

# Sight Reading Popular Music Voice Lines

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Each line of music is called a **VOICE**, very much like a singer's voice, and the notes of any line add up to the time value, in each measure, indicated by the time signature of the piece.

The **MELODY** alone would be **ONE VOICE**, but we are concerned with **TWO, THREE, or FOUR VOICE** patterns, to take care of accompaniment and harmonization of the Melody. To understand the function of such VOICE lines, compare to the voices of a soloist, duo, trio, or quartet of singers. The average pop piece will use a combination of voice lines.

A. **TWO VOICE** pattern... Most popular... basic and easiest to read and play.

1st voice: Right hand plays the Melody in the treble clef, solo, or with added harmony.

2nd voice: Left hand plays the Bass accompaniment in the bass clef.

Chord symbols: Cmaj9, C6, D9, Dm7/G, Cmaj9

1st Voice - Melody

2nd Voice - Bass

Count: 1 2 (&) 3 4 (&) 1 2 (&) 3 4 1 2 (&) 3 (&) 4 (&) 1 2 (&) 3 4

(Chord symbols are shown here just to represent a typical pop sheet music arrangement.)

B. **THREE VOICE** pattern... Next most popular, as it allows for more harmony and rhythm accompaniment, with the divided fingers of the right hand.

1st Voice: Right hand plays the Melody with UPPER fingers of the hand

2nd Voice: Right hand plays harmony or rhythm accompaniment with the LOWER fingers.

3rd Voice: Left hand plays the Bass accompaniment.

ALL VOICES receive EQUAL amount of beats per measure, according to the time signature.

Chord symbols: Fm7, Fm7/B $\flat$ , B $\flat$ 7(b9), E $\flat$ maj7, E $\flat$ maj9/G, C7+(b9), C7/E

1st Voice

2nd Voice

3rd Voice - bass

Count: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 - 3 4 1 2 - 3 4

