

Chester

William Billings
(1746-1800)

1

Musical notation for the first system of 'Chester'. It features a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are 'm i i a i a i' above the first measure, 'a i i m i i' above the second, 'a i a i a i a i' above the third, and 'm i i p p p p' above the fourth. Chord symbols G, C, G, C, D7, and G are placed above the notes. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 0-4 below the notes. The system ends with a repeat sign.

2

Musical notation for the second system of 'Chester'. It begins with a measure rest labeled '5'. The melody continues with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are 'm i i m i m i m i a i' above the first measure, 'm i m i m i m i m i' above the second, and 'm i m i m i m i' above the third. Chord symbols D7, G, Am7, Em, A7, and D7 are placed above the notes. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it. The system ends with a repeat sign.

3

Musical notation for the third system of 'Chester'. It begins with a measure rest labeled '9'. The melody continues with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are 'm i i a i a i m i i i' above the first measure, 'm i i i i i i i' above the second, 'a i m i a i a m i' above the third, and 'a m i p p p p p p' above the fourth. Chord symbols G, C, G, C, D, G, C, B7, and Em are placed above the notes. The system ends with a repeat sign.

13

Musical notation for the fourth system of 'Chester'. It begins with a measure rest labeled '13'. The melody continues with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are 'a i a m a i m i a m i m i m' above the first measure, 'i m m i i i i i' above the second, and 'i m m i i p p p p p' above the third. Chord symbols G, C, G, Am, D7, Em, Am, G, D7, and G are placed above the notes. The system ends with a double bar line.

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1

G C G C D7 G

m p i p i a p i a p i *i p i m i p i* *a p i a p i a p i* *m p i p p p p*

T
A
B

2

G D7 G Am7 Em A7 D7

m p i p i m i m i m i *a p i m i m i* *m p i m i m i m i* *i p p p p*

T
A
B

3

G C G C D G C B7 Em

m p i p i a p i a p i *m p i p i i p i* *a p i m i a p i a m* *i p p p p p*

T
A
B

13

G C G Am D7 Em Am G D7 G

a p i a m a i m i *a p m i m i m* *m p i m m i m* *i p p p p*

T
A
B

Musical Tip Sheet

The Big 5:

1. Reduce work with posture and a positive attitude
2. Troubleshoot - Everything should be easy
3. Breathe
4. Trust yourself to play accurately and musically inspired (instead of judging)
5. Always play as a gift to yourself and others

The 7 Steps to Learn Any Piece:

1. Make small sections
2. Know all the notes and musical markings
3. Clap and count the rhythm aloud
4. Play the right hand alone, counting aloud
5. Play the left hand alone, counting aloud
6. Play hands together, pausing when needed (no mistakes!)
7. Play hands together slowly in rhythm, counting aloud

Musical Starting Points:

1. Decide which notes are melody (probably stems up), and play the others quieter
2. Connect all melody notes smoothly (no gaps)
3. When a musical line or melody goes up in pitch, get quieter
4. When a musical line or melody goes down in pitch, get louder
5. Don't let the high notes stand out (any note higher than the ones before and after)

Practice Tips:

1. Before slowing down or speeding up (rubato) master it at a steady pace.
2. For tricky spots, state out loud exactly what the problem is, in every detail.
3. Memorize every piece (even if you don't, you'll learn it faster if you try)
4. Have a purpose behind each repetition (so you don't ingrain bad habits).
5. Video yourself for performance practice, and to hear what is working.

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