

Cielito Lindo

Learning Targets

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

- Read and play music in 3/4 time
- Recognize and execute dotted half notes
- Read and play tied notes with longer note values
- Perform Cielito Lindo accurately while demonstrating principles of ergonomic technique

What's New?

- 3/4 time signature

What's Challenging?

- Reading and playing 3/4 time for the first time
- Maintaining a sense of pulse and counting through longer sustained notes
- Long tied notes that cross measure lines and put emphasis on generally “weaker beats” like beats 2 and 3

Component Practice Suggestions

- Cielito Lindo has several tied notes that require you to sustain a pitch for a relatively long time. While that can seem easy, it is very easy to lose track of the count/meter which will result in inaccurate timing when you get to the next note after the long, sustained pitch. To avoid this, it is crucial that you maintain an internal feel of the meter (1 2 3 / 1 2 3 / ...).
- Practice counting & clapping, then counting & playing the first phrase (mm. 1-4) as follows. Notice that beat one is always bold. When counting, emphasize beat 1 with a little more strength or weight. That will help you feel the 3/4 time signature.
 - 1 2 3 / 1 2 3 / 1 2 3 / 1 2 3
 - First, count out loud and clap the rhythm.
 - Next, count inside your head and clap the rhythm.
 - Next, count out loud and play the pitches.
 - Last, count inside your head and play the pitches.
- The tied notes in mm. 7-8, 11-12, and 13-14 are a little more difficult than the one you just practiced in mm. 3-4. Go through each four-measure phrase using the same steps outlined above. For example, here is mm. 5-8
 - 1 2 3 / 1 2 3 / 1 2 3 / 1 2 3
 - Use the same progression of counting & clapping, then counting & playing listed above.