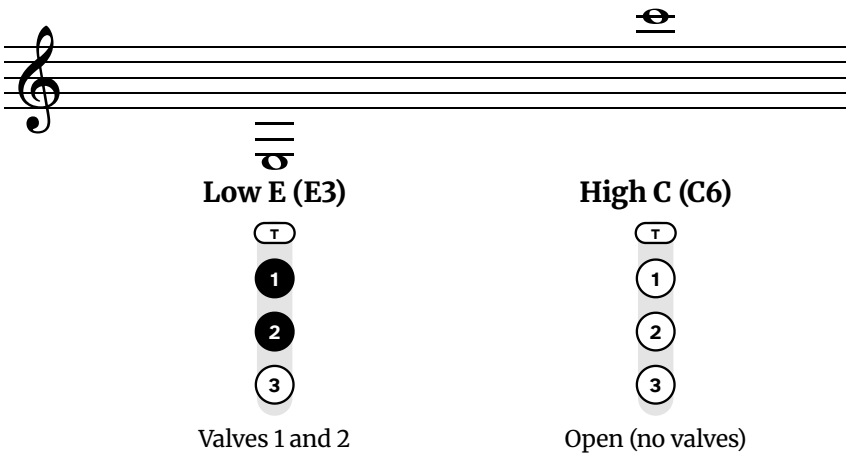
The French Horn Fingering Chart Book

Every Note from Low E to High C, All 12 Major Scales and 28 Songs with the Fingering Under Every Note

For single F horn and double horn



Nathan Early

Free edition
From thefingeringchart.com, November 2026. The author gives permission to print this book and to copy it for yourself and your students. It may not be sold.

The French Horn Fingering Chart Book

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The fingerings, diagrams and teaching notes come from thefingeringchart.com, where every note can also be heard. Every fingering was checked against a published manufacturer's horn chart.

The melodies are traditional or were first published before 1929.

First edition, 2026.

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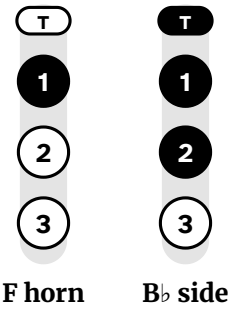
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How to Read This Book



Thumb valve (T): left thumb; on a double horn it gives the B♭ side

Valve 1: under your left index finger

Valve 2: under your middle finger

Valve 3: under your ring finger

Both diagrams are written D4. On the F horn it is **Valve 1**; on the B♭ side of a double horn it is **Thumb + valves 1 and 2**. A filled shape means press it; an open one means leave it up.

The diagrams

Each diagram has the rounded thumb valve (T) at the top and the three valve circles under it, numbered 1, 2 and 3. When nothing is filled, the words read "Open (no valves)". On the F side the horn uses only five valve combinations for this whole range, so many notes share a fingering: written G3, C4, E4, G4, C5, D5, E5, G5 and C6 are all open. Your lips and air pick which one sounds (page 26 shows which notes go together). A few notes also list another fingering players use, marked "Also".

F horn or B♭ side

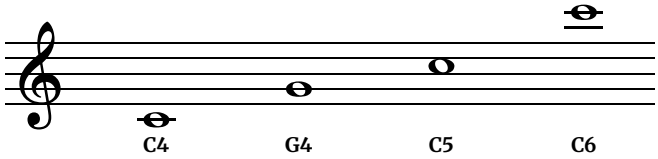
The F horn fingering is for a single F horn and for the F side of a double horn, with the thumb up. The B♭ side fingering is for a double horn with the thumb pressed. A common rule is to switch to the B♭ side from about written G4 or G♯4 upward and use the F side below that. Teachers and players differ on the exact switch point. Low E and F are often played on the B♭ side too.

Written pitch

Every note in this book is written pitch, the note you read in horn music. The horn is in F: every written note sounds a perfect fifth lower, so written C sounds as concert F. Band directors name scales by concert pitch, so the scale pages give both names.

Note names

Notes are named with an octave number. C4 is the C on the first ledger line below the staff, G4 is on the second line, C5 is in the third space and C6 is the high C on the second ledger line above the staff. The lowest note, E3, sits just below the third ledger line. F♯4 and G♭4 are the same note with the same fingering.



The song pages

Each note of the melody has its own column: the note on the staff, the F horn diagram under it, then the word you would sing on it. A dash in the word row means the word carries on from the note before (a slur, or a tie: a curved line joining two notes of the same pitch, played as one long note). Songs shown without words give the note names instead. "F horn fingerings used in this song" lists every fingering you need, so you can practice them first.

Tuning: the Slides and Your Right Hand

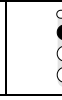
On the horn, your right hand in the bell moves the pitch as much as the slides do. Check these notes with a tuner while you play.

Your right hand in the bell

Rest the right hand against the far side of the bell, fingers together, with the palm cupped slightly. A hand too far out makes the sound brassy and sharp; a hand too closed makes it stuffy and flat.

The tuning note, and a slide for each side

Written F4, on the first space of the treble staff, is the horn's tuning note. On the F side, its diagram shows valve 1 filled and the thumb valve open. It sounds as concert B♭3, about 233 Hz. Its B♭-side fingering is the thumb valve alone, with no finger valves. On a double horn, both fingerings give the same note, so ask your teacher which one your section uses. Try both, and with a tuner, adjust the right hand in the bell. Closing the hand a little lowers the pitch, opening it raises the pitch. Tune the F side with its own slide and the B♭ side with the B♭ slide.

Note	F horn	B♭ side	Fingering	From the chart
F4			Valve 1	The tuning note.

Open notes that sit close together

Horn notes sit close together, so hear each one before you play it. Singing or buzzing a new note first helps your ear pick the right partial.

Note	F horn	B♭ side	Fingering	From the chart
E4			Open (no valves)	Open, the same fingering as the C below and the G above. E sits between them: buzz faster than for C but slower than for G.
C5			Open (no valves)	Open. Up here the notes sit close together, so hear the pitch before you play it.
E5			Open (no valves)	Open fingering. Listen carefully; nearby open notes are easy to land on by mistake.

Low notes
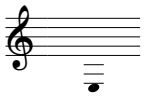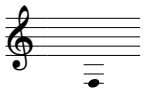
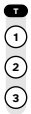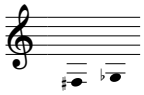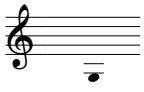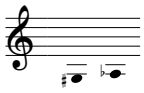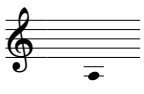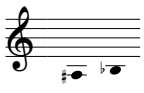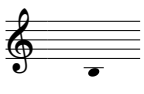
Low notes are fuzzy. Drop the jaw and let the lips open more for written C4 and below, and keep the air steady. Avoid pushing the mouthpiece harder on the top lip.

Note	F horn	B♭ side	Fingering	From the chart
E3			Valves 1 and 2	On a double horn, low notes like this are often played on the B♭ side.
F3			Valve 1	On a double horn this low F is usually played on the B♭ side, with the thumb valve and no other valves.

The Fingering Chart
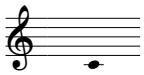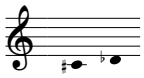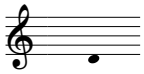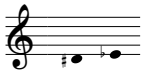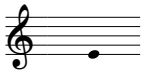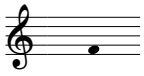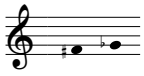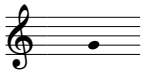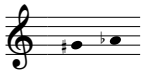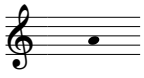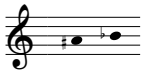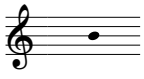
Most notes have two fingerings; low F♯ and G have only an F horn fingering. The F horn fingering is for a single F horn and for the F side of a double horn, with the thumb valve up. The B♭ side fingering is for a double horn with the thumb valve pressed. In each diagram the rounded T at the top is the thumb valve, and the circles below it are valves 1, 2 and 3; valve 1 is under your left index finger. A filled shape means press it; an open one means leave it up. Notes are shown at written pitch for horn in F: a written C sounds as concert F, a fifth lower.

LOW NOTES

Note (Written Pitch)	Note Name	F horn	B♭ side
	**E3**	 Valves 1 and 2 *Also: valve 3*	 Thumb + valve 2
	**F3**	 Valve 1	 Thumb valve only
	**F♯3 / G♭3**	 Valve 2	—
	**G3**	 Open (no valves)	—
	**G♯3 / A♭3**	 Valves 2 and 3	 Thumb + valves 2 and 3
	**A3**	 Valves 1 and 2 *Also: valve 3*	 Thumb + valves 1 and 2
	**A♯3 / B♭3**	 Valve 1	 Thumb + valve 1
	**B3**	 Valve 2	 Thumb + valve 2

The Fingering Chart
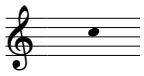
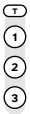
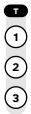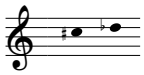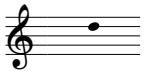
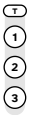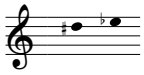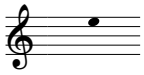
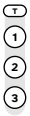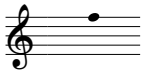
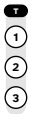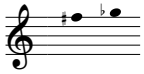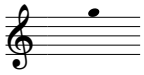
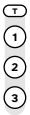
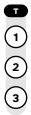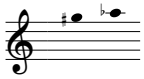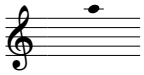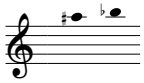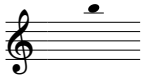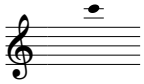
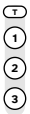
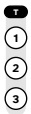
MIDDLE NOTES

Note (Written Pitch)	Note Name	F horn	B♭ side
	**C4**	Open (no valves)	Thumb valve only
	**C♯4 / D♭4**	Valves 1 and 2	Thumb + valves 2 and 3
	**D4**	Valve 1	Thumb + valves 1 and 2
	**D♯4 / E♭4**	Valve 2	Thumb + valve 1
	**E4**	Open (no valves)	Thumb + valve 2
	**F4**	Valve 1	Thumb valve only
	**F♯4 / G♭4**	Valve 2	Thumb + valves 1 and 2
	**G4**	Open (no valves)	Thumb + valve 1
	**G♯4 / A♭4**	Valves 2 and 3	Thumb + valves 2 and 3
	**A4**	Valves 1 and 2 *Also: valve 3*	Thumb + valves 1 and 2
	**A♯4 / B♭4**	Valve 1	Thumb + valve 1
	**B4**	Valve 2	Thumb + valve 2

Free at thefingeringchart.com

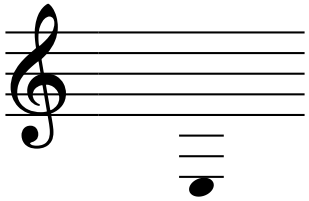
The Fingering Chart

HIGH NOTES

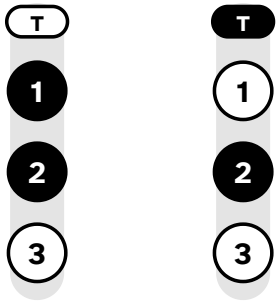
Note (Written Pitch)	Note Name	F horn	B♭ side
	**C5**	 Open (no valves)	 Thumb valve only
	**C♯5 / D♭5**	 Valve 2 *Also: valves 1, 2 and 3*	 Thumb + valves 2 and 3
	**D5**	 Open (no valves) *Also: valve 1*	 Thumb + valves 1 and 2 *Also: thumb + valve 3*
	**D♯5 / E♭5**	 Valve 2	 Thumb + valve 1
	**E5**	 Open (no valves) *Also: valves 1 and 2*	 Thumb + valve 2
	**F5**	 Valve 1	 Thumb valve only
	**F♯5 / G♭5**	 Valve 2	 Thumb + valve 2
	**G5**	 Open (no valves)	 Thumb valve only
	**G♯5 / A♭5** **ADVANCED**	 Valves 2 and 3 *Also: valve 1*	 Thumb + valves 2 and 3 *Also: thumb + valve 2*
	**A5** **ADVANCED**	 Valves 1 and 2 *Also: valve 2*	 Thumb + valves 1 and 2 *Also: thumb + valve 3* *Also: thumb valve only*
	**A♯5 / B♭5** **ADVANCED**	 Valve 1 *Also: open (no valves)*	 Thumb + valve 1
	**B5** **ADVANCED**	 Valve 2	 Thumb + valve 2
	**C6** **ADVANCED**	 Open (no valves)	 Thumb valve only

Low E · E3

Sounds as concert A



F horn **B♭ side**



Valves 1 and 2 **Thumb + valve 2**

The lowest standard note on the French horn is E, written just below the third ledger line below the staff.

F horn: Valves 1 and 2. On a double horn, low notes like this are often played on the B♭ side.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb + valve 2.

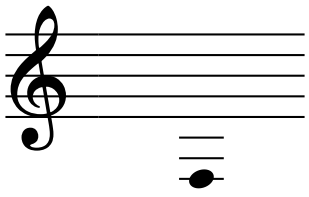
Also:  Valve 3

Half step above: F3  Valve 1

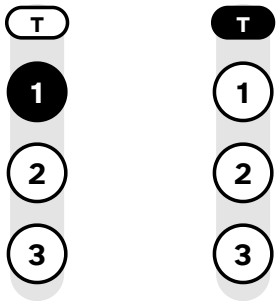
In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 6.

Low F · F3

Sounds as concert B♭



F horn **B♭ side**



Valve 1 **Thumb valve only**

Low F on the French horn is the F written on the third ledger line below the staff (F3 in octave numbers).

F horn: Valve 1. On a double horn this low F is usually played on the B♭ side, with the thumb valve and no other valves.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb valve only.

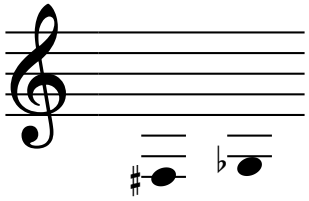
Half step below: E3  Valves 1 and 2

Half step above: F♯3 / G♭3  Valve 2

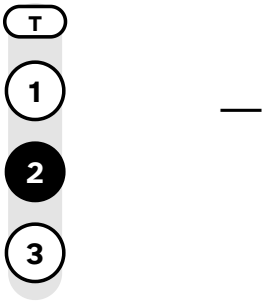
In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 6.

Low F♯ · F♯3 / G♭3

Sounds as concert B



F horn **B♭ side**



Valve 2

Low F♯ on the French horn is the F♯ written on the third ledger line below the staff (F♯3 in octave numbers). It is the same note as G♭, so the same fingering works for both.

F horn: Valve 2. Low note. On a double horn this is usually played on the F side, as shown.

B♭ side (double horn): none listed; play it on the F side.

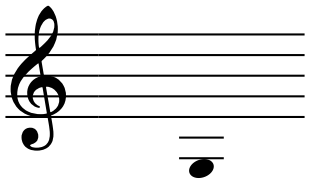
Half step below: F3  Valve 1

Half step above: G3  Open (no valves)

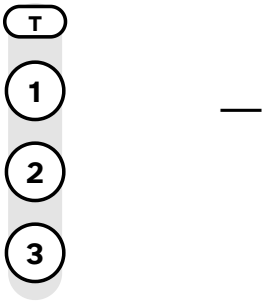
In this book: Scales: Concert B (32).

Low G · G3

Sounds as concert C



F horn **B♭ side**



Open (no valves)

Low G on the French horn is the G written just below the second ledger line below the staff (G3 in octave numbers).

F horn: Open (no valves). Open, no valves. On a double horn this is usually played on the F side.

B♭ side (double horn): none listed; play it on the F side.

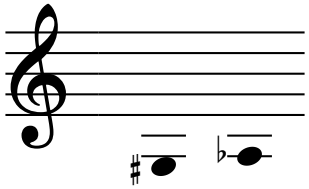
Half step below: F♯3 / G♭3  Valve 2

Half step above: G♯3 / A♭3  Valves 2 and 3

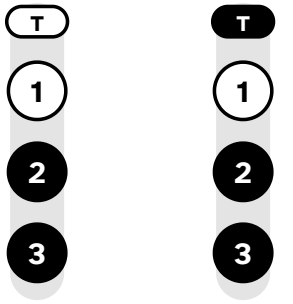
In this book: Songs: America the Beautiful (64). Scales: Concert C (29).

Low A♭ · G♯3 / A♭3

Sounds as concert D♭



F horn **B♭ side**



Valves 2 and 3 **Thumb + valves 2 and 3**

Low A♭ on the French horn is the A♭ written on the second ledger line below the staff (A♭3 in octave numbers). It is the same note as G♯, so the same fingering works for both.

F horn: Valves 2 and 3.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb + valves 2 and 3.

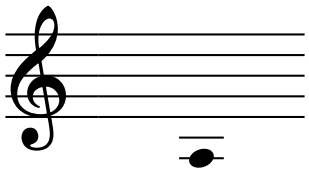
Half step below: G3  Open (no valves)

Half step above: A3  Valves 1 and 2

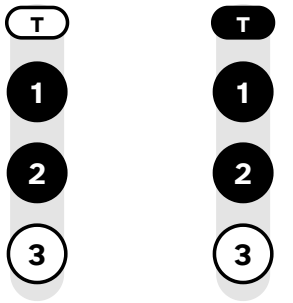
In this book: Scales: Concert D♭ (29), Concert B (32).

Low A · A3

Sounds as concert D



F horn **B♭ side**



Valves 1 and 2 **Thumb + valves 1 and 2**

Low A on the French horn is the A written on the second ledger line below the staff (A3 in octave numbers).

F horn: Valves 1 and 2.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb + valves 1 and 2.

Also:  Valve 3

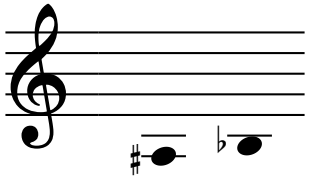
Half step below: G♯3 / A♭3  Valves 2 and 3

Half step above: A♯3 / B♭3  Valve 1

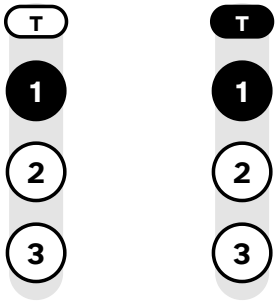
In this book: Songs: Yankee Doodle (60), Battle Hymn of the Republic (62), America the Beautiful (64). Scales: Concert C (29), Concert D (31).

Low B♭ · A♯3 / B♭3

Sounds as concert E♭



F horn **B♭ side**



Valve 1 **Thumb + valve 1**

Low B♭ on the French horn is the B♭ written just below the first ledger line below the staff (B♭3 in octave numbers). It is the same note as A♯, so the same fingering works for both.

F horn: Valve 1.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb + valve 1.

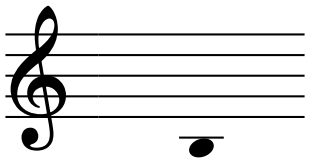
Half step below: A3  Valves 1 and 2

Half step above: B3  Valve 2

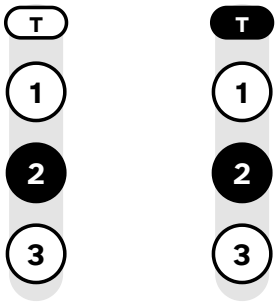
In this book: Songs: Yankee Doodle (60), Battle Hymn of the Republic (62), America the Beautiful (64). Scales: Concert E♭ (27), Concert D♭ (29), Concert B (32).

Low B · B3

Sounds as concert E



F horn **B♭ side**



Valve 2 **Thumb + valve 2**

Low B on the French horn is the B written just below the first ledger line below the staff (B3 in octave numbers).

F horn: Valve 2.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb + valve 2.

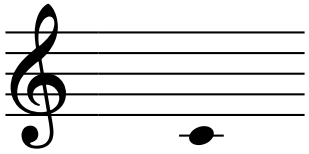
Half step below: A♯3 / B♭3  Valve 1

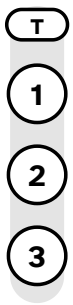
Half step above: C4  Open (no valves)

In this book: Scales: Concert C (29), Concert D (31), Concert B (32), Concert E (32).

Low C · C4

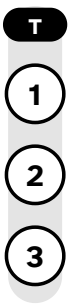
Sounds as concert F





F horn

Open (no valves)



B♭ side

Thumb valve only

Low C on the French horn is the C written on the first ledger line below the staff (C4 in octave numbers).

F horn: Open (no valves). Open, no valves.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb valve only.

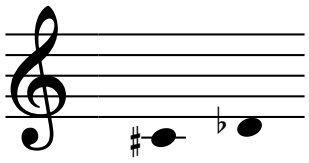
Half step below: B3  Valve 2

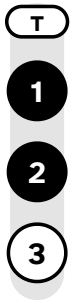
Half step above: C♯4 / D♭4  Valves 1 and 2

In this book: Songs: Happy Birthday (39), Jolly Old Saint Nicholas (41), Good King Wenceslas (42), Away in a Manger (43), Auld Lang Syne (46), O Come, All Ye Faithful (50), O Christmas Tree (52), We Wish You a Merry Christmas (53), Angels We Have Heard on High (55), Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (56), Silent Night (58), Taps (59), Yankee Doodle (60), Battle Hymn of the Republic (62), America the Beautiful (64), Anchors Aweigh (65), The Star-Spangled Banner (66). Scales: Concert E♭ (27), Concert F (28), Concert C (29), Concert D♭ (29).

Low C♯ · C♯4 / D♭4

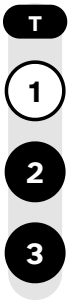
Sounds as concert G♭





F horn

Valves 1 and 2



B♭ side

Thumb + valves 2 and 3

Low C♯ on the French horn is the C♯ written on the first ledger line below the staff (C♯4 in octave numbers). It is the same note as D♭, so the same fingering works for both.

F horn: Valves 1 and 2.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb + valves 2 and 3.

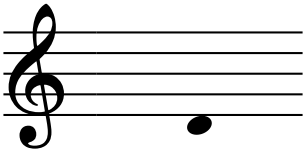
Half step below: C4  Open (no valves)

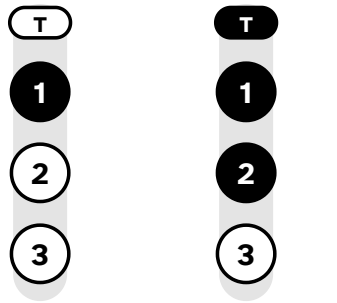
Half step above: D4  Valve 1

In this book: Scales: Concert D♭ (29), Concert G♭ (30), Concert D (31), Concert B (32), Concert E (32).

Low D · D4

Sounds as concert G





Low D on the French horn is the D written just below the staff (D4 in octave numbers).

F horn: Valve 1.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb + valves 1 and 2.

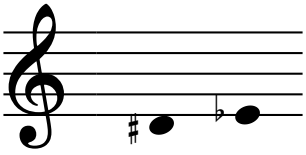
Half step below: C♯4 / D♭4  Valves 1 and 2

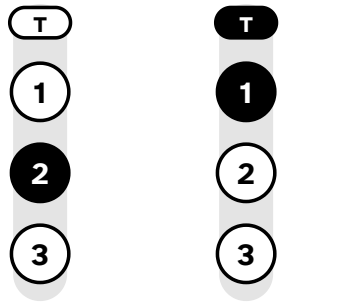
Half step above: D♯4 / E♭4  Valve 2

In this book: Songs: Happy Birthday (39), Jolly Old Saint Nicholas (41), Good King Wenceslas (42), Away in a Manger (43), Auld Lang Syne (46), O Come, All Ye Faithful (50), We Wish You a Merry Christmas (53), Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (56), Silent Night (58), Yankee Doodle (60), Battle Hymn of the Republic (62), America the Beautiful (64), Anchors Aweigh (65). Scales: Concert E♭ (27), Concert F (28), Concert C (29), Concert G (30), Concert D (31).

Low E♭ · D♯4 / E♭4

Sounds as concert A♭





Low E♭ on the French horn is the E♭ written on the bottom line (E♭4 in octave numbers). It is the same note as D♯, so the same fingering works for both.

F horn: Valve 2.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb + valve 1.

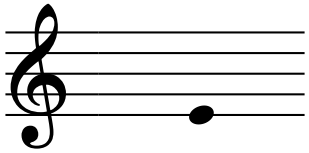
Half step below: D4  Valve 1

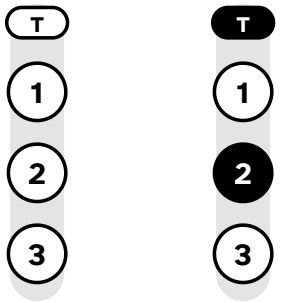
Half step above: E4  Open (no valves)

In this book: Scales: Concert E♭ (27), Concert A♭ (28), Concert D♭ (29), Concert G♭ (30), Concert B (32), Concert E (32).

E · E4

Sounds as concert A





E on the French horn is the E written on the bottom line (E4 in octave numbers).

F horn: Open (no valves). Open, the same fingering as the C below and the G above. E sits between them: buzz faster than for C but slower than for G.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb + valve 2.

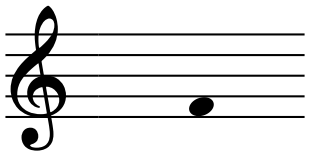
Half step below: D♯4 / E♭4  Valve 2

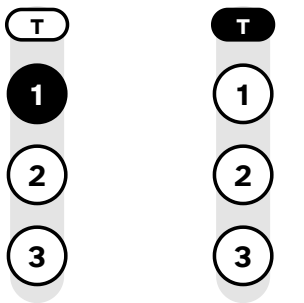
Half step above: F4  Valve 1

In this book: Songs: Happy Birthday (39), Jolly Old Saint Nicholas (41), Good King Wenceslas (42), Away in a Manger (43), O Come, All Ye Faithful (50), O Christmas Tree (52), We Wish You a Merry Christmas (53), Deck the Halls (54), Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (56), Silent Night (58), Yankee Doodle (60), My Country, 'Tis of Thee (61), Battle Hymn of the Republic (62), America the Beautiful (64), Anchors Aweigh (65), The Star-Spangled Banner (66). Scales: Concert F (28), Concert C (29), Concert G (30), Concert D (31), Concert A (31), Concert E (32).

F · F4

Sounds as concert B♭





F on the French horn is the F written in the first space (F4 in octave numbers).

F horn: Valve 1.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb valve only.

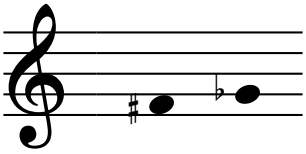
Half step below: E4  Open (no valves)

Half step above: F♯4 / G♭4  Valve 2

In this book: Songs: every song except The Star-Spangled Banner (66). Scales: Concert B♭ (27), Concert E♭ (27), Concert F (28), Concert A♭ (28), Concert D♭ (29), Concert G♭ (30), Concert B (32). Chromatic scale (33).

F♯ · F♯4 / G♭4

Sounds as concert B



F♯ on the French horn is written in the first space. It is the same note as G♭, so the same fingering works for both.

F horn: Valve 2.

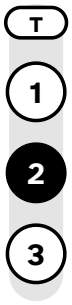
B♭ side (double horn): Thumb + valves 1 and 2.

Half step below: F4  Valve 1

Half step above: G4  Open (no valves)

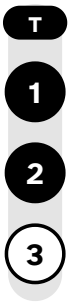
In this book: Songs: America the Beautiful (64), Anchors Aweigh (65), The Star-Spangled Banner (66). Scales: Concert C (29), Concert G (30), Concert G♭ (30), Concert D (31), Concert A (31), Concert B (32), Concert E (32). Chromatic scale (33).

F horn



Valve 2

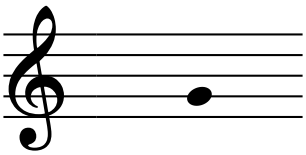
B♭ side



Thumb + valves 1 and 2

G · G4

Sounds as concert C



G on the French horn is the G written on the second line (G4 in octave numbers).

F horn: Open (no valves). Open. Many double-horn players switch to the B♭ side from G♯ upward.

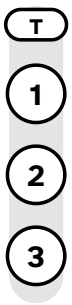
B♭ side (double horn): Thumb + valve 1.

Half step below: F♯4 / G♭4  Valve 2

Half step above: G♯4 / A♭4  Valves 2 and 3

In this book: Songs: every song except Taps (59). Scales: Concert B♭ (27), Concert E♭ (27), Concert F (28), Concert A♭ (28), Concert C (29), Concert D♭ (29), Concert G (30). Chromatic scale (33).

F horn



Open (no valves)

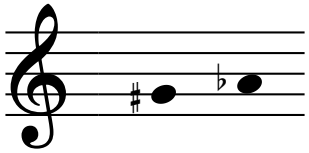
B♭ side



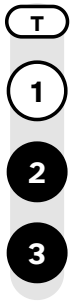
Thumb + valve 1

A♭ · G♯4 / A♭4

Sounds as concert D♭

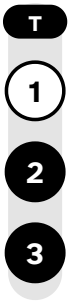


F horn



Valves 2 and 3

B♭ side



Thumb + valves 2 and 3

A♭ on the French horn is the A♭ written in the second space (A♭4 in octave numbers). It is the same note as G♯, so the same fingering works for both.

F horn: Valves 2 and 3.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb + valves 2 and 3.

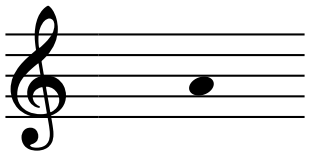
Half step below: G4  Open (no valves)

Half step above: A4  Valves 1 and 2

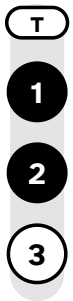
In this book: Scales: Concert A♭ (28), Concert D♭ (29), Concert G♭ (30), Concert D (31), Concert A (31), Concert E (32). Chromatic scale (33).

A · A4

Sounds as concert D

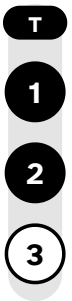


F horn



Valves 1 and 2

B♭ side



Thumb + valves 1 and 2

A on the French horn is the A written in the second space (A4 in octave numbers).

F horn: Valves 1 and 2.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb + valves 1 and 2.

Also:  Valve 3

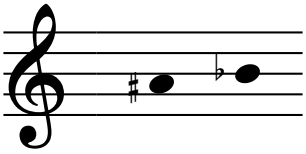
Half step below: G♯4 / A♭4  Valves 2 and 3

Half step above: A♯4 / B♭4  Valve 1

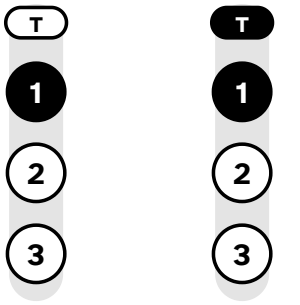
In this book: Songs: every song except . Scales: Concert B♭ (27), Concert E♭ (27), Concert F (28), Concert G (30), Concert D (31), Concert A (31). Chromatic scale (33).

B♭ · A♯4 / B♭4

Sounds as concert E♭



F horn **B♭ side**



Valve 1 **Thumb + valve 1**

B♭ on the French horn is written on the middle line. It is the same note as A♯, so the same fingering works for both.

F horn: Valve 1.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb + valve 1.

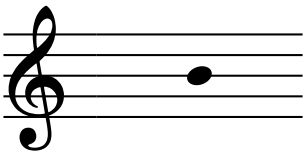
Half step below: A4  Valves 1 and 2

Half step above: B4  Valve 2

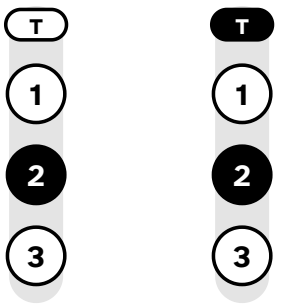
In this book: Songs: Twinkle Twinkle Little Star (36), Ode to Joy (37), Jingle Bells (38), Happy Birthday (39), When the Saints Go Marching In (40), Good King Wenceslas (42), Away in a Manger (43), Up on the Housetop (44), Joy to the World (47), The First Noel (48), O Come, All Ye Faithful (50), O Christmas Tree (52), We Wish You a Merry Christmas (53), Deck the Halls (54), Angels We Have Heard on High (55), Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (56), Yankee Doodle (60), My Country, 'Tis of Thee (61). Scales: Concert B♭ (27), Concert E♭ (27), Concert A♭ (28), Concert G♭ (30), Concert E (32). Chromatic scale (33).

B · B4

Sounds as concert E



F horn **B♭ side**



Valve 2 **Thumb + valve 2**

B on the French horn is the B written on the middle line (B4 in octave numbers).

F horn: Valve 2.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb + valve 2.

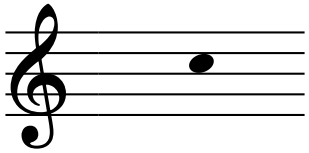
Half step below: A♯4 / B♭4  Valve 1

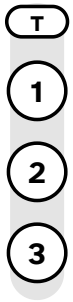
Half step above: C5  Open (no valves)

In this book: Songs: Deck the Halls (54), Silent Night (58), Anchors Aweigh (65), The Star-Spangled Banner (66). Scales: Concert F (28), Concert G (30), Concert A (31), Concert E (32). Chromatic scale (33).

C · C5

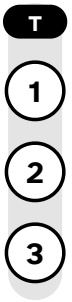
Sounds as concert F





F horn

Open (no valves)



B♭ side

Thumb valve only

C on the French horn is the C written in the third space (C5 in octave numbers).

F horn: Open (no valves). Open. Up here the notes sit close together, so hear the pitch before you play it.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb valve only.

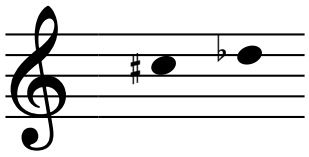
Half step below: B4  Valve 2

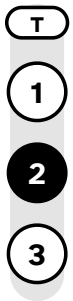
Half step above: C♯5 / D♭5  Valve 2

In this book: Songs: every song except Hot Cross Buns (34), Jolly Old Saint Nicholas (41), Yankee Doodle (60), Battle Hymn of the Republic (62), America the Beautiful (64). Scales: Concert B♭ (27), Concert F (28), Concert A♭ (28), Concert G♭ (30). Chromatic scale (33).

C♯ · C♯5 / D♭5

Sounds as concert G♭





F horn

Valve 2



B♭ side

Thumb + valves 2 and 3

C♯ on the French horn is written in the third space. It is the same note as D♭, so the same fingering works for both.

F horn: Valve 2.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb + valves 2 and 3.

Also:  Valves 1, 2 and 3

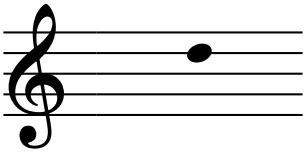
Half step below: C5  Open (no valves)

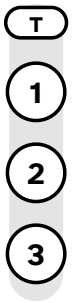
Half step above: D5  Open (no valves)

In this book: Scales: Concert G (30), Concert G♭ (30), Concert A (31). Chromatic scale (33).

High D · D5

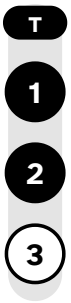
Sounds as concert G





F horn

Open (no valves)



B♭ side

Thumb + valves 1 and 2

High D on the French horn is the D written on the fourth line (D5 in octave numbers).

F horn: Open (no valves).

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb + valves 1 and 2.

Also:  Valve 1  Thumb + valve 3

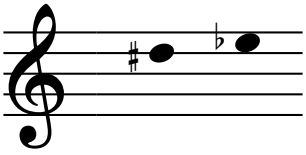
Half step below: C♯5 / D♭5  Valve 2

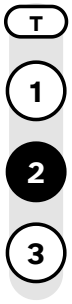
Half step above: D♯5 / E♭5  Valve 2

In this book: Songs: Twinkle Twinkle Little Star (36), Up on the Housetop (44), Auld Lang Syne (46), Joy to the World (47), The First Noel (48), O Christmas Tree (52), Deck the Halls (54), Angels We Have Heard on High (55), Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (56), Silent Night (58), My Country, 'Tis of Thee (61), Anchors Aweigh (65), The Star-Spangled Banner (66). Scales: Concert B♭ (27), Concert A♭ (28), Concert G (30). Chromatic scale (33).

E♭ · D♯5 / E♭5

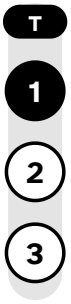
Sounds as concert A♭





F horn

Valve 2



B♭ side

Thumb + valve 1

E♭ on the French horn is written in the top space. It is the same note as D♯, so the same fingering works for both.

F horn: Valve 2.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb + valve 1.

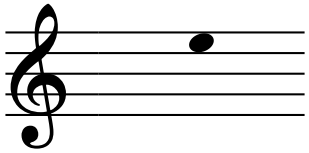
Half step below: D5  Open (no valves)

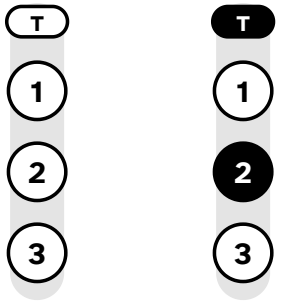
Half step above: E5  Open (no valves)

In this book: Scales: Concert A♭ (28), Concert A (31). Chromatic scale (33).

High E · E5

Sounds as concert A





High E on the French horn is the E written in the top space (E5 in octave numbers).

F horn: Open (no valves). Open fingering. Listen carefully; nearby open notes are easy to land on by mistake.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb + valve 2.

Also:  Valves 1 and 2

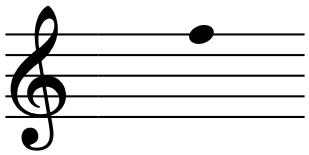
Half step below: D♯5 / E♭5  Valve 2

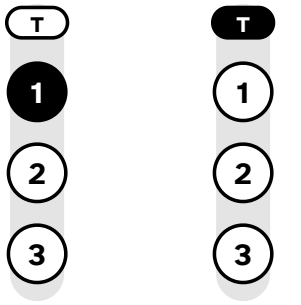
Half step above: F5  Valve 1

In this book: Songs: Joy to the World (47), The First Noel (48), Deck the Halls (54), Silent Night (58), Anchors Aweigh (65), The Star-Spangled Banner (66). Scales: Concert B♭ (27), Concert A (31). Chromatic scale (33).

High F · F5

Sounds as concert B♭





High F on the French horn is the F written on the top line (F5 in octave numbers).

F horn: Valve 1.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb valve only.

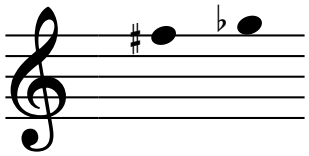
Half step below: E5  Open (no valves)

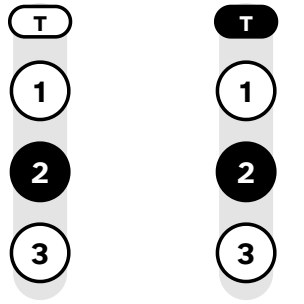
Half step above: F♯5 / G♭5  Valve 2

In this book: Songs: Joy to the World (47), The First Noel (48), Deck the Halls (54), Silent Night (58), The Star-Spangled Banner (66). Scales: Concert B♭ (27). Chromatic scale (33).

High F♯ · F♯5 / G♭5

Sounds as concert B





High F♯ on the French horn is the F♯ written on the top line (F♯5 in octave numbers). It is the same note as G♭, so the same fingering works for both.

F horn: Valve 2.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb + valve 2.

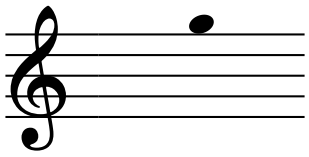
Half step below: F5  Valve 1

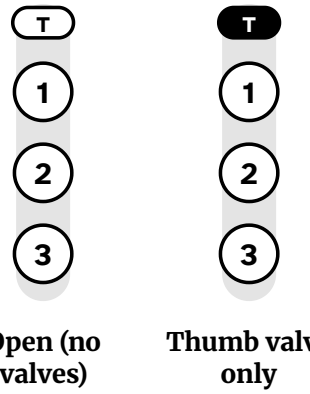
Half step above: G5  Open (no valves)

In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 8.

High G · G5

Sounds as concert C





High G on the French horn is the G written just above the staff (G5 in octave numbers).

F horn: Open (no valves).

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb valve only.

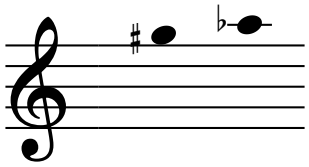
Half step below: F♯5 / G♭5  Valve 2

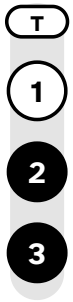
Half step above: G♯5 / A♭5  Valves 2 and 3

In this book: Songs: The Star-Spangled Banner (66).

High A♭ · G♯5 / A♭5

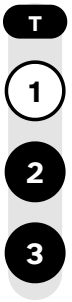
Sounds as concert D♭





F horn

Valves 2 and 3



B♭ side

Thumb + valves 2 and 3

High A♭ on the French horn is the A♭ written on the first ledger line above the staff (A♭5 in octave numbers). It is the same note as G♯, so the same fingering works for both.

F horn: Valves 2 and 3.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb + valves 2 and 3.

Also:  Valve 1  Thumb + valve 2

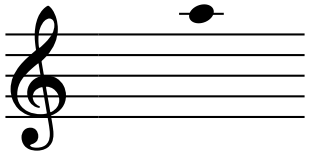
Half step below: G5  Open (no valves)

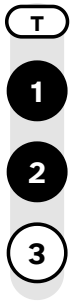
Half step above: A5  Valves 1 and 2

In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 8.

High A · A5

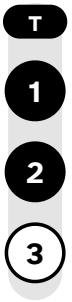
Sounds as concert D





F horn

Valves 1 and 2



B♭ side

Thumb + valves 1 and 2

High A on the French horn is the A written on the first ledger line above the staff (A5 in octave numbers).

F horn: Valves 1 and 2.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb + valves 1 and 2.

Also:  Valve 2  Thumb + valve 3  Thumb valve only

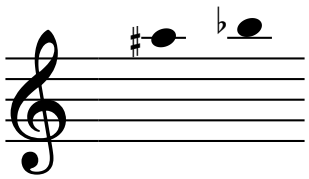
Half step below: G♯5 / A♭5  Valves 2 and 3

Half step above: A♯5 / B♭5  Valve 1

In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 8.

High B♭ · A♯5 / B♭5

Sounds as concert E♭



F horn



Valve 1

B♭ side



Thumb + valve 1

High B♭ on the French horn is the B♭ written just above the first ledger line above the staff (B♭5 in octave numbers). It is the same note as A♯, so the same fingering works for both.

F horn: Valve 1.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb + valve 1.

Also:  Open (no valves)

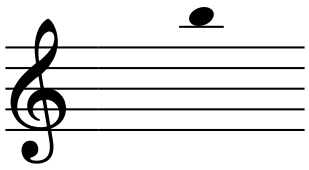
Half step below: A5  Valves 1 and 2

Half step above: B5  Valve 2

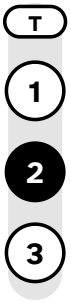
In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 8.

High B · B5

Sounds as concert E

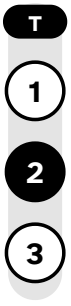


F horn



Valve 2

B♭ side



Thumb + valve 2

High B on the French horn is the B written just above the first ledger line above the staff (B5 in octave numbers).

F horn: Valve 2.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb + valve 2.

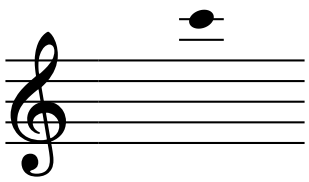
Half step below: A♯5 / B♭5  Valve 1

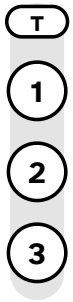
Half step above: C6  Open (no valves)

In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 8.

High C · C6

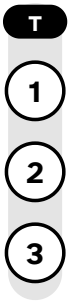
Sounds as concert F





F horn

Open (no valves)



B♭ side

Thumb valve only

High C on the French horn is the C written on the second ledger line above the staff.

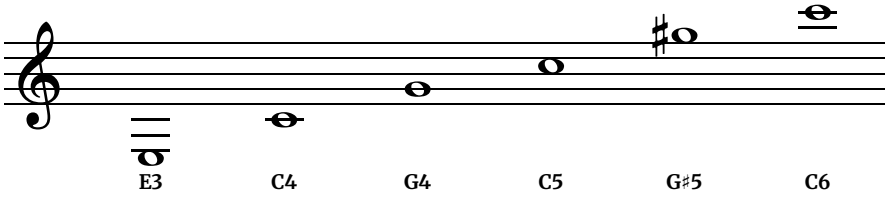
F horn: Open (no valves). Open. Top of the standard range.

B♭ side (double horn): Thumb valve only.

Half step below: B5  Valve 2

In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 8.

Range and Where to Start

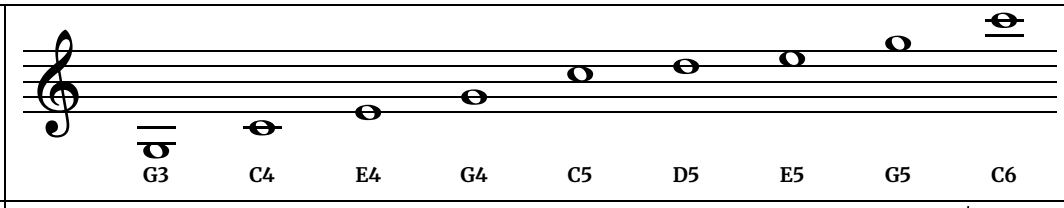
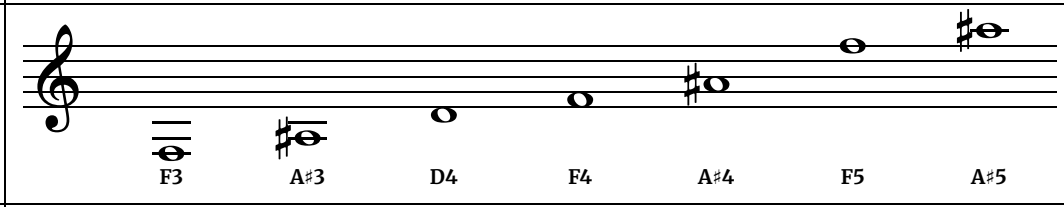
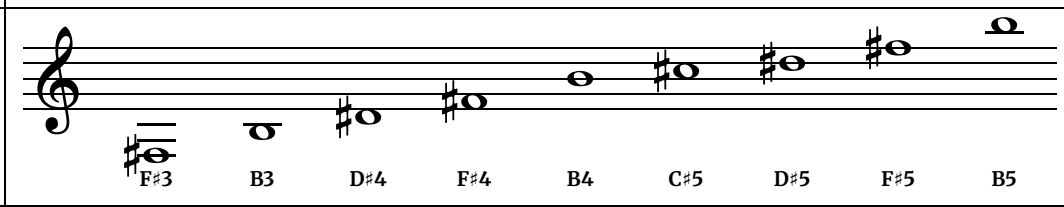
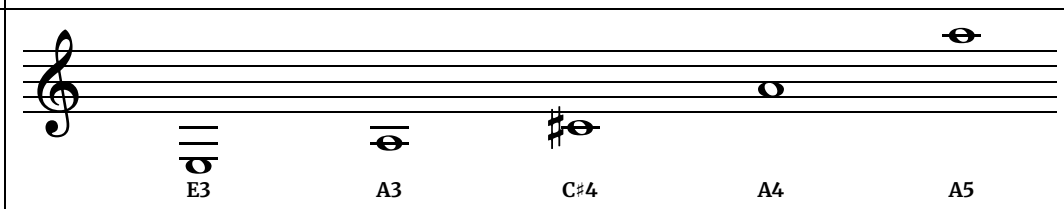
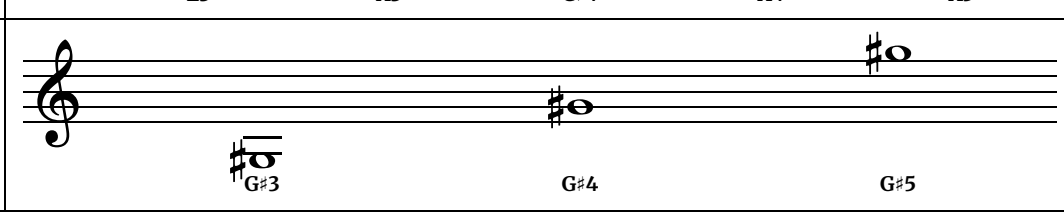


The chart starts at written E3, below the staff, and ends at high C6. Horn reads in F: each written note sounds a perfect fifth lower, so written C5 sounds as concert F4, and the bottom E sounds as concert A2, about 110 Hz. Beginners usually start around written C5 and G4 in the staff. Horn is long tubing played on high partials, and that makes every note sit close to its neighbors. Many double horn players change to the B♭ side from about the G on the second line up, where its partials are farther apart and easier to center. The top five notes, from G♯5, are marked Advanced on the chart.

Same Fingering, Different Notes

On the horn, one fingering plays a whole series of notes, called partials. Your lips and air choose between them, and on the horn they sit close together, so hear each note before you play it.

F horn (thumb up)

Open (no valves)	
Valve 1	
Valve 2	
Valves 1 and 2	
Valves 2 and 3	

B♭ side of a double horn (thumb down)

Thumb valve only	F3, C4, F4, C5, F5, G5, C6
Thumb + valve 1	A♯3, D♯4, G4, A♯4, D♯5, A♯5
Thumb + valve 2	E3, B3, E4, B4, E5, F♯5, B5
Thumb + valves 1 and 2	A3, D4, F♯4, A4, D5, A5
Thumb + valves 2 and 3	G♯3, C♯4, G♯4, C♯5, G♯5

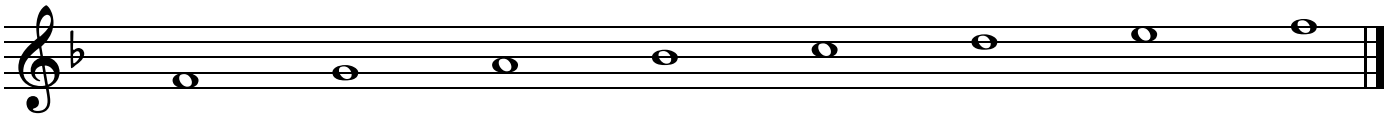
Only the main fingerings are shown. Sharps are shown here; each one is also its flat (C♯4 is D♭4). When notes share a fingering, sing or buzz the pitch first so your lips are ready for the right one.

The 12 Major Scales

Band directors usually call scales by their concert name, so the whole band plays the same pitches. On French horn the note you read is different from the concert pitch, so each scale shows both. They are in the order school bands usually learn them. On a double horn, decide where the thumb goes down in each scale and use the same spot every time.

Concert B♭ major · written F major

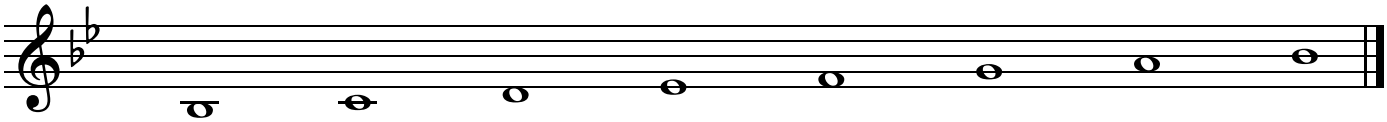
When the band plays concert B♭ major, you play F major (1 flat in the key signature).



F HORN	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3
NOTE	F4	G4	A4	B♭4	C5	D5	E5	F5

Concert E♭ major · written B♭ major

When the band plays concert E♭ major, you play B♭ major (2 flats in the key signature).

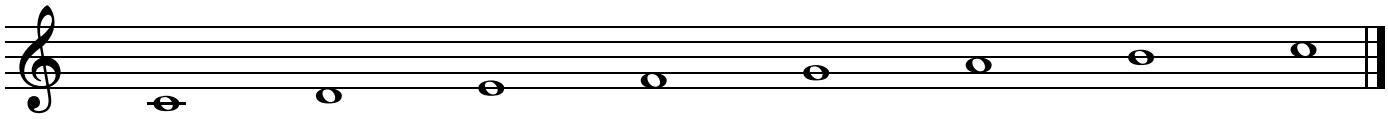


F HORN	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3
NOTE	B♭3	C4	D4	E♭4	F4	G4	A4	B♭4

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Concert F major · written C major

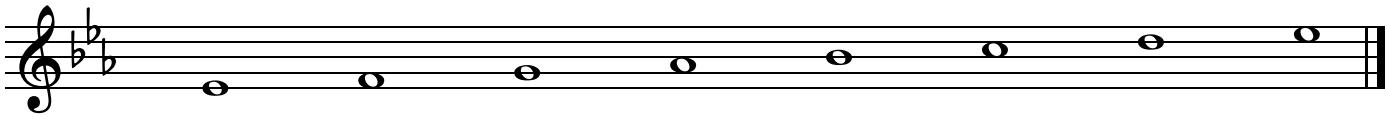
When the band plays concert F major, you play C major (no sharps or flats in the key signature).



F HORN	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3
NOTE	C4	D4	E4	F4	G4	A4	B4	C5

Concert A♭ major · written E♭ major

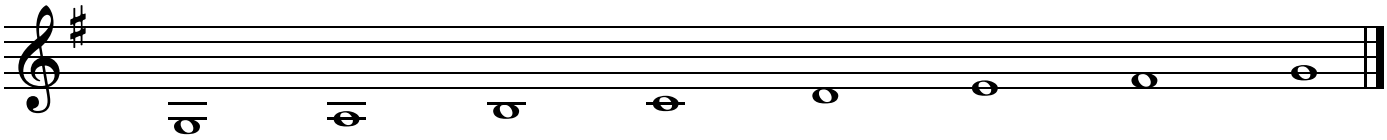
When the band plays concert A♭ major, you play E♭ major (3 flats in the key signature).



F HORN	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3
NOTE	E♭4	F4	G4	A♭4	B♭4	C5	D5	E♭5

Concert C major · written G major

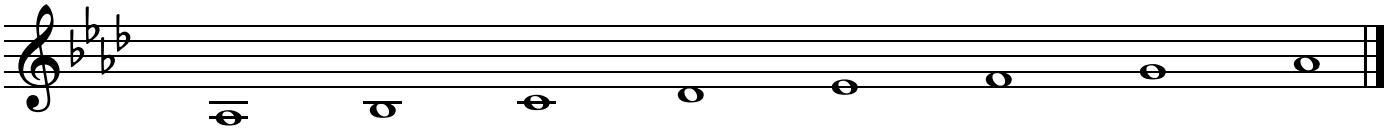
When the band plays concert C major, you play G major (1 sharp in the key signature).



F HORN	T 1 2 3	T **1** **2** 3	T 1 **2** 3	T 1 2 3	T **1** 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 **2** 3	T 1 2 3
NOTE	G3	A3	B3	C4	D4	E4	F♯4	G4

Concert D♭ major · written A♭ major

When the band plays concert D♭ major, you play A♭ major (4 flats in the key signature).

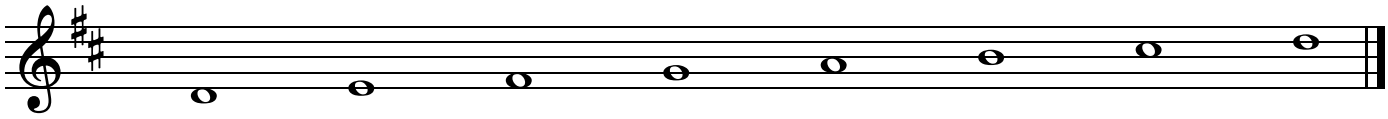


F HORN	T 1 2 **3**	T **1** 2 3	T 1 2 3	T **1** **2** 3	T 1 **2** 3	T **1** 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 **3**
NOTE	A♭3	B♭3	C4	D♭4	E♭4	F4	G4	A♭4

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Concert G major · written D major

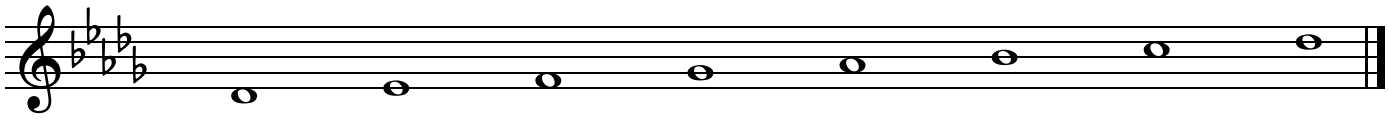
When the band plays concert G major, you play D major (2 sharps in the key signature).



F HORN	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3
NOTE	D4	E4	F♯4	G4	A4	B4	C♯5	D5

Concert G♭ major · written D♭ major

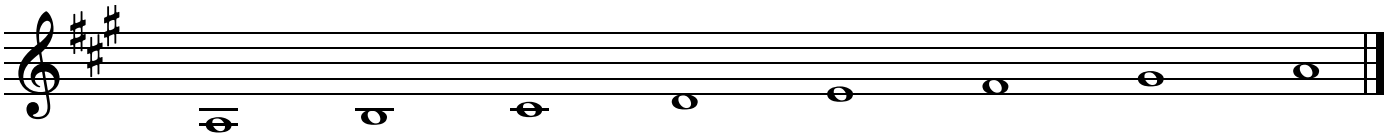
When the band plays concert G♭ major, you play D♭ major (5 flats in the key signature).



F HORN	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3
NOTE	D♭4	E♭4	F4	G♭4	A♭4	B♭4	C5	D♭5

Concert D major · written A major

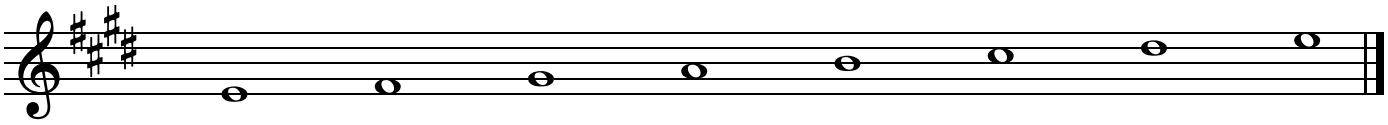
When the band plays concert D major, you play A major (3 sharps in the key signature).



F HORN	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3
NOTE	A3	B3	C♯4	D4	E4	F♯4	G♯4	A4

Concert A major · written E major

When the band plays concert A major, you play E major (4 sharps in the key signature).

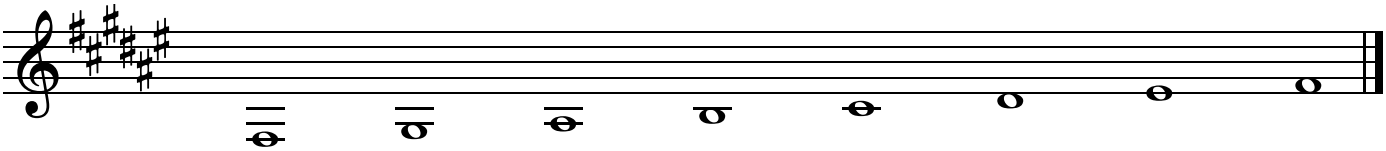


F HORN	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 2 3
NOTE	E4	F♯4	G♯4	A4	B4	C♯5	D♯5	E5

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Concert B major · written F♯ major

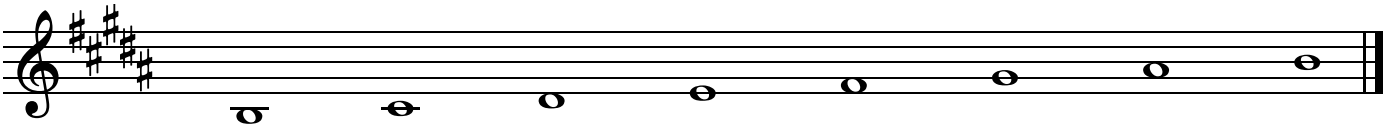
When the band plays concert B major, you play F♯ major (6 sharps in the key signature).



F HORN	T 1 **2** 3	T 1 **2** **3**	T **1** 2 3	T 1 **2** 3	T **1** **2** 3	T 1 **2** 3	T **1** 2 3	T 1 **2** 3
NOTE	F♯3	G♯3	A♯3	B3	C♯4	D♯4	E♯4	F♯4

Concert E major · written B major

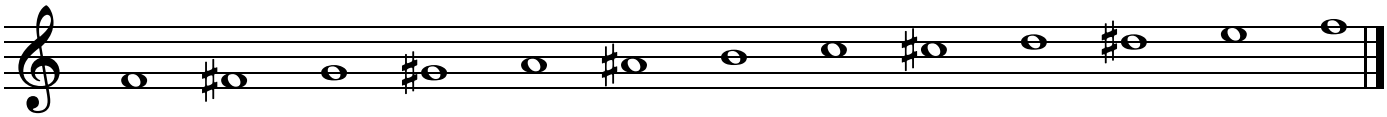
When the band plays concert E major, you play B major (5 sharps in the key signature).



F HORN	T 1 **2** 3	T **1** **2** 3	T 1 **2** 3	T 1 2 3	T 1 **2** 3	T 1 **2** **3**	T **1** 2 3	T 1 **2** 3
NOTE	B3	C♯4	D♯4	E4	F♯4	G♯4	A♯4	B4

The Chromatic Scale

All twelve notes from F4, which is concert B♭, up to the next F, one half step at a time. Going up, the in-between notes are written as sharps; coming down they are usually written as flats (A♯ going up is the same note and fingering as B♭ coming down).



F HORN													
NOTE	F4	F♯4	G4	G♯4	A4	A♯4	B4	C5	C♯5	D5	D♯5	E5	F5

How to Practice a Scale

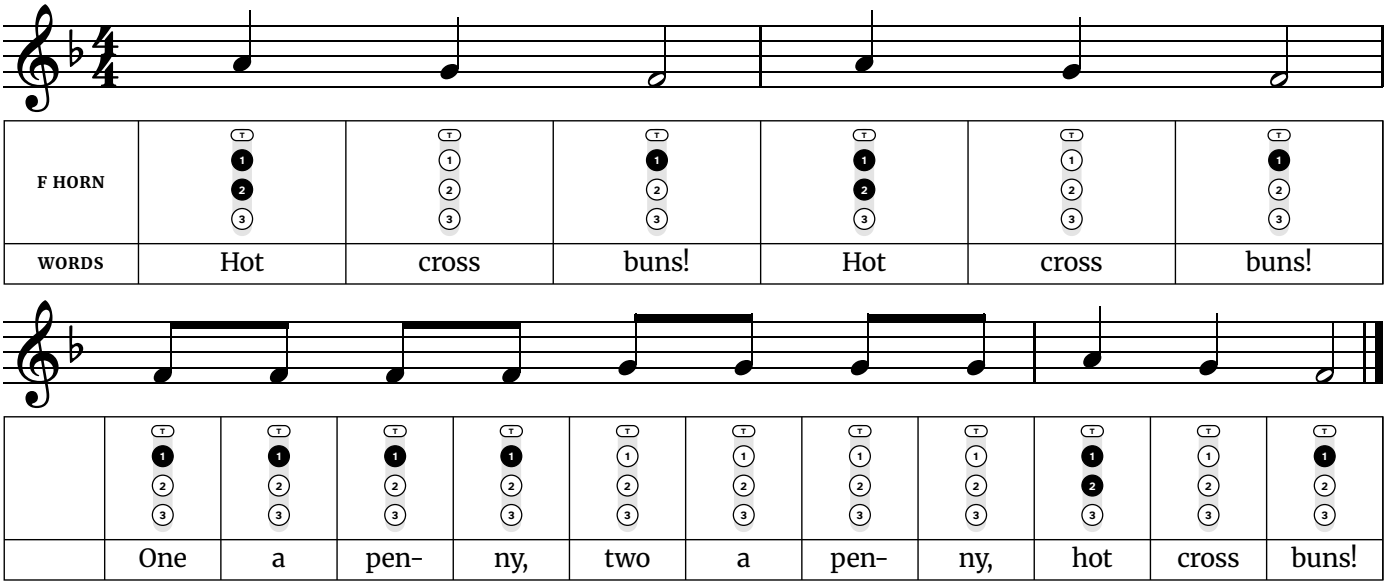
Play it slowly enough that every note is correct the first time, with a metronome. Tongue each note, then slur the whole octave in one breath. Raise the tempo only after three clean runs in a row.

Which Scales First

Horn reads a fifth above concert, so concert B♭ is written F major, concert E♭ is written B♭ major, and concert F is written C major. Concert A♭, written E♭ major, follows. Start with written F major from F4 to F5. On a double horn, decide where the thumb goes down in that scale (often at the G or the A) and use the same spot every time, so the switch becomes automatic.

Hot Cross Buns

Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 4/4 time. A three-note song most band and recorder books start with.



F horn fingerings used in this song
F4 – Valve 1
G4 – Open (no valves)
A4 – Valves 1 and 2

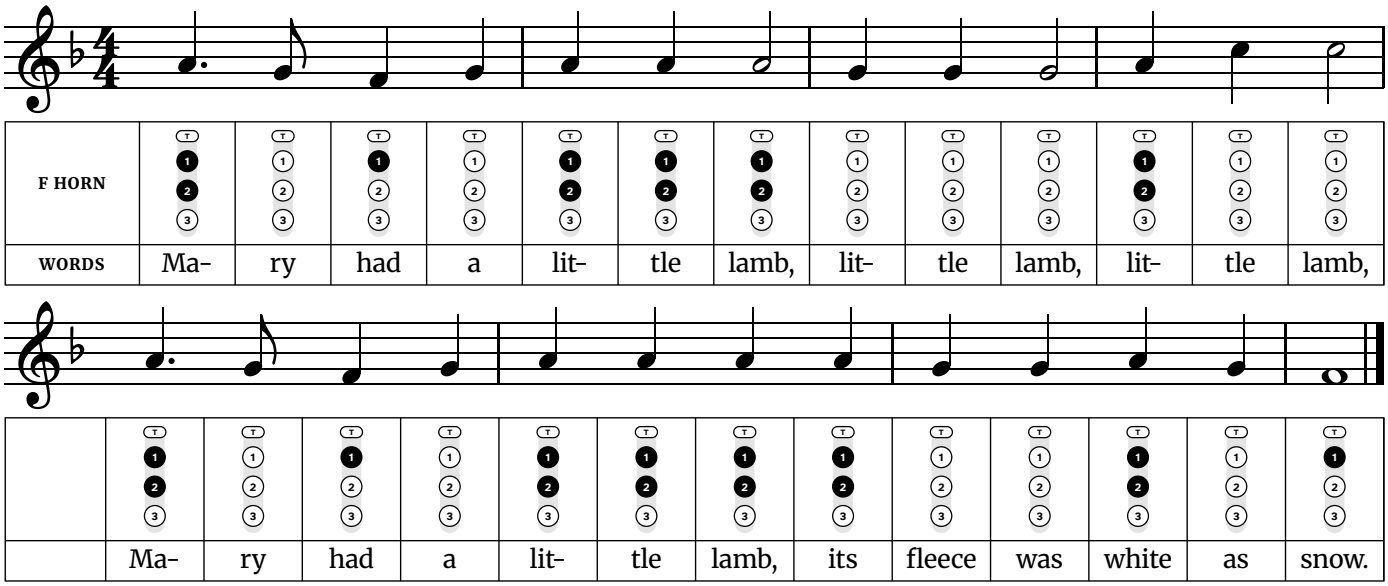
Tip: The widest jump is a major third, from F4 to A4. Every phrase walks down three notes and back. Use it to get clean finger changes between neighboring notes before you worry about speed.

Hardest finger change: Going from A4 (valves 1 and 2) to G4 (open, no valves), 2 valves change. Press and lift the valves at exactly the same moment, with the fingertips staying on the valve caps. Practice just those two notes back and forth, slowly, before playing the whole line.

Traditional English street cry; the words were printed in 1767.

Mary Had a Little Lamb

Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 4/4 time. Uses four notes next to each other, plus one jump up.



F horn fingerings used in this song
F4 – Valve 1
G4 – Open (no valves)
A4 – Valves 1 and 2
C5 – Open (no valves)

Tip: The widest jump is a minor third, from C5 to A4. The tune adds one note to Hot Cross Buns and repeats a single pitch several times. Keep the repeated notes even, tonguing each one without stopping the air.

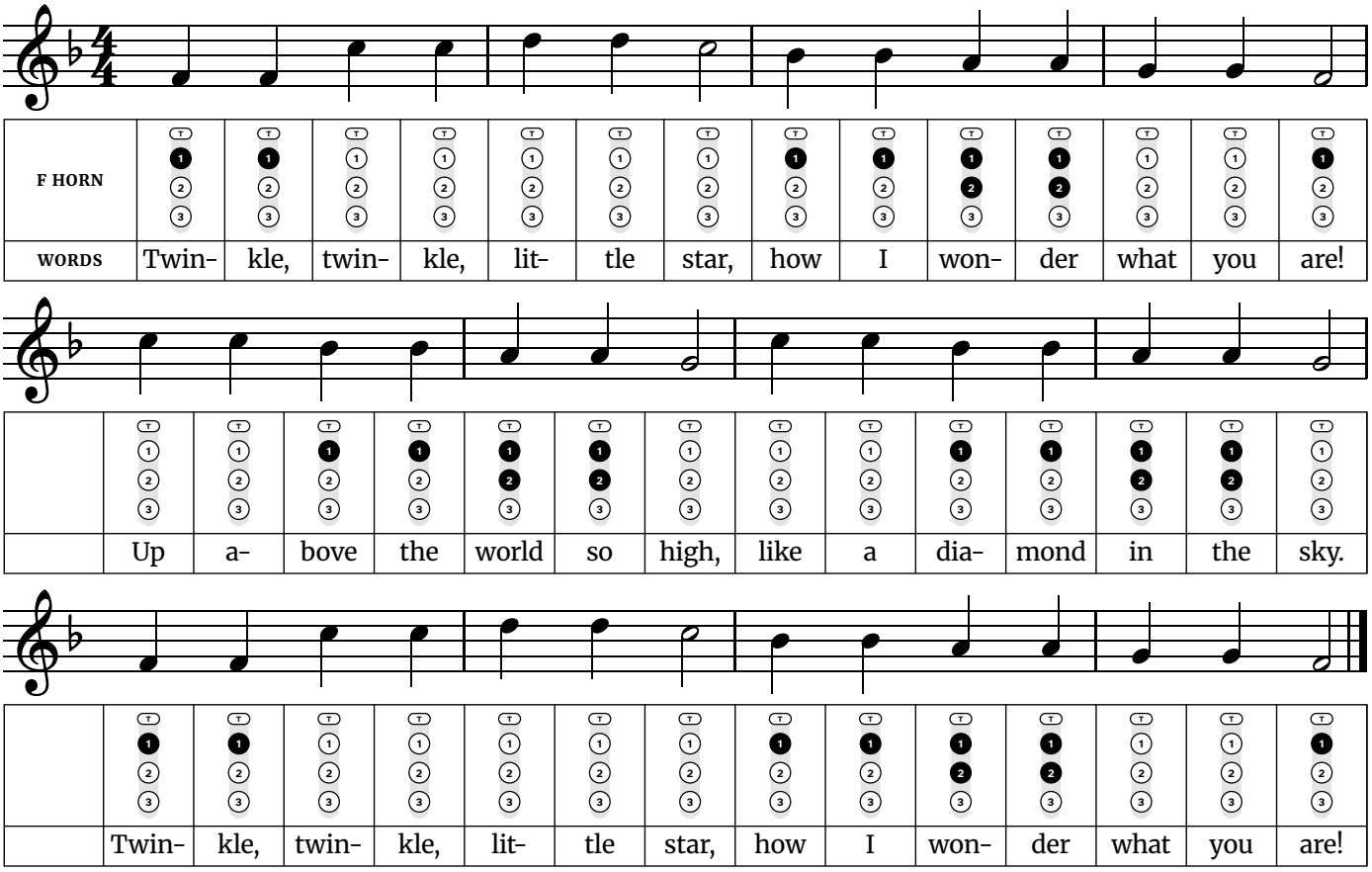
G4 and C5 have the same fingering: open (no valves). Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

Hardest finger change: Going from A4 (valves 1 and 2) to G4 (open, no valves), 2 valves change. Press and lift the valves at exactly the same moment, with the fingertips staying on the valve caps. Practice just those two notes back and forth, slowly, before playing the whole line.

Words: Sarah Josepha Hale (1830). Music: traditional American.

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 4/4 time. Six notes of the major scale, with a leap from the first note to the fifth.



F horn fingerings used in this song	
F4 – Valve 1	**B♭4** – Valve 1
G4 – Open (no valves)	**C5** – Open (no valves)
A4 – Valves 1 and 2	**D5** – Open (no valves)

Tip: The widest jump is a fifth, from F4 to C5. The opening jump is a fifth, the first real leap in this set of songs. Hear the second note in your head before you play it, then come down the scale one step at a time.

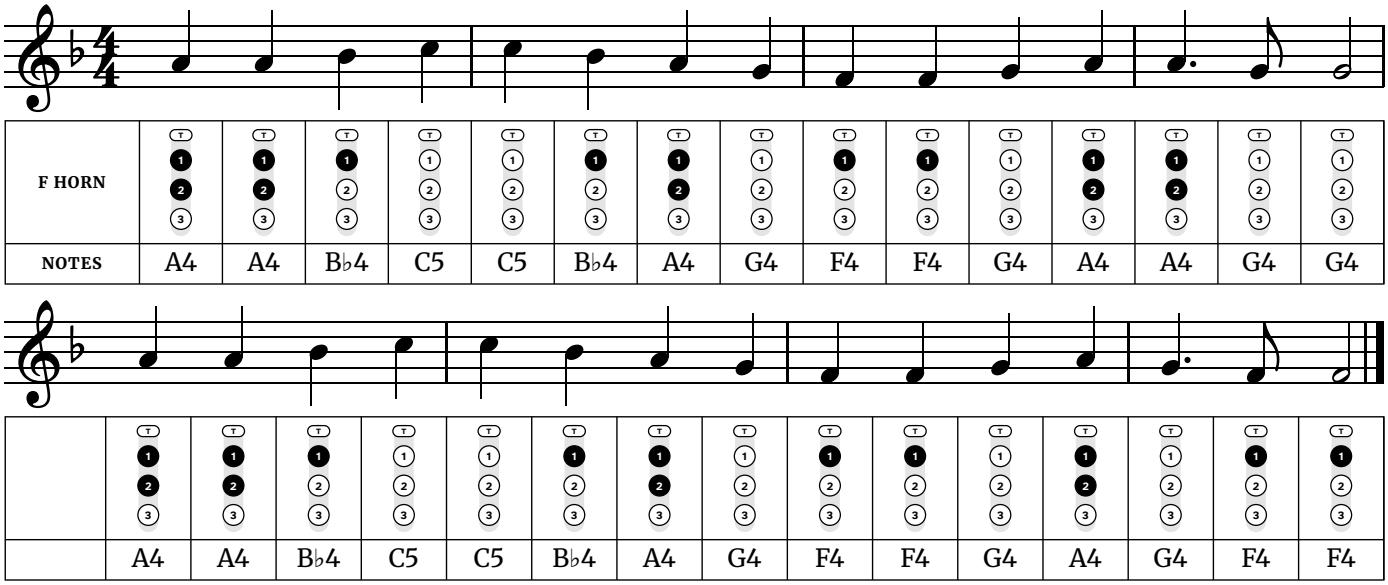
G4, C5 and D5 have the same fingering: open (no valves). Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

Hardest finger change: Going from A4 (valves 1 and 2) to G4 (open, no valves), 2 valves change. Press and lift the valves at exactly the same moment, with the fingertips staying on the valve caps. Practice just those two notes back and forth, slowly, before playing the whole line.

Words: Jane Taylor (1806). Music: the French song "Ah! vous dirai-je, maman" (1761).

Ode to Joy

Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 4/4 time. Beethoven's melody from the Ninth Symphony, using the first five notes of the scale.



F horn fingerings used in this song	
F4 – Valve 1	**B♭4** – Valve 1
G4 – Open (no valves)	**C5** – Open (no valves)
A4 – Valves 1 and 2	

Tip: The widest jump is a whole step, from C5 to B♭4. Almost the whole melody moves by step, which makes it a good test of even fingers. Watch the rhythm at the end of each phrase, where one note is held longer.

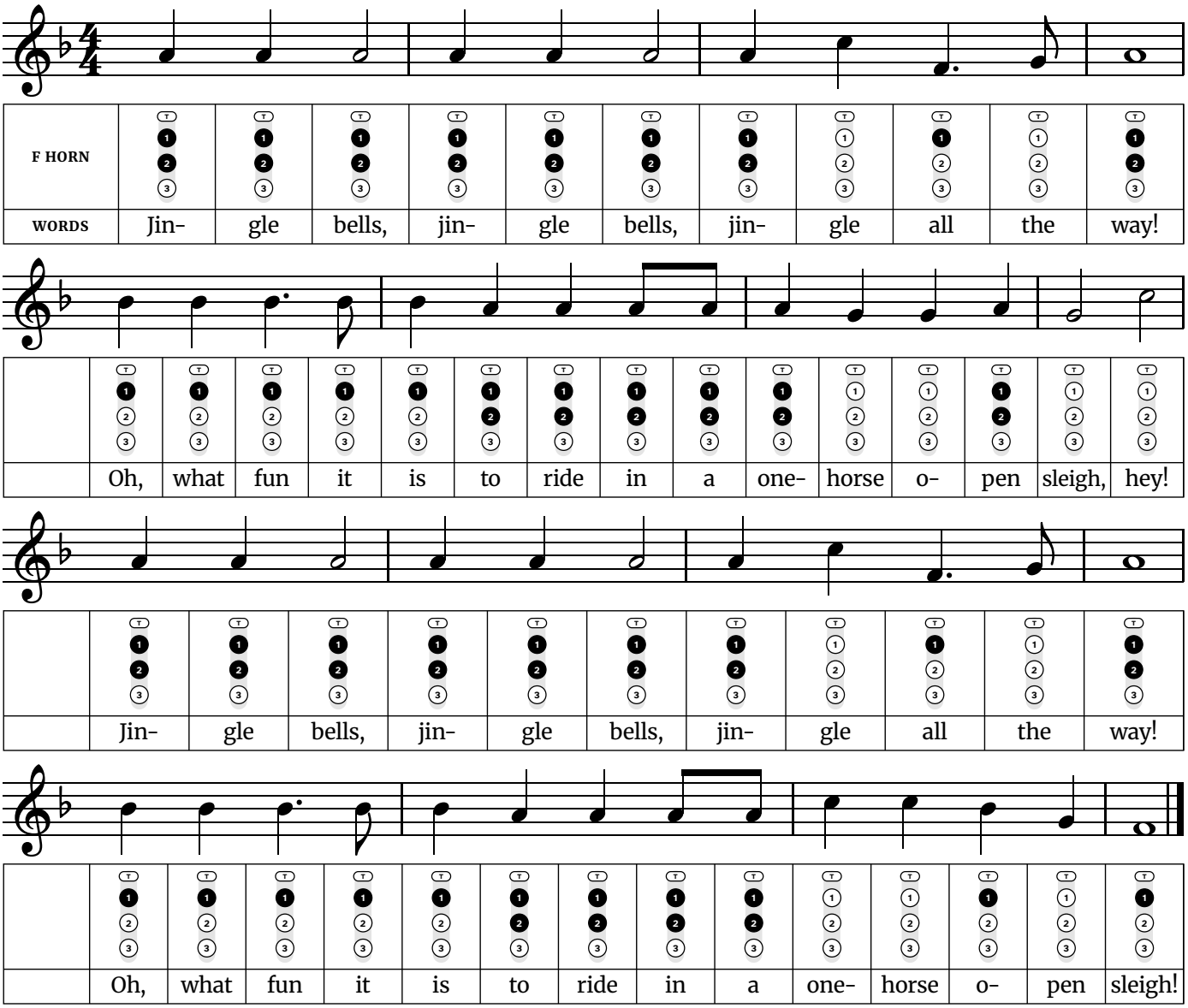
F4 and B♭4 have the same fingering: valve 1. Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

Hardest finger change: Going from A4 (valves 1 and 2) to G4 (open, no valves), 2 valves change. Press and lift the valves at exactly the same moment, with the fingertips staying on the valve caps. Practice just those two notes back and forth, slowly, before playing the whole line.

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, from the Ninth Symphony (1824).

Jingle Bells

Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 4/4 time. The chorus, using the first five notes of the scale.



F horn fingerings used in this song	
F4 – Valve 1	**B♭4** – Valve 1
G4 – Open (no valves)	**C5** – Open (no valves)
A4 – Valves 1 and 2	

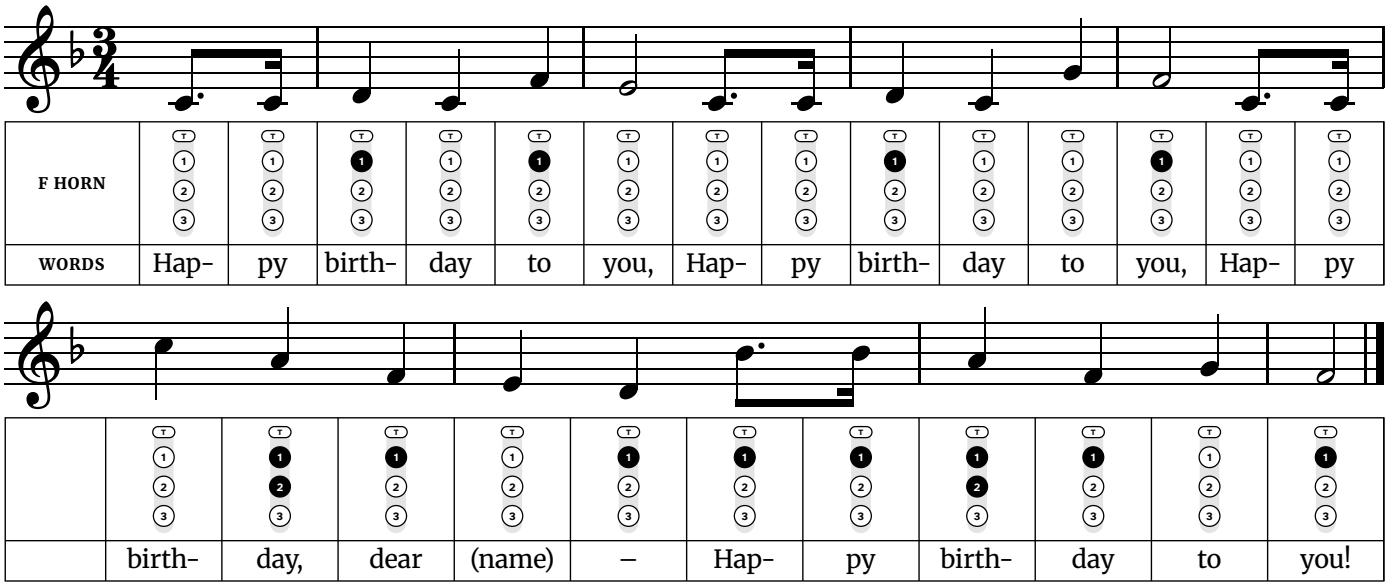
Tip: The widest jump is a fifth, from C5 to F4. The chorus repeats one note three times in a row more than once. Light, short tonguing keeps it bouncing; heavy tonguing makes it sound like marching.

F4 and B♭4 have the same fingering: valve 1. Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

Words and music by James Lord Pierpont (1857).

Happy Birthday

Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 3/4 time. Covers an octave, from the low fifth up to the high fifth.



F horn fingerings used in this song	
C4 – Open (no valves)	**G4** – Open (no valves)
D4 – Valve 1	**A4** – Valves 1 and 2
E4 – Open (no valves)	**B♭4** – Valve 1
F4 – Valve 1	**C5** – Open (no valves)

Tip: The widest jump is an octave, from C4 to C5. The third phrase has the widest leap in this set, an octave. Practice the two notes of the octave on their own, slowly, before playing the phrase.

C4, E4, G4 and C5 have the same fingering: open (no valves). Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

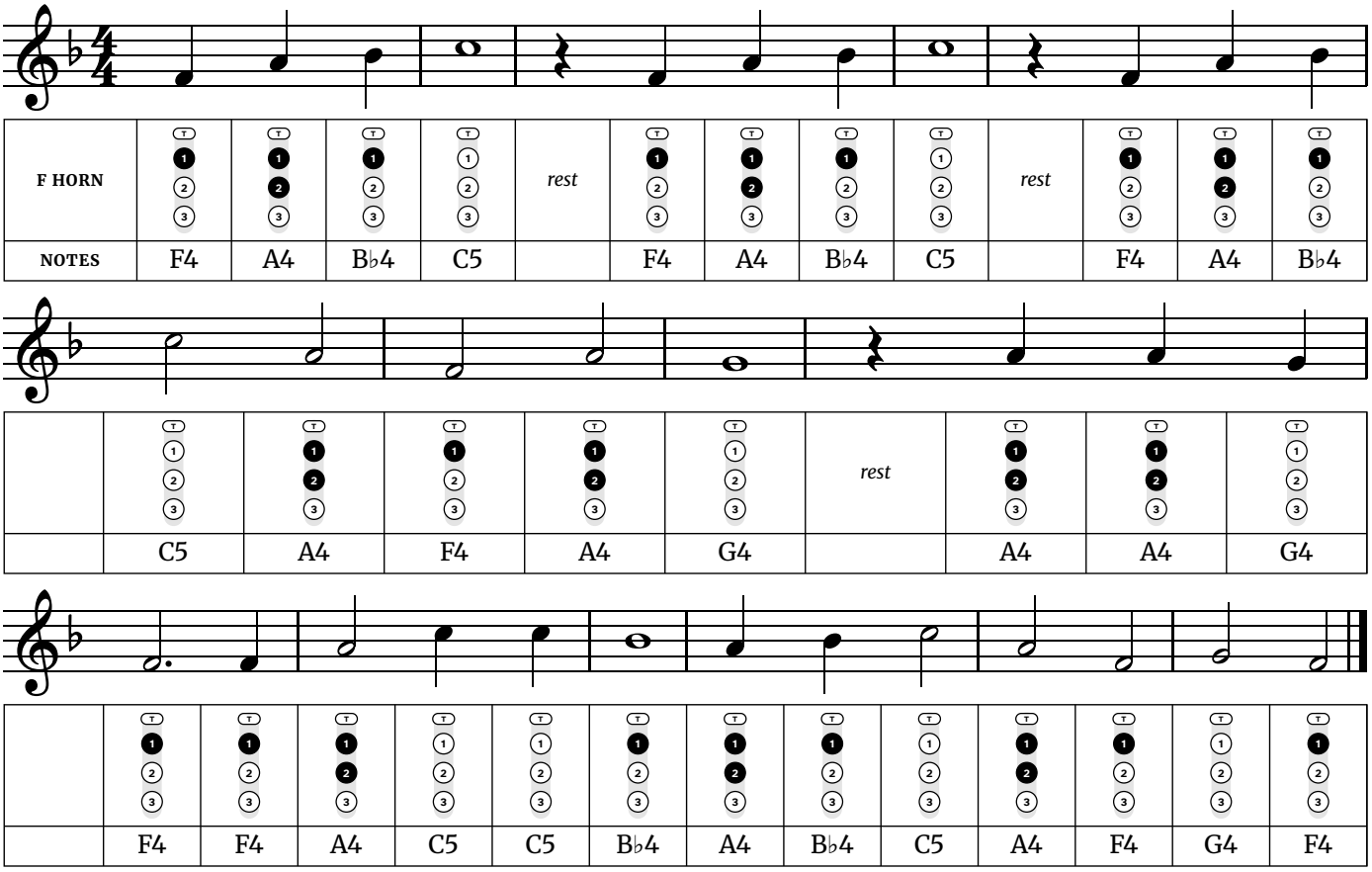
Hardest finger change: Going from C5 (open, no valves) to A4 (valves 1 and 2), 2 valves change. Press and lift the valves at exactly the same moment, with the fingertips staying on the valve caps. Practice just those two notes back and forth, slowly, before playing the whole line.

Music: "Good Morning to All" by Mildred J. Hill and Patty Smith Hill (1893). Words: traditional.

Free at thefingeringchart.com

When the Saints Go Marching In

Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 4/4 time. A classic for brass, built on the first five notes of the scale.



F horn fingerings used in this song	
F4 – Valve 1	**B♭4** – Valve 1
G4 – Open (no valves)	**C5** – Open (no valves)
A4 – Valves 1 and 2	

Tip: The widest jump is a fifth, from C5 to F4. Each phrase starts after a rest, on the second beat. Count the rest out loud a few times so the first note comes in on time.

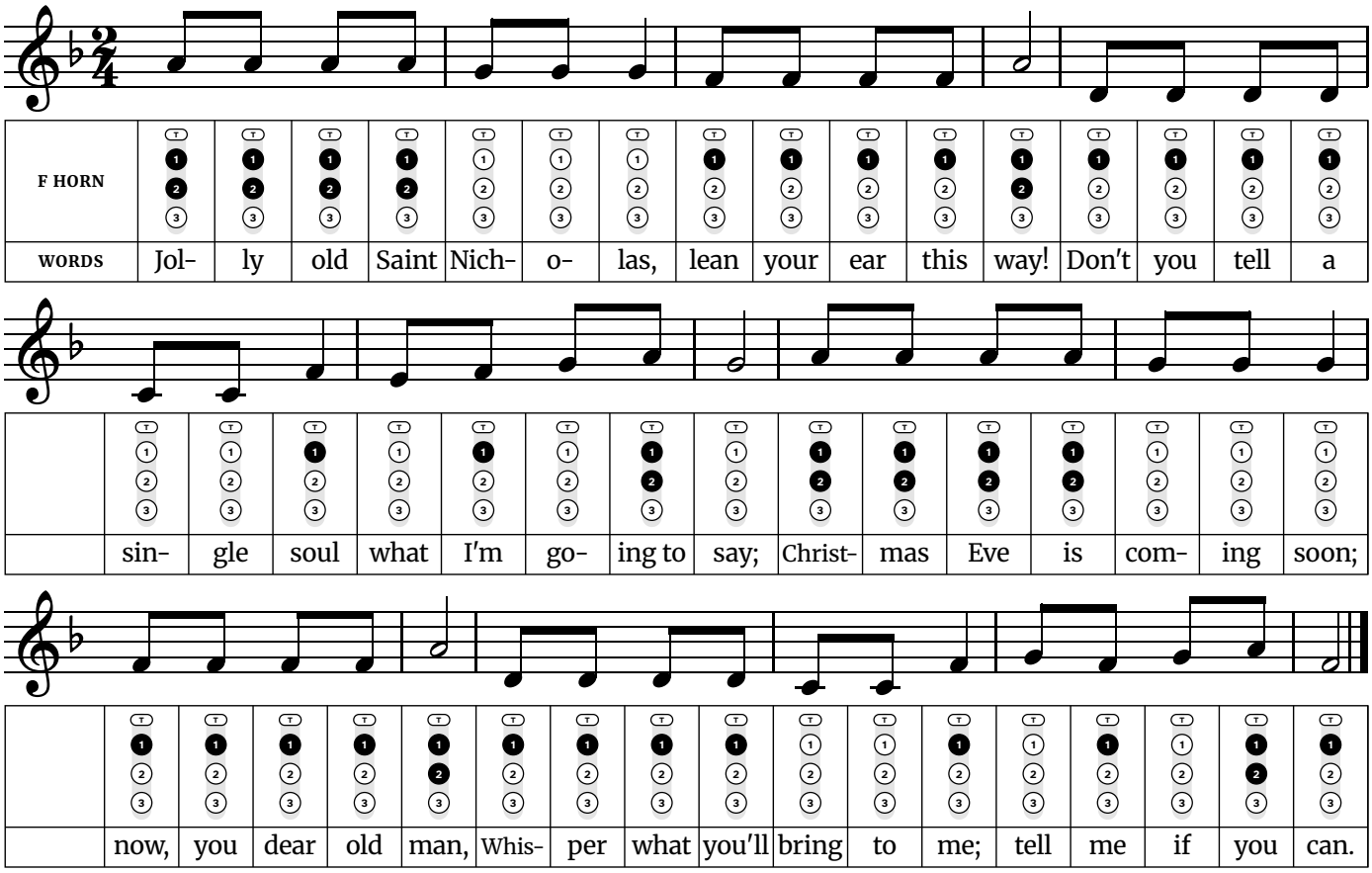
F4 and B♭4 have the same fingering: valve 1. Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

Hardest finger change: Going from C5 (open, no valves) to A4 (valves 1 and 2), 2 valves change. Press and lift the valves at exactly the same moment, with the fingertips staying on the valve caps. Practice just those two notes back and forth, slowly, before playing the whole line.

Traditional American spiritual.

Jolly Old Saint Nicholas

Easy · Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 2/4 time · 6 notes, C4 to A4



F horn fingerings used in this song	
C4 – Open (no valves)	**F4** – Valve 1
D4 – Valve 1	**G4** – Open (no valves)
E4 – Open (no valves)	**A4** – Valves 1 and 2

Tip: Each phrase opens with the same note four times. Players tend to rush repeated notes, so keep them even and let the last note of each phrase ring for its full length.

C4, E4 and G4 have the same fingering: open (no valves). Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

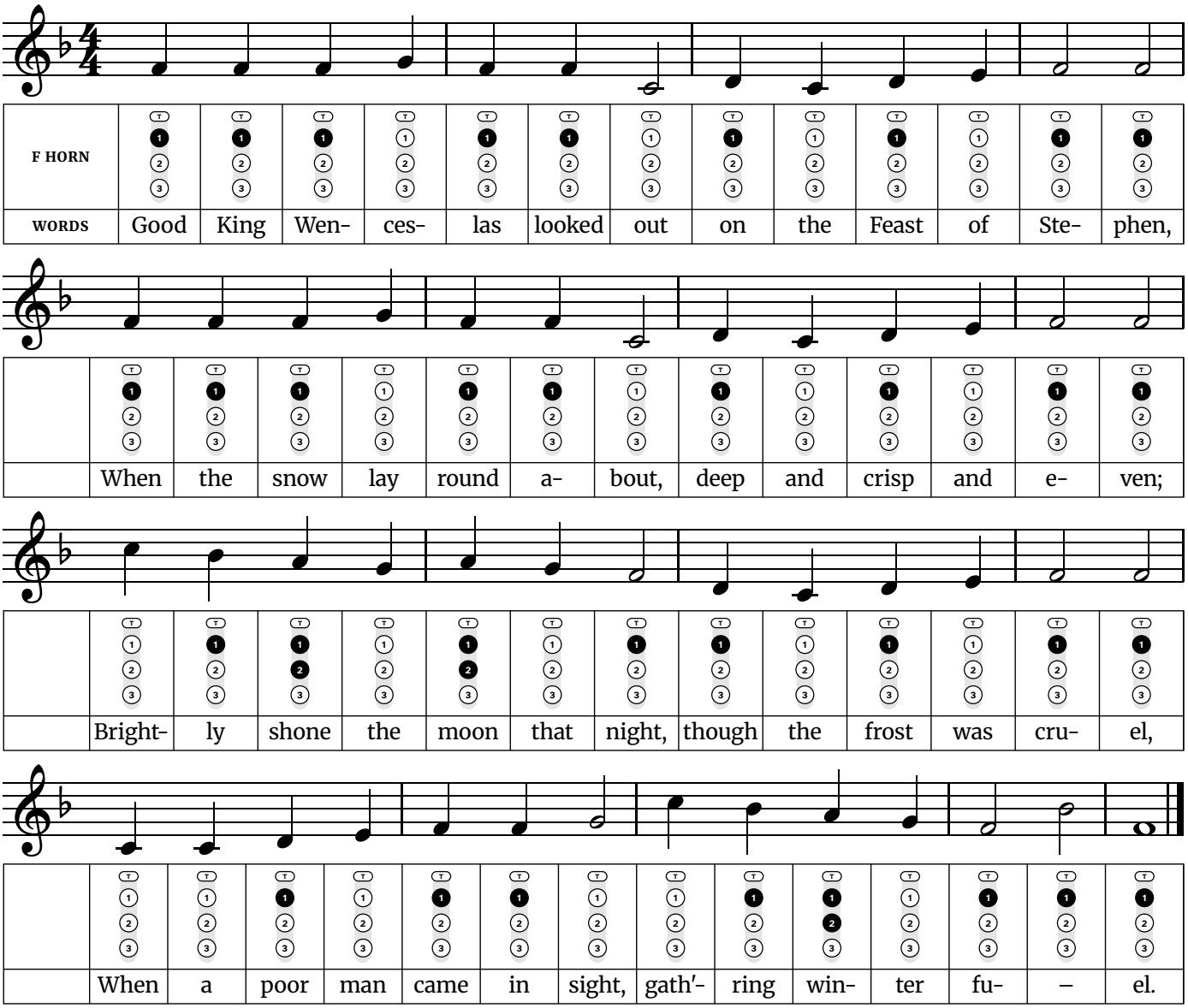
The widest jump is a fifth, down from A4 to D4 in line 3.

Words: Emily Huntington Miller (1865). Music: attributed to James R. Murray (1874).

Free at thefingeringchart.com

Good King Wenceslas

Easy · Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 4/4 time · 8 notes, C4 to C5



F horn fingerings used in this song	
C4 – Open (no valves)	**G4** – Open (no valves)
D4 – Valve 1	**A4** – Valves 1 and 2
E4 – Open (no valves)	**B♭4** – Valve 1
F4 – Valve 1	**C5** – Open (no valves)

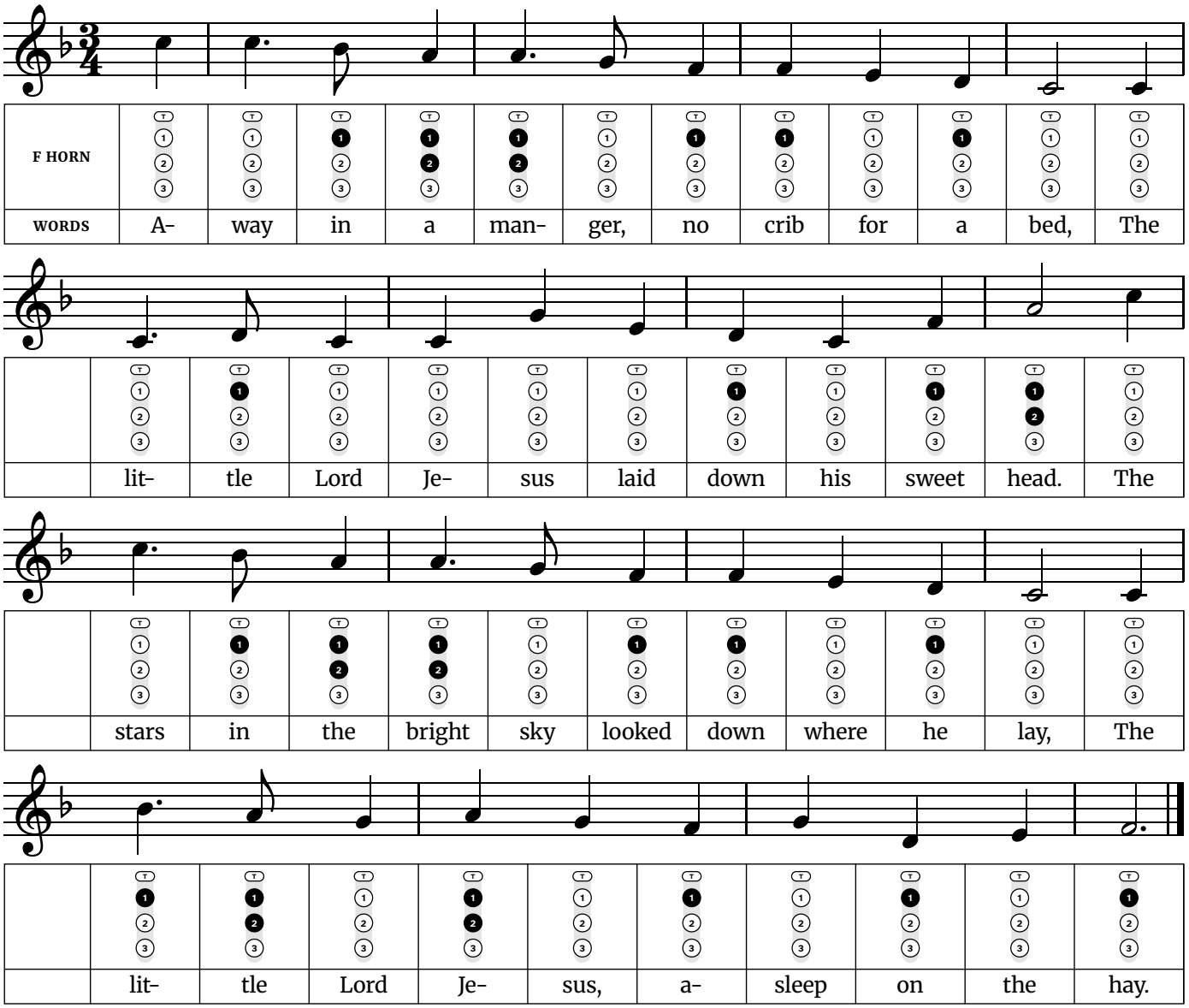
Tip: Nearly every note is a quarter note or longer, so the rhythm is the easiest of the Christmas songs. Play it like a sturdy march and give each half note its full two beats.

C4, E4, G4 and C5 have the same fingering: open (no valves). Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

Words: John Mason Neale (1853). Music: "Tempus adest floridum", from Piae Cantiones (1582).

Away in a Manger

Easy · Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 3/4 time · 8 notes, C4 to C5



F horn fingerings used in this song	
C4 – Open (no valves)	**G4** – Open (no valves)
D4 – Valve 1	**A4** – Valves 1 and 2
E4 – Open (no valves)	**B♭4** – Valve 1
F4 – Valve 1	**C5** – Open (no valves)

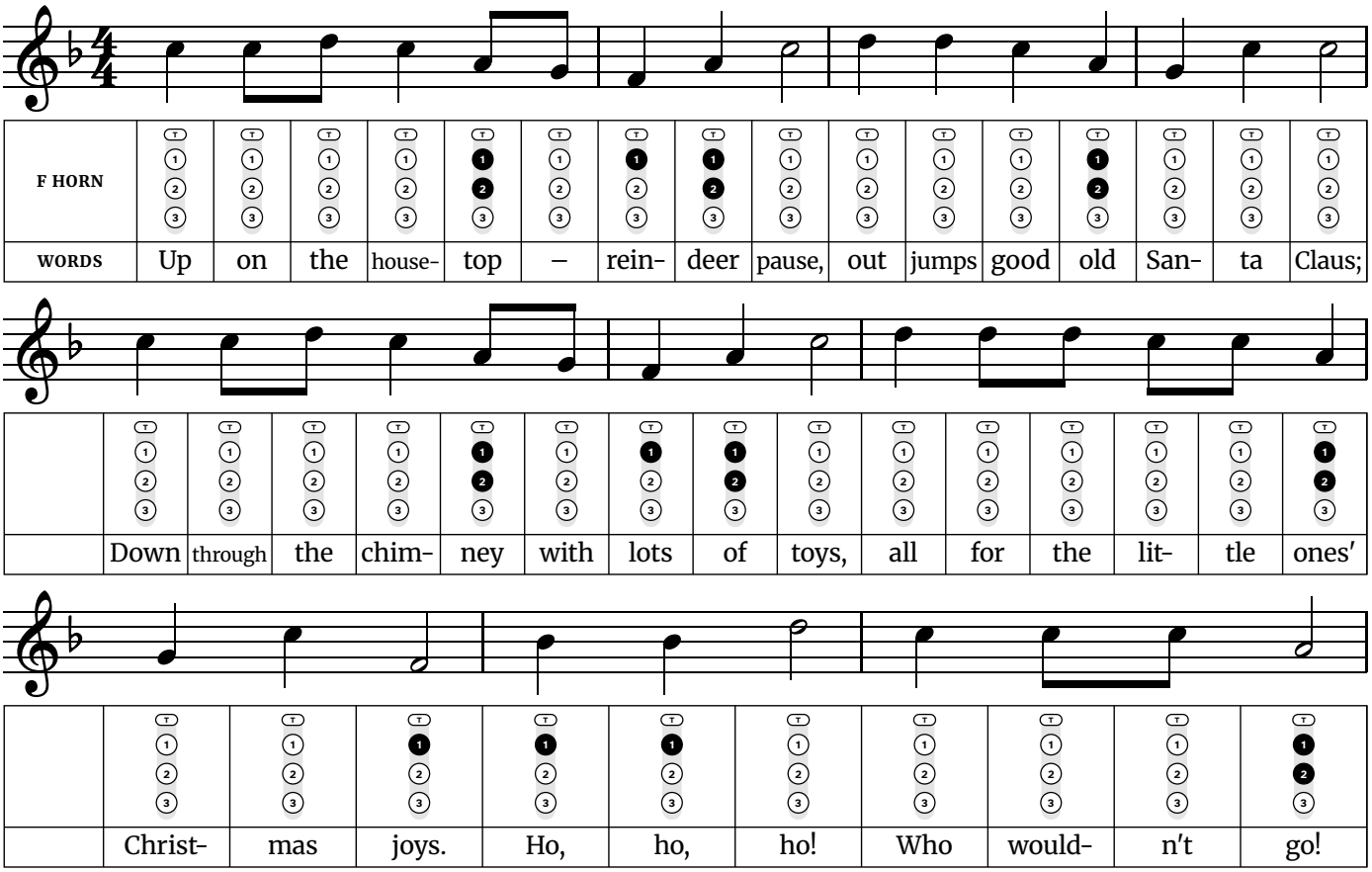
Tip: It is a slow waltz with a long note at the end of every phrase. Hold those for all their beats and breathe after them, never in the middle of a phrase.

C4, E4, G4 and C5 have the same fingering: open (no valves). Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

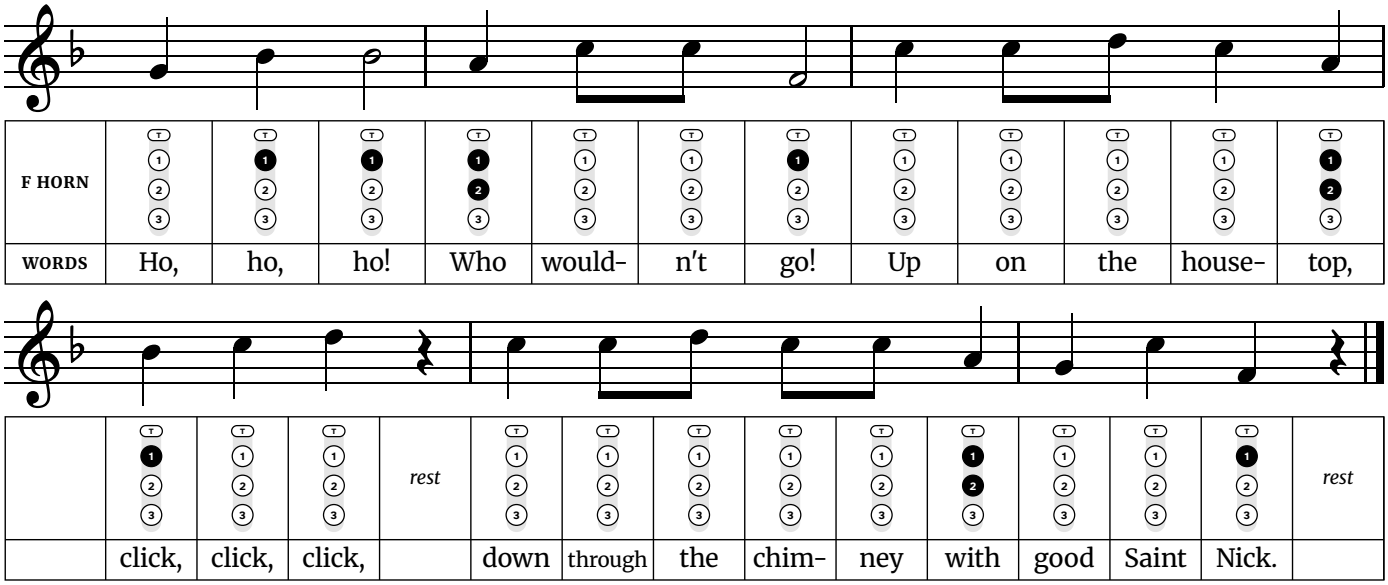
Words: anonymous (1880s, American). Music: "Mueller" by James Ramsey Murray (1887).

Up on the Housetop

Easy · Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 4/4 time · 6 notes, F4 to D5



Up on the Housetop *(continued)*



F horn fingerings used in this song	
F4 – Valve 1	**B♭4** – Valve 1
G4 – Open (no valves)	**C5** – Open (no valves)
A4 – Valves 1 and 2	**D5** – Open (no valves)

Tip: Pairs of quick notes (“on the”, “lit-tle”) sit in the middle of the verse phrases. Tongue them lightly without speeding up, then give the three “Ho, ho, ho” notes their full length.

G4, C5 and D5 have the same fingering: open (no valves). Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

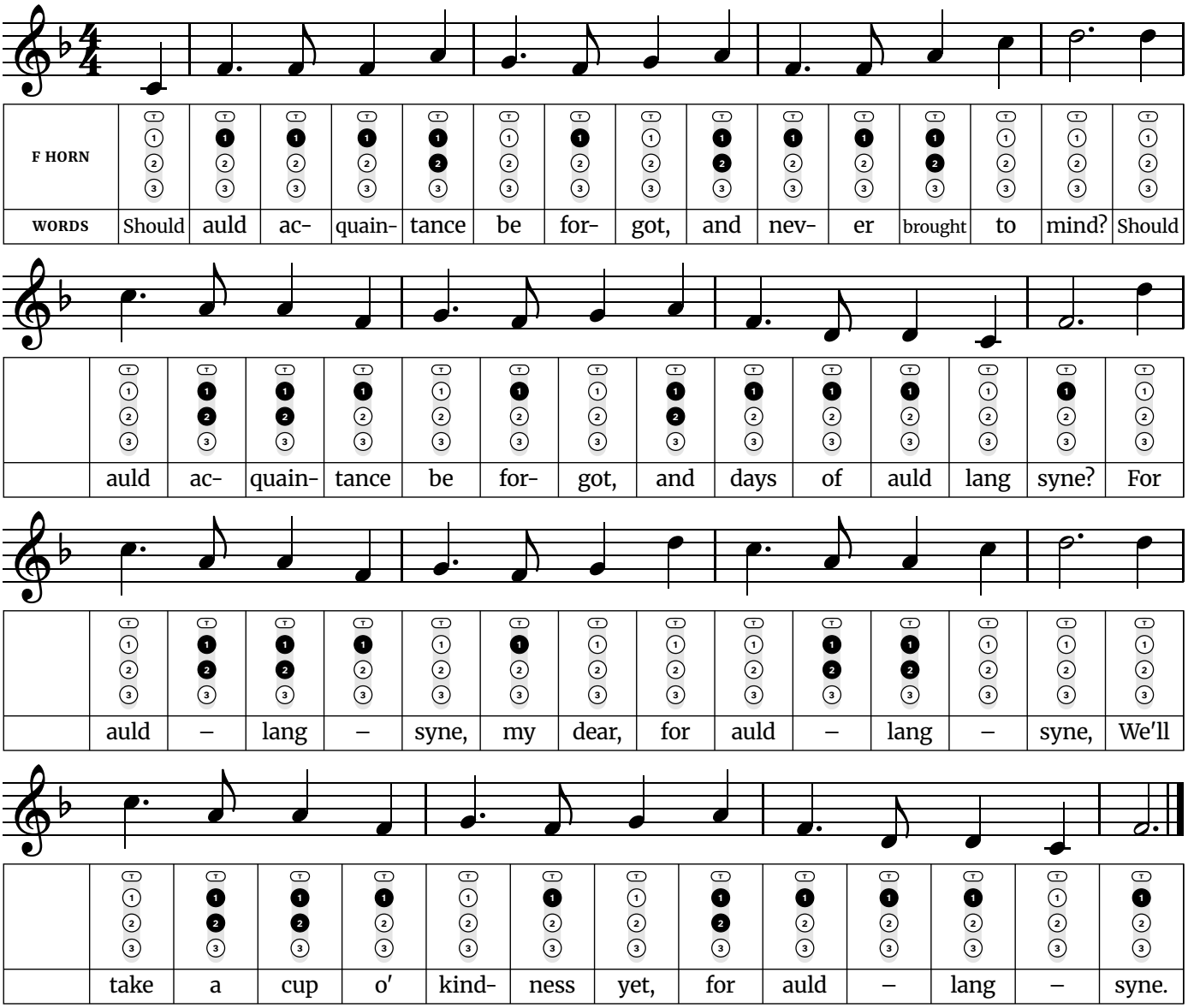
The widest jump is a fifth, down from C5 to F4 in line 5.

Words and music: Benjamin Hanby (1864).

Free at thefingeringchart.com

Auld Lang Syne

Medium · Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 4/4 time · 7 notes, C4 to D5



F horn fingerings used in this song	
C4 – Open (no valves)	**A4** – Valves 1 and 2
D4 – Valve 1	**C5** – Open (no valves)
F4 – Valve 1	**D5** – Open (no valves)
G4 – Open (no valves)	

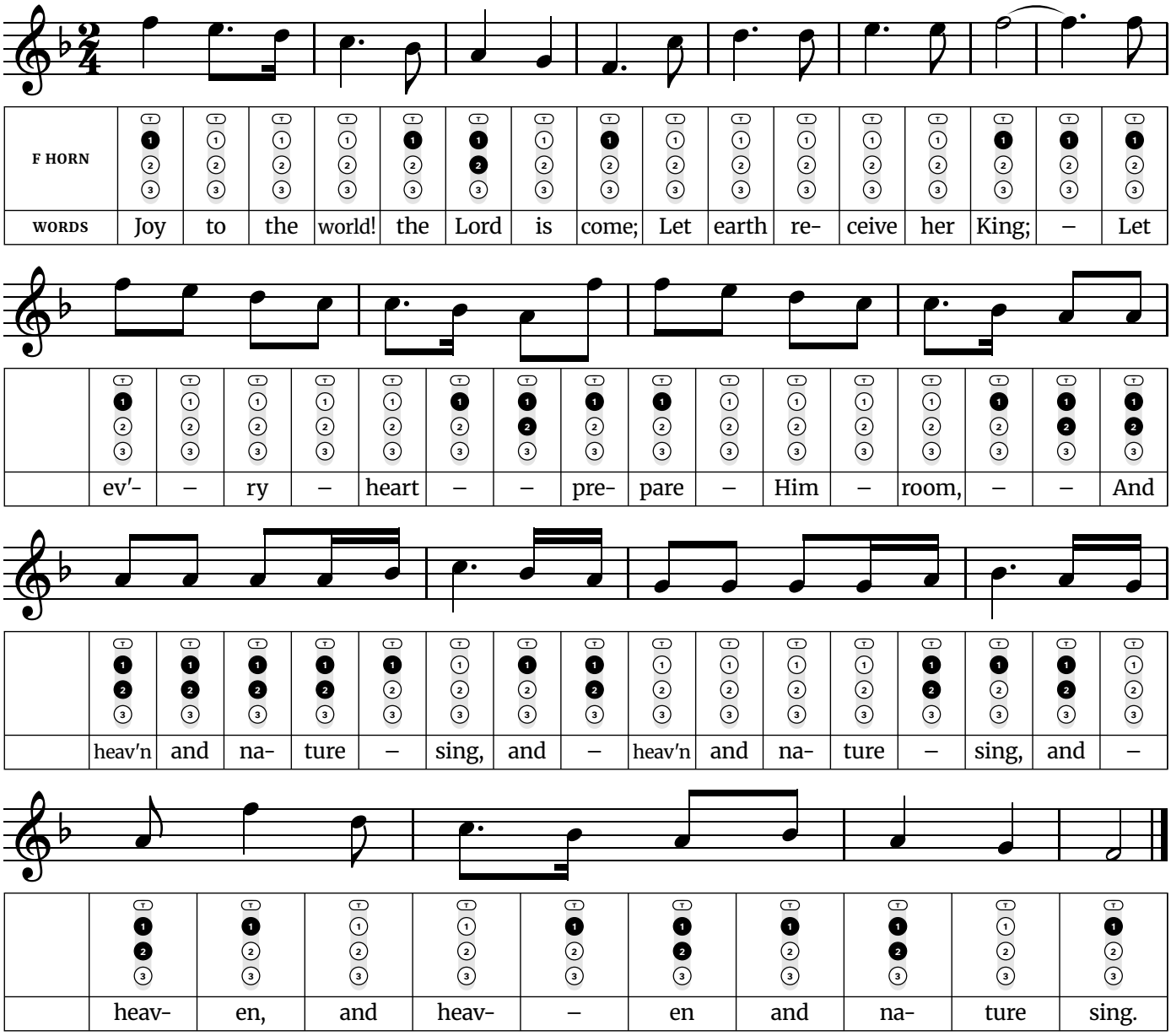
Tip: The tune uses only five pitch names (a pentatonic scale), so nothing falls outside the key. The long-short dotted rhythm comes back in almost every bar; keep the short note crisp and late.

C4, G4, C5 and D5 have the same fingering: open (no valves). Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

Words: Robert Burns (1788). Music: traditional Scottish.

Joy to the World

Medium · Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 2/4 time · 8 notes, F4 to F5



F horn fingerings used in this song	
F4 – Valve 1	**C5** – Open (no valves)
G4 – Open (no valves)	**D5** – Open (no valves)
A4 – Valves 1 and 2	**E5** – Open (no valves)
B♭4 – Valve 1	**F5** – Valve 1

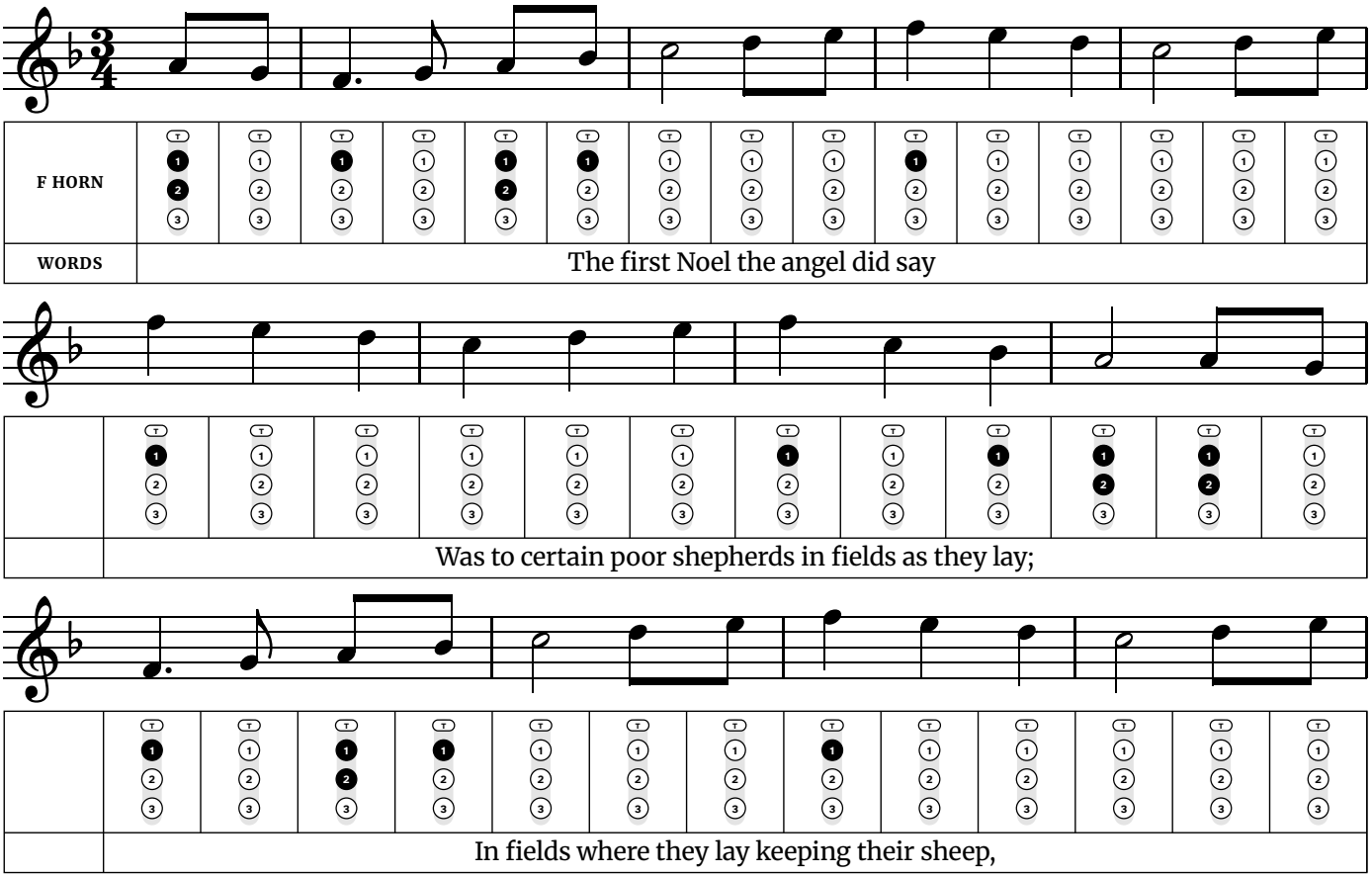
Tip: The first phrase walks straight down the scale, one note at a time, which makes it a good test of clean finger changes. Later the repeated "and heaven and nature sing" notes need light, even tonguing.

Words: Isaac Watts (1719). Music: "Antioch", arranged by Lowell Mason.

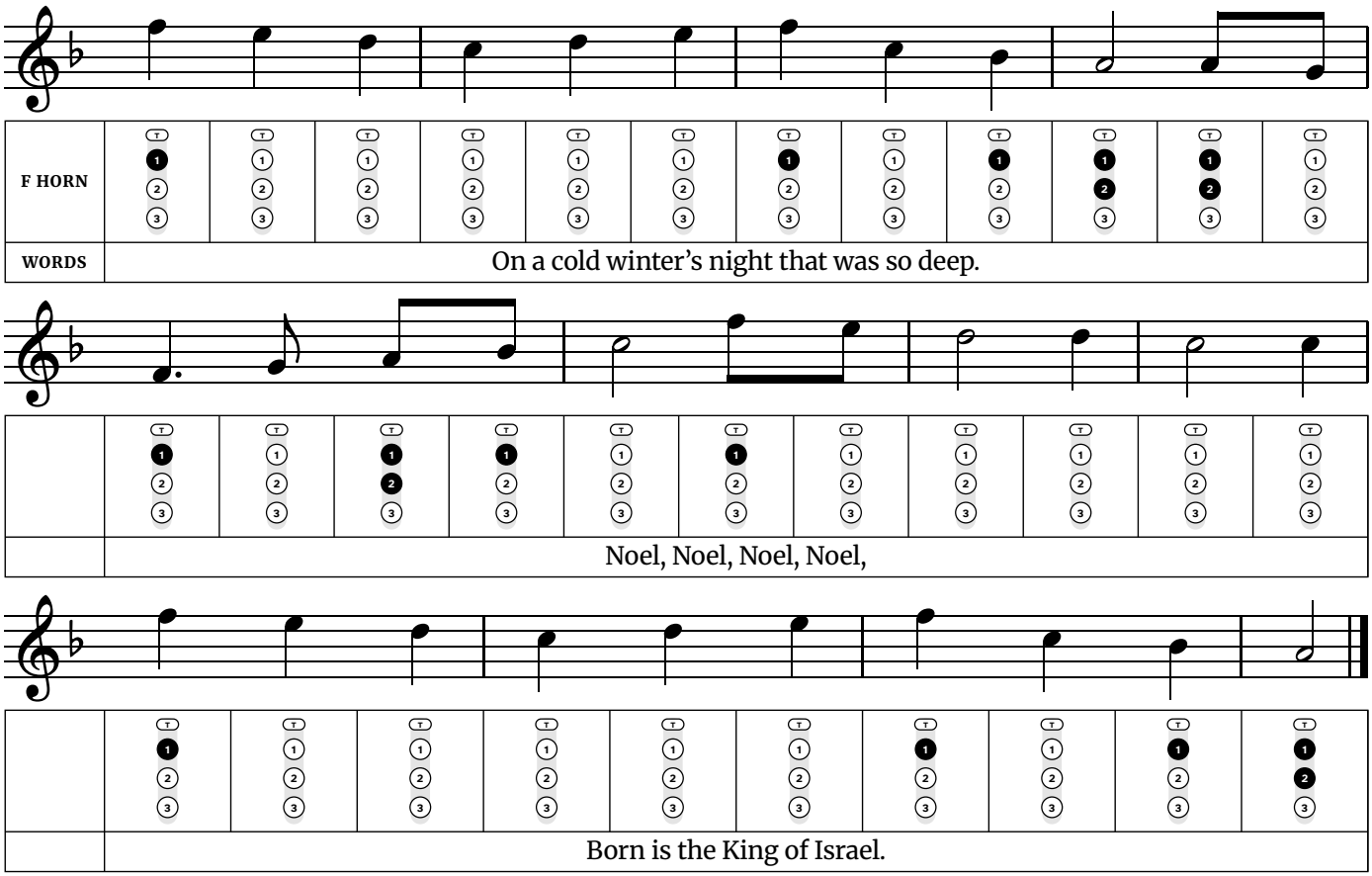
Free at thefingeringchart.com

The First Noel

Medium · Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 3/4 time · 8 notes, F4 to F5



The First Noel *(continued)*



F horn fingerings used in this song	
F4 – Valve 1	**C5** – Open (no valves)
G4 – Open (no valves)	**D5** – Open (no valves)
A4 – Valves 1 and 2	**E5** – Open (no valves)
B♭4 – Valve 1	**F5** – Valve 1

Tip: Every second phrase ends on the same note, so it is easy to lose your place; follow the words. The two quick notes that start most phrases are a pickup: play them lightly into the strong beat.

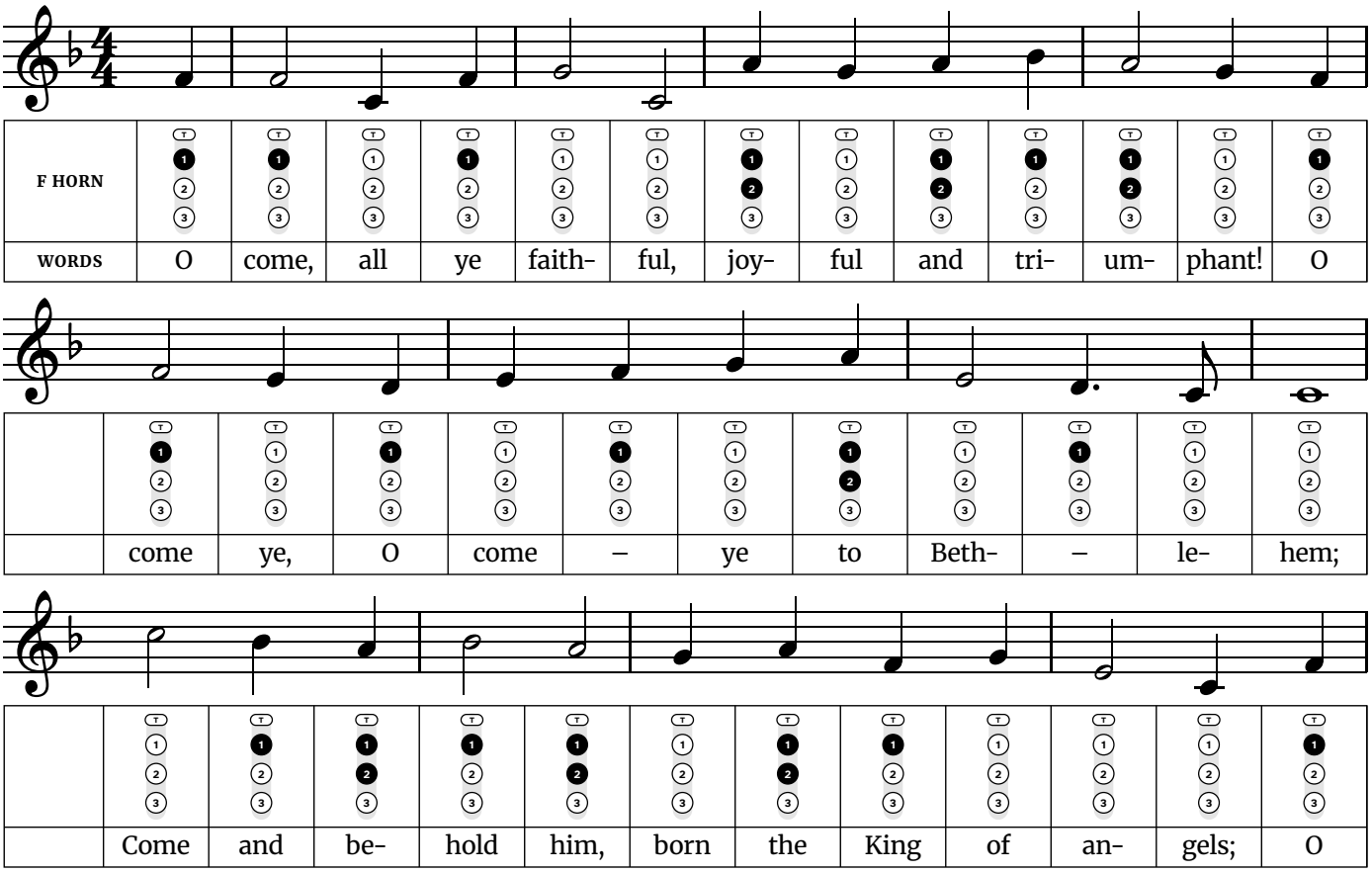
G4, C5, D5 and E5 have the same fingering: open (no valves). Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

The busiest finger change is A4 to G4, where 2 valves move at once. Practice that pair slowly on its own until both notes speak cleanly.

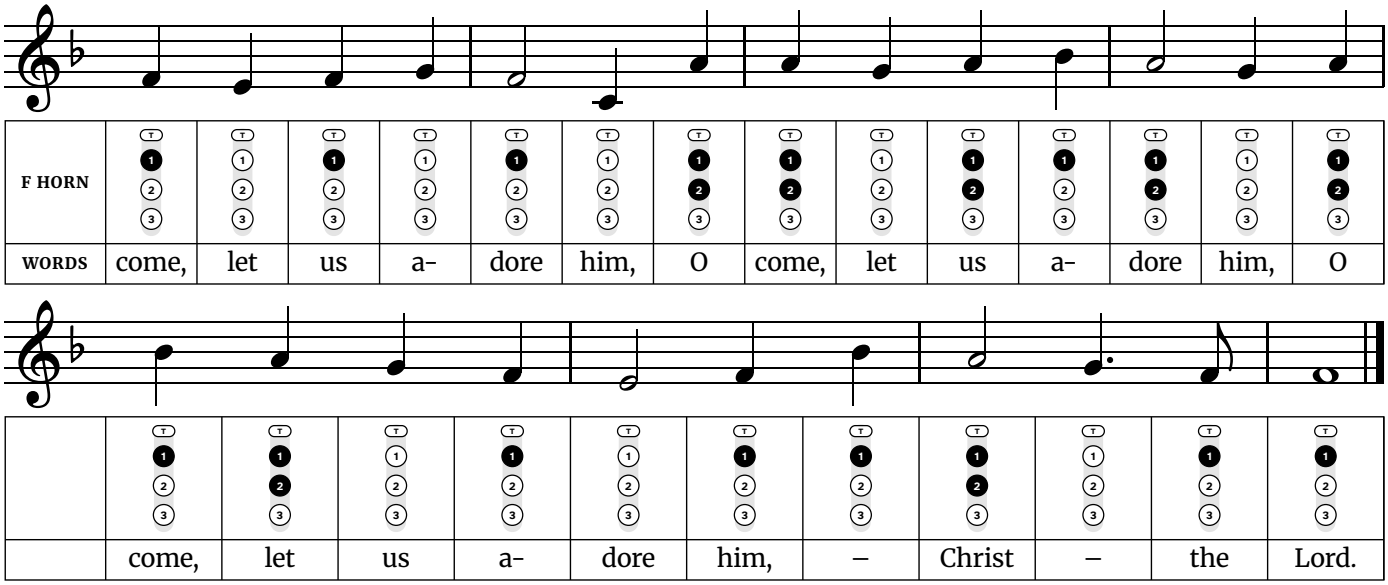
Words and music: traditional English (Cornish), first printed in the 1820s.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Medium · Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 4/4 time · 8 notes, C4 to C5



O Come, All Ye Faithful *(continued)*



F horn fingerings used in this song	
C4 – Open (no valves)	**G4** – Open (no valves)
D4 – Valve 1	**A4** – Valves 1 and 2
E4 – Open (no valves)	**B♭4** – Valve 1
F4 – Valve 1	**C5** – Open (no valves)

Tip: The three "O come, let us adore him" phrases each start a little higher than the one before. Save some air and some volume for the third.

C4, E4, G4 and C5 have the same fingering: open (no valves). Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

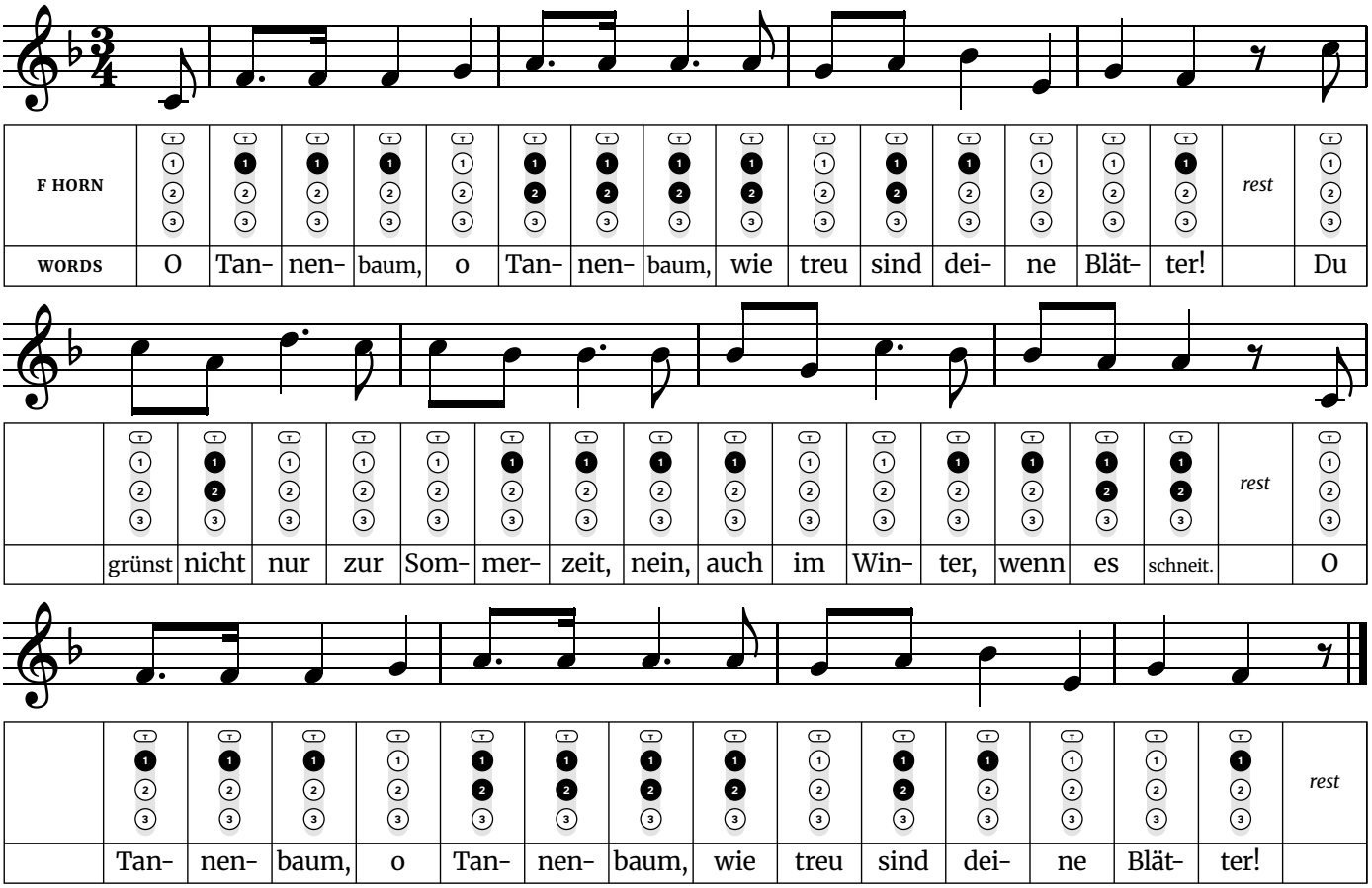
The widest jump is an octave, up from C4 to C5 in line 3.

Words: Latin hymn "Adeste Fideles", English by Frederick Oakeley (1841, current wording printed 1852). Music: attributed to John Francis Wade.

Free at thefingeringchart.com

O Christmas Tree

Medium · Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 3/4 time · 8 notes, C4 to D5



F horn fingerings used in this song	
C4 – Open (no valves)	**A4** – Valves 1 and 2
E4 – Open (no valves)	**B♭4** – Valve 1
F4 – Valve 1	**C5** – Open (no valves)
G4 – Open (no valves)	**D5** – Open (no valves)

Tip: The long-short dotted rhythm at the start of each phrase gives the carol its lilt. Make the short note quick and light so it does not turn into two even notes.

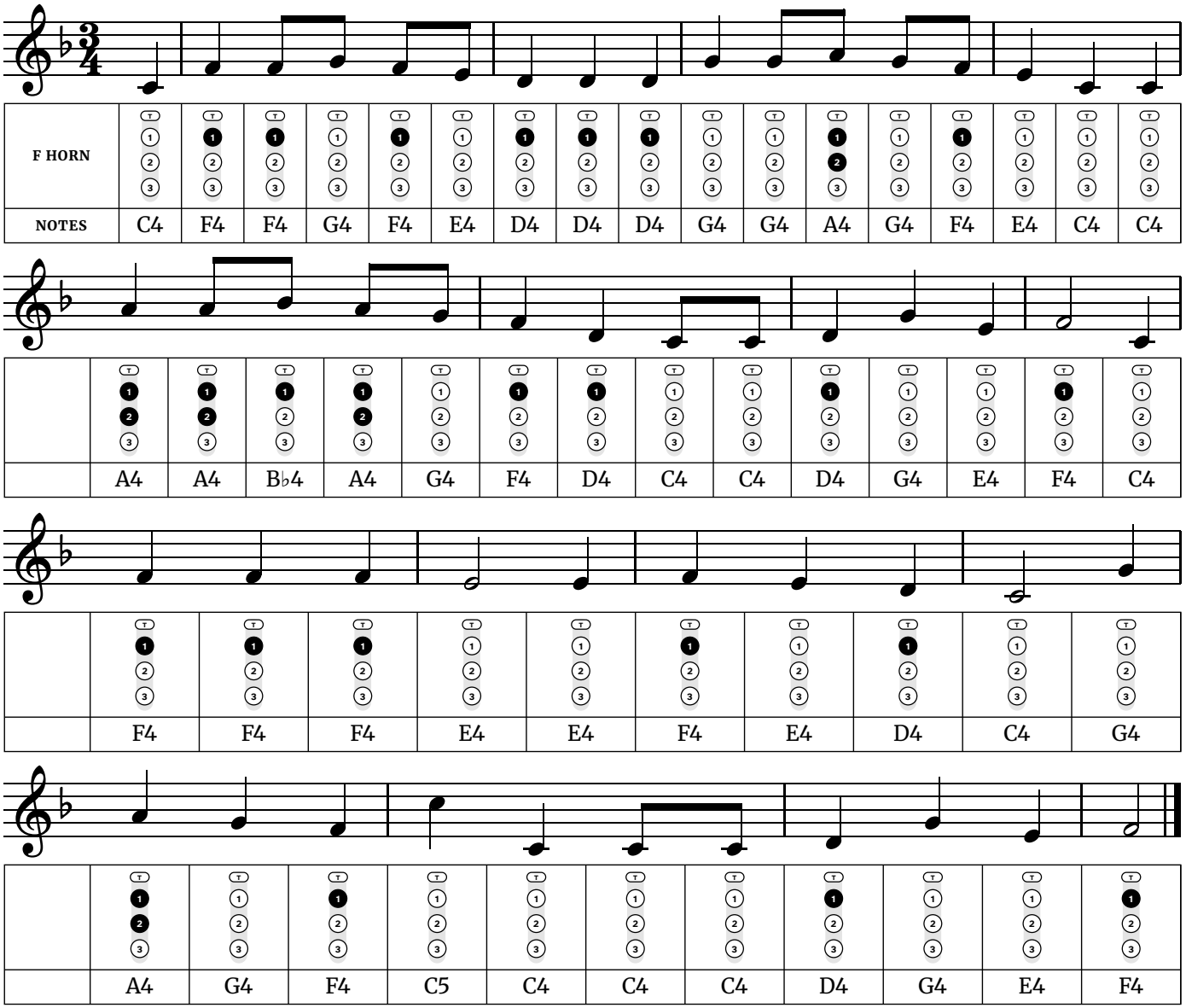
C4, E4, G4, C5 and D5 have the same fingering: open (no valves). Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

The widest jump is a sixth, down from A4 to C4 in line 2.

Words: Ernst Anschütz (1824), shown in the original German. Music: traditional German.

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Medium · Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 3/4 time · 8 notes, C4 to C5



F horn fingerings used in this song	
C4 – Open (no valves)	**G4** – Open (no valves)
D4 – Valve 1	**A4** – Valves 1 and 2
E4 – Open (no valves)	**B♭4** – Valve 1
F4 – Valve 1	**C5** – Open (no valves)

Tip: It moves quickly in three, with a jump of a sixth at the start of the second phrase and a drop of a full octave in the last phrase. Think of the landing note before you leave the first one.

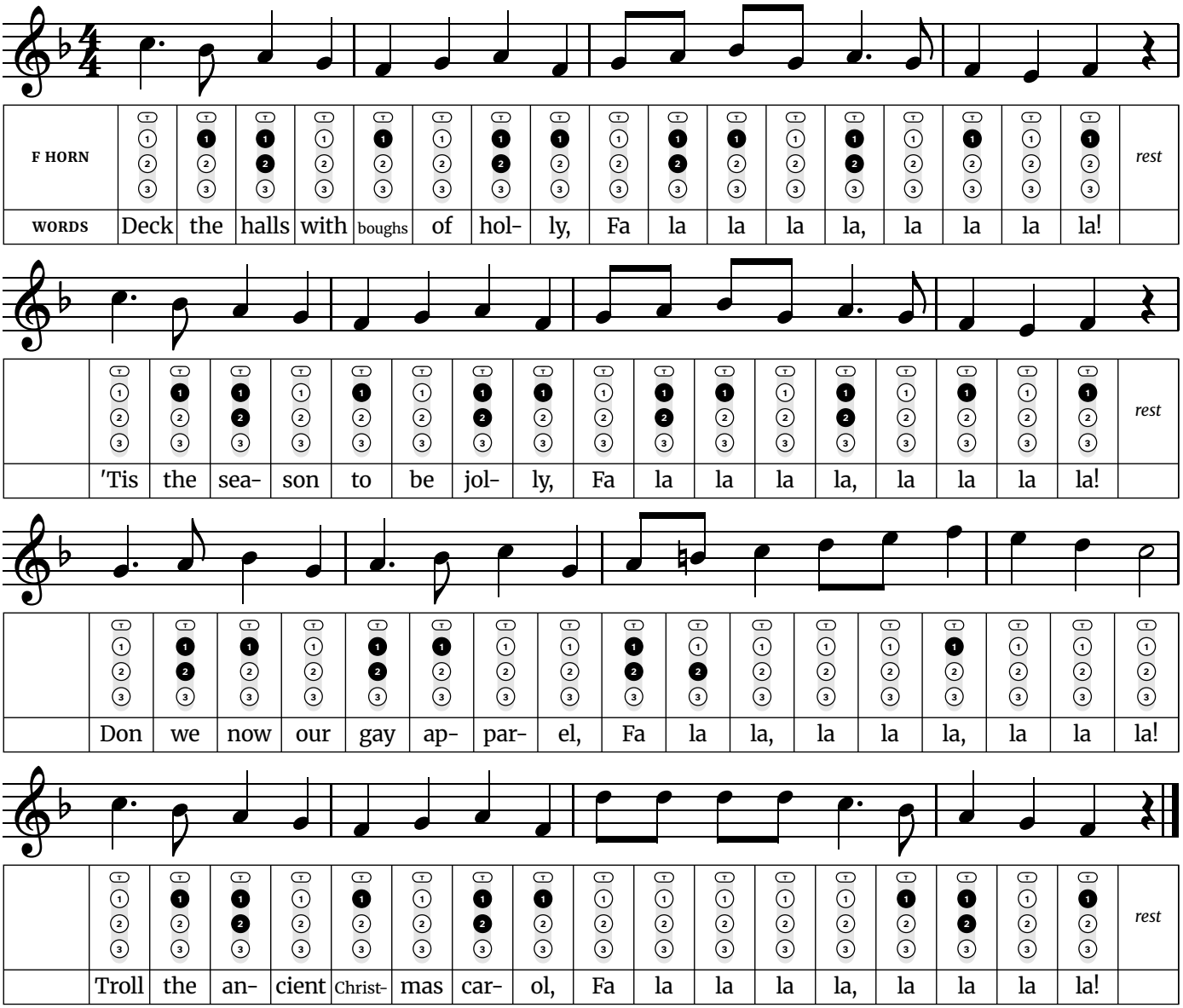
C4, E4, G4 and C5 have the same fingering: open (no valves). Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

Music: English traditional (West Country). Words not shown.

Christmas Songs

Deck the Halls

Harder · Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 4/4 time · 10 notes, E4 to F5



F horn fingerings used in this song		
E4 – Open (no valves)	**B♭4** – Valve 1	**E5** – Open (no valves)
F4 – Valve 1	**B4** – Valve 2	**F5** – Valve 1
G4 – Open (no valves)	**C5** – Open (no valves)	
A4 – Valves 1 and 2	**D5** – Open (no valves)	

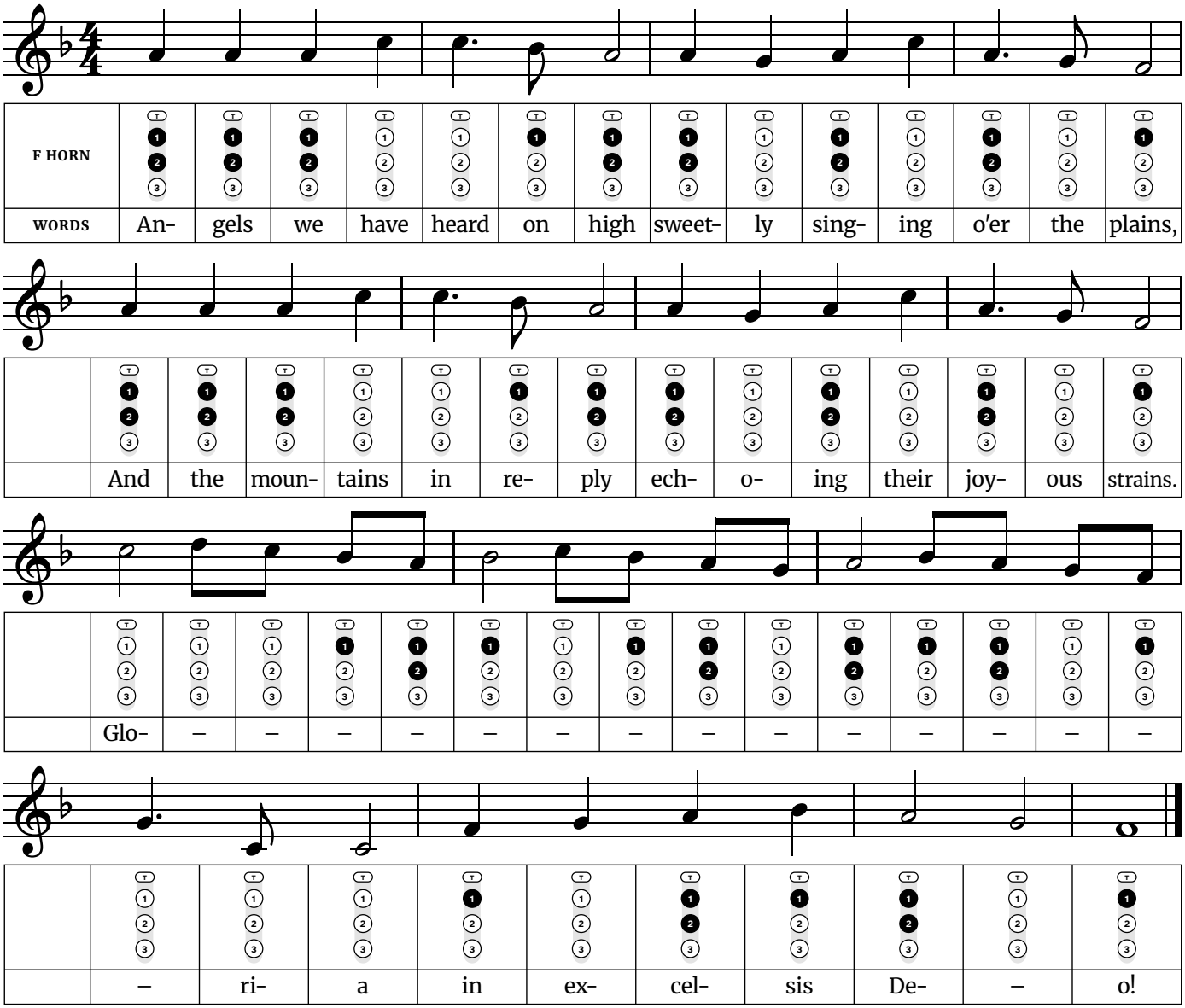
Tip: The third phrase climbs to the highest note of the carol in one long run of fa-las. Take a full breath before it and play it as one phrase.

One note falls outside the key: B4 in line 3, played with valve 2.

Words: Thomas Oliphant (1862), as revised in 1877. Music: Welsh traditional ("Nos Galan").

Angels We Have Heard on High

Harder · Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 4/4 time · 7 notes, C4 to D5



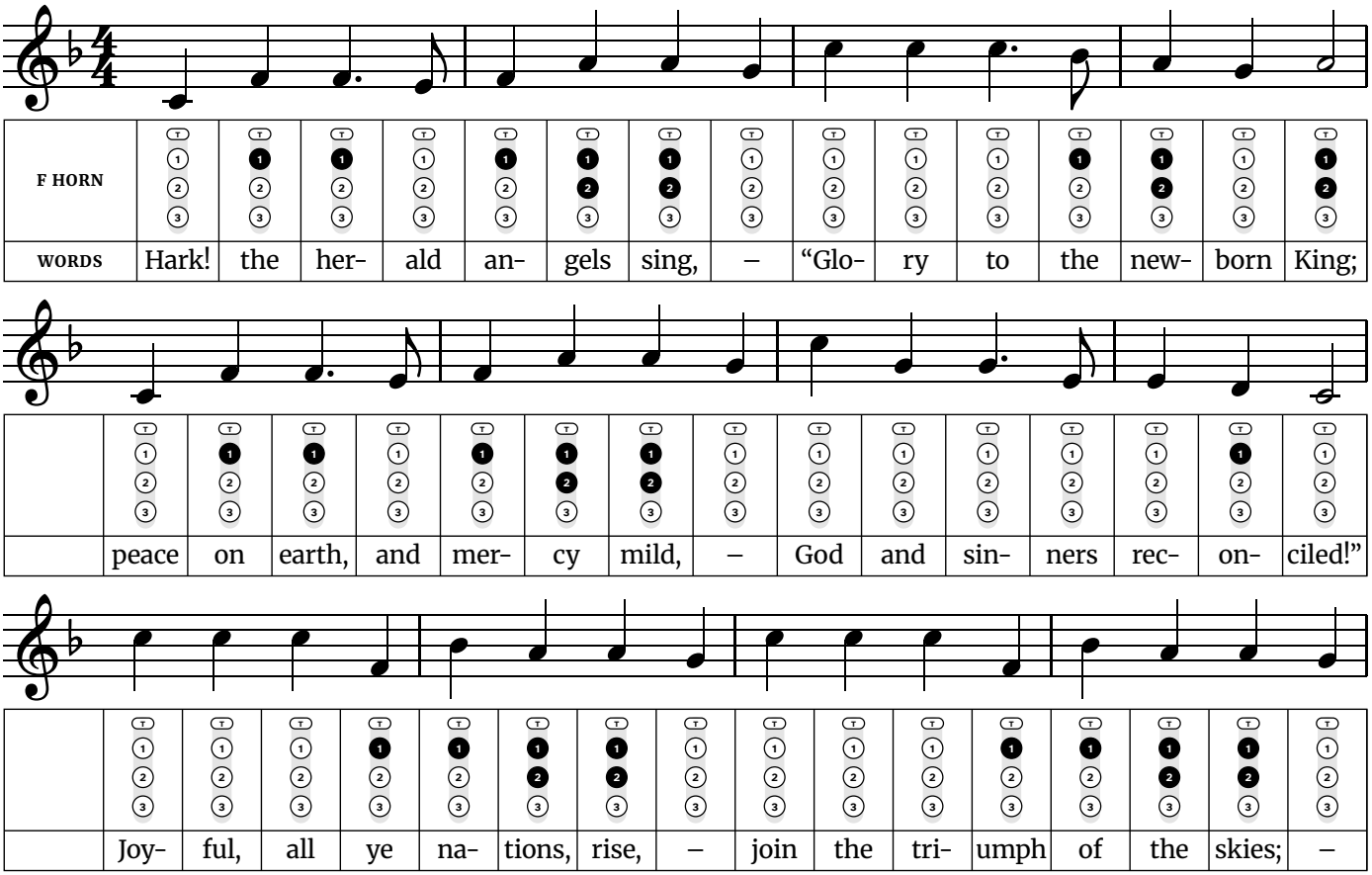
F horn fingerings used in this song	
C4 – Open (no valves)	**B♭4** – Valve 1
F4 – Valve 1	**C5** – Open (no valves)
G4 – Open (no valves)	**D5** – Open (no valves)
A4 – Valves 1 and 2	

Tip: The Gloria run is the hard part: 16 notes on one syllable. Slur it, learn it slowly in groups of four, and take a full breath just before it starts.

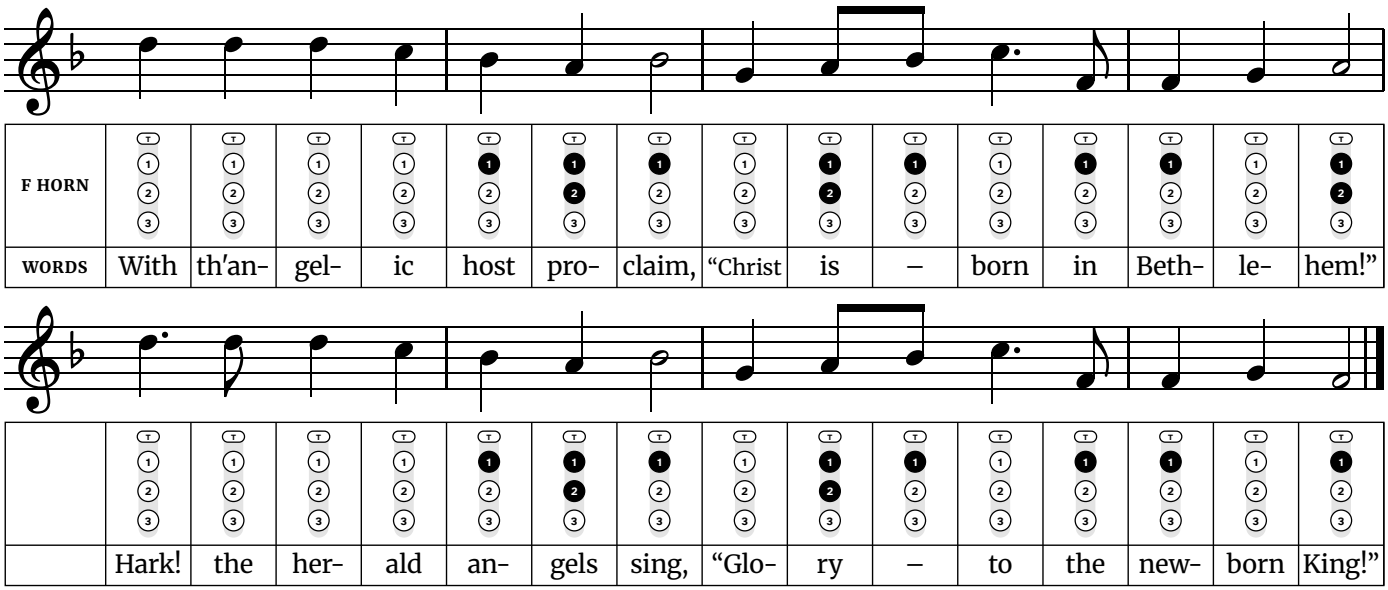
Words: James Chadwick (1862), after the French carol "Les Anges dans nos campagnes". Music: "Gloria", French traditional. The Gloria is printed once, as in the 1891 Parish Choir setting.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Harder · Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 4/4 time · 9 notes, C4 to D5



Hark! The Herald Angels Sing *(continued)*



F horn fingerings used in this song		
C4 – Open (no valves)	**F4** – Valve 1	**B♭4** – Valve 1
D4 – Valve 1	**G4** – Open (no valves)	**C5** – Open (no valves)
E4 – Open (no valves)	**A4** – Valves 1 and 2	**D5** – Open (no valves)

Tip: It is long, with five phrases and no rests to speak of. Breathe at the commas in the words, and save air for the last two phrases, which sit highest.

C4, E4, G4, C5 and D5 have the same fingering: open (no valves). Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.
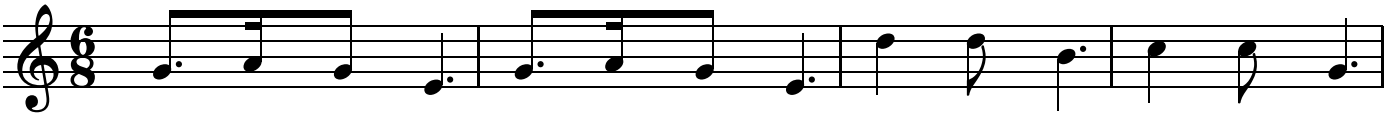
The widest jump is an octave, up from C4 to C5 in line 3.

Words: Charles Wesley (1739), altered by George Whitefield. Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1840).

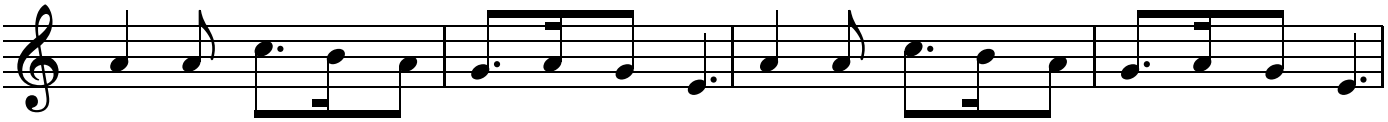
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Silent Night
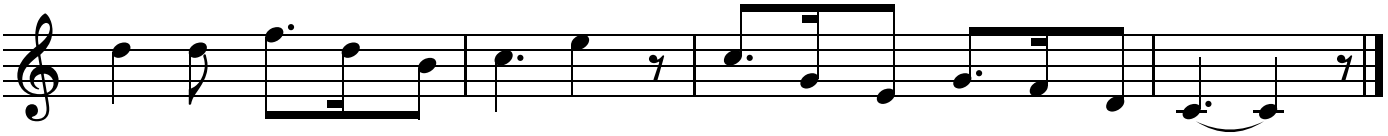
Harder · Written in C major (sounds in concert F major) · 6/8 time · 11 notes, C4 to F5



F HORN														
WORDS	Si-	lent	night,	–	ho-	ly	night,	–	All	is	calm,	all	is	bright,



	'Round	yon	vir-	gin	moth-	er	and	child,	–	Ho-	ly	in-	fant	so	ten-	der	and	mild,



	Sleep	in	heav-	en-	ly	peace,	–		Sleep	–	in	heav-	en-	ly	peace.	–	
								rest									*rest*

F horn fingerings used in this song		
C4 – Open (no valves)	**G4** – Open (no valves)	**D5** – Open (no valves)
D4 – Valve 1	**A4** – Valves 1 and 2	**E5** – Open (no valves)
E4 – Open (no valves)	**B4** – Valve 2	**F5** – Valve 1
F4 – Valve 1	**C5** – Open (no valves)	

Tip: This has the widest range of the Christmas songs and the slowest tempo. The work is in the air, not the fingers: play each phrase in one breath and keep the long notes steady to the very end.

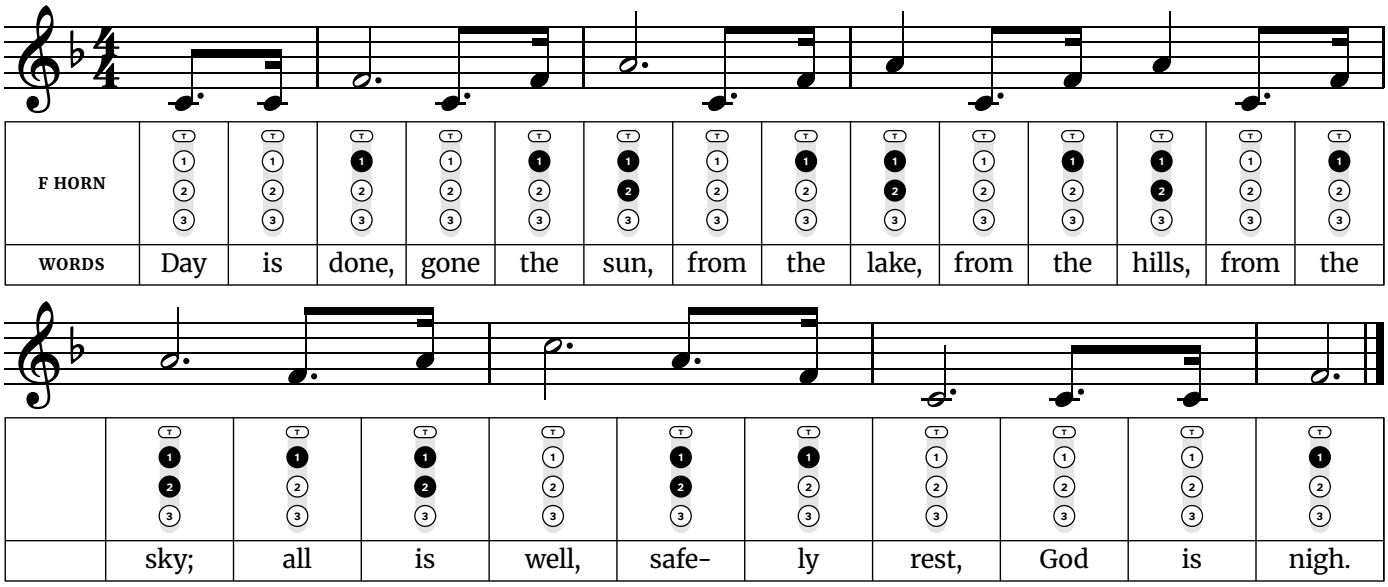
C4, E4, G4, C5, D5 and E5 have the same fingering: open (no valves). Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

The widest jump is a minor seventh, up from E4 to D5 in line 3.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1816), English by John Freeman Young (1859). Music: Franz Xaver Gruber (1818).

Taps

Easy · Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 4/4 time · 4 notes, C4 to C5



F horn fingerings used in this song
C4 – Open (no valves)
F4 – Valve 1
A4 – Valves 1 and 2
C5 – Open (no valves)

Tip: Taps is played slowly and freely, so let each long note ring for its full length before you move on. Keep the short pickup notes light, keep the volume steady through each held note, and don't hurry it.

C4 and C5 have the same fingering: open (no valves). Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

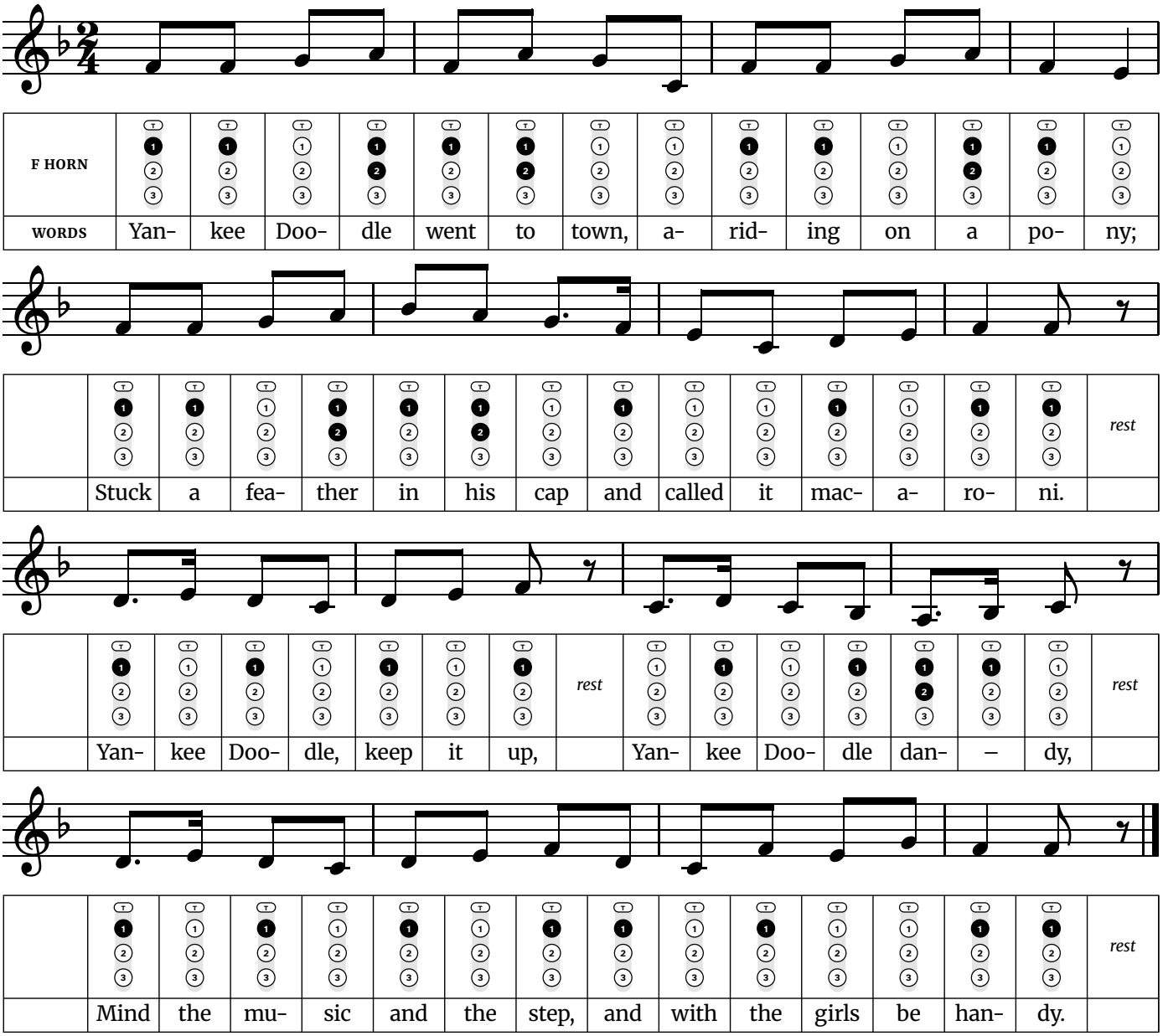
The widest jump is a sixth, down from A4 to C4 in line 1.

Music: arranged by Daniel Butterfield (1862). Words: traditional, not official.

Free at thefingeringchart.com

Yankee Doodle

Easy · Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 2/4 time · 9 notes, A3 to B♭4



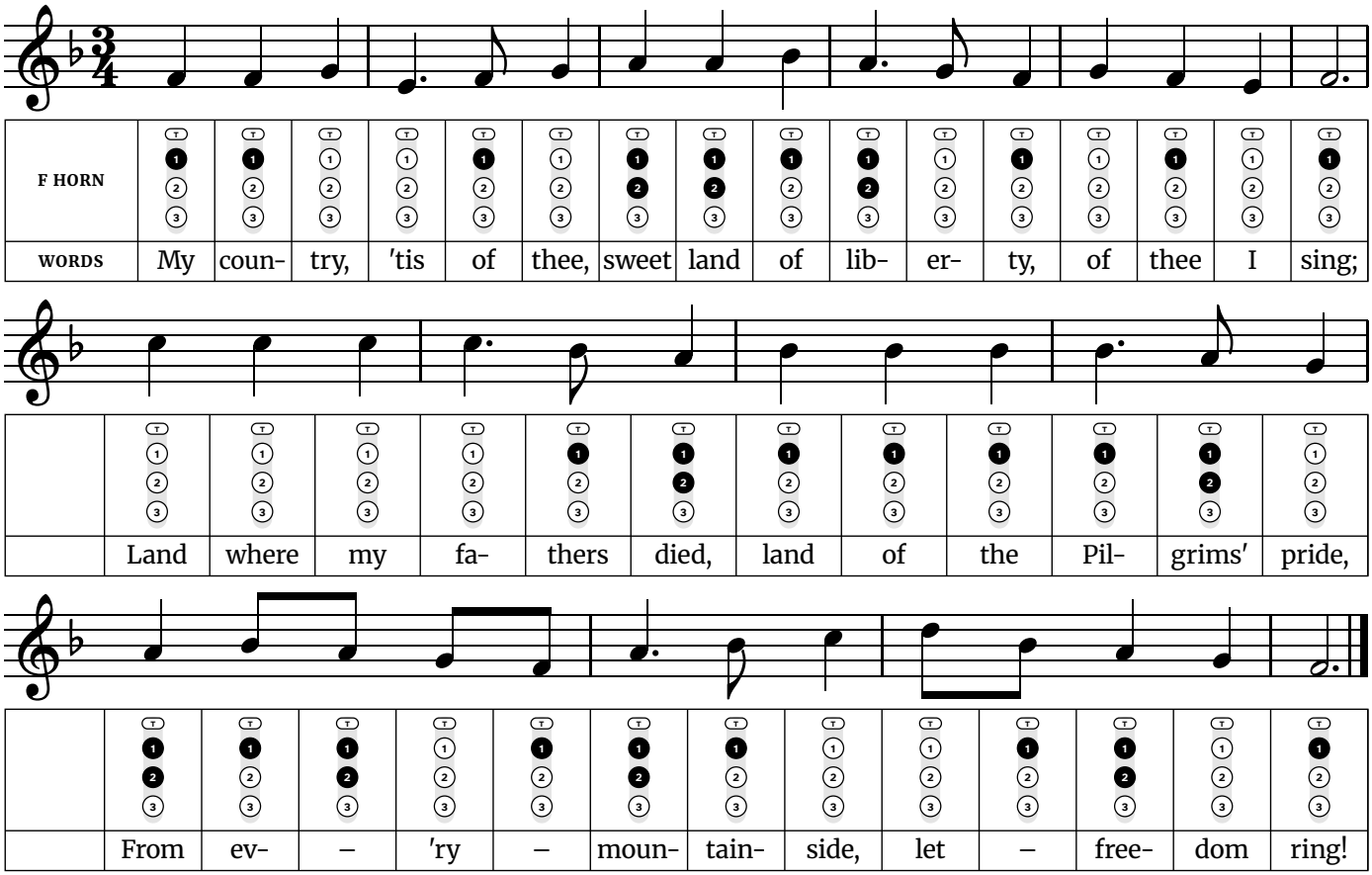
F horn fingerings used in this song		
A3 – Valves 1 and 2	**D4** – Valve 1	**G4** – Open (no valves)
B♭3 – Valve 1	**E4** – Open (no valves)	**A4** – Valves 1 and 2
C4 – Open (no valves)	**F4** – Valve 1	**B♭4** – Valve 1

Tip: The verse moves in steady eighth notes. Tongue every note separately and keep them even, and keep the dotted pairs in the chorus short-long-short, like a march.

Music: traditional (known by the 1750s). Words: traditional verse; chorus as printed in The Everyday Song Book (1927).

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

Easy · Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 3/4 time · 7 notes, E4 to D5



F horn fingerings used in this song	
E4 – Open (no valves)	**B♭4** – Valve 1
F4 – Valve 1	**C5** – Open (no valves)
G4 – Open (no valves)	**D5** – Open (no valves)
A4 – Valves 1 and 2	

Tip: This is a slow waltz with three beats to a bar. The dotted quarter and eighth pairs ("coun-try", "lib-er-ty") are the main rhythm, so count them carefully. Give the last note of each phrase all three beats.

E4, G4, C5 and D5 have the same fingering: open (no valves). Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

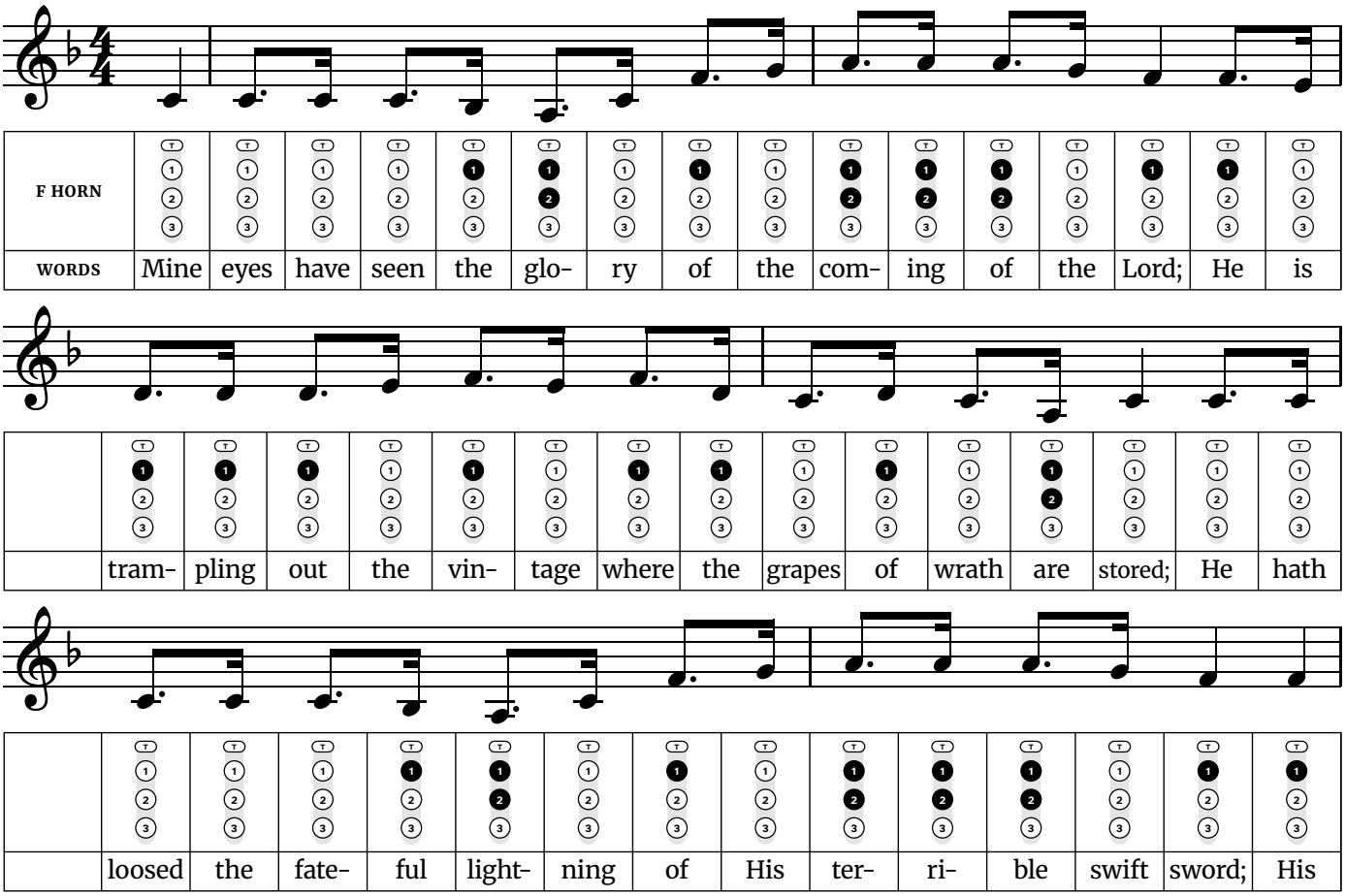
The widest jump is a fifth, up from F4 to C5 in line 2.

Words: Samuel Francis Smith (1831). Music: the tune of "God Save the King" (anonymous, 1740s).

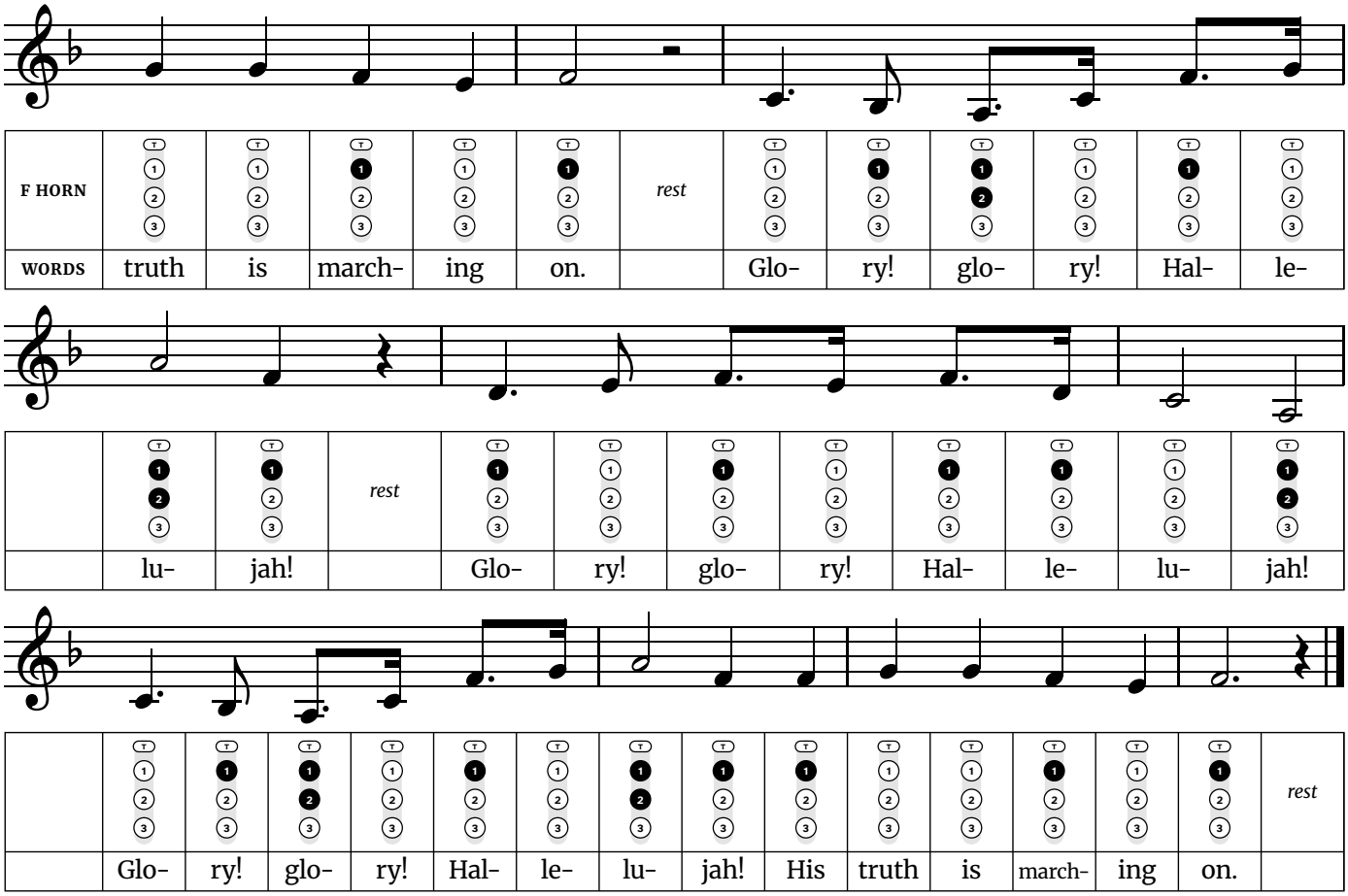
Free at thefingeringchart.com

Battle Hymn of the Republic

Medium · Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 4/4 time · 8 notes, A3 to A4



Battle Hymn of the Republic *(continued)*



F horn fingerings used in this song	
A3 – Valves 1 and 2	**E4** – Open (no valves)
B♭3 – Valve 1	**F4** – Valve 1
C4 – Open (no valves)	**G4** – Open (no valves)
D4 – Valve 1	**A4** – Valves 1 and 2

Tip: The verse is almost all dotted-eighth and sixteenth pairs. Make the long note of each pair three times as long as the short one, not a lazy swing. Then let the Glory, glory, hallelujah chorus broaden out.

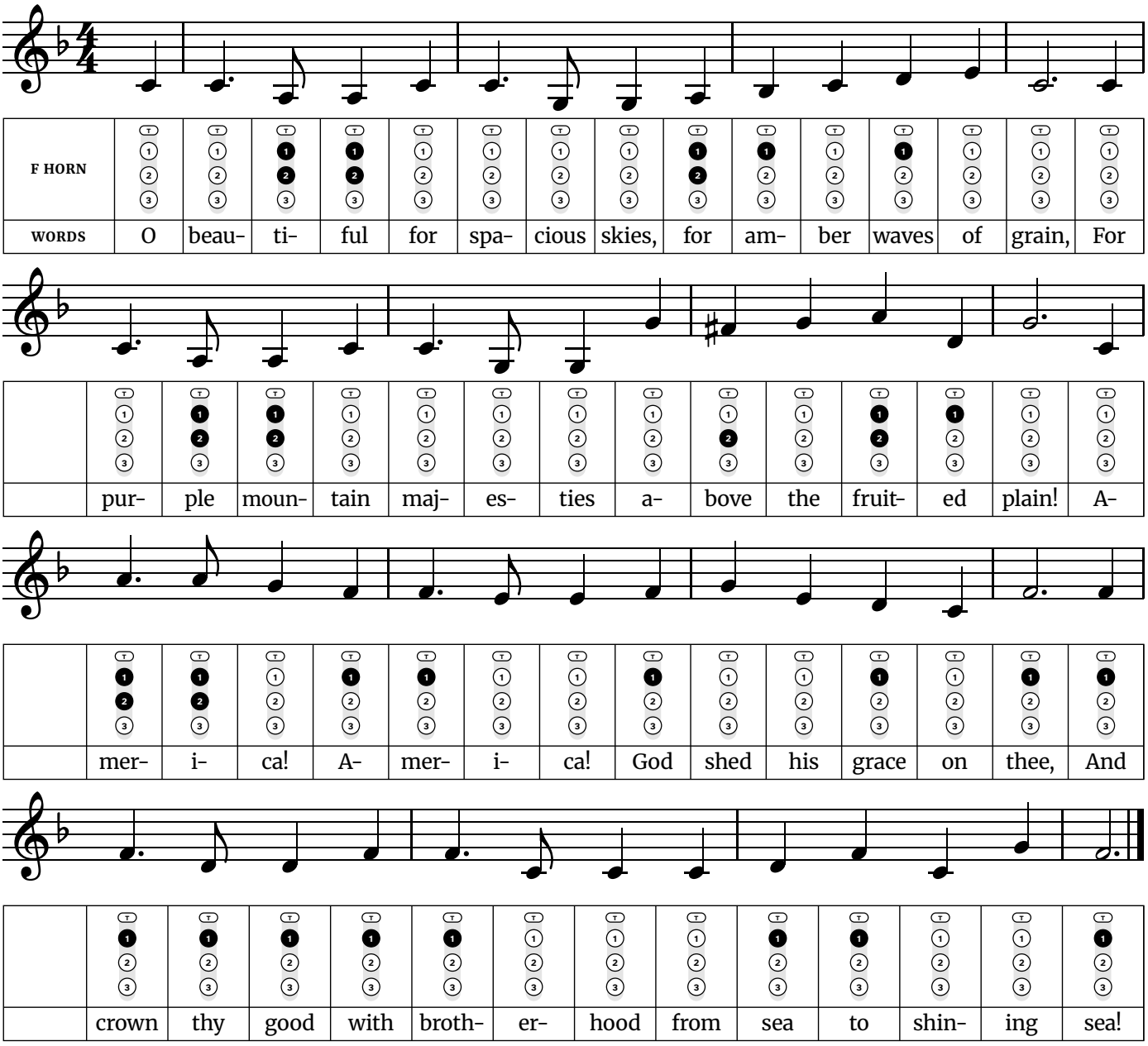
A3 and A4 have the same fingering: valves 1 and 2. Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

The busiest finger change is A3 to C4, where 2 valves move at once. Practice that pair slowly on its own until both notes speak cleanly.

Words: Julia Ward Howe (1861). Music: "John Brown's Body", from a camp-meeting tune credited to William Steffe (1856).

America the Beautiful

Medium · Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 4/4 time · 10 notes, G3 to A4



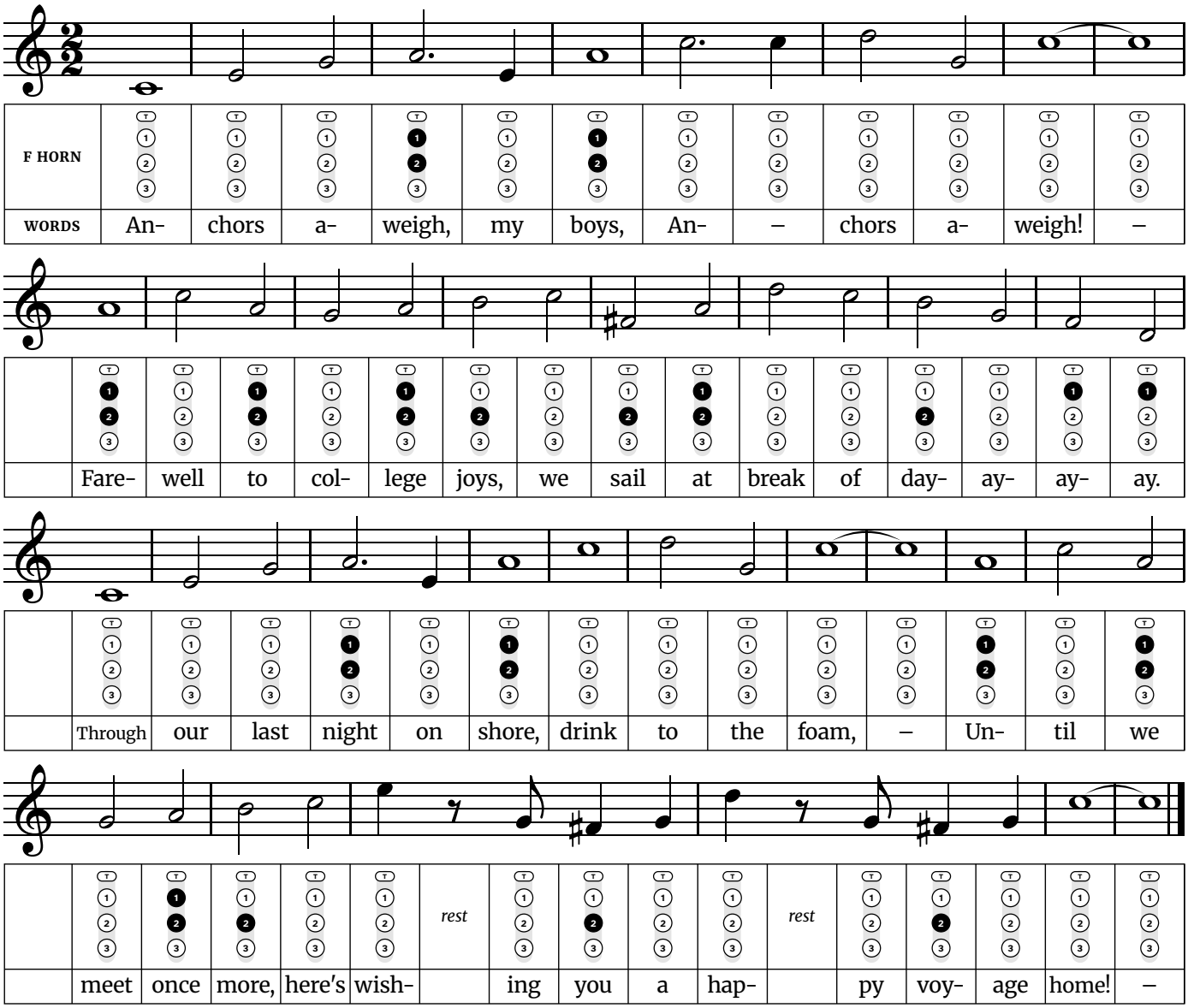
F horn fingerings used in this song		
G3 – Open (no valves)	**D4** – Valve 1	**G4** – Open (no valves)
A3 – Valves 1 and 2	**E4** – Open (no valves)	**A4** – Valves 1 and 2
B♭3 – Valve 1	**F4** – Valve 1	
C4 – Open (no valves)	**F♯4** – Valve 2	

Tip: Every phrase starts with the same short-long pattern ("O beau-ti-ful"). Keep the eighth note short, then breathe at the end of each phrase so the next one starts on time.

Words: Katharine Lee Bates (1895, revised 1911). Music: "Materna" by Samuel A. Ward (1882).

Anchors Aweigh

Harder · Written in C major (sounds in concert F major) · 2/2 time · 11 notes, C4 to E5



F horn fingerings used in this song		
C4 – Open (no valves)	**F♯4** – Valve 2	**C5** – Open (no valves)
D4 – Valve 1	**G4** – Open (no valves)	**D5** – Open (no valves)
E4 – Open (no valves)	**A4** – Valves 1 and 2	**E5** – Open (no valves)
F4 – Valve 1	**B4** – Valve 2	

Tip: It is a march counted in two big beats per bar, so the whole notes are long. Hold "boys", "aweigh" and "foam" for their full length. Then tongue the quick notes near the end ("here's wishing you a happy voyage") lightly.

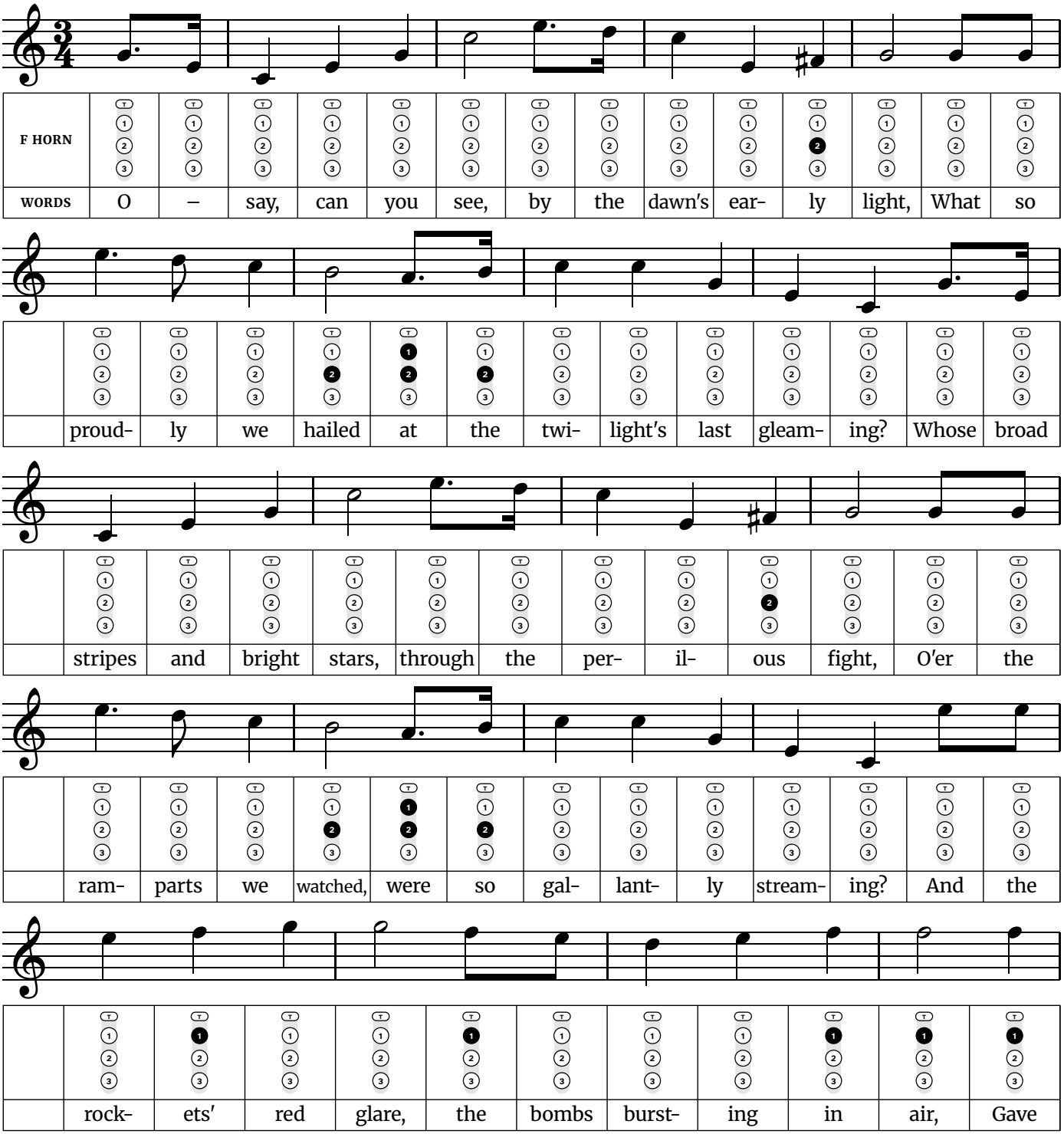
One note falls outside the key: F♯4 in line 2, played with valve 2.

Music: Charles A. Zimmermann (1906). Words of this verse: 1926 revision of Alfred Hart Miles's 1906 lyrics.

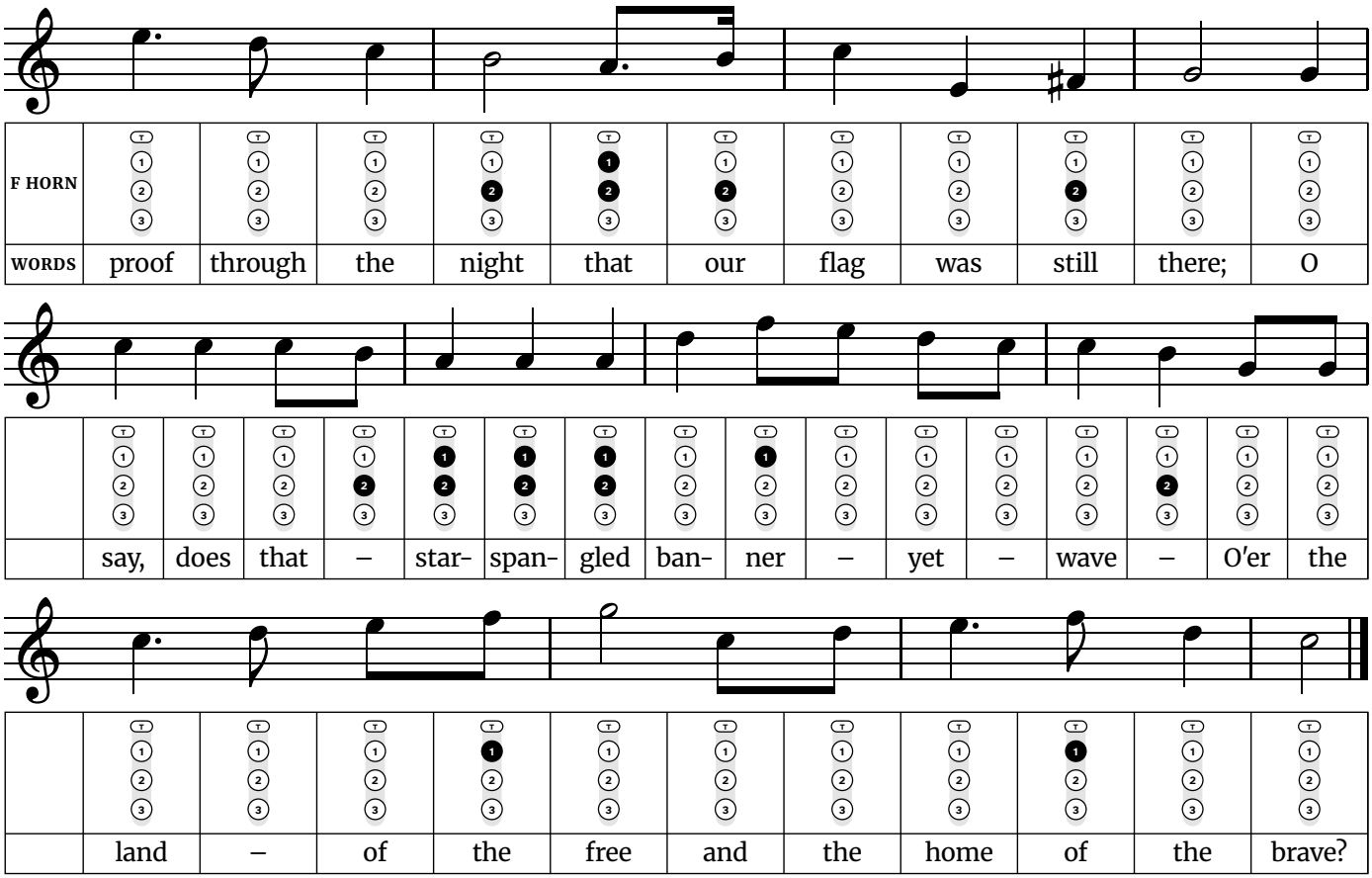
Free at thefingeringchart.com

The Star-Spangled Banner

Harder · Written in C major (sounds in concert F major) · 3/4 time · 11 notes, C4 to G5



The Star-Spangled Banner *(continued)*



F horn fingerings used in this song		
C4 – Open (no valves)	**A4** – Valves 1 and 2	**E5** – Open (no valves)
E4 – Open (no valves)	**B4** – Valve 2	**F5** – Valve 1
F♯4 – Valve 2	**C5** – Open (no valves)	**G5** – Open (no valves)
G4 – Open (no valves)	**D5** – Open (no valves)	

Tip: The anthem covers the widest range of the patriotic songs, so practice the high part ("And the rockets' red glare") and the last phrase slowly before playing it straight through. Take a full breath before each of those phrases.

One note falls outside the key: F♯4 in line 1, played with valve 2.
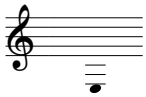
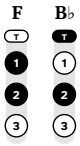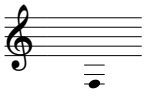
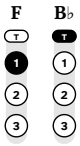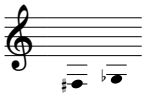
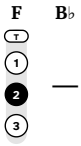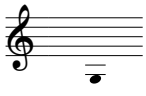
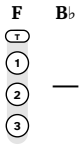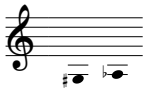
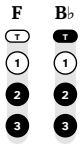
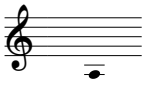
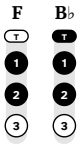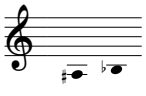
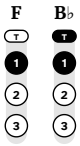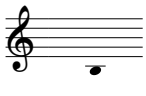
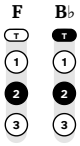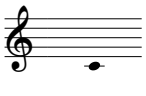
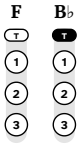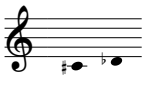
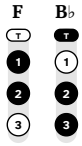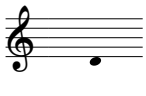
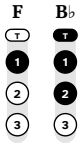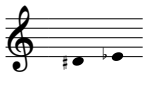
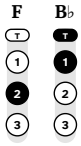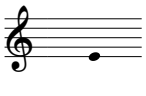
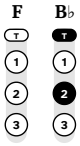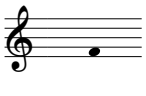
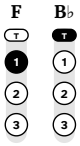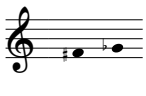
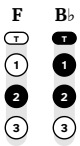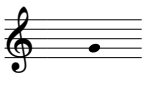
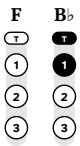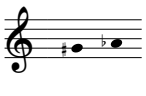
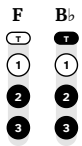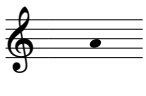
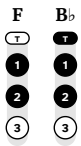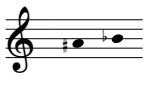
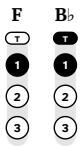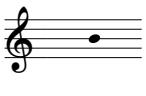
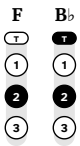
C4, E4, G4, C5, D5, E5 and G5 have the same fingering: open (no valves). Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

The widest jump is a tenth, up from C4 to E5 in line 4.

Words: Francis Scott Key (1814). Music: "To Anacreon in Heaven" by John Stafford Smith (c. 1773). Service version of 1918.

Free at thefingeringchart.com

Every Note at a Glance

 **E3** 	 **F3** 	 **F♯3 / G♭3** 	 **G3** 	 **G♯3 / A♭3** 	 **A3** 	 **A♯3 / B♭3** 
 **B3** 	 **C4** 	 **C♯4 / D♭4** 	 **D4** 	 **D♯4 / E♭4** 	 **E4** 	 **F4** 
 **F♯4 / G♭4** 	 **G4** 	 **G♯4 / A♭4** 	 **A4** 	 **A♯4 / B♭4** 	 **B4** 	**C5**
C♯5 / D♭5	**D5**	**D♯5 / E♭5**	**E5**	**F5**	**F♯5 / G♭5**	**G5**
G♯5 / A♭5	**A5**	**A♯5 / B♭5**	**B5**	**C6**	Written pitch for horn in F. F: F horn, thumb up. B♭: double horn, thumb down. Filled: press it. Open: leave it up.	