

SIGHT-READING METHOD

1. METER

How many beats in a measure?

What kind of note gets the beat? (If there is a metronome marking, double check here).

How fast? Look at the fastest notes you'll have to play: that determines your tempo.

2. RHYTHM

Rhythm set up: Before looking at exactly how the piece goes, look at what kinds of rhythms are there. Count in your meter, first counting the basic beat, and then each of the subdivisions you'll have to play.

EXAMPLE: If you see quarter notes, eighth notes, triplets, and sixteenths, then you'll say to yourself, IN TEMPO:

1..2..3...4, 1+2+3+4+, 1+a, 2+a, 3+a, 4+a, 1e+a 2e+a 3e+a 4e+a.

Look at each of them as you say them (look at the eighths when you say "1+2+" etc.

Sing It: Now, get a beat going again, and then sing through the excerpt in your head. Remember your setup.

3. KEY

Look at the key. Quickly look through and find each of the flats and sharps. Imagine playing in that key.

4. ACCIDENTALS

Look for the first accidental. **Are there more of them in that measure?** (double check enharmonics: G flat = ?)

5. ARTICULATIONS / DYNAMICS

Look at slurs, accents, staccatos, etc. Try to do some dynamics.

6. REPEATS OR OTHER QUESTIONS?

Questions? Is there anything that you need to ask, like do they want you to repeat? Or where should you stop?