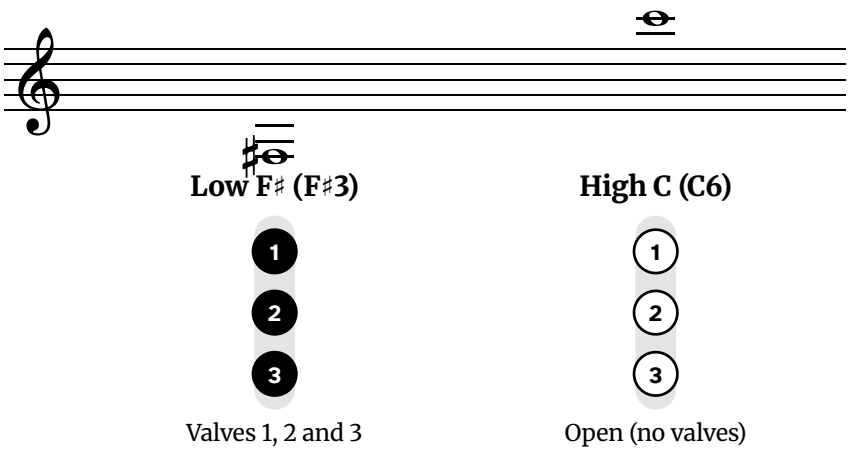
The Mellophone Fingering Chart Book

Every Note from Low F♯ to High C, All 12 Major Scales and 28 Songs with the Fingering Under Every Note (Marching Band Mellophone in F)



Nathan Early

Free edition
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The Mellophone 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 published manufacturers' fingering charts.

The melodies are traditional or were first published before 1929.

First edition, 2026.

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How to Read This Book



Valve 1: nearest the mouthpiece, under your first finger

Valve 2: the middle valve, under your second finger

Valve 3: farthest away, under your ring finger

The diagram above is D4: **Valves 1 and 3**. A black circle means press that valve; an open circle means leave it up.

The diagrams

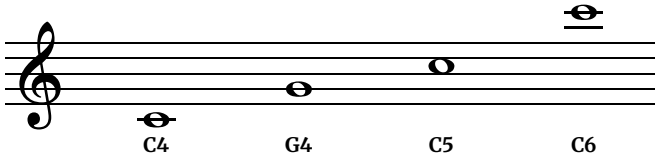
Each diagram shows three valve circles stacked in a column, numbered 1, 2 and 3, with valve 1 at the top. When no valve is filled, the words under the diagram read "Open (no valves)". Mellophone uses only seven valve combinations for the whole range, so many diagrams look identical: written C4, G4, C5, E5 and G5 are all open. Your lips and air pick which one sounds (page 24 shows which notes go together). Some notes have an alternate fingering, such as 3 instead of 1 and 2 for A4, that helps in fast passages or for tuning. Unlike French horn, there is no thumb valve, so the diagrams never show one.

Written pitch

Every note in this book is written pitch, the note you read in mellophone music. Mellophone is in F: every written note sounds a perfect fifth lower, so a written C sounds as concert F, written F is concert B♭ and written G is concert C. Band directors name scales by concert pitch, so the scale pages give both names. The fingerings are the same as the trumpet's; page 5 covers switching from trumpet or French horn.

Note names

Notes are named with an octave number. C4 is the C on the first ledger line below the staff (often called low C), 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. A sharp and a flat that share a key, like 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 valve 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 that are shown without words give the note names in that row instead. "Fingerings used in this song" lists every fingering you need, so you can practice them before you start.

Switching to Mellophone, and Tuning

From trumpet

Mellophone uses the same written fingerings as trumpet for every note in this book. The only difference is pitch: trumpet sounds a whole step below written, and mellophone sounds a fifth below. That is why mellophone parts are written in F, and why a trumpet player can pick one up and play the music right away.

From French horn

The horn's F tubing is about twice as long as the mellophone's, so its fundamental is an octave lower. The same written notes therefore fall on higher, closer partials on horn, which calls for different valve choices. Mellophone works like a large trumpet, so the trumpet fingerings fit. These 8 notes use different valves than on the F horn (or the F side of a double horn, thumb valve up). The other 23 notes in this book are fingered the same.

Note	F horn	Mellophone	Note	F horn	Mellophone
F♯3 / G♭3	Valve 2	❶❷❸ Valves 1, 2 and 3	**D♯4 / E♭4**	Valve 2	①❷❸ Valves 2 and 3
G3	Open (no valves)	❶②❸ Valves 1 and 3	**E4**	Open (no valves)	❶❷③ Valves 1 and 2
C♯4 / D♭4	Valves 1 and 2	❶❷❸ Valves 1, 2 and 3	**C♯5 / D♭5**	Valve 2	❶❷③ Valves 1 and 2
D4	Valve 1	❶②❸ Valves 1 and 3	**D5**	Open (no valves)	❶②③ Valve 1

Tuning

Tune with the main tuning slide. Pull it out to lower the pitch, push it in to raise it. Mellophones are usually tuned to the trumpets in a marching band, so match their concert B♭, which is a written F on mellophone.

Valves 1 and 3, and all three valves: sharp

These fingerings play sharp. Lip the note down, or push the first valve slide out if your mellophone has a trigger or saddle on that slide.

❶❷❸ **F♯3 / G♭3**	❶②❸ **G3**	❶❷❸ **C♯4 / D♭4**	❶②❸ **D4**

Valves 1 and 2: slightly sharp

Valves 1 and 2 together are often slightly sharp. Most players lip the note down; a small push of the first valve slide helps on long notes if your mellophone has a trigger or saddle on that slide.

❶❷③ **A3**	❶❷③ **E4**	❶❷③ **A4**	❶❷③ **C♯5 / D♭5**	❶❷③ **A5**

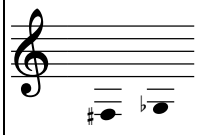
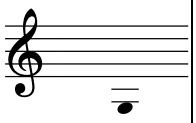
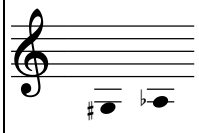
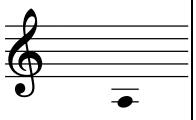
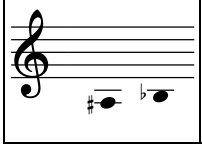
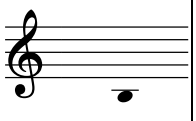
Open on the top space: can sit a little flat

E5	①②③	Open (no valves)	Open fingering on the top space. It can sit a little flat; listen and adjust.

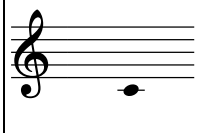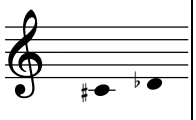
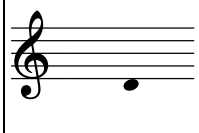
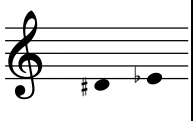
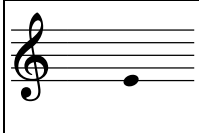
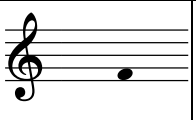
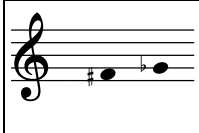
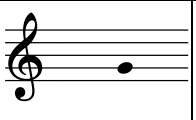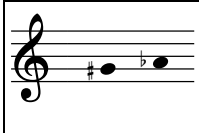
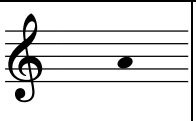
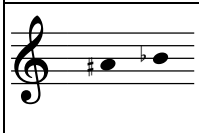
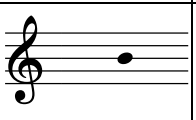
The Fingering Chart: Low and Middle Notes

Valve 1 is the one nearest your mouthpiece, under the first finger of your right hand. A filled circle means press that valve; an open circle means leave it up. Notes are shown at written pitch for mellophone in F, where a written C sounds as concert F. The fingerings match the trumpet's.

LOW NOTES
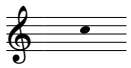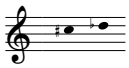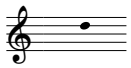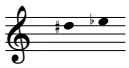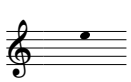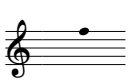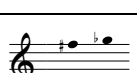
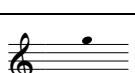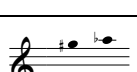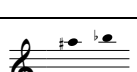
Note (Written Pitch)	Note Name	Valves	Fingering	Note (Written Pitch)	Note Name	Valves	Fingering
	**F♯3 / G♭3**		Valves 1, 2 and 3		**G3**		Valves 1 and 3
	**G♯3 / A♭3**		Valves 2 and 3		**A3**		Valves 1 and 2 *Alternate: Valve 3*
	**A♯3 / B♭3**		Valve 1		**B3**		Valve 2

MIDDLE NOTES

Note (Written Pitch)	Note Name	Valves	Fingering	Note (Written Pitch)	Note Name	Valves	Fingering
	**C4**		Open (no valves)		**C♯4 / D♭4**		Valves 1, 2 and 3
	**D4**		Valves 1 and 3		**D♯4 / E♭4**		Valves 2 and 3
	**E4**		Valves 1 and 2 *Alternate: Valve 3*		**F4**		Valve 1
	**F♯4 / G♭4**		Valve 2		**G4**		Open (no valves) *Alternate: Valves 1 and 3*
	**G♯4 / A♭4**		Valves 2 and 3		**A4**		Valves 1 and 2 *Alternate: Valve 3*
	**A♯4 / B♭4**		Valve 1		**B4**		Valve 2

The Fingering Chart: High Notes

HIGH NOTES

Note (Written Pitch)	Note Name	Valves	Fingering	Note (Written Pitch)	Note Name	Valves	Fingering
	**C5**	○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3	Open (no valves) *Alternate: Valves 2 and 3*		**C♯5 / D♭5**	● 1 ● 2 ○ 3	Valves 1 and 2
	**D5**	● 1 ○ 2 ○ 3	Valve 1 *Alternate: Valves 1 and 3*		**D♯5 / E♭5**	○ 1 ● 2 ○ 3	Valve 2 *Alternate: Valves 2 and 3*
	**E5**	○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3	Open (no valves) *Alternate: Valves 1 and 2* *Alternate: Valve 3*		**F5**	● 1 ○ 2 ○ 3	Valve 1
	**F♯5 / G♭5**	○ 1 ● 2 ○ 3	Valve 2		**G5**	○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3	Open (no valves) *Alternate: Valves 1 and 3*
	**G♯5 / A♭5**	○ 1 ● 2 ● 3	Valves 2 and 3 **ADVANCED**		**A5**	● 1 ● 2 ○ 3	Valves 1 and 2 *Alternate: Valve 3* **ADVANCED**
	**A♯5 / B♭5**	● 1 ○ 2 ○ 3	Valve 1 **ADVANCED**		**B5**	○ 1 ● 2 ○ 3	Valve 2 **ADVANCED**
	**C6**	○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3	Open (no valves) **ADVANCED**				

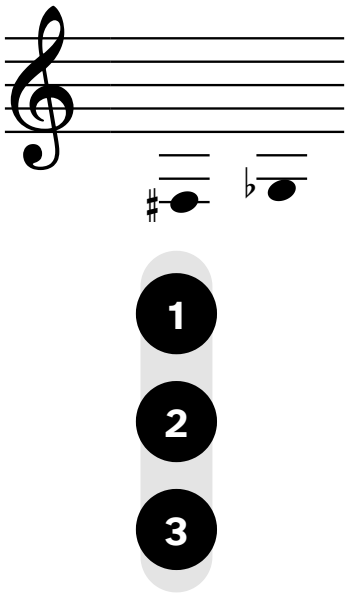
ALTERNATE FINGERINGS

Some notes have an alternate fingering, such as 3 instead of 1 and 2 for A4, that helps in fast passages or for tuning. Use the main fingering unless you have a reason to change.

Note	Main	Alternate	Note	Main	Alternate
A3	Valves 1 and 2	○ 1 ○ 2 Valve 3 ● 3	**D5**	Valve 1	● 1 ○ 2 Valves 1 and 3 ● 3
E4	Valves 1 and 2	○ 1 ○ 2 Valve 3 ● 3	**D♯5 / E♭5**	Valve 2	○ 1 ● 2 Valves 2 and 3 ● 3
G4	Open (no valves)	● 1 ○ 2 Valves 1 and 3 ● 3	**E5**	Open (no valves)	● 1 ● 2 Valves 1 and 2 ○ 3 ○ 1 ○ 2 Valve 3 ● 3
A4	Valves 1 and 2	○ 1 ○ 2 Valve 3 ● 3	**G5**	Open (no valves)	● 1 ○ 2 Valves 1 and 3 ● 3
C5	Open (no valves)	○ 1 ● 2 Valves 2 and 3 ● 3	**A5**	Valves 1 and 2	○ 1 ○ 2 Valve 3 ● 3

Low F♯ · F♯3 / G♭3

Sounds as concert B



Valves 1, 2 and 3

The lowest standard note on the mellophone is G♭, written just below the second ledger line below the staff.

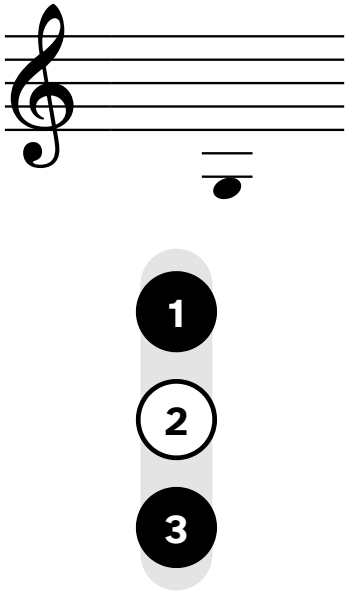
Fingering: Valves 1, 2 and 3. Lowest standard note. It plays sharp: lip it down, or push the first valve slide out if your mellophone has a trigger or saddle on that slide.

Half step above: G3 ❶ ② ❸ Valves 1 and 3

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

Low G · G3

Sounds as concert C



Valves 1 and 3

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

Fingering: Valves 1 and 3. This fingering plays sharp. Lip it down, or push the first valve slide out if your mellophone has a trigger or saddle on that slide.

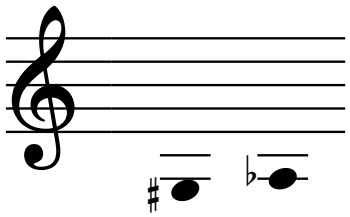
Half step below: F♯3 / G♭3 ❶ ❷ ❸ Valves 1, 2 and 3

Half step above: G♯3 / A♭3 ① ❷ ❸ Valves 2 and 3

In this book: Songs: America the Beautiful (62). Scales: Concert C (27).

Low A♭ · G♯3 / A♭3

Sounds as concert D♭





Valves 2 and 3

Low A♭ on the mellophone 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.

Fingering: Valves 2 and 3.

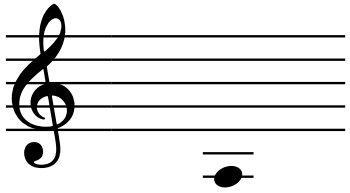
Half step below: G3 ❶ ② ❸ Valves 1 and 3

Half step above: A3 ❶ ❷ ③ Valves 1 and 2

In this book: Scales: Concert D♭ (27).

Low A · A3

Sounds as concert D





Valves 1 and 2

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

Fingering: Valves 1 and 2.

Alternate fingering: ① ② ❸ Valve 3

Tuning: Valves 1 and 2 together are often slightly sharp. Most players lip the note down; a small push of the first valve slide helps on long notes if your mellophone has a trigger or saddle on that slide.

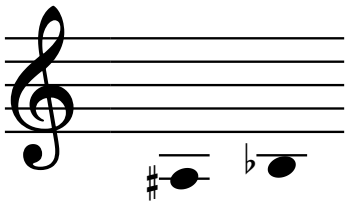
Half step below: G♯3 / A♭3 ① ❷ ❸ Valves 2 and 3

Half step above: A♯3 / B♭3 ❶ ② ③ Valve 1

In this book: Songs: Yankee Doodle (58), Battle Hymn of the Republic (60), America the Beautiful (62). Scales: Concert C (27), Concert D (29).

Low B♭ · A♯3 / B♭3

Sounds as concert E♭





Valve 1

Low B♭ on the mellophone 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.

Fingering: Valve 1.

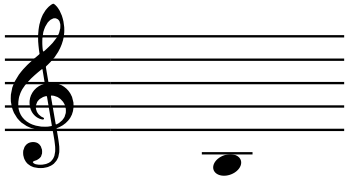
Half step below: A3  Valves 1 and 2

Half step above: B3  Valve 2

In this book: Songs: Yankee Doodle (58), Battle Hymn of the Republic (60), America the Beautiful (62). Scales: Concert E♭ (25), Concert D♭ (27).

Low B · B3

Sounds as concert E





Valve 2

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

Fingering: Valve 2.

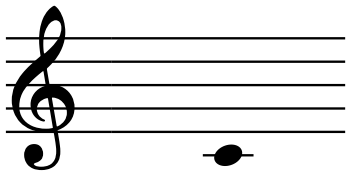
Half step below: A♯3 / B♭3  Valve 1

Half step above: C4  Open (no valves)

In this book: Scales: Concert C (27), Concert D (29), Concert E (30).

Low C · C4

Sounds as concert F





Open (no valves)

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

Fingering: Open (no valves). Open, no valves.

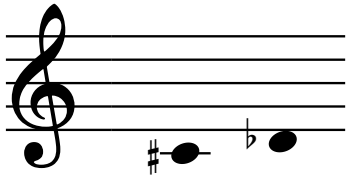
Half step below: B3  Valve 2

Half step above: C♯4 / D♭4  Valves 1, 2 and 3

In this book: Songs: Happy Birthday (37), Jolly Old Saint Nicholas (39), Good King Wenceslas (40), Away in a Manger (41), Auld Lang Syne (44), O Come, All Ye Faithful (48), O Christmas Tree (50), We Wish You a Merry Christmas (51), Angels We Have Heard on High (53), Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (54), Silent Night (56), Taps (57), Yankee Doodle (58), Battle Hymn of the Republic (60), America the Beautiful (62), Anchors Aweigh (63), The Star-Spangled Banner (64). Scales: Concert E♭ (25), Concert F (26), Concert C (27), Concert D♭ (27).

Low C♯ · C♯4 / D♭4

Sounds as concert G♭





Valves 1, 2 and 3

Low C♯ on the mellophone 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.

Fingering: Valves 1, 2 and 3. This fingering plays sharp. Lip it down, or push the first valve slide out if your mellophone has a trigger or saddle on that slide.

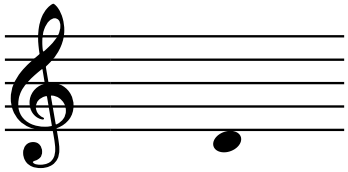
Half step below: C4  Open (no valves)

Half step above: D4  Valves 1 and 3

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

Low D · D4

Sounds as concert G





Valves 1 and 3

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

Fingering: Valves 1 and 3. This fingering plays sharp. Lip it down, or push the first valve slide out if your mellophone has a trigger or saddle on that slide.

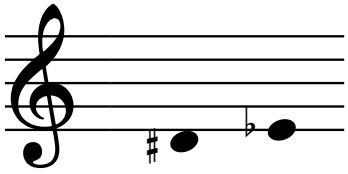
Half step below: C♯4 / D♭4 ❶❷❸ Valves 1, 2 and 3

Half step above: D♯4 / E♭4 ①❷❸ Valves 2 and 3

In this book: Songs: Happy Birthday (37), Jolly Old Saint Nicholas (39), Good King Wenceslas (40), Away in a Manger (41), Auld Lang Syne (44), O Come, All Ye Faithful (48), We Wish You a Merry Christmas (51), Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (54), Silent Night (56), Yankee Doodle (58), Battle Hymn of the Republic (60), America the Beautiful (62), Anchors Aweigh (63). Scales: Concert E♭ (25), Concert F (26), Concert C (27), Concert G (28), Concert D (29).

Low E♭ · D♯4 / E♭4

Sounds as concert A♭





Valves 2 and 3

Low E♭ on the mellophone 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.

Fingering: Valves 2 and 3.

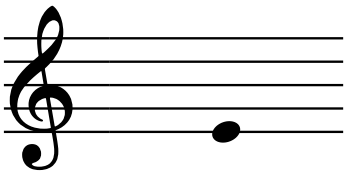
Half step below: D4 ❶②❸ Valves 1 and 3

Half step above: E4 ❶❷③ Valves 1 and 2

In this book: Scales: Concert E♭ (25), Concert A♭ (26), Concert D♭ (27), Concert G♭ (28), Concert E (30).

Low E · E4

Sounds as concert A





Valves 1 and 2

Low E on the mellophone is the E written on the bottom line (E4 in octave numbers).

Fingering: Valves 1 and 2.

Alternate fingering: ○ ○ ● Valve 3

Tuning: Valves 1 and 2 together are often slightly sharp. Most players lip the note down; a small push of the first valve slide helps on long notes if your mellophone has a trigger or saddle on that slide.

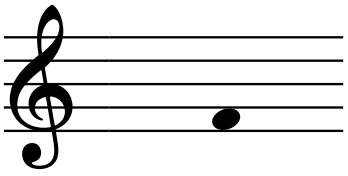
Half step below: D♯4 / E♭4 ○ ● ● Valves 2 and 3

Half step above: F4 ● ○ ○ Valve 1

In this book: Songs: Happy Birthday (37), Jolly Old Saint Nicholas (39), Good King Wenceslas (40), Away in a Manger (41), O Come, All Ye Faithful (48), O Christmas Tree (50), We Wish You a Merry Christmas (51), Deck the Halls (52), Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (54), Silent Night (56), Yankee Doodle (58), My Country, 'Tis of Thee (59), Battle Hymn of the Republic (60), America the Beautiful (62), Anchors Aweigh (63), The Star-Spangled Banner (64). Scales: Concert F (26), Concert C (27), Concert G (28), Concert D (29), Concert A (29), Concert E (30).

Low F · F4

Sounds as concert B♭





Valve 1

Low F on the mellophone is the F written in the first space (F4 in octave numbers).

Fingering: Valve 1.

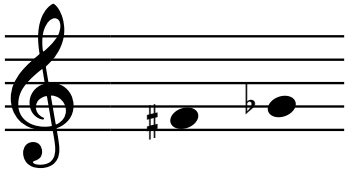
Half step below: E4 ● ● ○ Valves 1 and 2

Half step above: F♯4 / G♭4 ○ ● ○ Valve 2

In this book: Songs: every song except The Star-Spangled Banner (64). Scales: Concert B♭ (25), Concert E♭ (25), Concert F (26), Concert A♭ (26), Concert D♭ (27), Concert G♭ (28). Chromatic scale (31).

F♯ · F♯4 / G♭4

Sounds as concert B



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

Fingering: Valve 2.

Half step below: F4  Valve 1

Half step above: G4  Open (no valves)

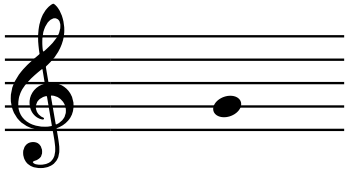
In this book: Songs: America the Beautiful (62), Anchors Aweigh (63), The Star-Spangled Banner (64). Scales: Concert C (27), Concert G (28), Concert G♭ (28), Concert D (29), Concert A (29), Concert B (30), Concert E (30). Chromatic scale (31).



Valve 2

G · G4

Sounds as concert C



G on the mellophone is the G written on the second line (G4 in octace numbers).

Fingering: Open (no valves). Open, the same as low C. Faster air and firmer lips raise the pitch.

Alternate fingering:  Valves 1 and 3

Half step below: F♯4 / G♭4  Valve 2

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

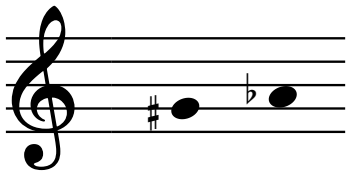
In this book: Songs: every song except Taps (57). Scales: Concert B♭ (25), Concert E♭ (25), Concert F (26), Concert A♭ (26), Concert C (27), Concert D♭ (27), Concert G (28). Chromatic scale (31).



Open (no valves)

A♭ · G♯4 / A♭4

Sounds as concert D♭





Valves 2 and 3

A♭ on the mellophone 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.

Fingering: Valves 2 and 3.

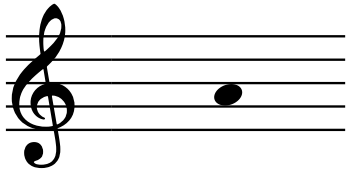
Half step below: G4 ① ② ③ Open (no valves)

Half step above: A4 ❶ ❷ ③ Valves 1 and 2

In this book: Scales: Concert A♭ (26), Concert D♭ (27), Concert G♭ (28), Concert D (29), Concert A (29), Concert B (30), Concert E (30). Chromatic scale (31).

A · A4

Sounds as concert D





Valves 1 and 2

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

Fingering: Valves 1 and 2.

Alternate fingering: ① ② ❸ Valve 3

Tuning: Valves 1 and 2 together are often slightly sharp. Most players lip the note down; a small push of the first valve slide helps on long notes if your mellophone has a trigger or saddle on that slide.

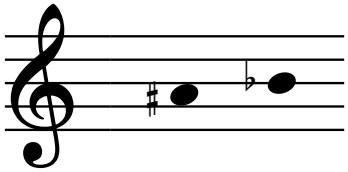
Half step below: G♯4 / A♭4 ① ❷ ❸ Valves 2 and 3

Half step above: A♯4 / B♭4 ❶ ② ③ Valve 1

In this book: Songs: every song. Scales: Concert B♭ (25), Concert E♭ (25), Concert F (26), Concert G (28), Concert D (29), Concert A (29). Chromatic scale (31).

B♭ · A♯4 / B♭4

Sounds as concert E♭





Valve 1

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

Fingering: Valve 1.

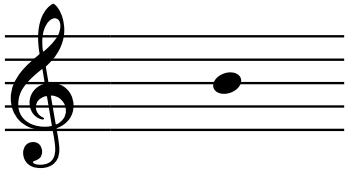
Half step below: A4  Valves 1 and 2

Half step above: B4  Valve 2

In this book: Songs: Twinkle Twinkle Little Star (34), Ode to Joy (35), Jingle Bells (36), Happy Birthday (37), When the Saints Go Marching In (38), Good King Wenceslas (40), Away in a Manger (41), Up on the Housetop (42), Joy to the World (45), The First Noel (46), O Come, All Ye Faithful (48), O Christmas Tree (50), We Wish You a Merry Christmas (51), Deck the Halls (52), Angels We Have Heard on High (53), Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (54), Yankee Doodle (58), My Country, 'Tis of Thee (59). Scales: Concert B♭ (25), Concert E♭ (25), Concert A♭ (26), Concert G♭ (28), Concert B (30), Concert E (30). Chromatic scale (31).

B · B4

Sounds as concert E





Valve 2

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

Fingering: Valve 2.

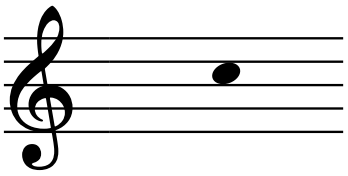
Half step below: A♯4 / B♭4  Valve 1

Half step above: C5  Open (no valves)

In this book: Songs: Deck the Halls (52), Silent Night (56), Anchors Aweigh (63), The Star-Spangled Banner (64). Scales: Concert F (26), Concert G (28), Concert A (29), Concert B (30), Concert E (30). Chromatic scale (31).

C · C5

Sounds as concert F





Open (no valves)

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

Fingering: Open (no valves). Open, the same as low C and G, one step higher in the overtone series.

Alternate fingering: ① ② ③ Valves 2 and 3

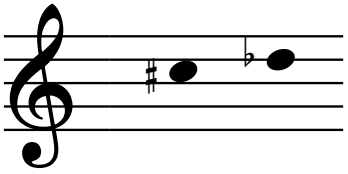
Half step below: B4 ① ② ③ Valve 2

Half step above: C♯5 / D♭5 ① ② ③ Valves 1 and 2

In this book: Songs: every song except Hot Cross Buns (32), Jolly Old Saint Nicholas (39), Yankee Doodle (58), Battle Hymn of the Republic (60), America the Beautiful (62). Scales: Concert B♭ (25), Concert F (26), Concert A♭ (26), Concert G♭ (28). Chromatic scale (31).

C♯ · C♯5 / D♭5

Sounds as concert G♭





Valves 1 and 2

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

Fingering: Valves 1 and 2.

Tuning: Valves 1 and 2 together are often slightly sharp. Most players lip the note down; a small push of the first valve slide helps on long notes if your mellophone has a trigger or saddle on that slide.

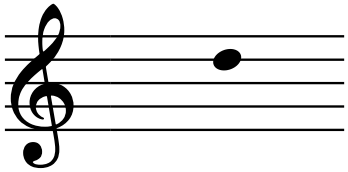
Half step below: C5 ① ② ③ Open (no valves)

Half step above: D5 ① ② ③ Valve 1

In this book: Scales: Concert G (28), Concert G♭ (28), Concert A (29), Concert B (30). Chromatic scale (31).

High D · D5

Sounds as concert G





Valve 1

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

Fingering: Valve 1.

Alternate fingering: ❶ ② ❸ Valves 1 and 3

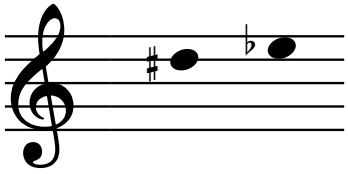
Half step below: C♯5 / D♭5 ❶ ❷ ③ Valves 1 and 2

Half step above: D♯5 / E♭5 ① ❷ ③ Valve 2

In this book: Songs: Twinkle Twinkle Little Star (34), Up on the Housetop (42), Auld Lang Syne (44), Joy to the World (45), The First Noel (46), O Christmas Tree (50), Deck the Halls (52), Angels We Have Heard on High (53), Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (54), Silent Night (56), My Country, 'Tis of Thee (59), Anchors Aweigh (63), The Star-Spangled Banner (64). Scales: Concert B♭ (25), Concert A♭ (26), Concert G (28). Chromatic scale (31).

E♭ · D♯5 / E♭5

Sounds as concert A♭





Valve 2

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

Fingering: Valve 2.

Alternate fingering: ① ❷ ❸ Valves 2 and 3

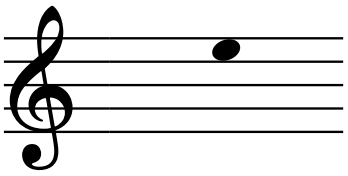
Half step below: D5 ❶ ② ③ Valve 1

Half step above: E5 ① ② ③ Open (no valves)

In this book: Scales: Concert A♭ (26), Concert A (29), Concert B (30). Chromatic scale (31).

High E · E5

Sounds as concert A





Open (no valves)

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

Fingering: Open (no valves). Open fingering on the top space. It can sit a little flat; listen and adjust.

Alternate fingerings: ❶ ❷ ③ Valves 1 and 2 ① ② ❸ Valve 3

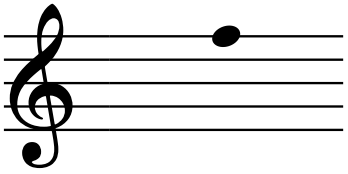
Half step below: D♯5 / E♭5 ① ❷ ③ Valve 2

Half step above: F5 ❶ ② ③ Valve 1

In this book: Songs: Joy to the World (45), The First Noel (46), Deck the Halls (52), Silent Night (56), Anchors Aweigh (63), The Star-Spangled Banner (64). Scales: Concert B♭ (25), Concert A (29). Chromatic scale (31).

High F · F5

Sounds as concert B♭





Valve 1

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

Fingering: Valve 1.

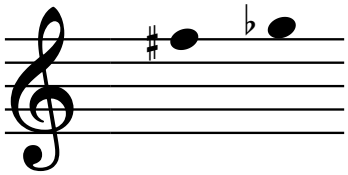
Half step below: E5 ① ② ③ Open (no valves)

Half step above: F♯5 / G♭5 ① ❷ ③ Valve 2

In this book: Songs: Joy to the World (45), The First Noel (46), Deck the Halls (52), Silent Night (56), The Star-Spangled Banner (64). Scales: Concert B♭ (25), Concert B (30). Chromatic scale (31).

High F♯ · F♯5 / G♭5

Sounds as concert B





Valve 2

High F♯ on the mellophone 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.

Fingering: Valve 2.

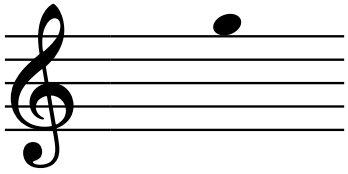
Half step below: F5 (1) (2) (3) Valve 1

Half step above: G5 (1) (2) (3) Open (no valves)

In this book: Scales: Concert B (30).

High G · G5

Sounds as concert C





Open (no valves)

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

Fingering: Open (no valves).

Alternate fingering: (1) (2) (3) Valves 1 and 3

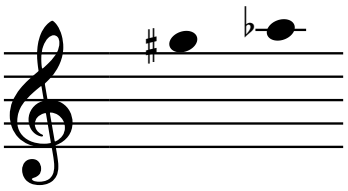
Half step below: F♯5 / G♭5 (1) (2) (3) Valve 2

Half step above: G♯5 / A♭5 (1) (2) (3) Valves 2 and 3

In this book: Songs: The Star-Spangled Banner (64).

High A♭ · G♯5 / A♭5

Sounds as concert D♭





Valves 2 and 3

High A♭ on the mellophone 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.

Fingering: Valves 2 and 3.

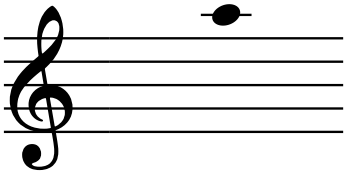
Half step below: G5 ① ② ③ Open (no valves)

Half step above: A5 ❶ ❷ ③ Valves 1 and 2

In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 7.

High A · A5

Sounds as concert D





Valves 1 and 2

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

Fingering: Valves 1 and 2.

Alternate fingering: ① ② ❸ Valve 3

Tuning: Valves 1 and 2 together are often slightly sharp. Most players lip the note down; a small push of the first valve slide helps on long notes if your mellophone has a trigger or saddle on that slide.

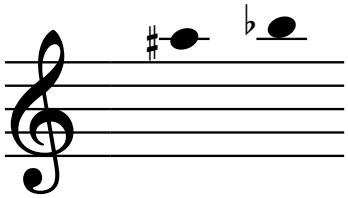
Half step below: G♯5 / A♭5 ① ❷ ❸ Valves 2 and 3

Half step above: A♯5 / B♭5 ❶ ② ③ Valve 1

In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 7.

High B♭ · A♯5 / B♭5

Sounds as concert E♭





Valve 1

High B♭ on the mellophone 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.

Fingering: Valve 1.

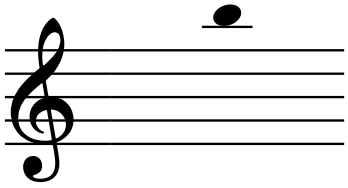
Half step below: A5  Valves 1 and 2

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 7.

High B · B5

Sounds as concert E





Valve 2

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

Fingering: Valve 2.

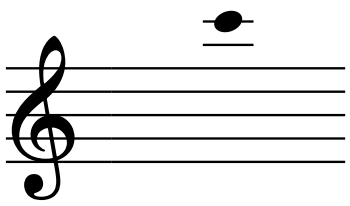
Half step below: A♯5 / B♭5  Valve 1

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 7.

High C · C6

Sounds as concert F



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

Fingering: Open (no valves).

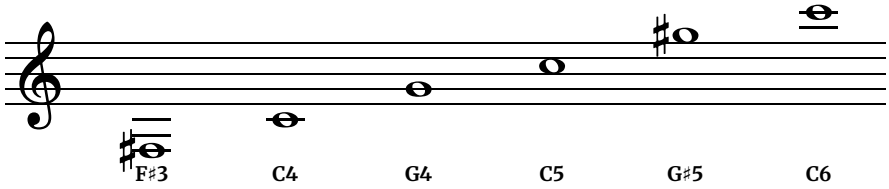
Half step below: B5  Valve 2

In this book: Not used in the songs or one-octave scales; it is on the chart on page 7.



Open (no valves)

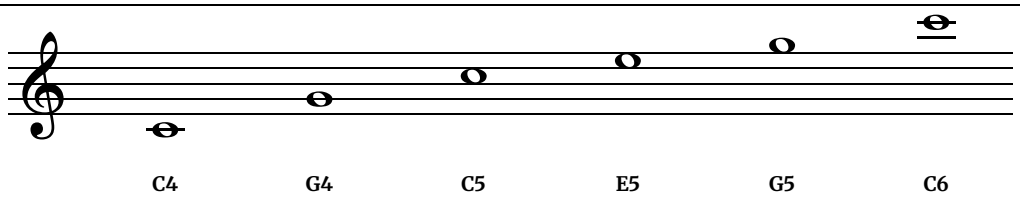
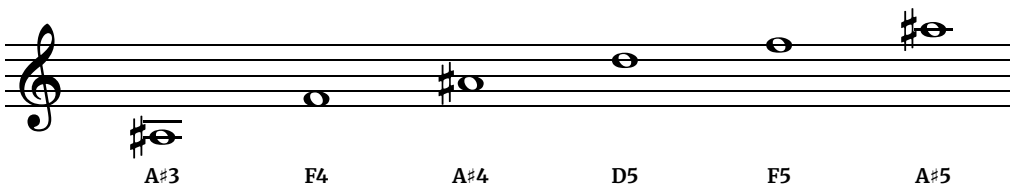
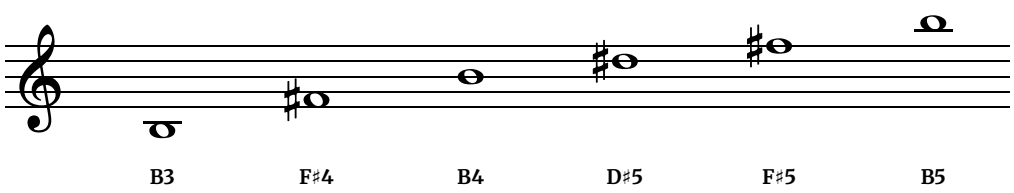
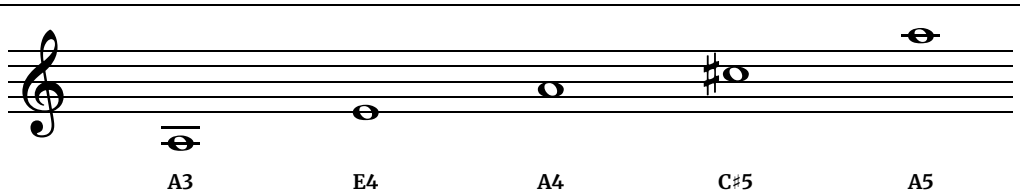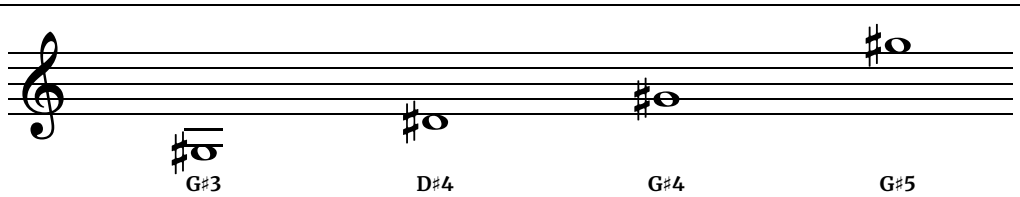
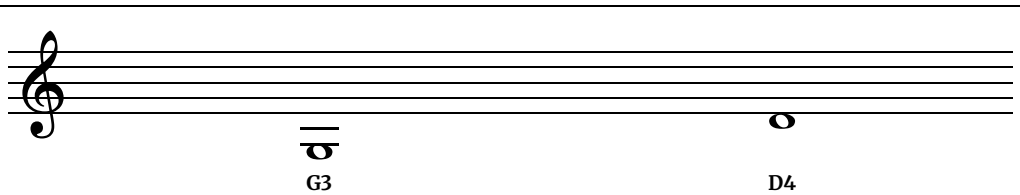
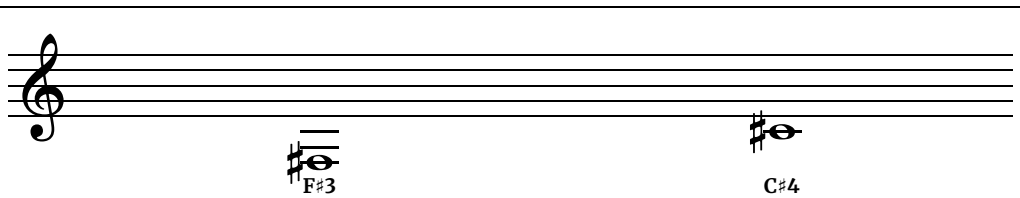
Range and Where to Start



Mellophone shares the trumpet's written range in this book, F♯3 to C6, but it is pitched in F, so every written note sounds a perfect fifth lower: written C sounds as concert F, and written low F♯ sounds as concert B2, about 123 Hz. Marching parts mostly sit between written C4 and the G on top of the staff. Players coming from trumpet start wherever they left off. New players usually begin around written C4 to G4, then move up. The top notes, from G♯5 to C6, are marked Advanced on the chart.

Same Fingering, Different Notes

As on trumpet, several written notes share a fingering: C4, G4, C5, E5 and G5 are all open, and the right one comes from your lips and air.

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

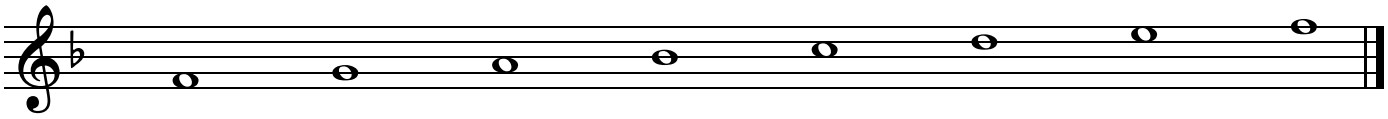
Only the main fingerings are shown. Sharps are shown here; each one is also its flat (C♯4 is D♭4). When notes share a fingering, sing or buzz the pitch first so your lips are ready for the right one.

The 12 Major Scales

Band directors usually call scales by their concert name, so the whole band plays the same pitches. On mellophone 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.

Concert B♭ major · written F major

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

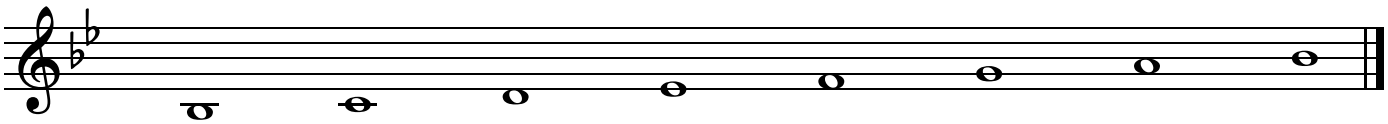


VALVES	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3
NOTE	F4	G4	A4	B♭4	C5	D5	E5	F5

E5: Open fingering on the top space. It can sit a little flat; listen and adjust.

Concert E♭ major · written B♭ major

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

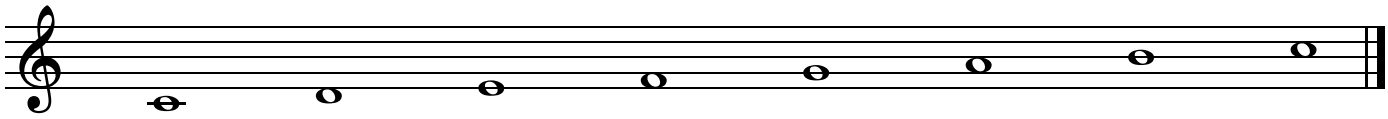


VALVES	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3
NOTE	B♭3	C4	D4	E♭4	F4	G4	A4	B♭4

D4: This fingering plays sharp. Lip it down, or push the first valve slide out if your mellophone has a trigger or saddle on that slide.

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).

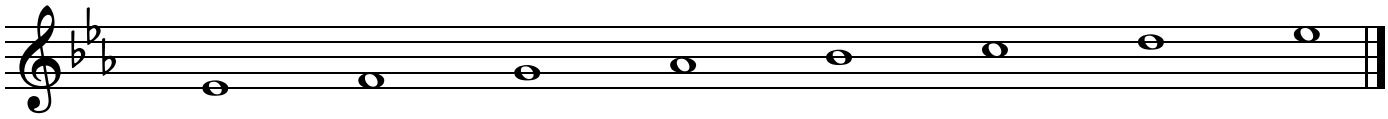


VALVES	① ② ③	● ② ●	● ● ③	● ② ③	① ② ③	● ● ③	① ● ③	① ② ③
NOTE	C4	D4	E4	F4	G4	A4	B4	C5

D4: This fingering plays sharp. Lip it down, or push the first valve slide out if your mellophone has a trigger or saddle on that slide.

Concert A♭ major · written E♭ major

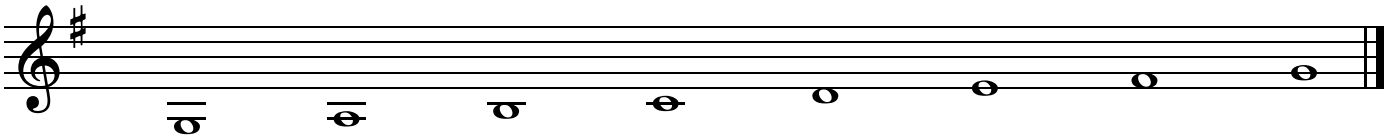
When the band plays concert A♭ major, you play E♭ major (3 flats in the key signature).



VALVES	① ● ●	● ② ●	① ② ③	① ● ●	● ② ③	① ② ③	● ② ●	① ● 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).

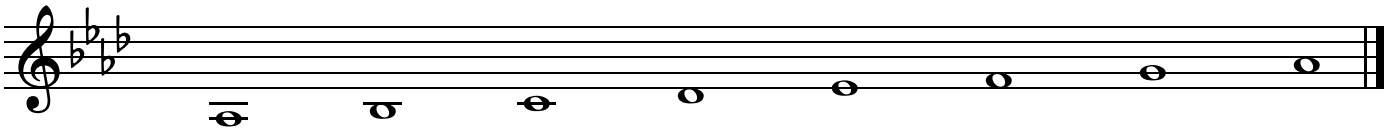


VALVES	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3
NOTE	G3	A3	B3	C4	D4	E4	F♯4	G4

G3: This fingering plays sharp. Lip it down, or push the first valve slide out if your mellophone has a trigger or saddle on that slide. **D4:** This fingering plays sharp. Lip it down, or push the first valve slide out if your mellophone has a trigger or saddle on that slide.

Concert D♭ major · written A♭ major

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



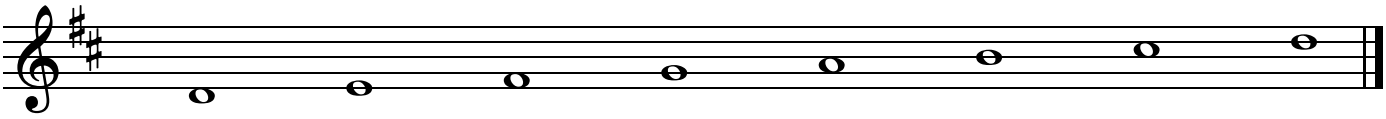
VALVES	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3
NOTE	A♭3	B♭3	C4	D♭4	E♭4	F4	G4	A♭4

D♭4: This fingering plays sharp. Lip it down, or push the first valve slide out if your mellophone has a trigger or saddle on that slide.

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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).

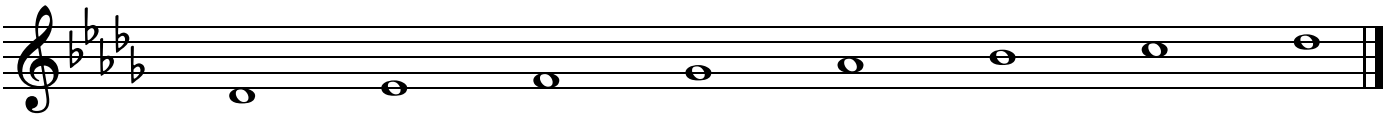


VALVES	1 2 3	1 2	2 3	1 3	1 2 3	2 3	1 2	1 2 3
NOTE	D4	E4	F♯4	G4	A4	B4	C♯5	D5

D4: This fingering plays sharp. Lip it down, or push the first valve slide out if your mellophone has a trigger or saddle on that slide.

Concert G♭ major · written D♭ major

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

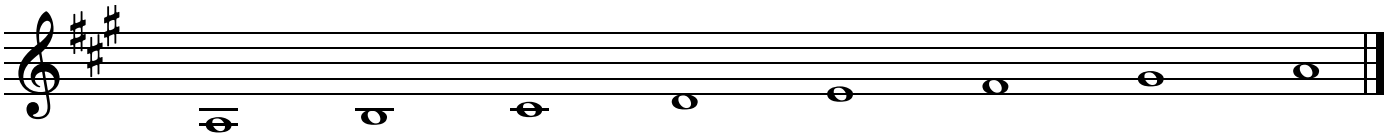


VALVES	1 2 3	2 3	1 3	1 2 3	2 3	1 2 3	2 3	1 2 3
NOTE	D♭4	E♭4	F4	G♭4	A♭4	B♭4	C5	D♭5

D♭4: This fingering plays sharp. Lip it down, or push the first valve slide out if your mellophone has a trigger or saddle on that slide.

Concert D major · written A major

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

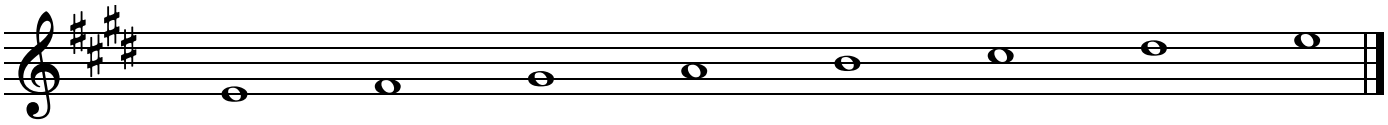


VALVES	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3
NOTE	A3	B3	C♯4	D4	E4	F♯4	G♯4	A4

C♯4: This fingering plays sharp. Lip it down, or push the first valve slide out if your mellophone has a trigger or saddle on that slide. **D4:** This fingering plays sharp. Lip it down, or push the first valve slide out if your mellophone has a trigger or saddle on that slide.

Concert A major · written E major

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



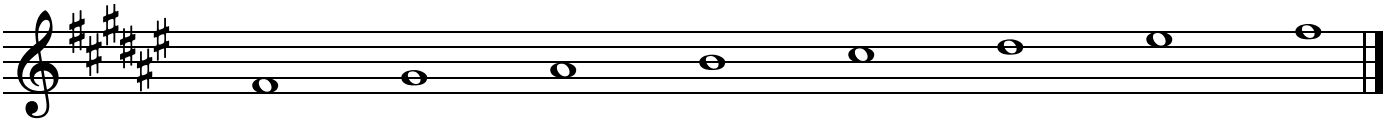
VALVES	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3
NOTE	E4	F♯4	G♯4	A4	B4	C♯5	D♯5	E5

E5: Open fingering on the top space. It can sit a little flat; listen and adjust.

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Concert B major · written F♯ major

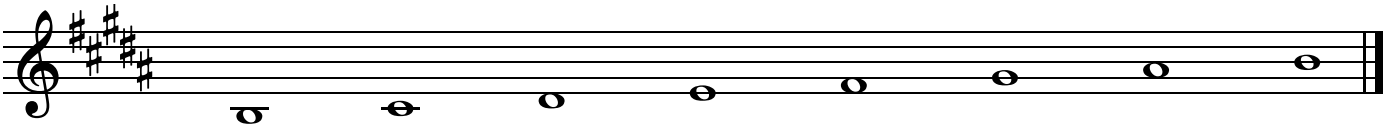
When the band plays concert B major, you play F♯ major (6 sharps in the key signature).



VALVES	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3
NOTE	F♯4	G♯4	A♯4	B4	C♯5	D♯5	E♯5	F♯5

Concert E major · written B major

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

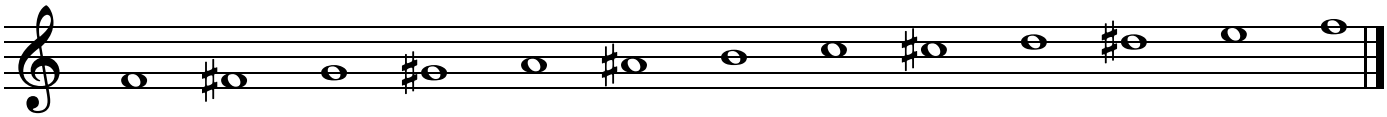


VALVES	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3
NOTE	B3	C♯4	D♯4	E4	F♯4	G♯4	A♯4	B4

C♯4: This fingering plays sharp. Lip it down, or push the first valve slide out if your mellophone has a trigger or saddle on that slide.

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).



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

How to Practice a Scale

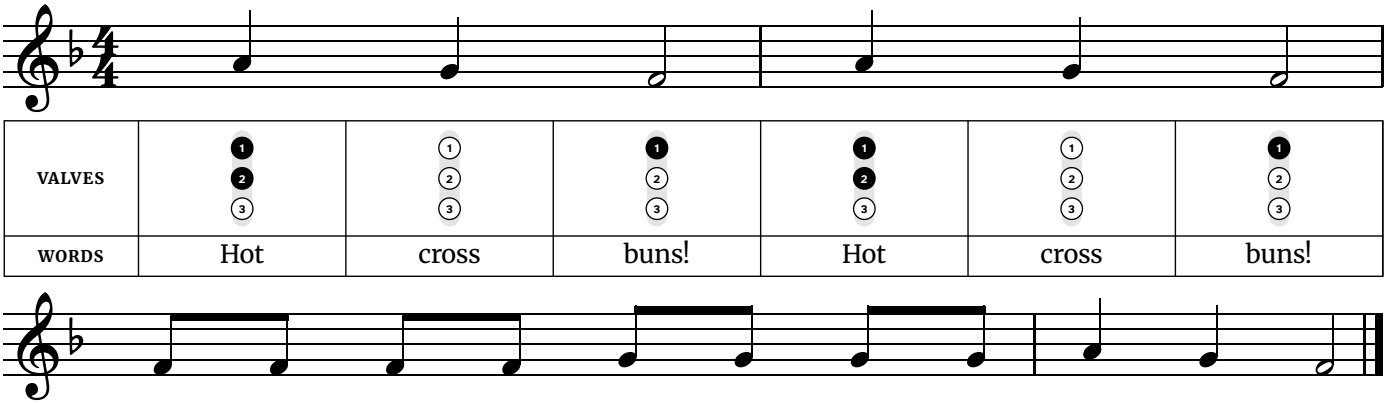
Play it slowly enough that every note is correct the first time, with a metronome. Tongue each note, then slur the whole octave in one breath. Raise the tempo only after three clean runs in a row.

Which Scales First

Mellophone parts are in F, so concert B♭ is written F major, concert E♭ is written B♭ major, and concert F is written C major. Add concert A♭, written E♭ major, after that. Written F major starts on the first space with valve 1 and climbs to F at the top of the staff. Play it slurred at a slow tempo and listen for the B♭ and C, where it crosses an open partial.

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.



VALVES	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3
WORDS	Hot	cross	buns!	Hot	cross	buns!

1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3
One	a	pen-	ny,	two	a	pen-	ny,	hot	cross	buns!

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

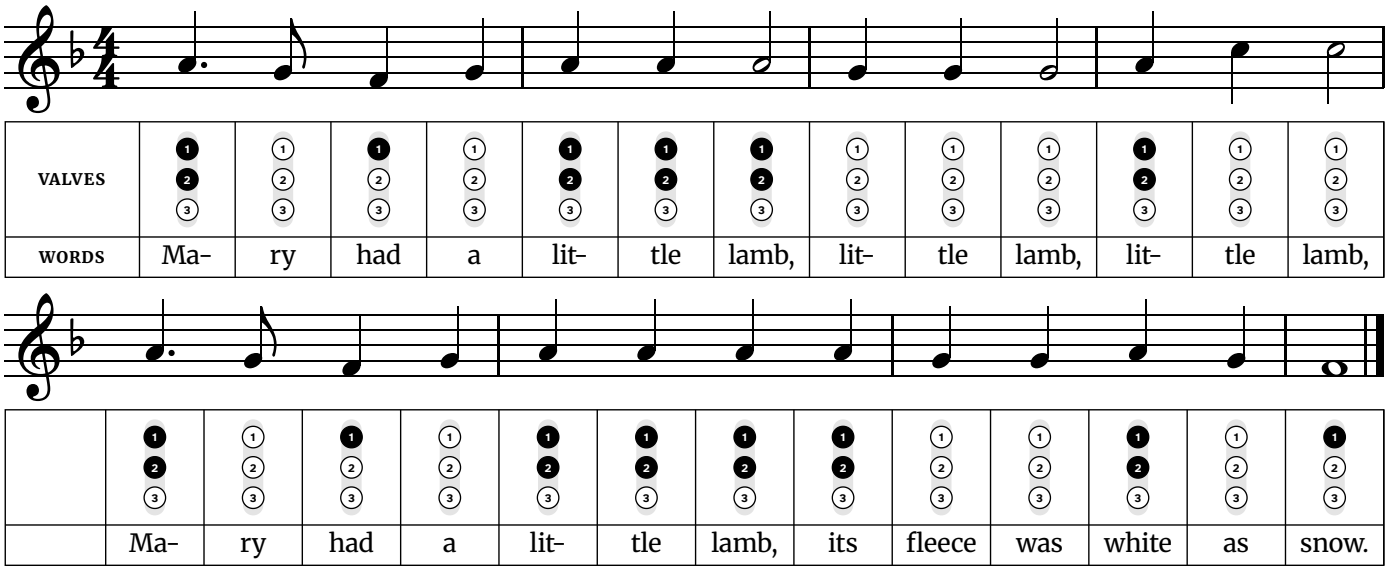
Tip: The widest jump is a major third, from F4 to A4. Every phrase walks down three notes and back. Use it to get clean finger changes between neighboring notes before you worry about speed.

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.



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.

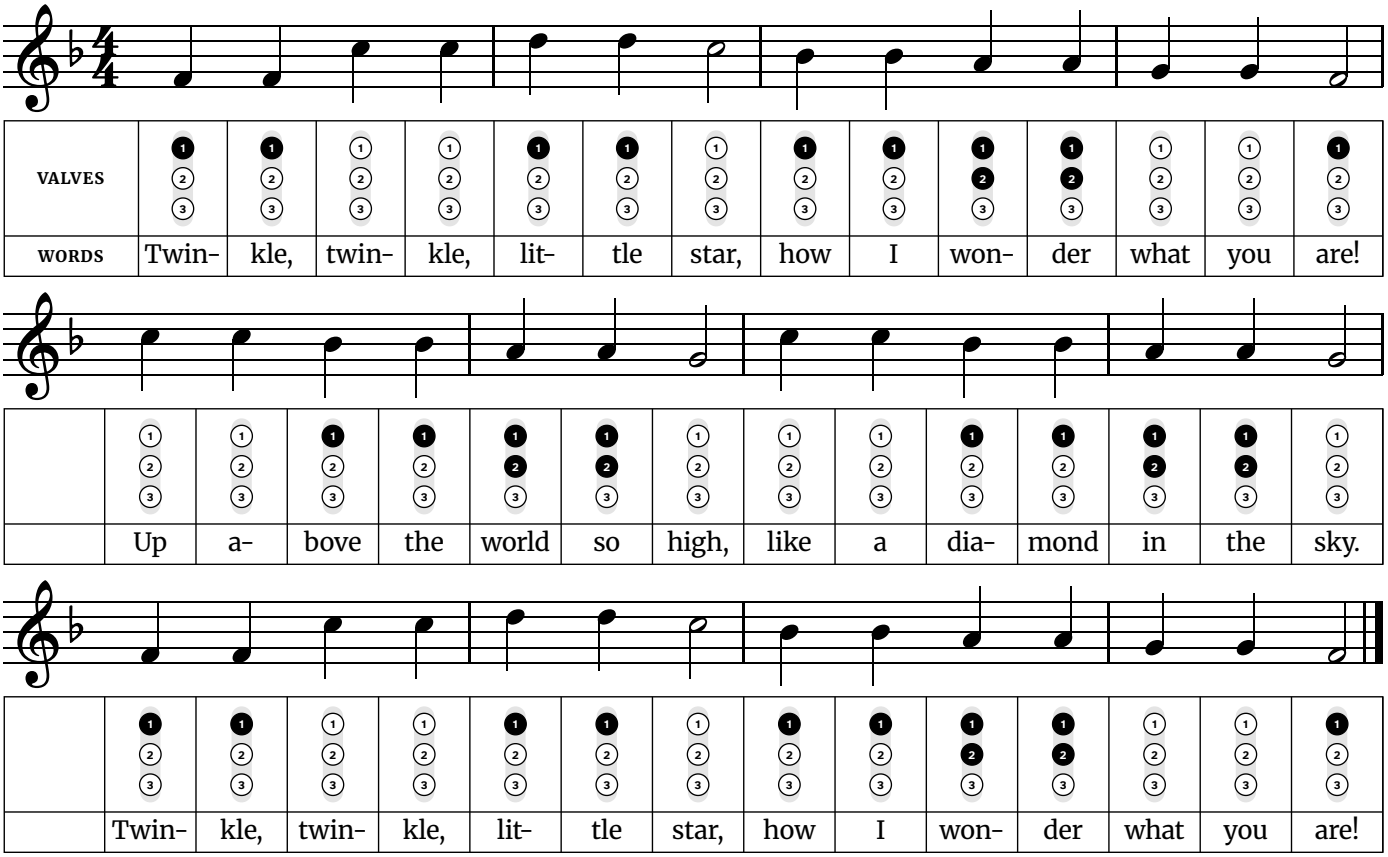
G4 and C5 have the same fingering: open (no valves). Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

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.



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** – Valve 1

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.

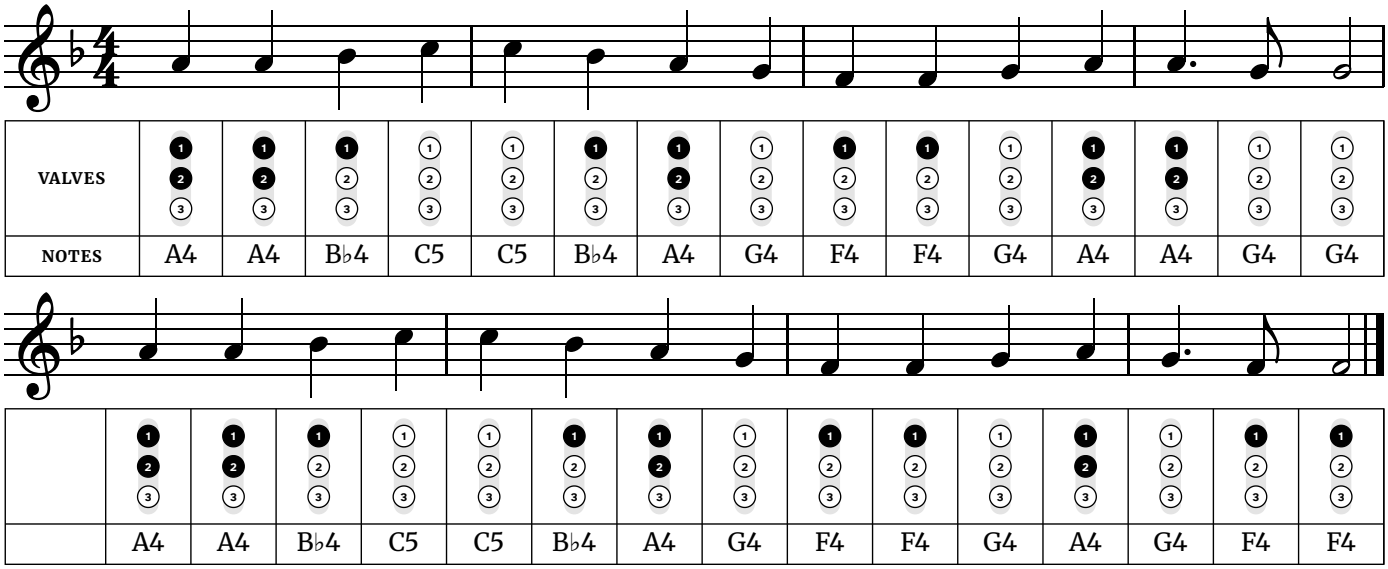
F4, B♭4 and D5 have the same fingering: valve 1. Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

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.

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.



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.

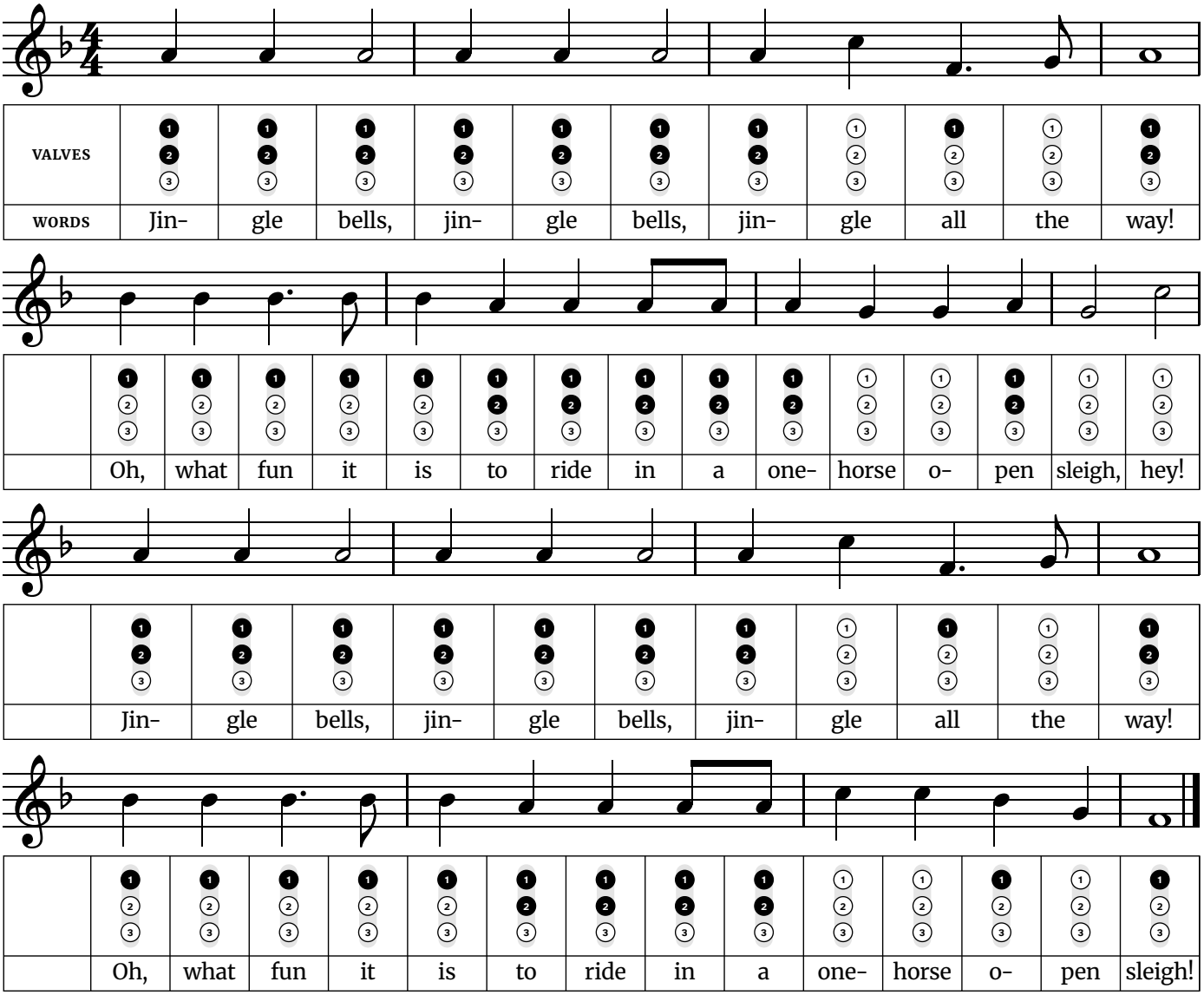
Hardest finger change: Going from A4 (valves 1 and 2) to G4 (open, no valves), 2 valves change. Press and lift the valves at exactly the same moment, with the fingertips staying on the valve caps. Practice just those two notes back and forth, slowly, before playing the whole line.

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

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Jingle Bells

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



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	

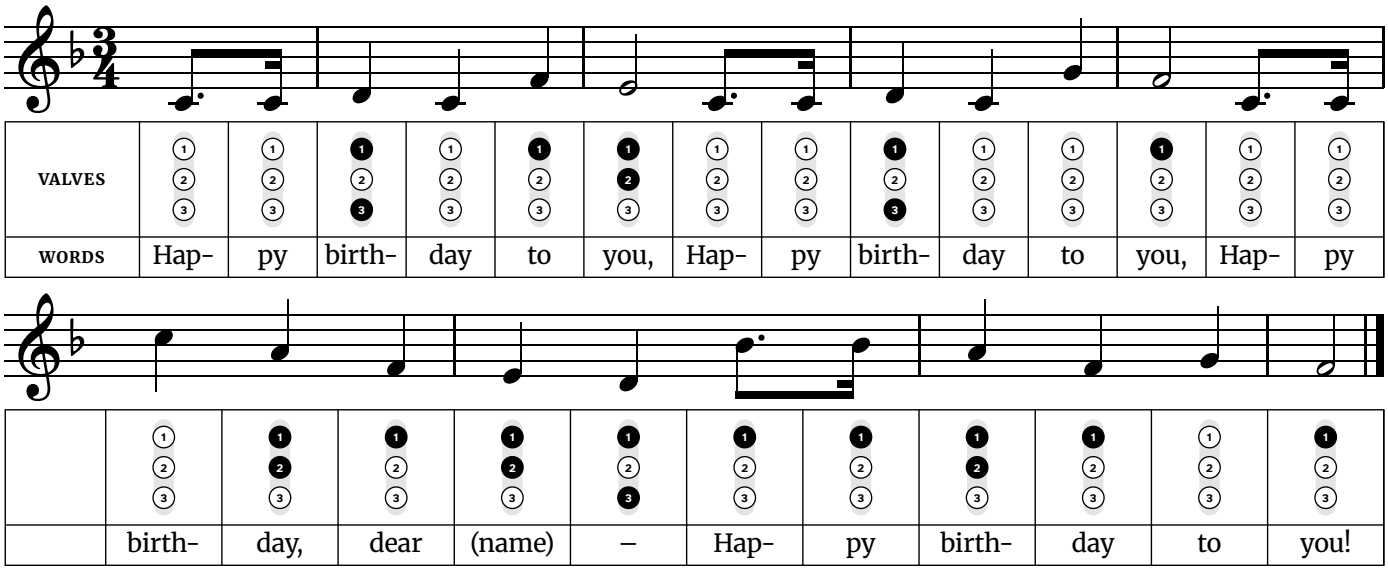
Tip: The widest jump is a fifth, from C5 to F4. The chorus repeats one note three times in a row more than once. Light, short tonguing keeps it bouncing; heavy tonguing makes it sound like marching.

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.



Fingerings used in this song	
C4 – Open (no valves)	**G4** – Open (no valves)
D4 – Valves 1 and 3	**A4** – Valves 1 and 2
E4 – Valves 1 and 2	**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.

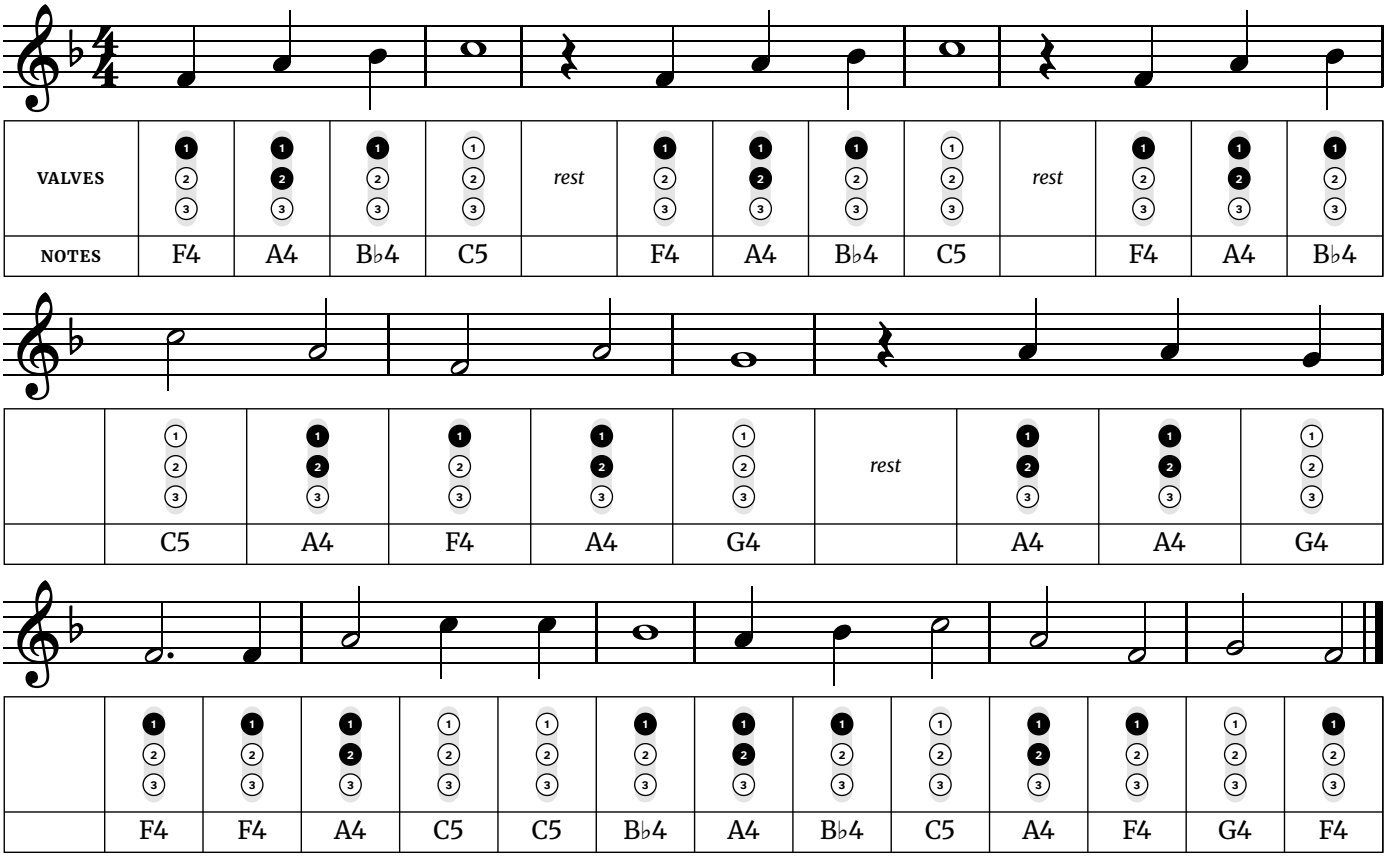
C4, G4 and C5 have the same fingering: open (no valves). Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

Hardest finger change: Going from C4 (open, no valves) to D4 (valves 1 and 3), 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.

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.



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.

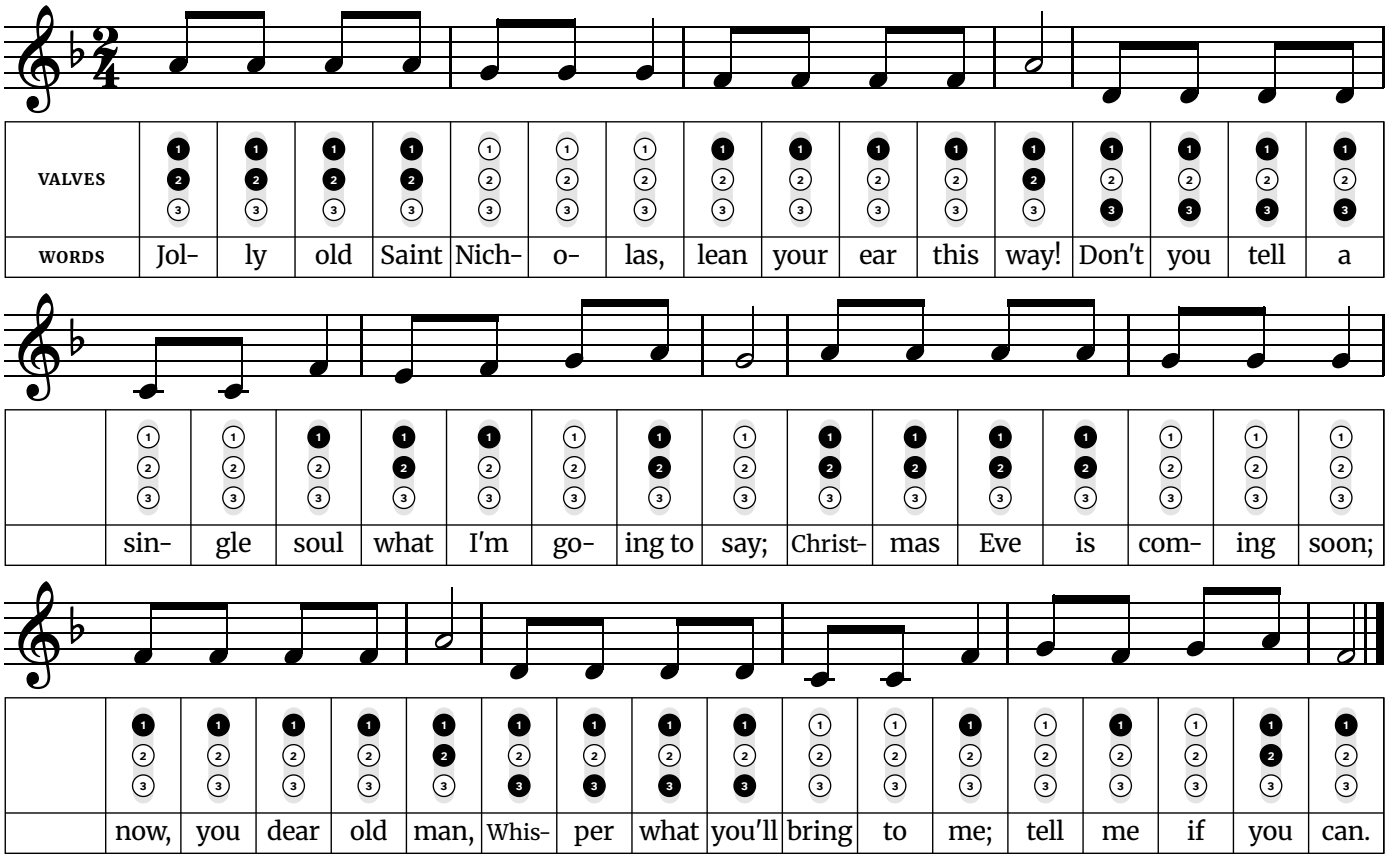
F4 and B♭4 have the same fingering: valve 1. Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

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



Fingerings used in this song	
C4 – Open (no valves)	**F4** – Valve 1
D4 – Valves 1 and 3	**G4** – Open (no valves)
E4 – Valves 1 and 2	**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 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.

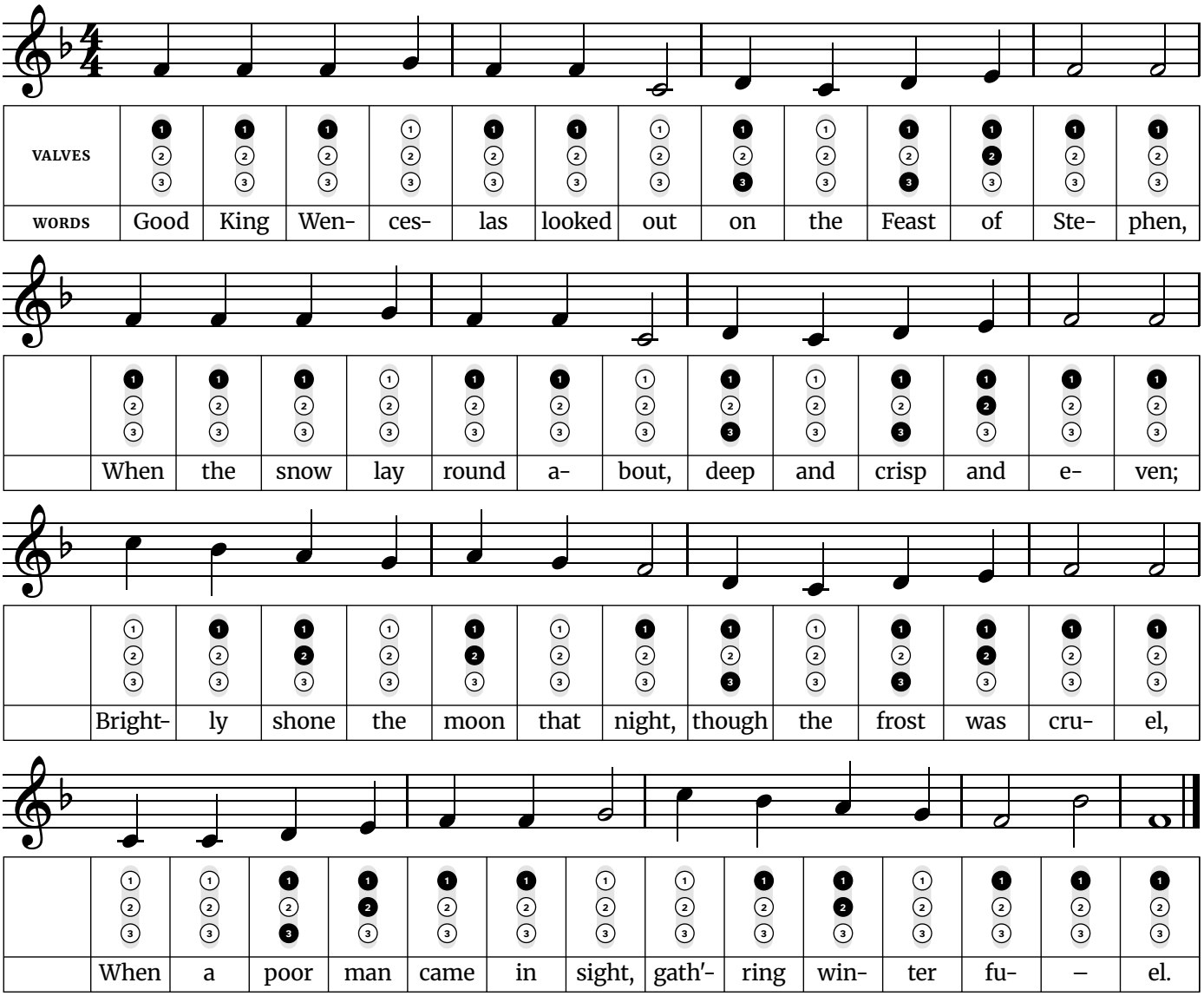
The widest jump is a fifth, down from A4 to D4 in line 3.

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



Fingerings used in this song	
C4 – Open (no valves)	**G4** – Open (no valves)
D4 – Valves 1 and 3	**A4** – Valves 1 and 2
E4 – Valves 1 and 2	**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, 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.

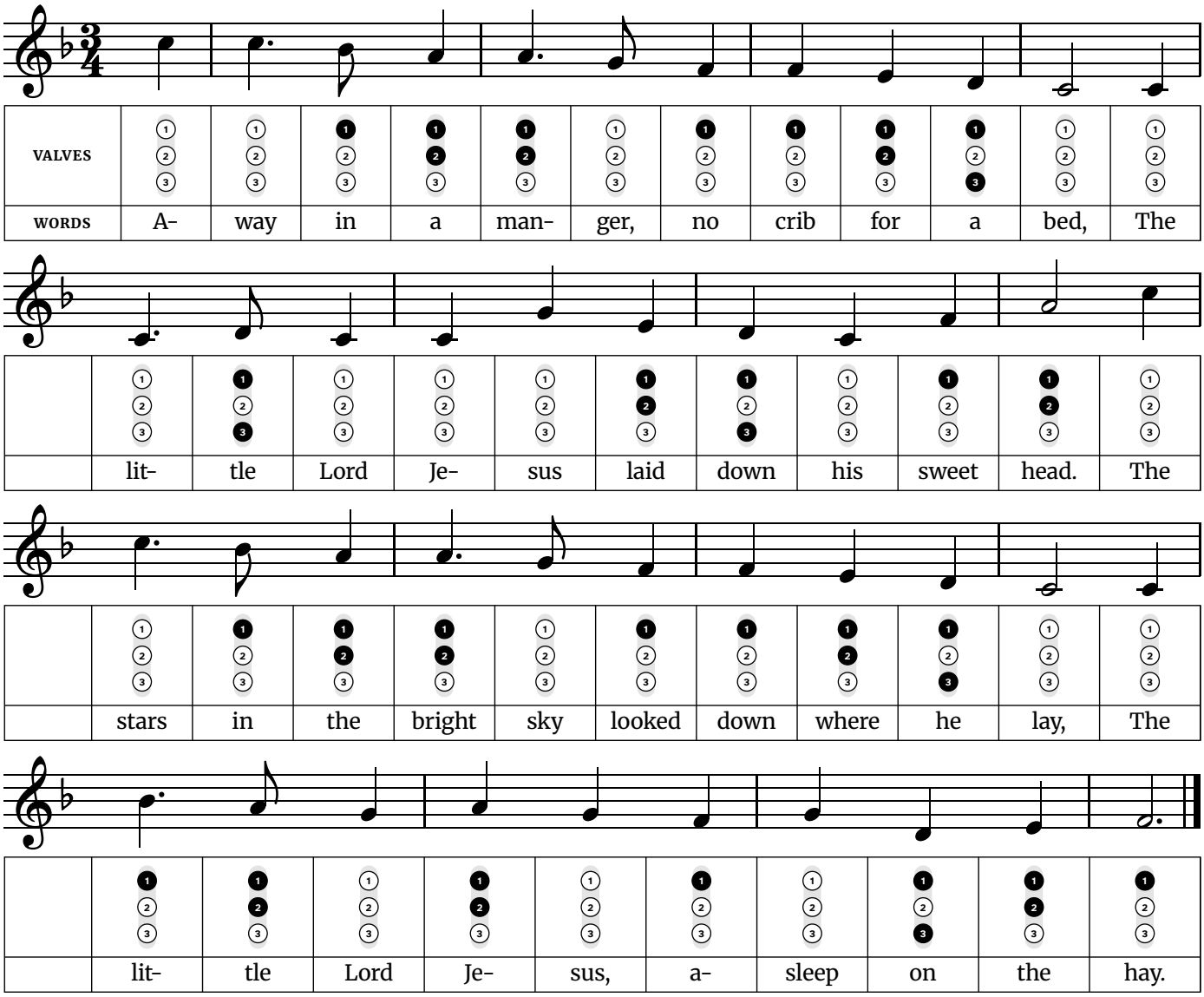
The widest jump is a fifth, up from F4 to C5 in line 3.

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

Christmas Songs

Away in a Manger

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



Fingerings used in this song	
C4 – Open (no valves)	**G4** – Open (no valves)
D4 – Valves 1 and 3	**A4** – Valves 1 and 2
E4 – Valves 1 and 2	**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, 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.

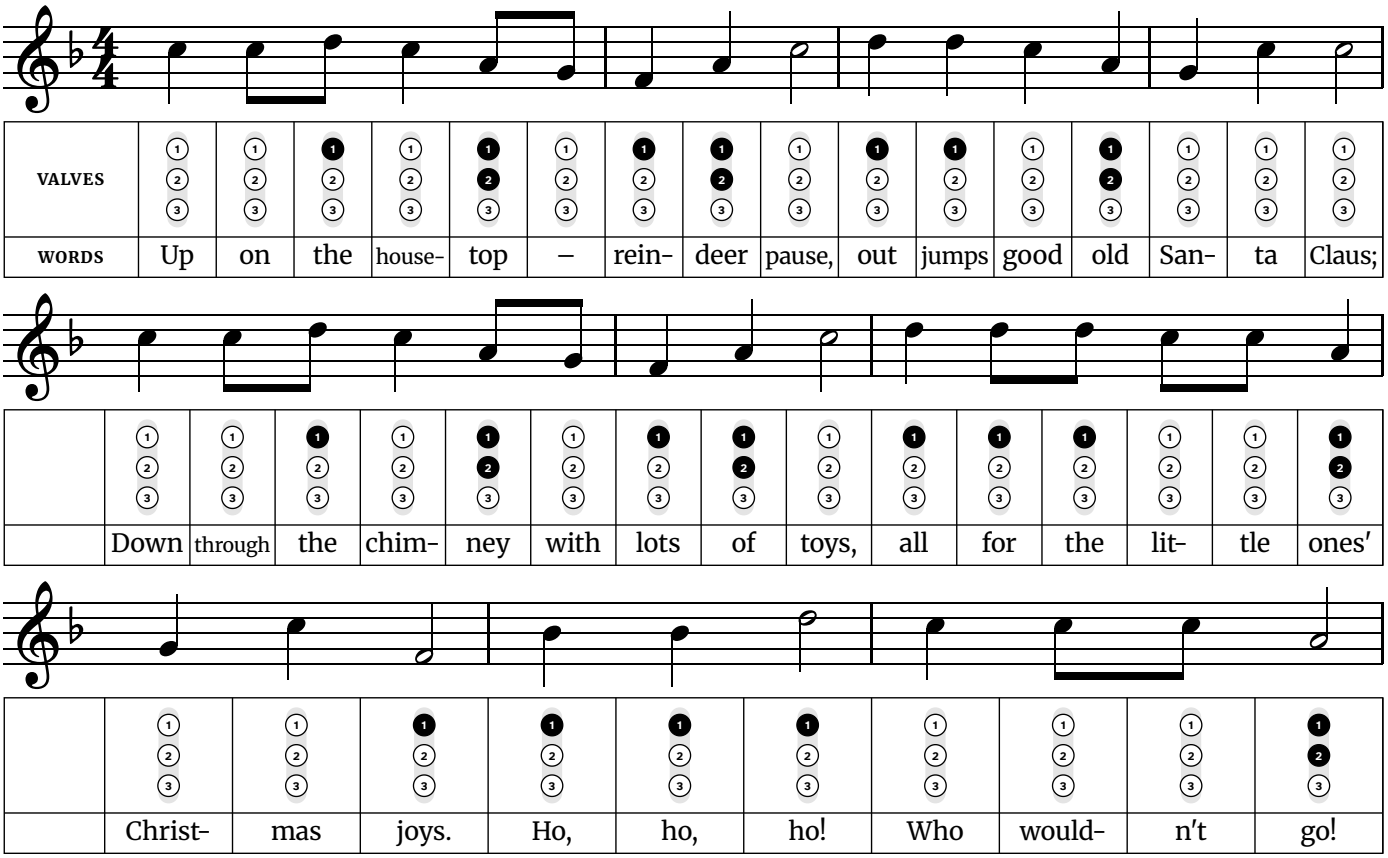
The widest jump is a minor seventh, up from C4 to B♭4 in line 4.

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

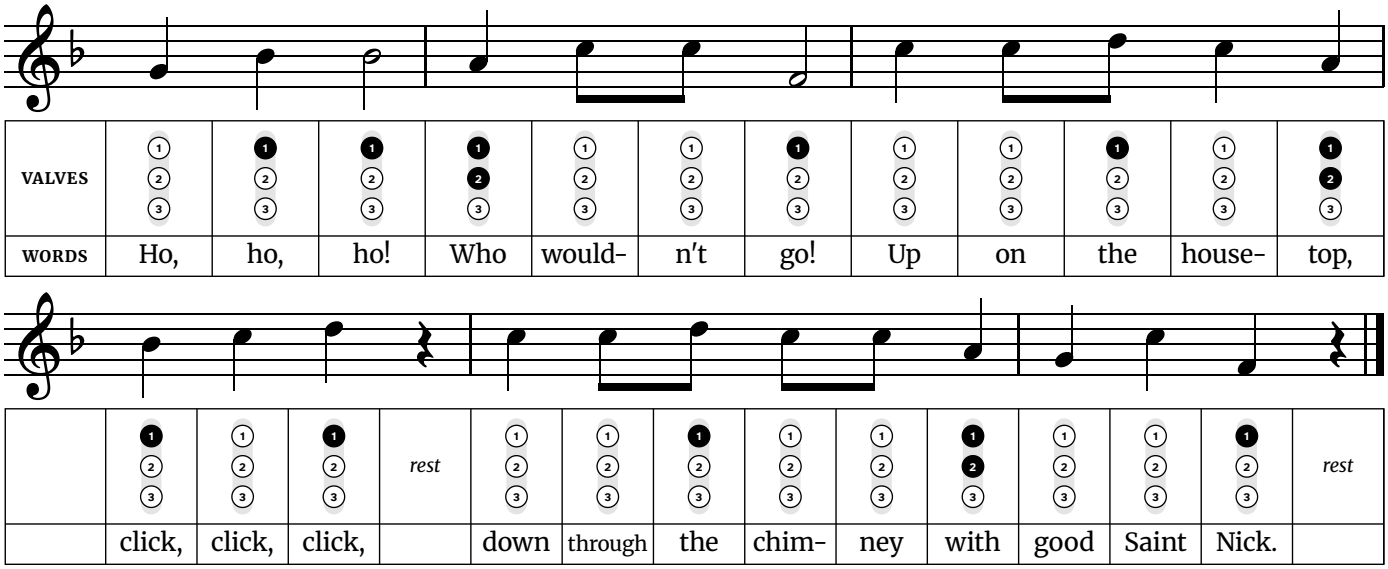
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Up on the Housetop

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



Up on the Housetop *(continued)*



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** – Valve 1

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.

F4, B♭4 and D5 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.

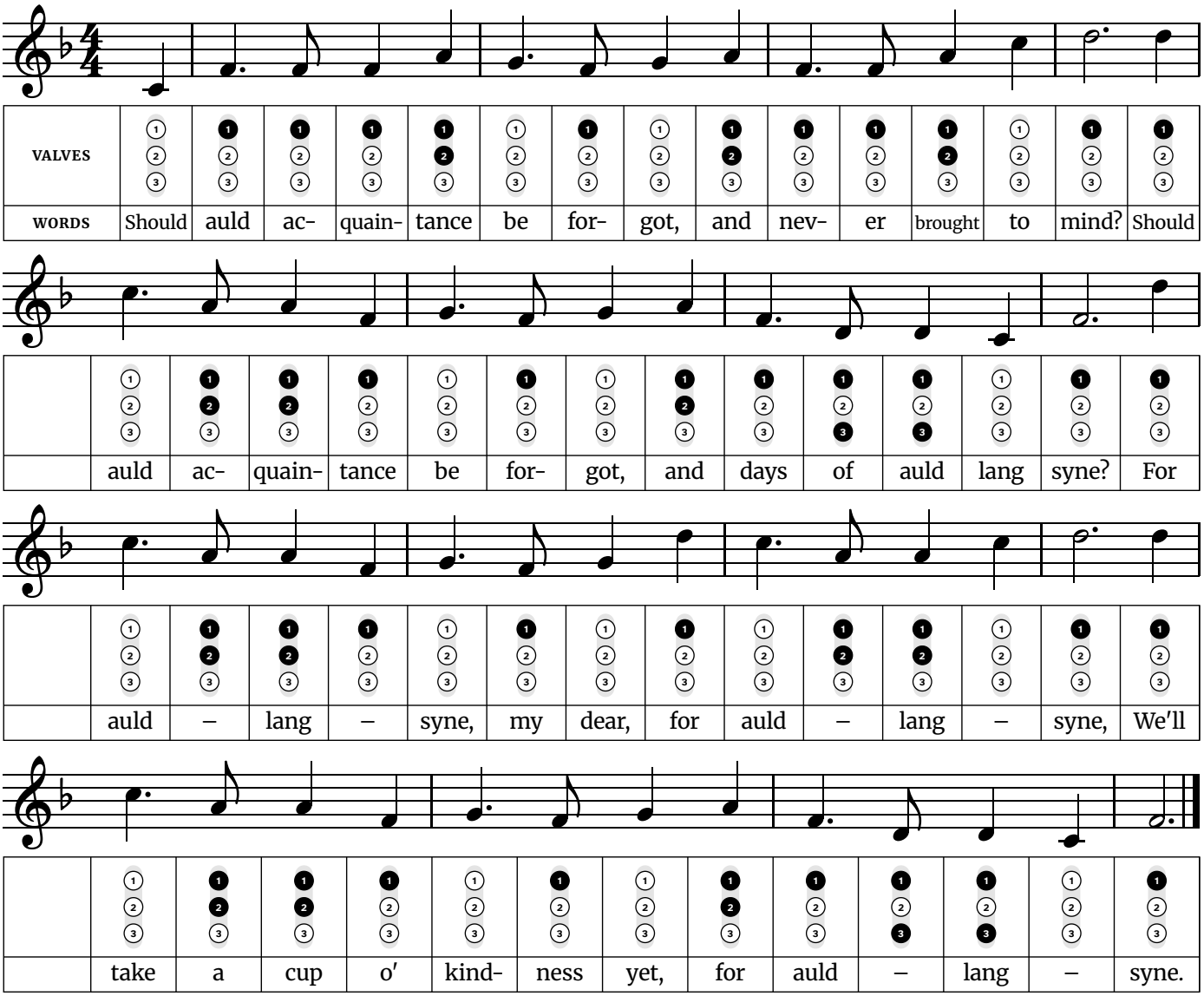
The widest jump is a fifth, down from C5 to F4 in line 5.

Words and music: Benjamin Hanby (1864).

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Auld Lang Syne

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



Fingerings used in this song	
C4 – Open (no valves)	**A4** – Valves 1 and 2
D4 – Valves 1 and 3	**C5** – Open (no valves)
F4 – Valve 1	**D5** – Valve 1
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.

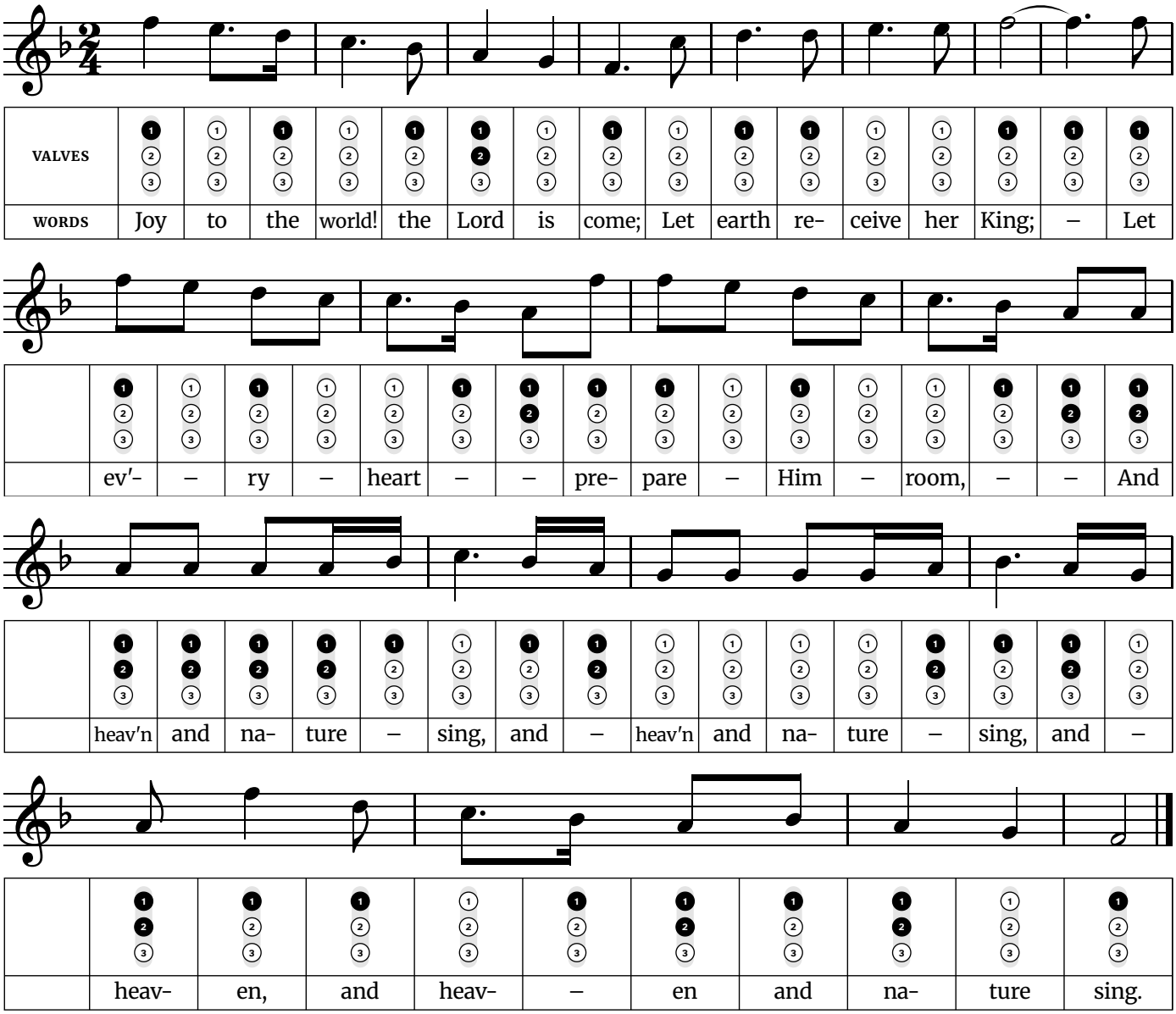
C4, G4 and C5 have the same fingering: open (no valves). Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

The widest jump is a sixth, up from F4 to D5 in line 2.

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



Fingerings used in this song	
F4 – Valve 1	**C5** – Open (no valves)
G4 – Open (no valves)	**D5** – Valve 1
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.

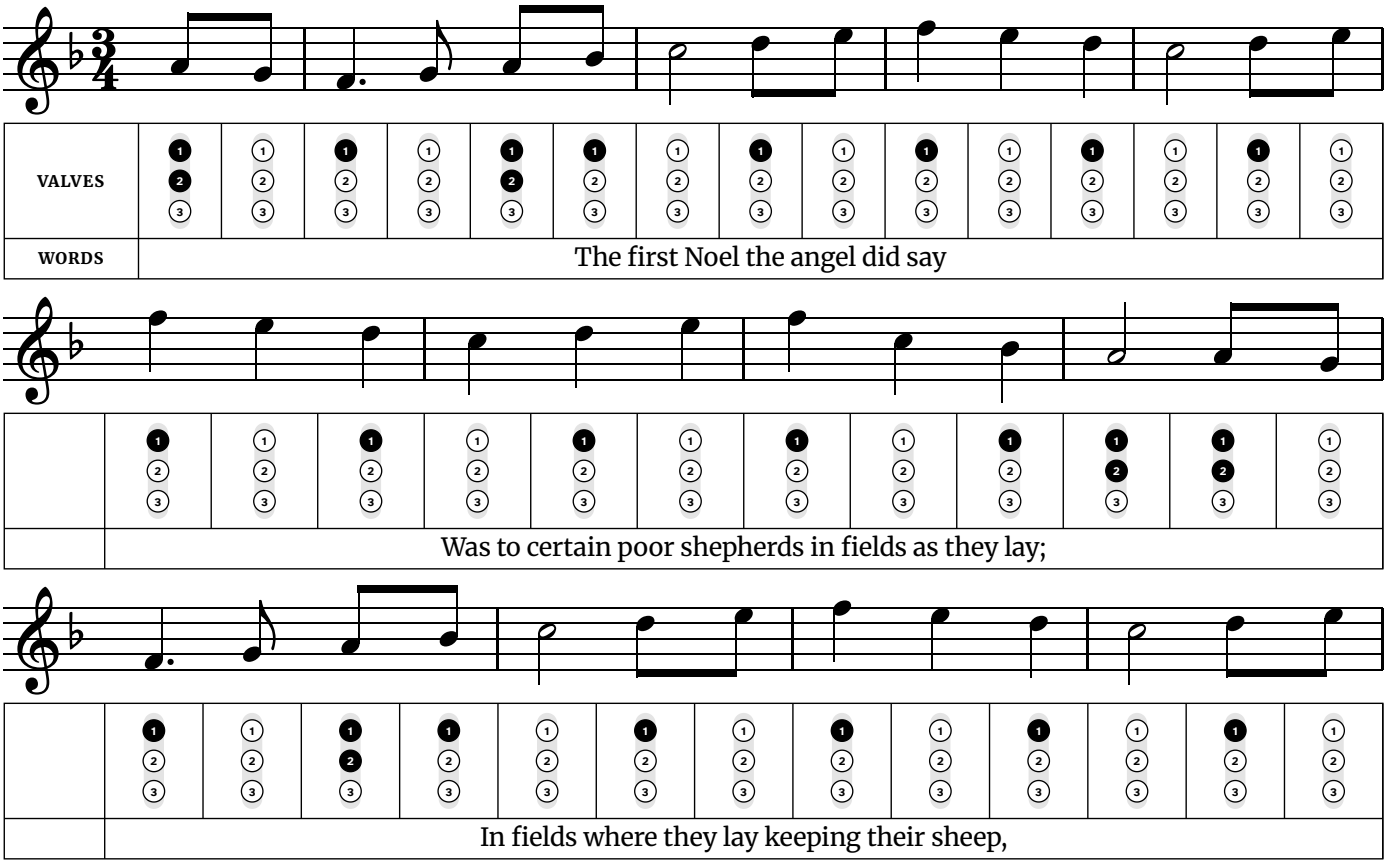
Words: Isaac Watts (1719). Music: "Antioch", arranged by Lowell Mason.

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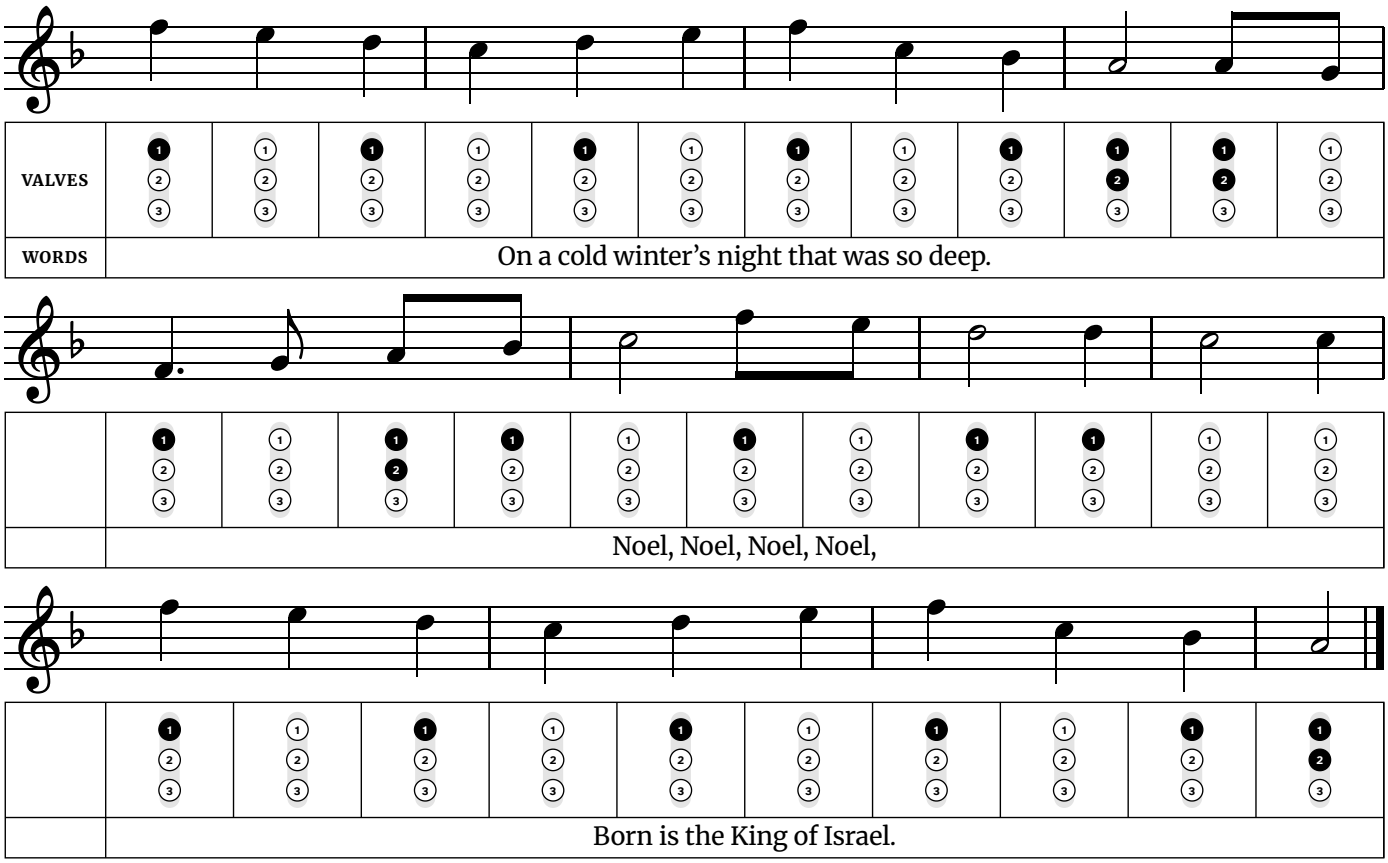
Christmas Songs

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)*



Fingerings used in this song	
F4 – Valve 1	**C5** – Open (no valves)
G4 – Open (no valves)	**D5** – Valve 1
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.

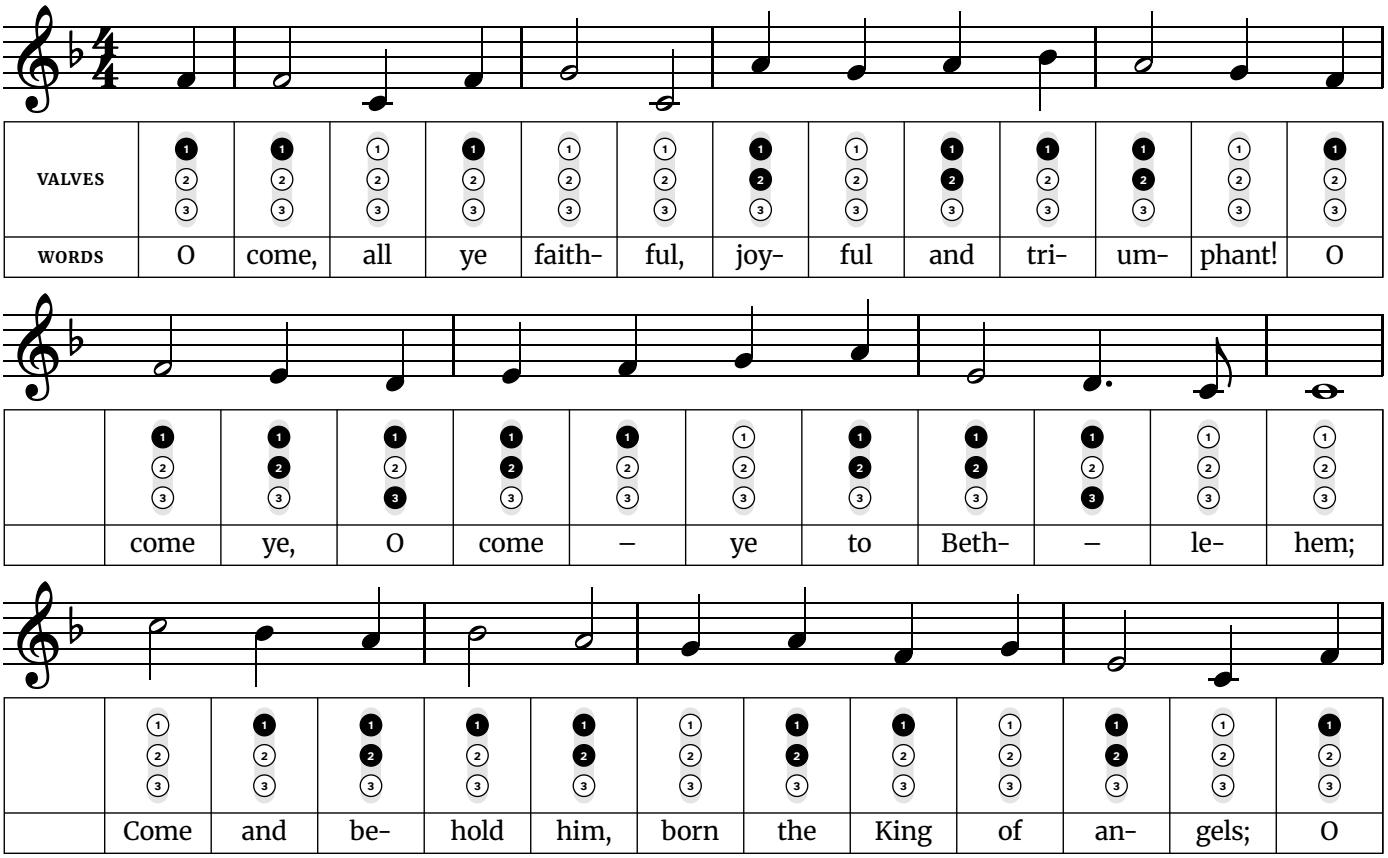
F4, B♭4, D5 and F5 have the same fingering: valve 1. Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

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

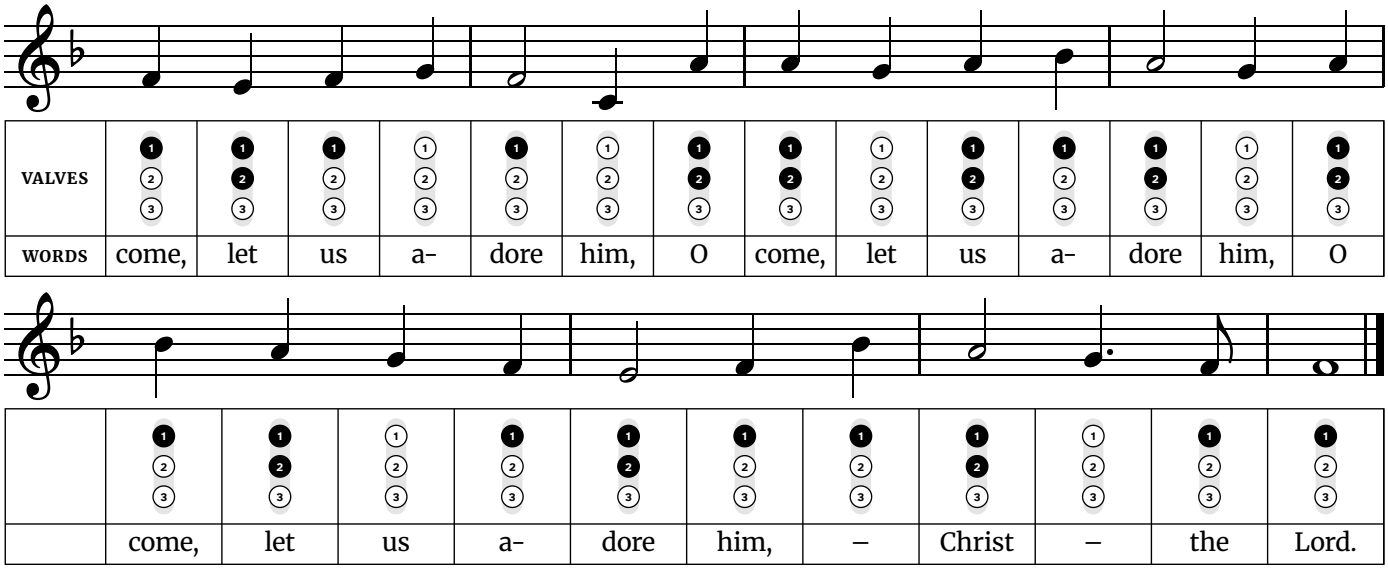


VALVES	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3
WORDS	O	come,	all	ye	faith-	ful,	joy-	ful	and	tri-	um-	phant!	O

	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3
	come	ye,	O	come	–	ye	to	Beth-	–	le-	hem;

	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3
	Come	and	be-	hold	him,	born	the	King	of	an-	gels;	O

O Come, All Ye Faithful *(continued)*



Fingerings used in this song	
C4 – Open (no valves)	**G4** – Open (no valves)
D4 – Valves 1 and 3	**A4** – Valves 1 and 2
E4 – Valves 1 and 2	**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, 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.

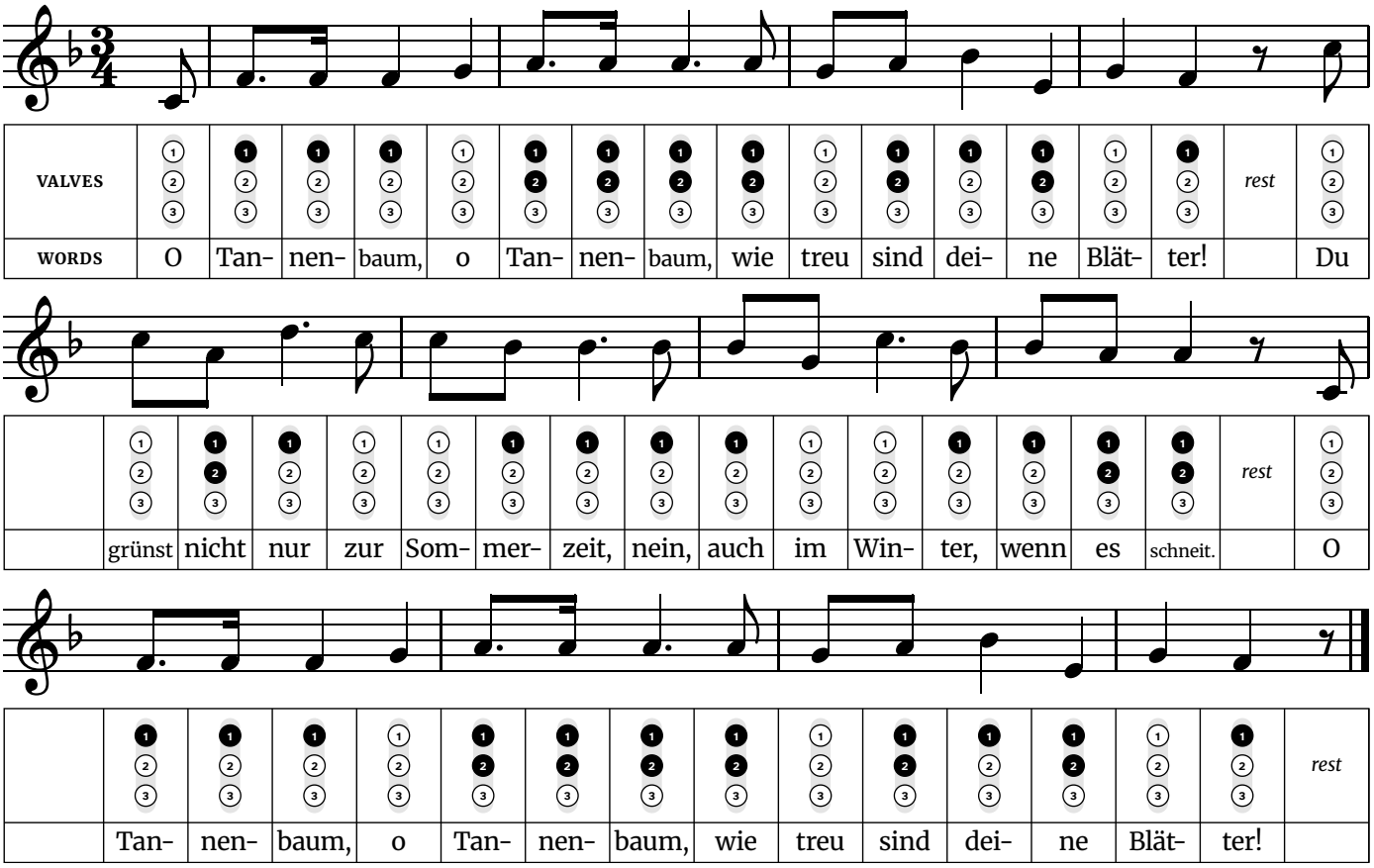
The widest jump is an octave, up from C4 to C5 in line 3.

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



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

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.

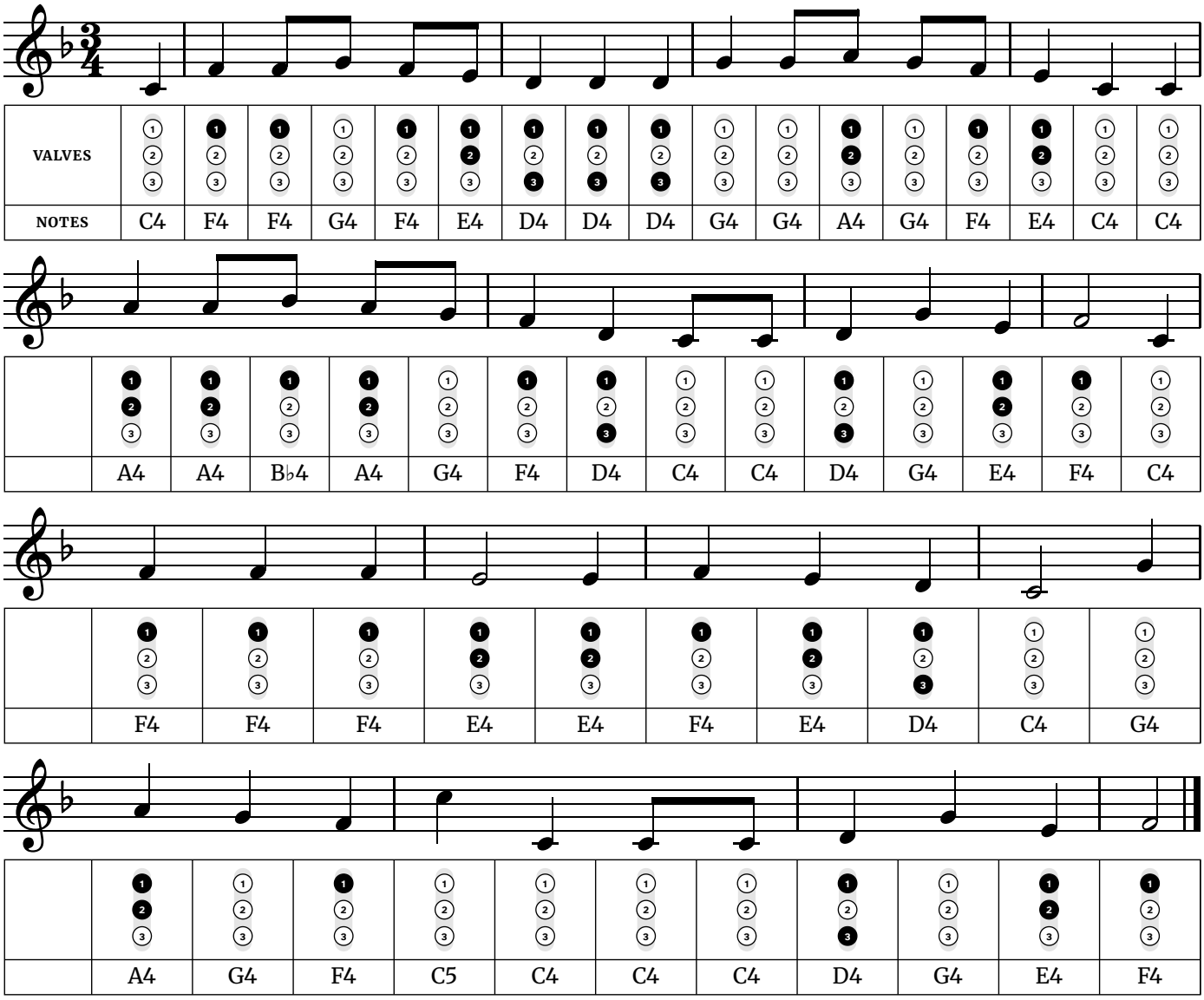
C4, G4 and C5 have the same fingering: open (no valves). Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

The widest jump is 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



Fingerings used in this song	
C4 – Open (no valves)	**G4** – Open (no valves)
D4 – Valves 1 and 3	**A4** – Valves 1 and 2
E4 – Valves 1 and 2	**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, 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.

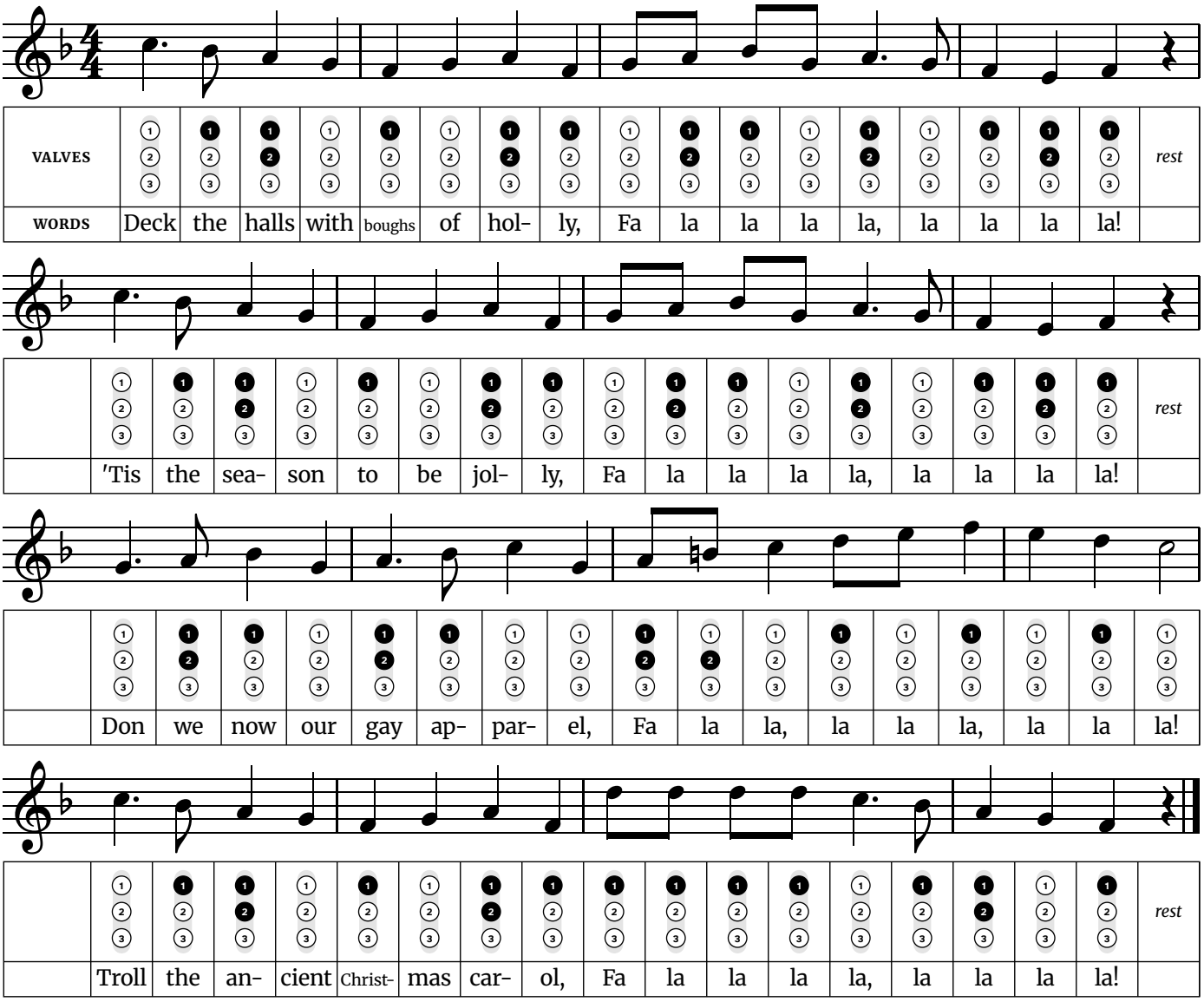
Music: English traditional (West Country). Words not shown.

Free at thefingeringchart.com

Christmas Songs

Deck the Halls

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



Fingerings used in this song		
E4 – Valves 1 and 2	**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** – Valve 1	

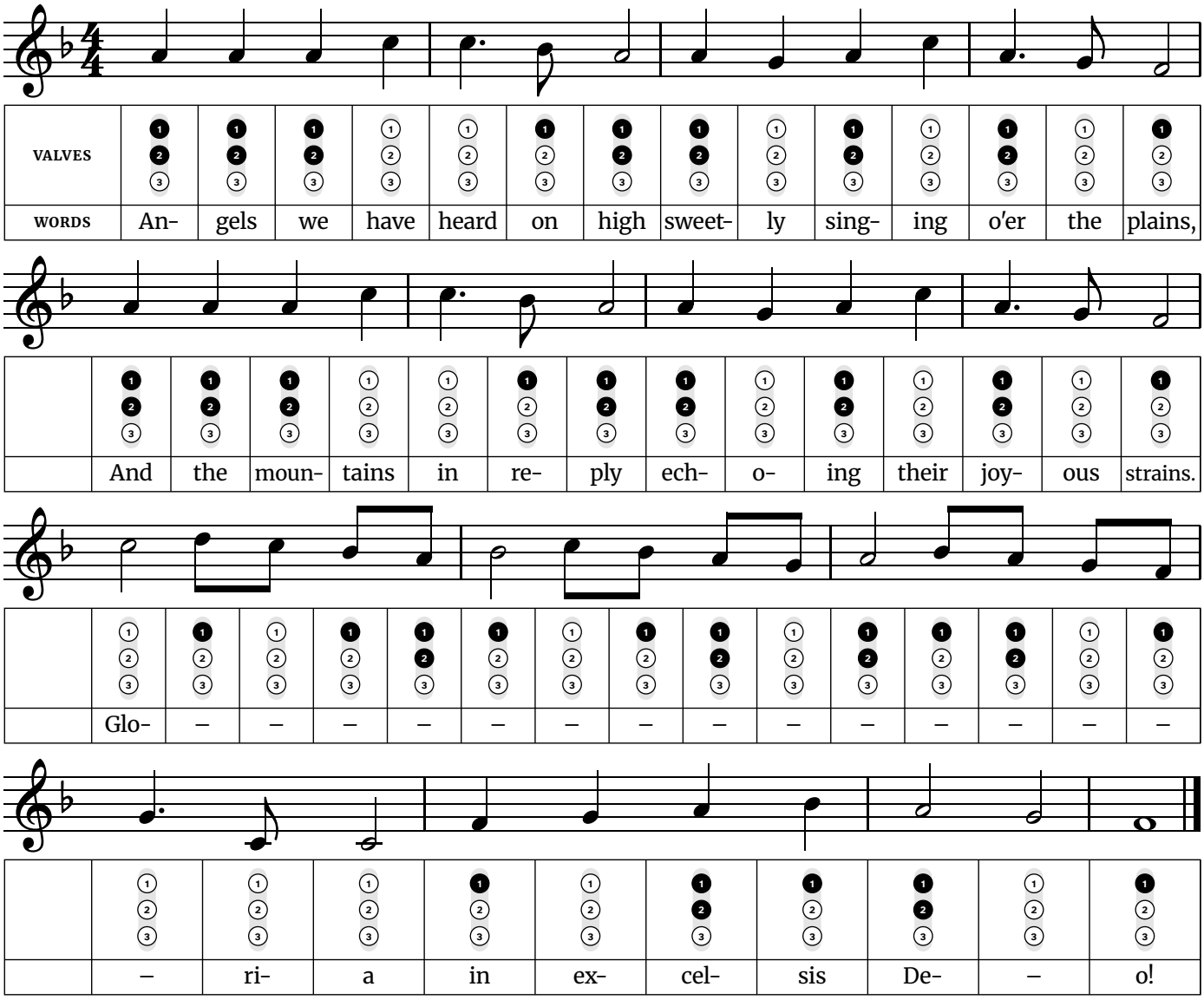
Tip: The third phrase climbs to the highest note of the carol in one long run of fa-las. Take a full breath before it and play it as one phrase.

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



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** – Valve 1
A4 – Valves 1 and 2	

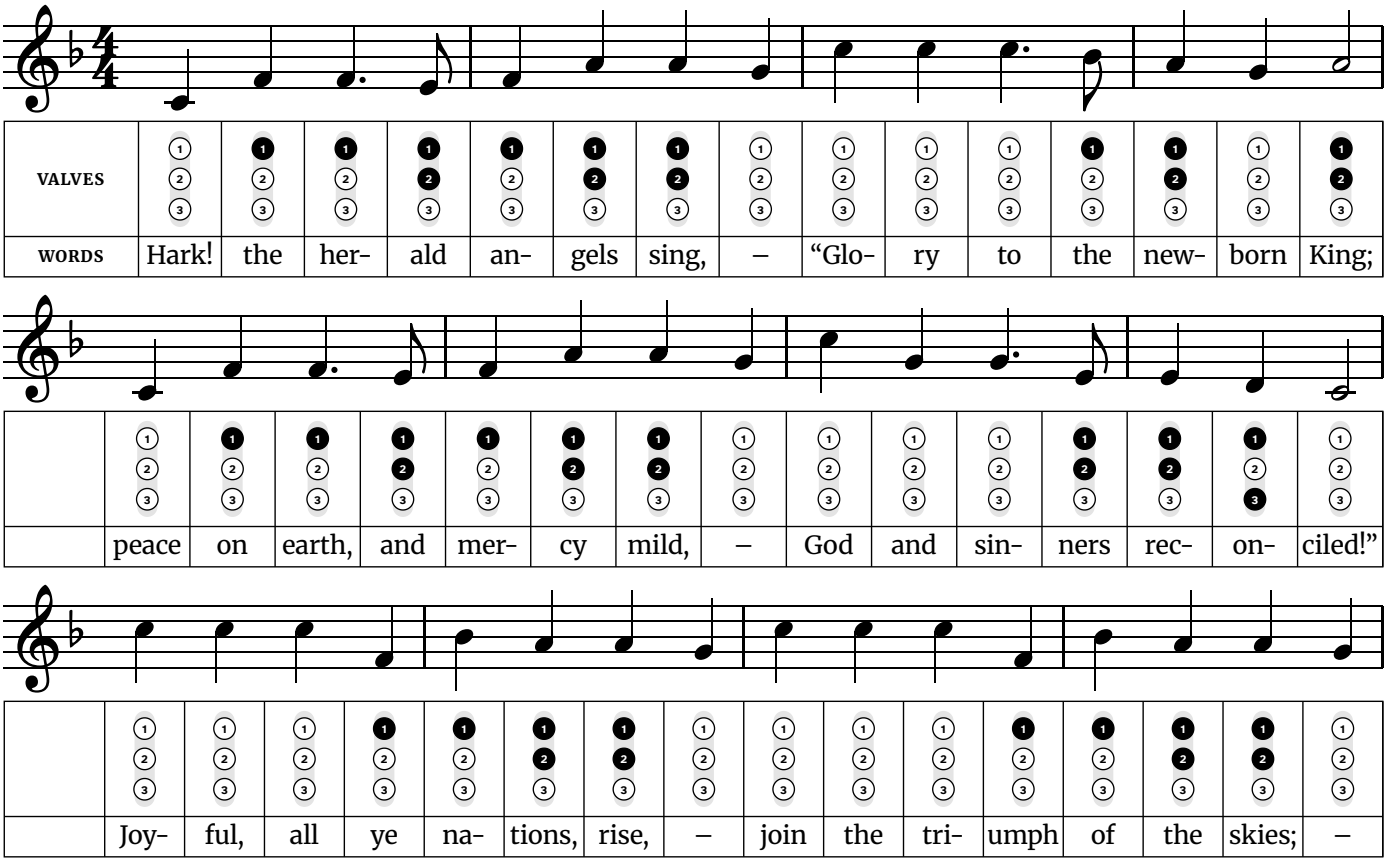
Tip: The Gloria run is the hard part: 16 notes on one syllable. Slur it, learn it slowly in groups of four, and take a full breath just before it starts.

C4, 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.

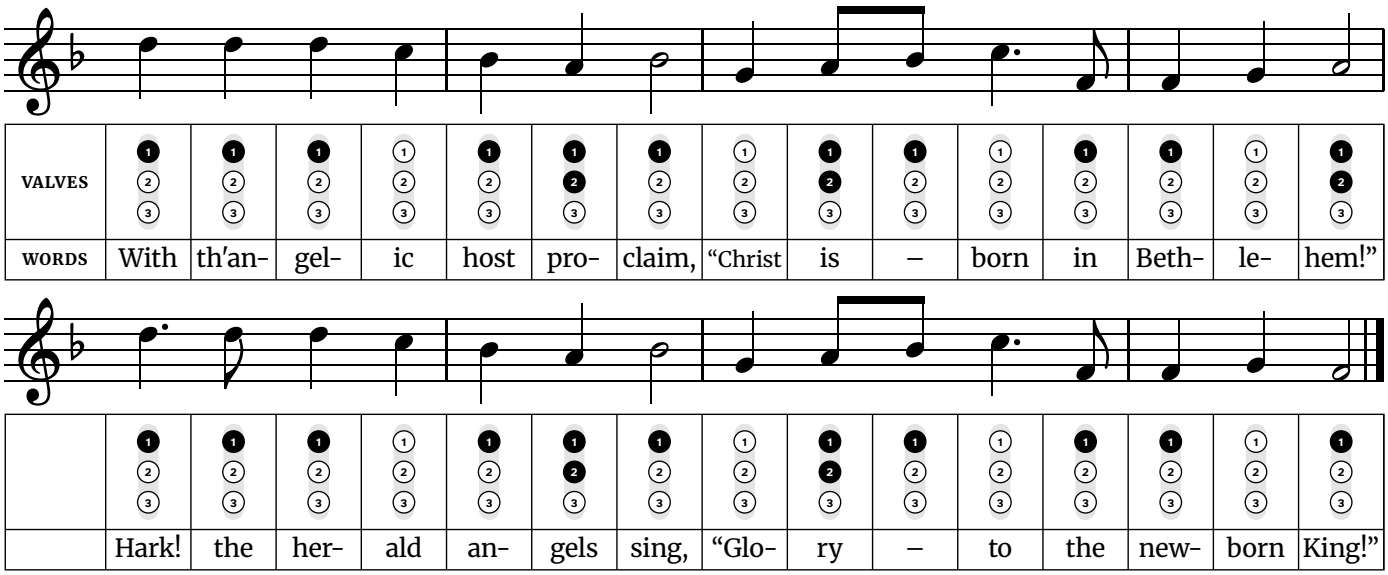
Words: James Chadwick (1862), after the French carol "Les Anges dans nos campagnes". Music: "Gloria", French traditional. The Gloria is printed once, as in the 1891 Parish Choir setting.

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)*



Fingerings used in this song		
C4 – Open (no valves)	**F4** – Valve 1	**B♭4** – Valve 1
D4 – Valves 1 and 3	**G4** – Open (no valves)	**C5** – Open (no valves)
E4 – Valves 1 and 2	**A4** – Valves 1 and 2	**D5** – Valve 1

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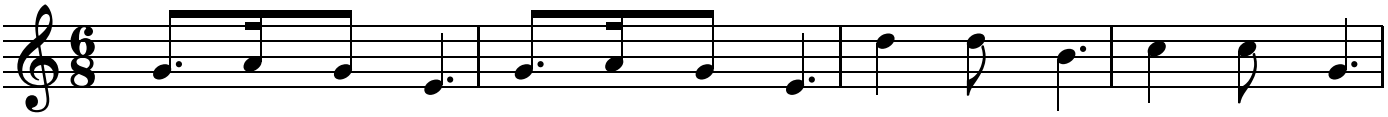
The widest jump is an octave, up from C4 to C5 in line 3.

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

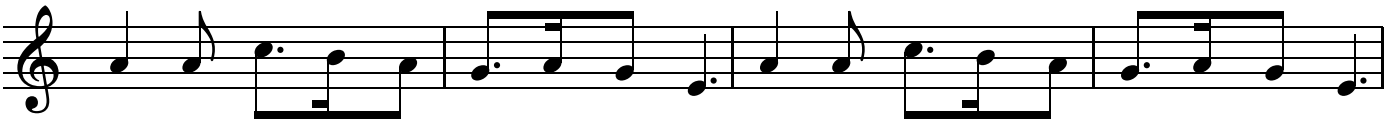
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Silent Night
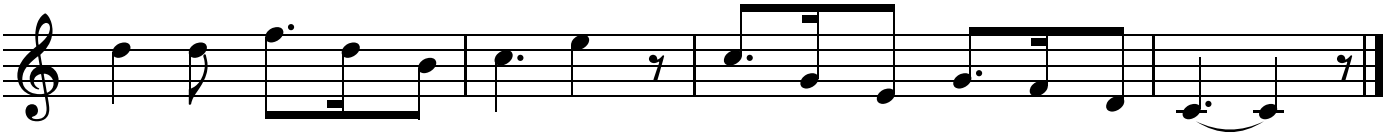
Harder · Written in C major (sounds in concert F major) · 6/8 time · 11 notes, C4 to F5



VALVES	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③
WORDS	Si-	lent	night,	–	ho-	ly	night,	–	All	is	calm,	all	is	bright,



	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③
	'Round	yon	vir-	gin	moth-	er	and	child,	–	Ho-	ly	in-	fant	so	ten-	der	and	mild,



	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	rest	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	① ② ③	rest
	Sleep	in	heav-	en-	ly	peace,	–		Sleep	–	in	heav-	en-	ly	peace.	–	

Fingerings used in this song		
C4 – Open (no valves)	**G4** – Open (no valves)	**D5** – Valve 1
D4 – Valves 1 and 3	**A4** – Valves 1 and 2	**E5** – Open (no valves)
E4 – Valves 1 and 2	**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.

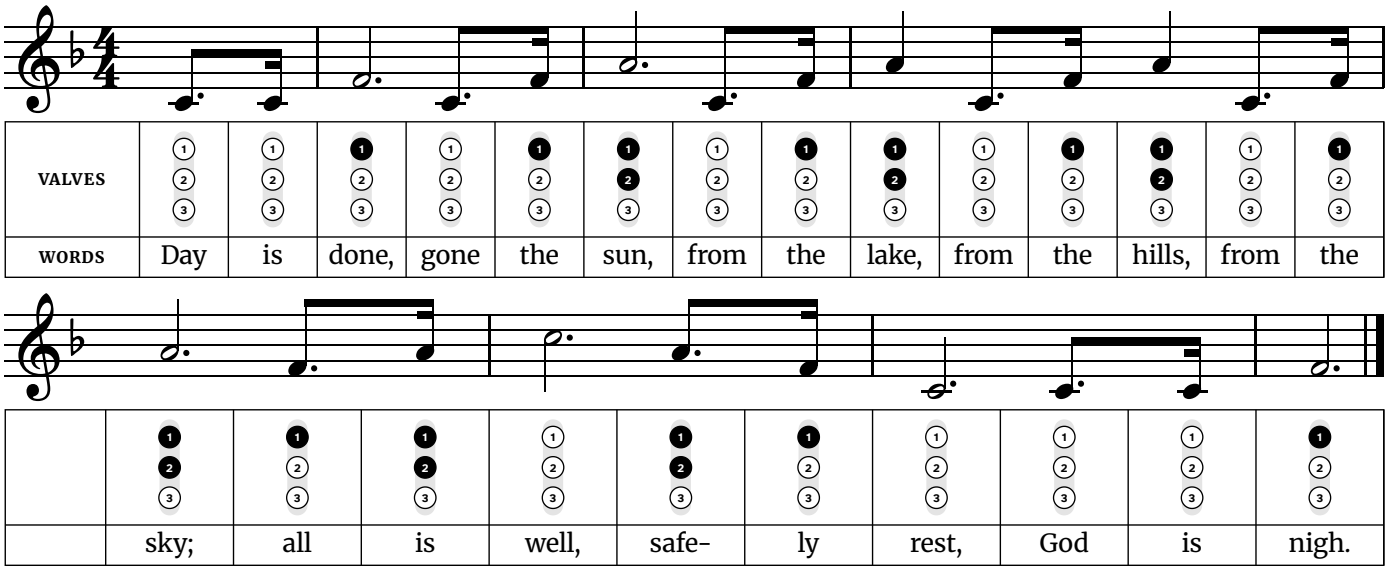
C4, G4, C5 and E5 have the same fingering: open (no valves). Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

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



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.

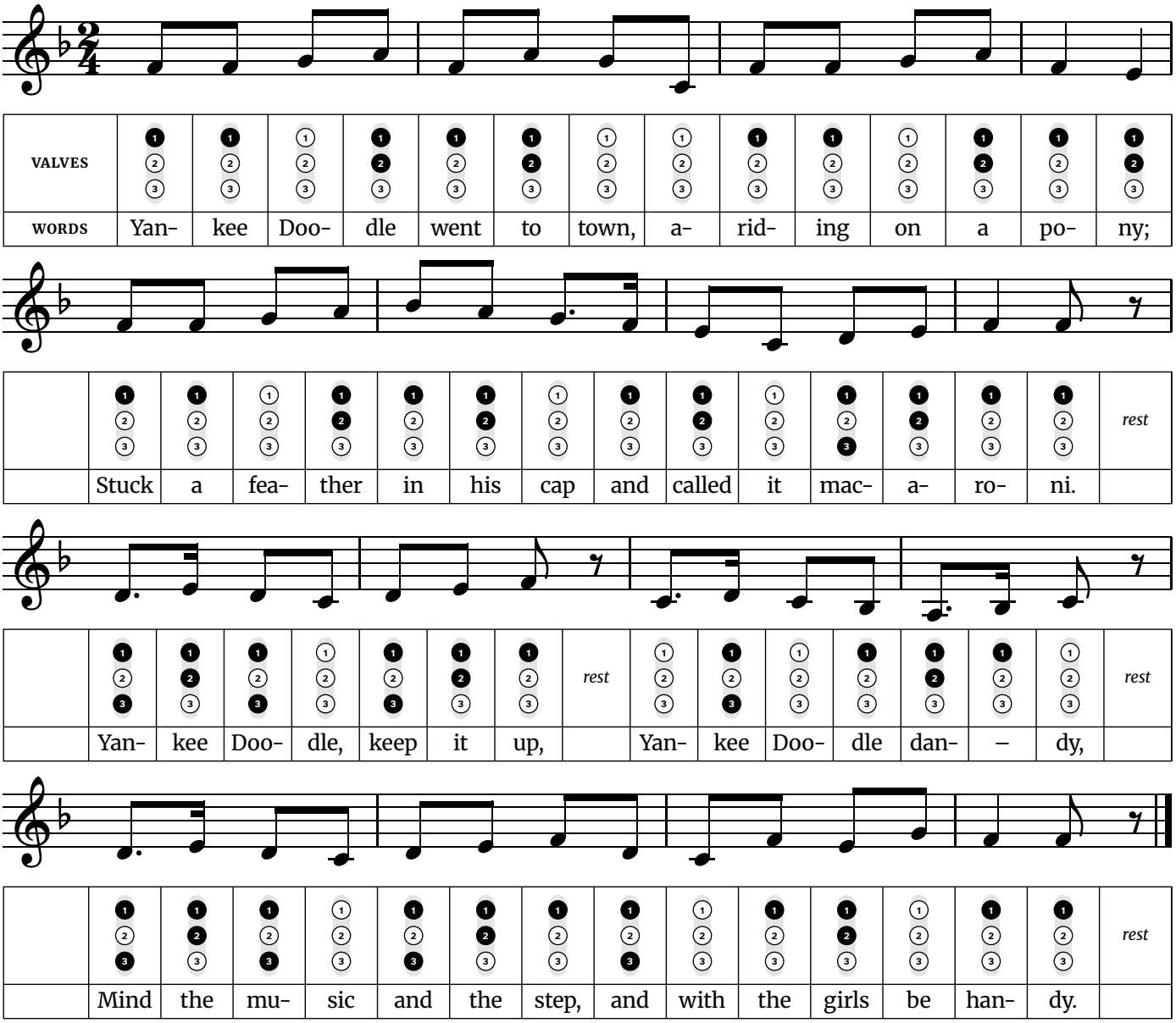
The widest jump is a sixth, down from A4 to C4 in line 1.

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



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

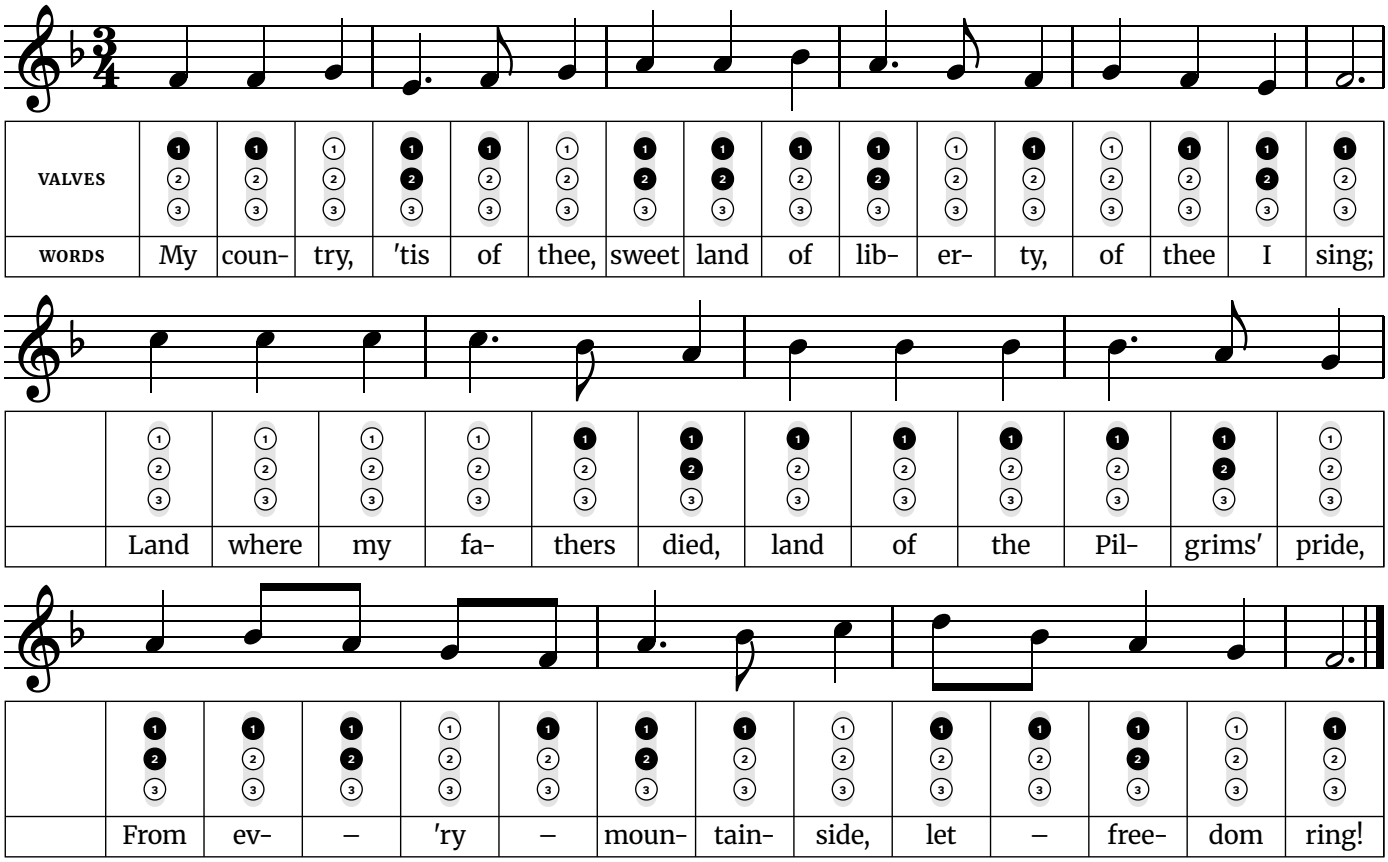
Tip: The verse moves in steady eighth notes. Tongue every note separately and keep them even, and keep the dotted pairs in the chorus short-long-short, like a march.

A3, E4 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.

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



Fingerings used in this song	
E4 – Valves 1 and 2	**B♭4** – Valve 1
F4 – Valve 1	**C5** – Open (no valves)
G4 – Open (no valves)	**D5** – Valve 1
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 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.
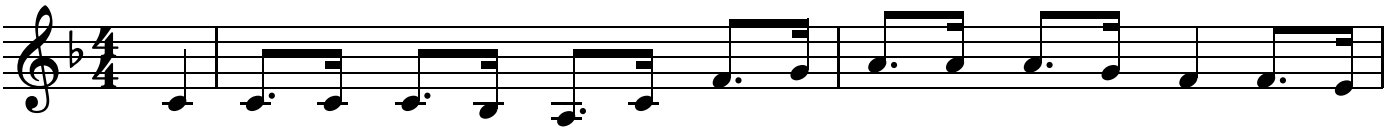
The widest jump is a fifth, up from F4 to C5 in line 2.

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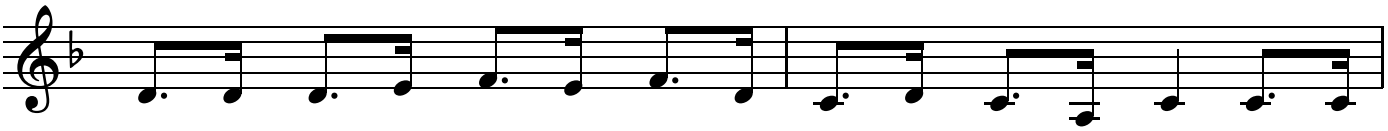
Free at thefingeringchart.com

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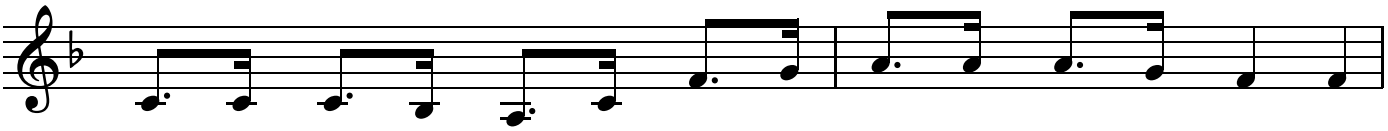
Medium · Written in F major (sounds in concert B♭ major) · 4/4 time · 8 notes, A3 to A4



VALVES																
WORDS	Mine	eyes	have	seen	the	glo-	ry	of	the	com-	ing	of	the	Lord;	He	is

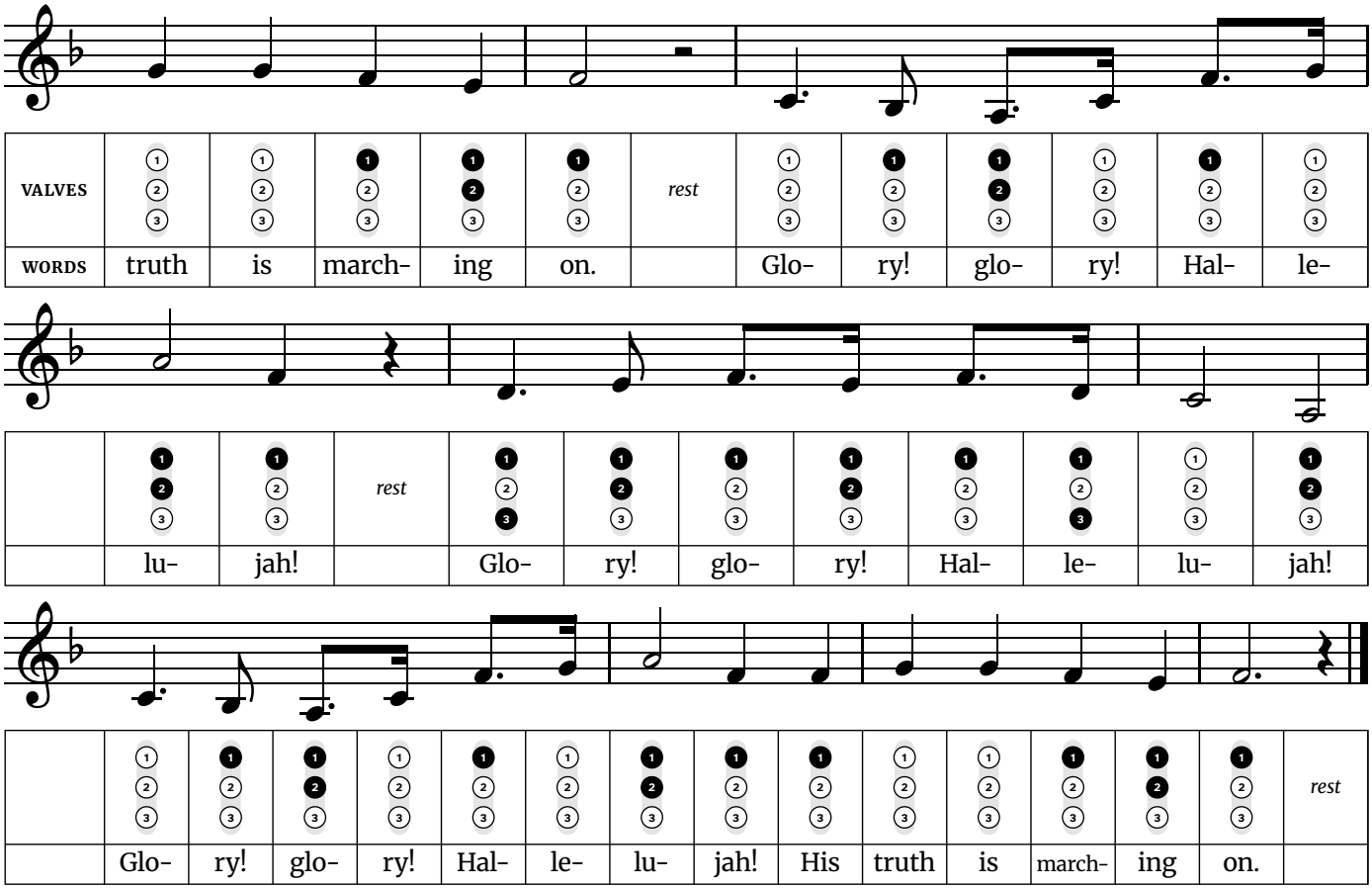


	tram-	pling	out	the	vin-	tage	where	the	grapes	of	wrath	are	stored;	He	hath



	loosed	the	fate-	ful	light-	ning	of	His	ter-	ri-	ble	swift	sword;	His

Battle Hymn of the Republic *(continued)*



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

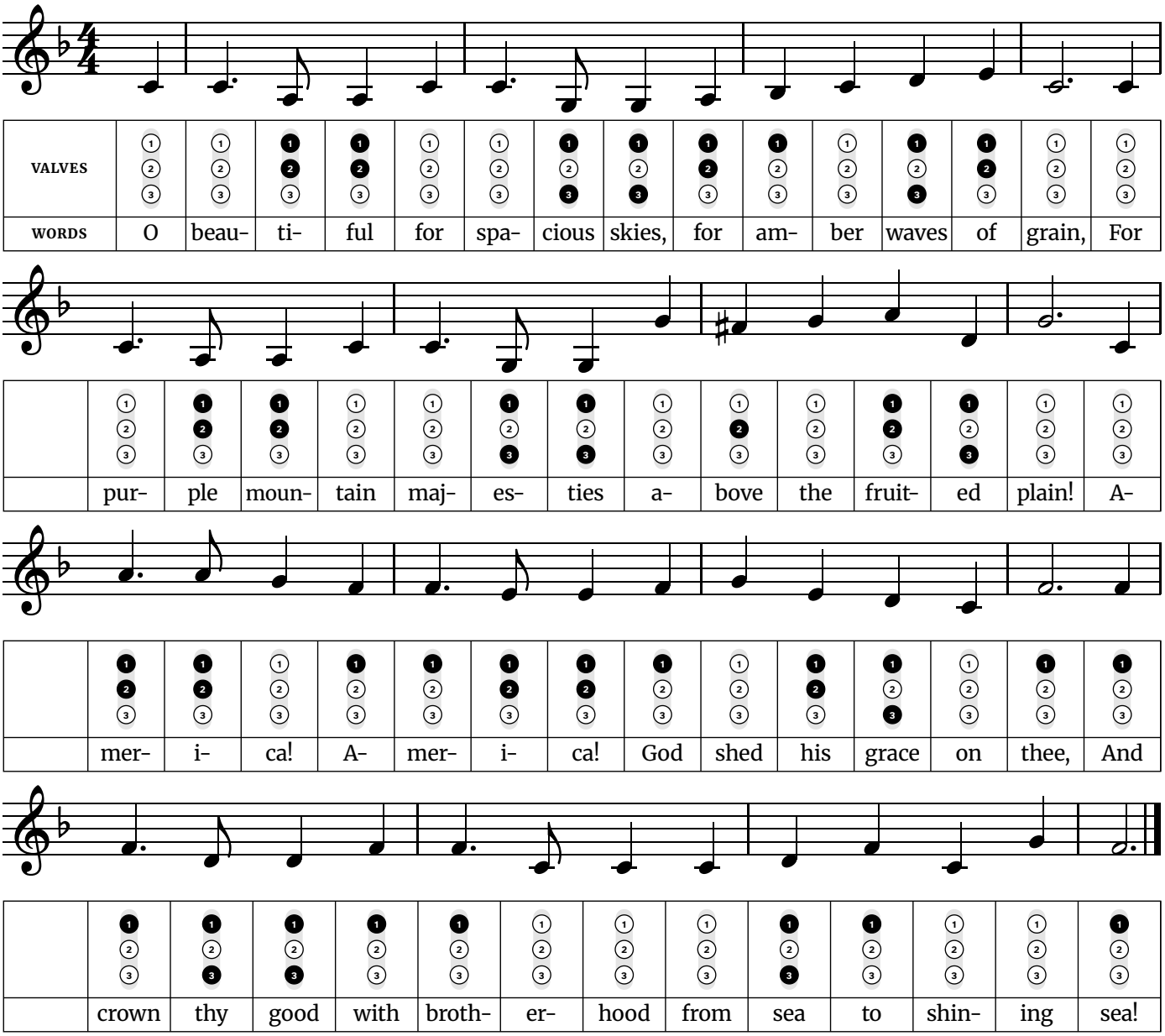
A3, E4 and A4 have the same fingering: valves 1 and 2. Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

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



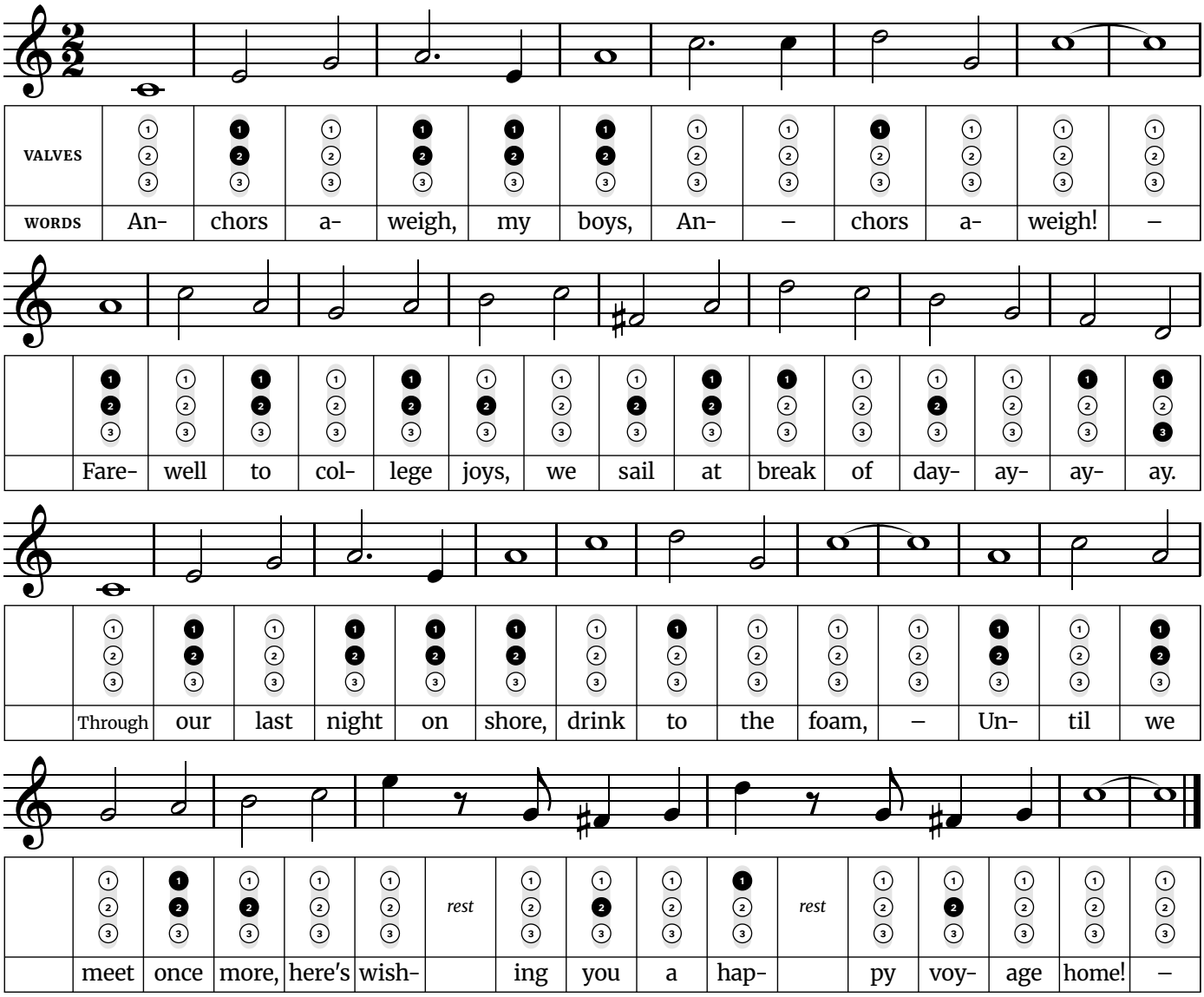
Fingerings used in this song		
G3 – Valves 1 and 3	**D4** – Valves 1 and 3	**G4** – Open (no valves)
A3 – Valves 1 and 2	**E4** – Valves 1 and 2	**A4** – Valves 1 and 2
B♭3 – Valve 1	**F4** – Valve 1	
C4 – Open (no valves)	**F♯4** – Valve 2	

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



Fingerings used in this song		
C4 – Open (no valves)	**F♯4** – Valve 2	**C5** – Open (no valves)
D4 – Valves 1 and 3	**G4** – Open (no valves)	**D5** – Valve 1
E4 – Valves 1 and 2	**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.

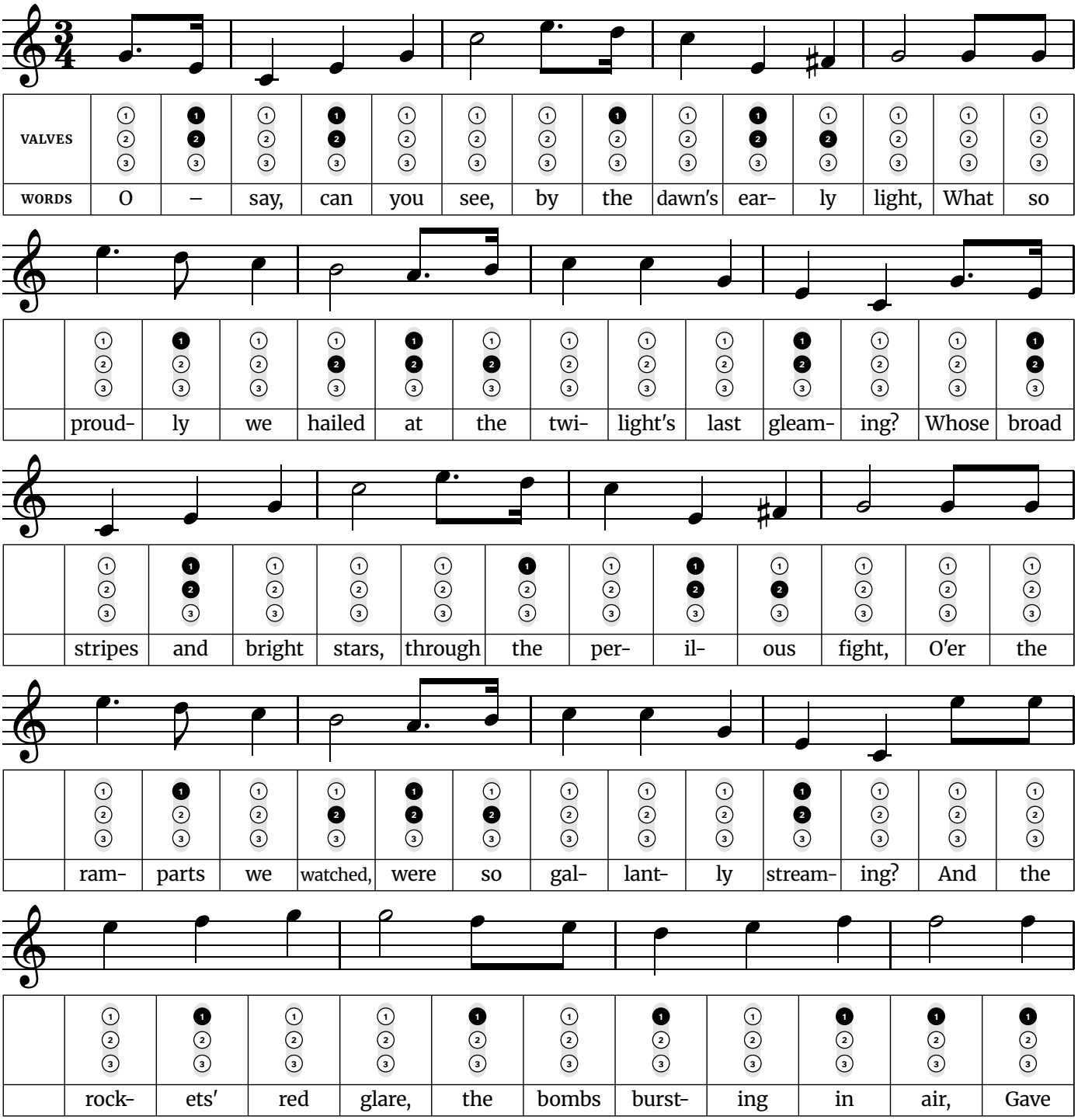
One note falls outside the key: F♯4 in line 2, played with valve 2.

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

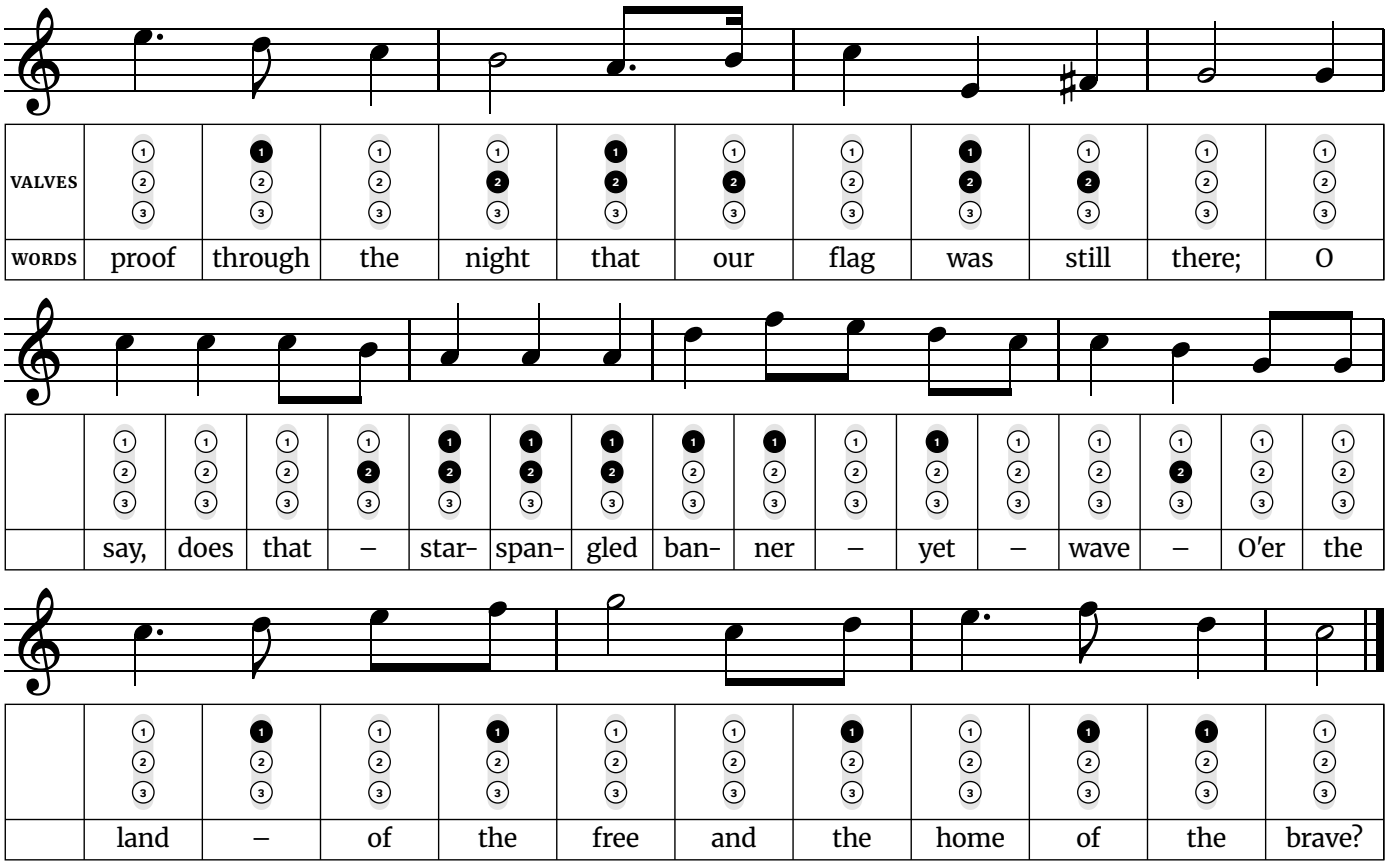
Free at thefingeringchart.com

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)*



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

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.

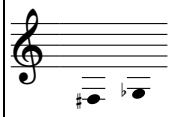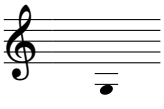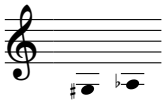
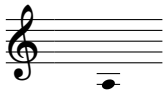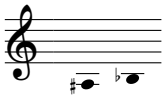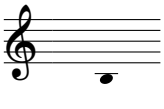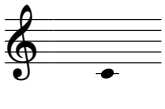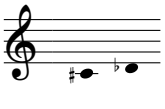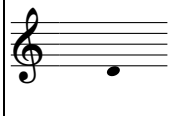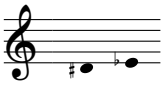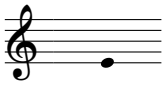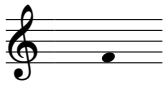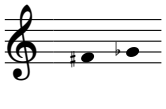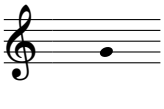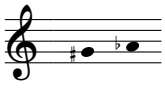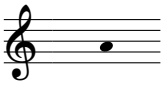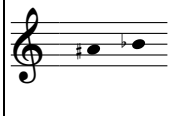
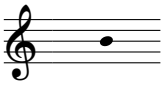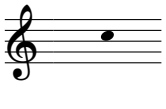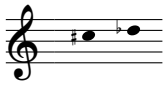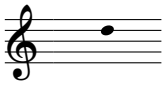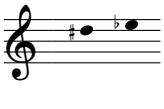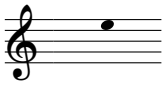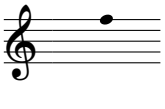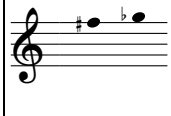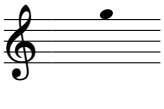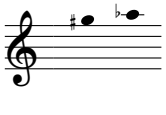
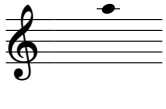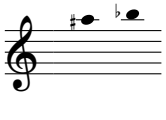
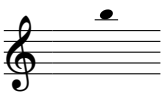
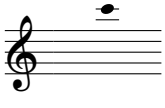
C4, G4, C5, E5 and G5 have the same fingering: open (no valves). Only your air and lips change between them, so listen for the jump in pitch rather than waiting for your fingers to do it.

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

 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 mellophone in F. Black circle: press that valve. Open circle: leave it up.