## RWCC Music Reading 101: Session 1

How to Find Your Part

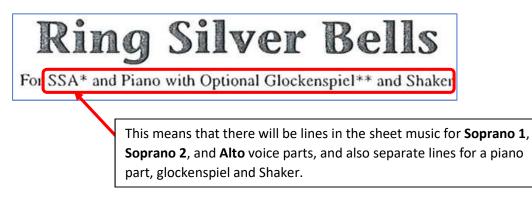


## Part 1: Who's singing?

At the top of most songs, the publisher indicates what voice parts are required for the piece, and if there is any accompaniment. Common voice part indicators the RWCC uses are:

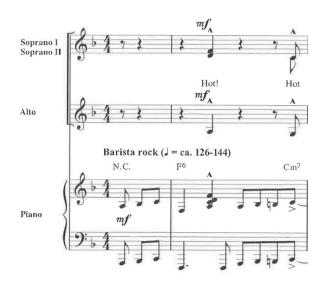
- SSA Soprano 1, Soprano 2, and a combined Alto part
- SSAA Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto 1 and Alto 2
- SA Combined Sopranos and Combined Altos
- Unison everyone singing together

Knowing how many voice parts will be listed on the sheet music can help tell you where to find your part!



## Part 2: Finding on YOUR part!

The voice parts may be written all together on one staff, or broken out into one staff for Soprano parts and one for the Alto parts, or with one staff for each individual part! Check the first page, or where the singing part starts, to determine where your part will fall on the page.



In this SSA example, the two Soprano parts share the top staff and the Alto part is on the second staff. If there's a solo, it's usually located above the voice parts.

The piano part lives below the voice parts. Other instrumental parts may be above the voice parts or below the piano part.

## Part 3: Where are we?

Now that you know how to find your part, the next step is finding where we are in the music!

Sheet music usually has page numbers located at the top or bottom, but more often you will be directed to look at a specific **measure**. Measure numbers (or sometimes letters!) are found at the top of the staff at intervals, and they act as mile-markers in the music.



Here's a more complicated example, with additional instrumental parts, SSAA voice parts, a piano part, and measure numbers in the middle of staffs:

