

MELODIC MASTERY

Teaching Strategies for Solfège Fluency and Sight-Reading Excellence
Eric Wilkinson, Choir Director Wando High School

Two Essential Questions:

What do I need to teach? How am I going to teach it?

Three Stages of Learning

Stage 1: Introduction

- Train the Ear
 - Echo patterns
 - Learn solfège syllables
- Train the Body
 - Teach Curwen hand signs
 - Use two hands
- Train the Eye
 - Teach the Tonal Ladder
 - Teach line notes & space notes
 - Teach how to read notes on the musical staff
 - Apply the tonal ladder to the musical staff

Stage 2: Practice & Drill

- Vocal Pitch Exercises
- Time to Drill
 - Repetition and variation
 - Flashcards, method book, daily board work
 - Ear Training & Dictation
- Student Composition

Stage 3: Integration

- Combine: Tonal + Rhythm = Melody
 - Echo Tonal Patterns with Rhythm
 - Read Tonal Patterns with Rote Rhythm
 - Read Simple Melodic Patterns
 - Follow the Sequence of Skills
 - Gradually Increase Difficulty

TONAL SEQUENCE

1	Diatonic Steps: Pentachord	Do, Re, Mi, Fa, Sol
2	Diatonic Steps: Major Scale	Do, Re, Mi, Fa, Sol, La, Ti, Do
3	Tonic Triad Skips	Do, Mi, Sol, Do
4	Diatonic Steps & Tonic Triad Skips	Do, Re, Mi, Sol
5	Accidentals Level 1	Fi, Si, Te
6	Diatonic Steps: Natural Minor Pentachord	La, Ti, Do, Re, Mi
7	Diatonic Steps: Natural Minor Scale	La, Ti, Do, Re, Mi, Fa, Sol, La
8	Tonic Triad Natural Minor	La, Do, Mi, La
9	Skips of Third Major Scale	Do, Mi, Re, Fa, Mi, Sol,... etc.
10	Skips of a Fourth Major Scale	Do, Fa, Re, Sol, Mi, La... etc.
11	Triads from Major Scale	Do, Mi, Sol; Re, Fa, La..., etc.
12	Accidentals Level 2	Di, Ri, Seh, Le
13	Harmonic Minor Scale	La, Ti, Do, Re, Mi, Fa, Si, La
14	Melodic Minor Scale	...Mi, Fi, Si, La---Sol, Fa, Mi

QR Code for Link to [**“Beginning Note Reading”**](#)



Free Tonal Flashcards :-)
[**FILL OUT FORM**](#)



Fill out the google form and I will email you a pdf of Tonal Flashcards that you can print and use in your classroom.



Vocal Pitch Exercises

1. Major Scale

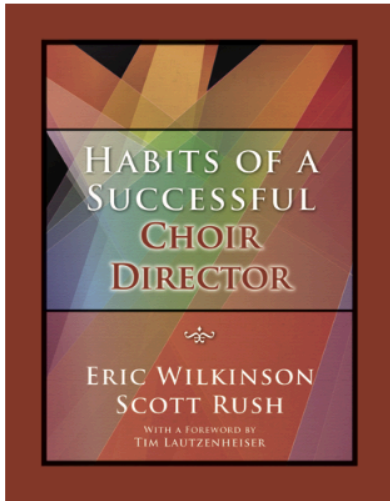
Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti Do Do Ti La Sol Fa Mi Re Do

2. Extended Major Scale

Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti Do Re Mi Re Do
Ti La Sol Fa Mi Re Do Ti La Sol Fa Sol La Ti Do

3a. Additive Major Scale - Ascending

Do Do Re Do Do Re Mi Re Do Do Re Mi Fa Mi Re Do
Do Re Mi Fa Sol Fa Mi Re Do Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Sol Fa Mi Re Do
Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti La Sol Fa Mi Re Do
Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti Do Ti La Sol Fa Mi Re Do



Habits of a Successful Choir Director

Wilkinson and Rush have created a fantastic “go-to” resource for choral directors who are looking for new ideas, checklists, and reminders for successful day-to-day operations within a school setting. This practical and insightful book should be on every choral director’s shelf!

—Dr. Joseph Ohrt, Choir Director, Central Bucks High School-West, Doylestown, PA
American Composers Forum National Board of Directors

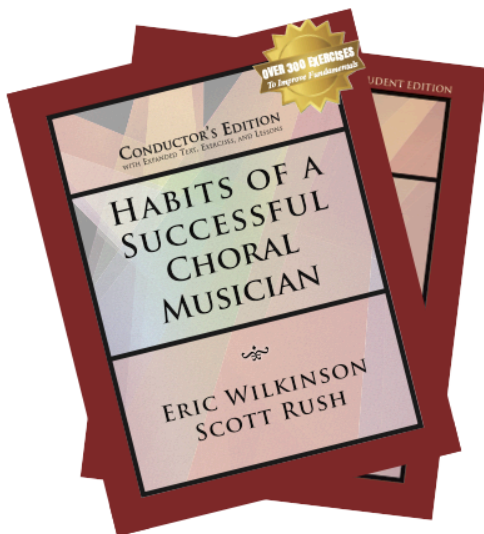
Habits of a Successful Choir Director presents effective teaching principles and provides a practical approach to everyday issues choral directors face. Building on the successful Habits series, Eric Wilkinson and Scott Rush have created a practical guide to all aspects of a successful choral program, including:

- Program organization and management
- Teaching the components of singing
- Rehearsal strategies and ensemble fundamentals
- Music literacy and repertoire selection
- Strategies for assessment
- The significance of music making

Additional sections address musicianship, classroom management, working with parents and colleagues, the importance of warm-up time, building student leadership, professional development, field trips, fundraising, schoolwide scheduling, developing a mission statement, and quality of life issues.

This is a comprehensive book that will exponentially inspire as teaching skills grow. It will serve as a constant and essential companion throughout the career of any choir director.

G-9416 Perfect-bound, 256 pages \$29.95



Habits of a Successful Choral Musician

Habits of a Successful Choral Musician is a resource for both choir directors and choral singers that builds music fundamentals (sight-singing and ear training) and vocal functions (from posture to tone). This book has provided a clear and well-organized pedagogy that is helping my students to improve in all facets of being a choral musician.

— Alan Davis, Director of Choirs, Hemet High School, Hemet, CA

Habits of a Successful Choral Musician by Eric Wilkinson and Scott Rush is a fantastic resource for choir directors who seek to develop all levels of singers. The book provides a pedagogical approach to teaching voice building, rhythm work, tuning exercises, sight-reading, theory exercises, and suggestions to nurture the entire musician. I love how this one method book covers multiple aspects of musicianship, rather than having to use multiple books to build each individual skill.

— Emily Chandler, Director of Choirs, Seven Lakes High School, Katy, TX

Habits of a Successful Choral Musician is a field-tested, vital, and—most important—musical collection of more than 200 sequenced exercises for building fundamentals and artistry.

The Student Edition is perfect for use by an entire choir or soloist, this book contains carefully sequenced warm-ups, vocalises, chorales, rhythm work, tonal patterns, sight-singing etudes, and much more. In one place, this book presents everything an aspiring singer needs to build fundamental musicianship skills and then be able to transfer those skills directly into the performance of great literature.

- Provides material for use during fundamentals time that promotes a comprehensive approach to developing skills necessary to fill the musical toolbox.
- Includes a sequential format that leads to the mastery of reading rhythms and, ultimately, to musical sight-singing.
- Provides chorales and other ensemble exercises for the development of tone quality, ensemble sonority, and musicianship.
- Includes partner songs, folk songs, and rounds to develop harmony skills.
- Combines pedagogy, literacy, fundamentals development, sight-singing, and musicianship into one book under one cover.
- Promotes the idea that technique and artistry are not taught in silos but are simultaneously taught as students build capacity in both areas.

The Teacher’s Edition contains Teacher Tips for exercises as well as appendices with Rubric for Vocal Pitch Exercise and Rubric for Repertoire Singing Test.

G-9815 Student Edition, 72 pages, Saddle-stitch, \$9.95

G-9815T Conductor’s Edition 112 pages, Spiral-bound, \$29.50

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