

Conducting Technique Lesson 12

Fermata Practice

(Breath release (stop sign)/Caesura release (stoplight) /Carry through (rolling stop)

Skill Practice- Bach Chorale

There are three types of fermata that the conductor will need to be skills in utilizing:

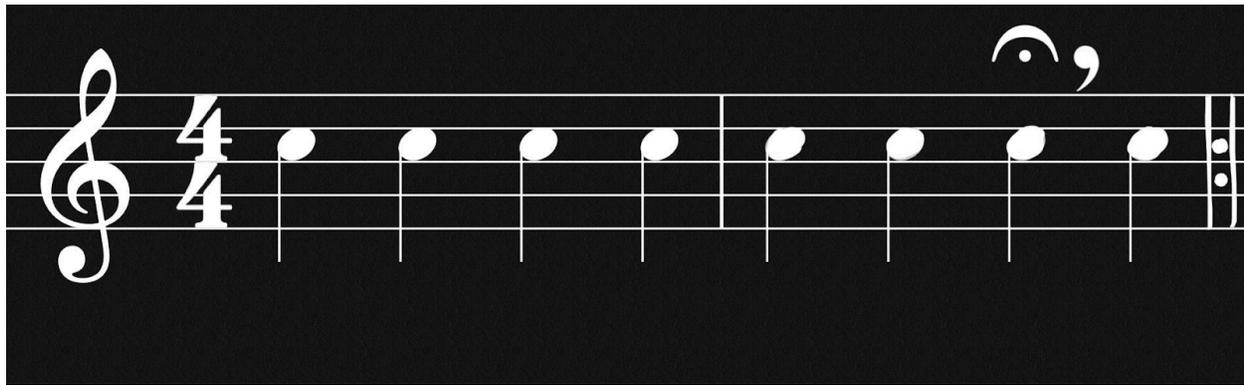
Video Demonstration: Introduction to Conducting the Fermata

<https://youtu.be/ohiHOLshwsg>

1. Fermata followed by breath-release - a comma marking following fermata, indicating a breath but not a full break ("stop sign").

Video Demonstration: Fermata with breath- release (stop-sign)

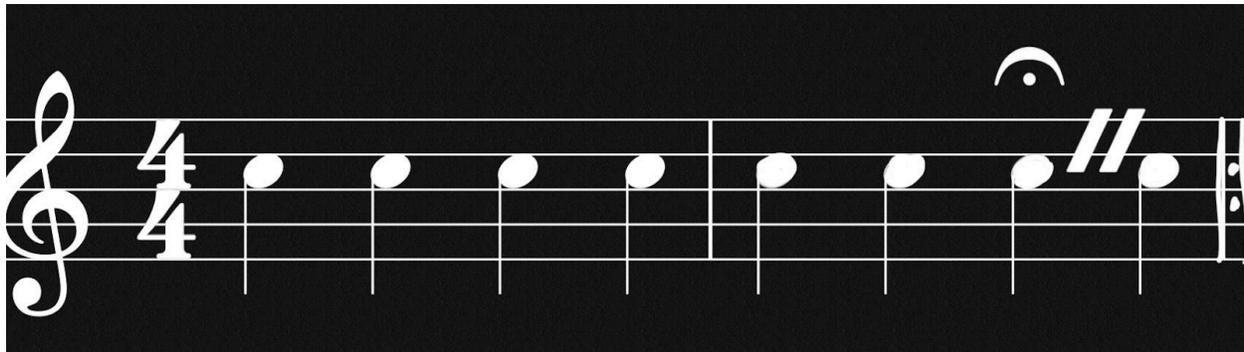
<https://youtu.be/AX7NRcgz5WQ>



0. Fermata followed by a Caesura - a caesura marking follows fermata indicating a full break (stop light).

Video Presentation: Fermata Followed by Caesura (stop light)

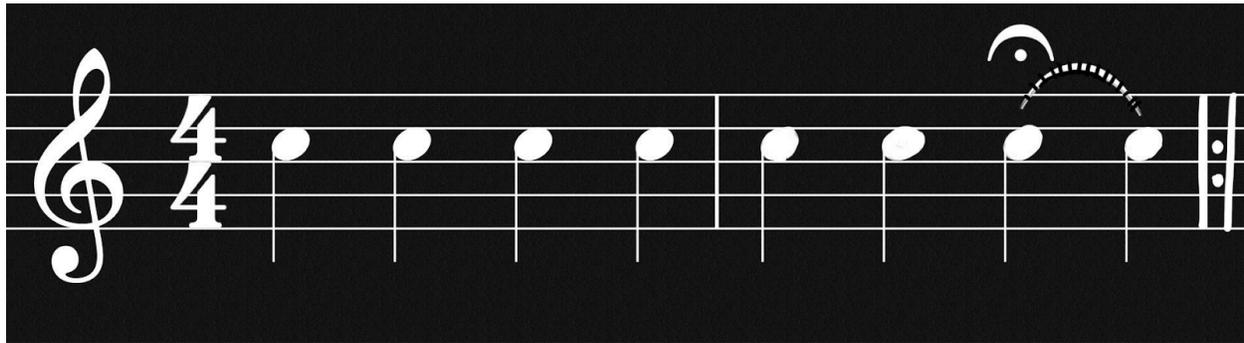
<https://youtu.be/883kA0mO2KU>



0. Carry-through fermata - a carry through marking or no release indication is shown following fermata (rolling stop)

Video Demonstration: Fermata Followed by a Carry-Through (Rolling Stop)

<https://youtu.be/BK07d1QrcKA>



For each of the three fermate, it is critical that the conductor has clearly identified which gesture they plan to use, and that they have a clear command of the gesture.

Another way to think of these three types of fermate is to relate them to traffic signs and driving habits:

(the numbers below correspond to the numbered list above)

1. STOP SIGN- Freeze to hold the fermata; release the fermata with a flip-like release gesture that also serves as the prep to the beat that follows. This release will feel like a “rebeat” of the beat on which the fermata was originally held.
2. STOP LIGHT - Freeze to hold the fermata; release and freeze again to denote the caesura; then execute a NEW prep for the beat that follows. This prep will be a “rebeating” of the beat on which the fermata was originally held.
3. ROLLING STOP - no lift between fermata and following note. instead freeze on the fermata, then “rebeat” the beat on which the fermata was originally held WITHOUT any release.