

Eastern Michigan University Graduate Choral Seminar  
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## Music Literacy: A Holistic Approach for the Choral Rehearsal

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

[www.adampottermusic.com/resources](http://www.adampottermusic.com/resources)

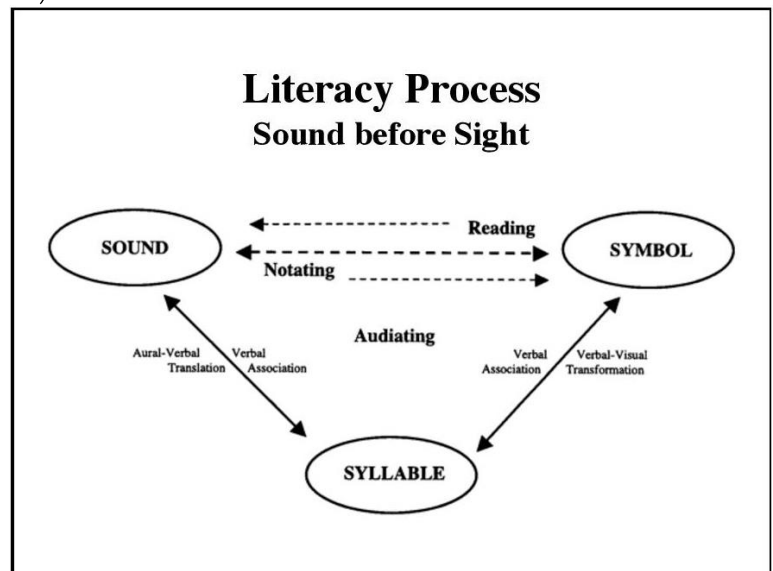
### MUSIC LEARNING THEORY (EDWIN GORDON)

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

### Flash cards (find at [adampottermusic.com](http://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