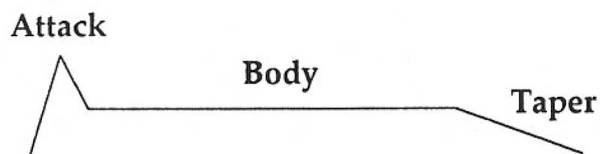


Shaping Notes

Too few musicians give thought to how they shape notes. Music is an art with emotions and feelings that, in large part, are determined by these shapes. We can control the emotional outcome by controlling various components of a note. Think of notes as having three parts: The beginning (onset, or attack), middle (body), and end (taper.)



If we decide to play "boldly and heroically," we might shape our notes as shown above. The attack of the note would be tongued crisply and be slightly louder than the body which would be sustained evenly with a steady airstream. The end of the note would be tapered.

Note shapes in "contemplative" playing would look different.

Play the following exercise. Shape your notes to make them sound "bold and heroic."

$\text{♩} = 60$

$\geq \geq \geq \geq \geq \geq$ simile...

The musical exercise is written in bass clef, 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 60. Above the first six notes, there are six 'greater-than-or-equal-to' symbols (\geq), followed by the word 'simile...'. The notes are: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3. The second staff continues with notes: F3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F6, G6, A6, B6, C7, D7, E7, F7, G7, A7, B7, C8, D8, E8, F8, G8, A8, B8, C9, D9, E9, F9, G9, A9, B9, C10, D10, E10, F10, G10, A10, B10, C11, D11, E11, F11, G11, A11, B11, C12, D12, E12, F12, G12, A12, B12, C13, D13, E13, F13, G13, A13, B13, C14, D14, E14, F14, G14, A14, B14, C15, D15, E15, F15, G15, A15, B15, C16, D16, E16, F16, G16, A16, B16, C17, D17, E17, F17, G17, A17, B17, C18, D18, E18, F18, G18, A18, B18, C19, D19, E19, F19, G19, A19, B19, C20, D20, E20, F20, G20, A20, B20, C21, D21, E21, F21, G21, A21, B21, C22, D22, E22, F22, G22, A22, B22, C23, D23, E23, F23, G23, A23, B23, C24, D24, E24, F24, G24, A24, B24, C25, D25, E25, F25, G25, A25, B25, C26, D26, E26, F26, G26, A26, B26, C27, D27, E27, F27, G27, A27, B27, C28, D28, E28, F28, G28, A28, B28, C29, D29, E29, F29, G29, A29, B29, C30, D30, E30, F30, G30, A30, B30, C31, D31, E31, F31, G31, A31, B31, C32, 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