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“Ballet Music” from *Aida*

Giuseppe Verdi

Ballet Music



From Aida

by Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

NC Symphony Education Concert

2025-2026

By Cheri Thomas, NBCT

Efland Cheeks Global Elementary

Lesson Resources (1 of 4)

Professional Recordings and Videos



Online recording (Begin @ 4:57)

Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, 1990

(All times listed for instrument and movement parts are noted from this recording.)

NC Symphony Recording

Video of Triumphal March and Ballabile by Metropolitan Opera House 1989

Total video length is 5:45; Ballabile begins at 1:31

Lesson Resources (2 of 4)

Play-Along Scores



Student Play-Along Score with Rhythm Reference Lines

Full Play-Along Score with Student Line, Student Rhythm Reference Line,
and Teacher Rhythm Reference Line

Lesson Resources (3 of 4)

Background, Characters, and Plot - Lessons



[Background and Plot of Aida for Kids](#)

[Playing, Movement, and STEAM Lessons](#)

(All 3 Lessons in 1 File)

Lesson Resources (4 of 4)

Pyramid Construction Theory



How the Pyramids Were Built

Here is one group's copyrighted theory of how the pyramids were created, complete with details, measurements, schematics, and information about how one of the men tested the theory in his backyard.

[Secret of the Pyramids Website](#)

See the Projects section of the site for details

[Secret of the Pyramids Construction Info Brochure](#)

The Opera



Background and Plot of Aida for Kids



Egypt and

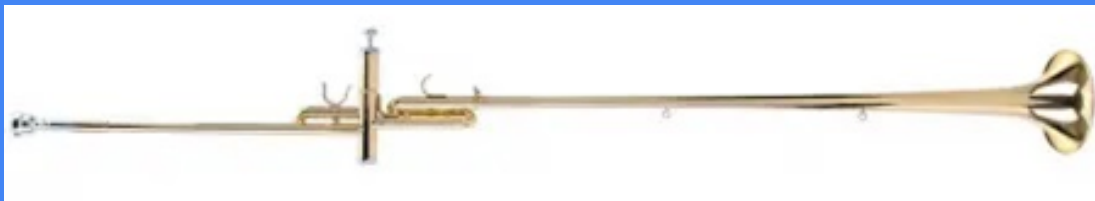


Ethiopia,

the two countries on the continent of Africa who were fighting in the opera Aida



* Trumpets like the one Verdi would have designed to be used in Aida



* A trumpet like what was probably played when Aida premiered; now called an Aida Trumpet



Two examples of a large cast in a performance of Aida.



Let's Play!

Rhythm Instrument Play-Along for *Ballet Music from Aida*

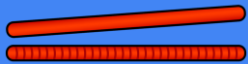


Playing Lesson


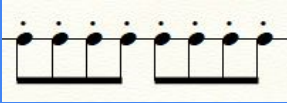
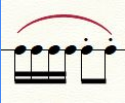
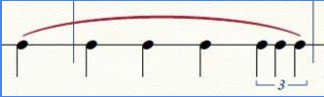

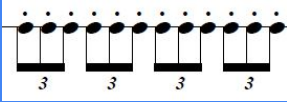

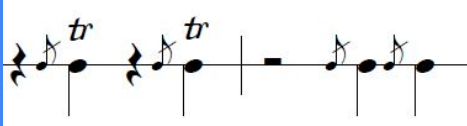


Student Score with Reference Rhythms


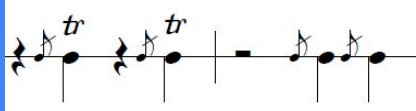

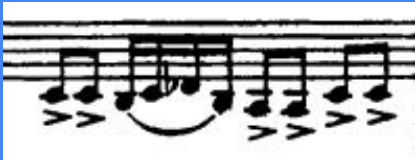


Full Score with Student Line and Reference Rhythms and with
Teacher Reference Rhythms

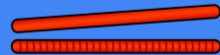


Rhythm Vocabulary (1 of 2)

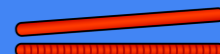
Rhythm Figure	How it looks by itself	How it looks in our music	What it does	How it sounds (video time markers)
Staccato			Notes are short and detached	5:04-5:10 and 7:12-7:18
Legato			Notes are smooth and connected	6:03-6:16
Triplets			3 even notes on 1 steady beat	5:04-5:10
Grace Note			A very quick "extra" note (pitch) just before a melody note	8:04-8:17

Rhythm Vocabulary (2 of 2)

Rhythm Figure	How it looks by itself	How it looks in our music	What it does	How it sounds
Trill			2 pitches played very quickly or alternating very quickly before a melody note; trills can vary from short to very long	8:04-8:17 and 7:03-7:12
Accent			Emphasis (stress) on a note so that it stands out more than other notes around it	8:30-8:37
Sforzando			Sudden, strongest type of accent	6:17-6:30

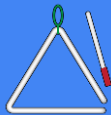


13



17

F



21 Triangle (Grace Notes, Trills)



26

Musical notation for measures 26-29. The top staff shows a sequence of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The bottom staff shows a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and rests. The first two measures have a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The next two measures have a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The final measure has a quarter rest.

30

Musical notation for measures 30-33. The top staff shows a sequence of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The bottom staff shows a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and rests. The first two measures have a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The next two measures have a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The final measure has a quarter rest.

G



34

Rhythm Instr Out

Musical notation for measures 34-37. The top staff shows a sequence of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The bottom staff shows a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and rests. The first two measures have a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The next two measures have a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The final measure has a quarter rest.



38 Finger Cymbals (Legato Mel.)

Musical notation for measures 38-42. The top staff shows a melody with quarter notes and rests. The bottom staff shows a bass line with a series of eighth notes under a slur.



43

Musical notation for measures 43-47. The top staff shows a melody of quarter notes. The bottom staff shows a bass line with eighth notes under slurs.



49

Musical notation for measures 49-53. The top staff shows a melody of quarter notes. The bottom staff shows a bass line with a trill (*tr*) and notes marked with *fz*.



H

Rhythm Instr. Out

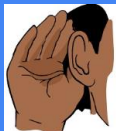
55

Musical notation for measures 55-59. The top staff shows a melody of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The bottom staff shows a bass line with notes: C3, G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1, F1, E1, D1, C1. Dynamics include 'fz' and accents.



60

Musical notation for measures 60-64. The top staff shows a melody of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The bottom staff shows a bass line with notes: C3, G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1, F1, E1, D1, C1. Dynamics include accents.



65

Musical notation for measures 65-69. The top staff shows a melody of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The bottom staff shows a bass line with notes: C3, G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1, F1, E1, D1, C1. Dynamics include accents.

H-A



70

Musical notation for the H-A section, measures 70-74. The top staff shows a series of whole rests. The bottom staff shows a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents, starting with a quarter rest in measure 70.

75

Musical notation for the H-A section, measures 75-79. The top staff shows a series of whole rests. The bottom staff shows a continuous wavy line representing a tremolo, starting with a 'tr' marking in measure 75.

H-B



80

Castanets (Staccato Eighths)

Musical notation for the H-B section, measures 80-84. The top staff shows a series of staccato eighth notes. The bottom staff shows a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents, starting with a wavy line in measure 80.



85 Triangle (GN, Tr)



90



H-C



95 Castanets (Staccato Eighths)



100

Musical notation for measures 100-104. The top staff shows a sequence of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6. The bottom staff shows a corresponding sequence of eighth notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6.

105 Rhythm Instr. Out

Musical notation for measures 105-108. The top staff shows a sequence of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6. The bottom staff shows a corresponding sequence of eighth notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6.

H-D



109 Triangle (Grace Notes, Trills)

Musical notation for measures 109-112. The top staff shows a sequence of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6. The bottom staff shows a corresponding sequence of eighth notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6.



113



118

H-E-1



123

Rhythm Intr. Out



128



Finger Cymbals (Legato Melody)

Musical score for measures 128-133. The top staff shows a melody of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The bottom staff shows a bass line with eighth-note patterns and a final half-note chord.



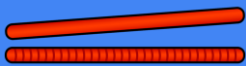
134

Musical score for measures 134-139. The top staff shows a melody of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The bottom staff shows a bass line with eighth-note patterns, a trill (tr) on the final note, and a wavy line indicating a tremolo.



140

Musical score for measures 140-145. The top staff shows a melody of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The bottom staff shows a bass line with a wavy line indicating a tremolo in the first measure, followed by quarter notes with forte (fz) dynamics.

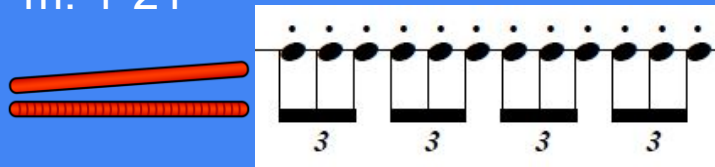


158 All Rhythm Instruments

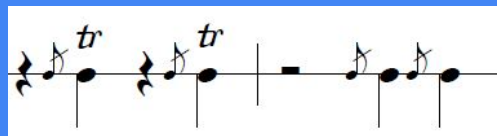
The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff begins with a double bar line and a key signature of one flat. It contains 12 measures of music. The first four measures feature quarter notes with accents. The fifth measure has a quarter note with a slur and a breath mark. The sixth measure has a quarter note with an accent and a slur. The seventh measure has a quarter note with an accent and a slur. The eighth measure has a quarter note with an accent and a slur. The ninth measure has a quarter note with an accent and a slur. The tenth measure has a quarter note with an accent and a slur. The eleventh measure has a quarter note with an accent and a slur. The twelfth measure has a quarter note with an accent and a slur. The bottom staff begins with a double bar line and a key signature of one flat. It contains 12 measures of music. The first four measures feature triplets of eighth notes. The fifth measure has a quarter rest. The sixth measure has a quarter note with an accent and a slur. The seventh measure has a quarter note with an accent and a slur. The eighth measure has a quarter note with an accent and a slur. The ninth measure has a quarter note with an accent and a slur. The tenth measure has a quarter note with an accent and a slur. The eleventh measure has a quarter note with an accent and a slur. The twelfth measure has a quarter note with an accent and a slur.

Simplified Student Play Along

m. 1-21



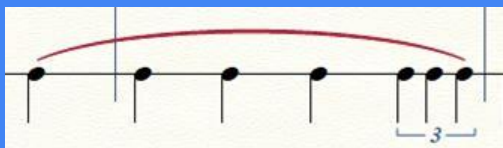
m. 21-37



m. 37-41



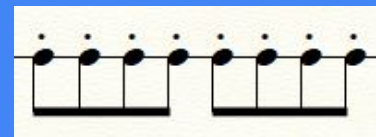
m. 41-57



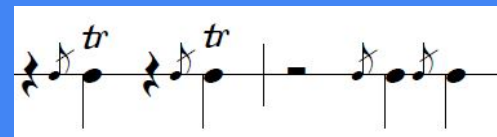
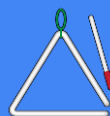
m. 57-80



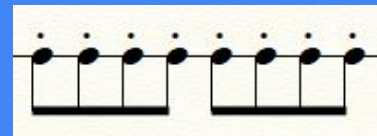
m. 80-88



m. 89-97



m. 97-105

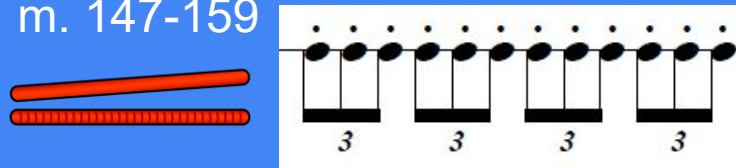


Simplified Student Play Along

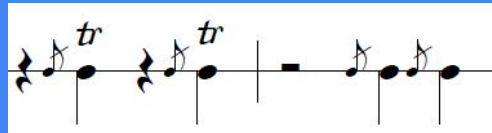
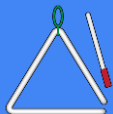
m. 105-110



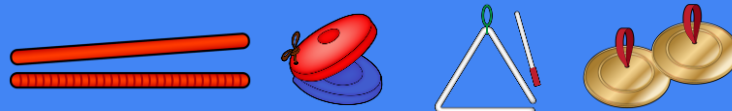
m. 147-159



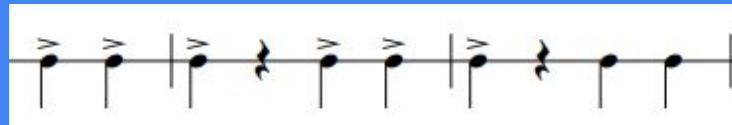
m. 111-127



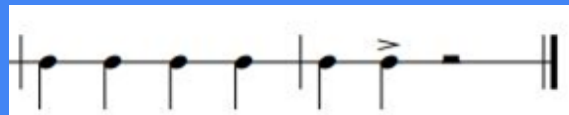
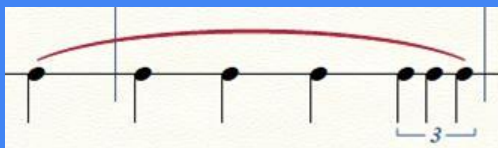
m. 159-163



m. 127-131



m. 131-147



Let's Move!

Parachute Ballet



Movement Lesson

NC Symphony Recording

Student Score with Reference Rhythms

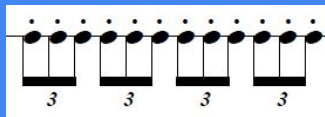
Full Score with Student Line and Reference Rhythms and with
Teacher Reference Rhythms

Simplified Student Play Along

m. 1-21

Hold up

Circle, stepping lightly



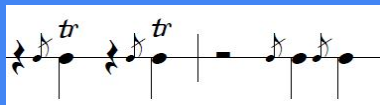
m. 57-80

Hold up - turn in place keeping 1 hand on chute, heavy step in place, repeat, gently ripple at waist through parts exchanging and long trills, heavy stepping

m. 21-37

Hold waist

Circle, Arc L arm out, then back to hold



m. 37-41

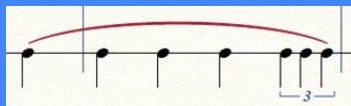
Hold waist

Stationary, heavy stepping, L/R alternating

m. 41-57

Hold waist

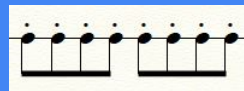
Circle smoothly, raising and lowering gently



m. 80-88

Hold straight arm down

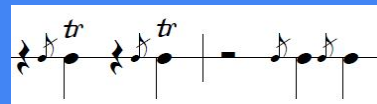
Circle, stepping lightly arms straight down



m. 89-97

Hold waist

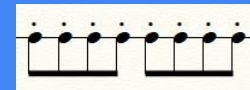
Circle, Arc L arm out, then back to hold



m. 97-105

Hold straight arm down

Circle, stepping lightly arms straight down



Simplified Student Play Along

m. 105-110

Hold waist

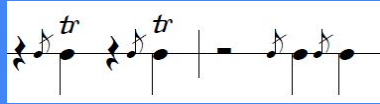
Flip in place with rhythm, then ruffle in place

m. 111-

127

Hold waist

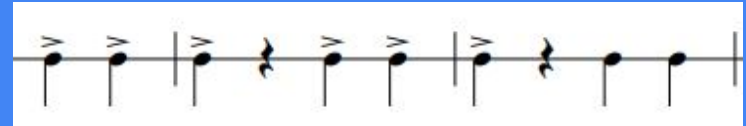
Circle, Arc L arm out, then back to hold



m. 127-131

Hold waist

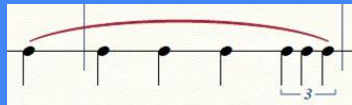
Stationary, heavy stepping, L/R alternating



m. 131-147

Hold waist

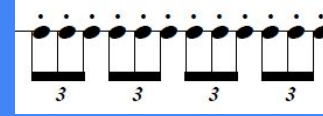
Circle smoothly, raising and lowering gently



m. 147-159

Hold up

Circle, stepping lightly



m. 159-163

Hold waist

Move chute up & down to match rhythm



Let's Build!

No-Touching Team Building



STEAM Lesson

See Lesson Resources 4 of 4 for Additional Information About Pyramids

Pyramid Building Facts for The Great Pyramid of Giza

- Egyptian pyramids were built to be tombs so kings could be buried with gold and other treasure.
- About 80 pyramids have been found in Egypt, but some are now only rubble.
- The Great Pyramid was built for King Khufu in about 2550 BCE.
- About 100,000 workers spent about 20 years building the Great Pyramid.
- 2.3 million blocks of stone are stacked
- 471 feet (143 meters) high
- Each of the blocks weighed about 2.5 tons.
- The workers probably hauled them up a long dirt ramp.

Pyramid Building Facts

The Great Pyramid of Giza

- Average stone was sized 50" x 50" x 27"
- That's like 2 washing machines side-by-side, with something the height of a pencil stacked on top!



Pyramid Building Facts

The Great Pyramid of Giza

- Average stone weighed 5,511 lbs.
- That's about the weight of a Toyota Tundra or Ford F-150 truck!



Pyramid Building Facts

The Great Pyramid of Giza

- 481.4 feet tall (like a 42-story building)
- It was the world's tallest man-made structure for thousands of years!



The Century Condominiums in Los Angeles, CA
481 ft. high 42 stories



Photo from thecollector.com
Erosion has made the pyramid shorter over 4,500 years

Pyramid Building Facts

The Great Pyramid of Giza



Detail of the side of The Great Pyramid of Giza

Your Turn!



- Pyramid building required teamwork and ingenuity!
- Groups of 3-4
- Build a vertical structure as high as possible in the available time
- *Everyone* on the team must help place *every* block
- No one may touch the block with *any part of their body* while putting it in its place
- You may use the strings, rubber bands, pipe cleaners, pencils, and paper to help you lift each block into place. Your group decides what works for you!

Your Turn!

Condensed Rules + Timer



Timer



Team Building Rules

No one may touch the blocks with any part of your body while it is being placed.

Use your tools to help you place the blocks.

Everyone on the team must place each block together.

Build your tower as tall as you can in the time allowed!