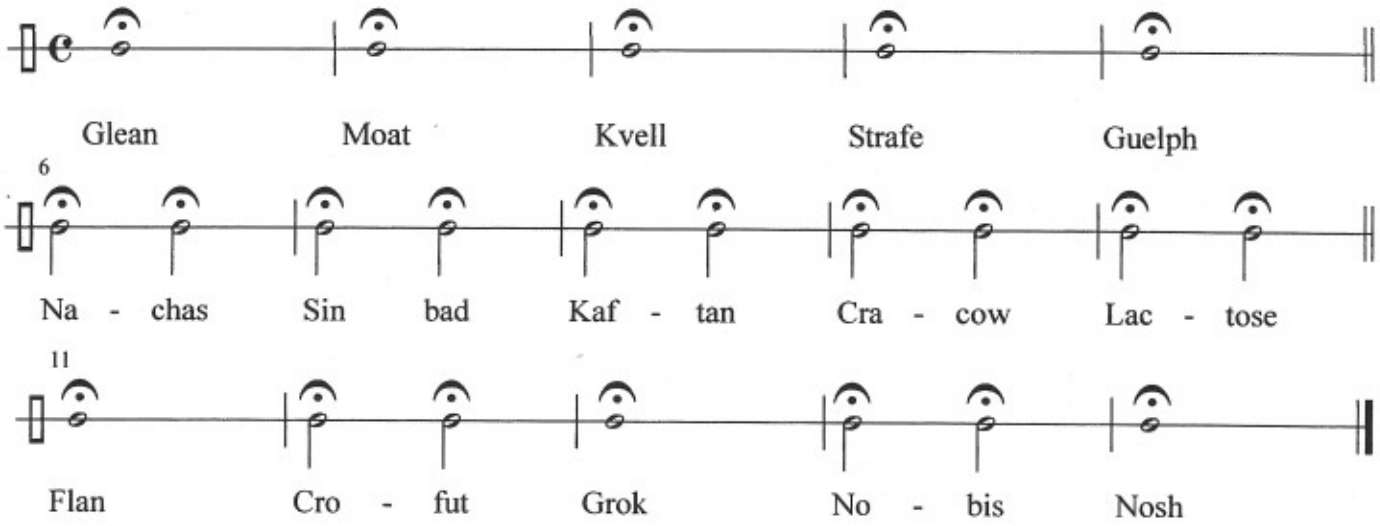
TEACHING the TECHNIQUE of WATCHING

David Barg/ArtsLab



One way to teach Watching Technique:

1. Ask students (today, teachers) to memorize the first word - "Glean" – then look up.
2. Give a downbeat for "Glean" - and hold the word. *Make sure you're watching them when you give the downbeat. Make the downbeat interesting and expressive so that; when they watch, they see something interesting. As you hold "Glean," make sure you feel some physical weight in that hand and arm.*
3. While holding "Glean," tell the teachers to look down while still saying "Glen"… memorize the next word – "Moat" – then look up…while still saying "Glean." *Speak in a loud, clear voice, so all can hear. Communicate "Keeping holding that word!" very strongly so that they get the message while doing everything else.*
4. Cut off "Glean" and – with the teachers looking straight at you since they've memorized the next word ("Moat") - conduct "Moat." *Cut off with the same hand you're using to hold the word. Make the downbeat for "Moat" different than the one for "Glean." Why?*
5. While holding "Moat," tell the teachers to look down while still saying "Moat"… memorize the next word – "Kvell" – then look up…while still saying "Moat."
6. Cut off "Moat" and – with the teachers looking straight at you since they've memorized the next word ("Kvell") - conduct "Kvell."

- This is the beginning of teaching students the technique of looking down, memorizing something, then looking up…while singing/playing at the same time. *Again, make sure: 1) you're looking at them when they look up at you, and 2) they see something interesting…something directed right at them, personally…when they look up.*
- Teachers can make similar exercises with music they are rehearsing to help students learn "Watching Technique."
- Asking the students to create the exercises from the music – including the words – involves them and will create more active participation and learning.

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