The Jenson Sight Singing Course
(Vol. I) (Methodology Chorals Singer)
Synopsis


Book Information

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Customer Reviews

After teaching musicianship for many years at a major conservatory, I have recently done a lot of searching for a good sight-singing/musicianship method book for my high school choir, and have settled on The Jensen Method as the best of the bunch. There are a lot of innovative features to this book, though it is firmly rooted in the Kodaly tradition that has proven so universally successful in music education. One of the most persistent problems in the teaching of sight-singing is the tendency to try to teach too much too soon. The inexperienced teacher will try to teach the whole ball of wax before the student is ready to start singing, or at least a certain "critical mass" of information they think students need regarding the music notation system. Teachers will typically try to teach about staves, middle C, time signatures, key signatures, clefs, dotted rhythms, compound meter, the whole nine yards, all before the student is allowed to start singing! This is precisely the...
wrong approach, inevitably based on what an experienced musician thinks is important and necessary information. It doesn't reflect how a "beginner" in fact learns to sight-sing. To the contrary, this habit of teaching "too much information" is precisely why so many people don’t bother taking on the task of learning music to begin with. The Jensen Method, on the other hand, starts out with just the right kind of information at the right time. Appropriately, the student is introduced to the movable do solfege system, and musical notes are introduced without rhythms, clefs or key signatures, just tones on a staff in relation to a movable note "do." First in stepwise motion, then gradually in small leaps and in greater variety.

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