

Improve your sight-reading!

New edition

Piano
Level 2

Elementary

A progressive, interactive approach
to sight-reading

Paul Harris



FABER *ff* MUSIC

Improve your sight-reading!

Paul Harris

Stage 1 **Simple hands together**

Stage 2 **More movement between the hands,
More slurs and staccato**

Stage 3 **D major**

Stage 4  in $\frac{4}{4}$

Stage 5  in $\frac{3}{4}$

Stage 6 **E minor, More articulation**

Stage 7 **G minor**

Stage 8  **Revision of keys**

Stage 9 **Longer examples**

Stage 1

Simple hands
together

Reading right and left hands together is no more difficult than reading one hand at a time! It's like reading the following:

The	on	then	and
cat	the	saw a	had a
sat	mat	rat	chat!

No problem! The most important thing is *preparing very carefully and really understanding each piece* before playing it.

So, before you start to play, look carefully at the music and:

- Check that you understand the rhythm and counting.
- Know the key and play the scale and arpeggio.
- Know what notes you are going to play and which fingers you will use.
- Try to have a good idea of what it's going to sound like.

Rhythmic exercise

Write your own rhythm and then clap it:



Melodic exercises

Always count two bars in before you begin – one bar out loud and one bar in your head.

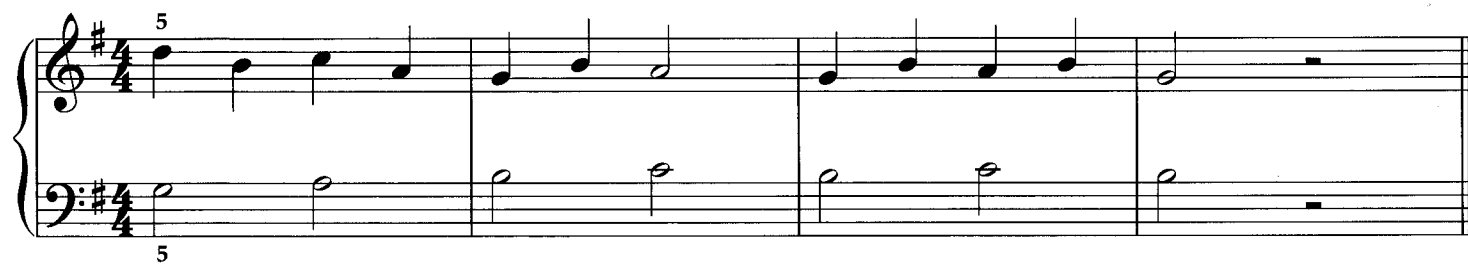
In the next three exercises notice that one hand repeats the same note.

1

2

3

Watch out for changing notes in both hands now! Play slowly and always *read ahead*.
(And remember to keep the pulse steady.)



Prepared pieces

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale (or microscale*) and arpeggio.
- 2 Play the first note in each hand and try to hear the piece in your head.
In which hand is the melody?
- 3 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of the melody. Now hear that rhythm in your head and (at the same time) tap the rhythm of the right hand.
- 4 With which interval do both hands start?
- 5 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 6 How will you put character into this piece?

Dancing

1

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the **scale (or microscale*)** and arpeggio.
- 2 In which hand is the melody? What **pattern do the first three notes** form?
- 3 What will you count? Tap the **rhythm of the melody**. Now hear that rhythm in your head and (at the same time) tap the **rhythm of the left hand**.
- 4 Play the first note in each hand and try to hear the **piece in your head**.
- 5 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 6 How will you put character into this piece?

Flowing

2

*See page 40 for details.

Going solo!

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

Singing

Musical score for 'Singing' in 4/4 time. The piece is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte) and features a crescendo leading to a *p* (piano) section, followed by a decrescendo back to *mf*. The melody is in the right hand, starting on G4 and moving stepwise up to A4, then down to G4. The bass line is in the left hand, starting on G2 and moving stepwise up to A2, then down to G2. The piece is marked with a 5 above the first measure and a 5 below the first measure.

With a smile

Musical score for 'With a smile' in 3/4 time. The piece is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano) and features a crescendo leading to a *f* (forte) section. The melody is in the right hand, starting on G4 and moving stepwise up to A4, then down to G4. The bass line is in the left hand, starting on G2 and moving stepwise up to A2, then down to G2. The piece is marked with a 3 above the first measure and a 5 below the first measure.

Triumphantly

Musical score for 'Triumphantly' in 4/4 time. The piece is marked *ff* (fortissimo). The melody is in the right hand, starting on G4 and moving stepwise up to A4, then down to G4. The bass line is in the left hand, starting on G2 and moving stepwise up to A2, then down to G2. The piece is marked with a 5 above the first measure and a 1 below the first measure.

Striding

Musical score for 'Striding' in 2/4 time. The piece is marked *f* (forte) and features a crescendo leading to a *mp* (mezzo-piano) section, followed by a decrescendo back to *f*. The melody is in the right hand, starting on G4 and moving stepwise up to A4, then down to G4. The bass line is in the left hand, starting on G2 and moving stepwise up to A2, then down to G2. The piece is marked with a 1 above the first measure and a 5 below the first measure.

Elegantly

Musical score for 'Elegantly' in 3/4 time. The piece is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano) and features a crescendo leading to a *f* (forte) section. The melody is in the right hand, starting on G4 and moving stepwise up to A4, then down to G4. The bass line is in the left hand, starting on G2 and moving stepwise up to A2, then down to G2. The piece is marked with a 1 above the first measure and a 5 below the first measure.

Stage 2

**More movement
between the hand**

**More slurs and
staccato**

Rhythmic exercises

1

2

3

4

5

6 Make up your own rhythmic exercise:

Melodic exercises

1

2

3

Handwritten musical notation system 1. Treble clef, key signature of one flat (Bb), 3/4 time. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass line starts with a half note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, Bb3, and C4. A slur connects the first two measures of the bass line. A finger number '1' is written above the first measure of the treble line, and a finger number '5' is written below the first measure of the bass line.

Handwritten musical notation system 2. Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), 4/4 time. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass line starts with a half note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, B3, and C4. A finger number '1' is written below the first measure of the bass line.

Handwritten musical notation system 3. Treble clef, key signature of one flat (Bb), 3/4 time. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass line starts with a half note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, Bb3, and C4. A finger number '1' is written below the first measure of the bass line.

Handwritten musical notation system 4. Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), 4/4 time. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass line starts with a half note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, B3, and C4. A finger number '3' is written below the first measure of the bass line.

Handwritten musical notation system 5. Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), 4/4 time. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass line starts with a half note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, B3, and C4. A finger number '5' is written below the first measure of the bass line.

Handwritten musical notation system 6. Treble clef, key signature of one flat (Bb), 3/4 time. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass line starts with a half note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, Bb3, and C4. A finger number '2' is written below the first measure of the bass line.

Prepared pieces

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale and arpeggio.
- 2 Which notes are affected by the key signature?
- 3 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic? Are there any scale patterns?
- 4 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of each hand separately.
Now tap the rhythms of both hands together.
- 5 Play the first note in each hand and try to hear the piece in your head.
- 6 How will you play expressively?

Expressively

1

mp

5

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale and arpeggio.
- 2 Only two notes are affected by the key signature – can you spot them?
- 3 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of each hand separately.
Now tap the rhythms of both hands together.
- 4 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 5 Play the first note in each hand and try to hear the piece in your head.
- 6 What ingredients will help you bring this piece to life?

Ticking

2

mf

5

Going solo!

Gently

4

mp

1

4

Cheerfully

4

p *f*

5

4

Sorrowfully

3

p

2

4

Confidently

1

mf *f* *mf*

1

4

Boldly

5

f

5

4

Stage 3

D major

Rhythmic exercises

1

2

3

4

5

6 Write your own rhythmic exercise:

Melodic exercises

Play the scale and arpeggio of D major before you begin these exercises.

1

2

3

The musical score is for the song "The Rose Tree" in 4/4 time. It features a treble staff and a bass staff. The treble staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The first measure contains a quarter note G4 (labeled with a '5' above it), followed by an eighth note A4, a quarter note B4, and a half note C5. The second measure contains a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a half note F#4. The third measure contains a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The fourth measure contains a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and two half notes F#4. The bass staff begins with a bass clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The first measure contains a whole rest, followed by a quarter note G2, an eighth note A2, and a quarter note B2. The second measure contains a whole note F#2. The third measure contains a whole rest, followed by a quarter note G2, and a half note A2. The fourth measure contains a quarter note G2 and two half notes F#2. The score is marked with a piano (p) dynamic and includes a repeat sign at the end.

1

2

Prepared pieces

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale and arpeggio.
- 2 Does any part of the opening right-hand music return (in either hand)?
- 3 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of each hand separately.
Now tap the rhythms of both hands together.
- 4 What is the interval formed by the first two notes of the left hand?
Does this interval return anywhere?
- 5 Play the first note in each hand and try to hear the piece in your head.
- 6 What gives you clues to the character of this piece?

1

Cheerfully

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale and arpeggio.
- 2 What pattern is the first bar in the right hand based on?
- 3 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of each hand separately.
Now tap the rhythms of both hands together.
- 4 Look for the lowest and highest notes in each hand and decide on your fingering yourself.
- 5 Study the left-hand part for a few seconds then try to play as much as you can from memory.
- 6 What gives you clues to the character of this piece?

2

Flowing

Going solo!

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

Andante

Musical score for the Andante piece in 4/4 time, key of D major. The piece consists of four measures. The first measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second measure has a piano (*p*) dynamic. The third measure has a piano (*p*) dynamic. The fourth measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The tempo is marked Andante. The piece is written for piano with a treble and bass staff. The first measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second measure has a piano (*p*) dynamic. The third measure has a piano (*p*) dynamic. The fourth measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The tempo is marked Andante. The piece is written for piano with a treble and bass staff.

Moderato

Musical score for the Moderato piece in 3/4 time, key of D major. The piece consists of four measures. The first measure has a piano (*p*) dynamic. The second measure has a piano (*p*) dynamic. The third measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The fourth measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The tempo is marked Moderato. The piece is written for piano with a treble and bass staff. The first measure has a piano (*p*) dynamic. The second measure has a piano (*p*) dynamic. The third measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The fourth measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The tempo is marked Moderato. The piece is written for piano with a treble and bass staff.

Allegretto

Musical score for the Allegretto piece in 4/4 time, key of D major. The piece consists of four measures. The first measure has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The second measure has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The third measure has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The fourth measure has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The tempo is marked Allegretto. The piece is written for piano with a treble and bass staff. The first measure has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The second measure has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The third measure has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The fourth measure has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The tempo is marked Allegretto. The piece is written for piano with a treble and bass staff.

Lento

Musical score for the Lento piece in 3/4 time, key of D major. The piece consists of four measures. The first measure has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The second measure has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The third measure has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The fourth measure has a piano (*p*) dynamic. The tempo is marked Lento. The piece is written for piano with a treble and bass staff. The first measure has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The second measure has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The third measure has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The fourth measure has a piano (*p*) dynamic. The tempo is marked Lento. The piece is written for piano with a treble and bass staff.

Con moto

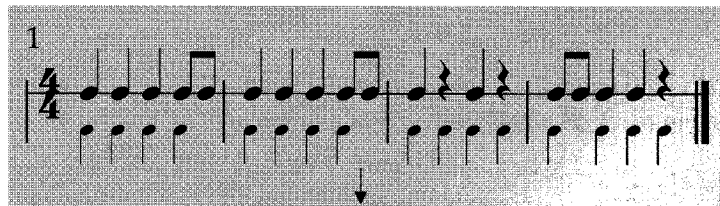
Musical score for the Con moto piece in 4/4 time, key of D major. The piece consists of four measures. The first measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The third measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The fourth measure has a piano (*p*) dynamic. The tempo is marked Con moto. The piece is written for piano with a treble and bass staff. The first measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The third measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The fourth measure has a piano (*p*) dynamic. The tempo is marked Con moto. The piece is written for piano with a treble and bass staff.

Stage 4

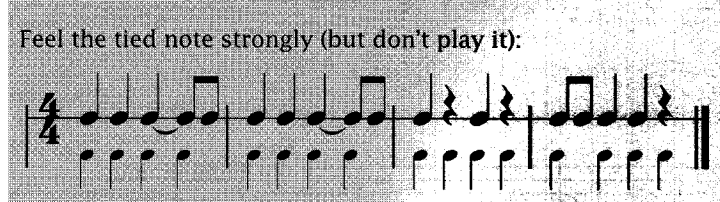
♩. ♩ in 4/4

Rhythmic exercises

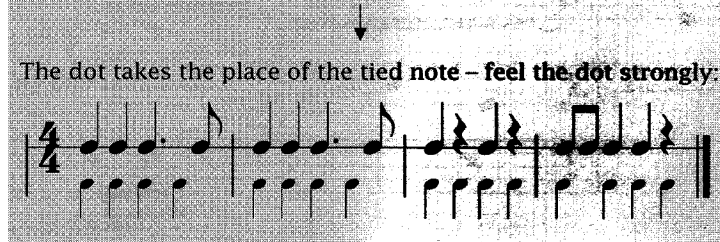
1



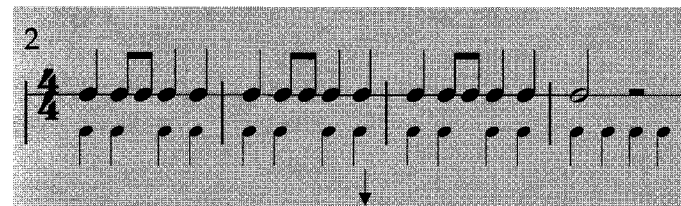
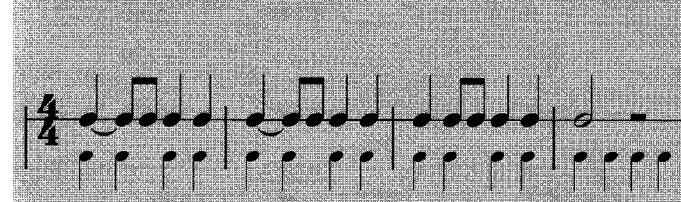
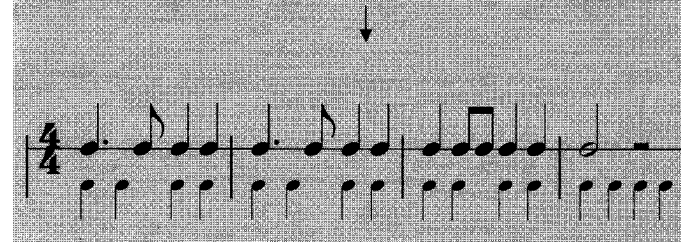
Feel the tied note strongly (but don't play it):



The dot takes the place of the tied note – feel the dot strongly:



2

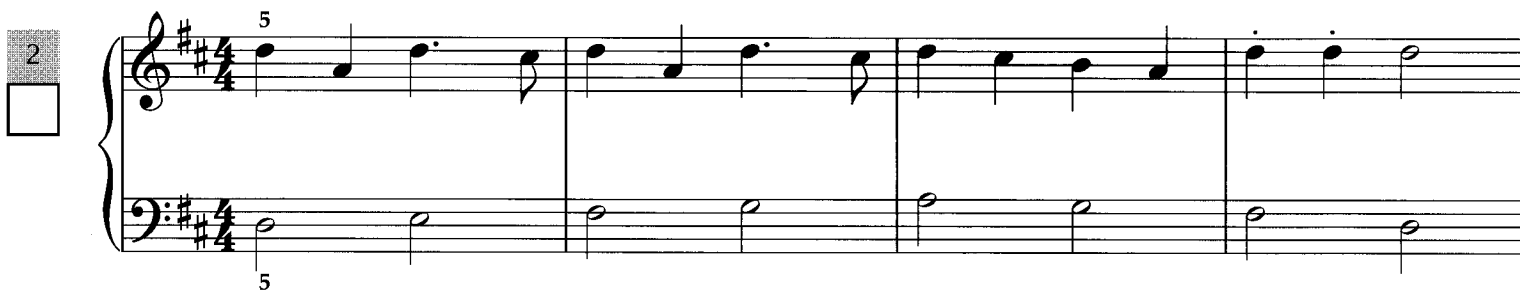




Melodic exercises

1

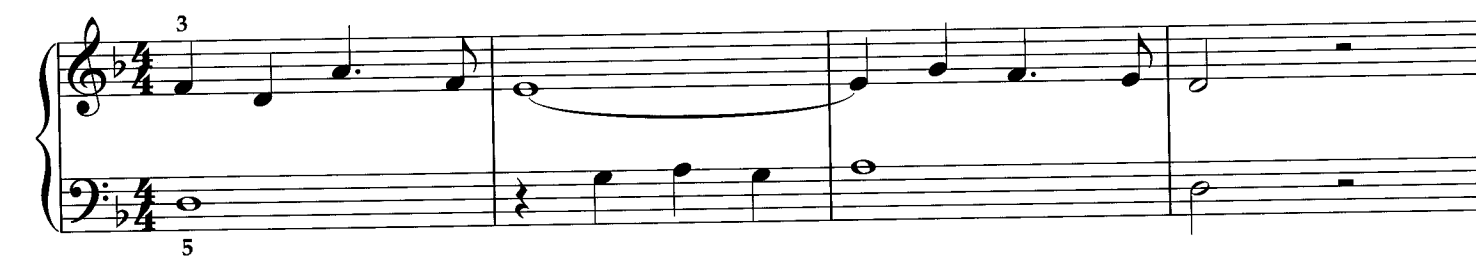


2



3





Prepared pieces

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale and arpeggio.
- 2 To which chord do the first three notes of the right hand belong?
And the last three notes?
- 3 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of each hand separately.
Now tap the rhythms of both hands together.
- 4 Play the first note in each hand and try to hear the piece in your head.
- 5 Study the first two bars of the right hand for a few moments then try to play them from memory.
- 6 What gives you clues to the character of this piece?

1

Cheerfully

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale and arpeggio.
- 2 Find the three notes that are affected by the key signature.
- 3 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 4 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of each hand separately.
Now tap the rhythms of both hands together.
- 5 Look for the lowest and highest notes in each hand and decide on your fingering yourself.
- 6 What gives you clues to the character of this piece?

2

Tango

Going solo!

Conversationally

Musical score for the 'Conversationally' exercise in 4/4 time. The piece is in G major (one sharp). The right hand starts with a whole rest, then plays a quarter-note triplet (G4, A4, B4) marked *mf*, followed by a half-note (C5) and a quarter-note (B4), and ends with a whole rest. The left hand plays a quarter-note (G3), a quarter-note (A3), a quarter-note (B3), and a quarter-note (C4), marked *f*. A finger number '5' is written below the first note of the left hand.

In the next exercise notice the two different uses of dots!

Lightly

Musical score for the 'Lightly' exercise in 4/4 time. The piece is in B-flat major (two flats). The right hand plays a dotted quarter-note (Bb4), a dotted quarter-note (C5), a dotted quarter-note (D5), and a dotted quarter-note (E5), marked *mf*. The left hand plays a whole note (Bb3), marked *5*. In the third measure, the right hand plays a dotted quarter-note (Bb4), a dotted quarter-note (C5), a dotted quarter-note (D5), and a dotted quarter-note (E5), marked *p*. The left hand plays a dotted quarter-note (Bb3), a dotted quarter-note (C4), a dotted quarter-note (D4), and a dotted quarter-note (E4).

Sleepily

Musical score for the 'Sleepily' exercise in 4/4 time. The piece is in G major (one sharp). The right hand starts with a whole rest, then plays a quarter-note (G4), a quarter-note (A4), a quarter-note (B4), and a quarter-note (C5), marked *p*. The left hand plays a quarter-note (G3), a quarter-note (A3), a quarter-note (B3), and a quarter-note (C4), marked *5*. In the third measure, the right hand plays a dotted half-note (B4), marked *3*. The left hand plays a dotted half-note (G3).

Sunnily

Musical score for the 'Sunnily' exercise in 4/4 time. The piece is in D major (two sharps). The right hand plays a quarter-note (D5), a quarter-note (E5), a quarter-note (F#5), and a quarter-note (G5), marked *f*. The left hand plays a quarter-note (D4), a quarter-note (E4), a quarter-note (F#4), and a quarter-note (G4), marked *5*. In the third measure, the right hand plays a dotted quarter-note (D5), a dotted quarter-note (E5), a dotted quarter-note (F#5), and a dotted quarter-note (G5), marked *mp*. The left hand plays a dotted quarter-note (D4), a dotted quarter-note (E4), a dotted quarter-note (F#4), and a dotted quarter-note (G4).

Darkly

Musical score for the 'Darkly' exercise in 4/4 time. The piece is in D major (two sharps). The right hand plays a dotted half-note (D5), marked *3*. The left hand plays a dotted half-note (D4), marked *5*. In the third measure, the right hand plays a dotted half-note (D5), marked *p*. The left hand plays a dotted half-note (D4).

Stage 5

♩ ♪ in 3/4

Rhythmic exercises

1

Feel the tied note strongly (but don't play it):

The dot takes the place of the tied note – feel the dot strongly:

2

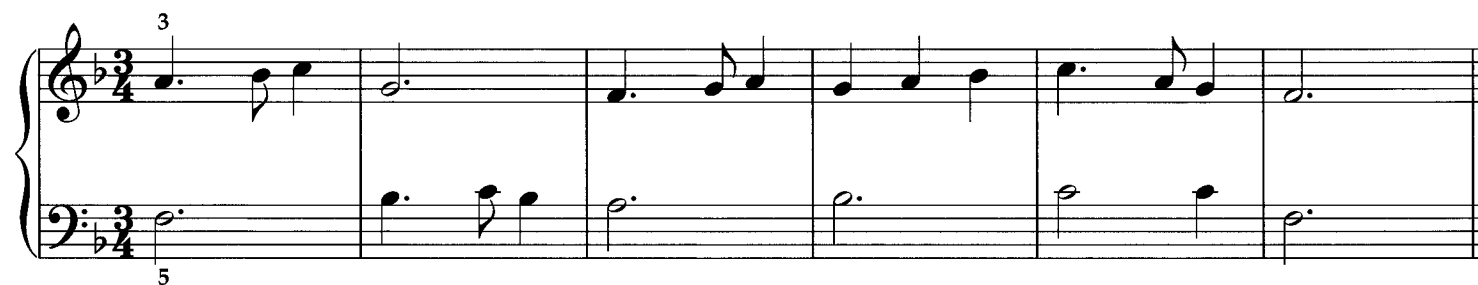
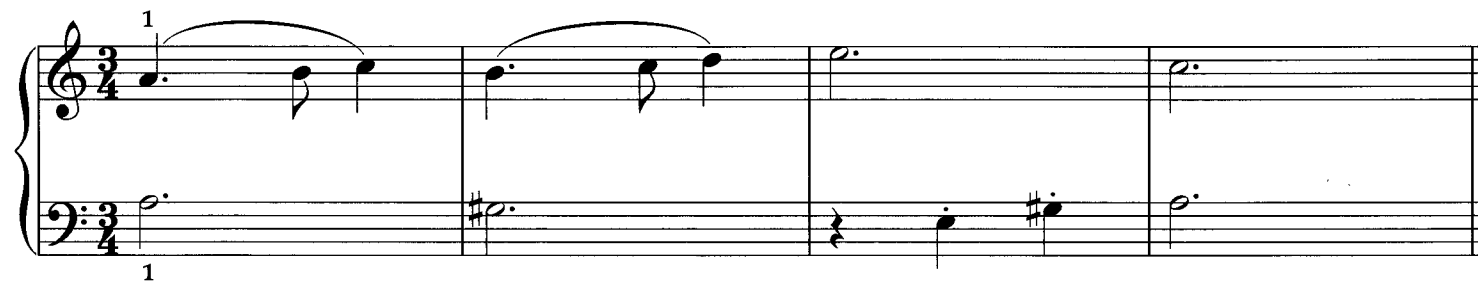
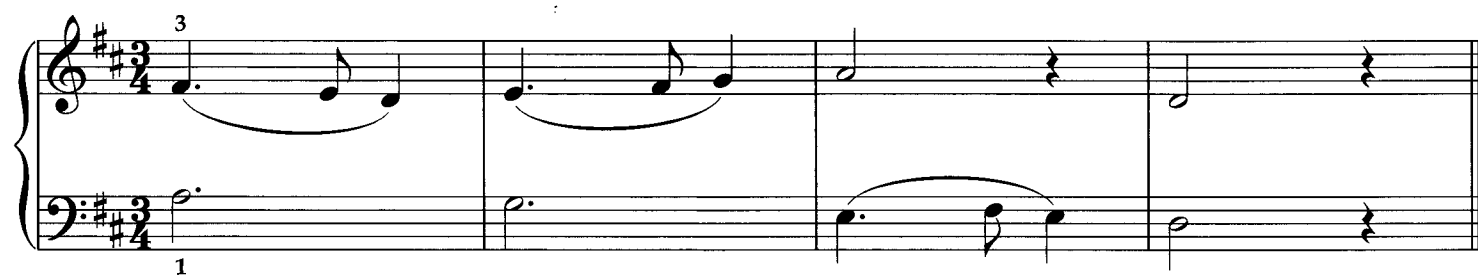
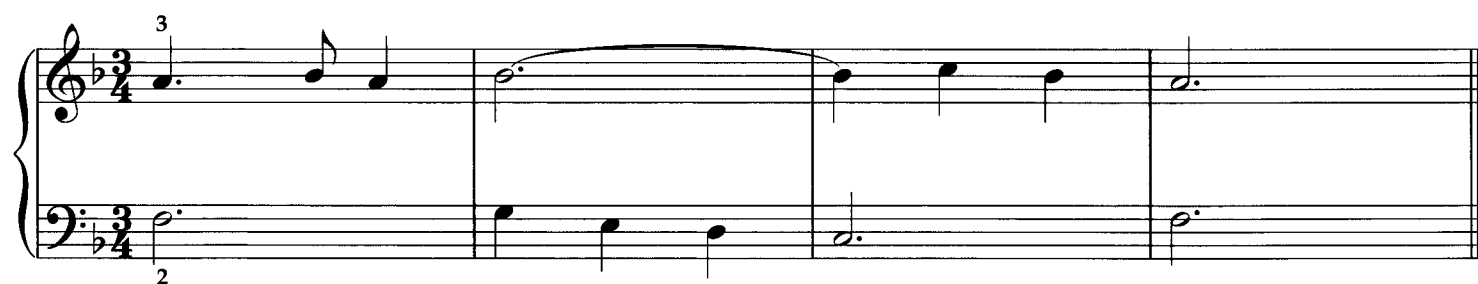
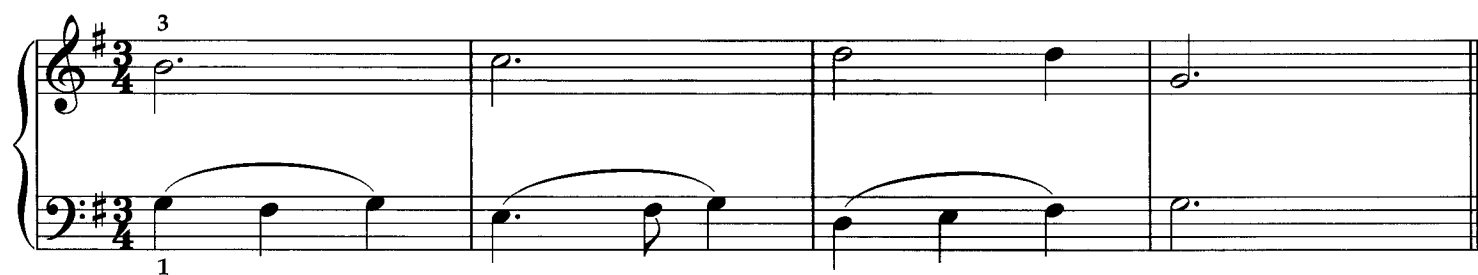
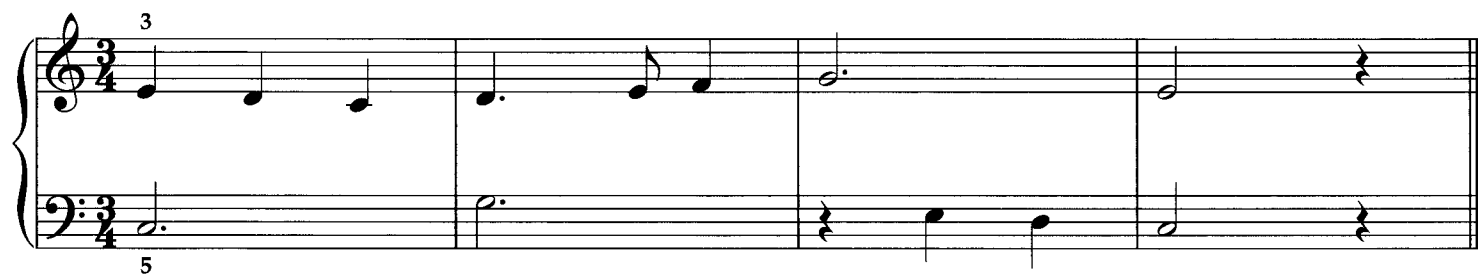
Melodic exercises

Don't forget to look at the shape of the music and plan your fingering.

1

2

3



Prepared pieces

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale and arpeggio.
- 2 Which notes are affected by the key signature?
- 3 What pattern do the first three notes of the right hand belong to? Play that pattern.
- 4 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of each hand separately.
Now tap the rhythms of both hands together.
- 5 Play the first note in each hand and try to hear the music in your head.
- 6 What gives you clues to the character of this piece?

Cheerfully

1

5

mp

f

1

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale and arpeggio.
- 2 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 3 Can you spot any scale patterns?
- 4 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of each hand separately.
Now tap the rhythms of both hands together.
- 5 Play the first note in each hand and try to hear the music in your head.
- 6 What gives you clues to the character of this piece?

Seriously

2

3

p

f

p

1

Going solo!

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

As if your team has just won their match

1

f

1

3/4

This musical score is for a piano piece in 3/4 time. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The piece is marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. It begins with a treble clef and a bass clef. The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then a quarter note B4. The bass line starts with a half note G3, followed by a half note A3, and then a half note B3. The piece ends with a double bar line.

As if you're falling asleep

1

p

pp

5

3/4

This musical score is for a piano piece in 3/4 time. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The piece is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. It begins with a treble clef and a bass clef. The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then a quarter note B4. The bass line starts with a half note G3, followed by a half note A3, and then a half note B3. The piece ends with a double bar line.

As if there's a surprise around the corner!

1

p

fff

5

3/4

This musical score is for a piano piece in 3/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F-sharp). The piece is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. It begins with a treble clef and a bass clef. The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then a quarter note B4. The bass line starts with a half note G3, followed by a half note A3, and then a half note B3. The piece ends with a double bar line.

As if you're not quite sure...

3

mf

3

3/4

This musical score is for a piano piece in 3/4 time. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The piece is marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. It begins with a treble clef and a bass clef. The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then a quarter note B4. The bass line starts with a half note G3, followed by a half note A3, and then a half note B3. The piece ends with a double bar line.

As if you're quite sure!

5

f

5

3/4

This musical score is for a piano piece in 3/4 time. The key signature has two sharps (F-sharp and C-sharp). The piece is marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. It begins with a treble clef and a bass clef. The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then a quarter note B4. The bass line starts with a half note G3, followed by a half note A3, and then a half note B3. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Stage 6

E minor
More
articulation

Rhythmic exercises

1

2

3

4

5

6 Write your own rhythmic exercise:

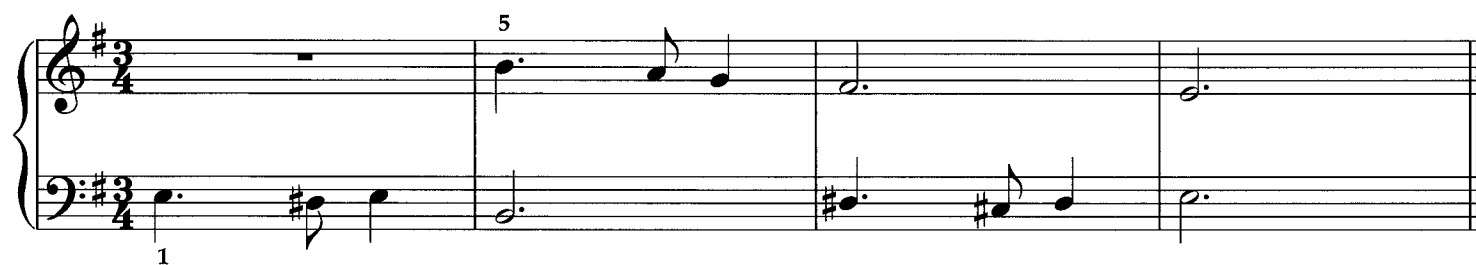
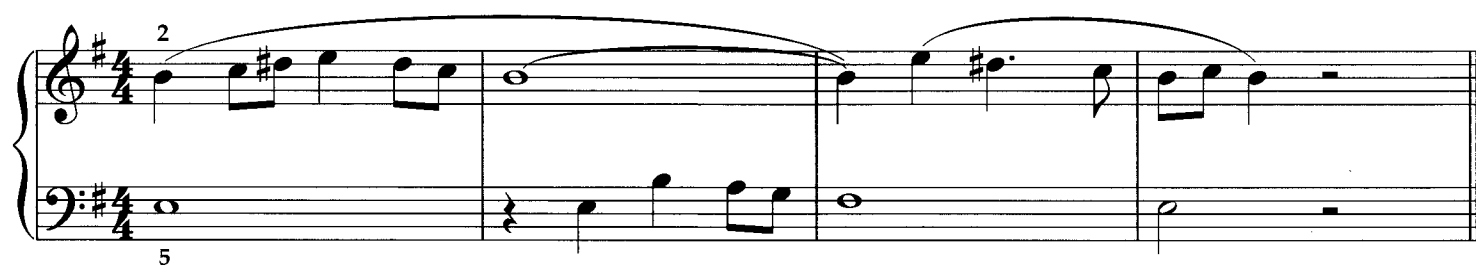
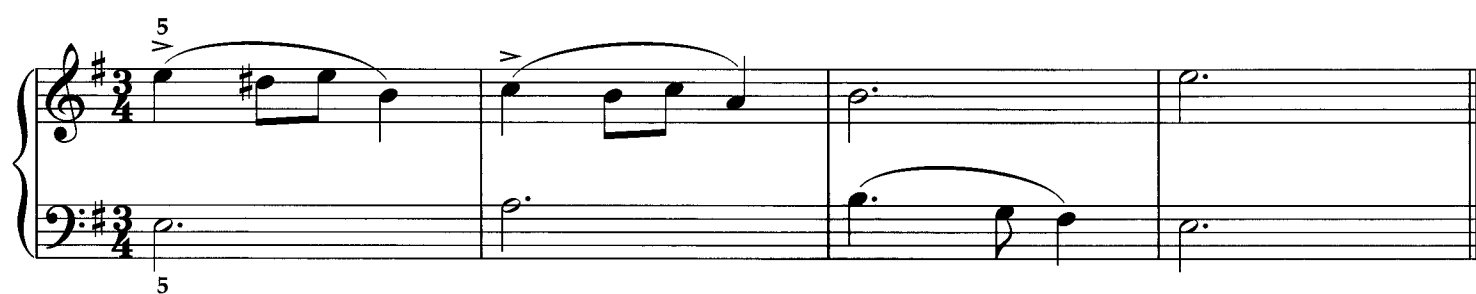
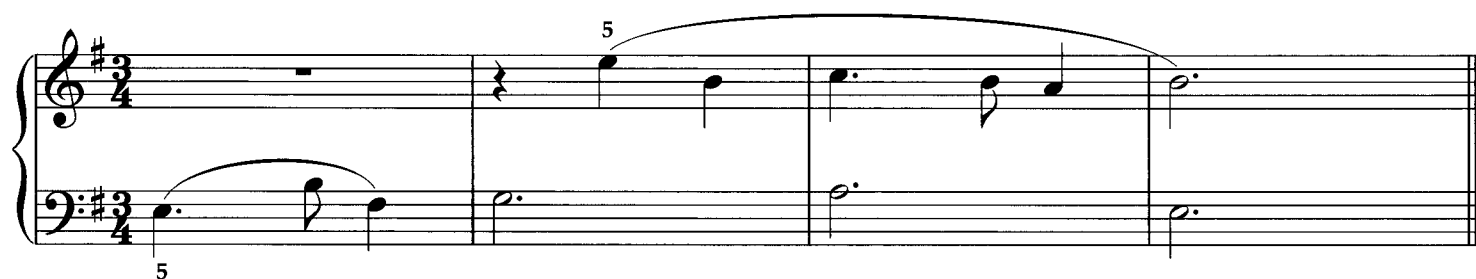
Melodic exercises

Play the scale and arpeggio of E minor before you begin these exercises.

1

2

3



Prepared pieces

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale and arpeggio.
- 2 Which notes are affected by the key signature?
- 3 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of each hand separately.
Now tap the rhythms of both hands together.
- 4 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 5 Play the first note in each hand and try to hear the piece in your head.
- 6 What gives you clues to the character of this piece?

Wistfully

1

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale and arpeggio. Look for the highest and lowest notes in each hand and decide on your own fingering.
- 2 What gives the music its Egyptian flavour?
- 3 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of each hand separately.
Now tap the rhythms of both hands together.
- 4 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 5 Study the right hand for a few seconds then try to play as much as you can from memory.
- 6 After you've played this piece make up your own Egyptian-sounding piece.

At the tomb of Tutankhamun

2

Going solo!

Floatingly

5

mp

1

This musical score is for the 'Floatingly' section. It is written for piano in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody in the right hand is characterized by long, flowing lines with slurs, starting on a half note F#4 and moving through G4, A4, and B4. The left hand provides a simple accompaniment with half notes, starting on F#3 and moving through G3, A3, and B3. The dynamic is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). A finger number '5' is indicated above the first note of the right hand, and a '1' is below the first note of the left hand.

Angrily

5

f

ff

3

This musical score is for the 'Angrily' section. It is written for piano in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody in the right hand is more rhythmic and aggressive, featuring eighth and quarter notes with accents. The left hand has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The dynamic starts at *f* (forte) and increases to *ff* (fortissimo) towards the end. A finger number '5' is indicated above the first note of the right hand, and a '3' is below the first note of the left hand.

Calmly

5

p

5

This musical score is for the 'Calmly' section. It is written for piano in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody in the right hand is slow and peaceful, with long slurs. The left hand has a simple accompaniment with half notes. The dynamic is marked *p* (piano). A finger number '5' is indicated above the first note of the right hand, and a '5' is below the first note of the left hand.

Rudely

2

f

5

This musical score is for the 'Rudely' section. It is written for piano in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody in the right hand is fast and rhythmic, featuring eighth and quarter notes with accents. The left hand has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The dynamic is marked *f* (forte). A finger number '2' is indicated above the first note of the right hand, and a '5' is below the first note of the left hand.

Politely

3

mp

2

This musical score is for the 'Politely' section. It is written for piano in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody in the right hand is slow and graceful, with long slurs. The left hand has a simple accompaniment with half notes. The dynamic is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). A finger number '3' is indicated above the first note of the right hand, and a '2' is below the first note of the left hand.

Stage 7

G minor

Rhythmic exercises

1

2

3

4

5

6 Write your own rhythmic exercise:

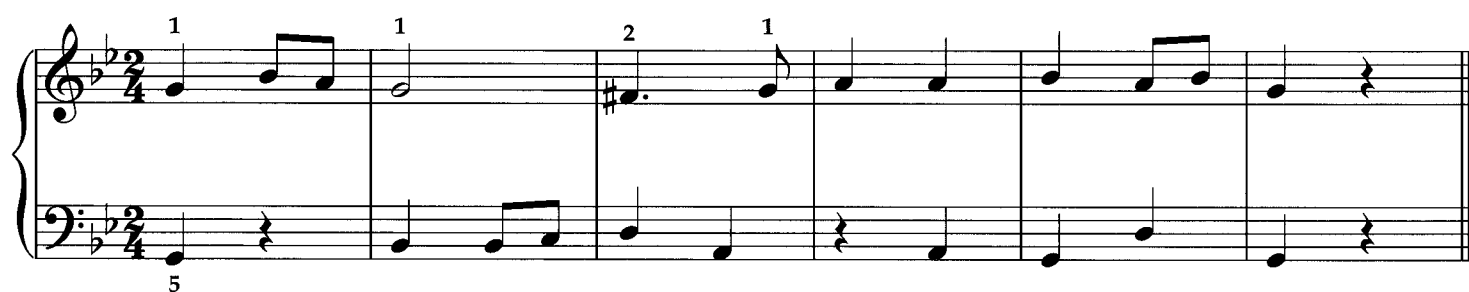
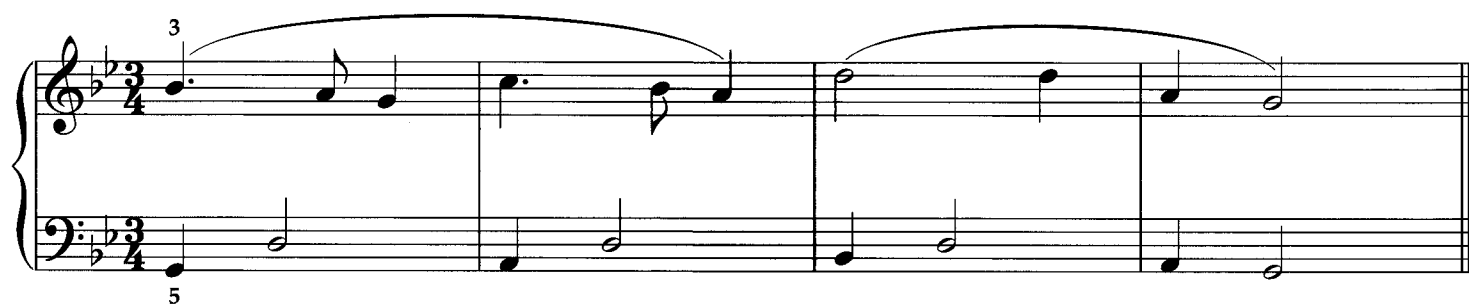
Melodic exercises

Play the scale and arpeggio of G minor before you begin these exercises.

1

2

3



Prepared pieces

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale and arpeggio.
- 2 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of the piece. Now hear the rhythm in your head.
- 3 What is interesting about the interval between the second and third notes (right hand)? Does this pattern occur again?
- 4 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 5 How will you put character into this piece?
- 6 Try to hear the piece in your head before you begin.

Dancing around the pyramids of Giza

1

The musical score is for a piece in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. It consists of two staves. The right hand (treble clef) starts with a melody in the first bar, marked *mf*. The second bar is a whole rest. The third bar continues the melody, marked *f*. The fourth bar is a whole rest. The left hand (bass clef) plays a simple accompaniment. Fingerings are indicated: 4 for the first finger in the right hand and 5 for the fifth finger in the left hand.

- 1 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of the piece. Now hear the rhythm in your head.
- 2 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale.
- 3 How are the first two bars (right hand) related?
- 4 Can you describe the dynamic shape?
- 5 How will you put character into this piece?
- 6 Try to hear the piece in your head before you begin.

Bouncing

2

The musical score is for a piece in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. It consists of two staves. The right hand (treble clef) starts with a melody in the first bar, marked *p cresc.*. The second bar continues the melody. The third bar has a whole rest. The fourth bar continues the melody, marked *f*. The left hand (bass clef) plays a simple accompaniment. Fingerings are indicated: 1 for the first finger in the left hand and 4 for the fourth finger in the right hand.

Going solo!

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

Calmly

4/4 time signature. Treble clef. Key signature: two flats (Bb, Eb). The piece starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The melody in the treble clef begins with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, Bb4) marked with a '3'. The bass line starts with a half note G3, marked with a '2'. The piece concludes with a final whole note chord (Bb4, Eb5, G4) marked with a '2'.

Deliberately

3/4 time signature. Treble clef. Key signature: two flats (Bb, Eb). The piece starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a crescendo (*cresc.*). The melody in the treble clef begins with a half note G4, marked with a '2'. The bass line starts with a half note G3, marked with a '1'. The piece concludes with a final whole note chord (Bb4, Eb5, G4) marked with a 'f'.

Elegantly

2/4 time signature. Treble clef. Key signature: two flats (Bb, Eb). The piece starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The melody in the treble clef begins with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, Bb4) marked with a '3'. The bass line starts with a half note G3, marked with a '1'. The piece concludes with a final whole note chord (Bb4, Eb5, G4) marked with a 'f'.

Gracefully

3/4 time signature. Treble clef. Key signature: two flats (Bb, Eb). The piece starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The melody in the treble clef begins with a half note G4, marked with a '5'. The bass line starts with a half note G3, marked with a '1'. The piece concludes with a final whole note chord (Bb4, Eb5, G4) marked with a 'f'.

Flowing

4/4 time signature. Treble clef. Key signature: two flats (Bb, Eb). The piece starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The melody in the treble clef begins with a half note G4, marked with a '1'. The bass line starts with a half note G3, marked with a '5'. The piece concludes with a final whole note chord (Bb4, Eb5, G4).

Stage 8

Revision
of keys

Rhythmic exercises

1

2

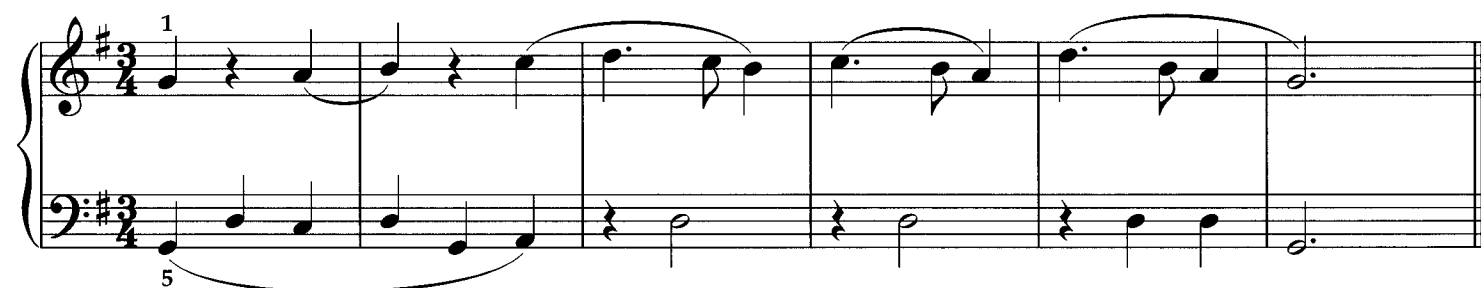
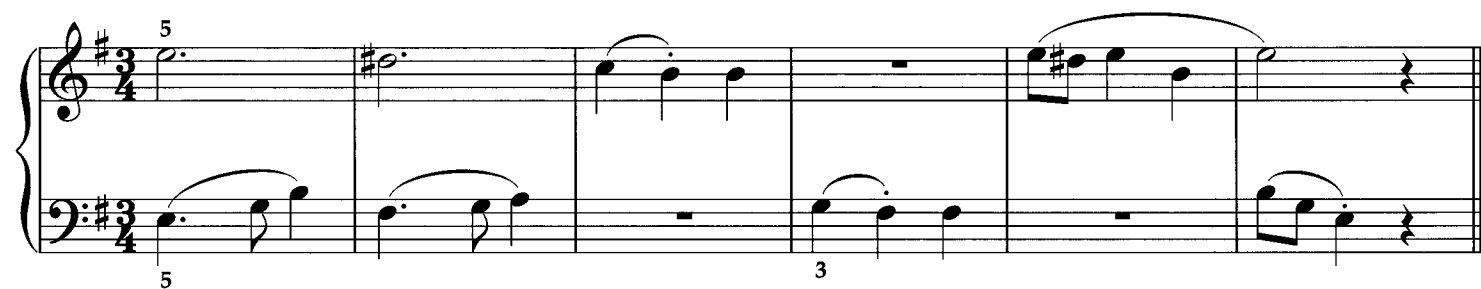
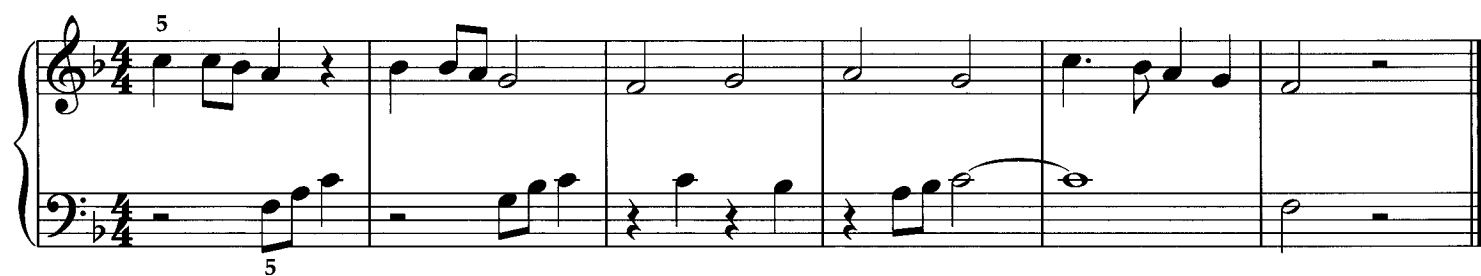
3

Melodic exercises

1

2

3



Prepared pieces

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale and arpeggio.
- 2 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 3 How many sections is this piece in? How can you tell?
- 4 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of each hand separately.
Now tap the rhythms of both hands together.
- 5 How are the first and last two bars of the left hand related?
- 6 What gives you clues to the character of this piece?

Boldly

1

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale and arpeggio.
- 2 Which fingers will you use for the first note of each hand?
- 3 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 4 What similarities do you notice about the first and last bars?
- 5 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of each hand separately.
Now tap the rhythms of both hands together.
- 6 How will you make this sound like a waltz?

Like a waltz

2

Going solo!

Like a song

Musical score for 'Like a song' in 3/4 time, key of D major. The piece is marked *p* (piano). The melody in the treble clef features a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure and is characterized by long, flowing lines. The bass clef provides a simple accompaniment with half notes and quarter notes. A finger number '5' is indicated below the first bass note.

Like a march

Musical score for 'Like a march' in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The piece is marked *f* (forte). The melody in the treble clef is rhythmic and march-like, featuring eighth and quarter notes. The bass clef provides a steady accompaniment. Dynamics shift from *f* to *p* (piano) and back to *f*. Accents are used on several notes. Finger numbers '1' and '2' are indicated below the first notes of the treble and bass staves respectively.

Like a waltz

Musical score for 'Like a waltz' in 3/4 time, key of D major. The piece is marked *p* (piano). The melody in the treble clef is graceful and features a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure. The bass clef provides a simple accompaniment. A crescendo hairpin is shown, leading to a *f* (forte) dynamic. Finger numbers '1' and '2' are indicated below the first notes of the treble and bass staves respectively.

Like a lullaby

Musical score for 'Like a lullaby' in 4/4 time, key of D major. The piece is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The melody in the treble clef is gentle and features a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure. The bass clef provides a simple accompaniment. A crescendo hairpin is shown. A finger number '5' is indicated below the first bass note.

Like a fanfare

Musical score for 'Like a fanfare' in 4/4 time, key of D major. The piece is marked *f* (forte). The melody in the treble clef is rhythmic and fanfare-like, featuring eighth and quarter notes. The bass clef provides a steady accompaniment. Dynamics shift from *f* to *mp* (mezzo-piano) with a *cresc.* (crescendo) hairpin, and finally to *ff* (fortissimo). Accents are used on several notes. Finger numbers '1' and '3' are indicated below the first notes of the treble and bass staves respectively.

Stage 9

Longer
examples

Rhythmic exercises

1

2

Two golden rules

Always remember these two golden rules and your sight-reading will go from strength to strength!

- 1 Don't begin until you're sure that you really *understand* the piece.
- 2 Once you've begun *keep the pulse steady* and *don't stop*.

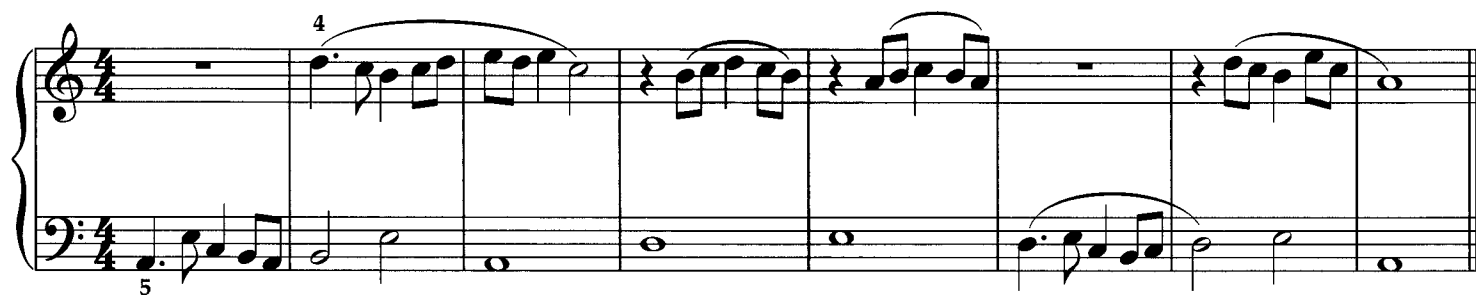
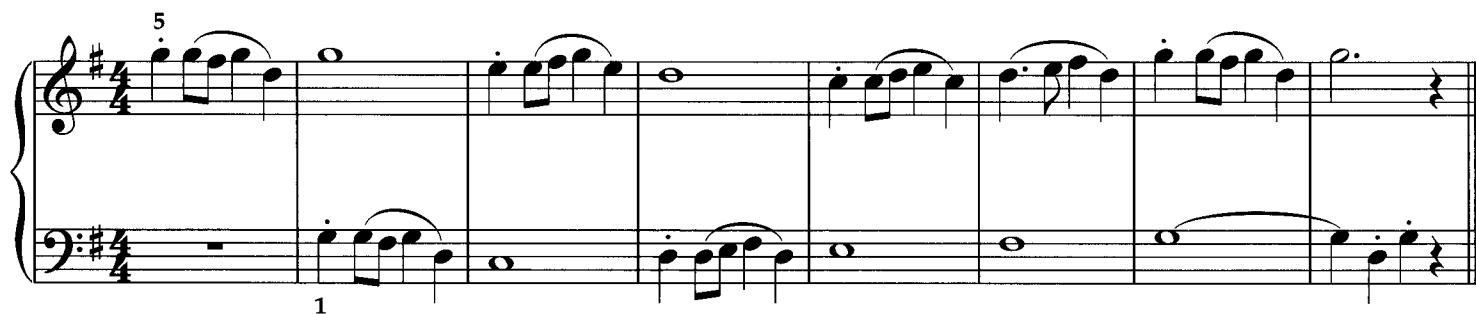
Melodic exercises

Remember to count two bars before you begin each exercise – one out loud and one silently.

1

2

3



Which of these pieces did you like best? Play it again and give it a title.

Prepared pieces

- 1 In which key is this piece? Play the scale.
- 2 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
Can you spot a scale pattern?
- 3 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of each hand separately.
Now tap the rhythms of both hands together.
- 4 What does the marking $\underline{\underline{f}}$ (bars 4 and 8) mean?
- 5 What does *cresc.* (bar 5) mean?
- 6 Find out what a rigadoon is.

Like a rigadoon

1

- 1 In which key is this piece? Play the scale.
- 2 What do you notice about the first two bars?
Study them for a few moments then try to play them from memory.
- 3 Can you spot an arpeggio pattern?
- 4 Can you spot any repeated rhythmic patterns?
- 5 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of each hand separately.
Now tap the rhythms of both hands together.
- 6 What ingredients give you clues to the character of this piece?

Boldly

2

Going solo!

With lots of energy

Musical score for the first section of 'Going solo!'. The tempo/mood is 'With lots of energy'. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The piece consists of 8 measures. The first measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic and a fingering of 4. The second measure has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The third measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The fourth measure has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The fifth measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The sixth measure has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The seventh measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The eighth measure has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Gently

Musical score for the second section of 'Going solo!'. The tempo/mood is 'Gently'. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The piece consists of 8 measures. The first measure has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and a fingering of 3. The second measure has a piano (*p*) dynamic. The third measure has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The fourth measure has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The fifth measure has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The sixth measure has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The seventh measure has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The eighth measure has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Dancing

Musical score for the third section of 'Going solo!'. The tempo/mood is 'Dancing'. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The piece consists of 8 measures. The first measure has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The second measure has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The third measure has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The fourth measure has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The fifth measure has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The sixth measure has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The seventh measure has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The eighth measure has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Cheerfully

Musical score for the fourth section of 'Going solo!'. The tempo/mood is 'Cheerfully'. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The piece consists of 8 measures. The first measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic and a fingering of 3. The second measure has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The third measure has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The fourth measure has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The fifth measure has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The sixth measure has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The seventh measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The eighth measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Boldly

Musical score for the fifth section of 'Going solo!'. The tempo/mood is 'Boldly'. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The piece consists of 8 measures. The first measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic and a fingering of 1. The second measure has a piano (*p*) dynamic. The third measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The fourth measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The fifth measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The sixth measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The seventh measure has a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. The eighth measure has a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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.

