



Techniques for Reading Number Notation and Musical Elements for Singers at Gki Martin Luther Sentani

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Abstract: *This study examines the use of number notation as a practical tool for reading musical chords, focusing on its application by singers during preparation for worship performances. The structural foundation of music—comprising melody, harmony, rhythm, and dynamics—serves as a basis for understanding and interpreting musical pieces. Combining this foundation with number notation facilitates high-quality and expressive musical performances by vocalists and instrumentalists. The study employs a descriptive qualitative method, with data collected through observations and interviews with singers at GKI Martin Luther Sentani. The findings reveal that singers have incorporated number notation techniques during independent practice sessions to enhance their readiness for Sunday worship performances. While the application is not yet perfect, these techniques have significantly contributed to their preparation. Key techniques include acquiring basic knowledge of number notation, practicing mindfulness in singing, using online tutorials for guidance, collaborating with peers during practice, and maintaining consistency in rehearsal routines. The study underscores the importance of number notation as a foundational tool for singers to improve their performance quality. It highlights how structured and consistent practice can aid in mastering the notation and enhance musical expression in worship contexts. These findings provide valuable insights for music educators and church communities seeking to optimize preparation and performance processes in similar settings.*

Keywords: *Musical, Musical Elements, Number Notation, Singers*

1. INTRODUCTION

Music is a form of sound art that is expressed through musical elements including rhythm, melody, harmony, form, and structure of music, in the form of songs or musical compositions. This allows its creators to convey their thoughts and emotions as a cohesive whole. (Irnanningrat, 2017). Music is a representation of human existence and activity as it is felt, expressed through sound or sound with passion, and has artistic value (Sinaulan et al., 2022). In Christian life, church music is very important in the context of Christian liturgy, because church music evokes a spiritual atmosphere, evokes emotions, and communicates theological messages. In response to the theological, cultural, and social transformations in Christian society, church music has undergone transformations in both manner and form (Saefatu Ania, 2023). The role of music in the lives of Christians has a rich history. The worship of Israel in the Old Testament was characterized by the use of music to praise and glorify God. The Israelites have incorporated music into every aspect of their lives, expressing worship of God through music. For example, music is implemented on joyful and somber occasions. David sang the lamentation song in II Samuel 1:17-27 in response to the tragic events that befell Saul and Jonathan. Another event is also recorded in Exodus 15:1-18 in the Bible. A hymn was sung to God by Moses and the Israelites. They expressed their gratitude by praising God for saving them from Pharaoh and Pharaoh's army. Therefore, music has become an important component of the life of



the Israelites in various fields, including religion, social affairs, funeral ceremonies, economics, and political ceremonies. There were many hymns or hymns that were offered to God throughout the life of the Israelites. On the contrary, the song dedicated to God is not limited to just within the church; The song must be articulated in daily life.

In a regular music writing system, using numerical values to describe notes in a scale is known as number notation. In addition to being used in traditional music, this notation is also often used in certain forms of popular music in countries such as Indonesia, China, and India. Traditional music and basic music education are very lucrative means for number notation. According to (Hero Dwi et al., 2023) Recognizing songs through number notation is easier for vocal instruments, because number notation consists of only seven numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 (do re mi fa sol la si). Number notation is a method of arranging notes that are meant to be displayed on a score. Notes are formatted as numbers between 1 and 7 (Rachmatullah et al., 2021). Number notation is the process of compiling a piece of music on paper using numbers as a representation (Dhone et al., 2023). A musical notation system that uses numbers to describe chords or harmony in a song or musical composition is known as number notation. This number notation system is simpler and easier to understand than conventional musical notation, such as block notes. Number notation is a valuable resource for musicians who are learning to play for the first time, especially for those who want to understand the harmony structure of a song quickly. Number notation can be mastered through consistent practice, allowing for easier use in playing a wide variety of compositions. In his research (Picanussa, 2020) said that number notation is a musical notation that is very popular with most Indonesian people, especially composers and music practitioners who do not have formal music education.

In musical composition, it is a fundamental component. Each of these components plays an important role in the development and dissemination of musical concepts to the audience. Musical elements consist of melody, rhythm, harmony, timbre, dynamics, texture, shape and tempo. Each of these components works together to produce a diverse and complex musical experience, allowing composers and musicians to convey their thoughts, emotions, and narratives to their listeners. According to (Sasongko & Tompo, 2021) Musical elements such as melody, rhythm, and harmony are responsible for human behavior in the context of Christian worship. While music psychology analyzes human behavior through the use of melody, harmony, and rhythm, music is also understood from a different point of view. There is an alternative method to analyze these behaviors, namely meaning analysis (Sasongko, 2021). The material object of music consists of musical instruments and their constituent elements, including rhythm, melody, harmony, form and structure of songs, as well as expression as a cohesive whole (Mancapara, 2022).

The technique of reading number notation for singers or singers at GKI Martin Luther Sentani is considered very important as a beginner and has not yet understood properly how to read notation. In addition, it is also very influential to improve their understanding before singing. What is studied is in the form of melody, harmony, rhythm and musical dynamics. By applying some of the techniques and elements above, the singer can understand every song sung in every worship, especially Sunday worship. The training that has been carried out so far has been

running but has not been effective because the training is carried out only once a week and it is only a makeshift training not a full training because there is no professional coach provided by the church to train the pastors consistently. This is the reason why researchers are interested in conducting this research. This is important because singers or singers who serve in Sunday worship need to equip themselves well to provide the best service for God.

2. METHOD

In this study, a qualitative research method is used with a descriptive approach. Research methods used to understand social or human phenomena from the perspective of individuals or groups are referred to as qualitative research. Often, the goal of the study is to gain a comprehensive understanding of a particular context by examining the perspective, experience, and meaning of the research subject. According to (Sugiyono, 2023) The exploratory, interpretive, interactive, and constructive nature of qualitative methods is highly emphasized. Qualitative methods are used to conduct exploratory or discovery research, which involves an in-depth examination of objects to identify potentials, problems, and hypotheses. In addition, the goal of qualitative research is to understand social reality, which involves observing the world as it is, not as it should be. Therefore, a qualitative researcher must have an open-minded attitude (Murdiyanto, 2020). The results of data collection were taken from observation, interviews and documentation.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Reading and playing music using numbers as a block note representation is a method of reading number notation in music. This number notation simplifies the process of playing music for individuals who are inexperienced or have difficulty reading block notes. For singers as beginners, it is important to understand how to correctly read number notation. As a singer or singer, proficiency in interpreting number notation and musical notation is essential for effective delivery and understanding of musical composition. An easier and faster method of learning new songs, particularly in identifying the corresponding chords, is provided by notation. A singer needs to have experience reading number notation as a solid foundation in vocal interpretation, improve fluency in chord playing, and broaden musical horizons.

The ability to understand number notation is one of the basic music theories that must be possessed (Edgar Septandita Hariyanto et al., 2023). It is essential for students to acquire proficiency in block notation and number notation, as both are basic theories of music that are taught and studied in educational settings (Arief, 2016). Understanding number notation helps one to quickly acquire and engage in musical performances, regardless of whether it is traditional or contemporary, without complicated effort. Number notation is easier to understand than block notation, especially for beginners. Number notation offers an easier approach to music education that does not require mastery of complicated music theory. Anyone can start playing a song right away without the need to learn complicated symbols, such as those found in block notation, using only the numbers (1-7). Compared to block notation, number notation is more concise

and easier to memorize. This makes it easier for players to remember song patterns and the ability to perform without having to read the score frequently. In addition, this convenience is advantageous for musical performances or rehearsals, where players may be required to memorize many roles. Many people who do not have formal music education experience greater ease when learning music through number notation. This creates new opportunities for a wider range of individuals to participate in music ensembles and acquire musical skills. Number notation allows individuals from a variety of backgrounds, including amateur and professional musicians, to engage in the music industry without being hindered by the complexities of formal notation.

Greater opportunities to improve memory, improve focus, and facilitate language development are provided by simple one-part song forms with figures that are easy to imitate or follow (Bahtiar, 2021). For beginners in the world of music, learning basic melodies is an excellent first step. Typically, simple compositions have easy-to-understand lyrics or notation, uncomplicated rhythm patterns, and memorable melodies. Examples of simple songs sung by singers or singers at Sunday worship are as follows:

do = f $\frac{4}{4}$ **16. Sekarang B'ri Syukur**

5 | 5 5 6 6 | 5 . . 3 | 4 3 2 3 | 2 . 1 :||
Se - karang b'ri syu - kur, be - sar-kan na-ma Tu - han.
Pe - mimpin hi- dup-mu yang mendengar se - ru - an.

2 | 2 2 3 3 | 2 . . 2 | 3 5 5 4 | 5 . . '
Yang o- leh A- nak-Nya mem-b'ri a - nu-ge - rah

5 | 6 5 4 3 | 4 . . 3 | 2 1 1 7 | 1 . . ||
dan tak ter - bi-lang pun mu - ji - zat ber-kat-Nya.

2. Sempurna kaya-Nya, oleh-Nya diberkati
semua anak-Nya, dengan sejaht'ra hati.
Roh Tuhan memberi kekuatan dan t'rang.
Di atas bah'ya maüt, kuasa-Nya menang.

Figure 1. Hymn No. 16

Learning independently through online tutorial can be helpful in understanding number notation and Compared to traditional methods, online tutorials offer a higher level of convenience, flexibility, and accessibility when learning number notation. By taking advantage of a variety of free or low-cost resources, as well as visual and interactive support, you can learn music in a way that better suits your learning needs. In addition, online tutorials make it possible to study independently, set your own learning pace, and choose the material that best suits your musical journey. Many online tutorials support theoretical explanations with video and audio. In particular, it is very useful to understand the practical applications of number notation in music, especially when listening to patterns and melodies. Videos also allow one to observe the process of playing them on a musical instrument, such as a piano or guitar. To add to the theoretical explanation, many online tutorials offer audio and video presentations. It is very useful to understand the practical applications of number notation in music, especially for the purpose of listening to patterns and melodies. In addition, it is also possible to observe the process of playing it on a musical instrument, such as a piano or guitar,

through the use of videos. In Research (Rahman, 2022) one of the most widely used content categories in Indonesia is music videos. The use of video tutorials has an impact on the academic performance of trainees. Video tutorials can be implemented in a variety of disciplines (Parida et al., 2018).

Learning motivation is significantly influenced by peer interaction and self-efficacy, which can be improved by improving both simultaneously (Kur'ani, 2021). Learning music with number notation with peers can be a valuable experience that also fosters stronger relationships among friends. This can improve your ability to play music and gain valuable experience in the music industry through collaboration and commitment. By learning number notation with friends, you can provide support and encouragement to advance in the field of music. In addition, the ability to exchange knowledge and experience allows one to gain a more comprehensive understanding of number notation more quickly and with greater efficiency. Studying with friends can provide constructive criticism to help improve your music-playing skills when using number notation.

Mastering the ability to interpret and play music with number notation depends on consistent number notation practice. By staying consistent, patient, and dedicated to number notation practice, you can significantly improve your musical skills. Through the consistent and diligent application of these techniques, a singer can substantially improve their ability to read musical notation and number notation. Practice, consistency, and perseverance are key factors in the development of better reading and understanding of music. In addition to these factors, there is a need for interest or willingness to continue learning and practice consistently. Interest is an impulse that comes from within an individual or a factor and can selectively arouse interest or attention. This attention can result in the selection of an object or activity that is useful, enjoyable, and ultimately leads to a decision (Courtesy & Jesika, 2022).

Certain compositions or elements, such as harmony, rhythm, melody, or structure of the song, as well as expressive elements such as rhythm, dynamics, and tonal colors, are all integral components of music, which is a form of sound art that actualizes the thoughts and emotions of its creator (Saputra Doubles, 2020). Music is a form of sound art that is expressed through elements, including rhythm, melody, harmony, form, and structure of music, in the form of songs or musical compositions. This allows its creators to convey their thoughts and emotions as a cohesive whole. (Satria Irmanningrat, 2016). To perfect a singer's vocal performance, it requires a deep understanding of the components of music, including melody, harmony, rhythm, and dynamics. These elements are incorporated into vocal interpretation to enhance the ability to communicate the nuances, emotions, and majesty of music to the audience. Understanding and applying these elements can improve the quality of your vocal performance and enrich your musical experience as a singer.

4. CONCLUSION

From the results and discussion above, it can be concluded that to understand the technique of reading number notation and it is

necessary to have basic knowledge about number notation, learn conscious songs, practice by watching online tutorials, practice with peers and be consistent in practice. The elements applied in this study are in the form of melody, harmony, rhythm, and dynamics to enrich the experience of singers or singers in singing. By doing this, it can help those at GKI Martin Luther Sentani in singing in every worship service that is carried out. Although it is not optimal because this is done independently without being trained by an expert in the field of music, this is very helpful for singers to continue practicing and sharpening the experience that has been gained. The researcher hopes that this will be a consideration for church leaders and congregations to bring in coaches to help singers or singers in practice

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Write down the contribution and description of each member's duties in the research conducted briefly and clearly. This does not apply if the study is single or there are no study members.

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