

Improve your sight-reading!

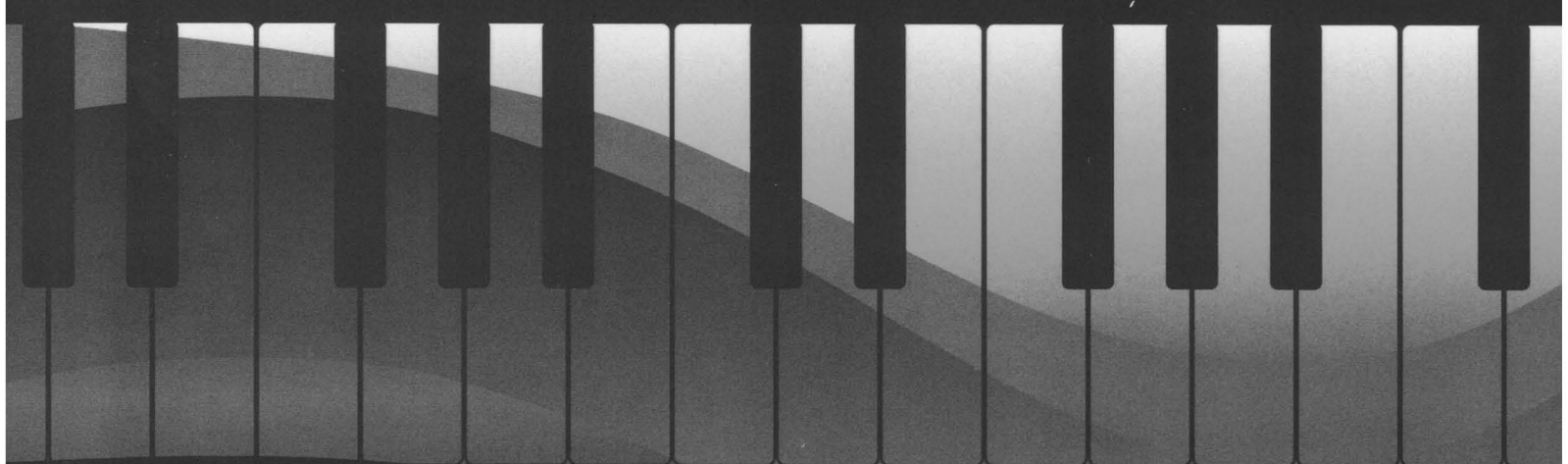
New edition

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.

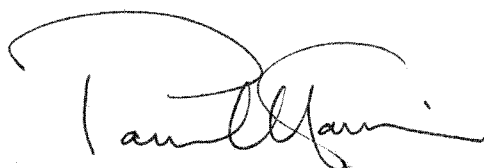
3 Prepared pieces

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.

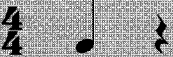
4 Going solo!

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

$\frac{4}{4}$ 
C major

Rhythmic exercises

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

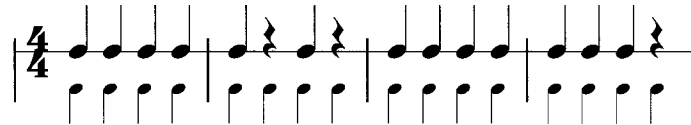
- Tap the pulse with your right foot (sometimes use your left foot!) and clap the rhythm.
- Tap the pulse with one hand and the rhythm with the other (swap hands!).
- Tap the pulse with your foot and play the rhythm on a note (either hand).
- Tap the pulse with your foot and make up a tune to fit the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

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

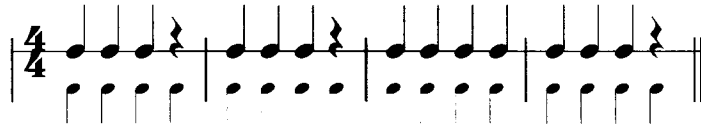
1



2



3



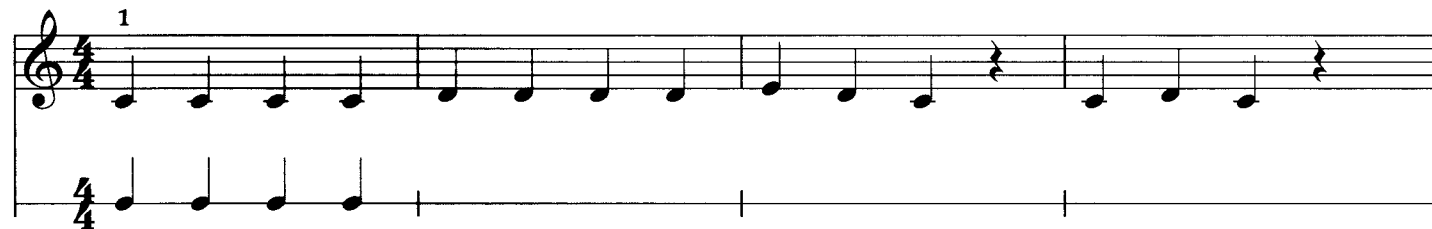
4 Now write your own exercise and then clap it.



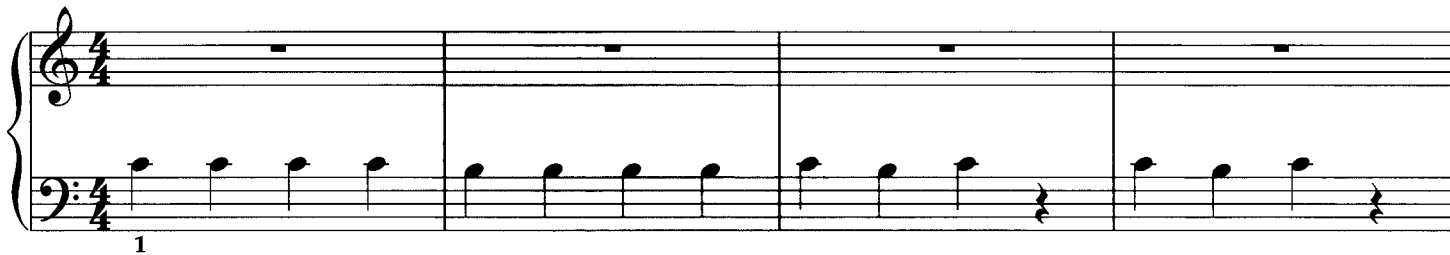
Melodic exercises

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



System 1: Treble clef with a whole rest. Bass clef with a sequence of notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. Fingering numbers 1, 2, 3 are placed below the first three notes. The system ends with a double bar line.

System 2: Treble clef with a sequence of notes: C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. Fingering numbers 1, 2, 5 are placed above the first, second, and fifth notes. Bass clef with whole rests. The system ends with a double bar line.

System 3: Treble clef with whole rests. Bass clef with a sequence of notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. Fingering numbers 1 and 4 are placed below the first and fourth notes. The system ends with a double bar line.

System 4: Treble clef with a sequence of notes: C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Fingering numbers 1 and 5 are placed above the first and fifth notes. Bass clef with whole rests. The system ends with a double bar line.

System 5: Treble clef with whole rests. Bass clef with a sequence of notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. Fingering numbers 1 and 3 are placed below the first and third notes. The system ends with a double bar line.

System 6: Treble clef with a sequence of notes: C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Fingering numbers 5 and 4 are placed above the first and second notes. Bass clef with whole rests. The system ends with a double bar line.

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.

1

March

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.

2

Gently

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 piece consists of four measures. The right hand (treble clef) plays a sustained chord of G4, B4, and D5. The left hand (bass clef) plays a rhythmic pattern of quarter notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3. The dynamic marking is *mf*. A first ending bracket labeled '1' spans the entire piece.

Dancing

Musical score for 'Dancing' in 4/4 time. The piece consists of four measures. The right hand (treble clef) plays a rhythmic pattern of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The left hand (bass clef) plays a sustained chord of G2, B2, and D3. The dynamic marking is *f* for the first two measures and *p* for the last two. A first ending bracket labeled '1' spans the first two measures, and another labeled '4' spans the last two measures.

Stealthily

Musical score for 'Stealthily' in 4/4 time. The piece consists of four measures. The right hand (treble clef) plays a sustained chord of G4, B4, and D5. The left hand (bass clef) plays a rhythmic pattern of quarter notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3. The dynamic marking is *p*. A first ending bracket labeled '1' spans the entire piece.

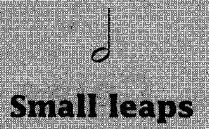
Humorously!

Musical score for 'Humorously!' in 4/4 time. The piece consists of four measures. The right hand (treble clef) plays a rhythmic pattern of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The left hand (bass clef) plays a sustained chord of G2, B2, and D3. The dynamic marking is *mf* for the first measure, *p* for the second, and *f* for the third. First ending brackets labeled '3', '2', and '3' are placed above the first, second, and third measures respectively.

Cheerfully

Musical score for 'Cheerfully' in 4/4 time. The piece consists of four measures. The right hand (treble clef) plays a sustained chord of G4, B4, and D5. The left hand (bass clef) plays a rhythmic pattern of quarter notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3. The dynamic marking is *f* for the first and third measures, and *p* for the second. First ending brackets labeled '1', '2', '4', and '3' are placed below the first, second, third, and fourth measures respectively.

Stage 2



Rhythmic exercises

Don't forget to count two bars in!

1

2

3

4

5

6 Write your own rhythmic exercise, then clap it.

Melodic exercises

1

2

3

Musical notation system 1. Treble clef: whole rests. Bass clef: triplet of eighth notes (F4, G4, A4), half note (B4), quarter note (C5). Fingering: 3.

Musical notation system 2. Treble clef: half note (B4), quarter notes (A4, G4, F4). Bass clef: whole rests. Fingering: 5.

Musical notation system 3. Treble clef: whole rests. Bass clef: quarter note (F4), quarter notes (G4, A4, B4), half note (C5). Fingering: 1.

Musical notation system 4. Treble clef: half note (B4), quarter notes (A4, G4, F4, E4). Bass clef: whole rests. Fingering: 5.

Musical notation system 5. Treble clef: whole rests. Bass clef: quarter note (F4), quarter notes (G4, A4, B4), half note (C5). Fingering: 1.

Musical notation system 6. Treble clef: half note (B4), quarter notes (A4, G4, F4, E4). Bass clef: whole rests. Fingering: 5.

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

The musical score for 'Skipping' is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains a melody starting on G4, moving up stepwise to D5, then down stepwise to G4. The bass clef staff contains whole rests. The dynamic marking is *f*. A fingering '1' is written above the first note.

- 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

The musical score for 'Calmly' is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains whole rests. The bass clef staff contains a melody starting on G3, moving up stepwise to D4, then down stepwise to G3. The dynamic marking is *mp*. A fingering '1' is written below the first note.

Going solo!

Cheekily

Musical score for 'Cheekily' in 4/4 time. The piece is marked *p* (piano). The right hand plays a series of whole notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The left hand plays a rhythmic accompaniment of quarter notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4. A first ending bracket is placed over the final two measures of the right hand, which end with a fermata. A finger number '5' is written below the first measure of the left hand.

Majestically

Musical score for 'Majestically' in 4/4 time. The piece is marked *f* (forte). The right hand plays a series of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The left hand plays a series of whole notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4. A finger number '5' is written above the first measure of the right hand.

Marching

Musical score for 'Marching' in 4/4 time. The piece is marked *ff* (fortissimo). The right hand plays a series of whole notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The left hand plays a rhythmic accompaniment of quarter notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4. A finger number '1' is written below the first measure of the left hand.

Expressively

Musical score for 'Expressively' in 4/4 time. The piece is marked *p* (piano). The right hand plays a series of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The left hand plays a series of whole notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4. A finger number '5' is written above the first measure of the right hand. Slurs are placed over the right hand notes in each measure.

Moderato

Musical score for 'Moderato' in 4/4 time. The piece is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The right hand plays a series of whole notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The left hand plays a rhythmic accompaniment of quarter notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4. A finger number '1' is written below the first measure of the left hand.

Stage 3

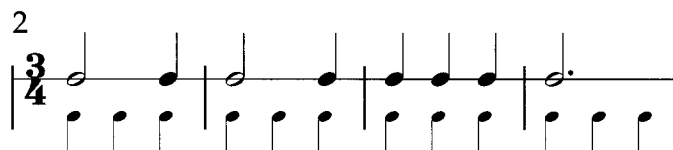
$\frac{3}{4}$ 
G major

Rhythmic exercises

1



2



3




4



5



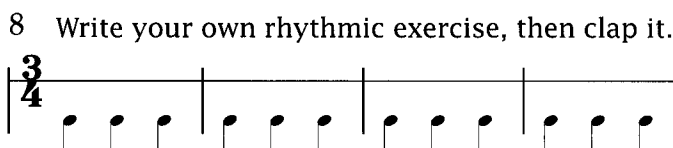
6



7

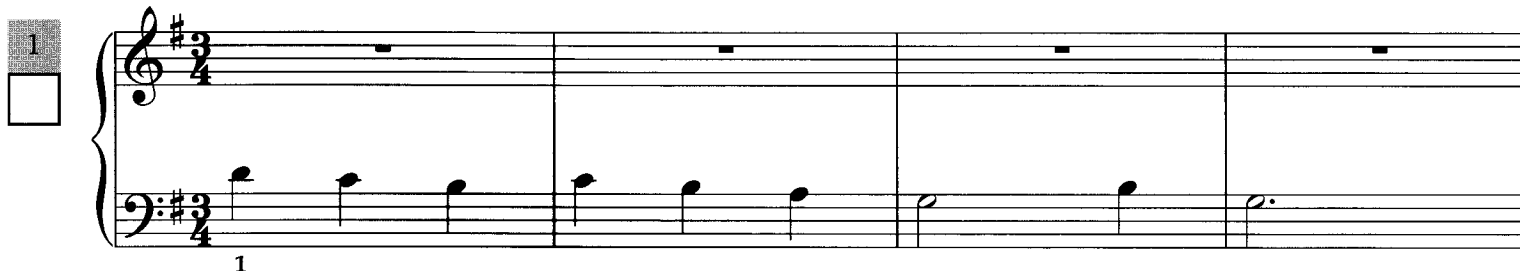


8 Write your own rhythmic exercise, then clap it.



Melodic exercises

1



2



3



Musical staff 1: Treble clef, 3/4 time, key of D major. Measure 1 has a finger number '1' above the first note. The bass clef has rests.

Musical staff 2: Treble clef has rests. Bass clef has notes starting with a finger number '2' below the first note.

Musical staff 3: Treble clef has notes starting with a finger number '4' above the first note. Bass clef has rests.

Musical staff 4: Treble clef has rests. Bass clef has notes starting with a finger number '1' below the first note.

Musical staff 5: Treble clef has notes starting with a finger number '3' above the first note. Bass clef has rests.

Musical staff 6: Treble clef has rests. Bass clef has notes starting with a finger number '2' below the first note.

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

The musical score for 'Waltz-time' is written for piano in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Waltz-time'. The piece consists of four measures. The right hand starts with a quarter note G4 (fingered 4), followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and D5. The left hand has whole rests in all four measures. The dynamic marking is *f* (forte).

- 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

The musical score for 'Allegro' is written for piano in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Allegro'. The piece consists of four measures. The right hand has whole rests in all four measures. The left hand starts with a quarter note G2 (fingered 2), followed by quarter notes A2, B2, C3, and D3. The dynamic marking is *mf* (mezzo forte).

Going solo!

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

With a smile

Musical notation for the first exercise. It is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piece is marked *mf*. The right hand starts with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) on the first beat, followed by quarter notes (C5, B4) on the second and third beats. The left hand has whole rests throughout. A fermata is placed over the final note, B4.

With a cheeky grin

Musical notation for the second exercise. It is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piece is marked *f* in the first measure and *p* in the second. The right hand has whole rests throughout. The left hand starts with a quarter note (G3) on the first beat, followed by quarter notes (A3, B3) on the second and third beats. A fermata is placed over the final note, B3.

Gently

Musical notation for the third exercise. It is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piece is marked *mp* in the first measure and *p* in the second. The right hand starts with a quarter rest on the first beat, followed by quarter notes (G4, A4) on the second and third beats. The left hand has whole rests throughout. A fermata is placed over the final note, B4.

Andante

Musical notation for the fourth exercise. It is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piece is marked *mf*. The right hand has whole rests throughout. The left hand starts with a quarter note (G3) on the first beat, followed by quarter notes (A3, B3) on the second and third beats. A fermata is placed over the final note, B3.

Elegantly

Musical notation for the fifth exercise. It is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piece is marked *mp* in the first measure and *f* in the second. The right hand starts with a quarter note (G4) on the first beat, followed by quarter notes (A4, B4) on the second and third beats. The left hand has whole rests throughout. A fermata is placed over the final note, B4.

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

System 1: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. Bass clef, 3/4 time signature. Measure 1: Treble clef has a whole rest, Bass clef has quarter notes G2, A2, B2. Measure 2: Treble clef has a whole rest, Bass clef has quarter notes C3, B2, A2. Measure 3: Treble clef has a whole rest, Bass clef has quarter notes G2, F2, E2. Measure 4: Treble clef has a whole rest, Bass clef has a half note D2. A finger number '1' is placed below the first measure.

System 2: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Measure 5: Treble clef has quarter notes G4, A4, B4, Bass clef has a whole rest. Measure 6: Treble clef has quarter notes C5, B4, A4, Bass clef has a whole rest. Measure 7: Treble clef has a whole rest, Bass clef has quarter notes G4, F4, E4. Measure 8: Treble clef has a whole rest, Bass clef has a half note D4. A finger number '4' is placed below the first measure and another '4' below the eighth measure.

System 3: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. Bass clef, 3/4 time signature. Measure 9: Treble clef has a whole rest, Bass clef has quarter notes G2, A2, B2. Measure 10: Treble clef has a whole rest, Bass clef has a half note C3. Measure 11: Treble clef has quarter notes G4, A4, B4, Bass clef has a whole rest. Measure 12: Treble clef has a half note C5, Bass clef has a whole rest. A finger number '3' is placed below the first measure and a '2' above the eleventh measure.

System 4: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Measure 13: Treble clef has quarter notes G4, A4, B4, Bass clef has a whole rest. Measure 14: Treble clef has quarter notes C5, B4, A4, Bass clef has a whole rest. Measure 15: Treble clef has a whole rest, Bass clef has quarter notes G4, F4, E4. Measure 16: Treble clef has a whole rest, Bass clef has quarter notes D4, C4, B3. A finger number '5' is placed below the first measure and another '4' below the sixteenth measure.

System 5: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Measure 17: Treble clef has quarter notes G4, A4, B4, Bass clef has a whole rest. Measure 18: Treble clef has quarter notes C5, B4, A4, Bass clef has a whole rest. Measure 19: Treble clef has a whole rest, Bass clef has quarter notes G4, F4, E4. Measure 20: Treble clef has a whole rest, Bass clef has quarter notes D4, C4, B3. A finger number '4' is placed below the first measure and another '1' below the twentieth measure.

System 6: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. Bass clef, 3/4 time signature. Measure 21: Treble clef has a whole rest, Bass clef has a half note G2. Measure 22: Treble clef has a whole rest, Bass clef has quarter notes A2, B2. Measure 23: Treble clef has quarter notes G4, A4, Bass clef has a whole rest. Measure 24: Treble clef has a half note C5, Bass clef has a whole rest. A finger number '5' is placed below the first measure and a '3' above the twenty-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

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

5

Going solo!

Confidently

1

mf

f

2

Sleepily

4

p

f

2

Firmly

4

mf

f

3

Playfully

4

mf

p

5

Jokingly

1

p

f

4

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

Musical notation system 1: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Measure 1 contains a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, and quarter note C5, all marked with a finger number '1'. Measure 2 contains a quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4, and quarter note F4, with a slur over the first two notes. Measure 3 and 4 contain whole rests.

Musical notation system 2: Treble clef, 3/4 time. Measure 3 contains a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, and quarter note B4, all marked with a finger number '3'. Measure 4 contains a quarter note A4, quarter note G4, and quarter note F4, with a slur over the first two notes. Measure 5 and 6 contain whole rests.

Musical notation system 3: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Measure 1 contains a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, and quarter note C5, all marked with a finger number '1'. Measure 2 contains a quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4, and quarter note F4, with a slur over the first two notes. Measure 3 and 4 contain whole rests.

Musical notation system 4: Treble clef, 3/4 time. Measure 2 contains a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, and quarter note B4, all marked with a finger number '2'. Measure 3 contains a quarter note A4, quarter note G4, and quarter note F4, with a slur over the first two notes. Measure 4 and 5 contain whole rests.

Musical notation system 5: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Measure 1 contains a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, and quarter note C5, all marked with a finger number '1'. Measure 2 contains a quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4, and quarter note F4, with a slur over the first two notes. Measure 3 and 4 contain whole rests.

Musical notation system 6: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Measure 1 contains a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, and quarter note C5, all marked with a finger number '1'. Measure 2 contains a quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4, and quarter note F4, with a slur over the first two notes. Measure 3 and 4 contain whole rests.

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, marked *mf*. The right hand features a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure, followed by a half note and a quarter note. The left hand has a whole rest in the first measure, then a half note and a quarter note in the second measure. A fermata is placed over the final notes of both hands.

Gliding along

Musical score for 'Gliding along' in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#), marked *mp*. The right hand has a whole rest in the first measure, then a half note and a quarter note in the second measure. The left hand has a half note and a quarter note in the first measure, followed by a half note and a quarter note in the second measure. A fermata is placed over the final notes of both hands.

Trotting along

Musical score for 'Trotting along' in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb), marked *f*. The right hand has a quarter note, a half note, and a quarter note in the first measure, followed by a half note and a quarter note in the second measure. The left hand has a whole rest in the first measure, then a half note and a quarter note in the second measure. A fermata is placed over the final notes of both hands.

Bustling along

Musical score for 'Bustling along' in 4/4 time, marked *f*. The right hand has a whole rest in the first measure, then a half note and a quarter note in the second measure. The left hand has a half note and a quarter note in the first measure, followed by a half note and a quarter note in the second measure. A fermata is placed over the final notes of both hands.

Striding along

Musical score for 'Striding along' in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb), marked *f*. The right hand has a whole rest in the first measure, then a half note and a quarter note in the second measure. The left hand has a half note and a quarter note in the first measure, followed by a half note and a quarter note in the second measure. A fermata is placed over the final notes of both hands.

Stage 6

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

Rhythmic exercises

1

2

3

4

5

6 Write your own rhythmic exercise, then clap it

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

5 3

3 3

1 3

5 1

5 3 2

5 2

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

1 3

Lightly

mf *p*

4

Lento

p

5

Conversationally

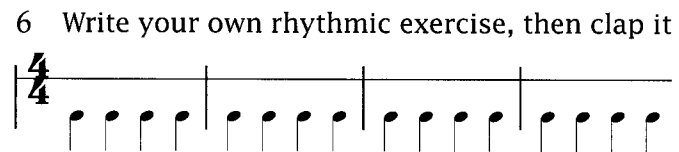
mf *p*

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

2

3

1

4

1

1

4

5

5

4



5

5

5

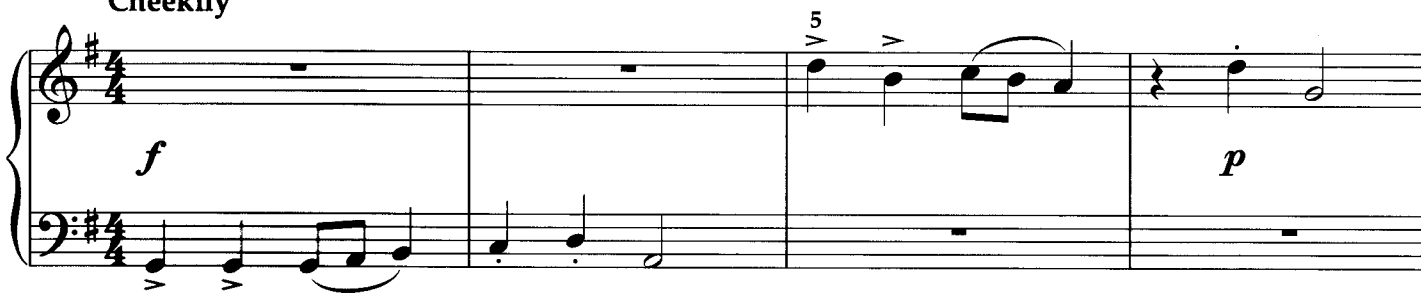
5

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



2

Going solo!

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

Smoothly

Musical score for 'Smoothly' in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The piece is marked *mf* in the first measure and *p* in the third measure. The right hand features a melodic line with a slur over measures 2 and 3, and a fermata over the final note. The left hand has a bass line with a slur over measures 1 and 2, and a fermata over the final note. Fingerings are indicated as 5 in both hands.

Marching

Musical score for 'Marching' in 2/4 time, key of B-flat major. The piece is marked *mf* in the first measure and *f* in the third measure. The right hand has a rhythmic pattern with accents (>) and a slur over measures 4 and 5. The left hand has a bass line with accents (>) and a slur over measures 1 and 2. Fingerings are indicated as 5 in the left hand and 1 in the right hand.

Moderato

Musical score for 'Moderato' in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The piece is marked *mf* in the first measure, *mp* in the second and fourth measures, and *mf* in the third measure. The right hand has a melodic line with a slur over measures 1 and 2, and a slur over measures 3 and 4. The left hand has a bass line with a slur over measures 1 and 2, and a slur over measures 3 and 4. Fingerings are indicated as 2 in the left hand and 1 and 3 in the right hand.

Heartily

Musical score for 'Heartily' in 4/4 time, key of D major. The piece is marked *mf* in the first measure and *f* in the third measure. The right hand has a melodic line with a slur over measures 1 and 2, and a slur over measures 3 and 4. The left hand has a bass line with a slur over measures 1 and 2, and a slur over measures 3 and 4. Fingerings are indicated as 4 in the right hand and 4 in the left hand.

Two people; one polite, one rude

Musical score for 'Two people; one polite, one rude' in 2/4 time, key of D major. The piece is marked *p* in the first measure and *f* in the third measure. The right hand has a melodic line with a slur over measures 1 and 2, and a slur over measures 3 and 4. The left hand has a bass line with a slur over measures 1 and 2, and a slur over measures 3 and 4. Fingerings are indicated as 5 in the right hand and 5 in the left hand.

Stage 8

D minor

Rhythmic exercises

1

2

3

4

5

6 Write your own rhythmic exercise, then clap it.

Melodic exercises

1

2

3

1 *mf* 1

1 5

5 2

5 5

5 4

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 'Darkly' in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The piece is marked *mf*. The right hand features a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure, followed by a half note. The left hand has a whole note chord in the first measure and a half note chord in the second measure. A fermata is placed over the first measure of the right hand. A finger number '3' is written above the first measure of the right hand, and a '4' is written below the first measure of the left hand.

Gently like a flowing stream

Musical score for 'Gently like a flowing stream' in 2/4 time, key of B-flat major. The piece is marked *mp*. The right hand has a half note chord in the first measure and a half note chord in the second measure. The left hand has a half note chord in the first measure and a half note chord in the second measure. A fermata is placed over the first measure of the right hand. A finger number '2' is written above the first measure of the right hand, and a '5' is written below the first measure of the left hand.

Dreamily

Musical score for 'Dreamily' in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The piece is marked *p*. The right hand has a half note chord in the first measure and a half note chord in the second measure. The left hand has a half note chord in the first measure and a half note chord in the second measure. A fermata is placed over the first measure of the right hand. A finger number '1' is written above the first measure of the right hand, and a '2' is written below the first measure of the left hand.

Like a sad clown

Musical score for 'Like a sad clown' in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The piece is marked *f*. The right hand has a half note chord in the first measure and a half note chord in the second measure. The left hand has a half note chord in the first measure and a half note chord in the second measure. A fermata is placed over the first measure of the right hand. A finger number '4' is written above the first measure of the right hand, and a '5' is written below the first measure of the left hand.

In a hurry

Musical score for 'In a hurry' in 2/4 time, key of B-flat major. The piece is marked *mf*. The right hand has a half note chord in the first measure and a half note chord in the second measure. The left hand has a half note chord in the first measure and a half note chord in the second measure. A fermata is placed over the first measure of the right hand. A finger number '1' is written above the first measure of the right hand, and a '1' is written below the first measure of the left hand.

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

Musical notation system 1: Treble and bass clefs, 3/4 time signature, key signature of one sharp (F#). Treble clef has a triplet of eighth notes marked '3'. Bass clef has a triplet of eighth notes marked '2'.

Musical notation system 2: Treble and bass clefs, 4/4 time signature. Treble clef has a triplet of eighth notes marked '5'. Bass clef has a triplet of eighth notes marked '5'.

Musical notation system 3: Treble and bass clefs, 3/4 time signature, key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb). Treble clef has a slur over a group of notes marked '1'. Bass clef has a slur over a group of notes marked '5'.

Musical notation system 4: Treble and bass clefs, 4/4 time signature. Treble clef has a slur over a group of notes marked '4'. Bass clef has a slur over a group of notes marked '1'.

Musical notation system 5: Treble and bass clefs, 3/4 time signature. Treble clef has a slur over a group of notes marked '4'. Bass clef has a slur over a group of notes marked '1'.

Musical notation system 6: Treble and bass clefs, 4/4 time signature, key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb). Treble clef has a slur over a group of notes marked '5'. Bass clef has a slur over a group of notes marked '1'.

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 note chord, then a half note chord, and finally a quarter note chord. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamics include *mf*, *f*, and *p*. A finger number '5' is indicated above the first measure of the right hand.

Marching

Musical score for 'Marching' in 4/4 time. The right hand features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamics include *f*, *p*, and *f*. Finger numbers '4' and '5' are indicated above the first measure of the right hand.

Gracefully

Musical score for 'Gracefully' in 3/4 time. The right hand plays a melodic line with a slur and a triplet. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamics include *mp*, *f*, and *mp*. A finger number '1' is indicated below the first measure of the left hand.

With a smile

Musical score for 'With a smile' in 4/4 time. The right hand plays a melodic line with a slur and a triplet. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamics include *f*, *p*, and *f*. A finger number '1' is indicated below the first measure of the left hand.

Moderato

Musical score for 'Moderato' in 3/4 time. The right hand plays a melodic line with a slur and a triplet. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamics include *mp*, *f*, and *mp*. A finger number '2' is indicated below the first measure of the left hand.

Stately

Musical score for 'Stately' in 4/4 time. The right hand plays a melodic line with a slur and a triplet. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamics include *f* and *p*. Finger numbers '3', '2', and '1' are indicated above the first measure of the right hand, and a '3' is indicated below the first measure of the left hand.

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.

