

Intervallic Reading in Discover the Basics®

by Lucy G. Ingram

Intervallic reading is the quickest way of learning to read music. The eye takes a picture of the relationship of one note to the next, and, after some drill and experience, these intervals quickly become user-friendly. *Discover the Basics®: A Beginning Series for Any Keyboard Instrument* introduces the C GUIDE NOTES (Middle C, Treble C, and Bass C), which help with learning the different intervals without stressing the names of the notes. This greatly speeds up the reading process. As the student is learning to play and enjoying success at the keyboard, he/she will in time establish an easy familiarity with the actual names of all the lines and spaces.

A useful analogy might be to think of a situation such as when a person moves into a new neighborhood. Here it is important to establish your identity in terms of relationships, rather than throwing your name around. Your identity and validity are built on who you are in relation to those around you, not on what you are called.

Counting aloud while playing is vital to keeping an even rhythm. When my students say or sing the counts aloud while playing, they gain confidence in their rhythm, and often their sense of pitch also improves.

You might find it useful to expand on some of the questions on the Writing pages at the end of each unit of *Discover the Basics®*. For example, in Unit 5 of *Book A* the student is asked to write the name of the note that is a second up from C. You could ask the student several questions to be answered aloud, without looking at the keyboard, about intervals up or down from any given note.

Lucy Ingram studied piano and organ at the Eastman School of Music where she majored in piano performance. Lucy has taught piano for over thirty years at all levels in both her private studio and at several colleges and universities in Greensboro, North Carolina. She brings a very wide teaching experience to her role as co-editor of Discover the Basics®.