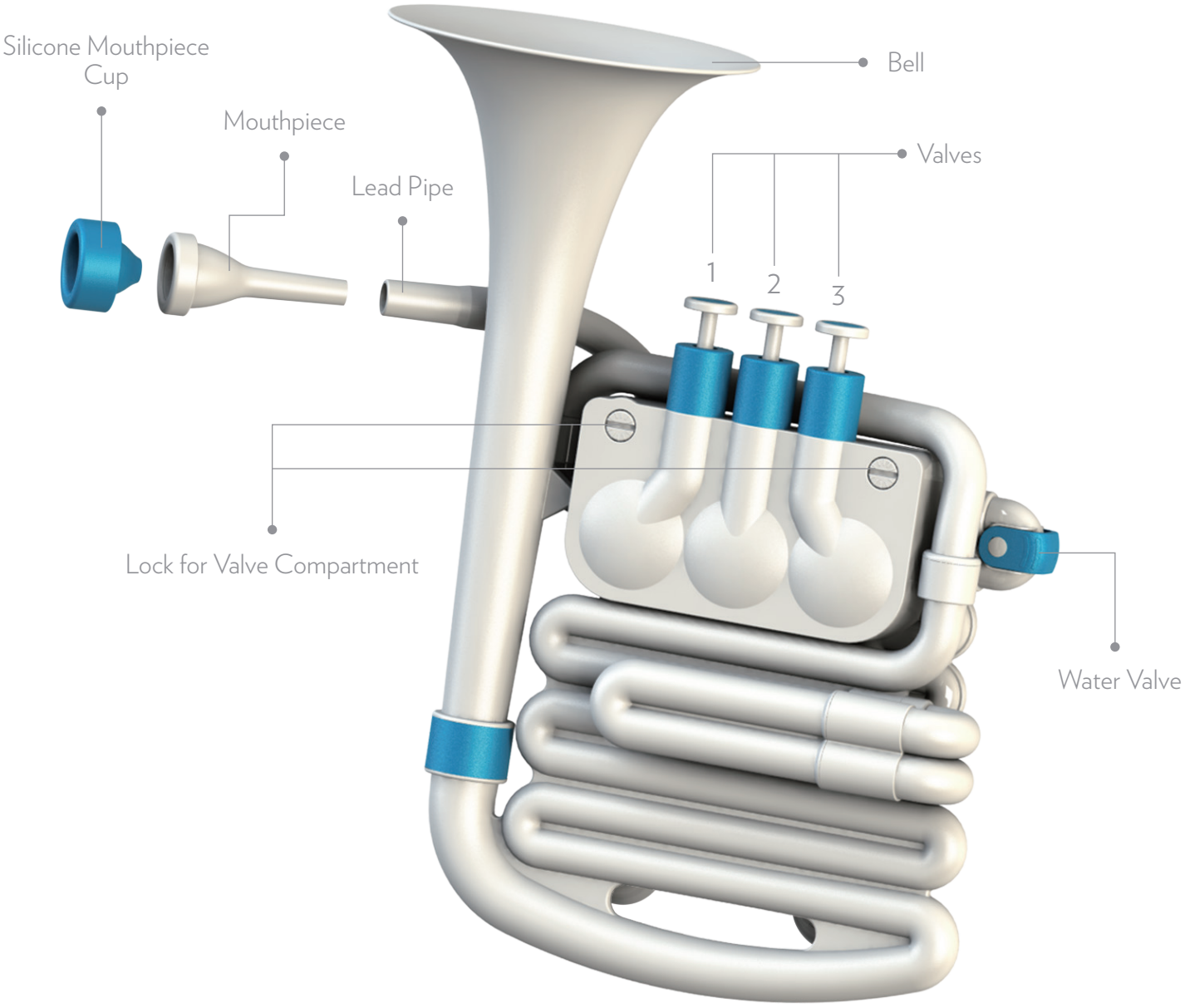
Backing Tracks

Throughout the book you will find backing tracks as shown.

TRACK 01 - B Tune by Graham Lyons

You can download all the tracks and videos and manage them from your computer when not online.

Introducing the jHorn



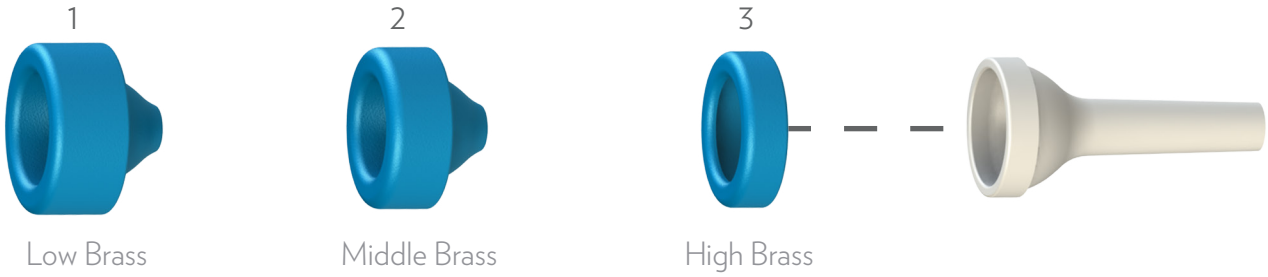
To use this book, make sure your jHorn is set up in B-flat tuning Your jHorn will be in B-flat out of the box so unless you have moved anything around, it is ready to go! Check the leaflet that came with your jHorn if you are unsure which key your jHorn is currently in.

jHorn Assembly

1. Attach a silicone mouthpiece cup to the mouthpiece with a slight twist.
2. Insert the mouthpiece into the lead pipe.
3. Make sure the mouthpiece is connected securely but not too tight.

Mouthpiece Options:

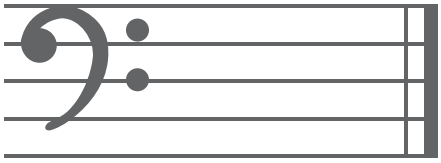
Your jHorn comes with three different sized silicone mouthpiece covers. They correspond to different members of the brass family. We suggest you start out with cup #1 or #2, especially early on when learning to play low notes. Eventually, try all three sizes!



Water Valve

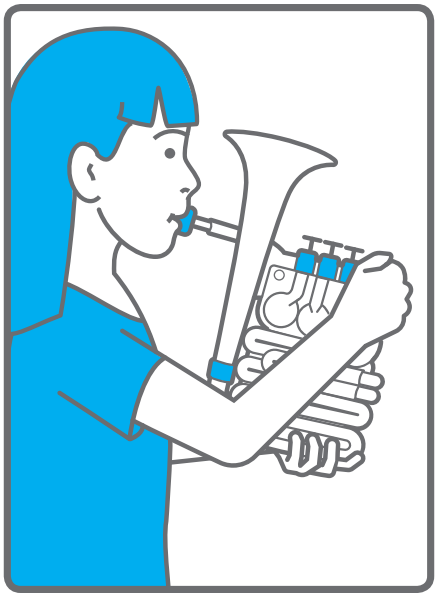
There is a silicone water valve on the jHorn. Squeeze both sides of the water valve and turn the jHorn on its side while blowing through the instrument to expel any build up of condensation. You may also need to remove and shake out the slides on the back of the instrument.

Note: This book is written in bass clef and teaches baritone/tuba fingerings.



Holding the jHorn

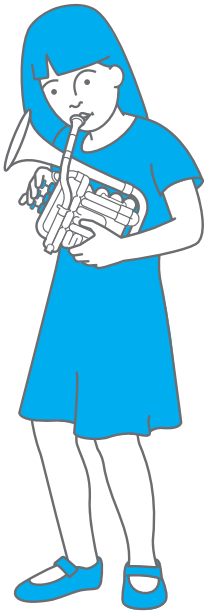
Make sure the mouthpiece is facing you. Create a cup shape with your left hand and place it on the bottom or side of the jHorn. Your right hand rests on top of the instrument.



Good Posture

If sitting, the posture of the upper half of the body should be the same as the images above.

Correct



Needs Improvement

Playing Your jHorn

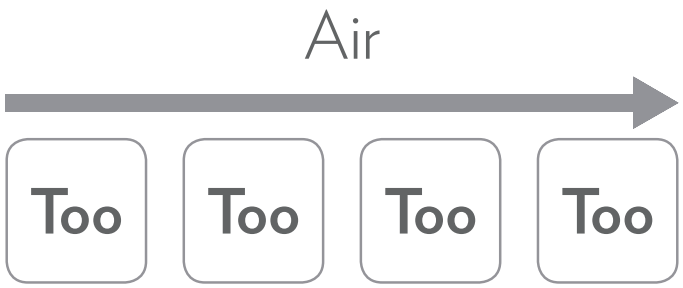
1. Lick your lips. Then keep your lips together and try to blow them apart with only your air to create a buzz.
2. Try to create a buzz with high and low sounds.
3. Bring the mouthpiece to your lips gently, don't press it too hard.
4. Try to create a buzz with the mouthpiece.
5. Try to create different pitches buzzing into the mouthpiece.
6. Transfer the mouthpiece to the instrument and repeat the previous steps.

Not Making a Sound?

If you find you can't make a sound, your lips may be too tight or not tight enough to create a buzz. You can also experiment with different sized mouthpieces. The large mouthpiece cup will make the low notes speak easier while the smaller mouthpiece brings out the higher notes more naturally.

Articulation

Once you can create a consistent tone on the jHorn, you can begin to introduce articulation which is the separation of notes by using the tongue to interrupt the airflow. Start by saying "Too" without the instrument. Notice how the top part of the tongue moves up and down. Next, bring the instrument to the mouth and trying playing notes B, A, and G making sure to start each note with the tongue. Try playing different rhythms on one note making sure to clearly articulate each note.



Note Lengths

Music notes tell us what notes to play as well as how long to hold the notes for.

In $\frac{4}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{2}{4}$ time signature:

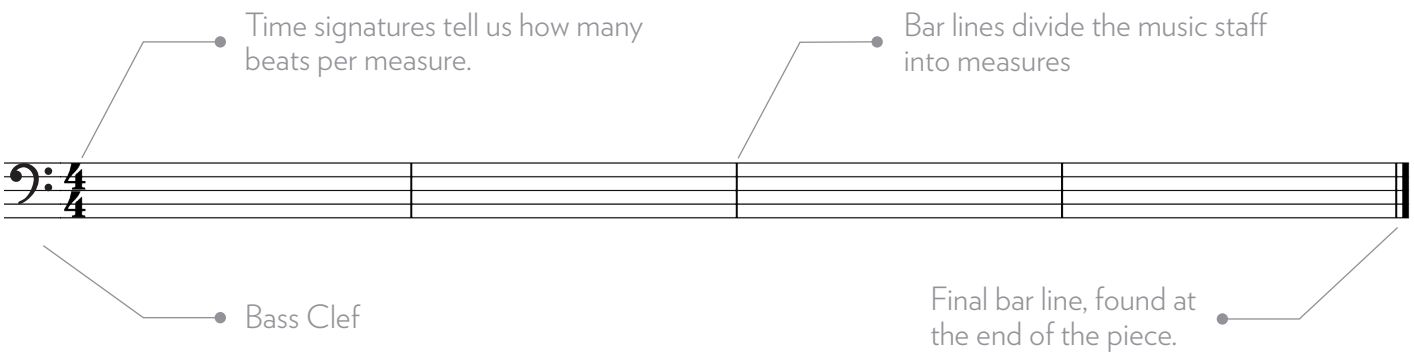
Whole Note:
4 counts of sound

Half Note:
2 counts of sound

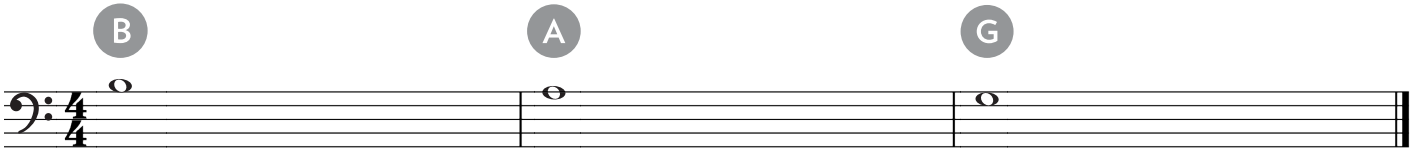
Quarter Note:
1 counts of sound

Introducing the Staff or Stave

Musical notation is written out using 5 lines called the staff, or stave. The notes are placed either in the spaces between the lines, or on the lines depending on which notes they are.



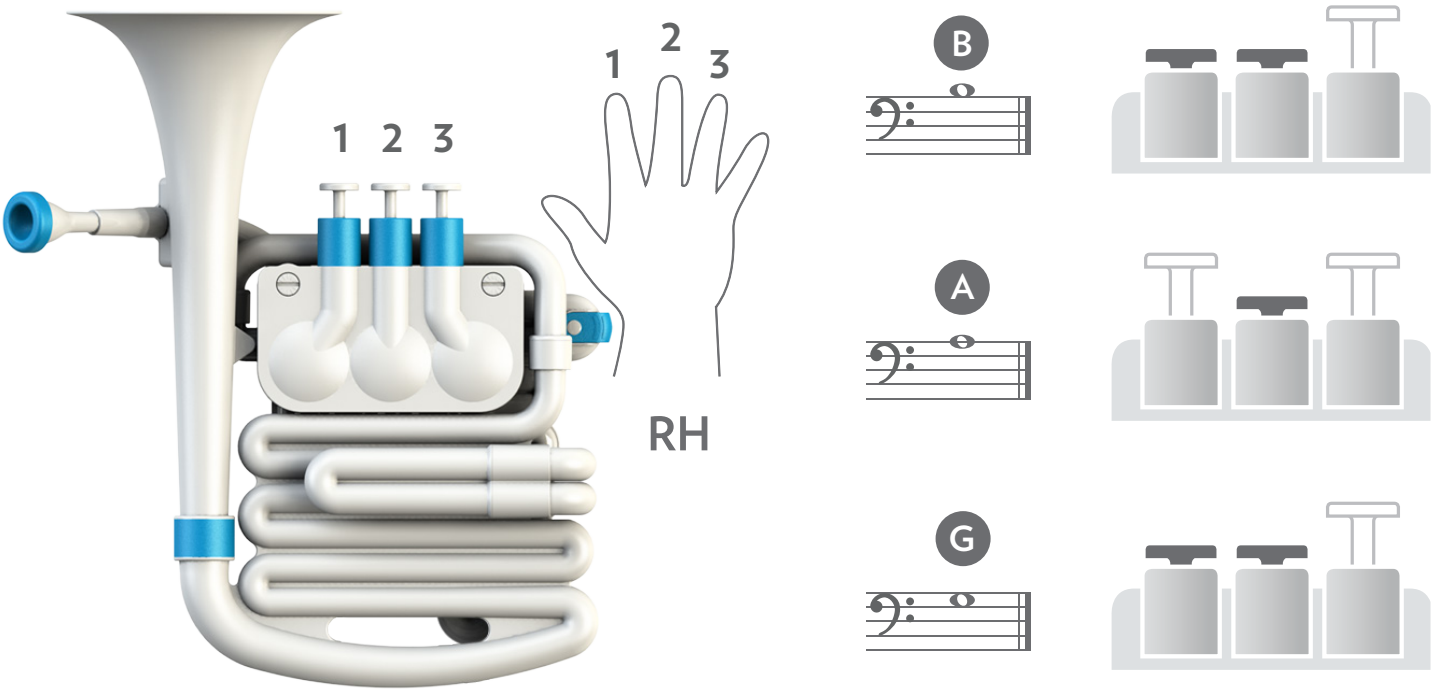
The first 3 notes we will learn on the jHorn are called B, A and G. This is what they look like on the staff. Notice how A is on the line which the B and G are in the spaces between the lines.



We will learn to read more notes at the same time as we learn to play them on our instruments.

Let's Play Some Notes: B, A and G

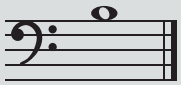
The first notes we are going to learn on the jHorn are B, A and G. Remember how to hold your instrument (refer to page 6 if needed).



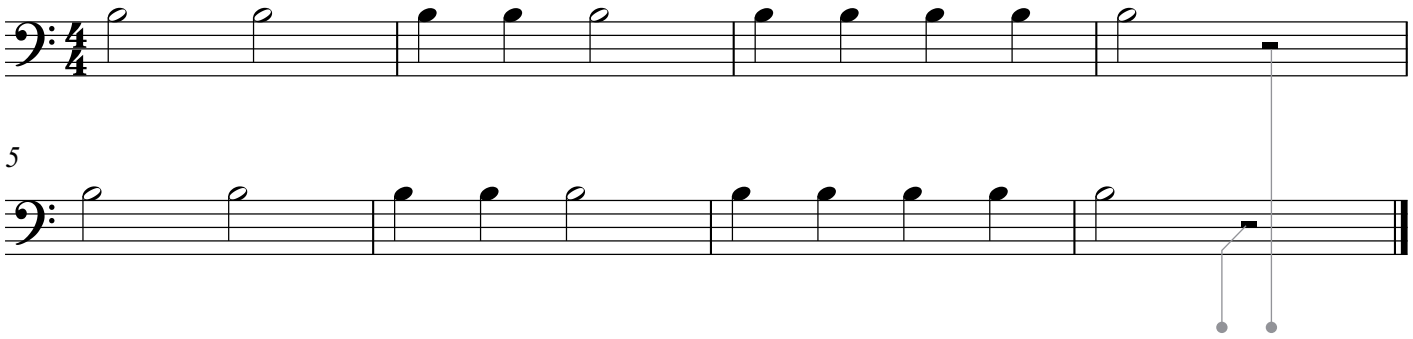
Notice that the fingering is the same for notes G and B. Use a tuner or piano to double check your pitches as you are starting out. Use faster air to play the higher pitch!

Let's Play Some Tunes

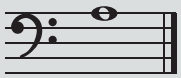
The first tune we are going to play only uses one note – B. First try to clap out the rhythm of the tune, then have a listen to the demonstration track while clapping along to the tune whilst looking at the music.

NOTE **B**

01

B Tune

Graham Lyons

Now try and play the tune on your instrument, follow the music as you play.

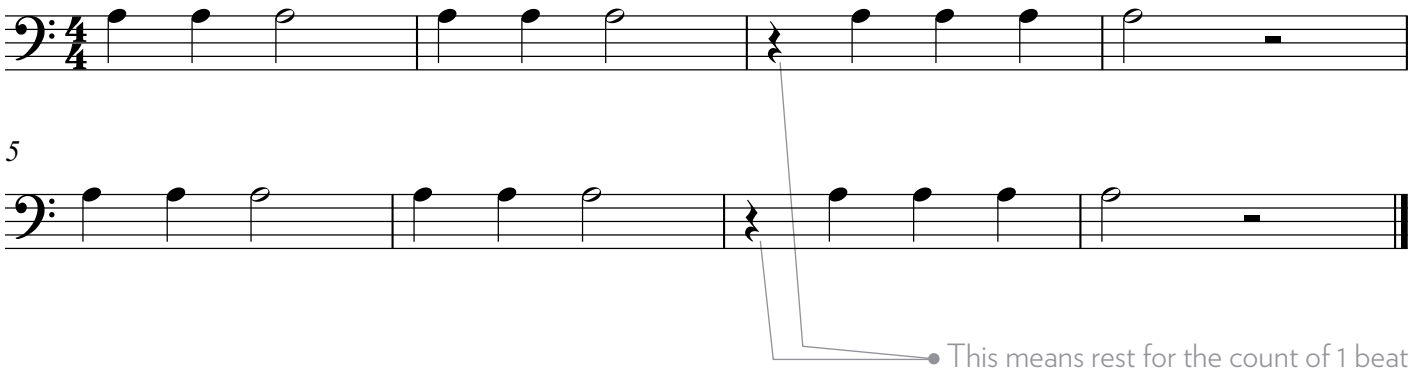
Improvise: Play the backing track again and make up your own music using the note B.

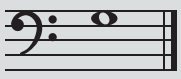
NOTE A

Now try the same with this tune which uses just the note A. Remember to try clapping the rhythm of the tune first.

02

A Tune

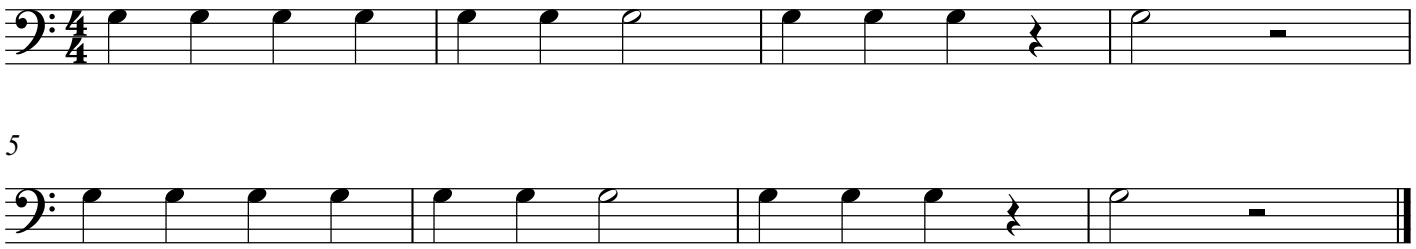
Graham Lyons



NOTE G

03

G Tune

Graham Lyons

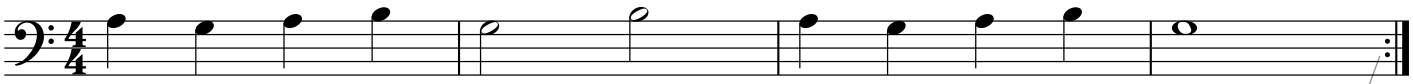


If we want the music to sound more interesting we need to use more than one note in a tune. Try playing these 4 tunes that use B, A and G. Notice the repeat sign at the end of some pieces - this means you repeat the tune again from the start.

04

Button

Graham Lyons

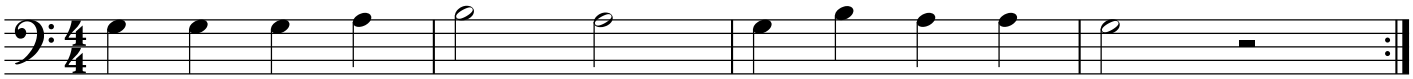


This means repeat

05

Au Clair de la Lune

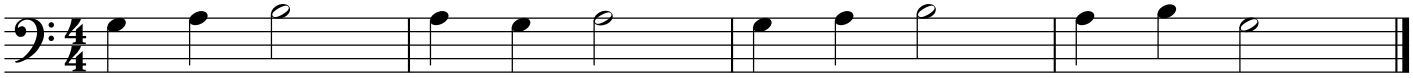
Trad.



06

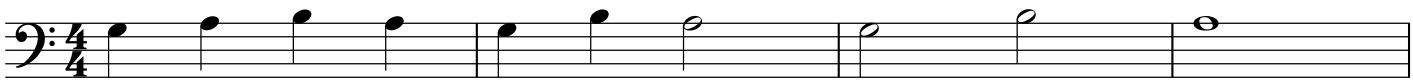
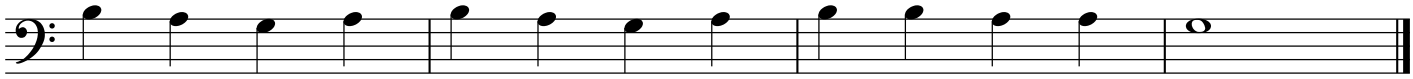
Suo-Gan

Trad. Welsh



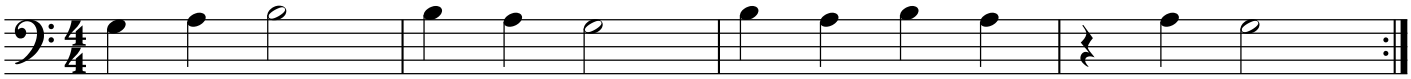
07

Up and Down

Bruce Hunnisett

5

More B, A, G Tunes

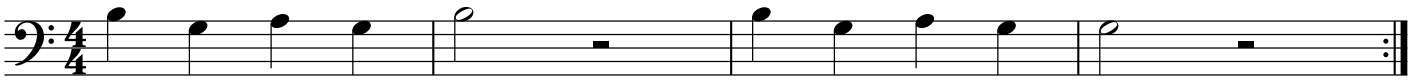
08

Baggy Pants 1

Graham Lyons

09

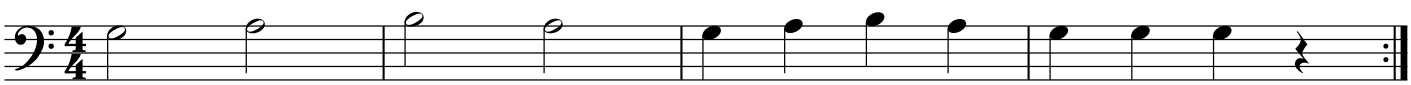
Baggy Pants 2

Graham Lyons



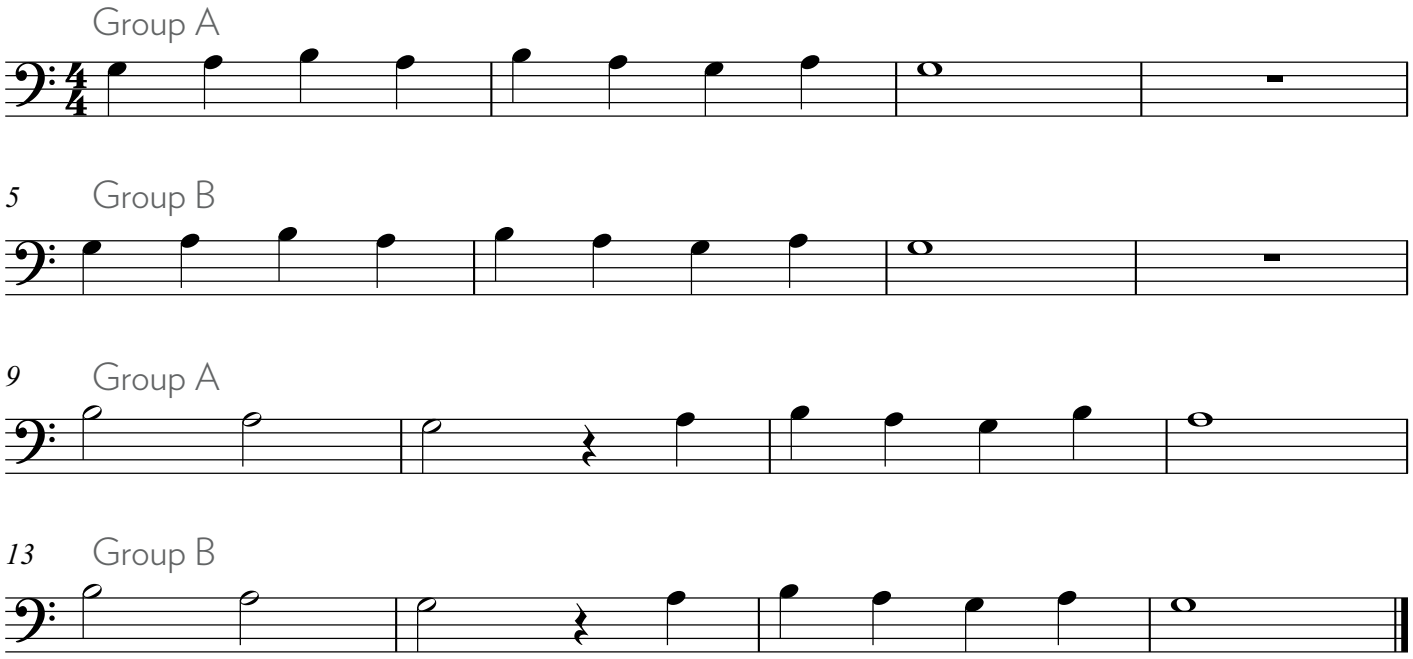
10

Baggy Pants 3

Graham Lyons

When you play "Time Traveller" first listen to the backing track, then try to play with the music. Find a friend to play the other part!

11

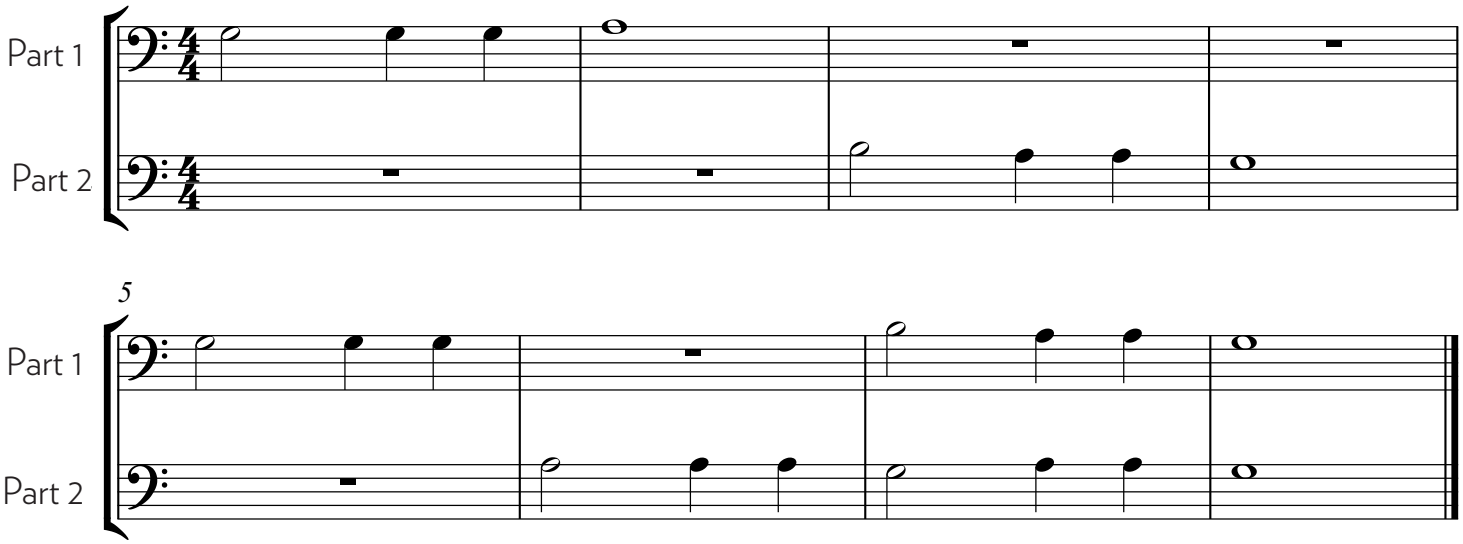
Time Traveller

Graham Lyons

Playing Duets

Music is usually played by more than one instrument at a time. A duet is a piece written for two players or groups. Sometimes the two players/groups have similar sounding lines, other times they have very different lines but they always sound great when played together.

12

Rock Duo

Paul Barker

Introducing Eighth Notes

When we need notes that are shorter than quarter notes, we can use eighth notes. Each eight note is worth half a quarter note.

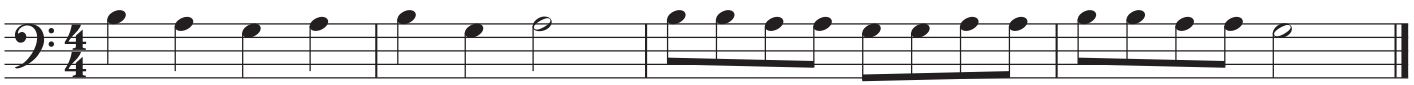
A Single eighth note

2 Eighth notes beamed together equal 1 quarter note

See if you can spot the eighth notes in "Donkeys." Clap the rhythm, listen to the track, then try to play it.

13

Donkeys

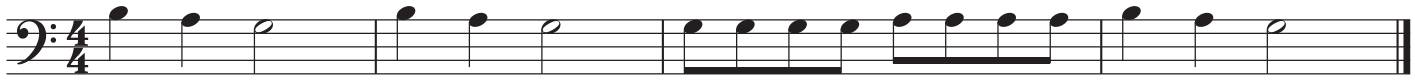
Graham Lyons

Articulation

This is a good time to review articulation which is when we start notes with the tongue. Review page 8.

Try playing "Hot Cross Buns" and pay attention to starting each note with your tongue.

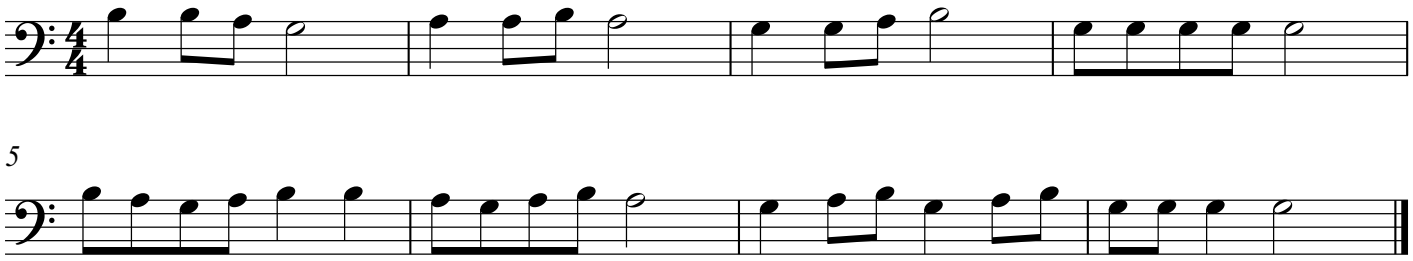
14

Hot Cross Buns

Trad.

15

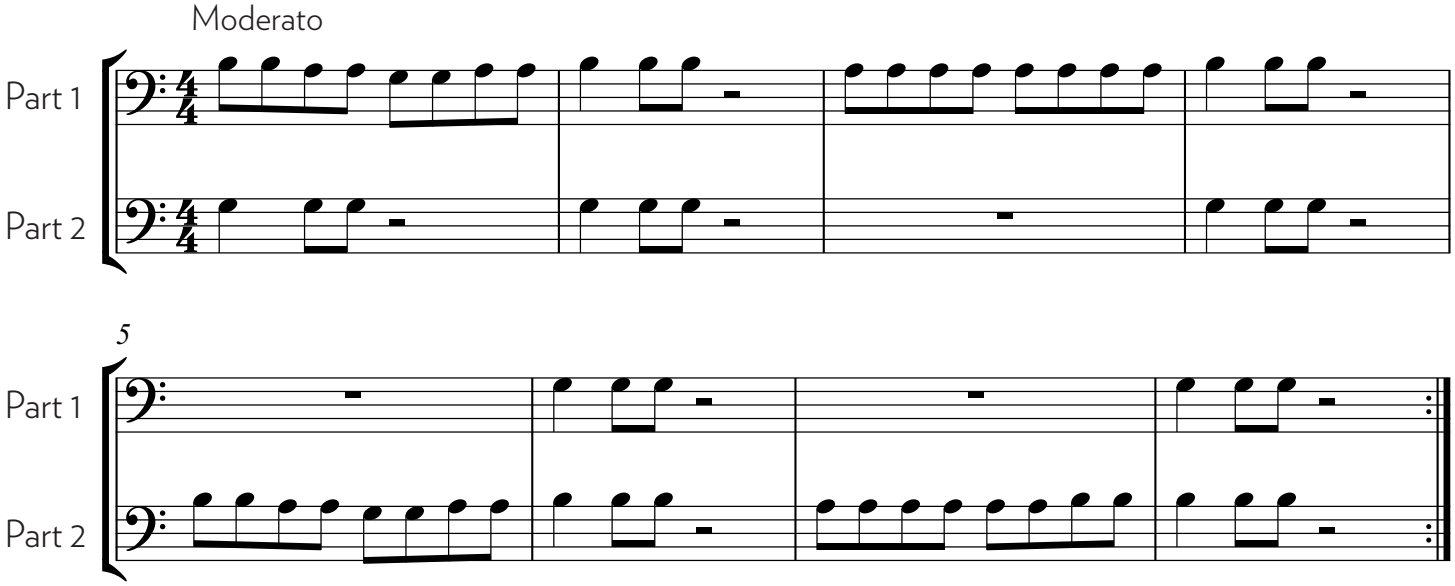
Eighth Note Workout!

Bruce Hunnisett



16

Disco Duet

Paul Barker

Let's Learn 2 More Notes: C and F

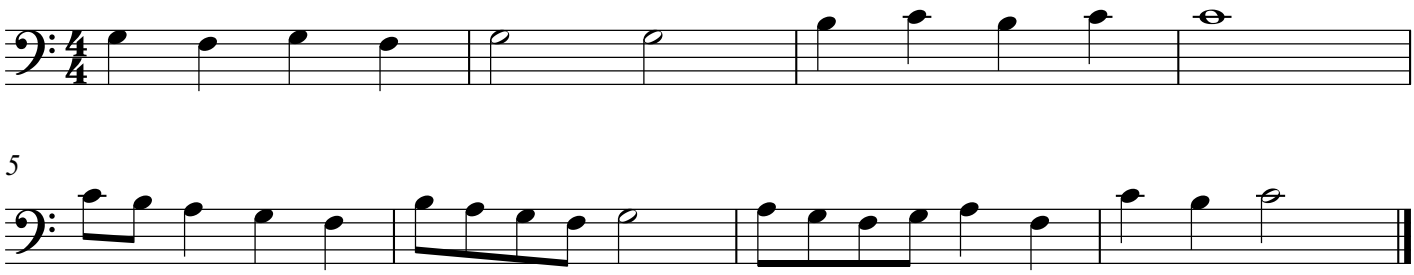
NOTE C

NOTE F

17

C Freeze!

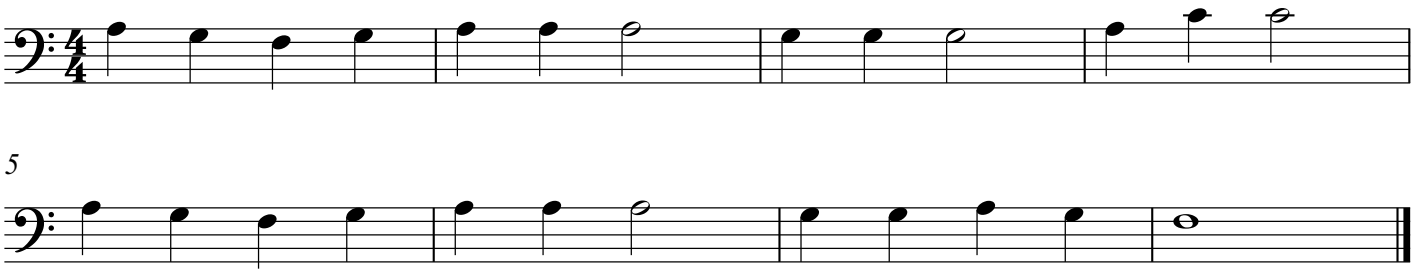
Bruce Hunnisett



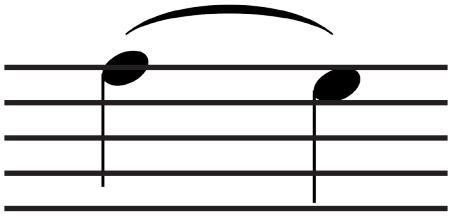
18

Merrily

Trad.



Slurs



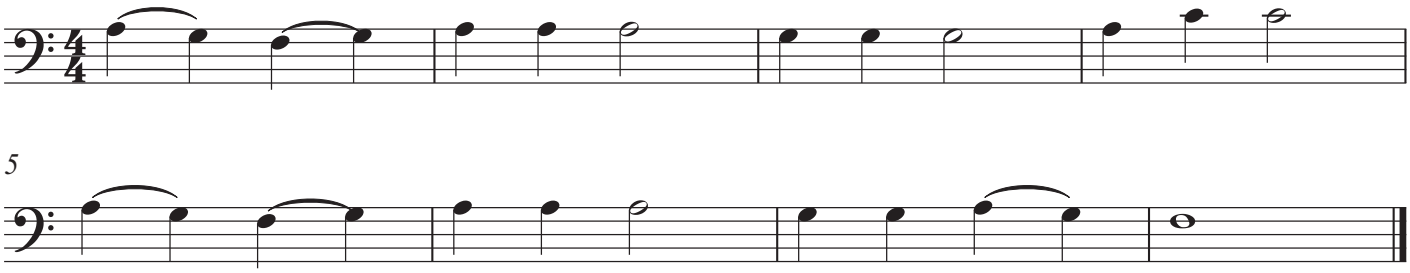
If there are notes in a tune which should not be tongued, we connect the notes with a slur. These notes are played in one breath but are not separated with the tongue. Move your fingers smoothly to change the note.

Try playing "Merrily" again, this time with some of the notes slurred. Try to play those passages in one breath, with no gaps.

19

Merrily

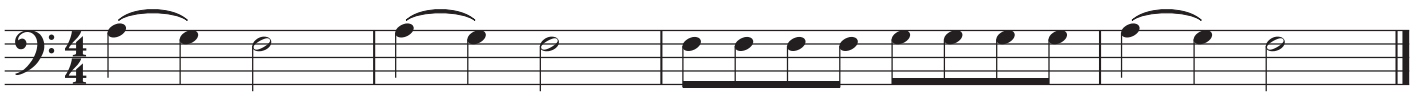
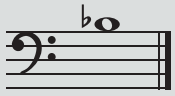
Trad.



Now try playing "Hot Cross Buns" again, this time using different notes and adding some slurs. We call this playing in a different key.

20

Hot Cross Buns

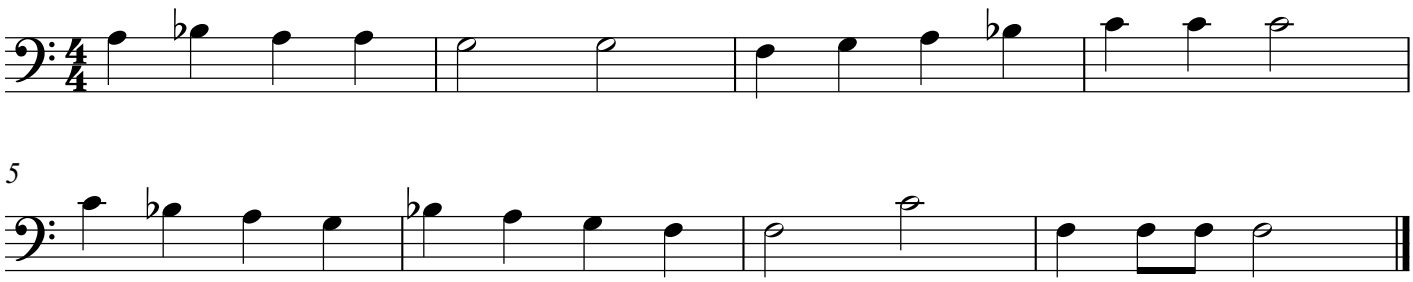
Trad.

NOTE B♭

The Flat Sign

A flat sign can be placed in front of any note. It lowers the note by a half-step.

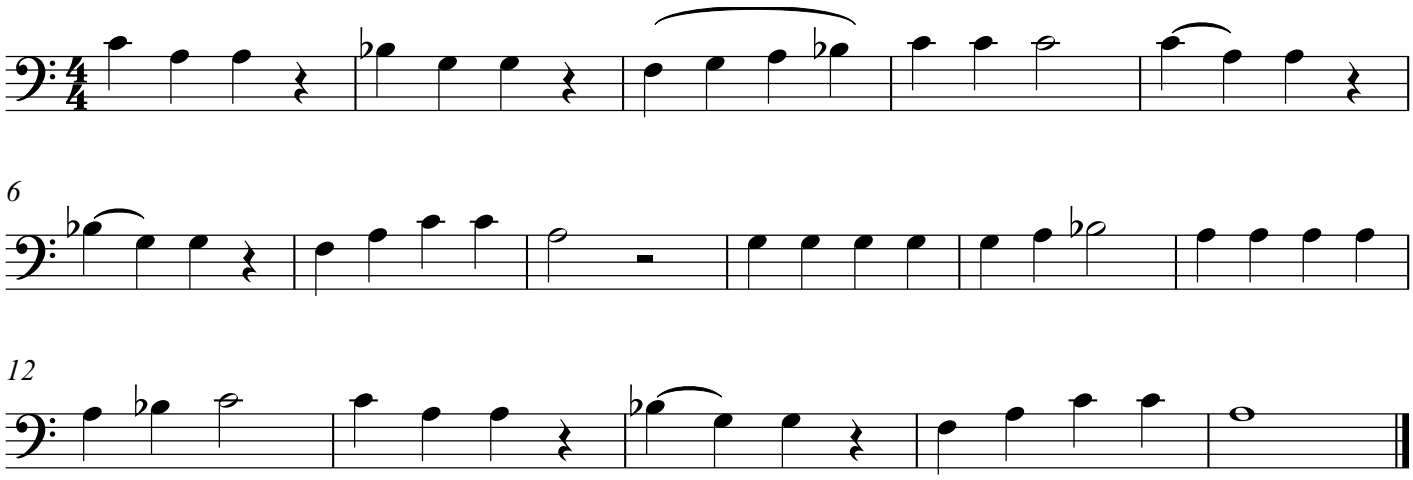
The next note we are learning is a B♭. It sounds slightly lower than B. Try playing this note; it should sound half way between A and B. Now play B, A and B♭ and listen to the difference between the notes.

21

B Flat, B Tall, B Tuneful!

Bruce Hunnisett

22

Little Hans

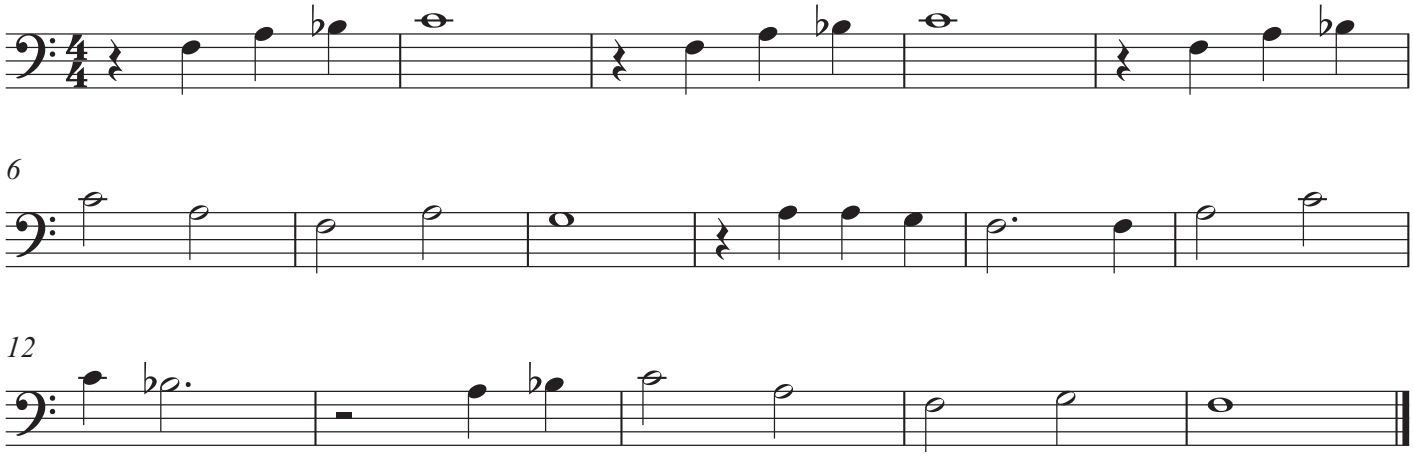
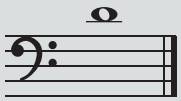
Trad.

Introducing the Dotted Half Note

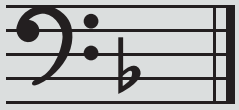
A dot after a note adds half the value of the original note. The dotted half note will be worth 3 counts in $\frac{4}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{2}{4}$ time signatures.

Look out for the dotted half notes in this tune.

23

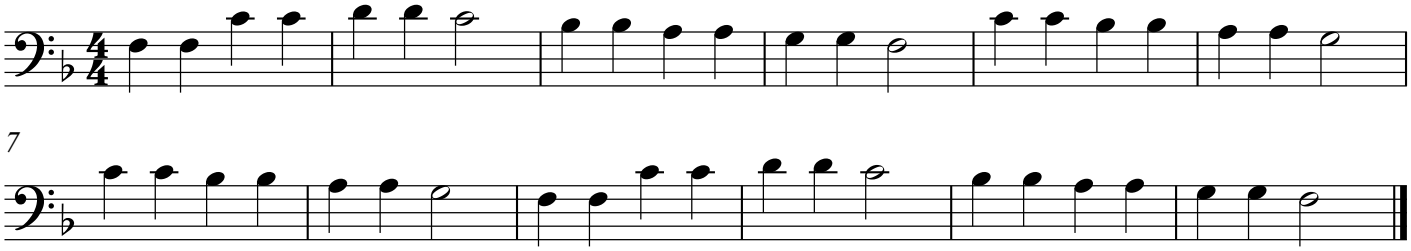
When The Saints

Trad.

NOTE D

Key Signatures

If you look at the start of "Twinkle Twinkle", you will notice a flat sign on the B line at the start of every line. This is called the key signature, and it means all the B notes in the tune should be played as B♭.

24

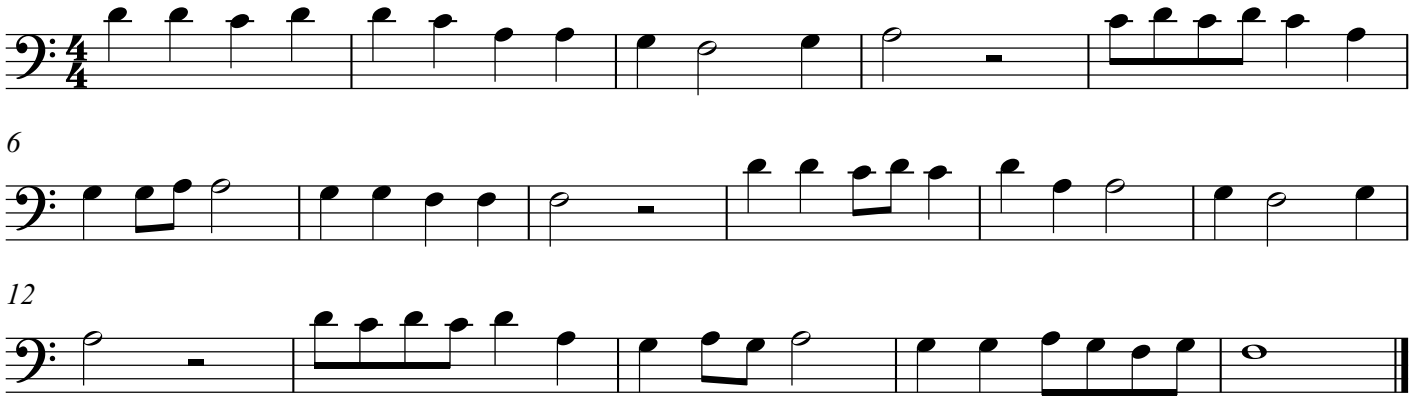
Twinkle Twinkle

Trad.



25

Dis is "D" Tune!

Bruce Hunnisett

Let's Learn Three More Notes: E, Low D and Low C.

NOTE E

NOTE D

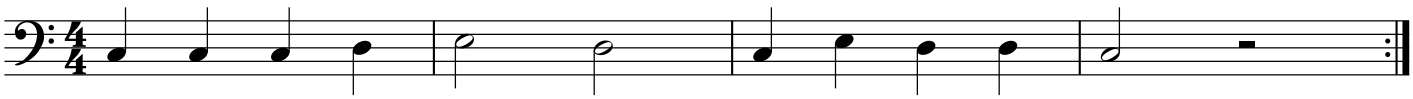
NOTE C

Now try playing these notes. The low notes can be hard at first. If you are struggling to get the correct sound, try using the #1 mouthpiece cup which is the largest/deepest.

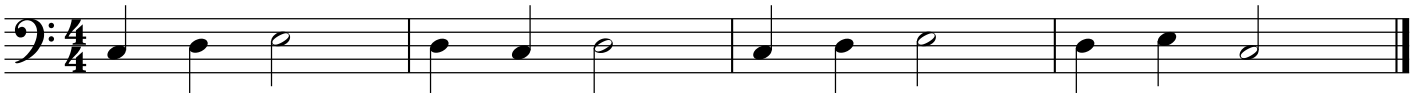
Let's revisit some tunes from earlier in the book, but this time we are going to be using these new notes.

26

Au Clair de la Lune

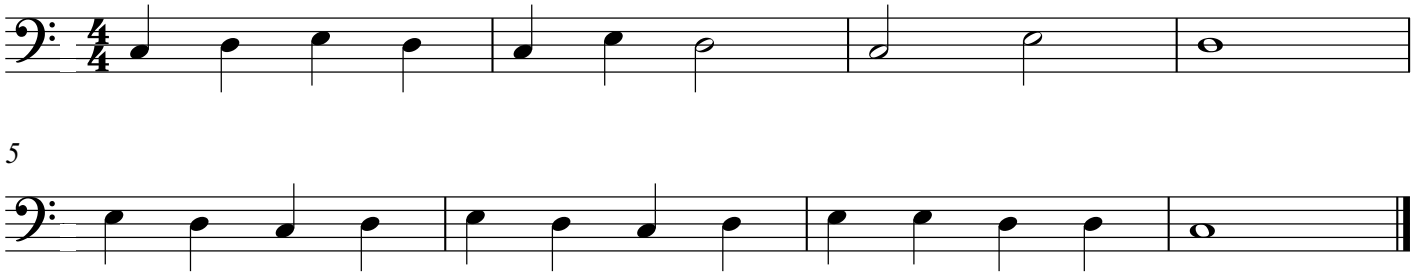
Trad.

27

Suo-Gan

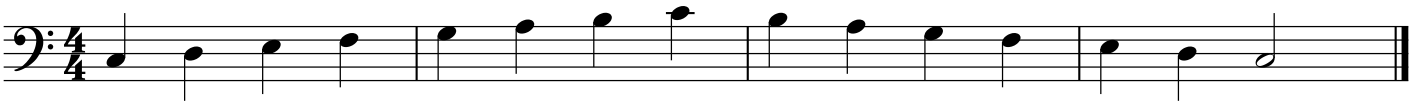
trad. Welsh

28

Up and Down

Bruce Hunnisett



Practice all the notes by playing the scale below. It goes from a low C all the way up to a high C. In music we call this a scale (this is the C major scale). Scales are the foundation for all kinds of music.

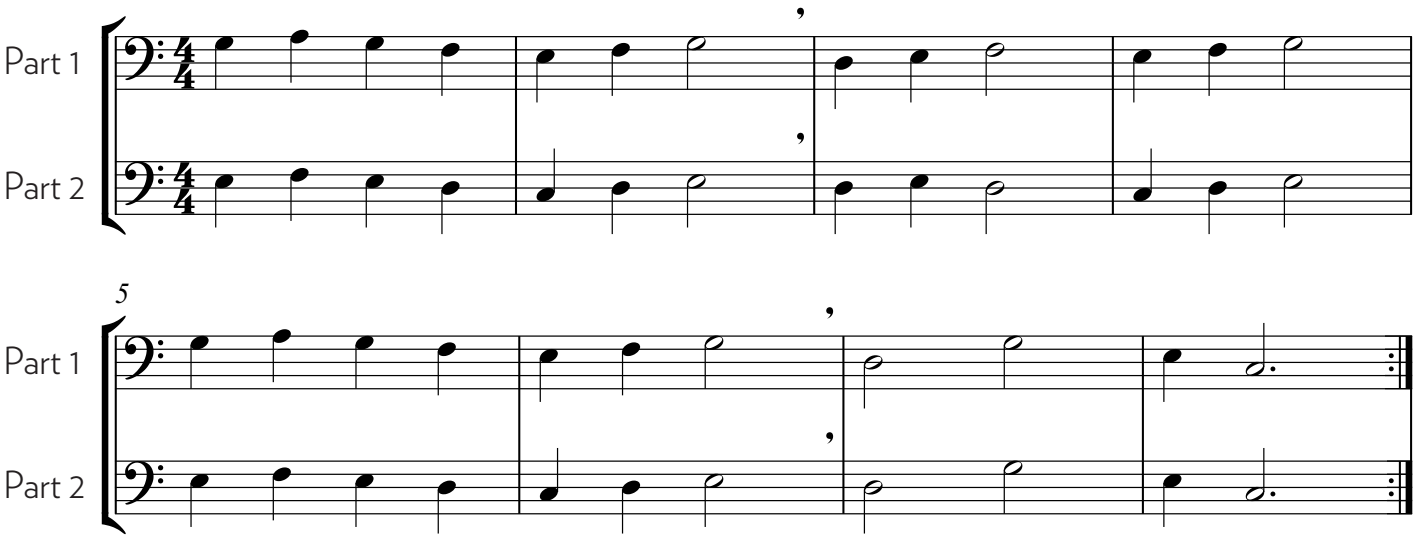
The C Major Scale

Try playing the scale both slurred and tongued. This is a great way to warm up and get your fingers moving when you start your practice.

Now that you have learned to play more notes, it is possible to play more interesting tunes. Take your time with each tune. Start slowly and gradually practice the tunes a little faster each time. You will also see breath marks ’ which show you where to take a breath.

29

London Bridge Is Falling Down

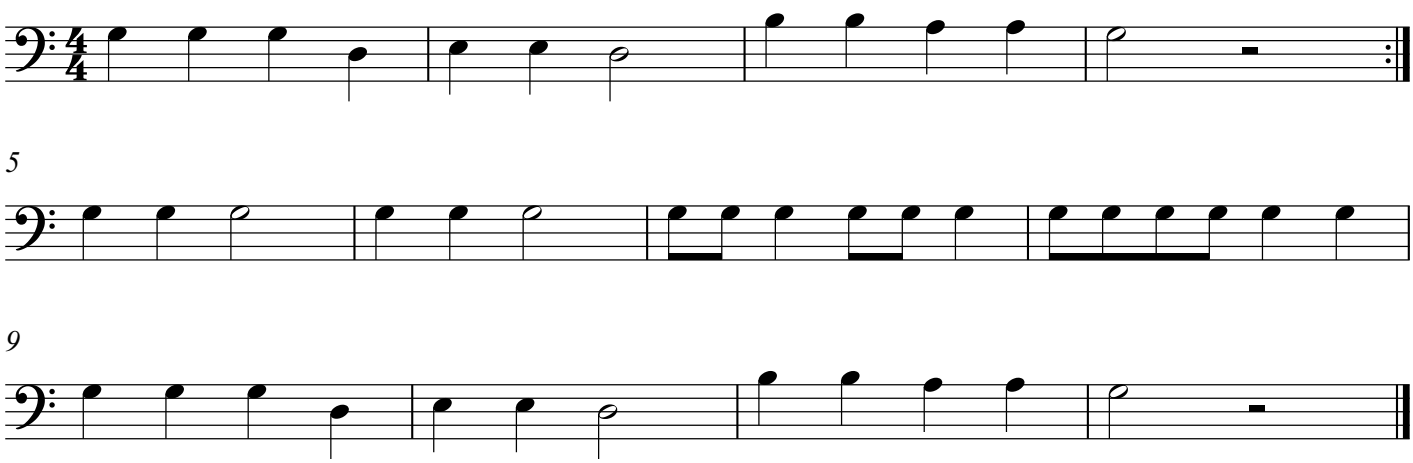
Trad.



Remember the repeat sign introduced on page 12? In this old favorite, you need to repeat the first line once then continue on to lines 2 and 3.

30

Old Macdonald Boogie

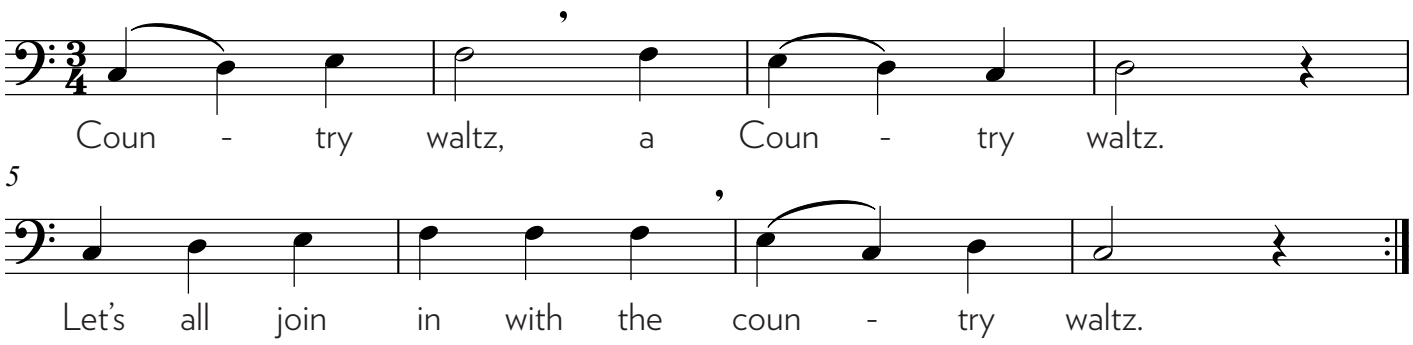
Trad.

Introducing Time Signatures

All of the music we have played so far has been in $\frac{4}{4}$, meaning it has 4 quarter note beats in each measure. This is called the time signature.
Country Waltz and Morning have a time signature of $\frac{3}{4}$, meaning they only have 3 quarter note beats in each measure. So take care, and count carefully.

31

Country Waltz

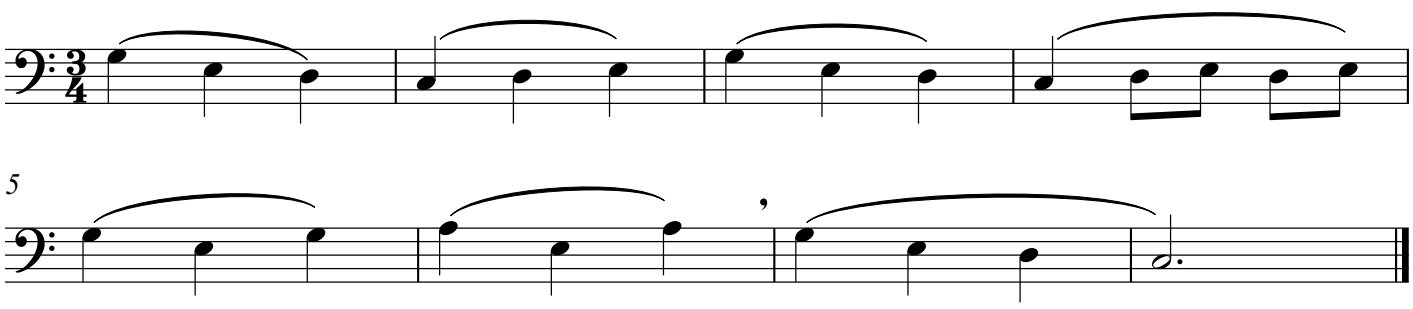
Paul Barker



32

Morning

Grieg



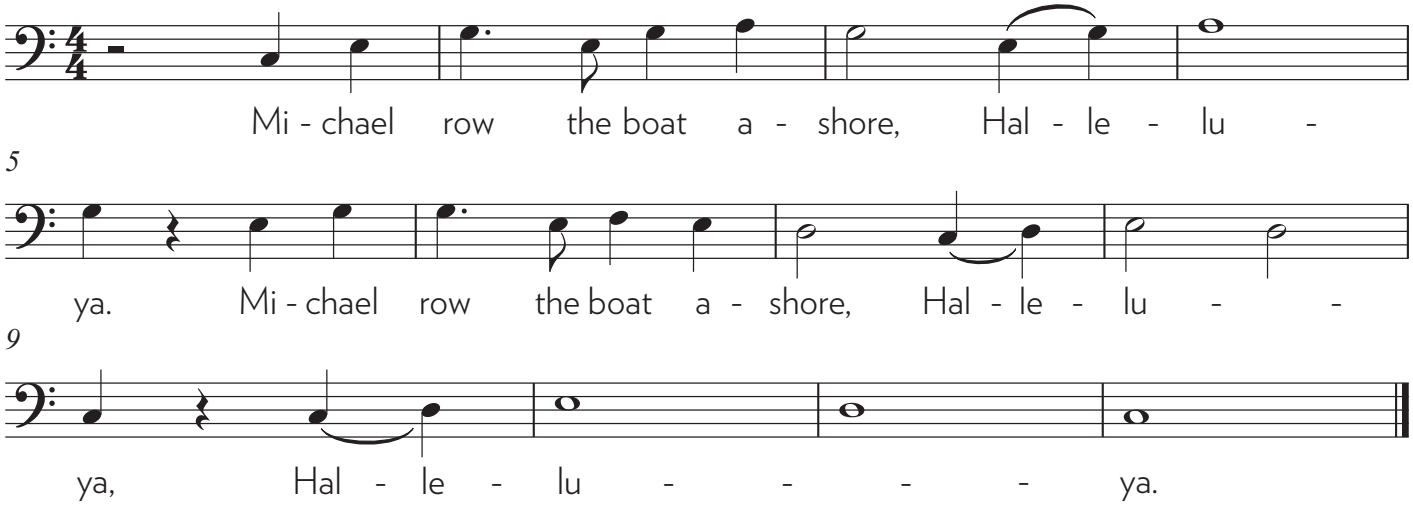
Introducing the Dotted Quarter Note

The dotted quarter note is worth 1½ beats in $\frac{4}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{2}{4}$ time signatures. It is often paired with an eighth note, to make 2 complete beats as in "Michael Row the Boat Ashore" and "Ode to Joy."

33

Michael Row The Boat Ashore

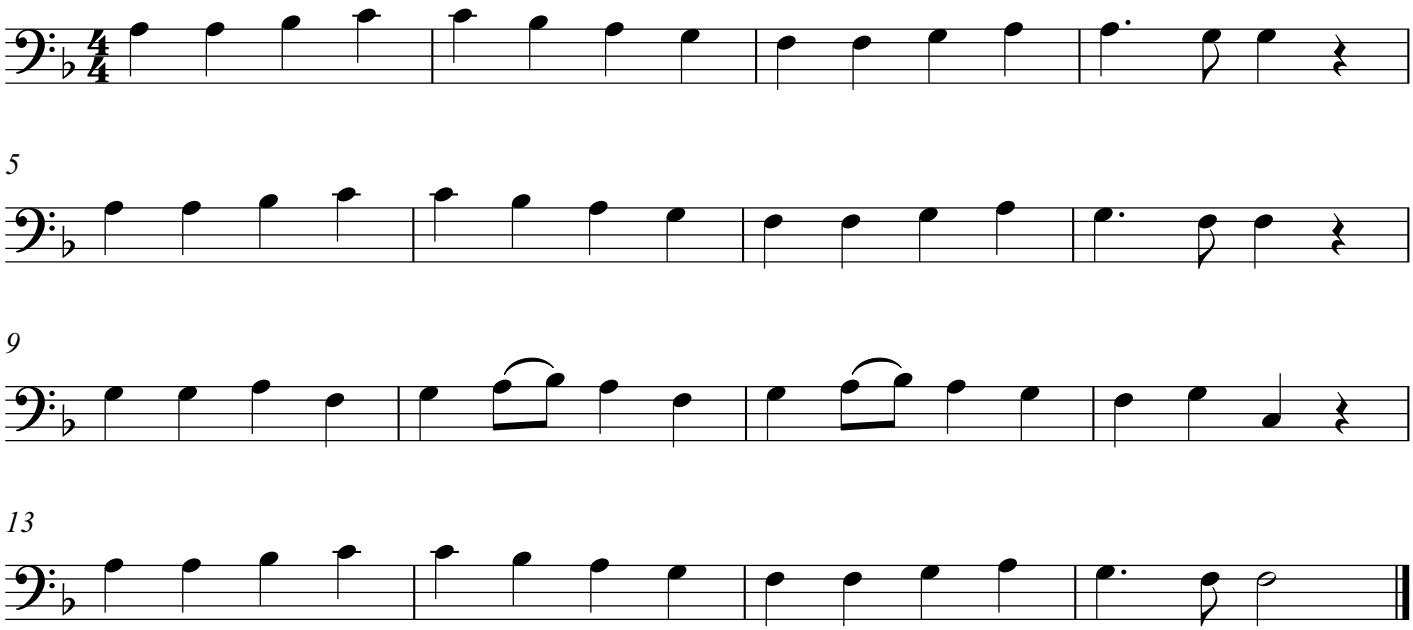
Trad.



Don't forget to check the key signature before playing the next tune.

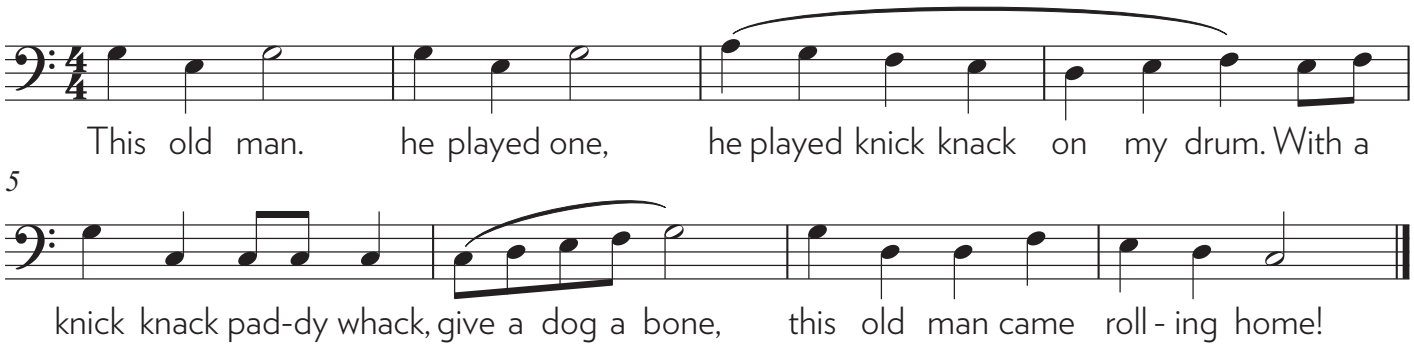
34

Ode To Joy

Beethoven 1770-1827

35

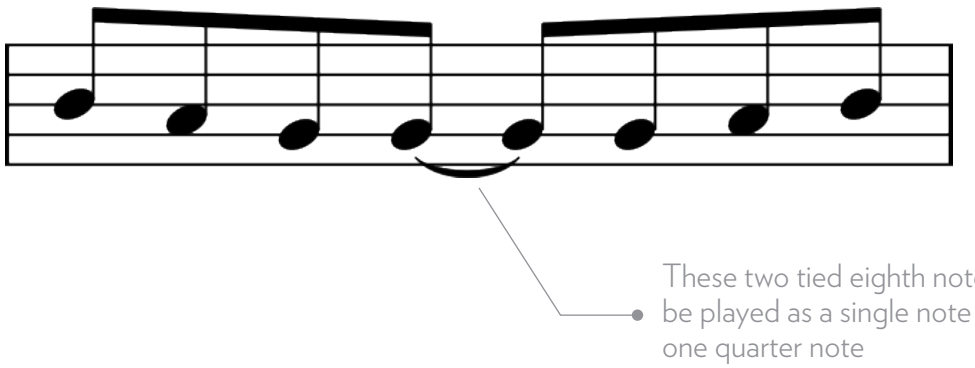
This Old Man

Trad.



Ties

A tie is a curved line connecting two notes of the same pitch. The two notes are added or "tied" together and played as a single note.

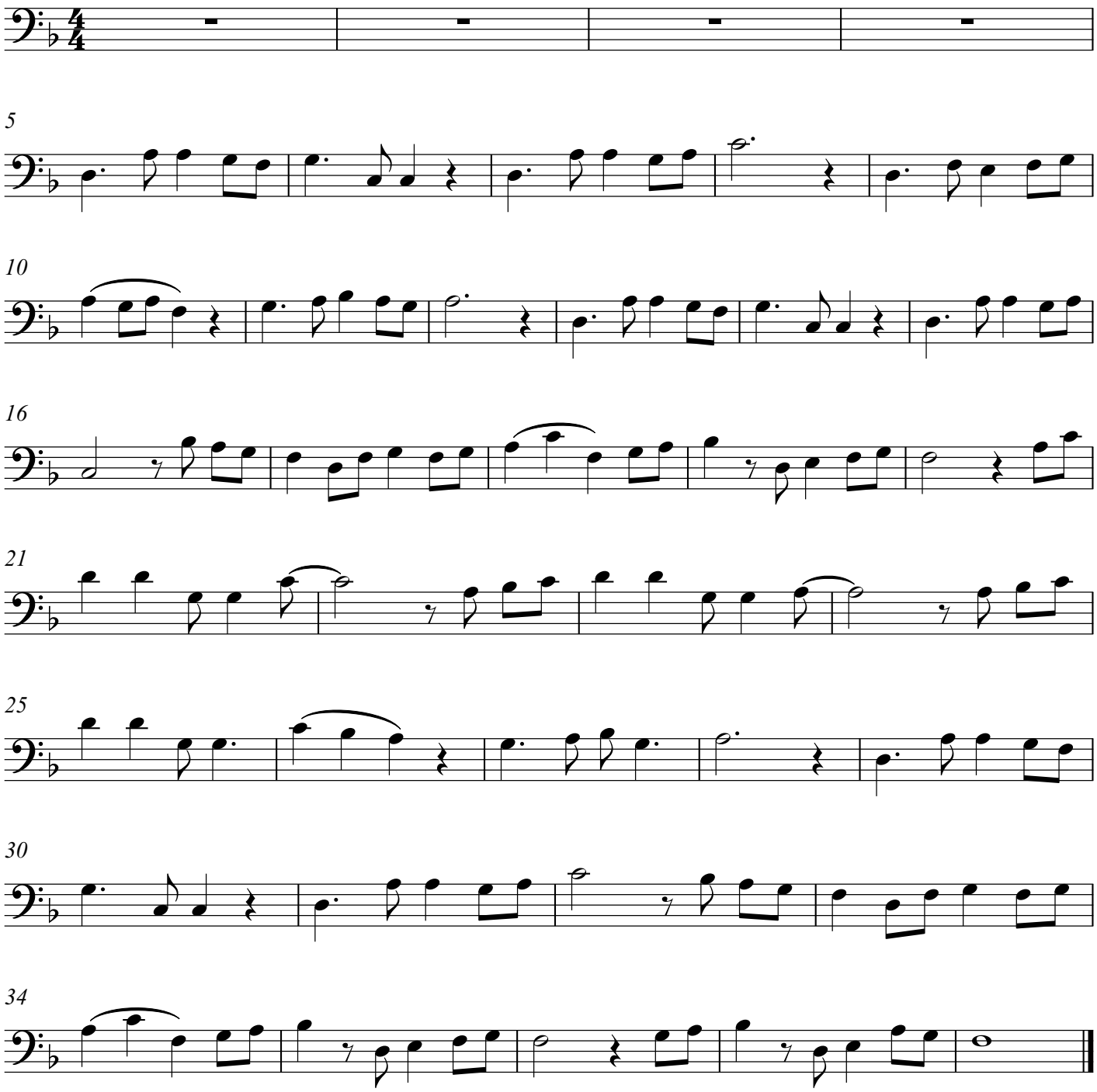


See if you can spot the ties in "Flashlight" before you try playing it.

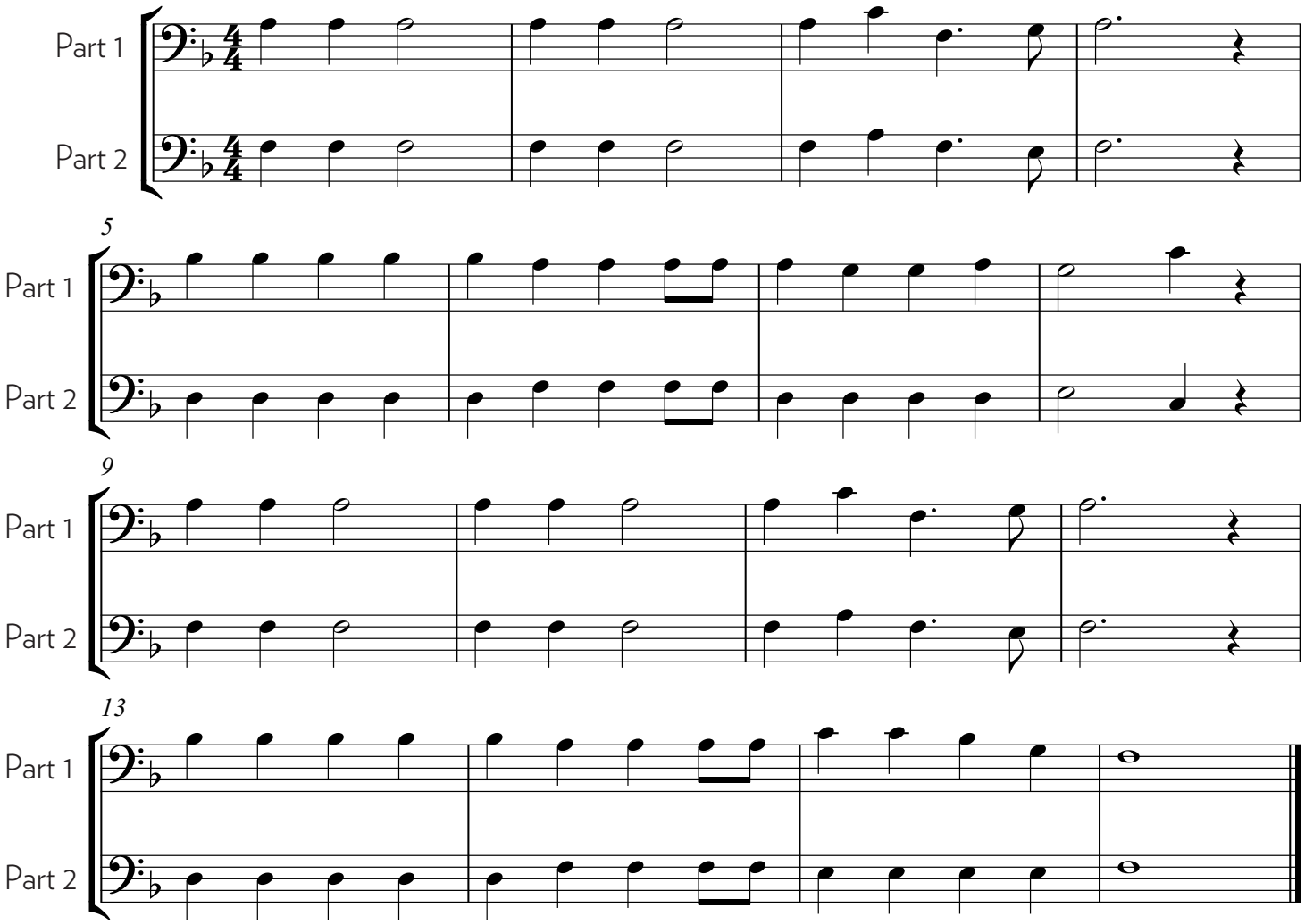
36

Flashlight

Paul Barker

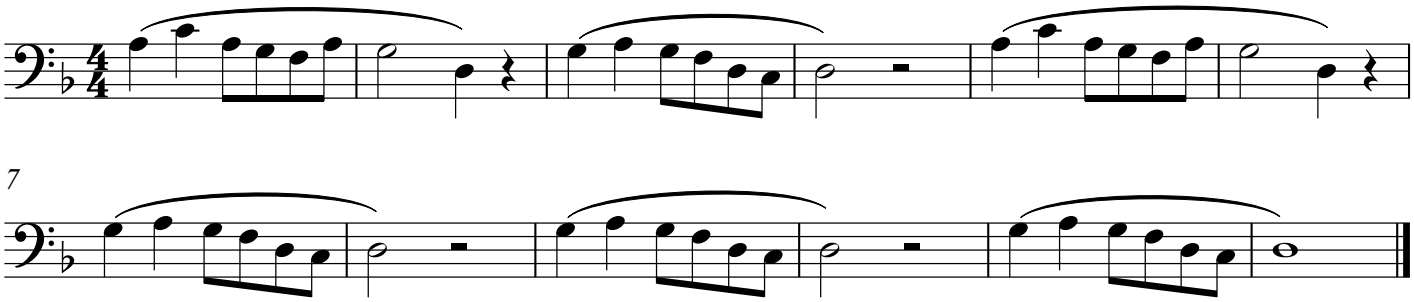
Introduction

37

Jingle Bells

Trad. Arr. Paul Barker

38

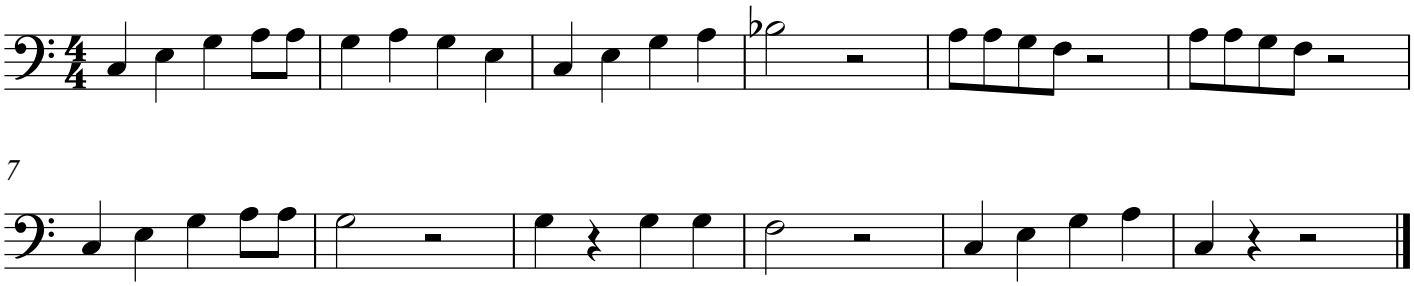
Chinese Whispers

Paul Barker



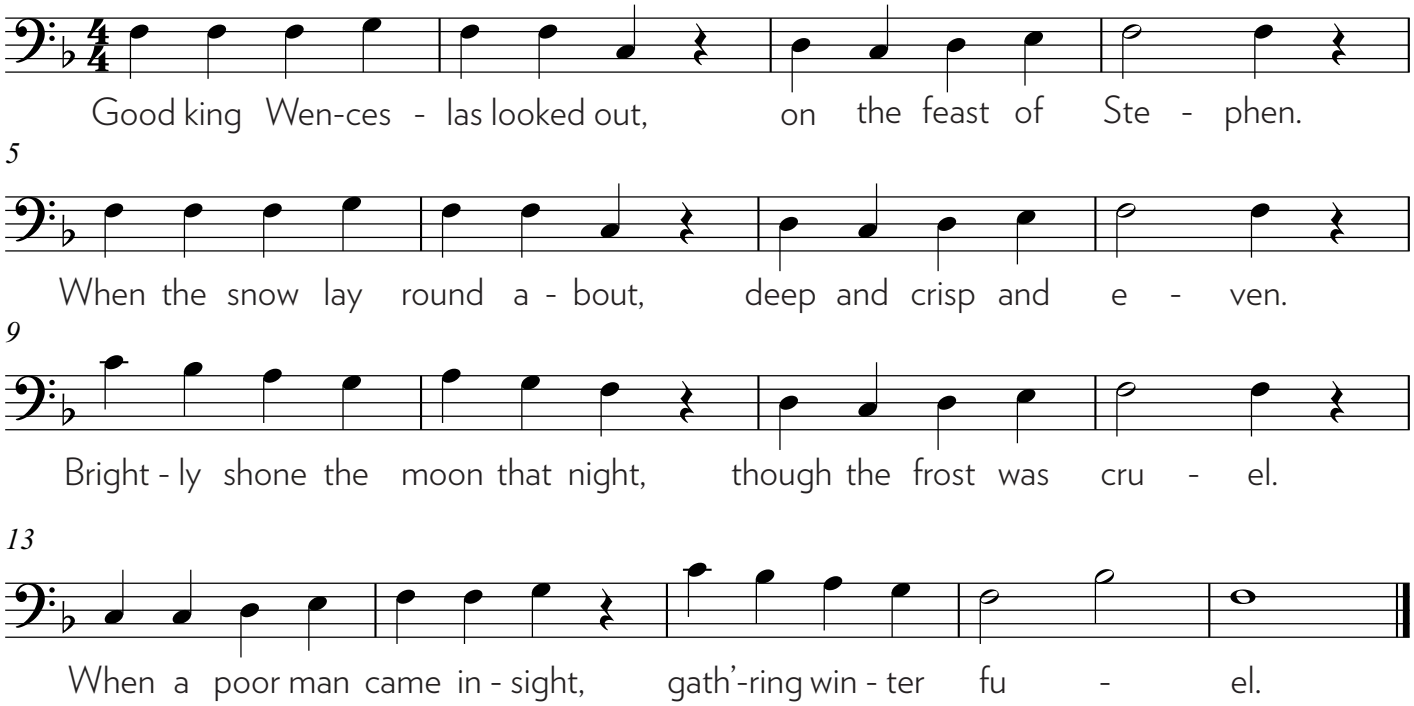
39

Blues in C

Paul Barker

40

Good King Wenceslas

Trad.

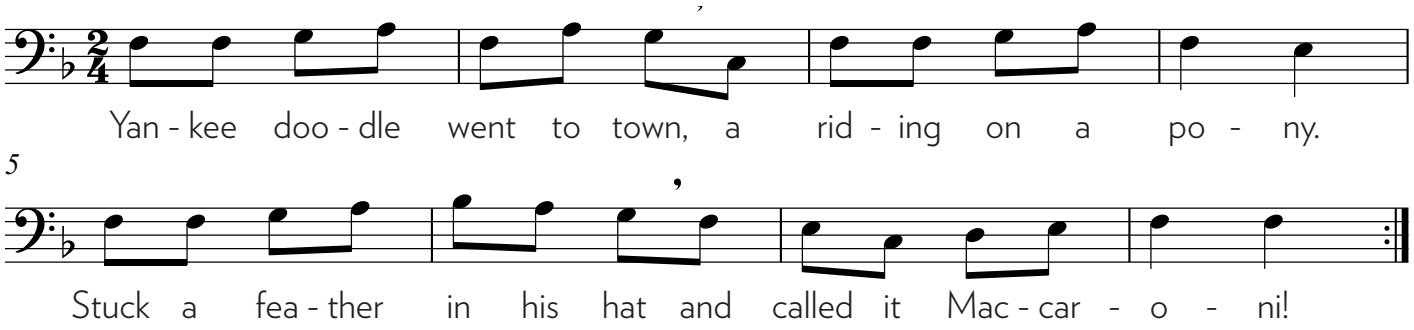


Notice the $\frac{2}{4}$ time signature of the next tune. This tells us there are 2 beats in each bar.

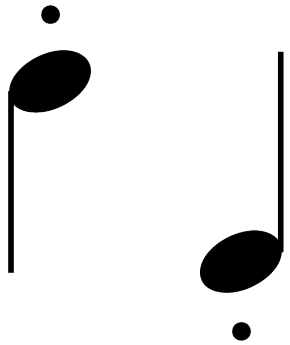
41

Yankee Doodle Dandy

Trad.



In the tune "Donkeys", you can see dots below some of the notes. These tell us that these notes should be played staccato.

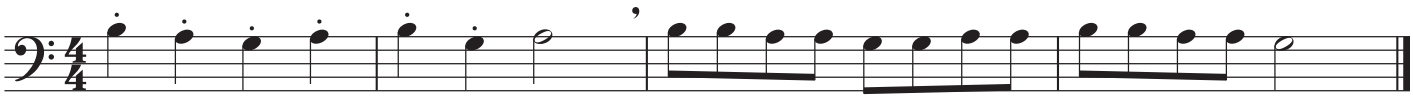


Staccato notes should be played short and detached so each note is clearly separate from the note that follows it.

Try play "Donkeys" again with staccato quarter notes. Start and stop the notes clearly with your tongue so each note sounds shorter and is detached from the following note.

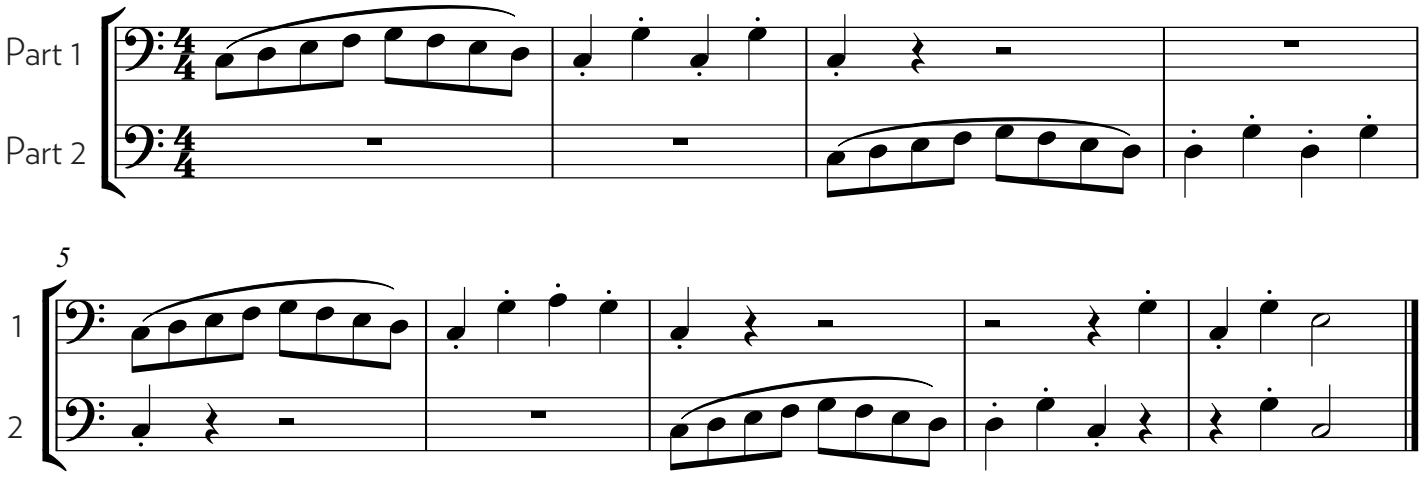
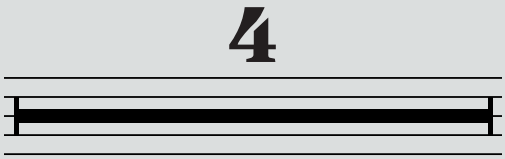
42

Donkeys

Graham Lyons

Play "The Chase" with staccato quarter notes. When playing a duet, work with your partner to match each other's style so your staccato notes sound the same.

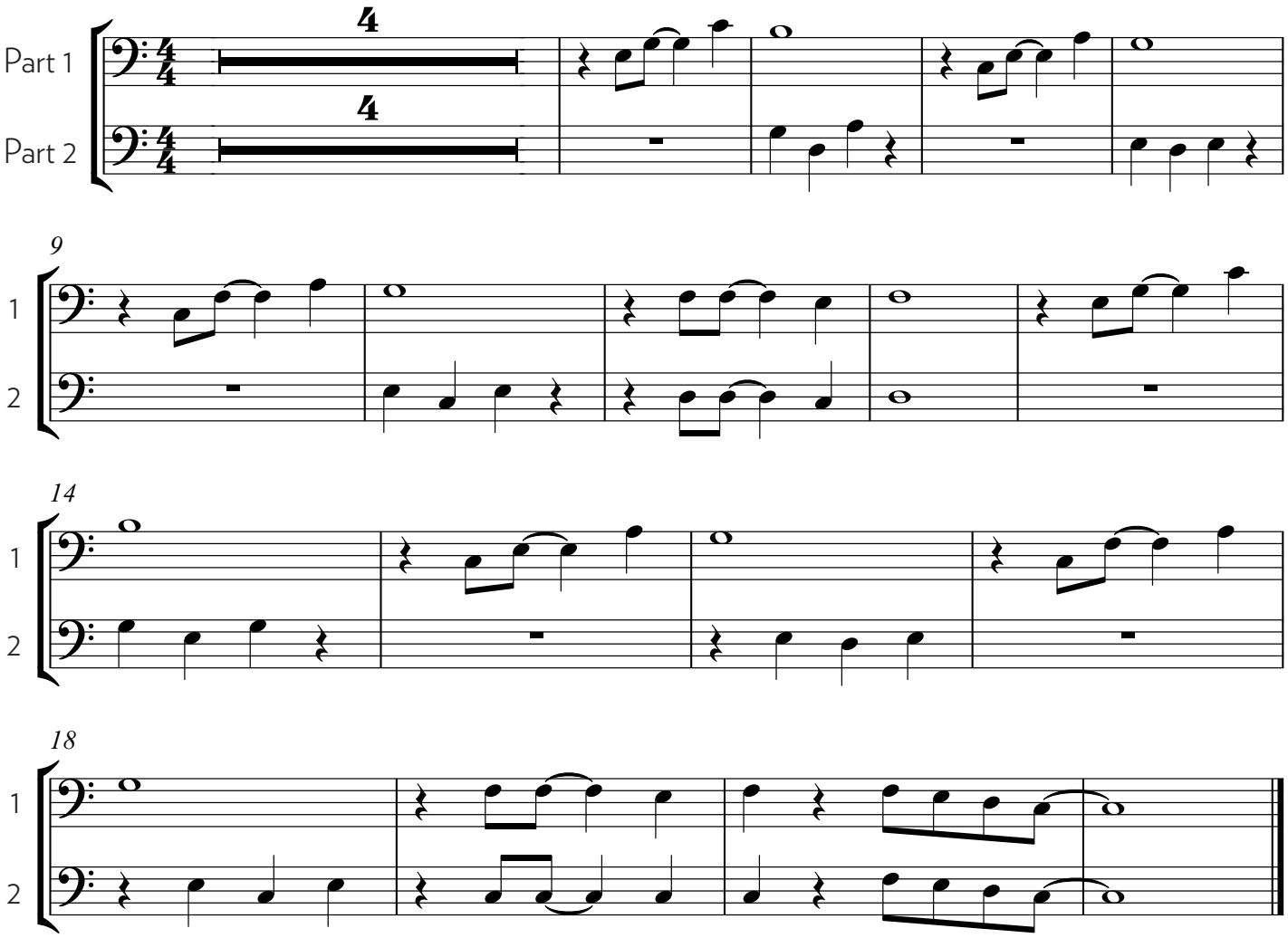
43

The Chase

Paul Barker



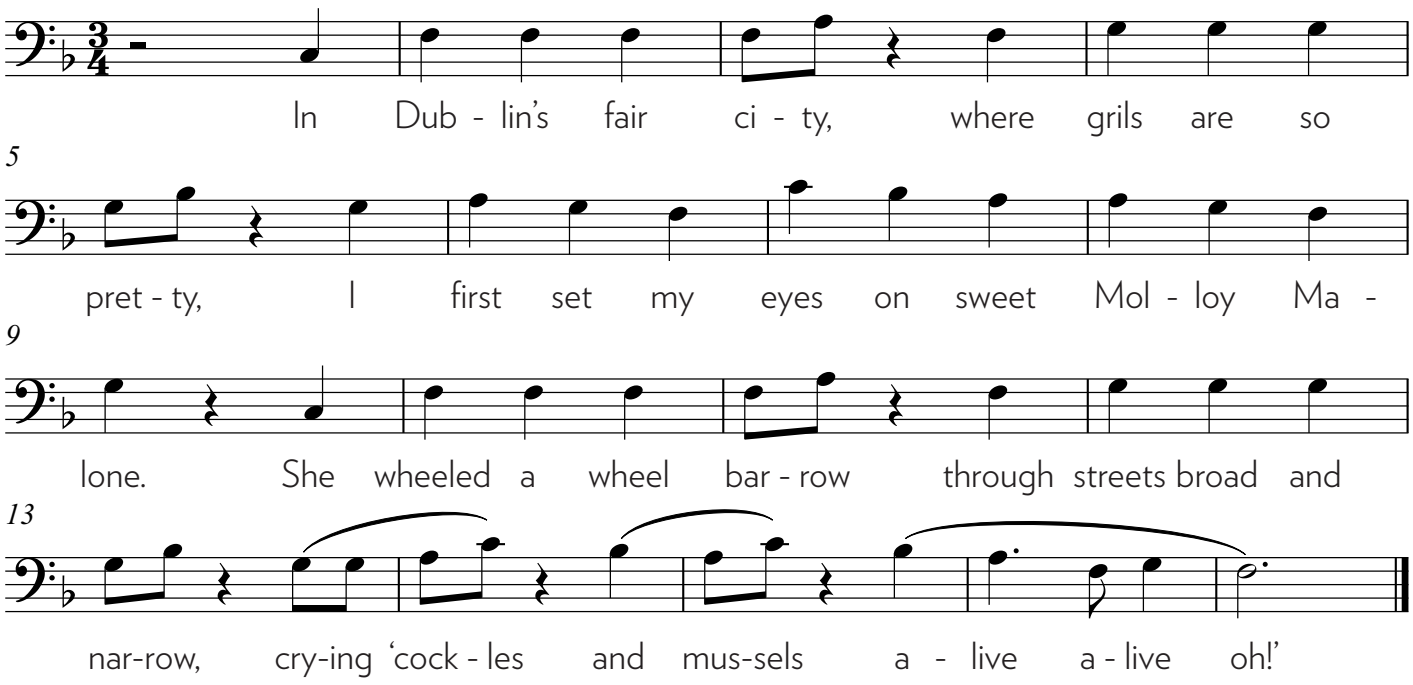
Means 4 measures of rest in the beginning.

Forever Disco

Paul Barker

45

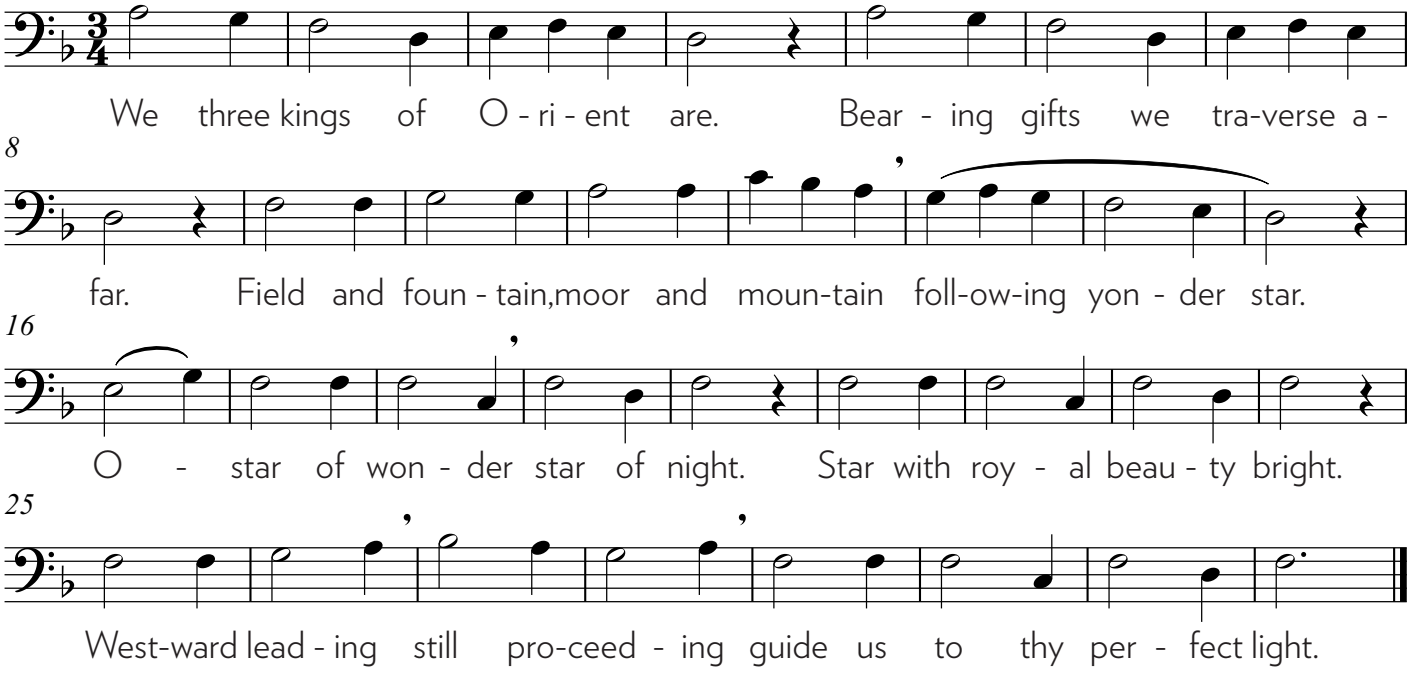
Molly Malone

Trad.

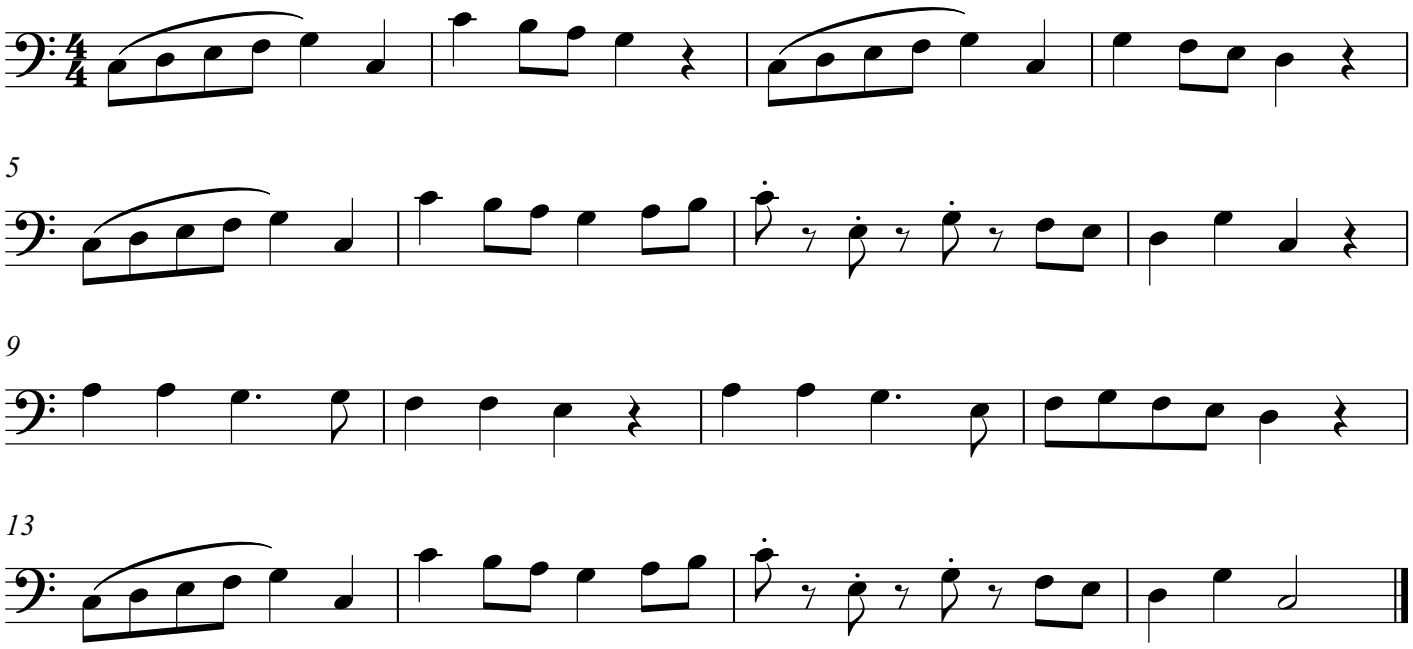


46

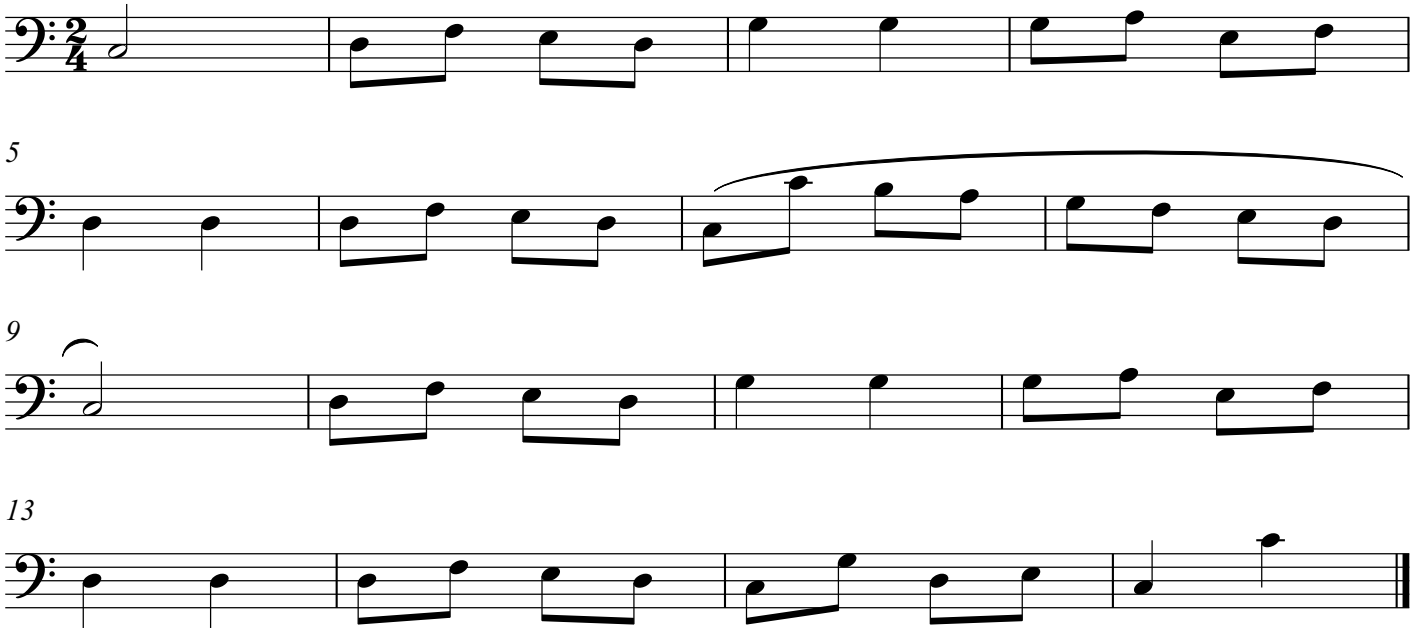
We Three Kings

Trad.

47

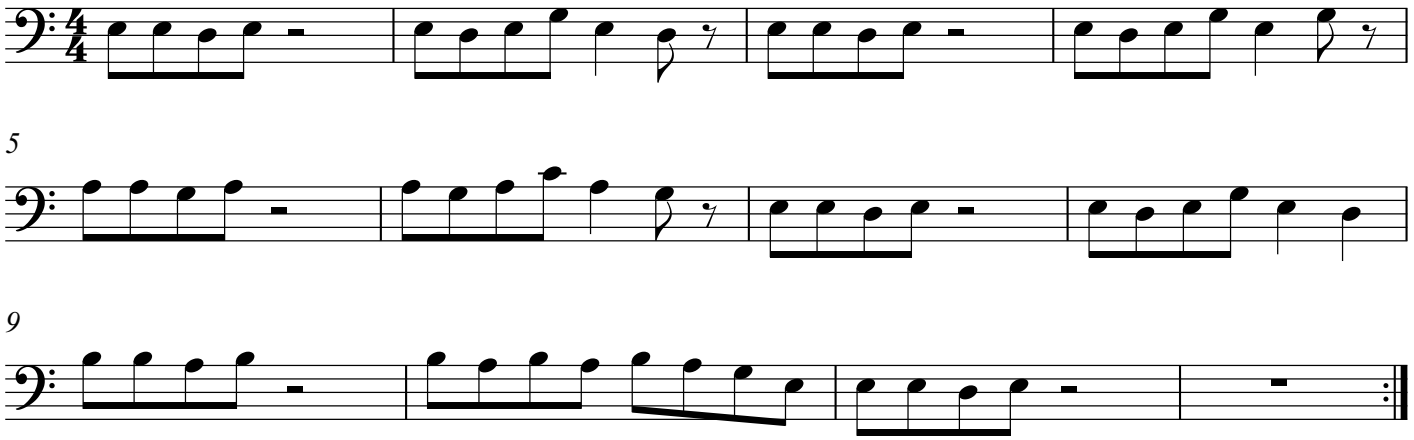
Study In C

Paul Barker

48

The Elephant Can Can

Offenbach 1819 - 1880

49

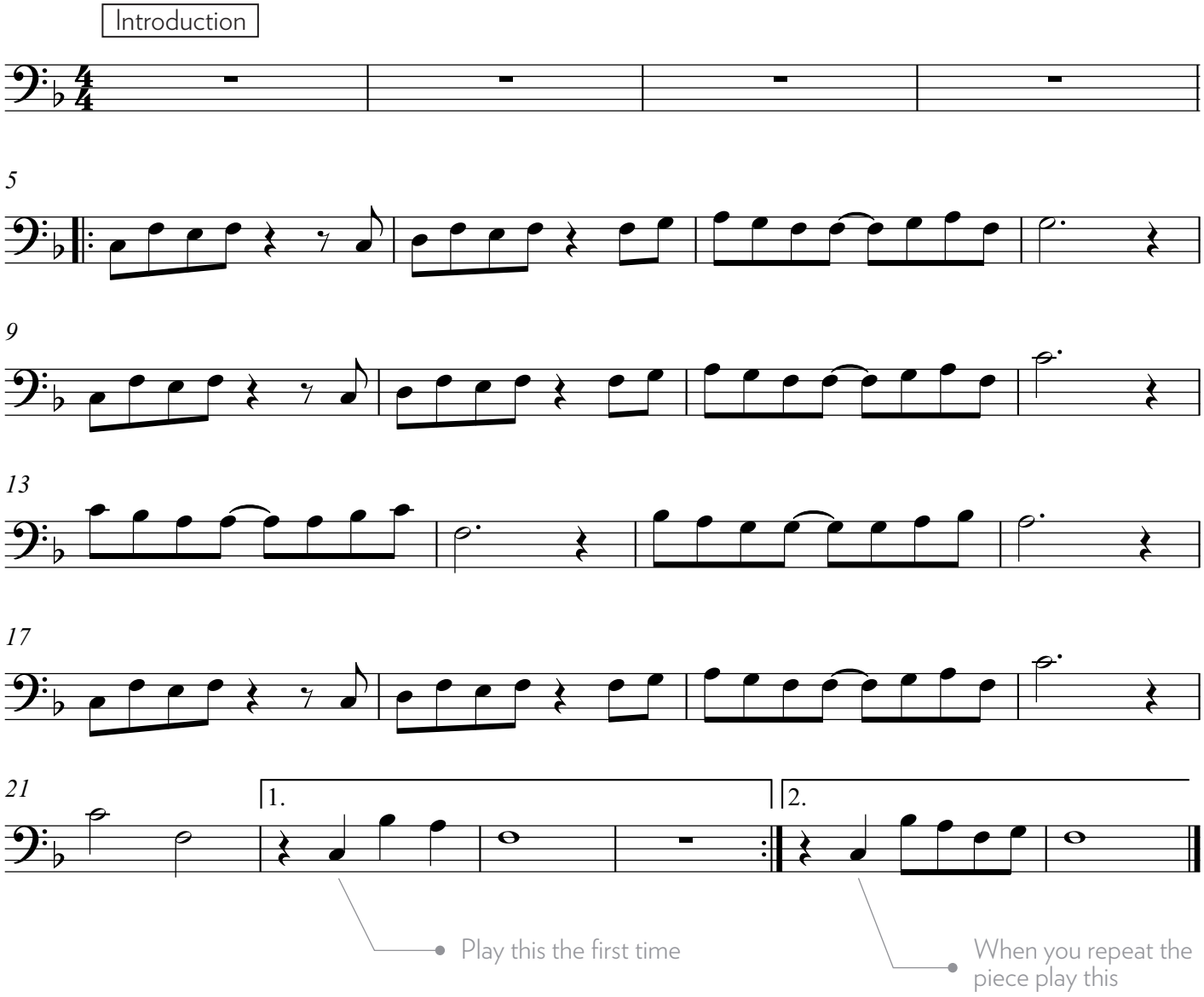
Space Trax

Paul Barker

First and Second Endings

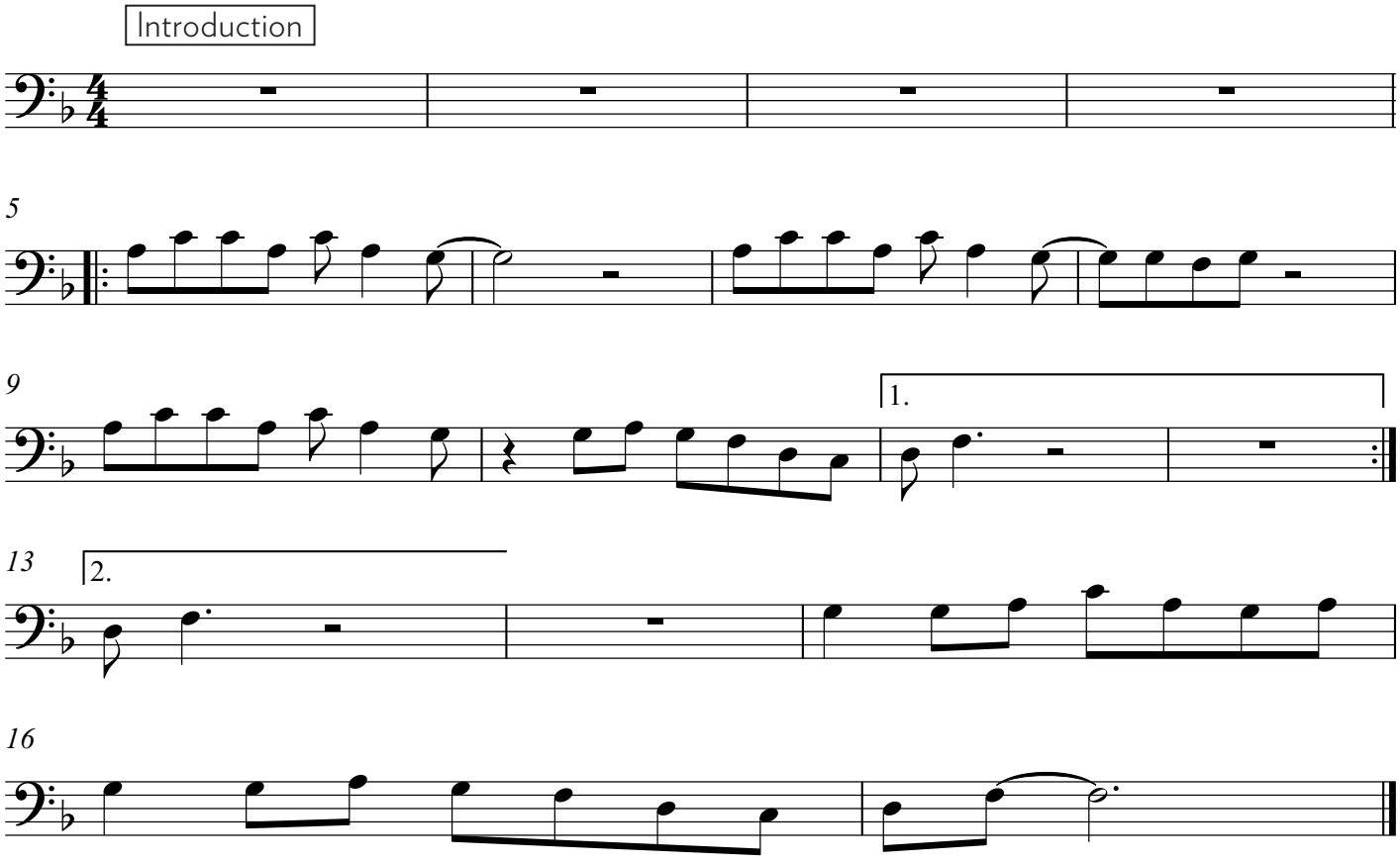
In "Smooth Trax" and "Reggae Trax" you can see sections marked 1 and 2 towards the end. These are called first and second endings. The first time you play the measures marked 1 and when you repeat, you skip the first ending and play the ending marked 2.

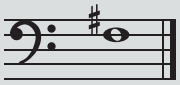
50

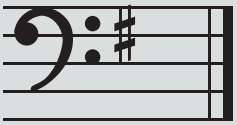
Smooth Trax

Paul Barker

51

Reggae Trax

Paul Barker

NOTE F#

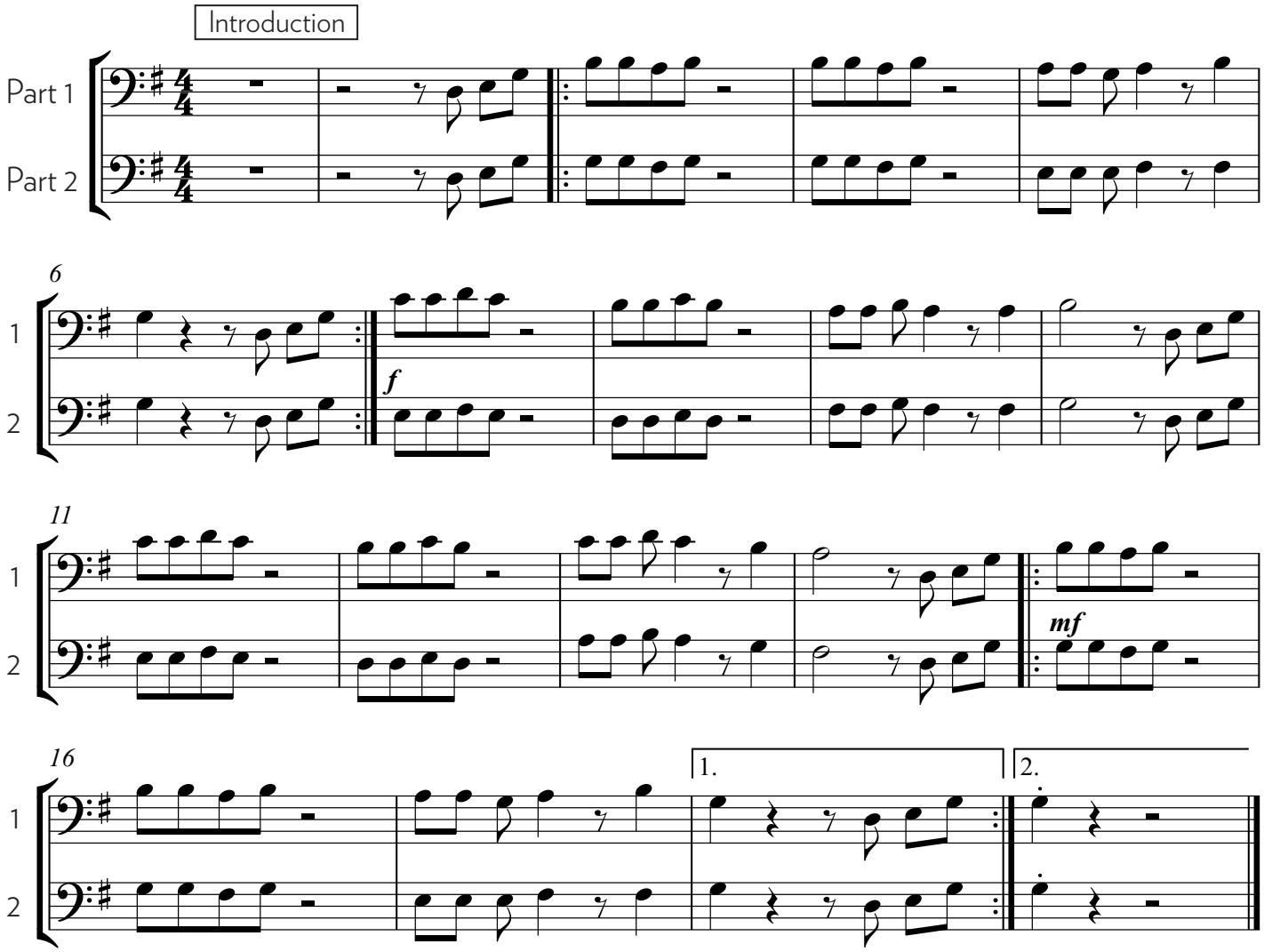


A sharp raises the note by a half step.

Key Signature with 1 Sharp

This means play all F's as F# unless otherwise indicated.

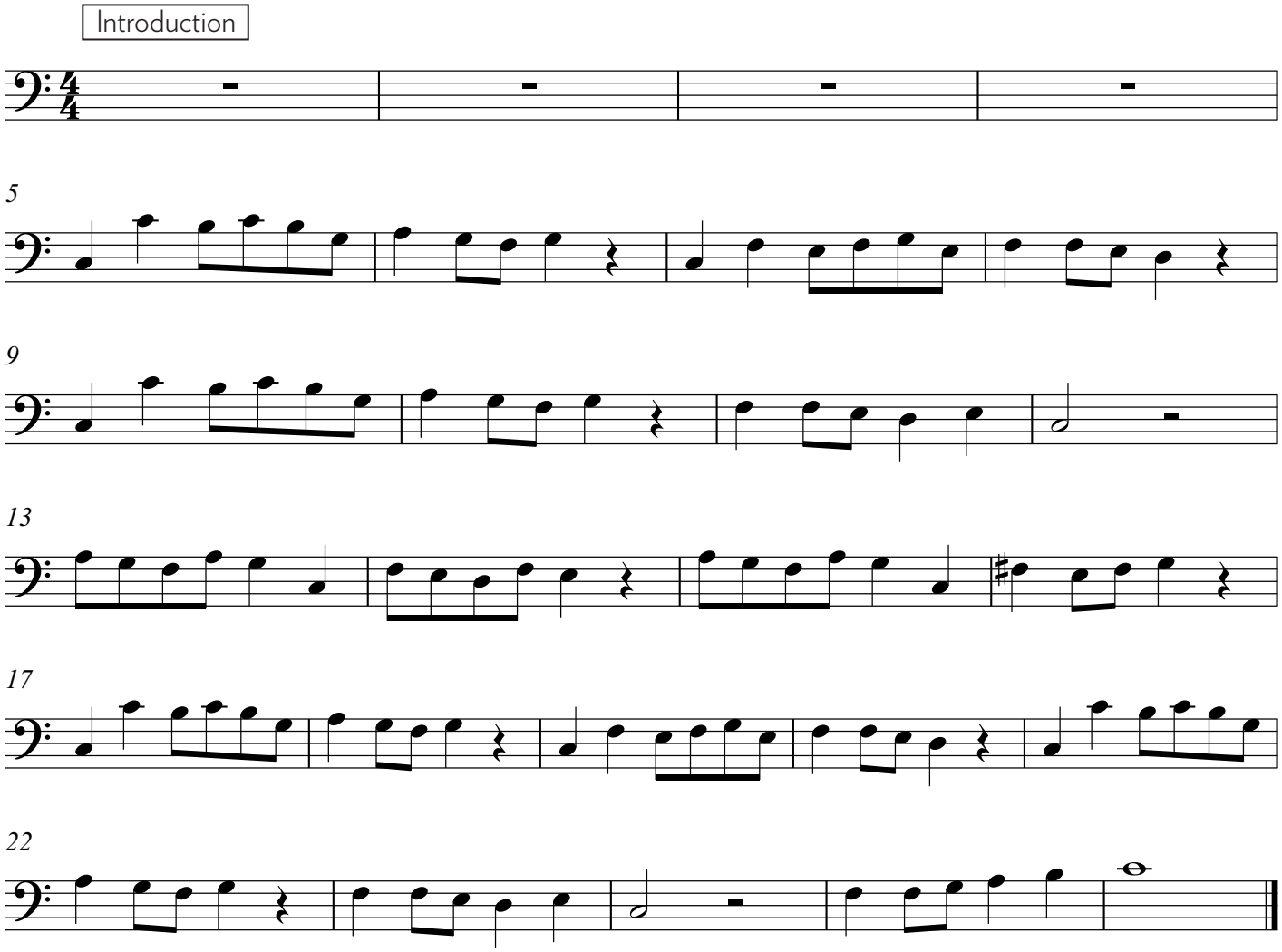
52

Reggae Land

Paul Barker

In the tune Wonderland, there is no key signature, but if you look at bar 16 you can see an F#, we call this an "accidental". All the other F notes are normal or "natural" as we call them in music.

53

Wonderland

Paul Barker

New Note High E

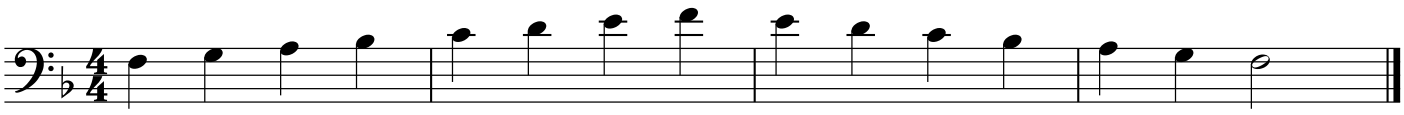
NOTE **E**

New Note High F

NOTE **F**

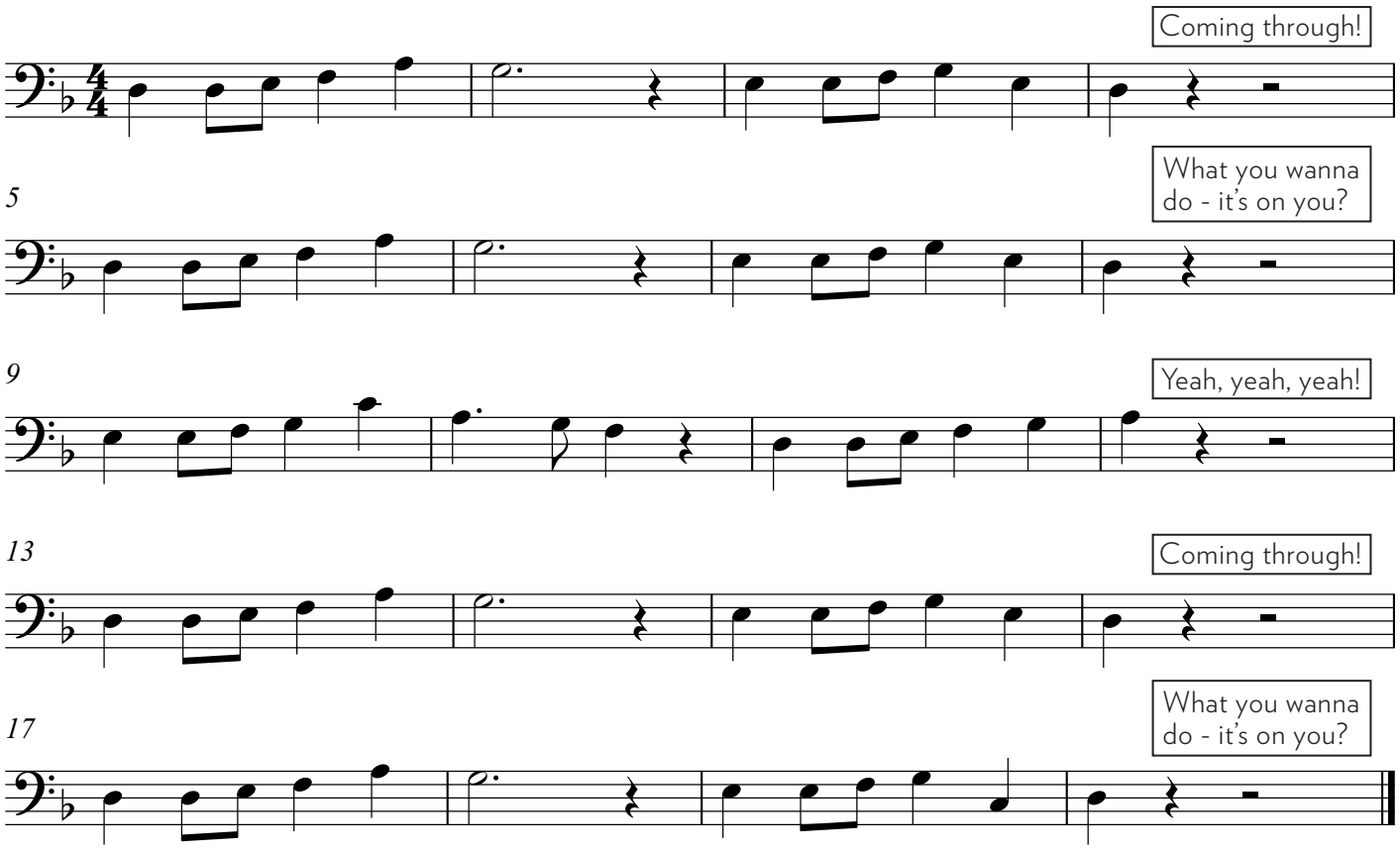
Now you can play the high E and F, you know all the notes in the F major scale; have a go at playing the F major scale below. You will probably need the #3 mouthpiece cup to play notes this high. Check the key signature before you start.

The F major scale

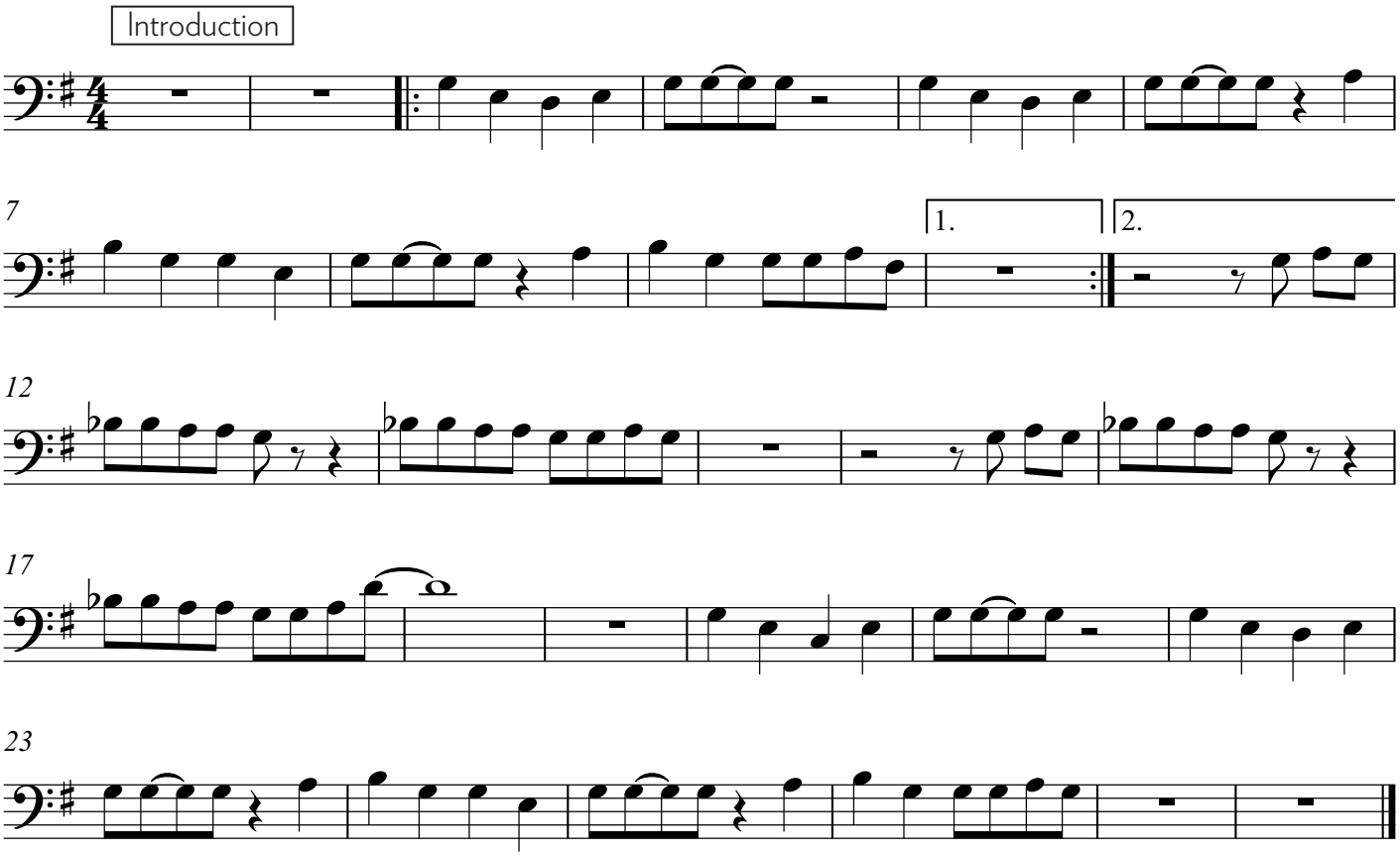


54

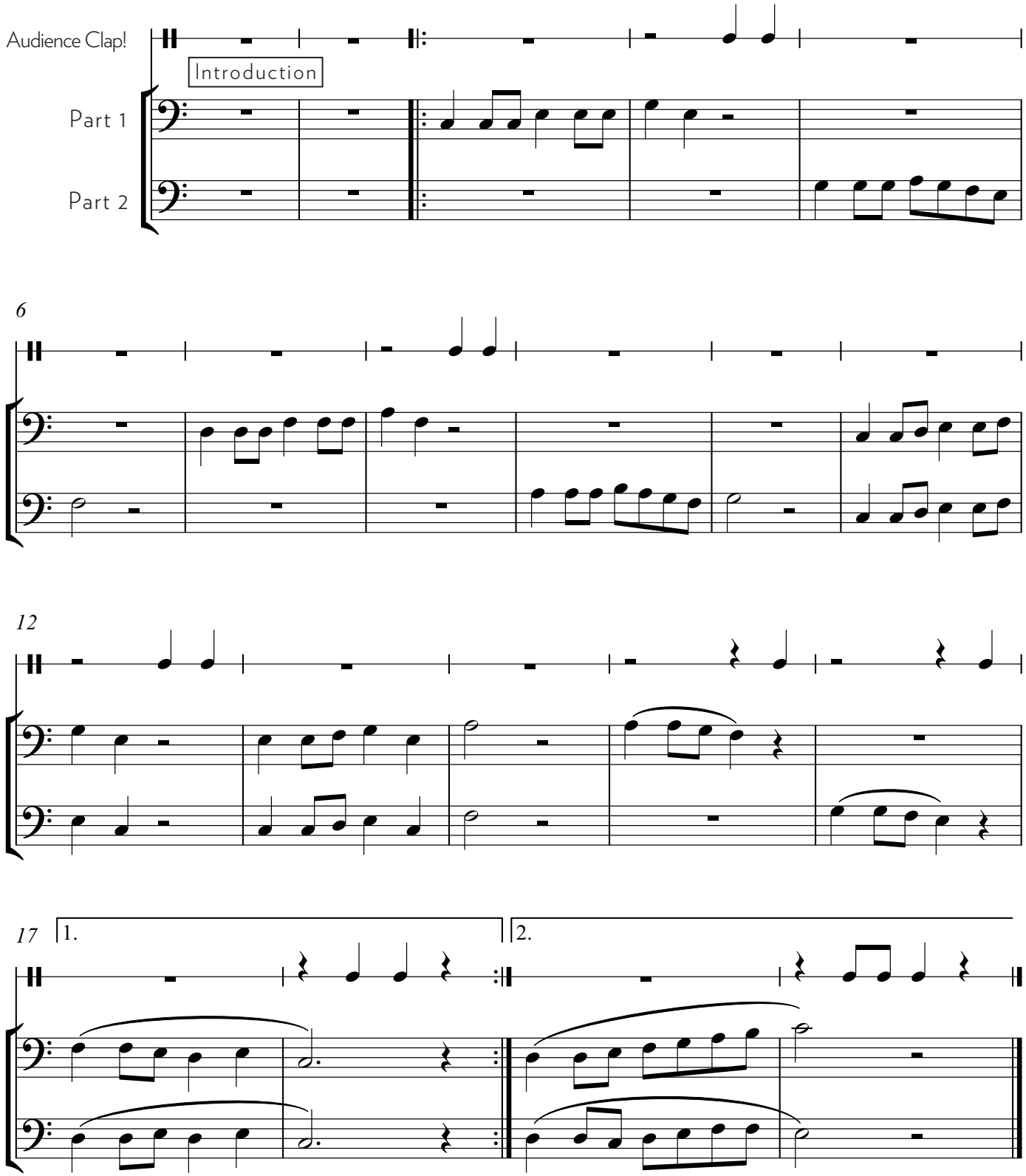
RAP Trax

Paul Barker

55

Rock Steady

Paul Barker

56

Mexican Wave

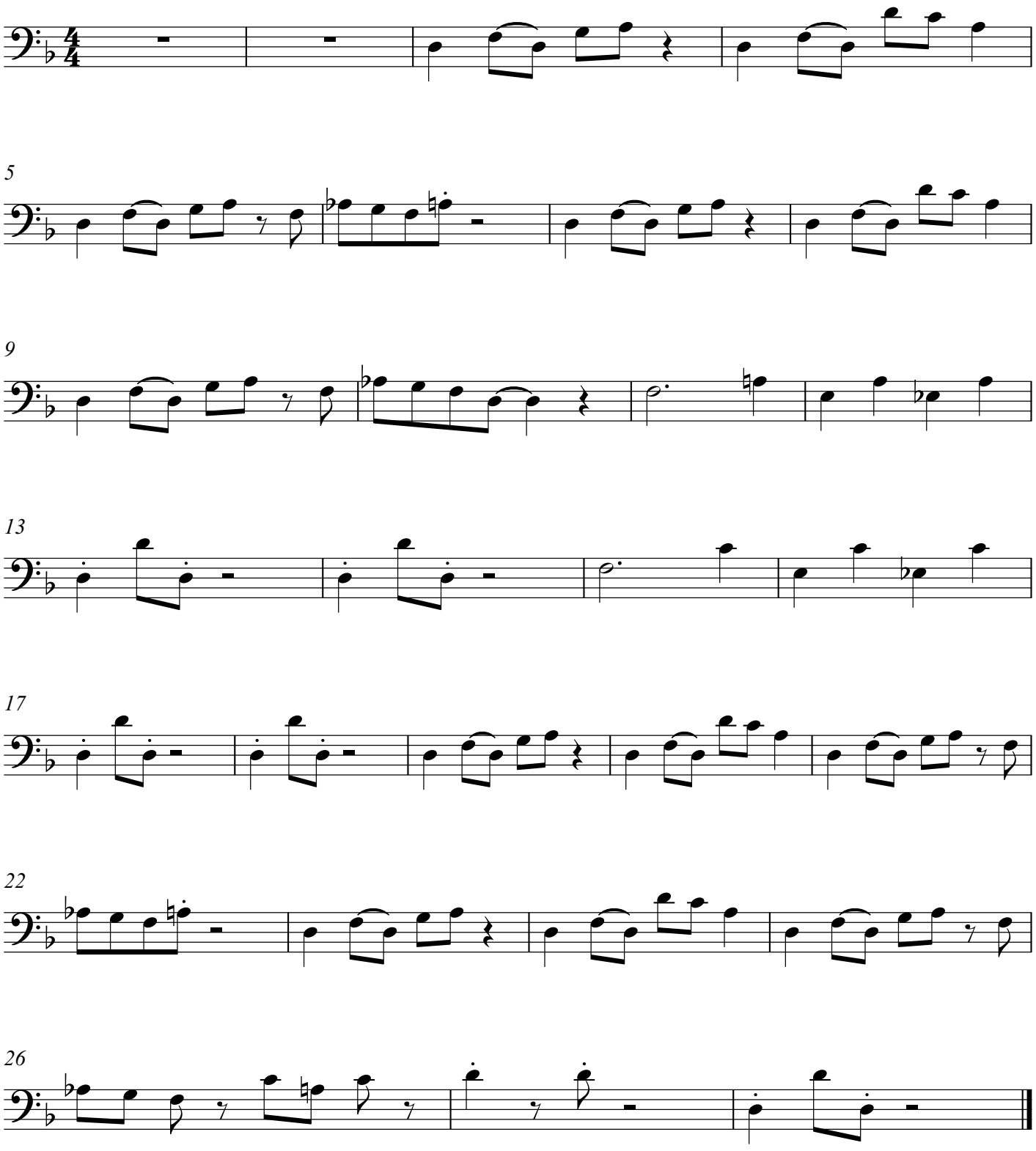
Paul Barker

There is blank staff paper below if you want to compose your own music!

NOTE A♭

NOTE E♭

57

Funky Monkey

Bruce Hunnisett

Congratulations!

Congratulations! You have completed all the music in the book. You now know all the main notes in the keys of F major and C major. It is possible to play even more notes and the fingering chart at the back of this book shows you how to do that.

Have a go at playing all the notes, from the lowest to the highest. Then try creating your own music to any of the backing tracks from this book.

If you want to learn even more great tunes, you can search the WindStars website for tunes in a range of difficulty and variety of musical genres.

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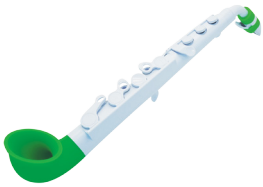
Recorder

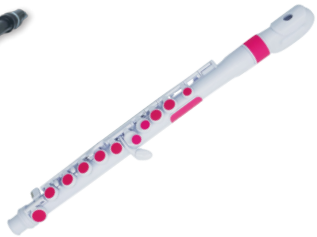
Toot

Dood



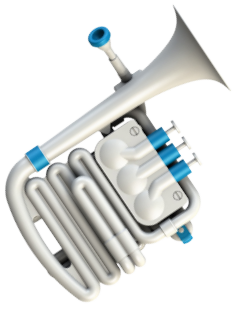
jSax

Clarinéo



jFlute

Flute



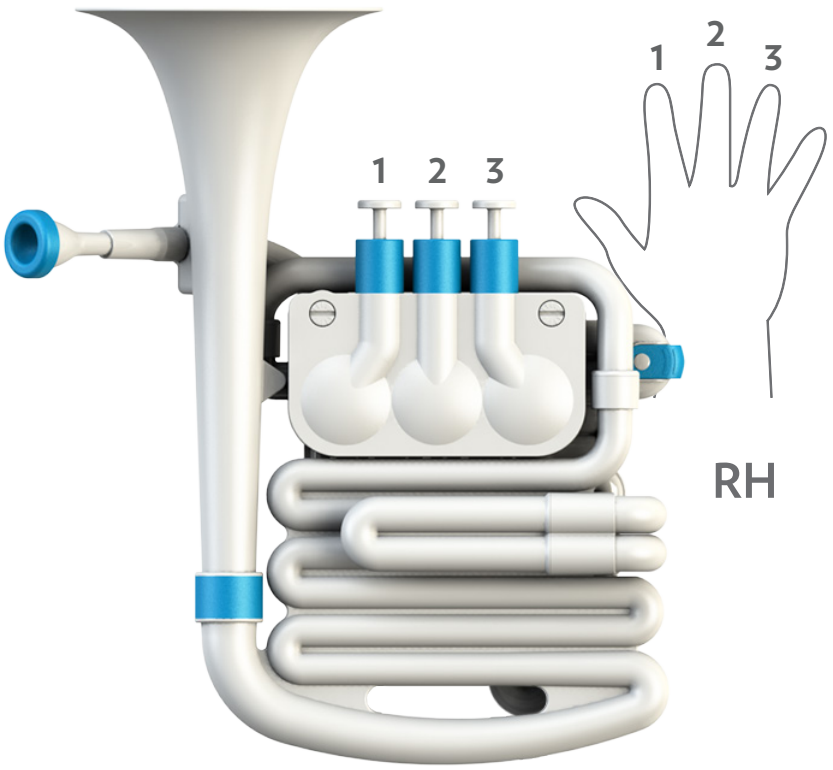
jHorn

CONGRATULATIONS!

You have completed the jHorn "Play it Today" Book

Presented to _____

By _____ Date _____



The fingering chart here is comprehensive. In the Student Books, they will see only the notes they have learned in WindStars 2.

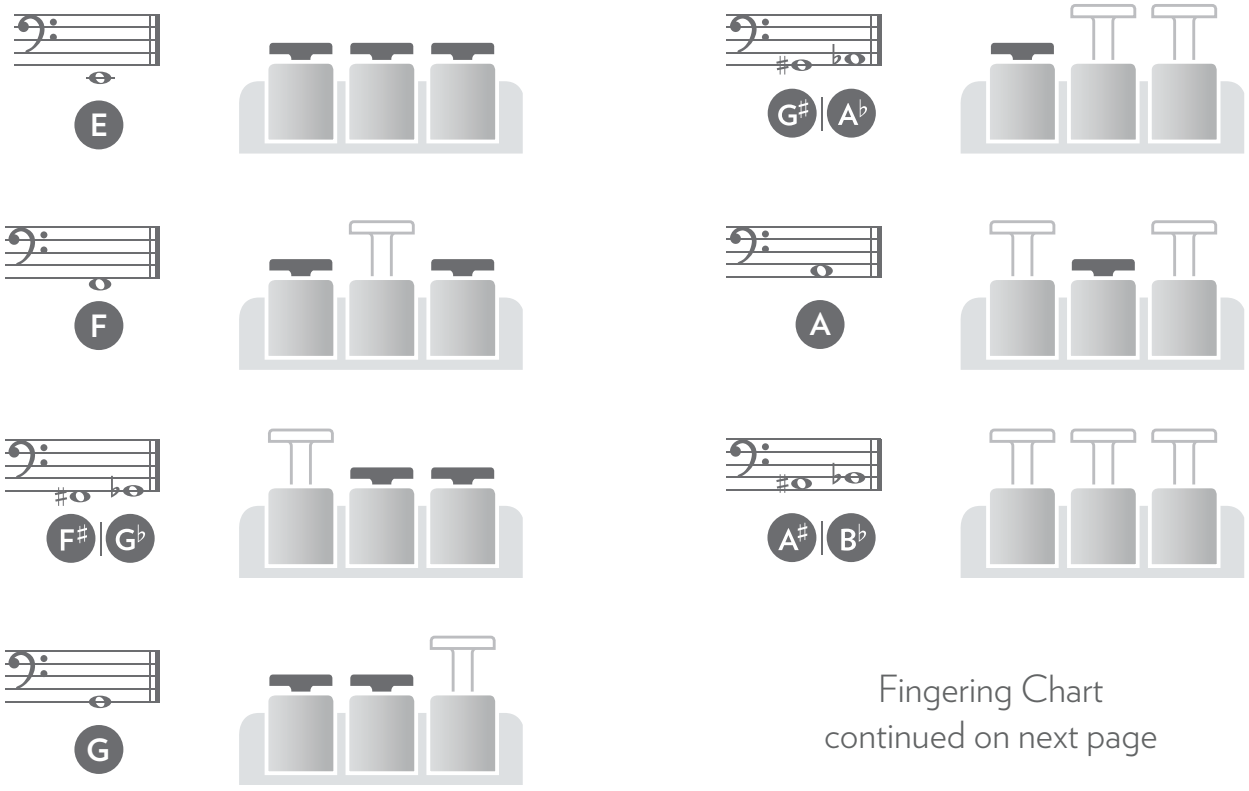
jHorn Fingering Chart
Bass Clef

Release

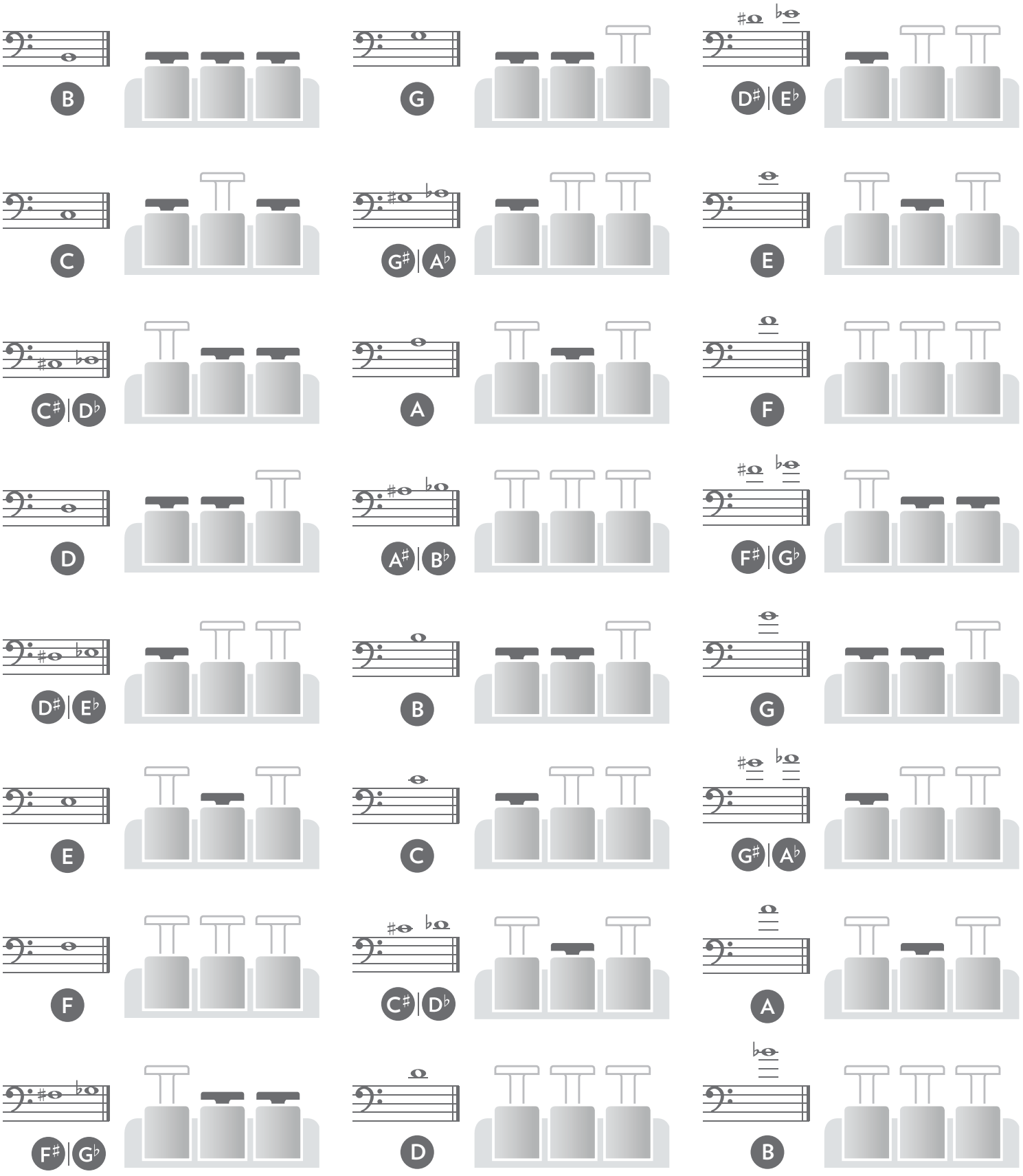
Press Down

This fingering chart can be used when the jHorn is in B-flat.

The thumb rests comfortably against the silicone on the first valve.



Fingering Chart
continued on next page


B
G
D♯ | E♭
C
G♯ | A♭
E
C♯ | D♭
A
F
D
A♯ | B♭
F♯ | G♭
D♯ | E♭
B
G
E
C
G♯ | A♭
F
C♯ | D♭
A
F♯ | G♭
D
B

Play It Today!

BY

Bruce Hunnisett, Paul Barker, Graham Lyons, Dr. Cassandra Eisenreich

The Nuvo Play It Today Series have been prepared and edited by 4 widely experienced music educators to provide a basis for playing or teaching with Nuvo instruments. Introducing basic technique and enough notes to play simple fun tunes solo or in a group. This is the perfect method for developing the necessary skills to further explore the wealth of music available to download from the WindStars website.

Supporting materials at: www.nuvo-windstars.com

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