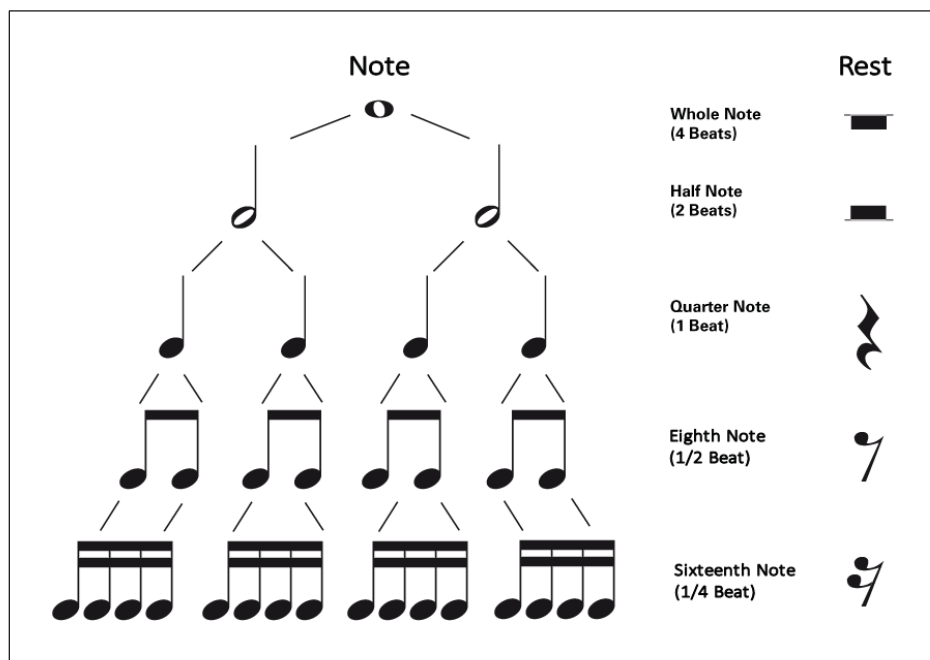# Teaching a Computer to Sing

University of Massachusetts Lowell
Bartlett Community Partnership School

Understanding Note and Rest Values, Ties, and Dotted Note Values

ABC Notation

A4	whole note (4 beats)	z4	whole rest (4 beats)
A2	half note (2 beats)	z2	half rest (2 beats)
A *or* A1	quarter note (1 beat)	z *or* z1	quarter rest (1 beat)
A/ *or* A/2	eighth note (½ beat)	z/ *or* z/2	eighth rest (½ beat)
A/4	sixteenth note (¼ beat)	z/4	sixteenth rest (¼ beat)

Understanding Ties

A *tie* indicates that note values are to be added together and held as a single note.

ABC Notation for This Example

    A/2 (A/2A/2) (B/2B/2) (C/2 | C2) z2 |

Understanding Dotted Notes

A *dot* after a note indicates that the value of that note is increased by ½. Thus a dotted quarter note has 1½ beats instead of 1, and a dotted quarter note has ¾ beat instead of ½.

ABC Notation for This Example

    A/2 A3/ C'2 | G3 z |