



## EarlyStart LESSON SCRIPT 5

Direction—High and Low

Pages 24-29 of the *EarlyStart Musician's Book*

Pages 12-17 of the *EarlyStart Composer's Book*

A B C D E F G.

That's so much easier to say than ALL 26 letters in the English alphabet, isn't it?

The names of the white notes on the keyboard are the first seven letters of the English alphabet. Once the first seven are used, you just start over and use the same seven letters again!

To be able to read music notation easily, it is important to be able to say the music letters in order. That's pretty easy if you start with A. A B C D E F G A B C D E F G, etc.

But what if you start with D? What comes after D? E! That's right! So can you say the music letters from D to the next D? D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D! You did it!

Now start from F...F G A B C D E F! – Yes! You thought it through!

Since music can start on ANY note and go higher, musicians need to be able to think the music letters beginning on any letter. Pages 24-25 in your **EarlyStart Musician's Book** will help you practice writing the letters in order beginning on DIFFERENT letters. On each line of the exercise, begin with the letter given and continue in order through the 7 letters. You will be training your brain to think like a musician!

Now it's time for the harder part. Music can also go LOWER in sound. When music goes lower, the letters go BACKWARDS!

First, memorize the 7 music letters going backwards from G – G F E D C B A. Practice this until it is easy!

Next, try to start on a different letter and go backwards. What if you start on D? Think hard! D C B A G F E. Work the exercise on pp. 26-27 of your **EarlyStart Musician's Book** to practice thinking backwards through the letters. Aren't you glad you don't have to do it with all 26 letters?

The exercise on pp. 28-29 of your **EarlyStart Musician's Book** puts it all together—thinking going higher (in alphabetical order) and then immediately thinking going lower (backwards). Page 28 shows you how to think from the F in the F (Bass) Clef, and p. 29 does the same for the G (Treble) Clef.

Be sure to practice saying the music letters in order forward AND backwards. Musicians need to be able to think the alphabet forward because the sound ascends (gets higher) as the letters progress. It is ALSO very important to learn these 7 letters backwards, because the sound will descend (get lower) as the notes go backwards through the alphabet.

Practice saying the music alphabet out loud many times. Can you say "A B C D E F G" in less than 3 seconds? Try timing yourself. Now try saying "G F E D C B A" in less than 3 seconds. You will probably have to practice that one many times!

To practice even more, you might want to use your MNM spinner to spin for a starting letter. Think higher on the first spin, and lower on the second spin. Practice saying the letters out loud and writing them down on a piece of paper – this will help you learn it faster. A musician will need to think quickly when reading music.

You may now compose some more songs using pp. 12-17 of your ***EarlyStart Composer's Book***.

By Betty Todd Smith