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NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY COURSE

Sight-Singing.

SAM'L. W. COLE.

Book 1. Major Scales, Intervals and Plain Forms of Rhythm. Book 2. Minor Scales, Chromatic Intervals and Complex Forms of Rhythm.

PUBLISHED BY NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC BOSTON. 1890.



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PREFACE.

THE following course of instruction in Sight-Singing has been compiled to fit the needs of an American Conservatory of Music. Not that there are no works of a similar nature by American authors; but all such which have come within our notice fail at many points to meet the demands of an American music school.

These courses have been produced for the presentation of the subject to children in the public schools, or for use in private instruction. For such purposes some of the works to which we refer are well nigh perfect; at the same time they fail to meet the wants of an institution where all branches of music are taught, and where the instruction in sight-singing must cover the most intricate forms of musical composition, and that in the shortest possible space of time.

While it may be, that the principle of tonality, key relation, is the only plan which is possible to the people at large, yet for the professional musicians and those intending to become such, to read by interval is certainly possible, and is, we believe, the only practical way to deal with the intricacies of modern music. We have been forced to this conclusion by a practical experience.

It is well known that in the music to which we refer, the key-signature is no guide at all to the reader, for the reason that the composer does not feel bound by the signature to remain even in contiguous keys, but moves

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to the most distant, or changes the key with every two or three measures; as this is done by means of the proper sharps or flats and not by a change of the signature, it manifestly becomes a very complex matter to read by means of the key.

It is a well known fact that reading by interval is the system taught in many if not most of the European Conservatories, and in this compilation we shall draw frequently from works in use there, but which, from the radical differences between the conditions of musical affairs in general, in America and Europe, have been found inadequate to our needs. It is not expected that this work is to settle all questions which are still hotly discussed by the advocates of other so called systems; we have simply undertaken to arrange a course of study based upon experience in teaching sight-singing in conservatory and public schools, and to collect from all available sources a sufficient number of illustrative examples to make a complete and thorough method suited to the needs of such an institution as we have named.

Attention is called to some of the characteristics of this work which are believed to be unique. An effort has been made to simplify the course so far as possible; to this end only those matters are touched upon which are absolutely indispensable.

Again, those who are to read from the F clef have an equal opportunity for practice with those who are to read from the G clef. Another important feature is the introduction of a large quantity of music with words ranging from the hymn tune in its best form to the oratorio chorus and embracing a large number of glees and choruses in three and four parts, intended to give the student practice in reading music at first sight *with words*. Considering all these features, it is expected that this work will be found useful in high schools, academies, seminaries, colleges and in private instruction as well; in short, wherever a course of instruction in sight-singing is required in which the subject has been reduced to its lowest terms.

TO THE STUDENT.

THE course is not intended for the beginner but rather for those who have mastered the rudiments of music.

To particularize: the student of this course should be able to sing the major scale correctly; should know the position of the letters on the staff in the G or the F cleffs, and should be able to distinguish between the different kinds of notes and rests; some knowledge of the piano-forte also will be found very helpful. There is no disguising the fact that to learn to read music at sight is a difficult task, therefore all who enter upon this study must do so with the determination to faithfully pursue the directions given to the very letter, whether such directions refer to writing or singing. At the same time, no one need be deterred from making the attempt, but none need hope to succeed except those who make an honest, determined effort.

Mental concentration is one of the first requisites to success in this study, and happy is the student who succeeds in forming this habit early in life; *it is quite as necessary to be able to think in music as in mathematics*. The power to imitate is directly opposed to the thinking power, therefore guard against it; first know what you are going to sing, then sing it if you can, and every time you succeed, be assured you are making progress toward becoming a musician. Let no comparison with your fellow student either encourage or discourage; we are only required to do our best in whatever we attempt, but if this much is not done we pay the penalty.

Success rarely comes suddenly to anyone, but is usually won by patient effort. Some one has defined genius as "long patience;" if this be correct we may all aspire to some genius, because patience can be cultivated.

With the hope that this course of study may prove a *real* help to all who desire to become intelligently musical, the editor submits his work to the public.

NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY COURSE

IN

SIGHT-SINGING.

LESSONS.

The Major Scale is the foundation of Music as known to us, because it contains the two intervals from which all other intervals are composed, and into which they may be resolved, namely, Major (larger) and Minor (smaller) seconds. Upon ϵ knowledge of these two intervals, and the various ways of representing then, depends all future success in this study; we mean by "knowledge", the ability to produce each of these two intervals at will, and to recognize them when they are produced by others, either vocally or instrumentally. To acquire this ability is much easier than to gain a familiarity with their varied representations.

In Ex. 1 will be 'ound the scale of C major, commonly called the Natural scale because no sharps or flats are required in order to properly represent it on the staff, but in point of sound it is no more natural than any other major scale. These, and all the other intervals will be taught as so many facts, but certain Musical Mnemonics, (Memory Aids), will be suggested in the case of each interval; for instance, a najor second may be associated with the sound of 1, 2,— 2, 1: A minor second with the sound of 3, 4,— 4, 3, of the major scale.

The learner should write out each major scale, viz., C, G, D, A, E, B, F^{*}, -F, B^{*}, E^{*}, A^{*}, D^{*}, G^{*}; as in Exercises 1, 2 and 3. In Ex. 2, the scale of G major is written for Sopraio, Alto, Tenor and Bass voices; in writing out the scales, each student should write in such a position on the staff as will bring them within the compass of his or her voice. Use no signature, but the sharps and flats should be placed *lefore* the notes to which they belong, and mark the

(5)

minor seconds with a bracket, as in the examples given. But two facts need to be borne in mind in order to write these scales correctly. *Fact* 1: The minor seconds must be made to occur between 3, 4 and 7, 8, of each scale. *Fact* 2: From E to F and from B to C is a minor second. When therefore, these minor seconds are found to come between other numbers than 3, 4 and 7, 8, they must be made to come between these numbers by the use of sharps or flats. After each scale is written, prove the work by writing the numbers below the notes and marking the minor seconds.

The letters may also be written above the notes. After each scale is written, take the pitch from some instrument, and sing it several times with the syllable "Loo", or any other better adapted to the voice, but not with do, re, mi, etc. Sing slowly, with a light voice, and with great care as to the correctness of each tone.



The ability to recognize major and minor seconds, both in sound and representation (with the ears and eyes), and to produce either variety at will with the voice, being of so much importance, he learner should now write out the following example in thirteen keys, firt without signatures as in Ex. 4 and 5; then again with signatures as in Ex. 6. As before, each pupil should be very careful to write every example in such a position on the staff as to bring it within the compass of the voice, as it is of the utmost importance that these exercises be sung in every key, not once merely, but many times.

The minor seconds should be carefully marked with a bracket (-) and the effort made to discriminate between the major and minor.

Attention is called to the time signature, $\frac{2}{2}$ the upper figure denotes the number of beats in a measure, the lower figure the kind of a note to be given to each beat.

When each example has been sung correctly as to the intonation, then sing it again in time, giving a slight accent to the first note in each measure. Where this course is studied without a teacher, a perfectly correct guide as to time may be obtained by suspending a slight weight, (say one or two ounces) at the end of a string a yard long and causing it to swing.

It is important that the proper use of the piano-forte, as related to the study of sight-singing be clearly explained at this point.

First, the piano should be always in tune, then use it only as follows : sound the first note of the example thus getting the pitch. When singing without regard to time, sing each note and while singing it, play softly each note on the piano. If the voice is found to be in tune with the instrument, proceed to the next note, and so on to the end of the exercise. Thus by comparing each note with the piano, the student can practice correctly, and rapid progress can be made.

If the piano sounds the note first, then the practice is of little use, as the student becomes at once a tone-imitator instead of a tone-producer. When singing in time, take the pitch from the piano, and sing on to the end of the example. Play the last note while still singing it; if in tune with the piano, it is pretty good evidence that the whole example has been sung in tune; if not, return at once to the practice without time. If, after repeated trials of the most careful sort, you are still out of tune, then consult your teacher.

In all the following examples in one part, the melodies are also written out in the F-clef, in order to give those who must read from this clef an equal opportunity with those who read from the G-clef. In the two-part exercises the Alto part is reproduced in the F-clef for the same reason.

SECONDS.





Ex. 5.









From Ex. 7 to Ex. 18, the Commas are introduced to mark the phrasing, and the pupil should take time from the last note in each phrase for breathing.

After Ex. 17 they are omitted in order that the learner may decide where the breath should be taken. The minor seconds should still be marked with a bracket until they are readily and certainly recognized.























Ex.13.















Ex. 17 and 18 should be sung as one, and the attempt made to change the key without instrumental aid. The careful marking of the minor seconds will facilitate this. Attention is called to the four-part measure here introduced. Accent the first and third counts, making the accent on the first count stronger than that on the third.







The two following exercises (19 and 20) should be treated in the same manner as the preceding, (17 and 18) Also exercises 21 and 22.













If the minor seconds are not readily recognized in the following studies, they should be carefully marked.









Attention is called to the twenty-eighth measure of this exercise, the first note being g-flat and the following note f-sharp, two ways of representing the same tone; called an Enharmonic change. It will be readily seen that these two notes are played upon the same key, therefore they are to be sung alike.













Attention is called to the chromatic half-step between measures four and five, ten and eleven etc. of Ex. 25. The chromatic half-step is the same in sound as a minor second, and the learner may mark it and sing it as such.

As this form of progression will occur frequently in this course of study, the student is urged to notice carefully the manner in which it is written.















Ex. 26. 9: • #• • ^b• • #• • ^b• • #0 = #0 = #2 = ^b2





































THIRDS.

We now proceed to the study of Thirds, this being the next largest interval found in the major scale. As has no doubt been observed from what has preceded, an interval is the distance up or down the staff from one line or space to another line or space; and we shall hereafter call these lines and spaces degrees. We have already studied the smallest interval in the scale, namely, Seconds, so called because there are two degrees found in every second.

In the intervals we are now to study there are three degrees, they are therefore called thirds. As we have before said, all larger intervals are composed of seconds and may be resolved into seconds. A minor third is made up of one major and one minor second, A major third is composed of two major seconds, A major third is com-

For memory aids use 2-4 for a minor, and 1-3 for a major third, as in the above illustrations.

It is evident that one who has become familiar with major and minor seconds can at any time gain a knowledge of any other interval by resolving it into seconds: for instance a major third is to be sung, the sound of D you have, but cannot think of the sound of F-sharp; by singing up two major seconds from D, the voice produces F sharp, and all you have to do is to repeat it a sufficient number of times in connection with D to impress the sound upon your memory, and the difficulty is at once overcome.



Or, the memory aids may suggest the proper sound, if not, the plan of resolving the interval into seconds, as suggested above, must always succeed, until finally the sound of each interval has become as much a fact as those of the multiplication table. We must again emphasize the necessity of learning to recognize intervals when heard, as well as how they look when written or printed. Thus we cultivate two senses, for with the musician it is a necessity that both sight and hearing be equally developed.

In all the following examples the learner should carefully mark the minor thirds with a bracket.







Ex. 35 contains all the thirds in a single octave, therefore it should be copied and written out in the thirteen keys, as in some of the foregoing exercises in seconds. Mark all the minor thirds with a bracket.



×

_p.




























In Ex. 41 three-part measure is introduced. Accent strongly the first beat in the measure, leaving the others unaccented, so as to make a marked contrast between the accented and unaccented beats. By so doing a "*feeling*" for this form of measure will soon be developed.

















































Examples 49 and 50 should be sung as one, without instrumental aid, and an earnest attempt made to sing each interval so correctly as to end on the key.



So also Exercises 51 and 52.





























































FOURTHS.

The next largest interval is the Fourth, so called because it includes four degrees. There are two varieties of fourths found in the major scale, namely, the perfect and augmented. The perfect fourth contains one minor and two major seconds, the augmented fourth includes three major seconds.



We shall first study the perfect fourth. In exercise 59 will be found all the perfect fourths between G and E , each one reduced into seconds, and then presented as a fourth, descending. In exercise 60 will be found the same treatment of the interval, ascending. In exercise 61 the same fourths are found without the intermediate notes.

From this point on, each example should be analyzed and each interval marked with the following signs, and the bracket, major —, minor _, perfect \Box , augmented \times , diminished o, as in the first four measures of exercise 59. If this is done with care it will be found to be a great advantage to the learner.

After each exercise has been analyzed, it should then be sung with the greatest care, *repeating the fourths* several times in order to fix the sound of the interval in the memory, frequently testing the tones by the piano, after which each exercise should be sung in time. For memory aid, use 5-8: 8-5, for the perfect fourth.

Ex. 59. Ex













Attention is again called to the enharmonic change in the fourth and other measures of Ex. 60, the two notes being the same in sound.















AUGMENTED FOURTHS.

There is but one interval of this order found in the major scale, namely, from 4 to 7: F to B on the staff. The same treatment of this interval is found in Exercise 62, as of the perfect fourth in the preceding examples. Exercise 63 is a transposition (change of key,) of the same exercise. Exercise 64 is still another transposition of exercise 62, but without signature. The learner is expected to ascertain the key. All these examples should be first analyzed and *marked*, then sung. This interval is usually called difficult, but it has strong characteristics which will help to fix it in the memory; if therefore these three examples are studied with sufficient thoroughness it will soon become as easy as any other interval.

The memory aids for the Augmented Fourth are 4 - 7: 7 - 4.





















The student should write out Exercise 67 in the thirteen keys, with signatures, marking each interval with sign and bracket.































































two three-part measures; the accented beats are the first and the fourth, the fourth beat should be accented less strongly than the first.



Six-part measure is first introduced in Exercise 80. It is very much like





FIFTHS.

There are two varieties of fifths in the major scale, namely, perfect and diminished. As its name indicates, a fifth includes five degrees on the staff: a perfect fifth includes one minor and three major seconds; the diminished fifth includes two major and two minor seconds. The perfect fifth is first presented for study. Exercise 81 etc. should be studied in precisely the same manner as the corresponding exercises in fourths. For memory aids use 1-5, 5-1.

Each exercise should be carefully analyzed, and marked with brackets and signs, before singing.

Ex. 81.







































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DIMINISHED FIFTHS.

As there is but one augmented fourth in the major scale, so there is but one Diminished Fifth, which is produced by the inversion (turning over) of the augmented fourth, as will be seen from the following illustration.



In Figure 1 we reckon an interval from C up to F. In Figure 2 we invert the interval by placing C above F, and reckon the interval from F up to C. We have now discovered the fact that fourths, when inverted, become fifths.



If we augment the fourth as in Figure 3, it is plain that we must at the same time diminish the fifth which we produce by the inversion of the augmented fourth in Figure 4. As we learned in the study of fourths, we find an augmented fourth from F up to B on the staff, we shall find then, a diminished fifth in the inversion of this interval. See Figures 5 and 6.



We have, therefore, in any major scale a diminished fifth from 7 up to 4, or from 4 down to 7, and we can use these numbers as our memory aids, but the learner is cautioned not to confound these with the memory aids of the augmented fourths. We give them again: for augmented fourths, 4 up to 7: 7 down to 4; for diminished fifths, 7 up to 4: 4 down to 7.

On account of the intimate relation of fifths and fourths we shall treat them together in Exercise 91 to 97 inclusive.









































Exercise 89 should be carefully written out in the thirteen keys, the intervals carefully marked, and then sung in all the keys.











FOURTHS AND FIFTHS.







































































Three-part music is introduced with Example 96; these numbers, however, are complete without the bass, except as may be stated differently.







SIXTHS.

There are two varieties of Sixths found in the major scale, namely, major and minor sixths. This interval includes six degrees of the staff, hence its name. A major sixth includes one minor and four major seconds; a minor sixth includes two minor and three major seconds. As in the case of seconds and thirds, these two intervals are presented together for study in the first example under this head, (Example 97).

As thirds have now become somewhat familiar to the learner, it may assist in the quick recognition of the two kinds of sixths, when they are presented to the eye, to state in advance, that a major third inverted becomes a minor sixth; a minor third inverted becomes a major sixth.



For memory aids use 1 - 6: 6 - 1, for a major sixth: 3 - 8: 8 - 3, for a minor sixth.

It is necessary once more to remind the learner that the sounds of these intervals must become fixed in the mind as facts: specially is this important in the case of the wider intervals, they should be sung at call, and recognized when heard, and it is hoped that all who pursue this course will take pride in learning to both sing and recognize each interval studied.

The following exercises on sixths should be carefully analyzed and marked before they are sung. If any notes are found too high for some voices, they may be sung an octave lower, or such measures or notes omitted.













Exercise 98 should be transposed into the thirteen keys, each interval carefully marked in each, and then sung in all the keys.


























All combinations of two and three part measure are called Compound time. Nine part measure is compounded of three, three part measures, consequently every fourth beat should be accented, but the first accelt in each measure should be the strongest.







In twelve part measure accent every fourth beat, but make the first and seventh beat stronger than the others.















































































In the two following examples, (112 & 113) the inversion of the sixth is given. As will be at once seen, a third results from such inversion. These two examples should be transposed into the thirteen keys, analyzed and sung.









































SEVENTHS.

There are two varieties of this interval found in the major scale, namely, major sevenths and minor sevenths. The former includes five major seconds and one minor second; the latter four major and two minor seconds. There are two major sevenths and five minor sevenths in the major scale. Sevenths inverted will become seconds, and it will aid the student in recognizing the two kinds of sevenths, when they are presented to the eye, to remember that major sevenths when inverted become minor seconds; minor sevenths inverted become major seconds; See Exercises 122 and 123. For memory aids use 1 up to 7: 7 down to 1 for major sevenths, 5 up to 4: 4 down to 5 for minor sevenths. Sevenths because they decide the key. See Exercise 125 which contains several illustrations of the dominant seventh including the notes which form the dominant seventh chord. Each of the examples under sevenths should be carefully analyzed and marked before singing.



























































Examples 122, 123, 124 are not to be sung until after octaves have been studied, but are to be analyzed and marked in order to aid the student in quickly deciding which kind of seventh is presented.





In the following exercise will be found several illustrations of the dominant seventh chord. The student should decide what is the key indicated in every other measure and to specially notice the notes which lead up to each key. In measures 6, 12, 14, 16, 20 and 22 the keys will be found to be minor keys, not major.























































OCTAVES.

This interval is so well known that it is necessary to say but little in explanation of it. There is but one form of it in the major scale, namely, the perfect octave which may be formed from each degree of the scale; it includes five major and two minor seconds, or the complete scale. For memory aids use 1-8:8-1. Although the octave is so well known generally, yet it is not easily produced under some circumstances, and should be faithfully studied. The examples under this head have been chosen with care and each one should be analyzed and marked before attempting to sing them. We have now treated each interval in the major scale, but before proceeding to new difficulties all these intervals should be carefully reviewed, as there will be no more opportunity to treat them again *specially;* in the exercises to follow, each interval heretofore studied may be introduced at any time, and the student should be able to recognize them at sight.














Exercise 132 should be written out by each learner after the manner of Exercise 133, that is, write each scale in the key of the note with which it begins by using the proper sharps and flats.















































Ex. 139.















































































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