

Holy Names University Kodály Center for Music Education  
**SEQUENCE OF INTRODUCING MUSIC CONCEPTS/ELEMENTS**

Suggested order for introducing music elements and concepts when starting in first grade. Grade guidelines are based on two or more music classes per week. This sequence has been created by faculty and students at Holy Names over the past four decades, as we seek to implement Kodály's ideas in the United States.

Grade 1

ta ti-ti  
2 meter  
rhythmic form/icons  
so-mi  
la  
quarter rest  
form: repeat  
do

Grade 2

re  
half note  
do pentatonic scale  
form: AA, AB, AABA, etc.  
question and answer  
form: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> endings (A Av)  
4 meter  
low la  
syn-co-pa  
low so  
la pentatonic scale  
whole note; half and whole rest

Grade 3

dotted half note (in 4 meter)  
anacrusis  
eighth note/eighth rest  
so pentatonic  
high do  
absolute (letter) names  
recorder  
re pentatonic  
rhythms within 6/8 meter  
6/8 meter  
fa  
do pentachord scale  
whole and half step  
lowered letter name (Bb)  
tiri-tiri  
do hexachord scale  
ti-tiri  
tiri-ti

Grade 4

ti  
diatonic (major) scale - do  
rename w/h steps: M2, m2  
tam-ti, ti-tam  
sequence  
intervals: M3, m3  
3 meter  
la pentachord scale  
raised letter name (F#)  
la hexachord scale  
diatonic (minor) scale - la  
key signatures: C major and a minor  
melodic sequence  
tim-ri, ri-tim  
key signatures: F major and d minor  
cut time  
key signatures: G major and e minor

Grade 5

parallel thirds  
key signatures: D major and b minor  
intervals: fourths  
augmentation/diminution  
intervals: fifths  
parallel fifths  
horn call  
key signatures: Bb major and g minor  
harmony: tonic/dominant  
altered notes: si  
harmonic minor scale  
(classical period materials for this level)

Grade 6

key signatures: Eb major and c minor  
interval: sixths  
mode: dorian  
altered note: fi  
melodic minor scale  
key signatures: A major and f# minor  
interval: sevenths  
harmony: subdominant  
mode: mixolydian  
altered note: ta  
(medieval/renaissance materials for this level)