

Free Video Tutorials and
Reproducible PDF Worksheets
www.stephenhillcomposer.com

Basic Elements of Reading and Writing Music

Stephen Hill

K-12 Band and Orchestra

Whittier Christian Schools and California High School


SARAHTIM Music Publishing




This series of 40 videos and accompanying worksheets was designed to introduce my students to the basic vocabulary and fundamental elements of reading and writing music. It is not intended as an in-depth study of all that Music Theory entails.

Though written with my students in mind and from the perspective of how I presented the concepts, the videos and worksheets are available to anyone who may find them helpful.

You can view the video tutorials and download the PDF worksheets from my website at www.stephenhillcomposer.com under *Resources*. The videos are also viewable on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@stephenhillcomposer>.

1. The Music Staff.....	p.4
2. The Lines and Spaces.....	p.9
3. The Music Alphabet.....	p.18
4. Overview of Clef Signs.....	p.27
5. The Treble Clef.....	p.30
6. The Bass Clef.....	p.37
7. The Alto Clef.....	p.44
8. The Grand Staff.....	p.55
9. Ledger Lines.....	p.60
10. Note Value Names.....	p.73
11. Music and Math.....	p.78
12. Rests.....	p.90
13. Music Rests and Math.....	p.95
14. Time Signatures, Bar Lines, and Measures.....	p.106
15. Pick-Up Notes and Multi-Rests.....	p.111
16. Repeat Signs.....	p.115
17. Accidentals (Sharps and Flats).....	p.118
18. Tempo (How Fast or Slow).....	p.121
19. Dynamics (How Loud or Soft).....	p.128
20. Articulations (How to Emphasize the Playing of the Note).....	p.137
21. Slurs and Ties (How to Connect One Note to the Next).....	p.141
22. Composing your Own Rhythms.....	p.148
23. Composing Your Own Melodies.....	p.152
24. Eighth Notes.....	p.177
25. Composing Your Own Rhythms with Eighth Notes.....	p.180
26. Composing Your Own Melodies with Eighth Notes.....	p.183
27. Sight Rhythms (adding Sixteenth Notes).....	p.192
28. Composing Your Own Rhythms with Sixteenth Notes.....	p.209
29. Composing Your Own Melodies with Sixteenth Notes.....	p.212
30. Introducing Intervals - Whole and Half Steps.....	p.221
31. Introducing Melodic and Harmonic Intervals.....	p.226

32. Identifying Major and Minor Intervals.....	p.235
33. Introducing Scales: Modes.....	p.244
34. Introducing Scales: Major.....	p.248
35. Introducing Key Signatures.....	p.255
36. Introducing the Circle of Fifths (Line of Fifths).....	p.262
37. Introducing Scales: Minor (Natural, Melodic, Harmonic).....	p.267
38. Introducing Chords and Arpeggios.....	p.277
39. Introducing Chord Progressions (Harmonizing a Melody).....	p.287
40. How to Transpose a Melody.....	p.306

About the Composer...**Stephen Hill** (b. 1958) was born and raised in Southern California. He studied composition with Philip Westin at Cerritos College (CA), W. Francis McBeth at Ouachita Baptist University (Arkansas), and Byong Kon Kim at California State University, Los Angeles. Stephen's studies with these composers connect him to a lineage that includes their teachers, Roy Harris, Ingolf Dahl, Clifton Williams, Bernard Rogers, Bernhard Heiden, and Howard Hanson. Stephen composes for the simple joy of it.

For over 40 years, Stephen taught K-12 instrumental music in the Private Christian School (Whittier Christian) and Public School (California High School) settings. Although semi-retired, Stephen continues to work with students by teaching part-time at California High School and maintaining his private music studio, where he plays and teaches Woodwinds, Brass, Strings, and Piano. Stephen also plays with the church orchestra where he attends. When teaching full-time, he was primarily a "summer" composer. No longer teaching full-time, Stephen has the privilege of composing beyond just the summer months and publishes through his company, SARAHTIM — a title that comes from simply combining the names of his daughter, Sarah, and son, Timothy. (*Notes by Dr. John Burdett, Azusa Pacific University*)

“Where there is devotional music, God is always at hand with His gracious presence.” J.S.Bach

“The Lord is my shepherd...” (Psalm 23)

*To listen to Stephen's music, view pdf and video scores visit:
www.stephenhillcomposer.com*


SARAHTIM Music Publishing


www.stephenhillcomposer.com
stephenhillmusic@icloud.com
(562) 412-0906

Free Video Tutorials and
Reproducible PDF Worksheets
www.stephenhillcomposer.com

Basic Elements of Reading and Writing Music

19. Dynamics (How Loud or Soft)

Stephen Hill
K-12 Band and Orchestra
Whittier Christian Schools and California High School


SARAHTIM Music Publishing


(Video tutorial available at www.stephenhillcomposer.com resource page)

The Basic Elements of Music

19. Dynamics

Listening List

p - f - p

Symphony No. 94 - Haydn (Beginning)



mf - f - mf - mp - p - ppp

Symphony No. 6 - Tchaikovsky (ca.7:25)



f - p

Symphony No. 3 - Beethoven (Beginning)



fff

Harmonielehre - John Adams <https://youtu.be/PymuU288IEM> (Beginning)



p - fff - p - ffff

Harmonium - John Adams <https://youtu.be/l-6z-ow6H1c> (ca.28:20)



Decrescendo - Crescendo

Shout - Isley Brothers <https://youtu.be/rWRsJ-mDU5o> (ca.2:55)



(Video tutorial available at www.stephenhillcomposer.com resource page)

Time: _____

Name: _____

Dynamics - Work Sheet 1

ppp - Piano Pianissimo (Very, Very Soft) *pp* - Pianissimo (Very Soft) *p* - Piano (Soft) *mp* - Mezzo Piano (Medium Soft)
fff - Forte Fortissimo (Very, Very Loud) *ff* - Fortissimo (Very Loud) *f* - Forte (Loud) *mf* - Mezzo Forte (Medium Loud)

Write how to “Say” these Dynamic Symbols

1. *ppp* _____

2. *pp* _____

3. *p* _____

4. *mp* _____

5. *fff* _____

6. *ff* _____

7. *f* _____

8. *mf* _____

9. *ppp* _____

10. *ff* _____

Write how to “Perform” these Dynamic Symbols

1. *p* _____

2. *mf* _____

3. *fff* _____

4. *pp* _____

5. *f* _____

6. *mp* _____

7. *ff* _____

8. *ppp* _____

9. *mf* _____

10. *p* _____

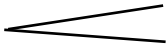
Time _____

Name _____

Dynamic Symbols Work Sheet 2

1. _____ ***ff***

A. Piano (Soft)

2. _____ 

3. _____ ***p***

B. Pianissimo (Very Soft)

4. _____ ***mp***

C. Piano Pianissimo (Very, Very Soft)

5. _____ ***f***

6. _____ 

D. Mezzo Piano (Medium Soft)

7. _____ ***ppp***

E. Forte (Loud)

8. _____ ***mf***

F. Fortissimo (Very Loud)

9. _____ ***mp***

10. _____ ***ff***

G. Forte Fortissimo (Very, Very Loud)

11. _____ 

12. _____ ***f***

H. Mezzo Forte (Medium Loud)

13. _____ ***p***

I. Crescendo (Get Louder)

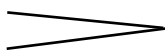
14. _____ ***mf***

J. Decrescendo (Get Softer)

15. _____ ***pp***

16. _____ ***fff***

17. _____ ***f***

18. _____ 

(Video tutorial available at www.stephenhillcomposer.com resource page)

Time: _____

Name: _____

Dynamics - Work Sheet 3

Write how to "Say" these Dynamic Symbols

Write how to "Perform" these Dynamic

1. *ff* _____

1. *ff* _____

2. *mp* _____

2. *ppp* _____

3. *f* _____

3. *f* _____

4. *mp* _____

4. *mp* _____

5. *pp* _____

5. *p* _____

6. *p* _____

6. *pp* _____

7. *fff* _____

7. *mp* _____

8. *ppp* _____

8. *fff* _____

9. *p* _____

9. *ff* _____

10. *mf* _____

10. *mf* _____

Time: _____

Name: _____

Dynamics - Work Sheet 1

ppp - Piano Pianissimo (Very, Very Soft) *pp* - Pianissimo (Very Soft) *p* - Piano (Soft)
mp - Mezzo Piano (Medium Soft) *fff* - Forte Fortissimo (Very, Very Loud) *ff* - Fortissimo (Very Loud)
f - Forte (Loud) *mf* - Mezzo Forte (Medium Loud)

Write how to "Say" these Dynamic Symbols

1. *ppp* Piano Pianissimo

2. *pp* Pianissimo

3. *p* Piano

4. *mp* Mezzo Piano

5. *fff* Forte Fortissimo

6. *ff* Fortissimo

7. *f* Forte

8. *mf* Mezzo Forte

9. *ppp* Piano Pianissimo

10. *ff* Fortissimo

Write how to "Perform" these Dynamic

1. *p* Soft

2. *mf* Medium loud

3. *fff* Very, very loud

4. *pp* Very soft

5. *f* Loud

6. *mp* Medium soft

7. *ff* Very loud

8. *ppp* Very, very soft

9. *mf* Medium loud

10. *p* Soft

Time_____

Name_____

Dynamic Symbols Work Sheet 2

1. F *ff*

2. I 

3. A *p*

4. D *mp*

5. E *f*

6. J 

7. C *ppp*

8. H *mf*

9. D *mp*

10. F *ff*

11. I 

12. E *f*

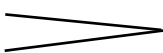
13. A *p*

14. H *mf*

15. B *pp*

16. G *fff*

17. E *f*

18. J 

A. Piano (Soft)

B. Pianissimo (Very Soft)

C. Piano Pianissimo (Very, Very Soft)

D. Mezzo Piano (Medium Soft)

E. Forte (Loud)

F. Fortissimo (Very Loud)

G. Forte Fortissimo (Very, Very Loud)

H. Mezzo Forte (Medium Loud)

I. Crescendo (Get Louder)

J. Decrescendo (Get Softer)

Time: _____

Name: _____

Dynamics - Work Sheet 3

Write how to "Say" these Dynamic Symbols

1. *ff* Fortissimo

2. *mp* Mezzo Piano

3. *f* Forte

4. *mp* Mezzo Piano

5. *pp* Pianissimo

6. *p* Piano

7. *fff* Forte Fortissimo

8. *ppp* Piano Pianissimo

9. *p* Piano

10. *mf* Mezzo Forte

Write how to "Perform" these Dynamic

1. *ff* Very loud

2. *ppp* Very, very soft

3. *f* Loud

4. *mp* Medium soft

5. *p* Soft

6. *pp* Very soft

7. *mp* Medium soft

8. *fff* Very, very loud

9. *ff* Very loud

10. *mf* Medium loud