

## MEMORIZING

Memorizing a short song or piece is a great skill to practice, especially with favorites such as *Happy Birthday*. To begin memorizing a piece, look for pattern in the music. Does the melody go up, down or repeat? What is the rhythm? In *Happy Birthday* the first phrase ("Happy birthday to you") is eighth-eighth quarter, quarter, quarter, half. Once you have analyzed the music, learn a small section (1-2 measures), keeping your fingering consistent. Then put the music aside and try playing the section without looking. Keep practicing with and without music until you have memorized your section. Learn the next small section the same way. When you have the second section analyzed and memorized, play the two sections together, with and without the music. Practice mentally while away from your piano, recalling the patterns, and singing the melody. Don't worry if you forget your section the next day; it takes time for the brain to assimilate information into long-term memory. Practice in sections until you have your piece memorized. Then continue to review your piece for your repertoire!

## Happy Birthday To You

By Mildred Hill  
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Swing the eighth notes!

Musical notation for the first system of "Happy Birthday To You". The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The first measure has a yellow box around the F# note. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1, 2, 4, 3, and 1 above the notes. Chords G/D and D are indicated above the second and third measures respectively. The lyrics are: Hap - py birth - day to you, Hap - py.

Musical notation for the second system of "Happy Birthday To You". The melody continues in the treble clef. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 2, 5, 4, 1, 5, 3, and 1 above the notes. Chords D<sup>7</sup>, G/D, and G/B are indicated above the measures. The lyrics are: birth - day to you, Hap - py birth - day dear.

Musical notation for the third system of "Happy Birthday To You". The melody continues in the treble clef. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1 and 5 above the notes. Chords C, G/D, D<sup>7</sup>, and G/D are indicated above the measures. The lyrics are: ..... Hap - py birth - day to you! A purple bracket is drawn under the last three measures of this system.

## INTRODUCTIONS

You can use the last phrase of a song as an introduction. For *Happy Birthday*, play this phrase, then raise your head to cue your singers to begin with you in the first measure.