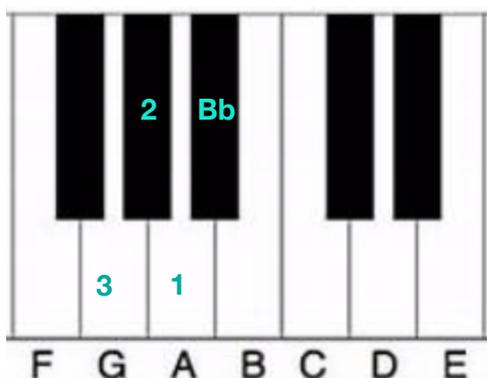


Singing the Interval

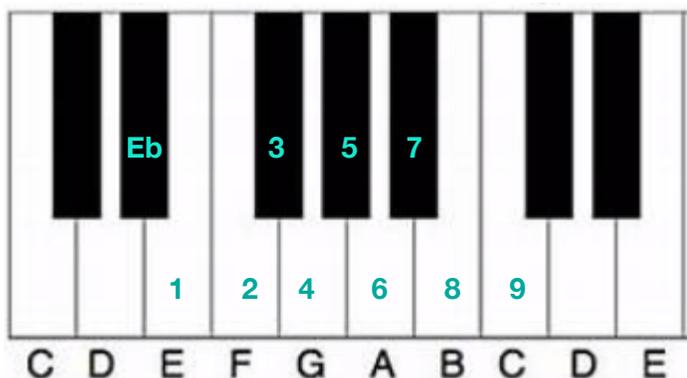
If you just read *Finding the Interval*, you now know the key of the song, and therefore, the note that the pitch pipe will sound (tonic note.) You also know the name of the note you must sing to start the song. To complete the process of singing your start note you must learn to find the interval (distance) in pitch between the two. This will take some practice, but there are short cuts to use along the way.

When you listen to the song either from its Learning Track or during rehearsal, determine whether the pitch pipe is higher or lower than your start note. If the pitch pipe is higher than your note, count each piano key as you move down the scale on the keyboard. Include every key (white and black) between the tonic note (pitch pipe) and your note. Do not count the tonic note. Do count your start note.

For instance, if the key of the song is B-flat and your note is the G below the pitch, you wouldn't count the B-flat but would count the A, A-flat, and G. That's three piano keys. **Each key represents a half- or semi-tone.**



If the pitch pipe is lower than your note, count the notes in between the tonic note (pitch pipe) and your note by moving up the scale. Again, do not count the tonic note, but do count your note. For instance, if the key of the song (pitch pipe) is E-flat and your note is the C above it, you wouldn't count the E-flat but would count the E, F, G-flat, G, A-flat, A, B-flat, B and C. That is nine piano keys (semi-tones.)



Singing the Interval

Now look at the reference sheet, *Songs For The 12 Intervals*, which you should have printed before you downloaded this article. This sheet lists common songs that demonstrate all of the intervals by the number of semi-tones between the tonic note and your note. Pick your favorite for each of the 12 intervals.

With your reference song in mind, when you hear the pitch you can start singing those lyrics (in your head.) When you get to the word (or syllable) highlighted, you've found your start note.

In short, if you remember a common song that contains the interval you need, you will be prepared to start every song with confidence.

SUMMARY

This section takes you through all the steps you would take when you have a new song to learn. Let's say you are a Bari and need to learn *By the Light of the Silvery Moon*.

1. First, you would go to the Current Repertoire, download the sheet music, and listen to the Bari track following one of the approaches discussed in the Learning a New Song section of the Song Craft webpage.
2. After you have learned your part, it's time to figure out how to start when you hear the pitch pipe. Begin by identifying the key signature of the song. Refer to the information in *Finding the Interval*, if needed. The music shown below has two flats (i.e., Bb and Eb,) so you know it's in the key of B-Flat.

BY THE LIGHT OF THE SILVERY MOON

1909

Words by ED MADDEN

Music by GUS EDWARDS
Arranged by VAL HICKS

VERSE 1:

The image shows a musical score for the song 'By the Light of the Silvery Moon'. It features two vocal parts: Tenor Lead and Baritone Bass. The Tenor Lead part is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics for the Tenor Lead are: 'Place park, scene dark, Sil - v'ry moon is'. The Baritone Bass part is written on a bass clef staff with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics for the Baritone Bass are: 'Place park, scene dark, Sil - v'ry moon is shin - ing thru the'. The score includes musical notation such as notes, rests, and bar lines. There are also some performance markings like '1', '2', and '3' above the Tenor Lead staff.

Singing the Interval

3. Now you need to determine the interval between the pitch-note and your start note. Looking at the sheet music, you see the Baritone starts on B-Flat.

Huh? B-flat, you say? Why isn't the note simply "B?"

That's because with this key signature every B (and E) becomes a B-flat (and E-flat.)

4. So you know the key is B-flat and you're starting on a B-flat. (Could you be so lucky that your start note is the note on the pitch pipe? Nah. That hardly ever happens.) From listening to the learning track you discover that your B-flat is an octave lower than the pitch-note. The question is: how many intervals (AKA semi-tones) are there between these two notes? Get out the Piano Keyboard document and count from the B-flat in the treble clef down to the B-flat in the bass clef. That's 12 piano keys - or 12 intervals.
5. Now all you need is a starting song so you can find your note from what the pitch pipe is sounding. If you haven't picked your song yet for 12 semi-tones down from the pitch, go to Songs for the 12 Intervals and pick one now. As it happens, only one song is suggested so "Willow, wait for me" is your selection.
6. Now when you hear the pitch pipe, use it to silently sing "Wil-low, wait for me." When you (silently) sing the second syllable of "Willow" - that's your pitch! The pitch you sang on "Wil-**low**" is the pitch you will sing for the first note of "By the Light of the Silvery Moon."