

Improve your sight-reading!

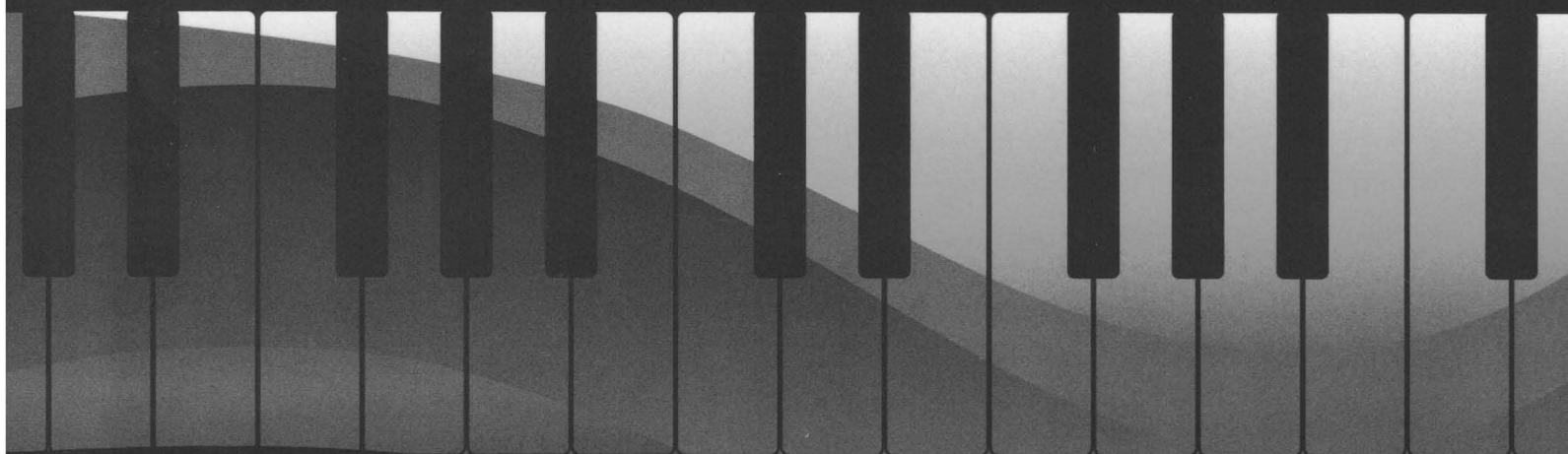
New edition

**Piano
Level 1**

**Early
elementary**

A progressive, interactive approach
to sight-reading

Paul Harris



FABER *ff* MUSIC

Grade 1 Level 1 Early elementary **Piano**

Improve your sight-reading!

Paul Harris

Stage 1 $\frac{4}{4}$   **C major**

Stage 2  **Small leaps**

Stage 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  **G major**

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

Stage 5 **Tied notes**

Stage 6 **A minor, Phrasing, $\frac{2}{4}$ 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 _____

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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.

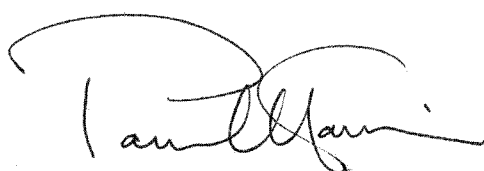
3 Prepared pieces

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.

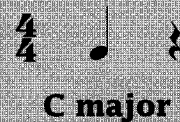
4 Going solo!

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:

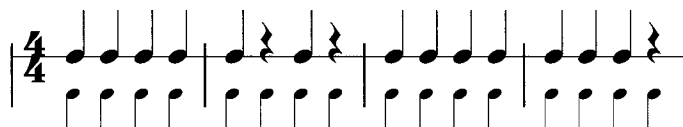
- Tap the pulse with your right foot (sometimes use your left foot!) and clap the rhythm.
- Tap the pulse with one hand and the rhythm with the other (swap hands!).
- Tap the pulse with your foot and play the rhythm on a note (either hand).
- Tap the pulse with your foot and make up a tune to fit the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

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

1



2



3



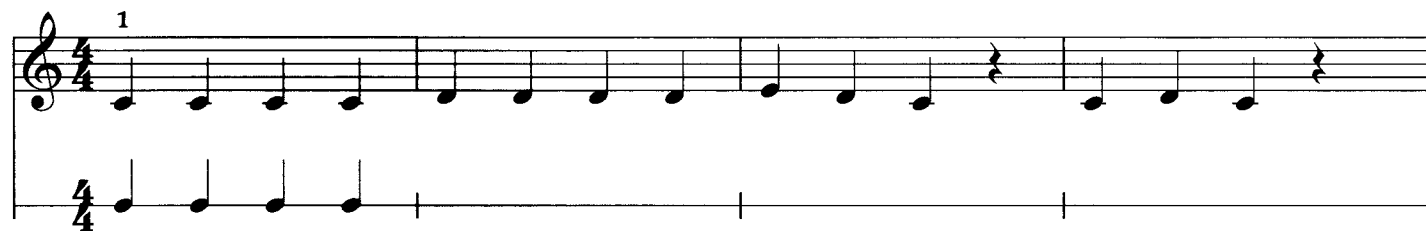
4 Now write your own exercise and then clap it.



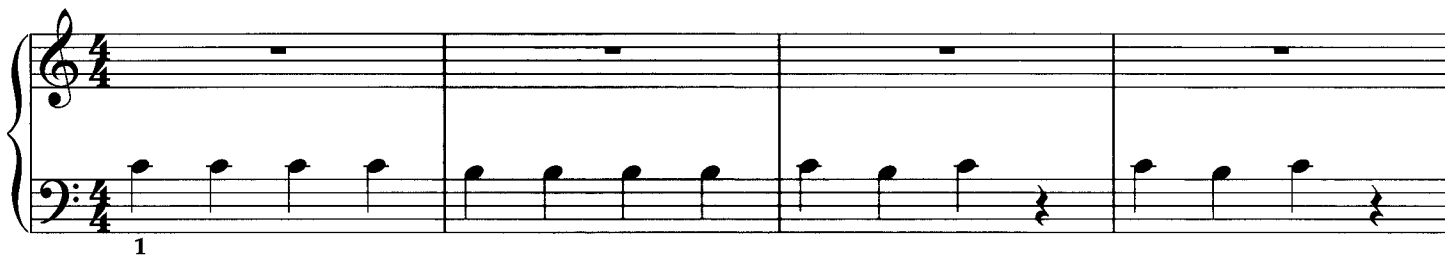
Melodic exercises

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

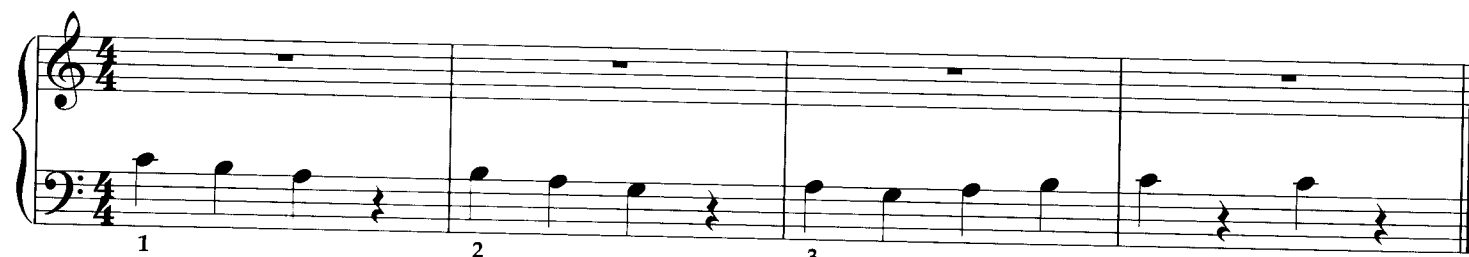


2



3





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

f

- 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

p

1

* See page 40 for details.

Going solo!

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

Marching

Musical score for 'Marching' in 4/4 time. The right hand (treble clef) plays a series of whole notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The left hand (bass clef) plays a series of eighth notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4. The dynamic is *mf*. The score is marked with a '1' at the beginning.

Dancing

Musical score for 'Dancing' in 4/4 time. The right hand (treble clef) plays a series of eighth notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The left hand (bass clef) plays a series of eighth notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4. The dynamic is *f*. The score is marked with a '1' at the beginning and a '4' at the end.

Stealthily

Musical score for 'Stealthily' in 4/4 time. The right hand (treble clef) plays a series of whole notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The left hand (bass clef) plays a series of eighth notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4. The dynamic is *p*. The score is marked with a '1' at the beginning.

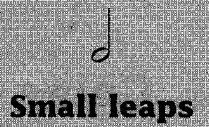
Humorously!

Musical score for 'Humorously!' in 4/4 time. The right hand (treble clef) plays a series of eighth notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The left hand (bass clef) plays a series of eighth notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4. The dynamic is *mf*. The score is marked with a '3' at the beginning, a '2' in the middle, and a '3' at the end.

Cheerfully

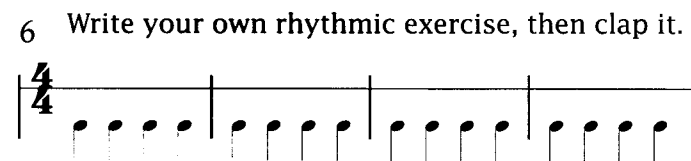
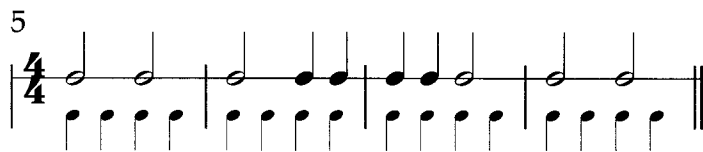
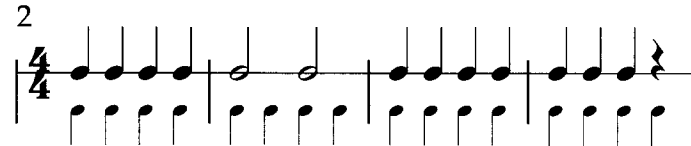
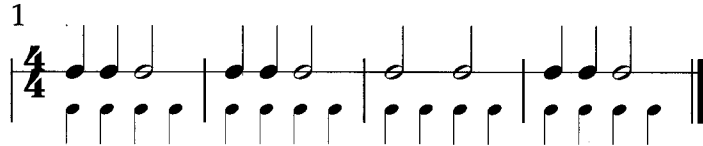
Musical score for 'Cheerfully' in 4/4 time. The right hand (treble clef) plays a series of whole notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The left hand (bass clef) plays a series of eighth notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4. The dynamic is *f*. The score is marked with a '1' at the beginning, a '2' in the middle, a '4' at the end, and a '3' at the very end.

Stage 2



Rhythmic exercises

Don't forget to count two bars in!

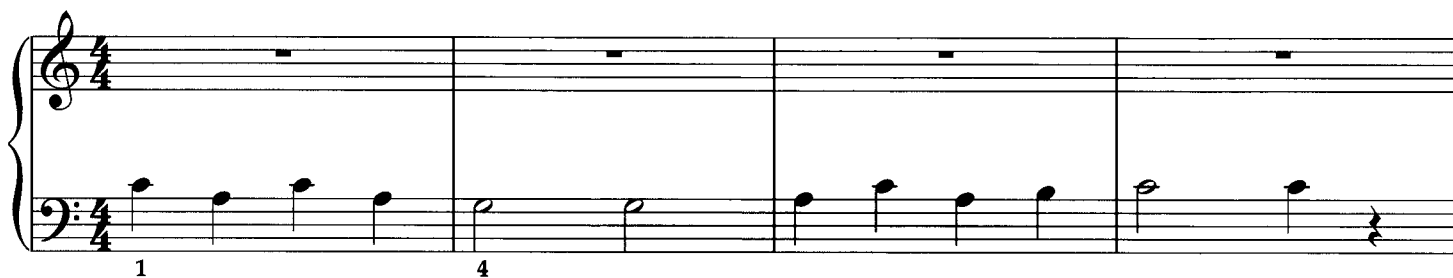


Melodic exercises

1



2




3





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

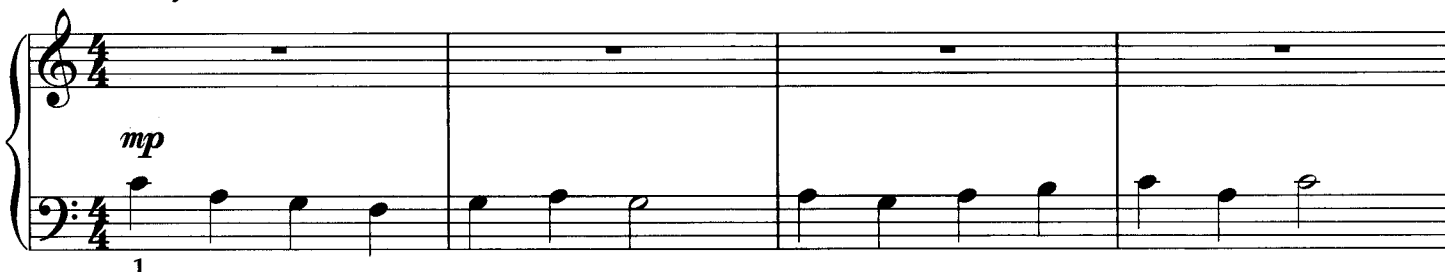
1



- 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

Musical notation for the 'Cheekily' section. It is in 4/4 time. The right hand has whole rests in all four measures. The left hand starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The first measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The second measure has a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a half note A4. The third measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a half note E4. The fourth measure has a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a half note B3. A finger number '1' is written below the first note. A crescendo hairpin spans the third and fourth measures. A finger number '5' is written below the first note of the fourth measure.

Majestically

Musical notation for the 'Majestically' section. It is in 4/4 time. The left hand has whole rests in all four measures. The right hand starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The first measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The second measure has a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a half note A4. The third measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a half note E4. The fourth measure has a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a half note B3. A finger number '5' is written above the first note.

Marching

Musical notation for the 'Marching' section. It is in 4/4 time. The right hand has whole rests in all four measures. The left hand starts with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. The first measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The second measure has a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a half note A4. The third measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a half note E4. The fourth measure has a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a half note B3. A finger number '1' is written below the first note.

Expressively

Musical notation for the 'Expressively' section. It is in 4/4 time. The left hand has whole rests in all four measures. The right hand starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The first measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The second measure has a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a half note A4. The third measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a half note E4. The fourth measure has a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a half note B3. A finger number '5' is written above the first note. Crescendo and decrescendo hairpins are used in each measure.

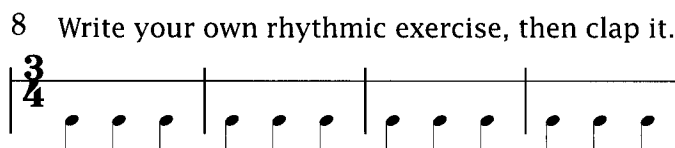
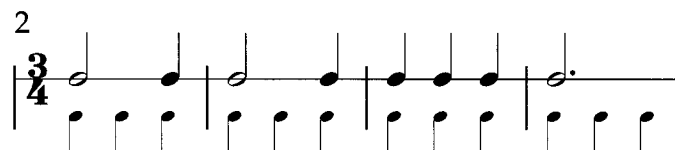
Moderato

Musical notation for the 'Moderato' section. It is in 4/4 time. The right hand has whole rests in all four measures. The left hand starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The first measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The second measure has a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a half note A4. The third measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a half note E4. The fourth measure has a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a half note B3. A finger number '1' is written below the first note.

Stage 3

$\frac{3}{4}$ 
G major

Rhythmic exercises



Melodic exercises





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**.

Waltz-time

1

The musical score for 'Waltz-time' is in 3/4 time, key of D major (one sharp). The tempo is marked 'Waltz-time'. The piece begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The melody in the treble clef starts on G4, followed by A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, and G5. The bass line is a simple accompaniment pattern: two eighth notes followed by a quarter note, starting on D3 and moving up stepwise.

- 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**.

Allegro

2

The musical score for 'Allegro' is in 3/4 time, key of D major (one sharp). The tempo is marked 'Allegro'. The piece begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The melody in the treble clef starts on G4, followed by A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, and G5. The bass line is a simple accompaniment pattern: two eighth notes followed by a quarter note, starting on D3 and moving up stepwise.

Going solo!

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

With a smile

Musical notation for the first exercise, 'With a smile'. It is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is in the treble clef, starting with a triplet of eighth notes (F#, A, C) and continuing with a half note (D), a quarter note (E), and a half note (F#). The bass line is in the bass clef and consists of whole rests. The dynamic is *mf*. There are hairpins indicating a crescendo in the first two measures and a decrescendo in the last two measures.

With a cheeky grin

Musical notation for the second exercise, 'With a cheeky grin'. It is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is in the bass clef, starting with a quarter note (F#), a half note (A), and a quarter note (C). The treble line consists of whole rests. The dynamic starts at *f* and changes to *p* in the second measure. A finger number '1' is written below the first note of the bass line. There are hairpins indicating a decrescendo in the first two measures and a crescendo in the last two measures.

Gently

Musical notation for the third exercise, 'Gently'. It is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is in the treble clef, starting with a quarter rest, followed by a half note (F#), a quarter note (A), and a half note (C). The bass line consists of whole rests. The dynamic is *mp* and changes to *p* in the third measure. A finger number '5' is written above the first note of the treble line. There are hairpins indicating a decrescendo in the first two measures and a crescendo in the last two measures.

Andante

Musical notation for the fourth exercise, 'Andante'. It is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is in the bass clef, starting with a half note (F#), a quarter note (A), and a half note (C). The treble line consists of whole rests. The dynamic is *mf*. There are hairpins indicating a decrescendo in the first two measures and a crescendo in the last two measures.

Elegantly

Musical notation for the fifth exercise, 'Elegantly'. It is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is in the treble clef, starting with a half note (F#), a quarter note (A), and a half note (C). The bass line consists of whole rests. The dynamic is *mp* and changes to *f* in the fourth measure. A finger number '5' is written above the first note of the treble line. There are hairpins indicating a decrescendo in the first two measures and a crescendo in the last two measures.

Stage 4

F major
Mixing left and
right hands

Rhythmic exercises

1

2

3

4

5

6 Write your own rhythmic exercise, then clap it

Melodic exercises

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

1

2

3



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

5

f

4

- 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

p

5

2

Going solo!

Confidently

1

mf *f*

2

Sleepily

4

p

2

Firmly

4

mf *f*

3

Playfully

4

mf *p*

5

Jokingly

1

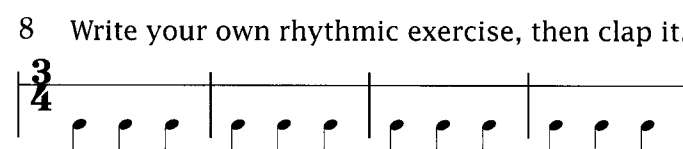
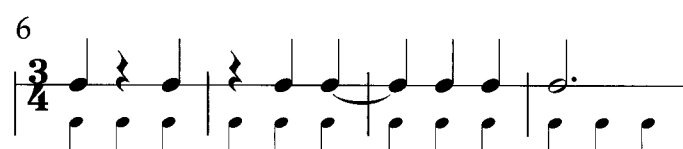
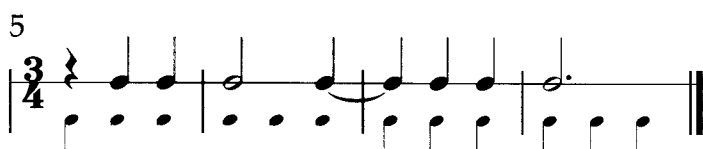
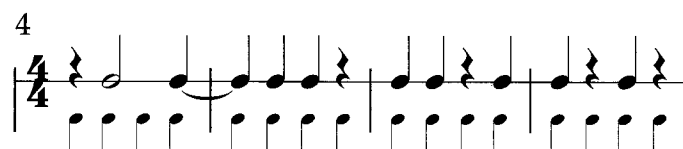
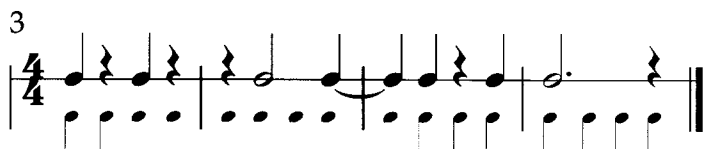
p *f*

4

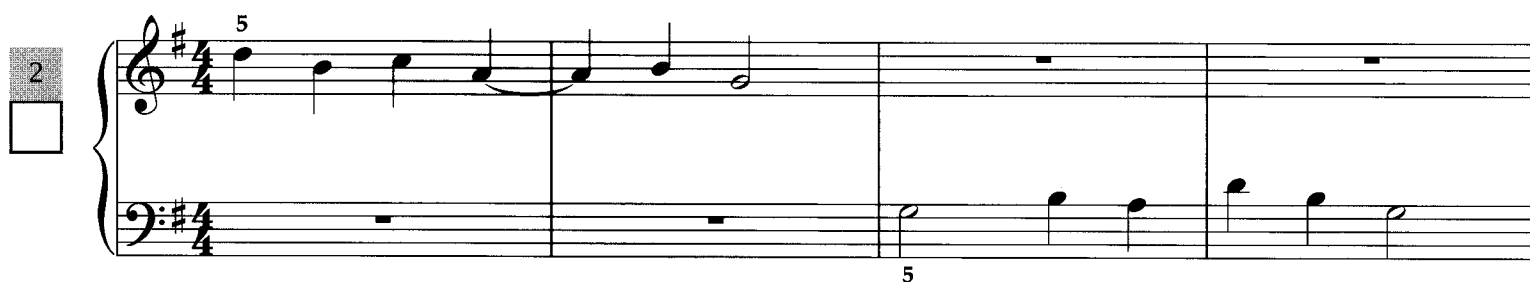
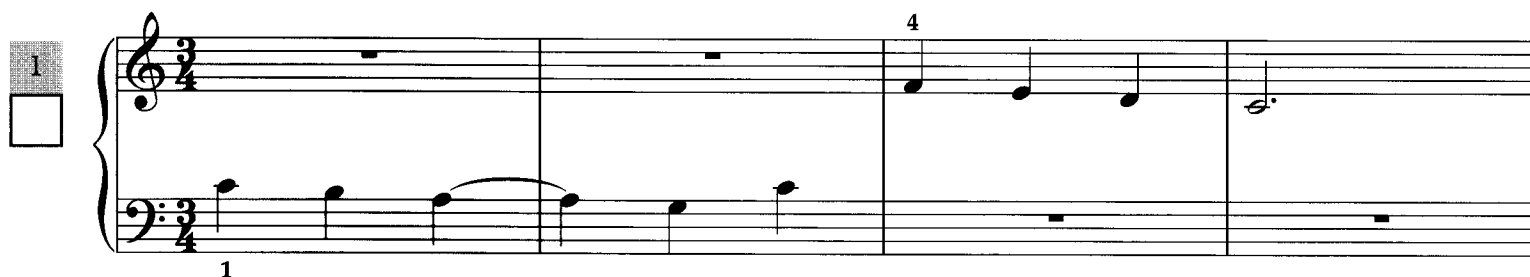
Stage 5

Tied notes

Rhythmic exercises



Melodic exercises





1

5

First system of a musical score in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff begins with a first finger (1) trill on G4. The bass clef staff has a whole rest in the first two measures, then plays a descending eighth-note scale (F4, E4, D4, C4) in the third measure, followed by a whole rest in the fourth measure.



3

2

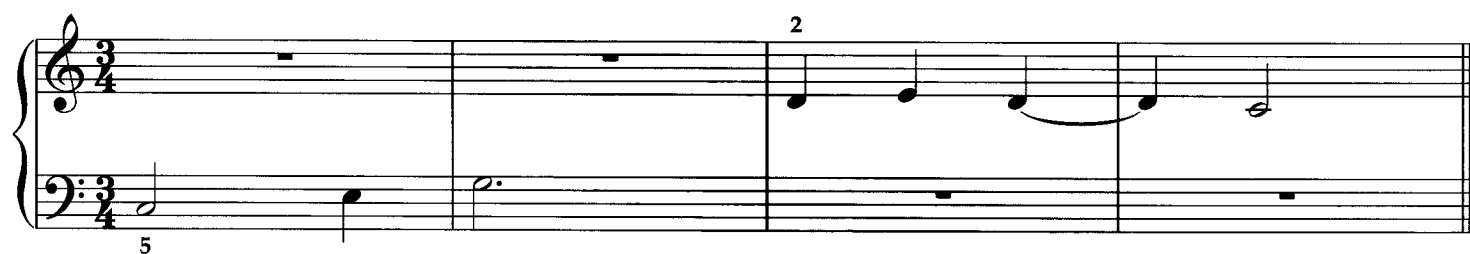
Second system of a musical score in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The treble clef staff begins with a third finger (3) trill on G4. The bass clef staff has whole rests in the first two measures, then plays a half note F#4 in the third measure, followed by a whole rest in the fourth measure.



1

1

Third system of a musical score in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb). The treble clef staff begins with a first finger (1) trill on G4. The bass clef staff has whole rests in the first two measures, then plays an ascending eighth-note scale (F4, G4, A4, Bb4) in the third measure, followed by a whole rest in the fourth measure.



2

5

Fourth system of a musical score in 3/4 time. The treble clef staff has whole rests in the first two measures, then plays a descending eighth-note scale (G4, F4, E4, D4) in the third measure, followed by a whole rest in the fourth measure. The bass clef staff begins with a fifth finger (5) trill on G2.



1

1

Fifth system of a musical score in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The treble clef staff begins with a first finger (1) trill on G4. The bass clef staff has whole rests in the first two measures, then plays an ascending eighth-note scale (F#4, G4, A4, B4) in the third measure, followed by a whole rest in the fourth measure.



1

1

Sixth system of a musical score in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff begins with a first finger (1) trill on G4. The bass clef staff has whole rests in the first two measures, then plays a half note G2 in the third measure, followed by a whole rest in the fourth measure.

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

5

1

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

4

2

mp

5

Going solo!

Strolling along

Musical score for 'Strolling along' in 4/4 time. The piece is marked *mf*. The right hand starts with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) followed by a half note (C5) and a quarter note (B4). The left hand has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a half note (G3) and a quarter note (F3) in the second measure, and a half note (E3) and a quarter note (D3) in the third measure. A fermata is placed over the final half note (D3).

Gliding along

Musical score for 'Gliding along' in 3/4 time. The piece is marked *mp*. The right hand has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a half note (G4) and a quarter note (F4) in the second measure, and a half note (E4) and a quarter note (D4) in the third measure. A fermata is placed over the final half note (D4). The left hand has a half note (G3) and a quarter note (F3) in the first measure, and a half note (E3) and a quarter note (D3) in the second measure.

Trotting along

Musical score for 'Trotting along' in 4/4 time. The piece is marked *f*. The right hand starts with a quarter note (G4), followed by a half note (A4), and a quarter note (B4). The left hand has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a half note (G3) and a quarter note (F3) in the second measure, and a half note (E3) and a quarter note (D3) in the third measure. A fermata is placed over the final half note (D3).

Bustling along

Musical score for 'Bustling along' in 4/4 time. The piece is marked *f*. The right hand has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a half note (G4) and a quarter note (F4) in the second measure, and a half note (E4) and a quarter note (D4) in the third measure. A fermata is placed over the final half note (D4). The left hand has a half note (G3) and a quarter note (F3) in the first measure, and a half note (E3) and a quarter note (D3) in the second measure.

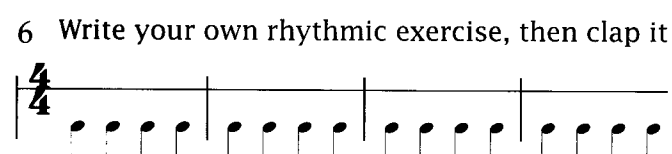
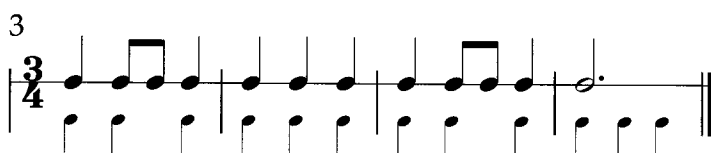
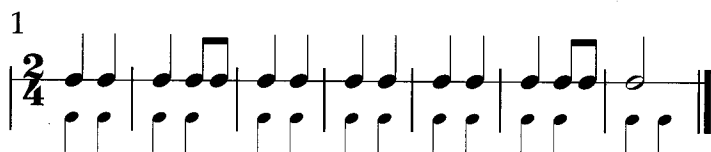
Striding along

Musical score for 'Striding along' in 3/4 time. The piece is marked *f*. The right hand has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a half note (G4) and a quarter note (F4) in the second measure, and a half note (E4) and a quarter note (D4) in the third measure. A fermata is placed over the final half note (D4). The left hand has a half note (G3) and a quarter note (F3) in the first measure, and a half note (E3) and a quarter note (D3) in the second measure.

Stage 6

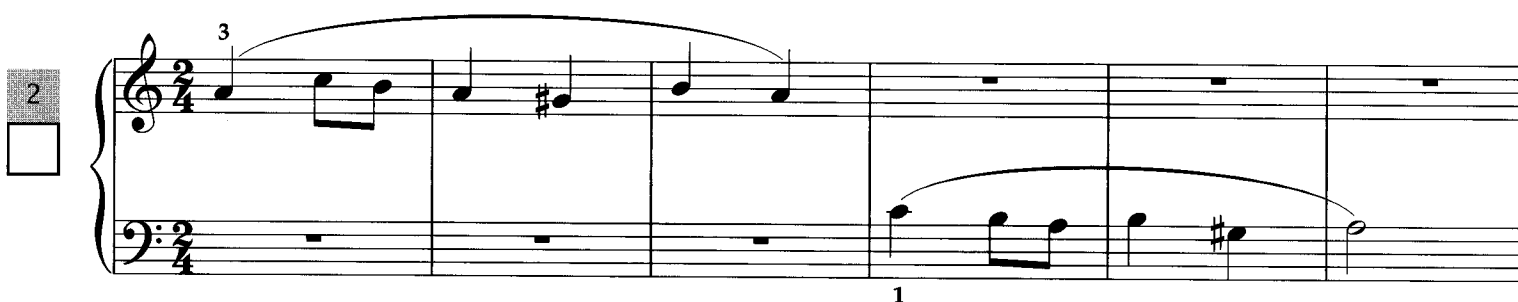
$\frac{2}{4}$ and $\frac{4}{4}$
A minor
Phrasing

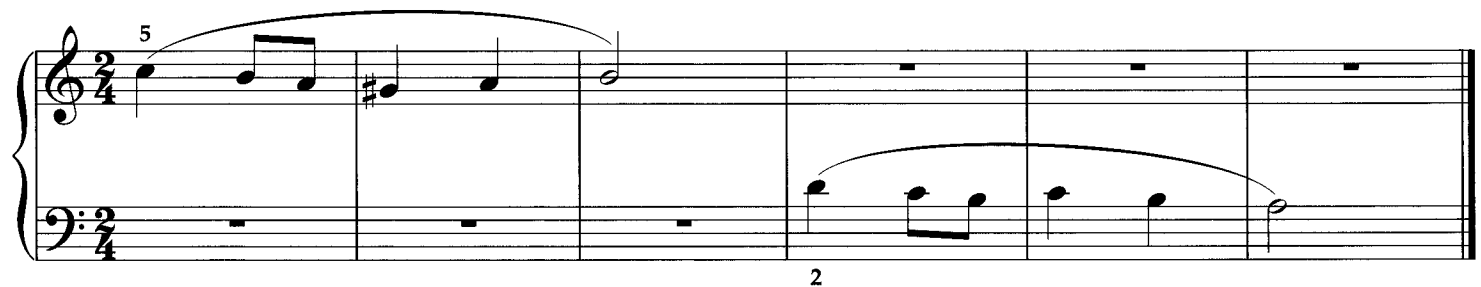
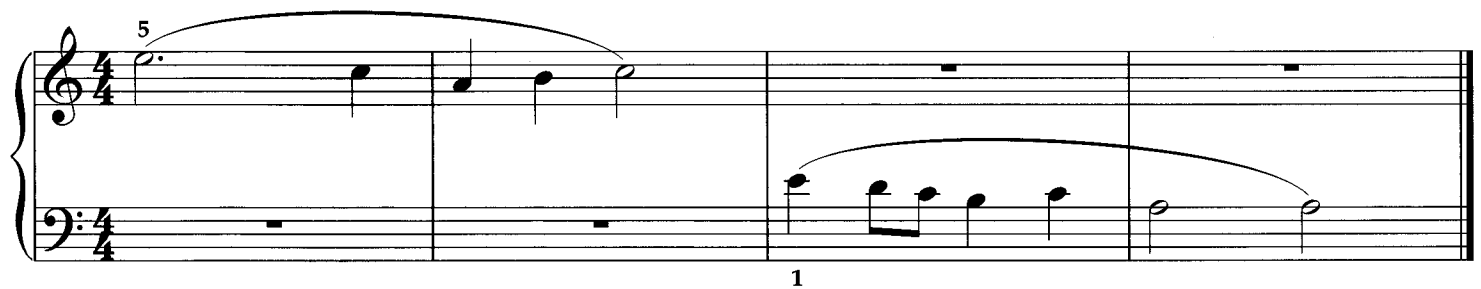
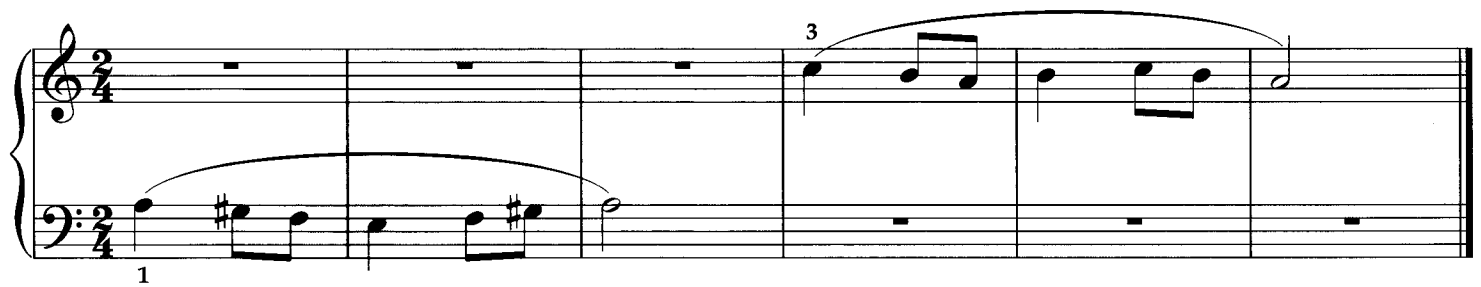
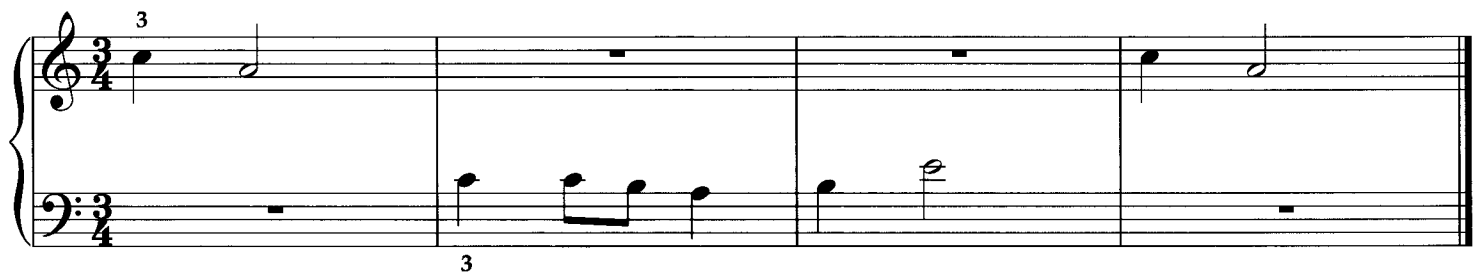
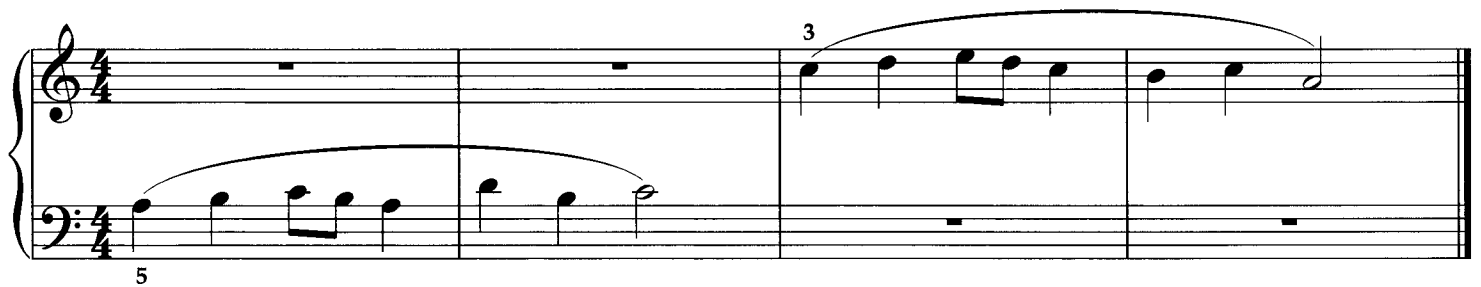
Rhythmic exercises



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.





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

mp

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

f

p

5

Going solo!

Calmly

f *p*

5

Flowing

mp

3

Lightly

mf *p*

4

Lento

p

5

Conversationally

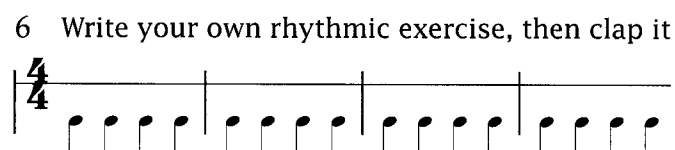
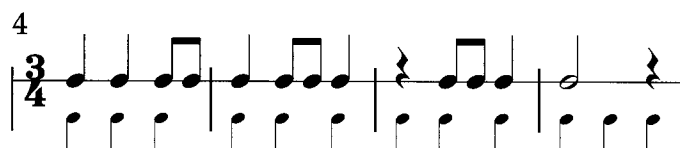
mf *p*

1

Stage 7

Staccato,
slurs and accents

Rhythmic exercises



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 4

1 1



4 5

5 4

5 5

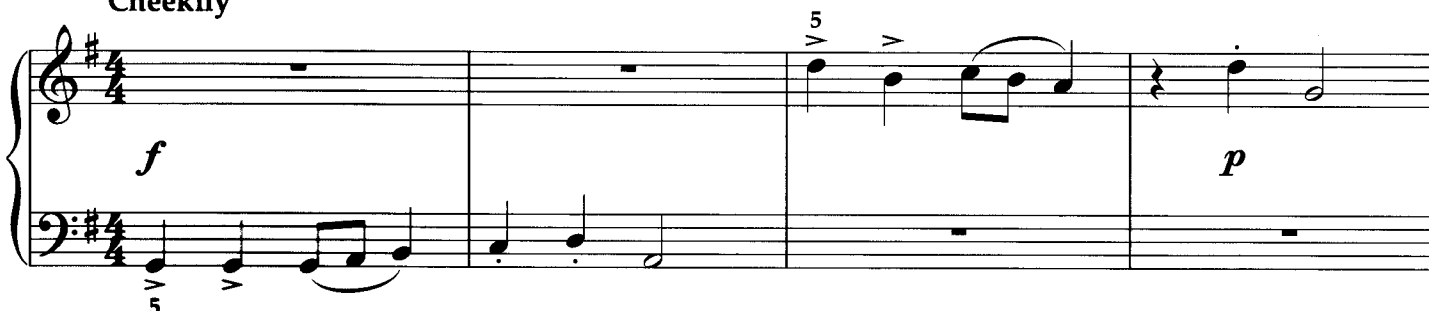
5 5

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.

Cheekily

1



- 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.

Allegretto

2



Going solo!

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

Smoothly

Musical score for 'Smoothly' in 3/4 time. The piece is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *p* (piano). The melody is in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. The score consists of four measures. The first measure has a *mf* dynamic. The second measure has a *p* dynamic. The third measure has a *p* dynamic. The fourth measure has a *p* dynamic. The melody is a simple, flowing line. The bass line is a simple, flowing line. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Marching

Musical score for 'Marching' in 2/4 time. The piece is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *f* (forte). The melody is in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. The score consists of six measures. The first measure has a *mf* dynamic. The second measure has a *mf* dynamic. The third measure has a *mf* dynamic. The fourth measure has a *f* dynamic. The fifth measure has a *f* dynamic. The sixth measure has a *f* dynamic. The melody is a simple, marching line. The bass line is a simple, marching line. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Moderato

Musical score for 'Moderato' in 3/4 time. The piece is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The melody is in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. The score consists of four measures. The first measure has a *mf* dynamic. The second measure has a *mp* dynamic. The third measure has a *mf* dynamic. The fourth measure has a *mp* dynamic. The melody is a simple, flowing line. The bass line is a simple, flowing line. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Heartily

Musical score for 'Heartily' in 4/4 time. The piece is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *f* (forte). The melody is in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. The score consists of four measures. The first measure has a *mf* dynamic. The second measure has a *mf* dynamic. The third measure has a *f* dynamic. The fourth measure has a *f* dynamic. The melody is a simple, flowing line. The bass line is a simple, flowing line. The piece ends with a double bar line.

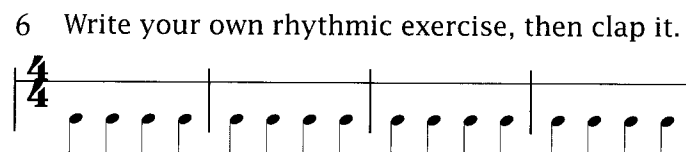
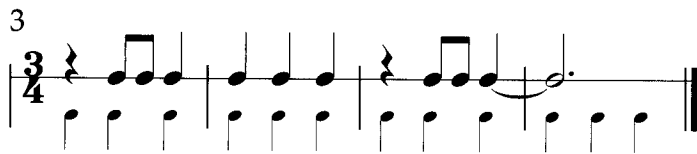
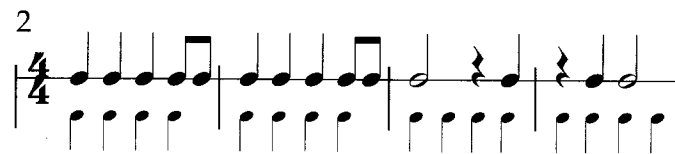
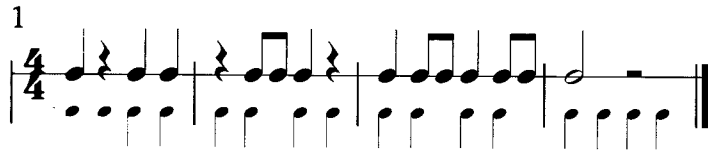
Two people; one polite, one rude

Musical score for 'Two people; one polite, one rude' in 2/4 time. The piece is marked *p* (piano) and *f* (forte). The melody is in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. The score consists of six measures. The first measure has a *p* dynamic. The second measure has a *p* dynamic. The third measure has a *p* dynamic. The fourth measure has a *f* dynamic. The fifth measure has a *f* dynamic. The sixth measure has a *f* dynamic. The melody is a simple, flowing line. The bass line is a simple, flowing line. The piece ends with a double bar line.

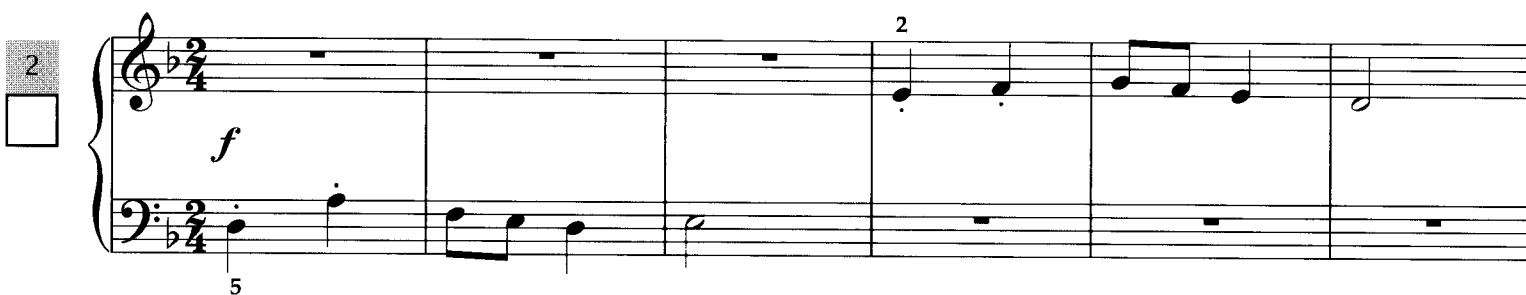
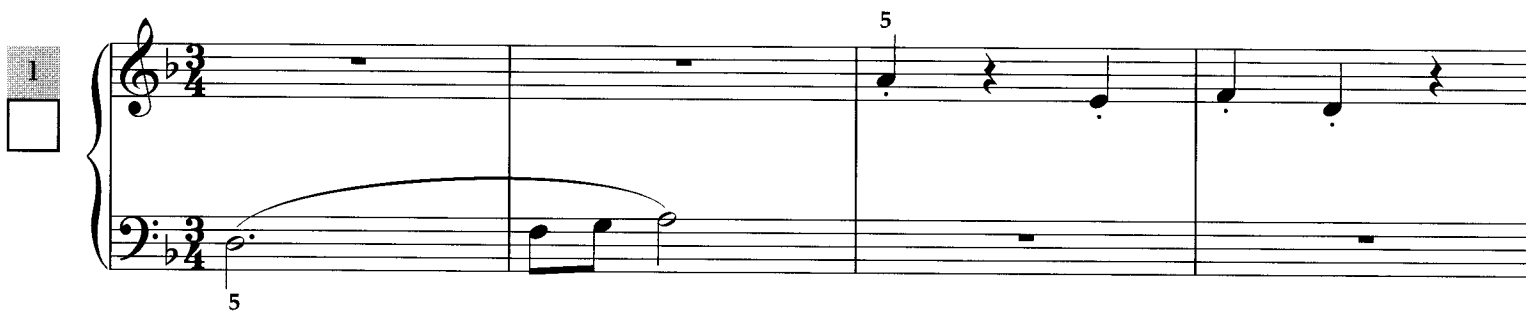
Stage 8

D minor

Rhythmic exercises



Melodic exercises



The first system of the musical score is for the piano. It consists of two staves, treble and bass, in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the treble clef, starting on a quarter note G4 (labeled '1'), followed by eighth notes A4-Bb4, C5-Bb4, and a quarter note A4. The bass line is mostly rests, with a melodic entry in the fourth measure consisting of eighth notes G2-A2, Bb2-A2, and a quarter note G2. The dynamic marking *mf* is placed below the first measure of the treble staff.

The musical score is for the song "The Rose Tree". It is written for voice and piano in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The score consists of two systems. The first system contains the first two measures of the piece. The second system contains the next two measures. The vocal line is written in a soprano clef, and the piano accompaniment is written in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics "The Rose Tree" are written below the vocal line. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like "p" (piano) and "v" (voice).

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The piece consists of four measures. The first measure has a whole note in the treble and a half note in the bass. The second measure has a whole note in the treble and a half note in the bass. The third measure has a whole note in the treble and a half note in the bass. The fourth measure has a whole note in the treble and a half note in the bass. The melody is a simple, folk-like tune. The bass line provides a simple accompaniment. The piece ends with a double bar line.

A musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". The score is written for a single melodic line on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) in 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with a few notes in the bass clef. The melody is marked with a "5" above the first note and a "5" below the last note, indicating a fifth interval. The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style, with a mix of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics "The Rose Tree" are written below the melody.

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.

1

Andante

- 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.

2

Stepping carefully

Going solo!

Darkly

Musical score for the piece 'Darkly'. It is written for piano in 4/4 time. The melody in the right hand starts with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) and continues with a half note (C5) and a quarter note (B4). The bass line in the left hand has a whole note (B3) and a half note (A3). The dynamic is *mf*. There is a finger number '3' above the first triplet and a '4' below the first note of the bass line.

Gently like a flowing stream

Musical score for the piece 'Gently like a flowing stream'. It is written for piano in 2/4 time. The melody in the right hand starts with a half note (G4) and continues with a quarter note (A4), a quarter note (B4), and a half note (C5). The bass line in the left hand has a half note (B3) and a quarter note (A3). The dynamic is *mp*. There is a finger number '2' above the second measure of the right hand and a '5' below the first note of the bass line.

Dreamily

Musical score for the piece 'Dreamily'. It is written for piano in 3/4 time. The melody in the right hand starts with a half note (G4) and continues with a quarter note (A4), a quarter note (B4), and a half note (C5). The bass line in the left hand has a half note (B3) and a quarter note (A3). The dynamic is *p*. There is a finger number '1' above the first measure of the right hand and a '2' below the first note of the bass line.

Like a sad clown

Musical score for the piece 'Like a sad clown'. It is written for piano in 4/4 time. The melody in the right hand starts with a half note (G4) and continues with a quarter note (A4), a quarter note (B4), and a half note (C5). The bass line in the left hand has a half note (B3) and a quarter note (A3). The dynamic is *f*. There is a finger number '4' above the second measure of the right hand and a '5' below the first note of the bass line.

In a hurry

Musical score for the piece 'In a hurry'. It is written for piano in 2/4 time. The melody in the right hand starts with a half note (G4) and continues with a quarter note (A4), a quarter note (B4), and a half note (C5). The bass line in the left hand has a half note (B3) and a quarter note (A3). The dynamic is *mf*. There is a finger number '1' above the first measure of the right hand and a '1' below the first note of the bass line.

Stage 9

Longer
exercises

Rhythmic exercises

1

2

3

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.

1

2

3

First system of musical notation. Treble clef, key of D major (F#), 3/4 time. The right hand plays a triplet of eighth notes (D4, E4, F#4) in the first measure, followed by eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) in the second measure, and a half note (C5) in the third measure. The bass clef has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by eighth notes (D3, E3, F#3) in the second measure, and a half note (G3) in the third measure. A finger number '3' is above the first note of the triplet in the right hand, and a finger number '2' is below the first note of the eighth-note pair in the left hand.

Second system of musical notation. Treble clef, key of D major (F#), 4/4 time. The right hand has whole rests in the first three measures, followed by eighth notes (A4, G4) in the fourth measure, eighth notes (F#4, E4) in the fifth measure, eighth notes (D4, C4) in the sixth measure, and a half note (B3) in the seventh measure. The bass clef plays eighth notes (D3, E3) in the first measure, eighth notes (F#3, G3) in the second measure, eighth notes (A3, B3) in the third measure, eighth notes (C4, D4) in the fourth measure, and a whole rest in the fifth measure. A finger number '5' is below the first note of the eighth-note pair in the left hand, and a finger number '5' is above the first note of the eighth-note pair in the right hand.

Third system of musical notation. Treble clef, key of B-flat major (Bb), 3/4 time. The right hand has whole rests in the first three measures, followed by a half note (Bb4) in the fourth measure, a half note (C5) in the fifth measure, and a half note (Bb4) in the sixth measure. The bass clef plays a half note (Bb3) in the first measure, a half note (C4) in the second measure, and eighth notes (D4, C4) in the third measure. A finger number '5' is below the first note of the half note in the left hand, and a finger number '1' is above the first note of the half note in the right hand.

Fourth system of musical notation. Treble clef, key of D major (F#), 4/4 time. The right hand has whole rests in the first three measures, followed by eighth notes (A4, G4) in the fourth measure, eighth notes (F#4, E4) in the fifth measure, eighth notes (D4, C4) in the sixth measure, and a half note (B3) in the seventh measure. The bass clef plays eighth notes (D3, E3) in the first measure, eighth notes (F#3, G3) in the second measure, eighth notes (A3, B3) in the third measure, and a whole rest in the fourth measure. A finger number '1' is below the first note of the eighth-note pair in the left hand, and a finger number '4' is above the first note of the eighth-note pair in the right hand.

Fifth system of musical notation. Treble clef, key of D major (F#), 3/4 time. The right hand plays eighth notes (A4, G4) in the first measure, eighth notes (F#4, E4) in the second measure, and a half note (D4) in the third measure. The bass clef has whole rests in the first three measures, followed by eighth notes (D3, E3) in the fourth measure, eighth notes (F#3, G3) in the fifth measure, and a half note (A3) in the sixth measure. A finger number '4' is above the first note of the eighth-note pair in the right hand, and a finger number '1' is below the first note of the eighth-note pair in the left hand.

Sixth system of musical notation. Treble clef, key of B-flat major (Bb), 4/4 time. The right hand plays eighth notes (Bb4, A4) in the first measure, eighth notes (G4, F#4) in the second measure, and a half note (E4) in the third measure. The bass clef has whole rests in the first three measures, followed by eighth notes (D3, E3) in the fourth measure, eighth notes (F#3, G3) in the fifth measure, and a half note (A3) in the sixth measure. A finger number '5' is above the first note of the eighth-note pair in the right hand, and a finger number '1' is below the first note of the eighth-note pair in the left hand.

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.

1

Jauntily

1

- 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.

2

Adagio

2

Going solo!

Swaying

Musical score for 'Swaying' in 3/4 time. The right hand starts with a whole rest for the first four measures, then plays a descending eighth-note scale (G4, F4, E4, D4, C4) starting in measure 5, ending with a half note C4 in measure 8. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment (G3, A3, B3, C4) throughout. Dynamics: *mf* (measures 1-4), *f* (measures 5-7), *p* (measure 8).

Marching

Musical score for 'Marching' in 4/4 time. The right hand plays a rhythmic eighth-note pattern (G4, A4, B4, C5) with accents, starting in measure 1 and ending in measure 8. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment (G3, A3, B3, C4) throughout. Dynamics: *f* (measures 1-2), *p* (measures 3-4), *f* (measures 5-6), *p* (measures 7-8).

Gracefully

Musical score for 'Gracefully' in 3/4 time. The right hand plays a descending eighth-note scale (G4, F4, E4, D4, C4) starting in measure 5, ending with a half note C4 in measure 8. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment (G3, A3, B3, C4) throughout. Dynamics: *mp* (measures 1-4), *f* (measures 5-7), *mp* (measure 8).

With a smile

Musical score for 'With a smile' in 4/4 time. The right hand plays a rhythmic eighth-note pattern (G4, A4, B4, C5) with accents, starting in measure 1 and ending in measure 8. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment (G3, A3, B3, C4) throughout. Dynamics: *f* (measures 1-2), *p* (measures 3-4), *p* (measures 5-6), *f* (measures 7-8).

Moderato

Musical score for 'Moderato' in 3/4 time. The right hand plays a descending eighth-note scale (G4, F4, E4, D4, C4) starting in measure 5, ending with a half note C4 in measure 8. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment (G3, A3, B3, C4) throughout. Dynamics: *mp* (measures 1-4), *f* (measures 5-7), *mp* (measure 8).

Stately

Musical score for 'Stately' in 4/4 time. The right hand plays a rhythmic eighth-note pattern (G4, A4, B4, C5) with accents, starting in measure 1 and ending in measure 8. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment (G3, A3, B3, C4) throughout. Dynamics: *f* (measures 1-2), *p* (measures 3-4), *p* (measures 5-6), *f* (measures 7-8).

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.

