

MR. DICKSON'S METHOD FOR BAND

Book One

Alto Sax

www.JustinDickson.com/Band

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--- While You Are Playing ---

Tap your foot with the beat, during all notes and rests.

Count 1-2-3-4-1-2-3-4 in your mind while you play each measure (notes and rests).

Breathe on the beat before you start playing. Breathe together to play together.

Look ahead and get ready for the next measure when you can.

Sit up straight, take a big and relaxed breath every time, don't tense up.

--- Practice ---

Practice your instrument every day. Really. Every day.

Every day you practice, you will get stronger and better;

every day you don't practice, you will get weaker and worse.

It's not about how hard you try; it's about how often you try.

If you want to get good at something, you have to do it over and over and over again slowly.

Practice with a metronome, to help you count and keep a steady beat.

Practice with the Bandmate Chromatic Tuner app to check your notes.

--- Strategies For Learning New Music ---

Slowwwwwww Dooooowwwwwwnnnnnnnn.

Slow down the tempo until you can play it without any mistakes, then play it correctly at that tempo 5-10 times before trying to speed up. Slow down again if you make mistakes.

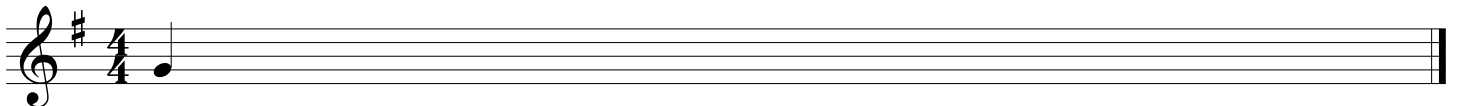
If you make mistakes, stop and fix them! Do not just keep going.

Say the note letter names out loud before you try to play the melody.

Tizzle, count, and/or clap the rhythm before you try to play the melody.

CHAPTER 1: The band will be able to read, count, and play melodies with the pitches concert Bb, C, and D; and rhythms with quarter notes and quarter rests.

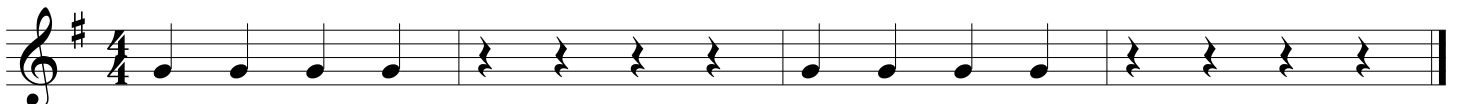
1.01 Your first note



G

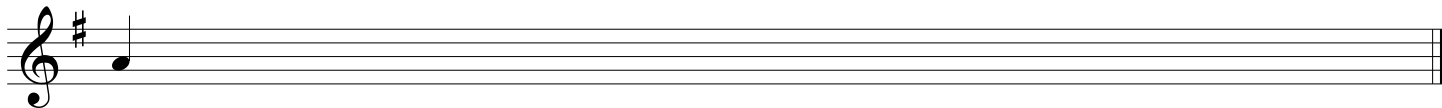
1.02 Quarter notes and quarter rests

tap your foot with the beat while you play!



1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

1.03 Your next note



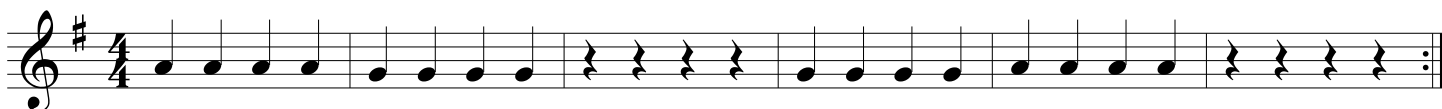
A

1.04 Quarter notes and quarter rests



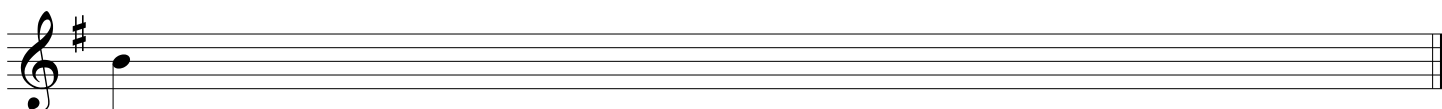
1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

1.05 Think fast



1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

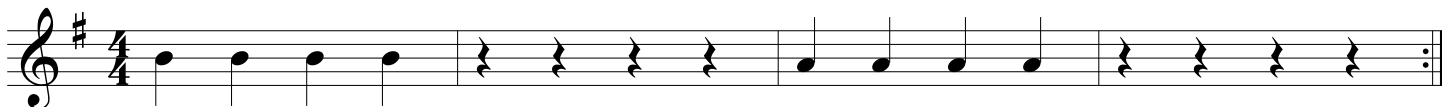
1.06 Another new note



B

1.07 Quarter notes and quarter rests

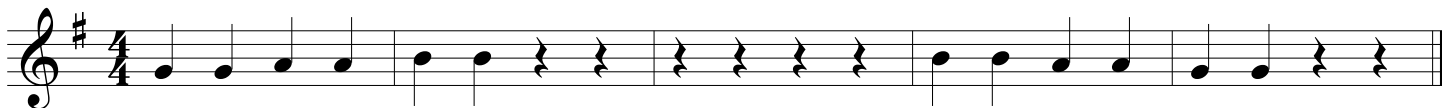
look ahead -->



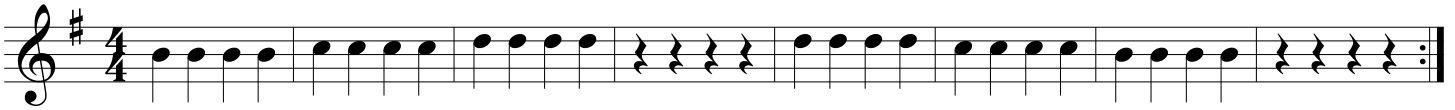
1.08 Think fast



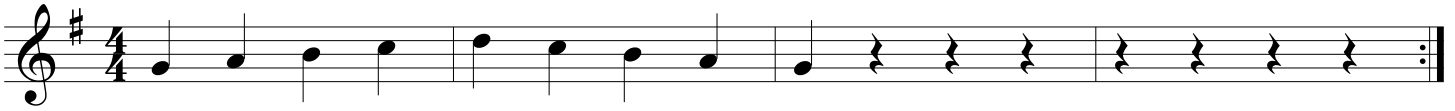
1.09 Two at a time



2.06 Keep going



2.07 Five note scale



2.08 Leaping up



2.09 Leaping down



CHAPTER 3: The band will be able to read, count, and play melodies with half notes and half rests.

3.01 Half notes and half rests



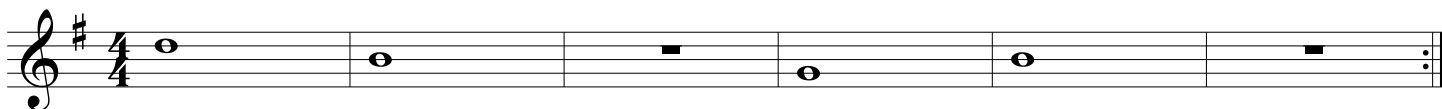
3.02 Half notes and half rests



3.03 Whole notes and whole rests



3.04 Whole notes and whole rests



3.05 Get rhythm

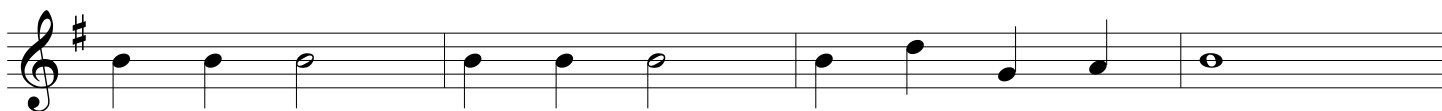
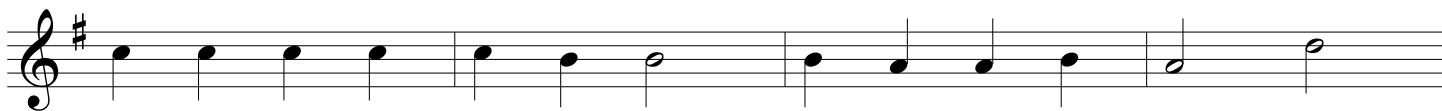


3.06 "Hot Cross Buns"

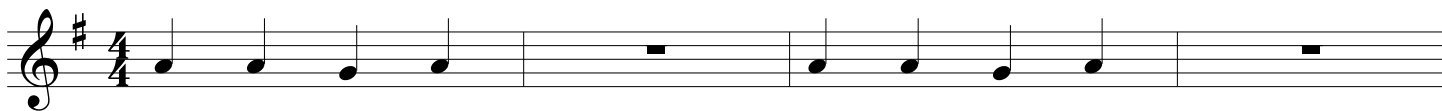


3.07 "Jingle Bells"

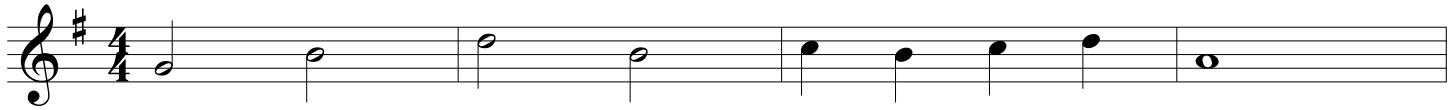
*continue down to
the next line >>>>*



3.08 "The Hawley Hornet Blues" - Dickson



3.09 "March Of The Stinky Kids" - Dickson

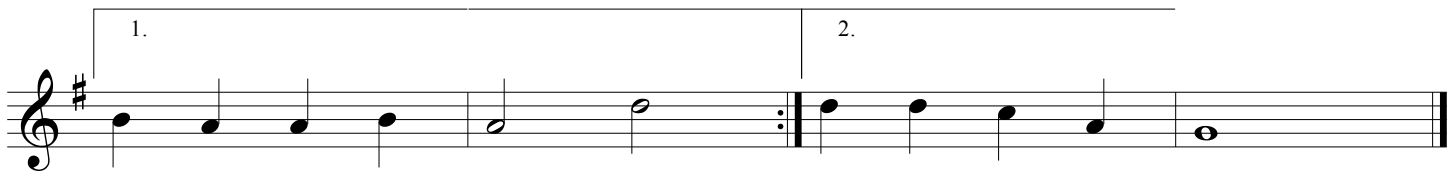


I'm so stink - y think I'll go to band,



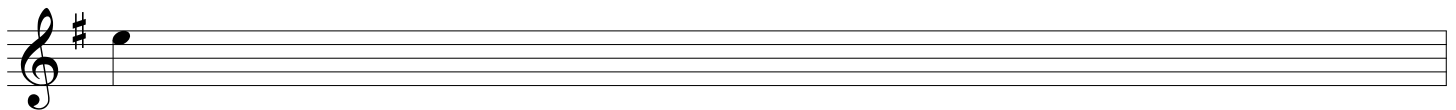
Make the room stink as much as I can!

3.10 "Jingle Bells" with first and second endings



CHAPTER 4: The band will be able to read, count, and play melodies with the pitch concert G.

4.01 New note!

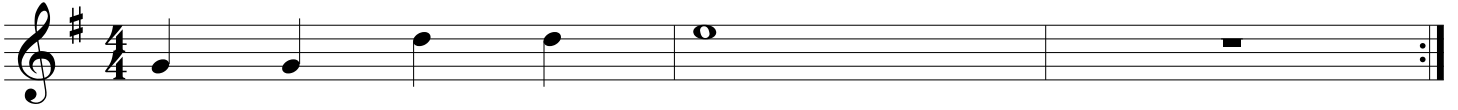


E

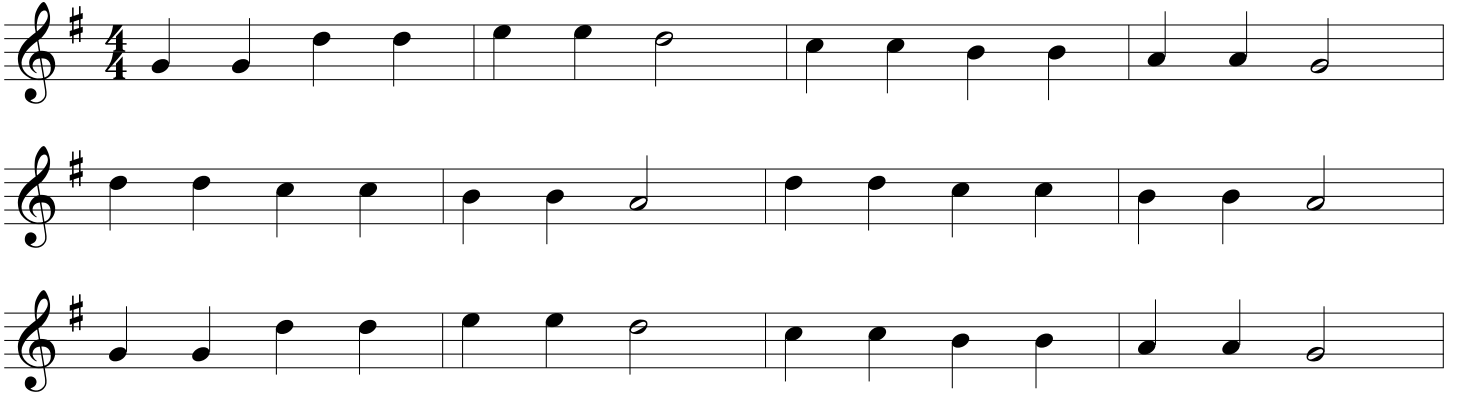
4.02 Three note scale



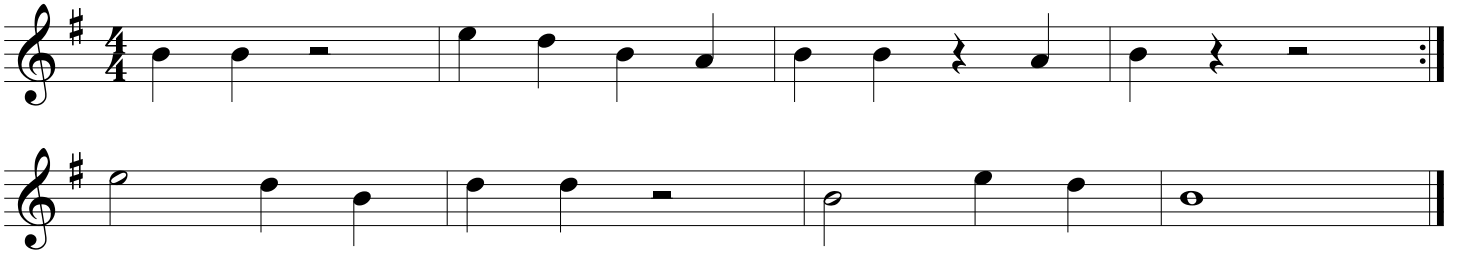
4.03 Help for the brass



4.04 "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" - W.A. Mozart

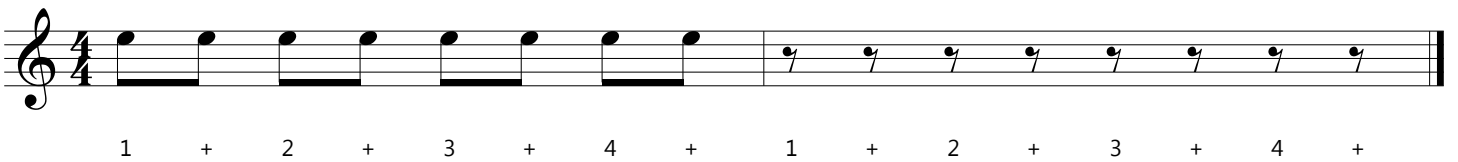


4.05 "Repeat Then Move On Blues" - Dickson

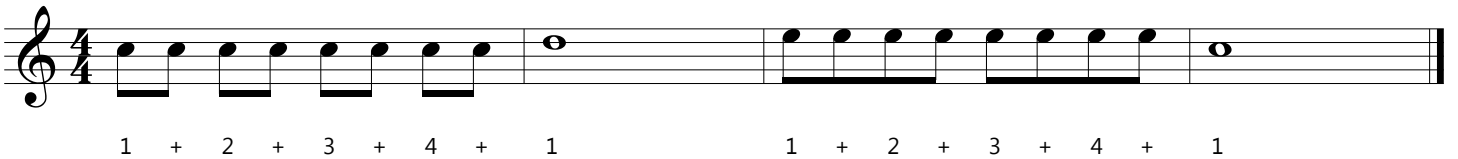


CHAPTER 5: The band will be able to read, count, and play melodies with eighth notes.

5.01 Eighth notes and eighth rests

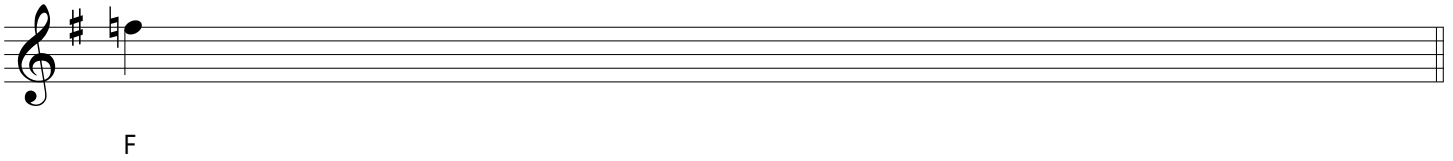


5.02 Eighth notes



CHAPTER 6: The band will be able to read, count, and play melodies with the pitch Ab, and dotted-half notes.

6.01 New note!

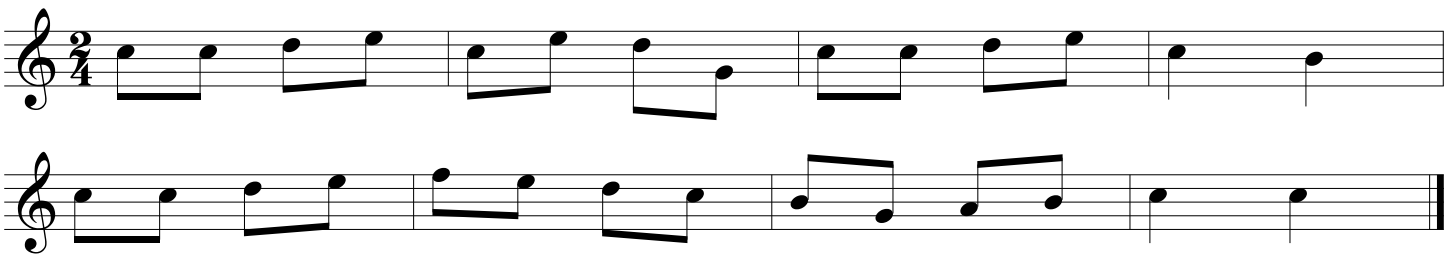


F

6.02 Three note scale




6.03 "Yankee Doodle"

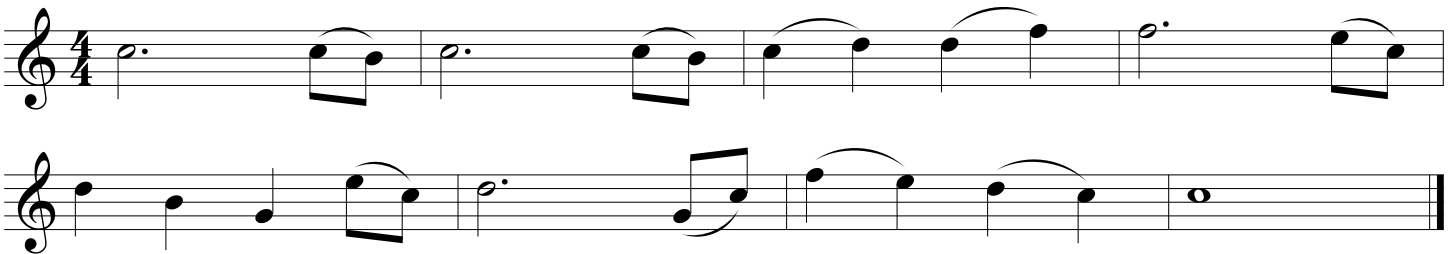


6.04 Dotted-half notes

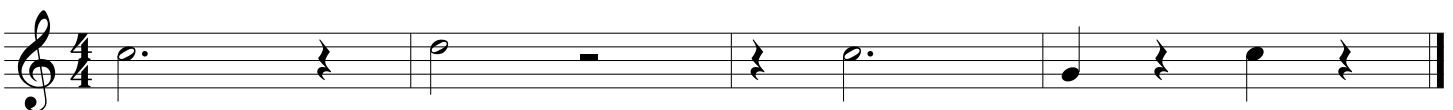
tap your foot with the beat while you play!



6.05 "Jurassic Park" with slurs

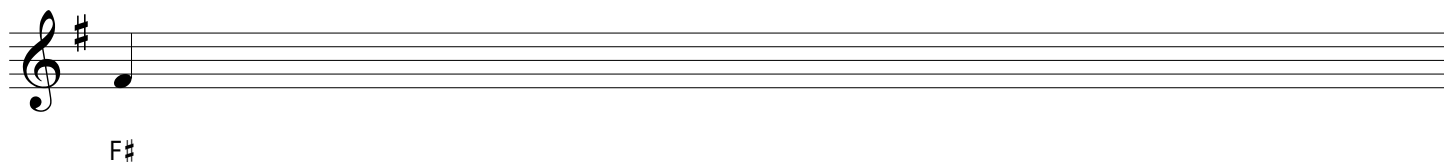


6.06 Etude



CHAPTER 8: The band will be able to read, count, and play melodies with the pitch concert A, and rhythms with tied notes.

8.01 New note!

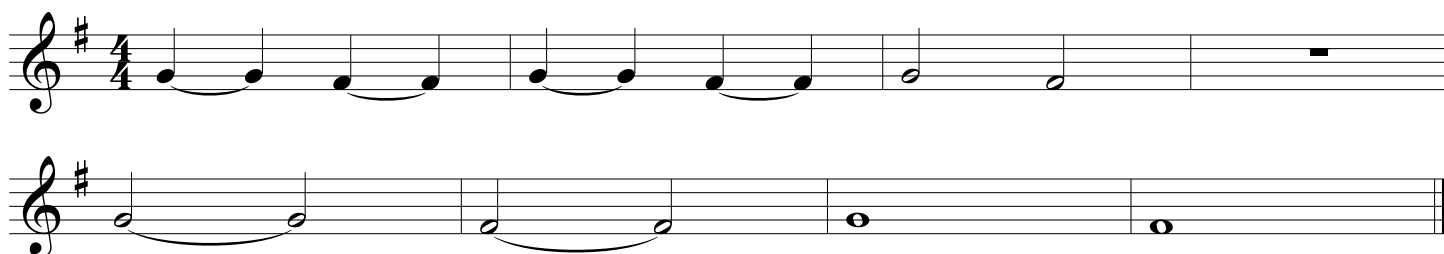


F#

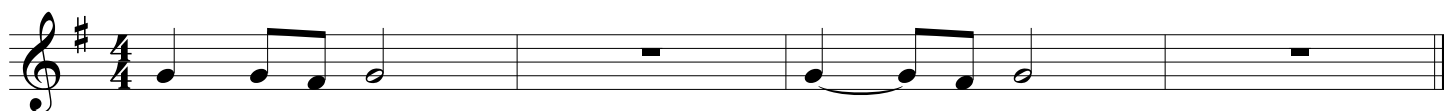
8.02 Etude



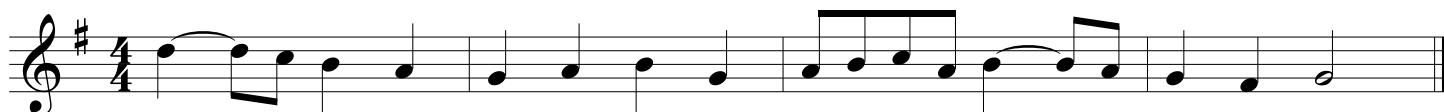
8.03 Ties



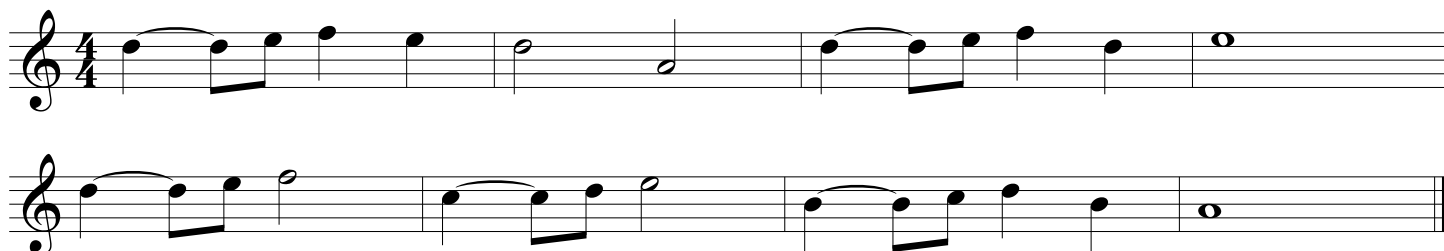
8.04 Ties



8.05 "Deck The Halls"



8.06 "Spooky Song" - Dickson



8.07 "Ode To Joy" - Ludwig Van Beethoven

Musical notation for "Ode To Joy" in G major, 4/4 time. The piece consists of four staves of music. The first two staves show a simple melody with quarter notes and a half note. The third and fourth staves show a more complex melody with eighth notes and a half note.

notes with the Accent mark > should stand out, so blow a little more air at the beginning of the note.

8.08 "Accent Blues"

Musical notation for "Accent Blues" in 4/4 time. The piece consists of three staves of music. The first two staves show a melody with quarter notes and eighth notes, with accent marks (>) above several notes. The third staff shows a melody with quarter notes and eighth notes, with accent marks (>) above several notes.

CHAPTER 9: The band will be able to read, count, and play melodies with the pitch concert G, and rhythms with ties across the bar line.

9.01 New note!

Musical notation for "New note!" showing a single note on a staff. The note is a quarter note on the line G (concert G).

E

9.02 Five note scale

Musical notation for "Five note scale" in G major, 4/4 time. The scale consists of five notes: G, A, B, C, D, followed by a whole rest.

9.03 Ties



9.04 Ties



9.05 "Summertime" - George & Ira Gershwin



9.06 "Bubble Sheet Blues" - Dickson

