Middle Tennessee Vocal Association

SAMPLE SIGHTREADING PACKET

for the 2007 Choral Festival

based on the Sightreading Standards passed by the MTVA Board, Fall 2006

Table of Contents

Instructions and Notes ..... p. 1

Elementary School Rhythmic Exercises ..... p. 2

Middle School Rhythmic Exercises ..... p. 3

High School Rhythmic Exercises ..... p. 4

Elementary School Melodic Exercises ..... p. 5

Middle School Melodic Exercises ..... p. 6

High School Melodic Exercises ..... p. 7

Middle School Multi-Part Exercises ..... p. 8 – 11

High School Multi-Part Exercises ..... p. 12 – 15

Instructions and Notes

When examining the Sightreading process at Choral Festival, it became obvious to the MTVA Board that the procedures in place work, creating an objective atmosphere that adequately assesses individual choir's sightsinging abilities. There has been frustration in years past, however, because directors were never certain of what types of sightreading objectives would be included on the packet. This concern has been shared by Sightsinging Adjudicators, as well. While MTVA always gave them sightsinging packets from past years, they were never sure how difficult or easy to make the examples. The MTVA Board sought to remedy this problem, making clear to those who write our packet and to the directors what is expected for each age level. In creating these Sightreading Guidelines, there is *no change in the procedure or expectations* from each choir. Rather, the Board only codified what has been happening for years. It was decided that a Sample Packet would be made available each year for perusal by directors and students.

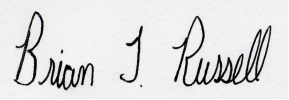
By employing high-level adjudicators and choosing high-quality music, the choirs in Middle Tennessee continue to improve artistically each year. Similarly, by standardizing our Sightreading Guidelines, it is the hope of MTVA that our choirs will gain an increased proficiency in sightsinging as well, further serving the complete music education of our students and ensuring the future of our art.

For those directors who are new to the Choral Festival, please do not be hesitant about bringing your ensembles. It is an atmosphere conducive to learning: the venue is beautiful and a fine place to sing, the adjudicators' comments are meant to serve the choir rather than admonish the director's interpretation, and the Festival is completely non-competitive. The sightreading portion is designed to give the adjudicator an objective way of assessing each choir's abilities. Here are a few notes regarding the procedure for sightreading:

- Each choir is required to sightread.
- The director chooses the voicing of the multi-part piece. However, this is the extent of the director's responsibilities. The adjudicator will lead the choir in each example. The director should not sing along or assist the choir in any way. This includes hand motion, silent mouth movements, etc.
- Each choir can use its own system of reading (neutral syllable, numbers, solfege, etc.).
- Any choir can request to sightread for comments only. This request must be in writing, submitted to the MTVA Board at least a month prior to Festival. This exemption precludes eligibility for the State Festival.

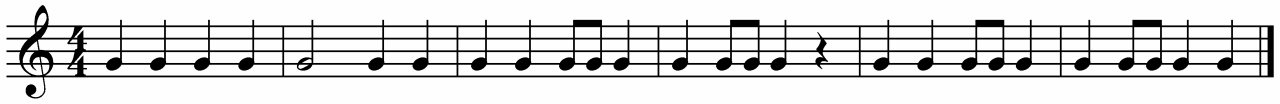
Of course, it would be wise to familiarize yourself with the MTVA Handbook for detailed guidelines regarding Choral Festival. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me and I will do my best to answer them. I stand by the educational values of our Festival. My hope is that it will continue to thrive and enhance the choral experience of every choir in Middle Tennessee.

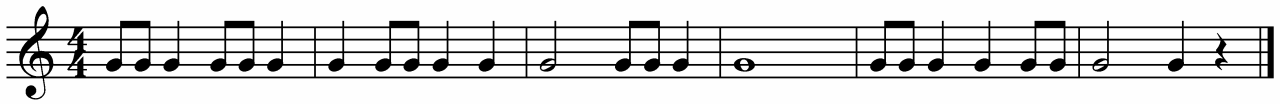
Enthusiastically,

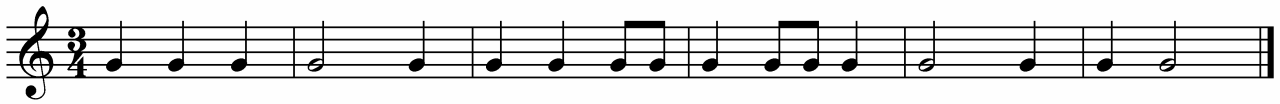


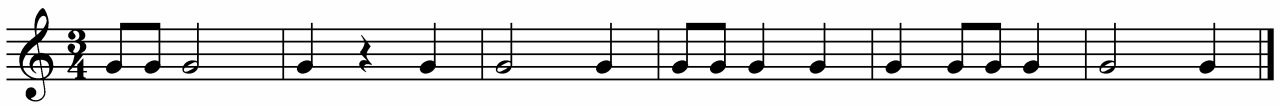
Brian T. Russell
Choral Festival Chair
briantrussell@msn.com

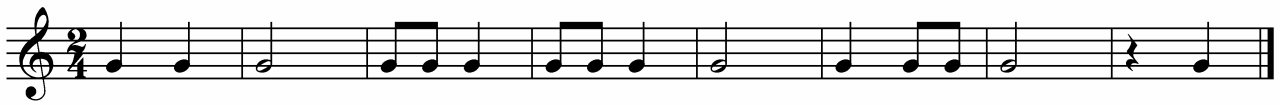
Elementary School Rhythmic Exercises

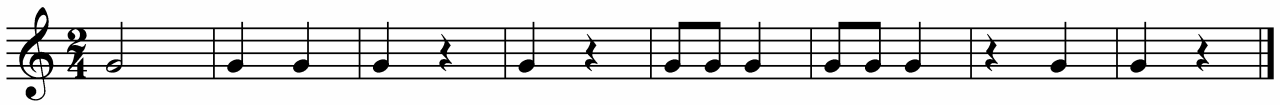
1. 

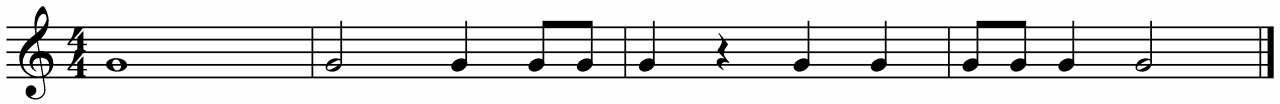
2. 

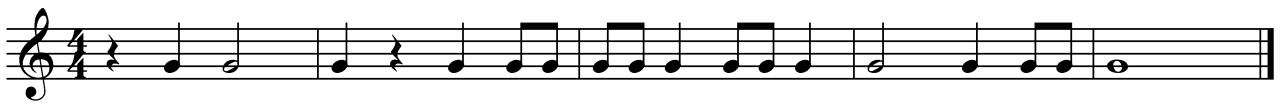
3. 

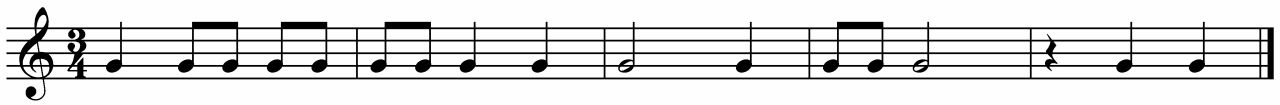
4. 

5. 

6. 

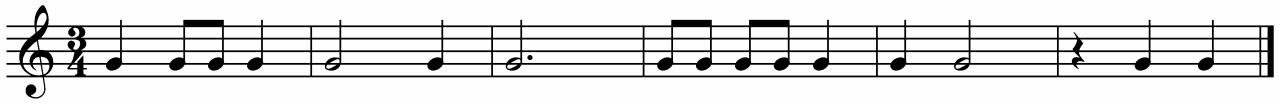
7. 

8. 

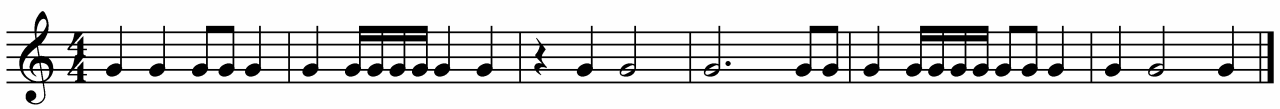
9. 

Middle School Rhythmic Exercises

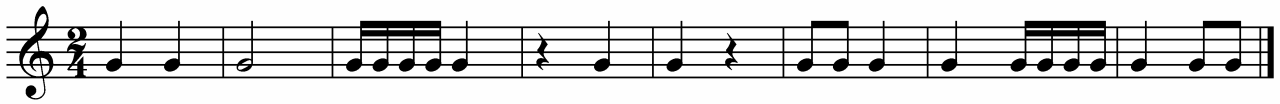
1.



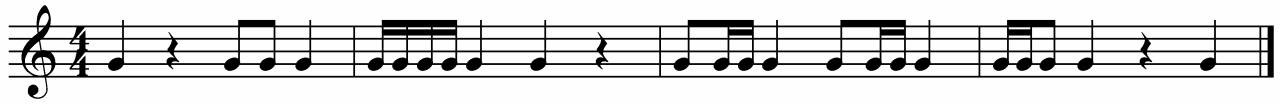
2.



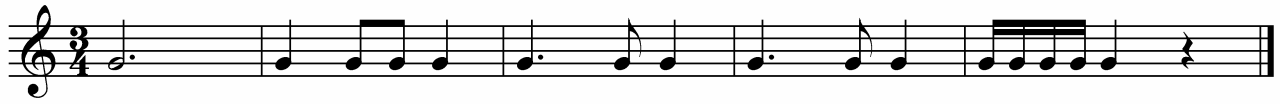
3.



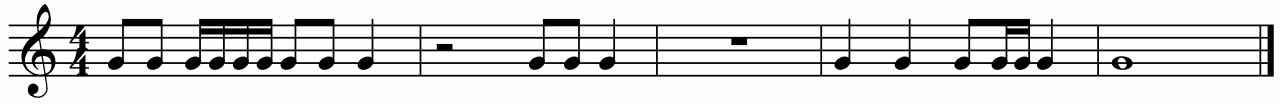
4.



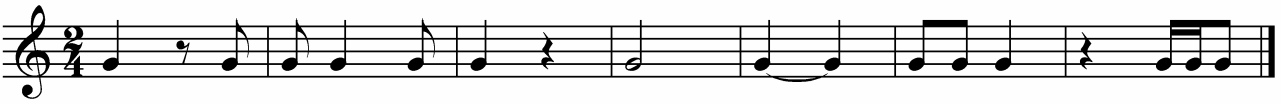
5.



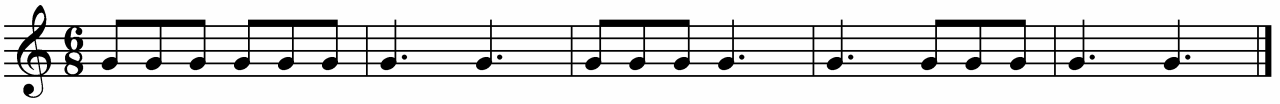
6.



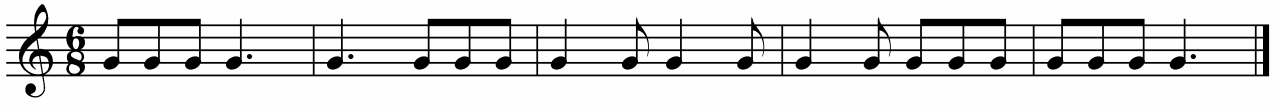
7.



8.



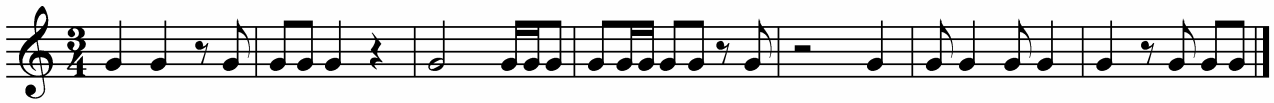
9.



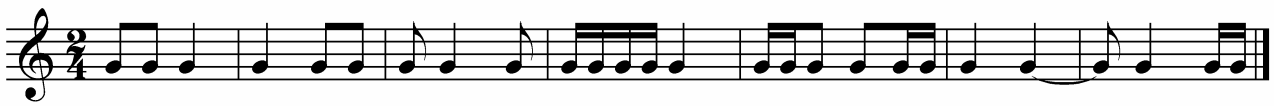
High School Rhythmic Exercises

1.

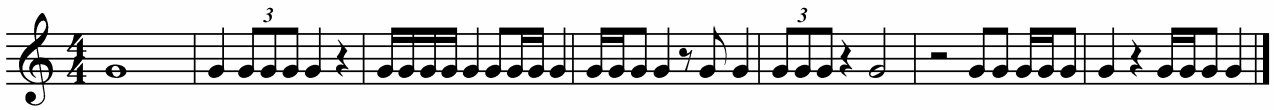
2.



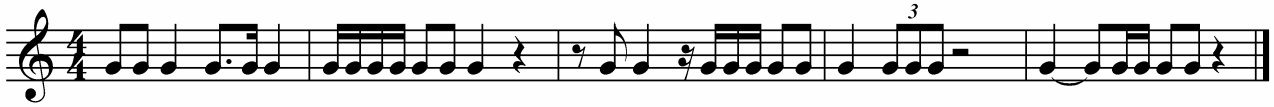
3.



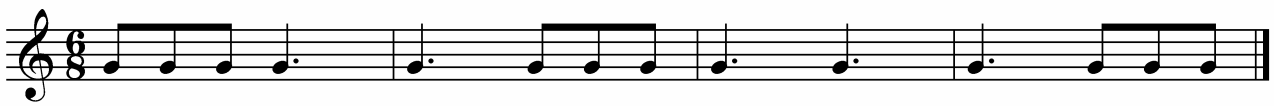
4.



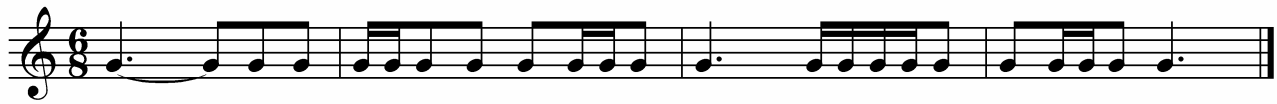
5.



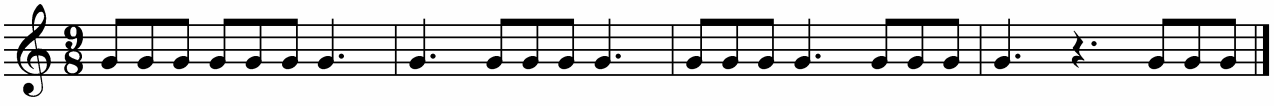
6.



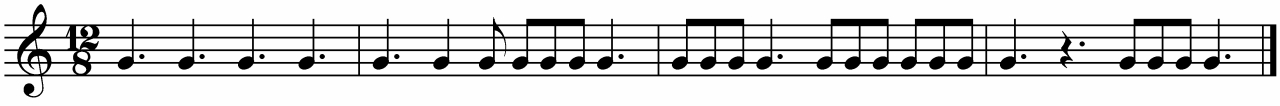
7.



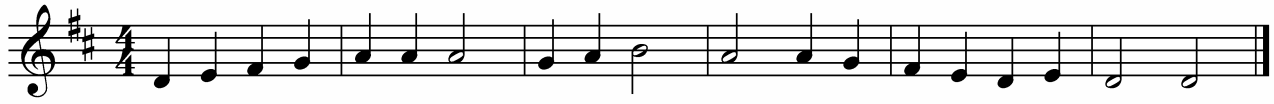
8.

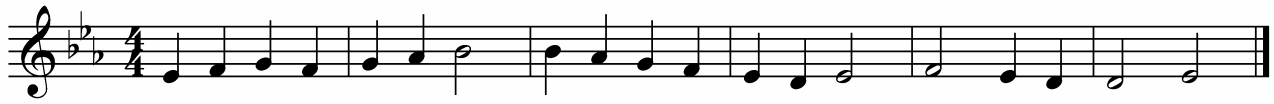


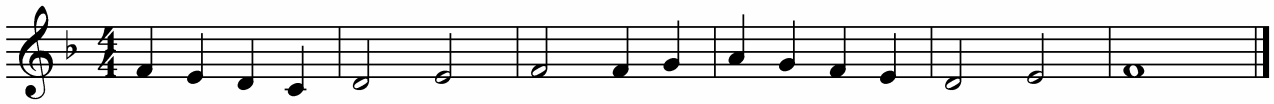
9.

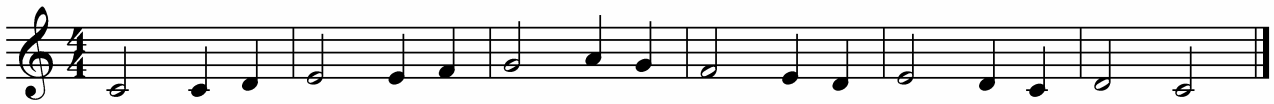


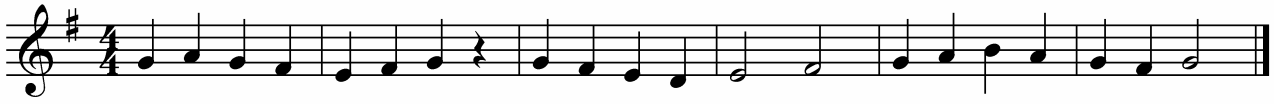
Elementary School Melodic Exercises

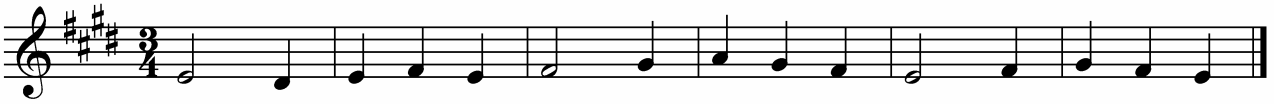
1. 

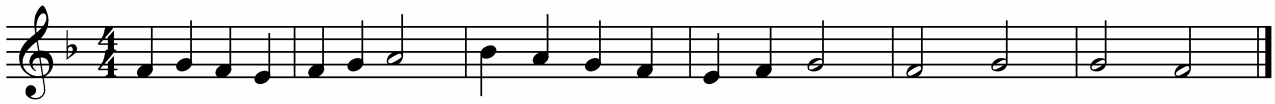
2. 

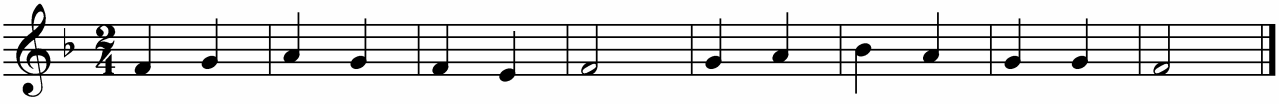
3. 

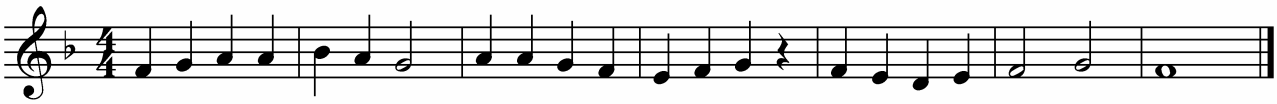
4. 

5. 

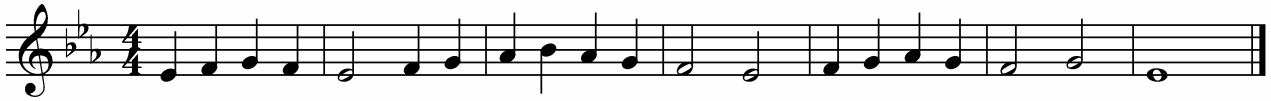
6. 

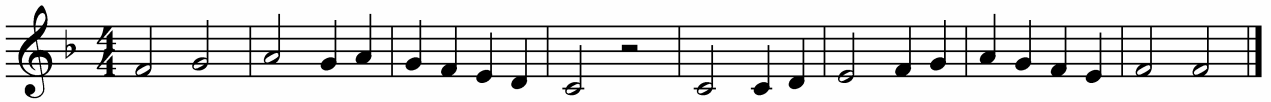
7. 

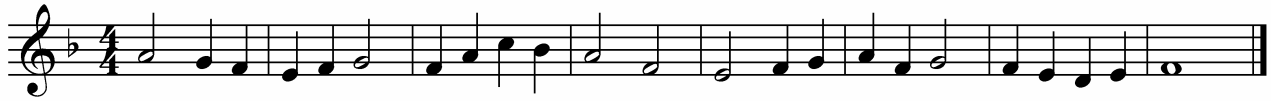
8. 

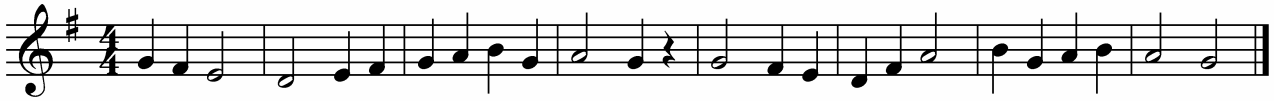
9. 

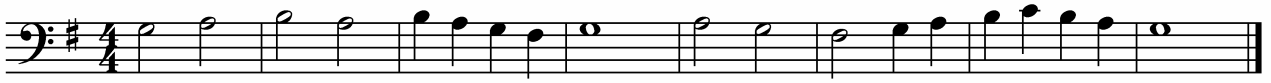
Middle School Melodic Exercises

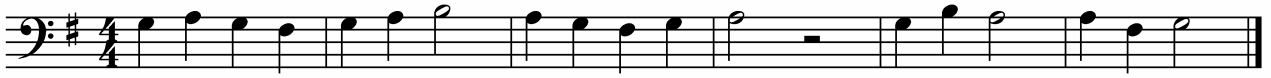
1. 

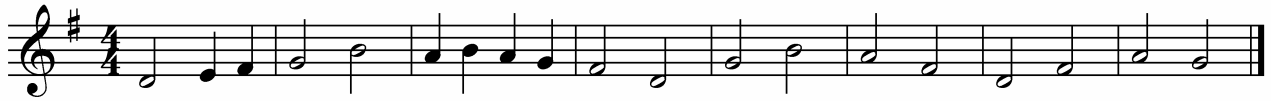
2. 

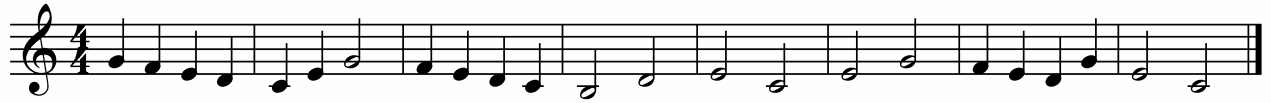
3. 

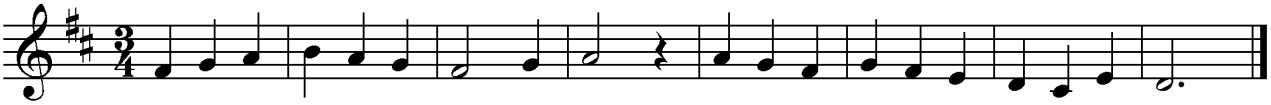
4. 

5. 

6. 

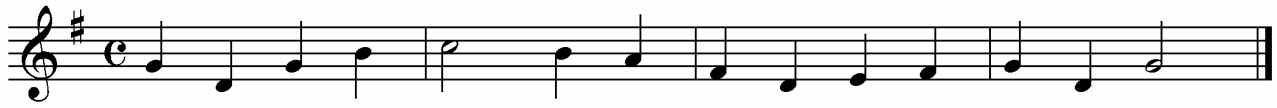
7. 

8. 

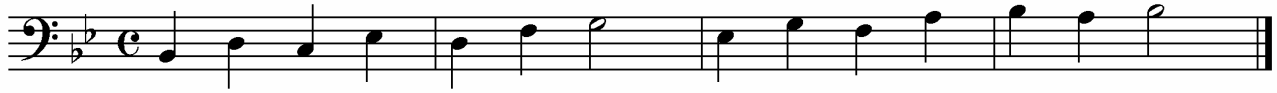
9. 

High School Melodic Exercises

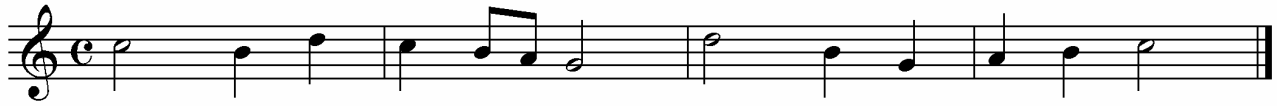
1.



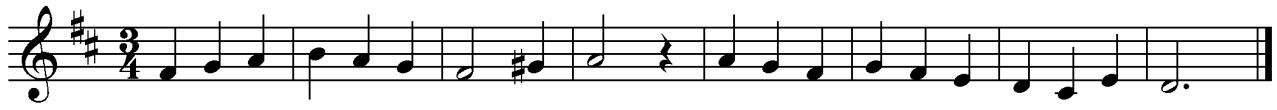
2.



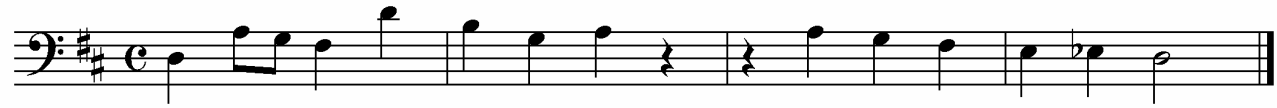
3.



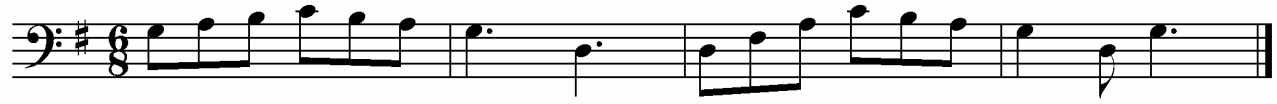
4.



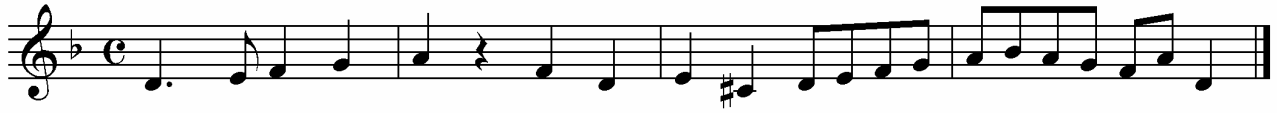
5.



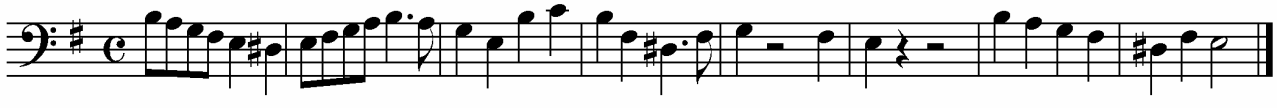
6.



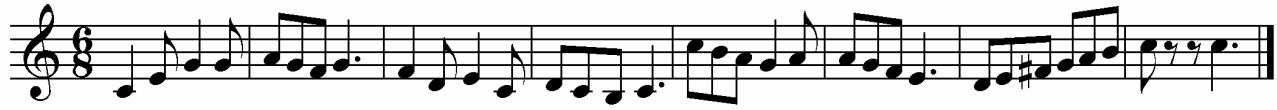
7.



8.

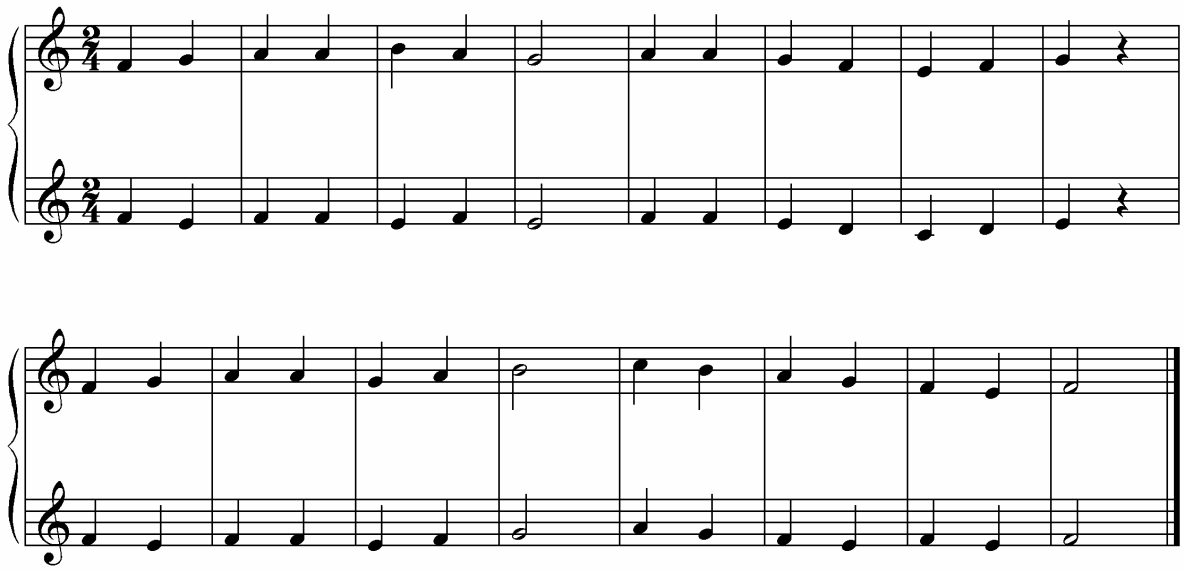


9.

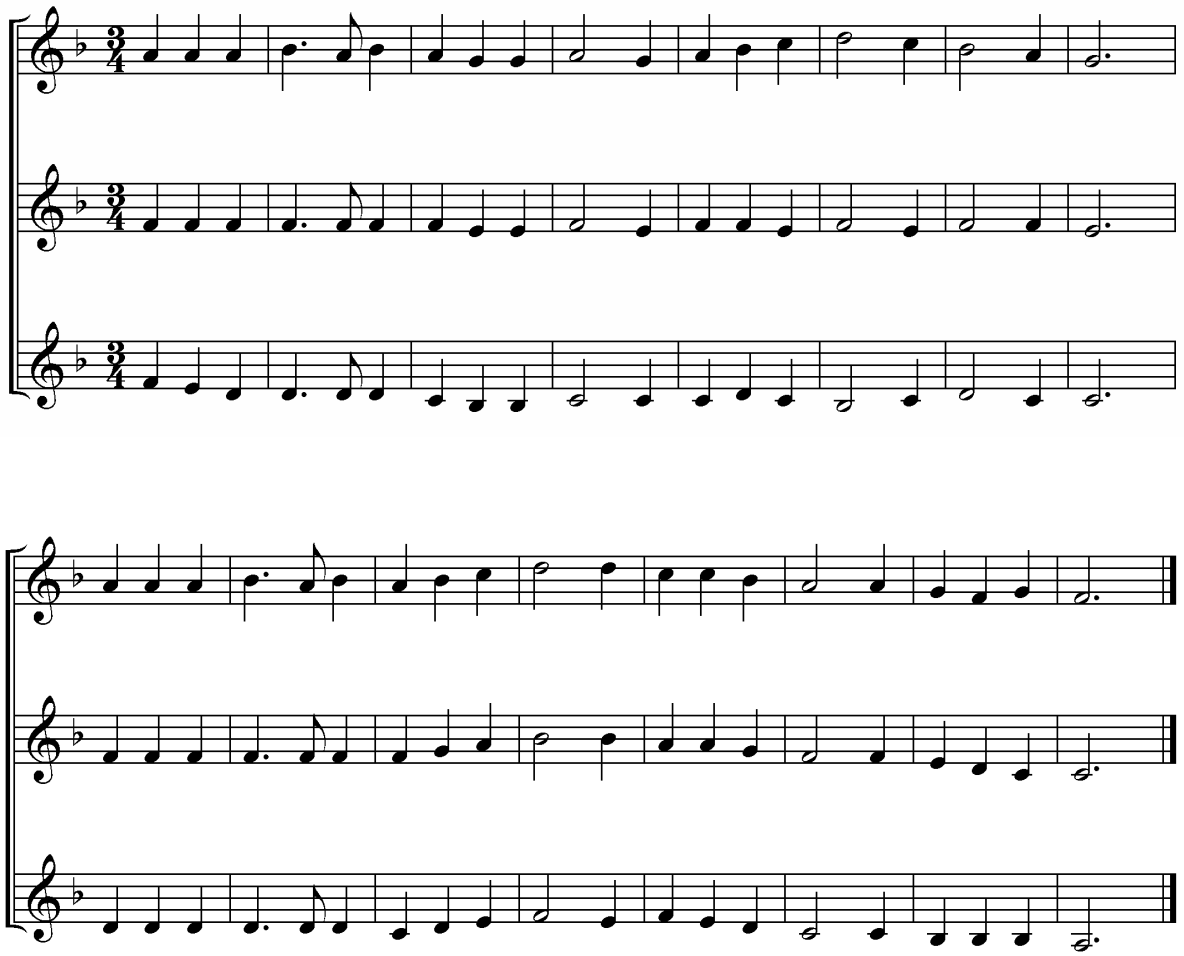


Middle School Multi-Part Exercises

Two-Part Treble (SA)

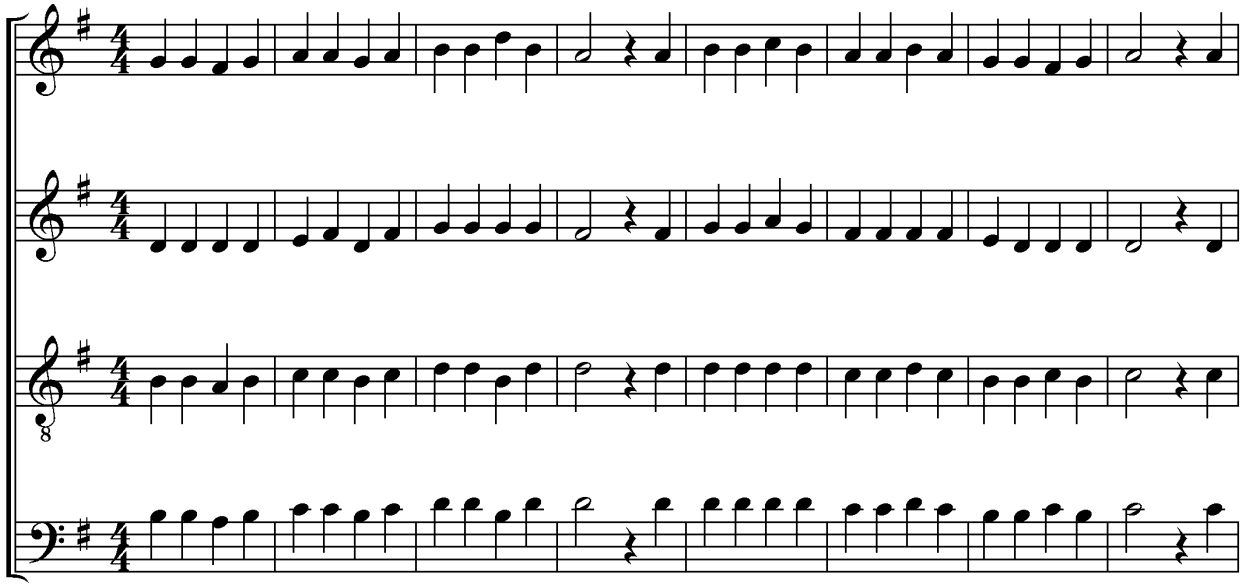


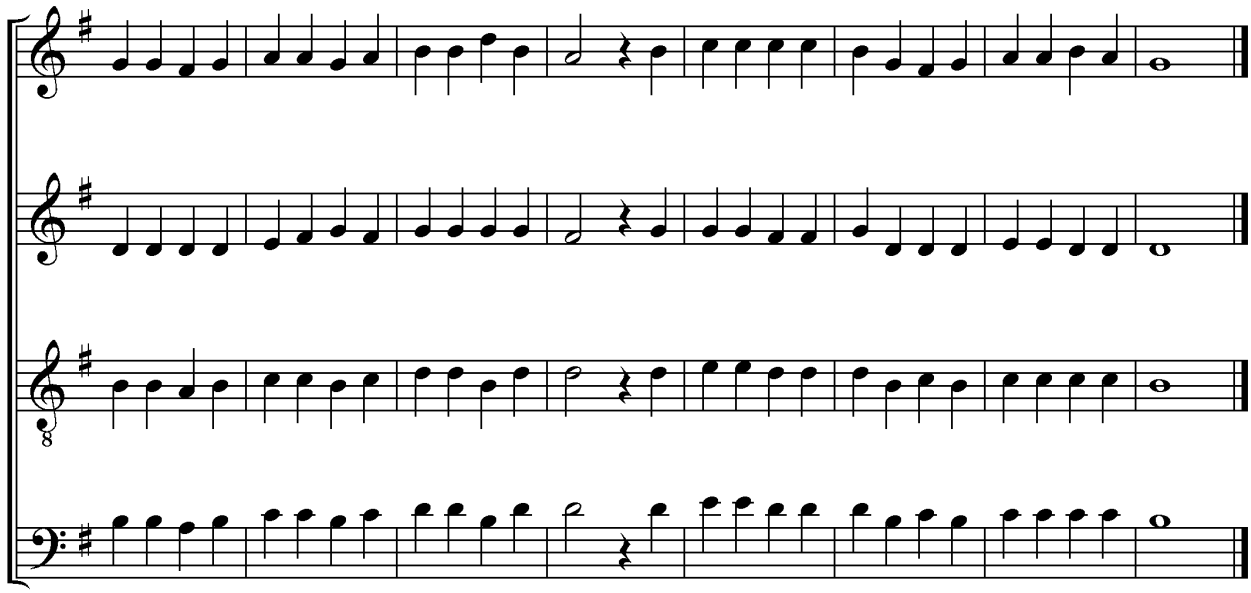
Three-Part Treble (SSA/SSC)



Middle School Multi-Part Exercises (continued)

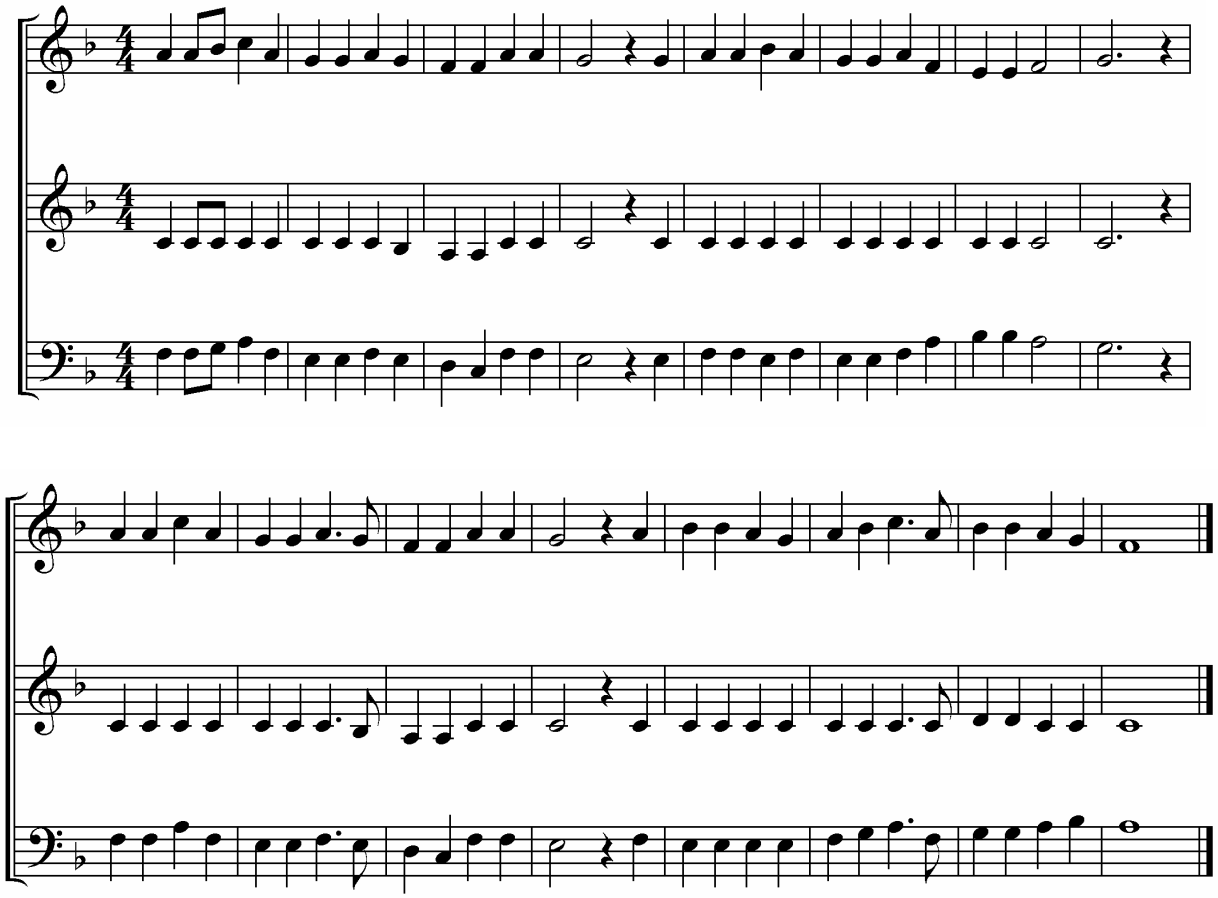
Three-Part Mixed (SAT – Males can read either the third or fourth line)



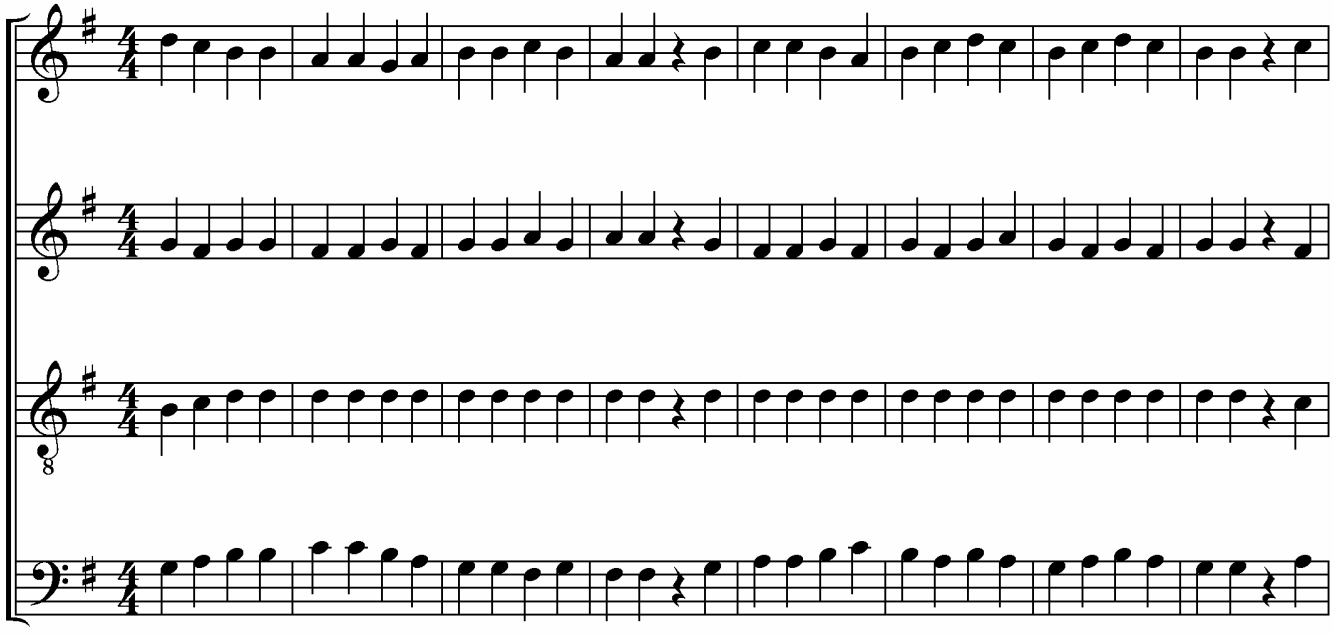


Middle School Multi-Part Exercises (continued)

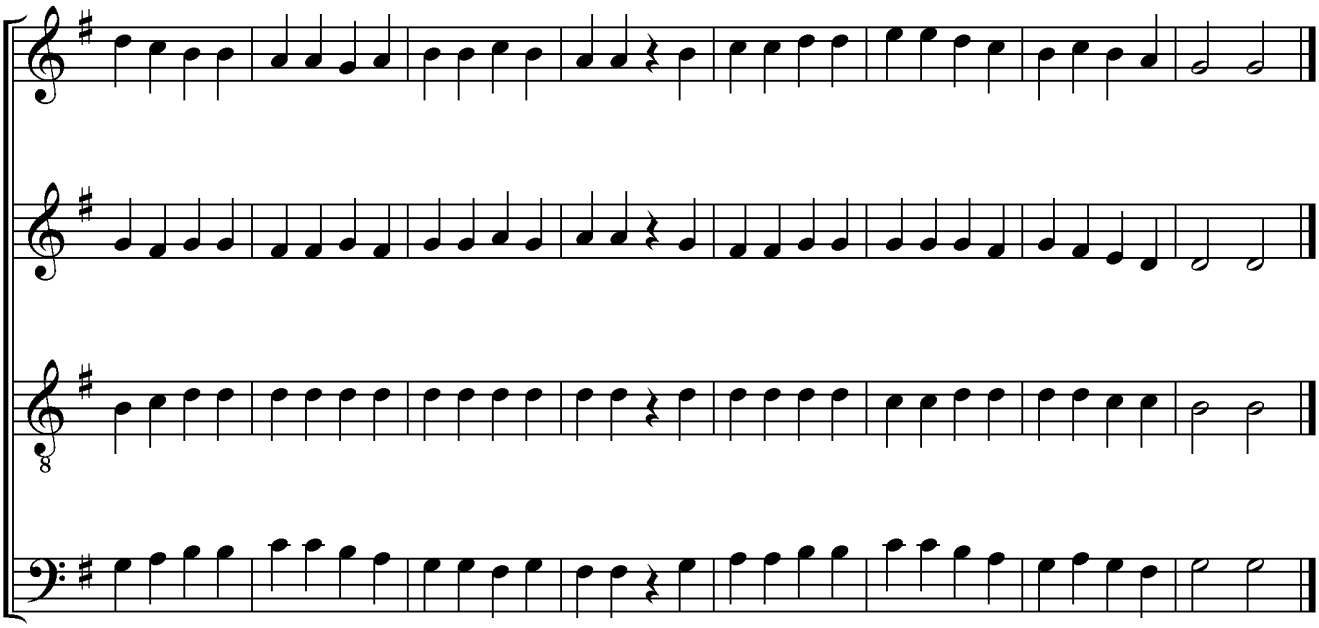
Three-Part Mixed (SAB)



Four-Part Mixed (SATB)

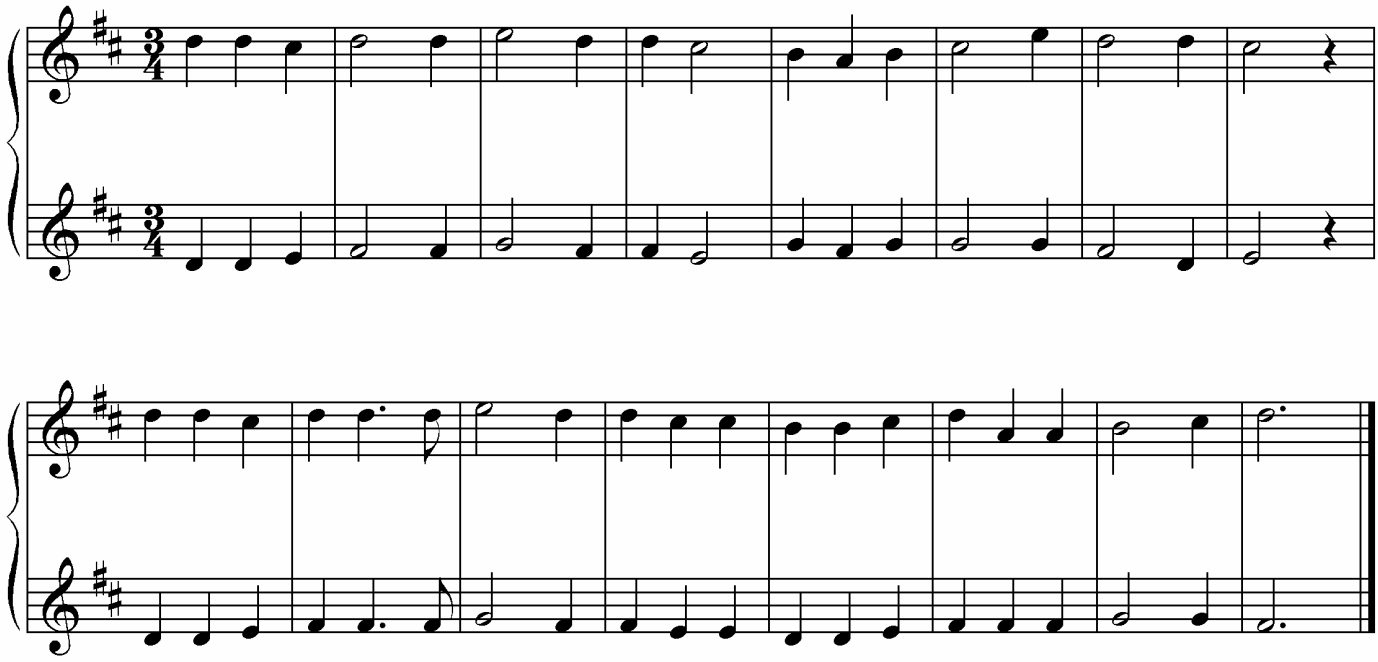


Middle School Multi-Part Exercises (continued)

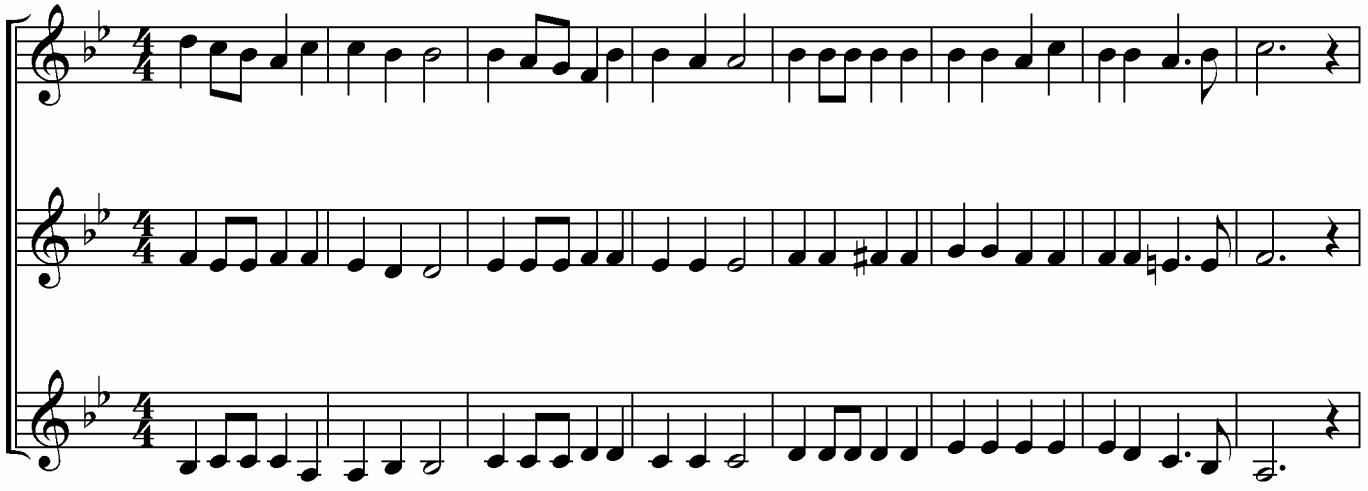


High School Multi-Part Exercises

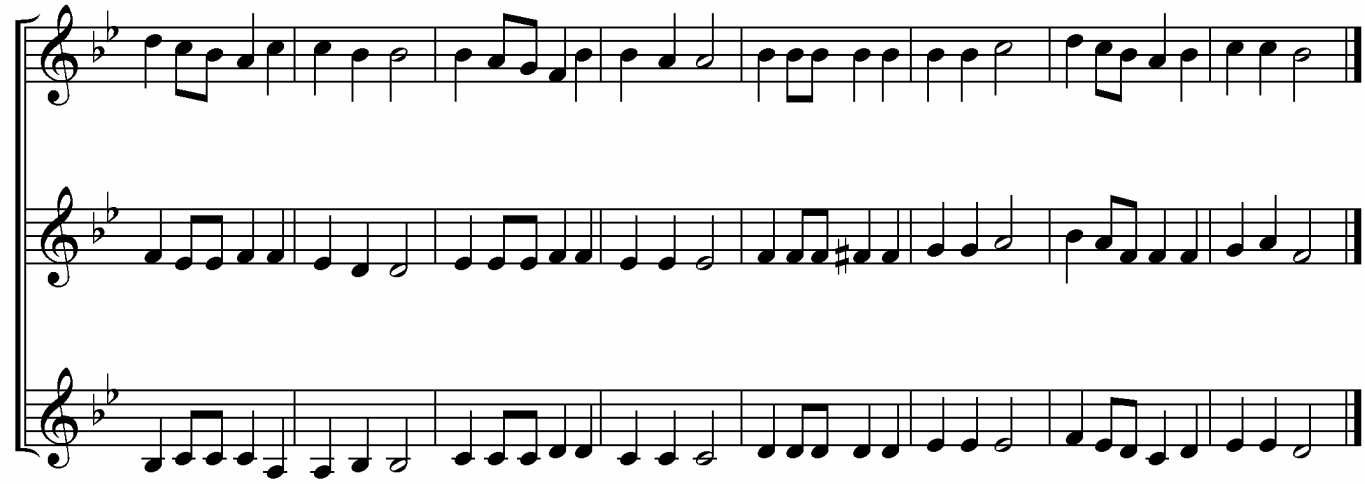
Two-Part Treble (SA)



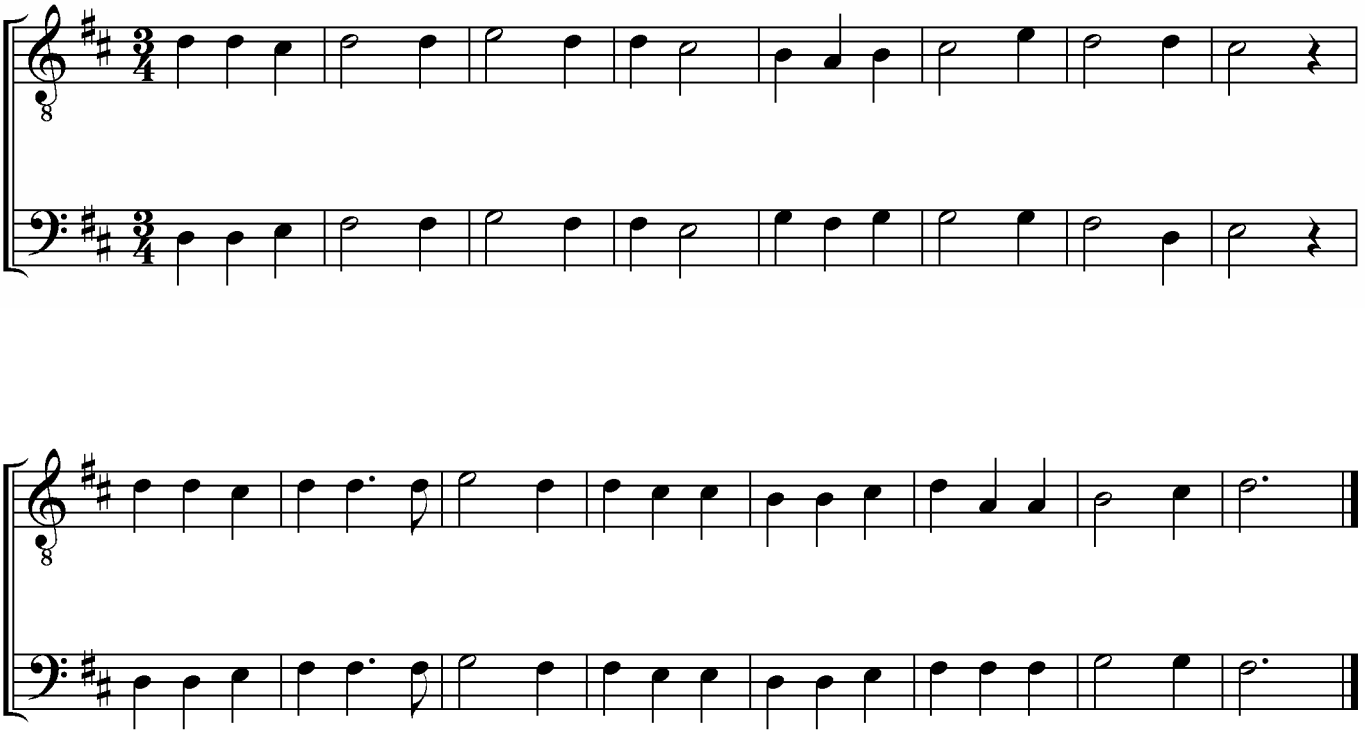
Three-Part Treble (SSA)



High School Multi-Part Exercises (continued)

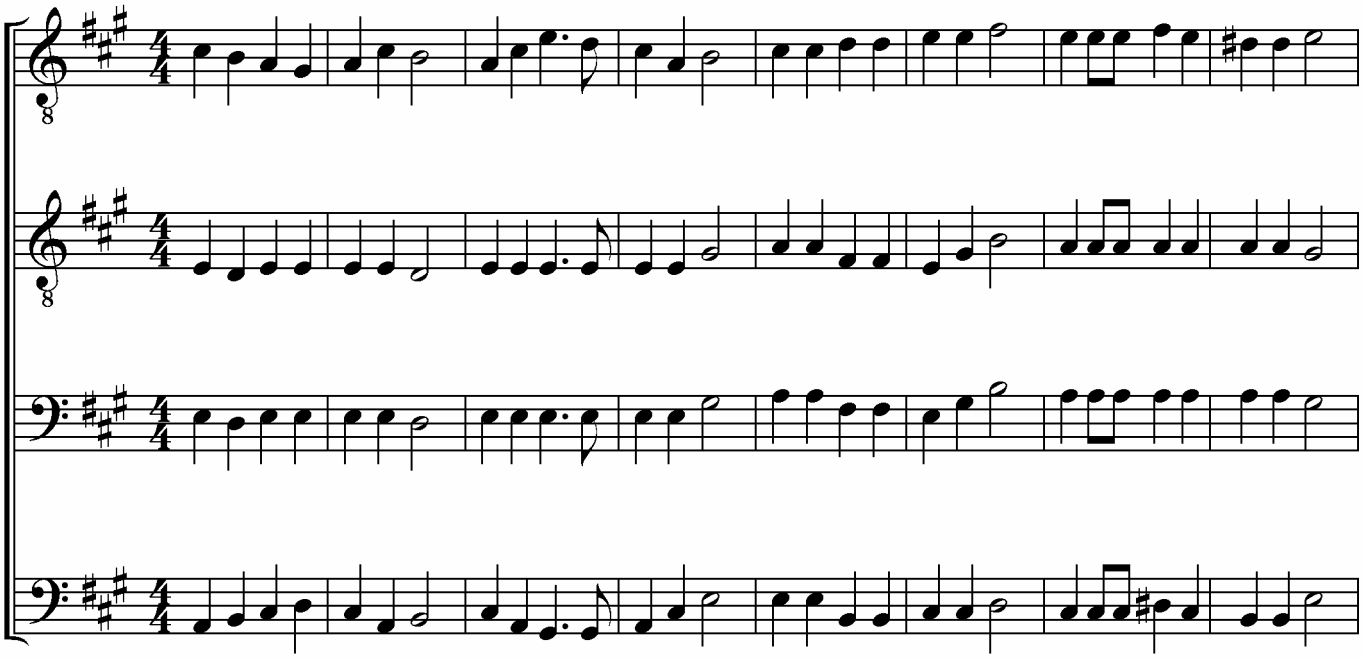


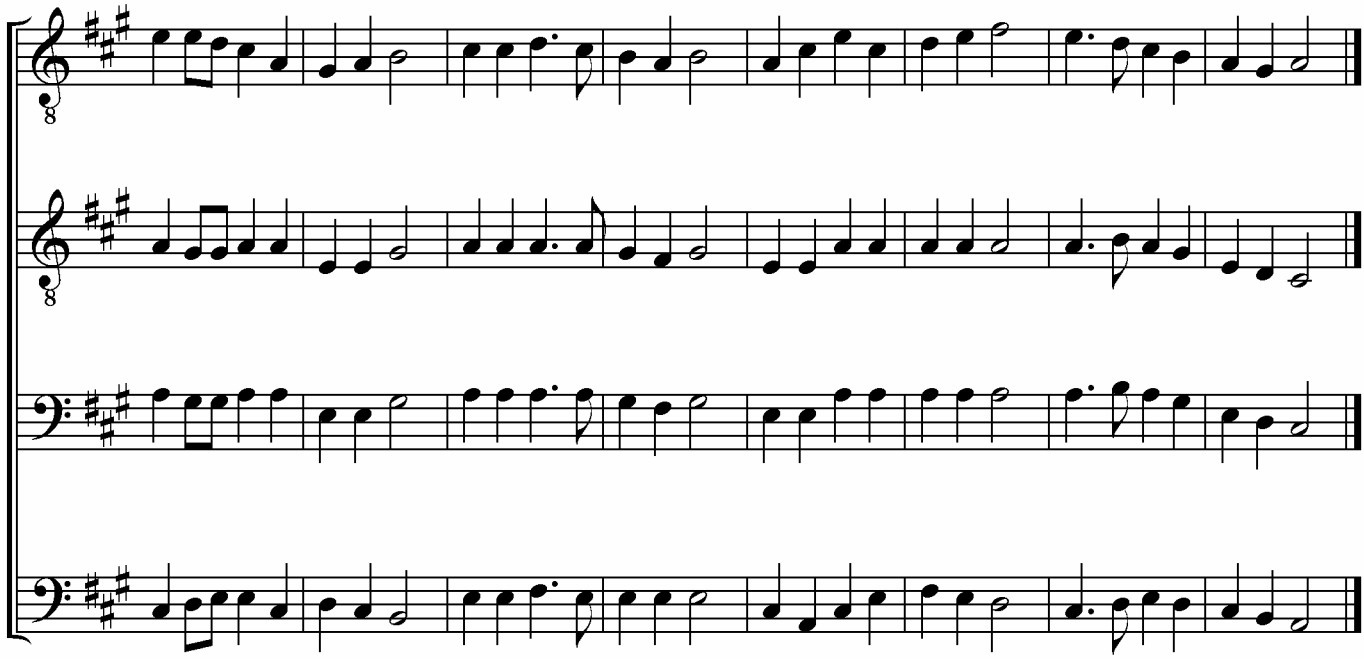
Two-Part Male (TB)

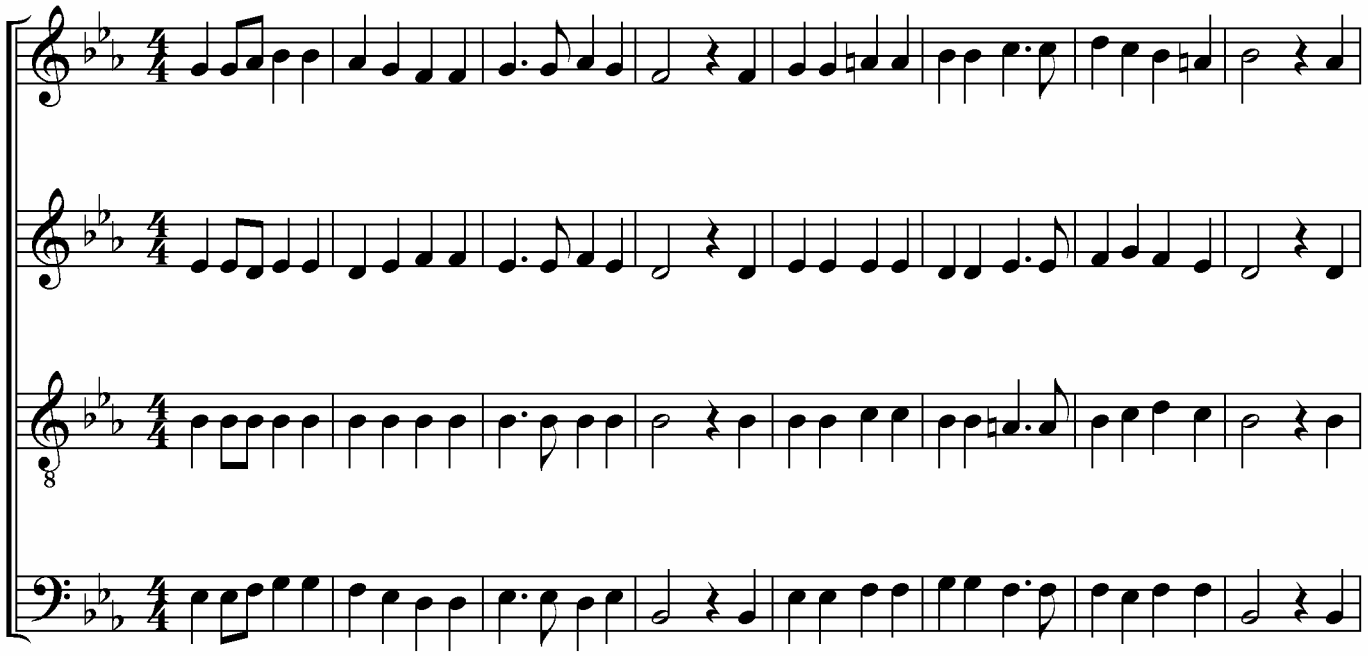
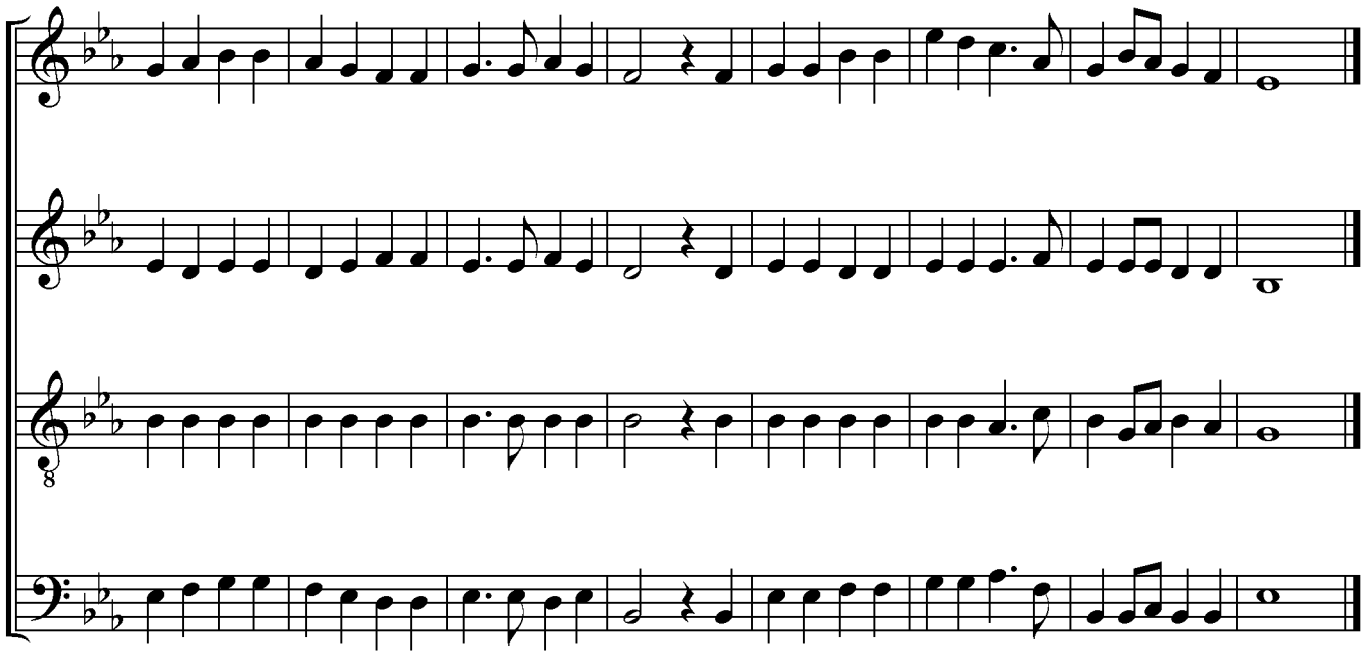


High School Multi-Part Exercises (continued)

Three-Part Male (TTB – Men singing the middle part can read either the 2nd or 3rd line)





Three-Part Mixed (SAB – See example on p. 10)

Four-Part Mixed (SATB)