

# THE PREPARATORY BEAT

The **preparatory beat** is a small arm motion just before the first beat of a hymn. It tells the singers that the music is about to begin. It allows them to take a breath and begin singing all together.

The accompanist usually plays an introduction to each song or hymn. During the last measure of the introduction, hold your arm out in the conducting stance. When the introduction ends, make the preparatory beat and begin the regular beat pattern.



In  $\frac{3}{4}$  time, if *beat one* is the first beat of the hymn, then *beat three* is the preparatory beat.

