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Developing Literate Musicians in the Choral Rehearsal

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All resources mentioned during today's presentation can be found at

www.adampottermusic.com/resources

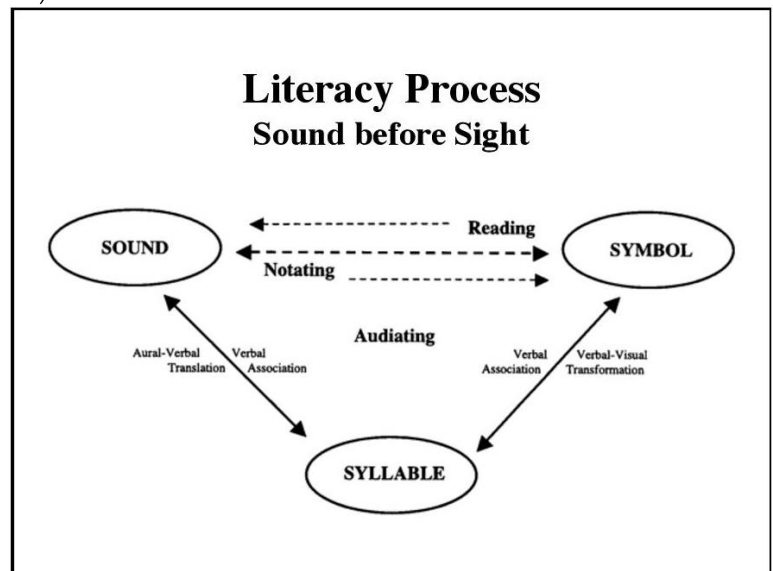
MUSIC LEARNING THEORY (EDWIN GORDON)

Based on:

- **Learning sequence**
- **Audiation** (hearing music in the mind, with understanding)
- **Methodology** (pattern instruction)
- **Aptitude** (students' individual musical differences)

Skill Learning Sequence

- **Inference Learning**
 - Generalization
 - Creativity/improvisation
 - Theoretical understanding
- **Discrimination Learning**
 - Aural/oral
 - Verbal association
 - Partial synthesis
 - Symbolic association
 - Composite synthesis



WHAT IS "MUSIC LITERACY"?

- Hearing (*audiating*)
- Improvising (both conversationally/in dialogue and as monologue)
- Reading (*sight-singing*)
- Writing (both dictation and composition)

WHY MUSIC LITERACY?

- Dependence *vs.* **independence**
- Enablement *vs.* **empowerment**

FOUR-STEP SIGHT-SINGING PROCESS

1. Establish an aural *vocabulary* (aural/oral → verbal association)
2. Flashcards (symbolic association)
3. Group reading (synthesis)
4. Individual reading/move to score (synthesis and independence!)

HOW MUSIC LITERACY?

When choosing our methods, we must choose systems that emphasize *sound before sight*.

RHYTHMIC SYSTEMS			TONAL/MELODIC SYSTEMS		
	Advantages	Disadvantages		Advantages	Disadvantages
Kodály	Verbal-based	Sight before sound	Fixed-Do solfège	Every note has a fixed syllable	Sight before sound; inconsistent use of chromatic syllables
McHose-Tibbs/numbers	Teaches beat numbers	Number-based; sight before sound; confusion over simple vs. compound beat division vocab	Letter names	Every note has a fixed syllable	Sight before sound
Gordon	Verbal-based; sound before sight; accommodations for asymmetrical beats/meters	Not every subdivision has its unique syllable	Scale-degree numbers	Sound before sight	Inconsistent accommodation for chromatic pitches; non-inclusive
Takadimi	Verbal-based; sound before sight; every subdivision has a unique syllable	No accommodation for asymmetrical beats/meters	Movable-Do solfège (Solfa)	Sound before sight; worldwide use	

CLASSROOM & REHEARSAL APPLICATION

Teacher imitation

- Neutral syllable (bum, bum, bum) → neutral syllable
- Solfege syllable (w/ handsigns) → solfege syllable (w/ handsigns)
- Neutral syllable (w/ handsigns) → solfege syllable (w/ handsigns)
- Neutral syllable (w/out handsigns) → solfege syllable (w/ handsigns)

Board reading

- Find Do
- Stepwise motion (ascending & descending)
- Steps plus skips
- Steps and skips plus leaps

Other uses of hand signs

- Sign & sing simultaneously
- Sign & sing patterns
- Point & sing simultaneously
- Point & sing patterns
- Play or sing on neutral syllable & sing back on solfège
- Alternate b/t sections or b/t students & teacher

Solfège drills (find at adampottermusic.com)

Flash cards (find at adampottermusic.com)

- Find Do
- Solfege syllable (w/ handsigns) → solfege syllable (w/ handsigns)
- Neutral syllable (w/ handsigns) → solfege syllable (w/ handsigns)
- Neutral syllable (w/out handsigns) → solfege syllable (w/ handsigns)
- Independent reading