Level I

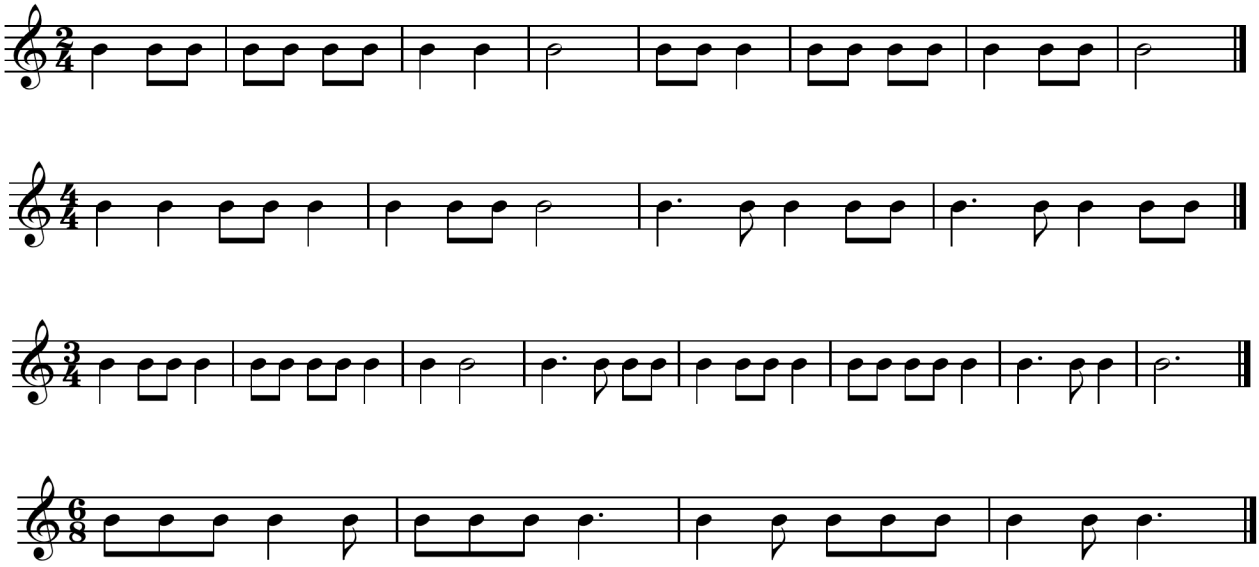
C. SIGHT-READING

GOAL

- Develop the ability to accurately sight-read complete pieces with simple rhythms.

1. Play or clap at sight notated rhythms in 2/4, 4/4, 3/4 and 6/8.

Samples of rhythms to sight-read:



2. Sight-read simple pieces in duple and triple meters (2/4, 4/4, 3/4) in the keys of C, F or G major and relative minors a, d, and e minor. Refer to the *ARS Music List*, Level I for sample works. Other suitable repertoire includes hymn tunes and folk songs.

   Tip: To practice sight-reading, first scan the entire piece for meter, key signature and tempo indications. "Think" through the first few measures to determine a reasonable tempo that will allow you to perform most notes correctly and in time. With that tempo in mind, look through the remainder of the piece for measures in which the predominant rhythm changes or the written pitch range is particularly high or low. Once you begin to play, read straight through the entire selection without stopping, making a mental note of errors. If rhythm is challenging, it may be helpful to isolate problem measures by singing without actually playing the pitches.