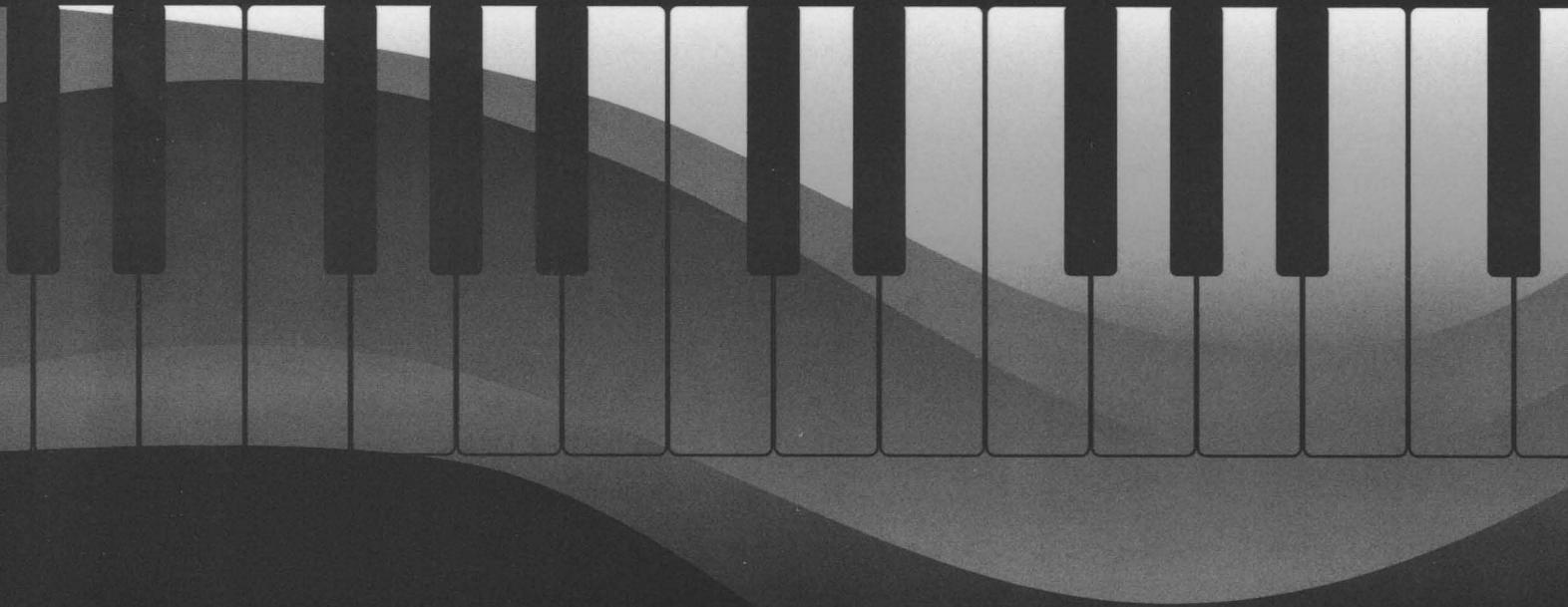


Improve your sight-reading!

New edit
Piano
Level 1
Early
elements

A progressive, interactive approach
to sight-reading

Paul Harris



FABER **ff** MUSIC

Improve your sight-reading!

Paul Harris

Stage 1  ♩ { **C major**

Stage 2 ♩ **Small leaps**

Stage 3  ♩. **G major**

Stage 4 **F major, Mixing left and right hands**

Stage 5 **Tied notes**

Stage 6 **A minor, Phrasing, 2/4 and ♩**

Stage 7 **Staccato, slurs and accents**

Stage 8 **D minor**

Stage 9 **Longer exercises**

Practice chart

	<i>Comments (from you, your teacher or parent)</i>	<i>Done!</i>
Stage 1		
Stage 2		
Stage 3		
Stage 4		
Stage 5		
Stage 6		
Stage 7		
Stage 8		
Stage 9		

Teacher's name _____

Telephone _____

Many thanks to Jean Cockburn, Claire Dunham, Graeme Humphrey and Diana Jackson for their invaluable help, and particular thanks to Lesley Rutherford whose editorial skills and perpetual encouragement went far beyond the call of duty.

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Introduction

Being a good sight-reader is so important and it needn't be difficult! If you work through this book carefully – always making sure that you really understand each exercise before you play it you'll never have problems learning new pieces or doing well at sight-reading in exams!

Using the workbook

1 Rhythmic exercises

Make sure you have grasped these fully before you go on to the melodic exercises: it is vital that you really know how the rhythms work. There are a number of ways to do the exercises, several of which are outlined in Stage 1. Try them all out. Can you think of more ways to do them?

2 Melodic exercises

These exercises use just the notes and rhythms for the Stage, and also give some help with fingering. If you want to sight-read fluently and accurately, get into the simple habit of working through each exercise in the following ways before you begin to play it:

- Make sure you understand the rhythm and counting. Clap the exercise through.
- Look at the shape of the tune, particularly the highest and lowest notes. Which finger do you need to start on to be able to play it? The exercises have this fingering added to get you started.
- Try to hear the piece through in your head. Always play the first note to help.

3 Prepared pieces

Work your way through the questions first, as these will help you to think about or 'prepare' the piece. Don't begin playing until you are pretty sure you know exactly how the piece goes.

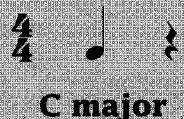
4 Going solo!

It is now up to you to discover the clues in this series of practice pieces. Give yourself about a minute and do your best to understand the piece before you play. Check the rhythms and hand position, and try to hear the piece in your head.

Always remember to feel the pulse and to keep going steadily once you've begun. Good luck and happy sight-reading!



Stage 1



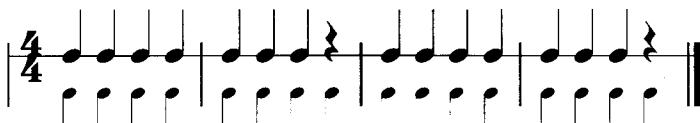
Rhythmic exercises

Always vary the way you do the rhythmic exercises. Here are a few ideas:

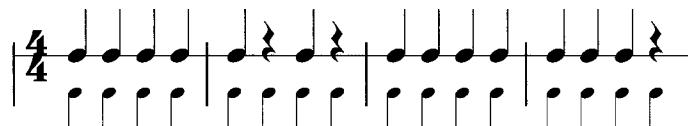
- Tap the pulse with your right foot (sometimes use your left foot!) and clap the rhythm.
- Tap the pulse with one hand and the rhythm with the other (swap hands!).
- Tap the pulse with your foot and play the rhythm on a note (either hand).
- Tap the pulse with your foot and make up a tune to fit the rhythm.

Before you begin each exercise count two bars in; the first out loud and the second silently.

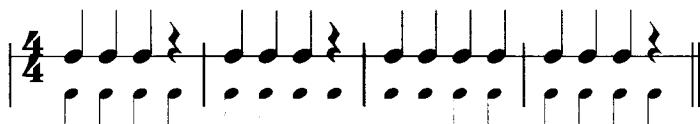
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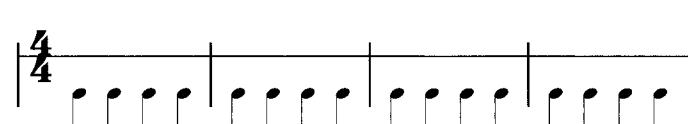
2



3

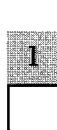


4 Now write your own exercise and then clap it.

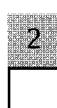


Melodic exercises

Before playing this first melodic exercise, write down the rhythm on the line underneath. The first bar is done for you. Then clap it.



1



2



3

A musical score for the first system of 'The Star-Spangled Banner'. The score is in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The treble clef is on the top line, and the bass clef is on the bottom line. The vocal line consists of quarter notes and eighth notes, with a fermata over the eighth note in measure 1. The bass line consists of quarter notes and rests. Measures 1 through 4 are shown, followed by a repeat sign and measures 5 through 8.

A musical score for two voices. The top voice is in treble clef and 4/4 time, with a single note on the first beat. The bottom voice is in bass clef and 4/4 time, with a continuous eighth-note pattern. Measures are numbered 1, 4, and 8.

A musical score for piano, featuring two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and 4/4 time, with measure numbers 1, 5, and 9 indicated above the staff. The bottom staff is in bass clef and 4/4 time, with measure numbers 1, 5, and 9 indicated above the staff. The music consists of eighth-note patterns. Measure 1: Treble staff has eighth notes on the first, third, and fifth lines. Bass staff has a dash. Measure 2: Treble staff has eighth notes on the first and third lines. Bass staff has a dash. Measure 3: Treble staff has eighth notes on the first and third lines. Bass staff has a dash. Measure 4: Treble staff has eighth notes on the first, third, and fifth lines. Bass staff has a dash. Measure 5: Treble staff has eighth notes on the first, third, and fifth lines. Bass staff has a dash. Measure 6: Treble staff has eighth notes on the first, third, and fifth lines. Bass staff has a dash. Measure 7: Treble staff has eighth notes on the first, third, and fifth lines. Bass staff has a dash. Measure 8: Treble staff has eighth notes on the first, third, and fifth lines. Bass staff has a dash. Measure 9: Treble staff has eighth notes on the first, third, and fifth lines. Bass staff has a dash.

A musical score for piano, featuring a Treble staff and a Bass staff. The Treble staff is in common time (indicated by a '4') and has a key signature of one sharp (F#). The Bass staff is also in common time (indicated by a '4') and has a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score consists of four measures. In the first measure, the Treble staff is empty and the Bass staff has a quarter note on the second line. In the second measure, the Treble staff is empty and the Bass staff has a quarter note on the second line. In the third measure, the Treble staff is empty and the Bass staff has a quarter note on the second line. In the fourth measure, the Treble staff is empty and the Bass staff has a quarter note on the second line. Measure numbers '1' and '3' are written below the staves.

5

4

4

4

Prepared pieces

- 1 How many beats are there in each bar? What will you count?
- 2 What is the key? Play the scale (or microscale*).
- 3 Look for the highest and lowest notes and check your fingering.
- 4 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 5 How will you put character into this piece?
- 6 Try to hear the music (melody and rhythm) in your head before you begin.

March

1

4

- 1 How will you count this piece?
- 2 Tap the rhythm then hear the rhythm silently in your head.
- 3 What is the key? Play the scale (or microscale).
- 4 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 5 How will you put character into this piece?
- 6 Try to hear the music in your head.

Gently

2

1

Going solo!

Don't forget to prepare each piece carefully before you play it.

Marching

A musical score for piano, page 1. The score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and 4/4 time, with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The bottom staff is in bass clef and 4/4 time. The bass line begins with a pair of eighth notes (F, D), followed by a rest, then another pair of eighth notes (C, A), followed by a rest. This pattern repeats three more times, followed by a single eighth note (C) and a final rest. The page number '1' is located at the bottom left of the score.

Dancing

A musical score for piano, page 1, featuring two staves. The top staff is in treble clef, 4/4 time, and dynamic *f*. The bottom staff is in bass clef, 4/4 time, and dynamic *p*. The score consists of four measures. Measure 1: Treble staff has eighth notes on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th beats. Bass staff has a dash. Measure 2: Treble staff has eighth notes on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th beats. Bass staff has a dash. Measure 3: Treble staff has eighth notes on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th beats. Bass staff has a dash. Measure 4: Treble staff has eighth notes on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th beats. Bass staff has a dash.

Stealthily

A musical score for piano. The top staff (treble clef) has a dynamic marking 'p' and a sustained note across four measures. The bottom staff (bass clef) shows a repeating eighth-note pattern. The page number '1' is at the bottom left.

Humorously!

Cheerfully

Stage 2



Rhythmic exercises

Don't forget to count two bars in!

1

 A musical staff in 4/4 time. It consists of two measures of eighth notes followed by a bar line. The first measure has a bass line of eighth notes. The second measure has a bass line of eighth notes.

2

 A musical staff in 4/4 time. It consists of two measures of eighth notes followed by a bar line. The first measure has a bass line of eighth notes. The second measure has a bass line of eighth notes.

3

 A musical staff in 4/4 time. It consists of two measures of eighth notes followed by a bar line. The first measure has a bass line of eighth notes. The second measure has a bass line of eighth notes.

4

 A musical staff in 4/4 time. It consists of two measures of eighth notes followed by a bar line. The first measure has a bass line of eighth notes. The second measure has a bass line of eighth notes.

5

 A musical staff in 4/4 time. It consists of two measures of eighth notes followed by a bar line. The first measure has a bass line of eighth notes. The second measure has a bass line of eighth notes.

6 Write your own rhythmic exercise, then clap it.

 A blank musical staff in 4/4 time for writing your own rhythmic exercise.

Melodic exercises

1

 A musical staff in 4/4 time. It consists of four measures. The first measure has a bass line of eighth notes. The second measure has a bass line of eighth notes. The third measure has a bass line of eighth notes. The fourth measure has a bass line of eighth notes.

2

 A musical staff in 4/4 time. It consists of four measures. The first measure has a bass line of eighth notes. The second measure has a bass line of eighth notes. The third measure has a bass line of eighth notes. The fourth measure has a bass line of eighth notes.

3

 A musical staff in 4/4 time. It consists of four measures. The first measure has a bass line of eighth notes. The second measure has a bass line of eighth notes. The third measure has a bass line of eighth notes. The fourth measure has a bass line of eighth notes.

3

4/4

8th note bass line: B, A, G, F, E, D, C, B.

5

4/4

8th note bass line: B, A, G, F, E, D, C, B.

1

4/4

8th note bass line: B, A, G, F, E, D, C, B.

5

4/4

8th note bass line: B, A, G, F, E, D, C, B.

1

4/4

8th note bass line: B, A, G, F, E, D, C, B.

5

4/4

8th note bass line: B, A, G, F, E, D, C, B.

Prepared pieces

- 1 How many beats is each ♩ worth?
- 2 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of the piece. Now hear the rhythm in your head.
- 3 What is the key? Play the scale (or microscale).
- 4 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 5 How will you put character into this piece?
- 6 Try to hear the music in your head before you begin.

Skipping

1

- 1 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of the piece. Now hear the rhythm in your head.
- 2 Say the letter names of each note. Play the scale (or microscale).
- 3 Look for the highest and lowest notes and check your fingering.
- 4 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 5 How will you put character into this piece?
- 6 Try to hear the music in your head before you begin.

Calmly

2

Going solo!

Cheekily

A musical score for piano, page 1, featuring two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and 4/4 time, with dynamics *p* (piano) and *f* (forte). The bottom staff is in bass clef and 4/4 time. Measures 1-4 show a pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. Measure 5 begins with a forte dynamic *f*, followed by eighth and sixteenth notes.

Majestically

Musical score for piano, page 5, measures 1-4. The score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef, 4/4 time, and dynamic *f*. The bottom staff is in bass clef, 4/4 time. The music consists of a series of eighth-note chords: (C, E, G), (D, F, A), (E, G, B), (F, A, C), (G, B, D), (A, C, E), (B, D, F), (C, E, G).

Marching

A musical score for piano, page 1, measures 1-4. The score is in 4/4 time. The treble clef is on the first line, and the bass clef is on the fourth line. The dynamic is marked 'ff' (fortissimo) in the first measure. The bass line consists of eighth-note chords: F major (F, A, C) in measures 1-3, and a single eighth note (E) in measure 4. The page number '1' is at the bottom left.

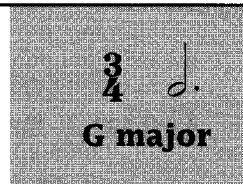
Expressively

Musical score for piano, page 5, measures 1-4. The score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a dynamic marking *p*. The lower staff is in bass clef, 4/4 time. The music is divided into four measures by vertical bar lines. In the first measure, the treble staff has four eighth notes. In the second measure, the treble staff has a half note and a quarter note. In the third measure, the treble staff has a half note and a quarter note. In the fourth measure, the treble staff has a half note and a quarter note. The bass staff has a dash in all four measures, indicating no bass line is present.

Moderato

Musical score for piano, page 1, measures 1-4. The score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef, 4/4 time, and dynamic *mp*. The bottom staff is in bass clef, 4/4 time. Measure 1: Treble staff is silent. Bass staff: G, B, D. Measure 2: Treble staff is silent. Bass staff: B, D, G. Measure 3: Treble staff: F. Bass staff: D, F, A. Measure 4: Treble staff: E. Bass staff: C, E, G, B.

Stage 3



Rhythmic exercises

2
3
4

4
3
4

5

3/4

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

8 Write your own rhythmic exercise, then clap it.

Melodic exercises

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1

2

4

1

3

2

Prepared pieces

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale (or microscale).
- 2 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of the piece. Now hear the rhythm in your head.
- 3 Look for the highest and lowest notes and check your fingering.
- 4 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 5 How will you put character into this piece?
- 6 Try to hear the music in your head before you begin.

1 **Waltz-time**

1

Waltz-time

f

4

- 1 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of the piece. Now hear the rhythm in your head.
- 2 What is the key? Play the scale (or microscale).
- 3 How many F sharps are there?
- 4 What does ***mf*** (*mezzo forte*) mean?
- 5 How will you put character into this piece?
- 6 Try to hear the music in your head before you begin.

2 **Allegro**

2

Allegro

mf

2

Going solo!

Don't forget to prepare each piece carefully before you play it.

With a smile

Musical score for 'With a smile' in 3/4 time, key of G major (two sharps). The treble clef is on the top line, and the bass clef is on the bottom line. The score consists of four measures. Measure 1: Treble line has a quarter note, a eighth note, and a quarter note. Bass line has a half note. Measure 2: Treble line has a half note. Bass line has a half note. Measure 3: Treble line has a quarter note, a eighth note, and a quarter note. Bass line has a half note. Measure 4: Treble line has a half note. Bass line has a half note. Dynamics: 'mf' (mezzo-forte) in measure 1, and a sustained line from measure 2 to 4.

With a cheeky grin

Musical score for 'With a cheeky grin' in 3/4 time, key of G major (two sharps). The treble clef is on the top line, and the bass clef is on the bottom line. The score consists of four measures. Measure 1: Treble line has a half note. Bass line has a quarter note, an eighth note, and a quarter note. Measure 2: Treble line has a half note. Bass line has a quarter note, an eighth note, and a quarter note. Measure 3: Treble line has a half note. Bass line has a quarter note, an eighth note, and a quarter note. Measure 4: Treble line has a half note. Bass line has a half note. Dynamics: 'f' (forte) in measure 1, 'p' (piano) in measure 2, and a sustained line from measure 3 to 4.

Gently

Musical score for 'Gently' in 3/4 time, key of G major (two sharps). The treble clef is on the top line, and the bass clef is on the bottom line. The score consists of four measures. Measure 1: Treble line has a half note. Bass line has a half note. Measure 2: Treble line has a quarter note, an eighth note, and a quarter note. Bass line has a half note. Measure 3: Treble line has a half note. Bass line has a quarter note, an eighth note, and a quarter note. Measure 4: Treble line has a half note. Bass line has a half note. Dynamics: 'mp' (mezzo-piano) in measure 2, and 'p' (pianissimo) in measure 3.

Andante

Musical score for 'Andante' in 3/4 time, key of G major (two sharps). The treble clef is on the top line, and the bass clef is on the bottom line. The score consists of four measures. Measure 1: Treble line has a half note. Bass line has a half note. Measure 2: Treble line has a half note. Bass line has a quarter note, an eighth note, and a quarter note. Measure 3: Treble line has a half note. Bass line has a quarter note, an eighth note, and a quarter note. Measure 4: Treble line has a half note. Bass line has a half note. Dynamics: 'mf' (mezzo-forte) in measure 2, and a sustained line from measure 3 to 4.

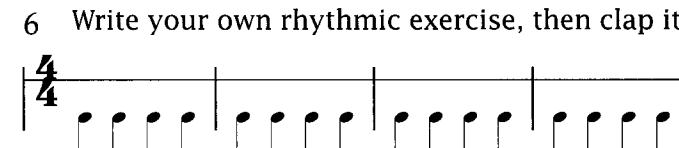
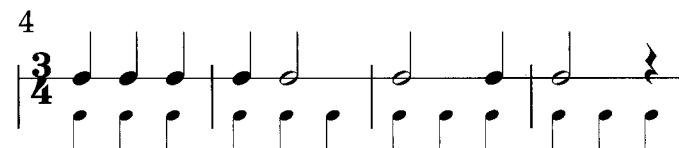
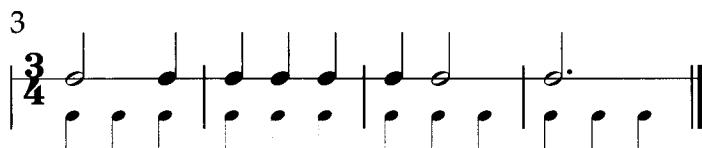
Elegantly

Musical score for 'Elegantly' in 3/4 time, key of G major (two sharps). The treble clef is on the top line, and the bass clef is on the bottom line. The score consists of four measures. Measure 1: Treble line has a half note. Bass line has a half note. Measure 2: Treble line has a half note. Bass line has a quarter note, an eighth note, and a quarter note. Measure 3: Treble line has a half note. Bass line has a half note. Measure 4: Treble line has a half note. Bass line has a half note. Dynamics: 'mp' (mezzo-piano) in measure 2, and 'f' (forte) in measure 4.

Stage 4

F major
Mixing left and right hands

Rhythmic exercises



Melodic exercises

When using both hands, you need to position them correctly before you begin.

1

2

3

3

1

Measures 1: Treble clef, 3/4 time, key signature 1 flat. Bass clef, 3/4 time, key signature 1 flat. The treble staff has a single note in the first measure. The bass staff has a bass note in the first measure.

4

4

Measures 4: Treble clef, 4/4 time, key signature 1 flat. Bass clef, 4/4 time, key signature 1 flat. The treble staff has a bass note in the first measure. The bass staff has a bass note in the first measure. The treble staff has a bass note in the second measure. The bass staff has a bass note in the second measure. The treble staff has a bass note in the third measure. The bass staff has a bass note in the third measure.

3

2

Measures 3: Treble clef, 3/4 time, key signature 1 flat. Bass clef, 3/4 time, key signature 1 flat. The treble staff has a bass note in the first measure. The bass staff has a bass note in the first measure. The treble staff has a bass note in the second measure. The bass staff has a bass note in the second measure. The treble staff has a bass note in the third measure. The bass staff has a bass note in the third measure.

5

4

Measures 5: Treble clef, 4/4 time, key signature 1 flat. Bass clef, 4/4 time, key signature 1 flat. The treble staff has a bass note in the first measure. The bass staff has a bass note in the first measure. The treble staff has a bass note in the second measure. The bass staff has a bass note in the second measure. The treble staff has a bass note in the third measure. The bass staff has a bass note in the third measure.

4

1

Measures 1: Treble clef, 4/4 time, key signature 1 flat. Bass clef, 4/4 time, key signature 1 flat. The treble staff has a bass note in the first measure. The bass staff has a bass note in the first measure. The treble staff has a bass note in the second measure. The bass staff has a bass note in the second measure. The treble staff has a bass note in the third measure. The bass staff has a bass note in the third measure.

3

5

Measures 3: Treble clef, 3/4 time, key signature 1 flat. Bass clef, 3/4 time, key signature 1 flat. The treble staff has a bass note in the first measure. The bass staff has a bass note in the first measure. The treble staff has a bass note in the second measure. The bass staff has a bass note in the second measure. The treble staff has a bass note in the third measure. The bass staff has a bass note in the third measure.

Prepared pieces

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale (or microscale) in both hands.
- 2 Say the names of all the notes. Where is the biggest leap?
- 3 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of the piece. Now hear the rhythm in your head.
- 4 Look for the highest and lowest notes and check your fingering.
- 5 How will you put character into this piece?
- 6 Try to hear the music in your head before you begin.

Allegretto

1

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale (or microscale) in both hands.
- 2 How many intervals of a third can you spot?
- 3 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of the piece. Now hear the rhythm in your head.
- 4 Compare the rhythm of bar 1 to the rhythm of bar 2.
- 5 How will you put character into this piece?
- 6 Try to hear the music in your head before you begin.

Slow and flowing

2

Going solo!

Confidently

1
mf
2

1
2

Sleepily

1
p
2

1
2

Firmly

1
mf
2

1
2

Playfully

1
mf
2

1
2

Jokingly

1
p
2

1
2

Stage 5

Tied notes

Rhythmic exercises

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8 Write your own rhythmic exercise, then clap it.

Melodic exercises

1

2

3

1

5

This measure shows the beginning of a new section. The treble clef is in G major (4 lines, 1 space), and the bass clef is in A major (3 lines, 1 space). The key signature is one sharp. The treble staff has a eighth note followed by a quarter note, then a eighth note followed by a quarter note. The bass staff has a half note followed by a quarter note, then a eighth note followed by a quarter note. The measure ends with a repeat sign and a 4/4 time signature.

3

2

This measure continues the section. The treble clef is in G major (4 lines, 1 space), and the bass clef is in A major (3 lines, 1 space). The key signature is one sharp. The treble staff has a eighth note followed by a quarter note, then a eighth note followed by a quarter note. The bass staff has a half note followed by a quarter note, then a eighth note followed by a quarter note. The measure ends with a repeat sign and a 3/4 time signature.

1

1

This measure continues the section. The treble clef is in G major (4 lines, 1 space), and the bass clef is in A major (3 lines, 1 space). The key signature is one sharp. The treble staff has a eighth note followed by a quarter note, then a eighth note followed by a quarter note. The bass staff has a half note followed by a quarter note, then a eighth note followed by a quarter note. The measure ends with a repeat sign and a 4/4 time signature.

2

1

5

This measure continues the section. The treble clef is in G major (4 lines, 1 space), and the bass clef is in A major (3 lines, 1 space). The key signature is one sharp. The treble staff has a half note followed by a quarter note, then a eighth note followed by a quarter note. The bass staff has a half note followed by a quarter note, then a eighth note followed by a quarter note. The measure ends with a repeat sign and a 3/4 time signature.

1

1

This measure continues the section. The treble clef is in G major (4 lines, 1 space), and the bass clef is in A major (3 lines, 1 space). The key signature is one sharp. The treble staff has a eighth note followed by a quarter note, then a eighth note followed by a quarter note. The bass staff has a half note followed by a quarter note, then a eighth note followed by a quarter note. The measure ends with a repeat sign and a 4/4 time signature.

1

1

This measure continues the section. The treble clef is in G major (4 lines, 1 space), and the bass clef is in A major (3 lines, 1 space). The key signature is one sharp. The treble staff has a eighth note followed by a quarter note, then a eighth note followed by a quarter note. The bass staff has a half note followed by a quarter note, then a eighth note followed by a quarter note. The measure ends with a repeat sign and a 4/4 time signature.

Prepared pieces

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale (or microscale) in both hands.
- 2 What is a tie? Can you find any here?
- 3 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of the piece. Now hear the rhythm in your head.
- 4 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 5 How will you put character into this music?
- 6 Try to hear the music in your head before you begin.

Adagio

1

5

f

2

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale (or microscale) in both hands.
- 2 Look for the highest and lowest notes and check your fingering.
- 3 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of the piece. Now hear the rhythm in your head.
- 4 What particular pattern do you see in bars 1 and 2?
- 5 How will you put character into this piece?
- 6 Try to hear the music in your head before you begin.

Like a lullaby

2

4

mp

5

Going solo!

Strolling along

3

mf

4

Gliding along

5

mp

f

Trotting along

Bustling along

Musical score for piano, page 2, measures 5-6. The score is in 4/4 time and treble/bass clef. The piano part (top staff) has a dynamic of *f*. The bass part (bottom staff) starts with a quarter note on the 5th measure. The piano part has a rest in measure 5. The bass part has a quarter note in measure 6. The piano part has a melodic line starting with a quarter note in measure 6, followed by eighth notes and a half note, with a melodic line ending on a half note in measure 7.

Striding along

Stage 6

$\frac{2}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$
A minor
Phrasing

Rhythmic exercises

1

2

3

4

5

6 Write your own rhythmic exercise, then clap it

4

Melodic exercises

As you get to the end of a phrase make sure that you are *looking ahead* to see what comes next – notes and rhythm.

1

2

3

4/4 time signature, treble and bass staves. The treble staff has a single note at the beginning of measure 5, followed by a rest. The bass staff has a eighth-note pattern: eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair, eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair. Measure 6 begins with a rest. The treble staff has a eighth-note pattern: eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair, eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair. The bass staff has a rest.

3/4 time signature, treble and bass staves. The treble staff has a eighth-note pattern: eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair, eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair. The bass staff has a eighth-note pattern: eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair, eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair. Measure 8 begins with a rest. The treble staff has a eighth-note pattern: eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair, eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair. The bass staff has a rest.

2/4 time signature, treble and bass staves. The treble staff has a single note at the beginning of measure 9, followed by a rest. The bass staff has a eighth-note pattern: eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair, eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair. Measure 10 begins with a rest. The treble staff has a eighth-note pattern: eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair, eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair. The bass staff has a rest.

4/4 time signature, treble and bass staves. The treble staff has a eighth-note pattern: eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair, eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair. The bass staff has a rest. Measure 12 begins with a rest. The treble staff has a eighth-note pattern: eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair, eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair. The bass staff has a rest.

3/4 time signature, treble and bass staves. The treble staff has a rest. The bass staff has a eighth-note pattern: eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair, eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair. Measure 14 begins with a rest. The treble staff has a rest. The bass staff has a eighth-note pattern: eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair, eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair.

2/4 time signature, treble and bass staves. The treble staff has a eighth-note pattern: eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair, eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair. The bass staff has a rest. Measure 16 begins with a rest. The treble staff has a eighth-note pattern: eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair, eighth-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note pair. The bass staff has a rest.

Prepared pieces

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale (or microscale) in both hands.
- 2 What will you count? Tap the rhythm, then hear the rhythm in your head.
- 3 What is the opening interval? What is the connection with the final bar?
- 4 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 5 How will you put character into this piece?
- 6 Try to hear the music in your head before you begin.

Thoughtfully

1

2

- 1 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of the piece. Now hear the **rhythm** in your head.
- 2 What is the key? Play the scale (or microscale) in both hands.
- 3 How is it like a conversation?
- 4 Why are the dynamic levels important?
- 5 How will you put character into this piece?
- 6 Try to hear the music in your head before you begin.

Like a conversation

2

5

f

p

5

Going solo!

Calmly

f

p

5

Flowing

mp

1

3

Lightly

mf

p

4

Lento

p

5

Conversationally

mf

p

1

Stage 7

Staccato,
slurs and accents

Rhythmic exercises

1

2

3

4

5

6 Write your own rhythmic exercise, then clap it

Melodic exercises

You'll find lots of markings on the music now. Staccatos and accents, and in the Prepared pieces and Going solo sections, dynamic markings too. Do your best to bring these to life!

1

2

3

1

4

Measures 1-4: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), 3/4 time. Bass clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), 3/4 time. The treble part consists of a dotted quarter note followed by a sixteenth note, a eighth note followed by a sixteenth note, a half note, and a half note. The bass part consists of a half note, a half note, a dotted quarter note followed by a sixteenth note, and a eighth note followed by a sixteenth note.

1

Measures 1-4: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), 4/4 time. Bass clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), 4/4 time. The treble part consists of a dotted quarter note followed by a sixteenth note, a eighth note followed by a sixteenth note, a half note, and a half note. The bass part consists of a half note, a half note, a dotted quarter note followed by a sixteenth note, and a eighth note followed by a sixteenth note.

4

5

Measures 1-4: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), 3/4 time. Bass clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), 3/4 time. The treble part consists of a half note, a half note, a dotted quarter note followed by a sixteenth note, and a eighth note followed by a sixteenth note. The bass part consists of a half note, a half note, a dotted quarter note followed by a sixteenth note, and a half note.

5

4

Measures 1-4: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), 4/4 time. Bass clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), 4/4 time. The treble part consists of a dotted quarter note followed by a sixteenth note, a eighth note followed by a sixteenth note, a half note, and a half note. The bass part consists of a half note, a half note, a dotted quarter note followed by a sixteenth note, and a eighth note followed by a sixteenth note.

5

5

Measures 1-4: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), 2/4 time. Bass clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), 2/4 time. The treble part consists of a half note, a half note, a dotted quarter note followed by a sixteenth note, and a half note. The bass part consists of a half note, a half note, a dotted quarter note followed by a sixteenth note, and a half note.

5

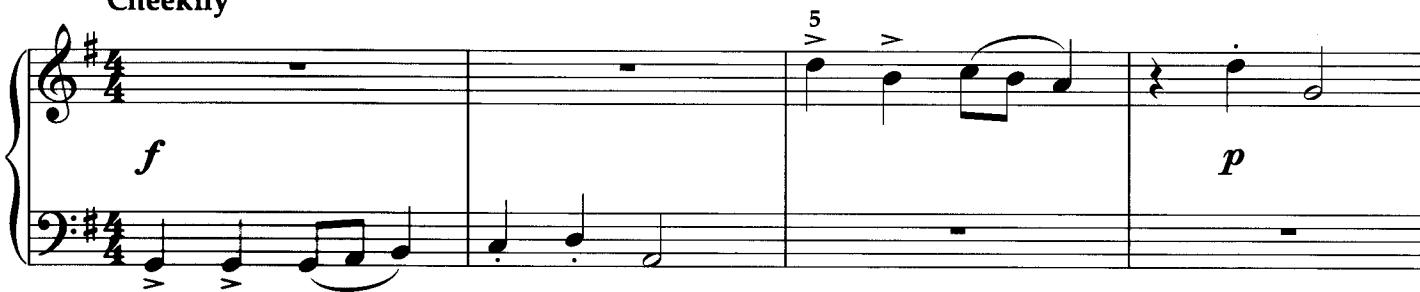
Measures 1-4: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), 4/4 time. Bass clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), 4/4 time. The treble part consists of a half note, a half note, a dotted quarter note followed by a sixteenth note, and a eighth note followed by a sixteenth note. The bass part consists of a half note, a half note, a dotted quarter note followed by a sixteenth note, and a eighth note followed by a sixteenth note.

Prepared pieces

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale (or microscale) in both hands.
- 2 What will you count? Tap the rhythm, then hear the rhythm in your head.
- 3 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 4 How will you play the accented notes  and the staccato notes ?
- 5 How will you use the dynamics to put character into this piece?
- 6 Try to hear the music in your head before you begin.

1

Cheekily



2

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale (or microscale) in both hands.
- 2 What will you count? Tap the rhythm, then hear the rhythm in your head.
- 3 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 4 Look at the first two bars for a few moments. Now play them from memory.
- 5 How will you put character into this piece?
- 6 Try to hear the music in your head before you begin.

2

Allegretto



2

Going solo!

Don't forget to prepare each piece carefully before you play it.

Moderato

3/4

mf

mp

mf

mp

2 1 3

Detailed description: The image shows a page of a musical score for piano. The title 'Moderato' is at the top. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. Measure 1 starts with a half note on the first line, followed by a eighth note on the second line, a sixteenth note on the first line, and a sixteenth note on the second line. Measure 2 starts with a half note on the first line, followed by a eighth note on the second line, a sixteenth note on the first line, and a sixteenth note on the second line. Measure 3 starts with a half note on the first line, followed by a eighth note on the second line, a sixteenth note on the first line, and a sixteenth note on the second line. The dynamics are indicated as follows: measure 1 is *mf*, measure 2 is *mp*, measure 3 is *mf*, and measure 4 is *mp*. Measure numbers 1, 2, and 3 are placed above the corresponding measures. Measure 2 is also marked with a '2' below the staff.

Stage 8

D minor

Rhythmic exercises

1

2

3

4

5

6 Write your own rhythmic exercise, then clap it.

Melodic exercises

1

2

f

3

1

mf

1

2

3

4

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15

16

17

18

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1000

Prepared pieces

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale (or microscale).
- 2 What will you count? Tap the rhythm, then hear the rhythm in your head.
- 3 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 4 Which finger will you use for the first note in each phrase?
- 5 How will you put character into this piece?
- 6 Try to hear the music in your head before you begin.

Andante

1

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale (or microscale).
- 2 What will you count? Tap the rhythm, then hear the rhythm in your head.
- 3 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 4 What are the clues to the character of this piece?
- 5 Look at the first bar for a few moments and then play it accurately from memory.
- 6 Try to hear the music in your head before you begin.

Stepping carefully

2

Going solo!

Darkly

3

mf

4

Gently like a flowing stream

2

mp

p

5

Dreamily

1

p

mf

2

Like a sad clown

4

f

p

f

pp

5

In a hurry

1

mf

p

1

Stage 9

Longer exercises

Rhythmic exercises

Melodic exercises

Make up your own tempo marking for each of the next nine pieces. For example, Cheerfully, Sadly, Gracefully or Grumpily! Play it through first, thinking about the character. Then decide on its marking.

2

4

1

A musical score for piano, featuring two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef, both in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat. Measure 5: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs (A, G); Bass staff has a dash. Measure 6: Treble staff has a dash; Bass staff has eighth-note pairs (D, C). Measure 7: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs (A, G); Bass staff has eighth-note pairs (D, C). Measure 8: Treble staff has a dash; Bass staff has eighth-note pairs (D, C).

Prepared pieces

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale (or microscale) in both hands.
- 2 What will you count? Tap the rhythm, then hear the rhythm in your head.
- 3 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 4 What do you notice about the dynamic shape?
- 5 How will you put character into this piece?
- 6 Try to hear the music in your head before you begin.

Jauntily

1

2

1

f

p

f

p

f

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale (or microscale) in both hands.
- 2 What will you count? Tap the rhythm, then hear the rhythm in your head.
- 3 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 4 Think carefully about the fingering in bars 6 and 7.
- 5 What speed will you play it? What will the character be?
- 6 Try to hear the music in your head before you begin.

Adagio

2

1

2

p

f

p

p

Going solo!

Swaying

Marching

Gracefully



With a smile

Moderato

Stately

3

f

2 1

p

3

The golden rules

A sight-reading checklist

Before you begin to play a piece at sight, always consider the following:

- 1 Look at the time signature and decide how you will count the piece.
- 2 Look at the key signature and find the notes which need raising or lowering.
- 3 Notice patterns – especially those based on scales and arpeggios.
- 4 Check the fingering and hand position for each hand.
- 5 Notice any markings that will help you convey the character.
- 6 Count at least two bars in.

When performing a sight-reading piece

- 1 Keep feeling the pulse.
- 2 Keep going at a steady tempo.
- 3 Ignore mistakes.
- 4 Look ahead – at least to the next note.
- 5 Keep your hands in position on the keyboard.
- 6 Play musically, always trying to convey the character of the music.

Look at each piece for about 30 seconds and try to feel that you are understanding what you see (just like reading these words).

Don't begin until you think you are going to play the piece accurately.

Microscales

If you don't know the whole scale, just the first five notes or even just the first three notes will do! Both patterns will give a good feel of the key.

