

Improve your sight-reading!

New edition

Piano
Level 6

Late
intermediate

A progressive, interactive approach
to sight-reading

Paul Harris

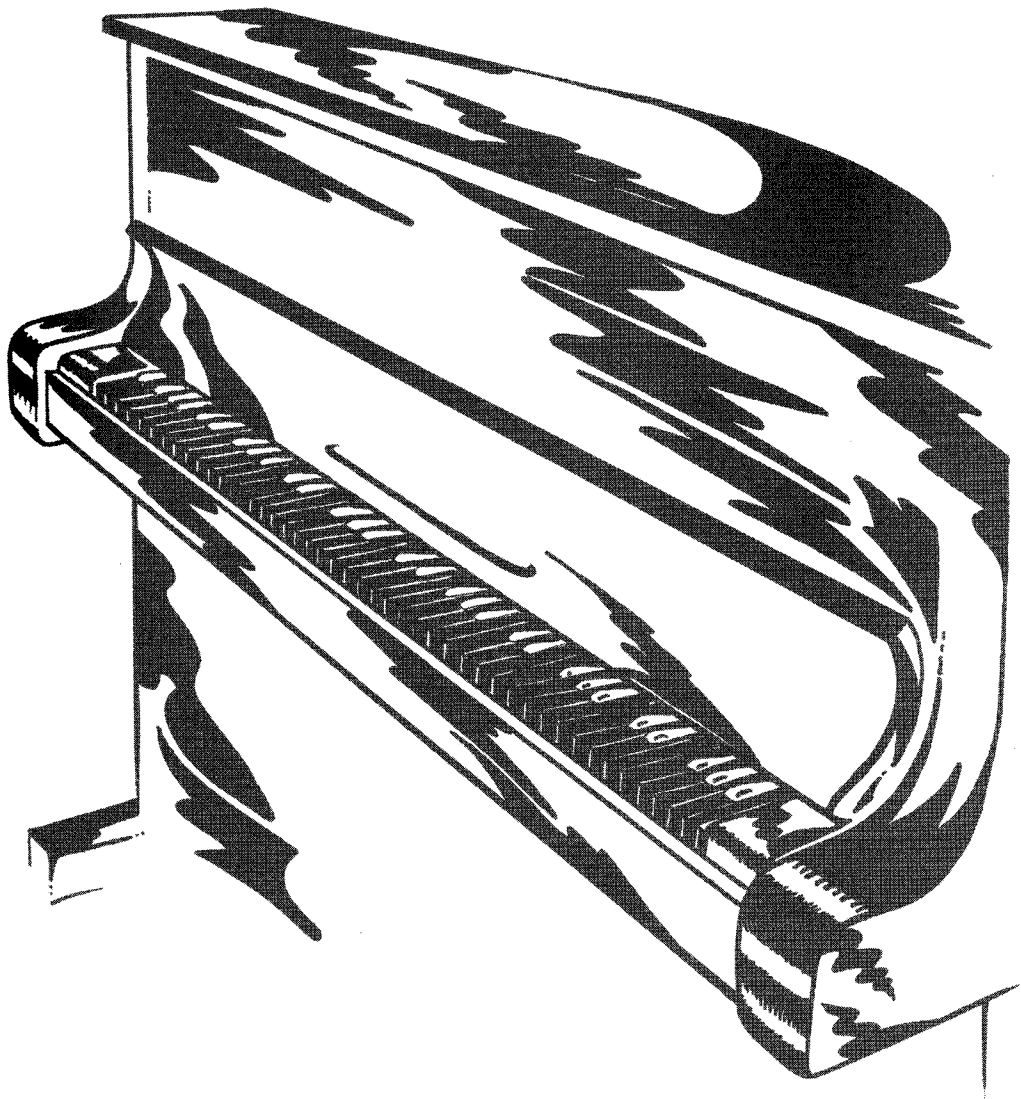


FABER *ff* MUSIC

Grade 6 Piano

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Stage 1

$\frac{5}{4}$ and $\frac{5}{8}$
Part playing

Rhythmic exercises

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

1

2

3

Melodic exercises

Penta-minuet

Allegretto

1

Dozing in the long grass

Andante

2

Texting

Allegro leggiero

3

Dancing in the rainforest

Alla latino

Musical score for 'Dancing in the rainforest' in 2/4 time, key of B-flat major. The piece is marked 'Alla latino'. The first system consists of four measures. The right hand starts with a melody of eighth notes, and the left hand provides a bass line. Dynamics include *mp*, *f*, and *mf*. The second system also consists of four measures, with the right hand featuring a melodic line with a first ending bracket and a first finger fingering (1). Dynamics include *mp* and *p*.

At the Prince's feast

Stately dance - molto moderato

Musical score for 'At the Prince's feast' in 3/8 time, key of B-flat major. The piece is marked 'Stately dance - molto moderato'. The first system consists of four measures. The right hand has a melodic line with a first ending bracket and first (1) and second (2) fingerings. The left hand has a bass line. Dynamics include *mf sempre leggiero*. The second system also consists of four measures, with the right hand featuring a melodic line with a first ending bracket and a dynamic marking of *f*.

Sunset

Andantino

Musical score for 'Sunset' in 5/4 time, key of D major. The piece is marked 'Andantino'. The first system consists of four measures. The right hand has a melodic line with a first ending bracket and a fifth (5) and fourth (4) finger fingering. The left hand has a bass line. Dynamics include *mp*. The second system also consists of four measures, with the right hand featuring a melodic line with a first ending bracket and a third (3) finger fingering. The left hand has a bass line. Dynamics include *rit.* and a first ending bracket with a first (1) and third (3) finger fingering.

Prepared pieces

- 1 How many times is the shape of the first bar repeated? Tap the rhythm of it, hands together.
- 2 Think the fingering through carefully, especially bars 5 and 6 of the right hand.
- 3 Which key is this piece in?
- 4 How will you convey the character?
- 5 Look carefully at the first few bars for a few moments, then see if you can play them from memory. How accurate were you?

Got to go!

Con moto

1

The musical score for 'Got to go!' is in 5/8 time and B-flat major. It consists of two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and quarter notes in the left hand. The second system begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic, followed by a *dim.* (diminuendo) section, and ends with a piano (*p*) section. Fingering numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are indicated for specific notes in the right hand.

- 1 How will you bring this piece to life? What does *sempre leggiero* mean?
- 2 Can you spot any repeated patterns?
- 3 How many bars are based on scale and arpeggio patterns? (Play the scale and arpeggio.)
- 4 Tap the rhythm of the piece, hands together on a table or the piano lid.
- 5 Play the first note of each hand and then hear the piece in your head as best as you can.

Boating on a Sunday afternoon

Andante

2

The musical score for 'Boating on a Sunday afternoon' is in 5/4 time and D major. It consists of two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and the instruction *sempre leggiero*. The right hand features a melody of eighth notes, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The second system includes a piano (*p*) section. Fingering numbers 1, 2, and 3 are indicated for notes in the right hand.

Going solo!

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

Monster movie

Grandioso

Musical score for 'Monster movie' in 5/8 time. The piece is marked 'Grandioso' and begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand features chords and melodic lines, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamics include *f*, *mf cresc.*, and *ff*. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1-4. The score concludes with a fermata and a final chord.

March for Martians

Moderato

Musical score for 'March for Martians' in 5/4 time. The piece is marked 'Moderato' and begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand plays a melody with a key signature change to one sharp (F#) in the third measure. Dynamics include *f*, *mp*, and *f*. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1-4. The score concludes with a fermata and a final chord.

Hornpipe for five feet

Allegretto

Musical score for 'Hornpipe for five feet' in 5/8 time. The piece is marked 'Allegretto' and begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand plays a rhythmic melody with a key signature change to one sharp (F#) in the second measure. Dynamics include *f*, *cresc.*, and *p*. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1-4. The score concludes with a fermata and a final chord.

Stage 2

More ties

Rhythmic exercises

All the rhythm exercises now have an independent rhythm for each hand. Keep the pulse steady – you might like to tap it with your foot. Try to work at these exercises hands together from the start – this will really help your coordination skills!

1

2

3

Melodic exercises

Toast with honey

Andante

1

Procession

Stately

2

The great Gate of Kiev

Maestoso

3

Trumpets

Pomposo

f

p cresc.

f

Ballooning

Allegro spiritoso

p

f

f

p

Trombones

Moderato

f

p

Gone fishing

Andante

mf

p cresc.

mf

rall.

Prepared pieces

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale and arpeggio.
- 2 What will you count? Tap the rhythms of both hands together. Are there any repeated patterns?
- 3 Does the right hand need more prominence or are both hands of equal importance?
- 4 What is the significance of the title?
- 5 Play the first notes in each hand and try to hear the piece through in your head as best you can.

Bach-ing up the wrong tree

1

Adagio

The musical score for 'Bach-ing up the wrong tree' is in 2/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is Adagio. The piece is marked *mf*. The right hand features a melodic line with fingerings 4, 2, 3, 1, 3, 1, 2 and slurs. The left hand provides a steady accompaniment with fingerings 5, 3, 2, 1, 3, 2. The piece concludes with a fermata on the final note of the right hand.

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale and arpeggio.
- 2 What do you notice about the left-hand part? How will this affect the way you play the music?
- 3 What does *cantabile* mean?
- 4 Tap the rhythms of both hands together, and look for any changes of hand position.
- 5 Do you understand the piece? Try to hear it through in your head.

Stately dance

2

Flowing

The musical score for 'Stately dance' is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb). The tempo is Flowing. The piece is marked *mp* and *cantabile*. The right hand has a melodic line with fingerings 1, 1, 3, 1, 3 and slurs. The left hand has a steady accompaniment with fingerings 3, 1, 3, 3, 4, 5, 3. The piece concludes with a fermata on the final note of the right hand.

Going solo!

Holiday romance

Andantino

First system of musical notation for 'Holiday romance'. It consists of a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 6/8. The first measure is marked *mp*. The second measure has a fermata over the treble staff. The third measure is marked *f*. There is a '4' above the treble staff in the second measure, indicating a four-measure rest.

Second system of musical notation for 'Holiday romance'. It continues the grand staff. The first measure is marked *mf*. The second measure has a fermata over the treble staff. The third measure is marked *p*. There is a 'rall.' above the treble staff in the second measure. There are fingerings '2' and '1' below the bass staff in the second and third measures respectively.

Zig-zagging about

Allegro energico

First system of musical notation for 'Zig-zagging about'. It consists of a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 2/4. The first measure is marked *f*. The second measure has a fermata over the treble staff. The third measure is marked *p*. The fourth measure is marked *f*. There are fingerings '2', '1', '2', and '3' below the bass staff in the first, second, third, and fourth measures respectively.

Second system of musical notation for 'Zig-zagging about'. It continues the grand staff. The first measure is marked *f*. The second measure has a fermata over the treble staff. The third measure is marked *p*. The fourth measure is marked *f*. There are fingerings '4', '2', and '2' below the treble staff in the first, second, and third measures respectively.

Joke

Giocoso

First system of musical notation for 'Joke'. It consists of a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 6/8. The first measure is marked *mf*. The second measure has a fermata over the treble staff. The third measure is marked *p*. There are rests in the bass staff in the first and third measures.

Second system of musical notation for 'Joke'. It continues the grand staff. The first measure is marked *f*. The second measure has a fermata over the treble staff. The third measure is marked *f*. There are fingerings '4' and '3' above the treble staff in the second measure. There is a '4' below the bass staff in the third measure.

Stage 3

F minor and
C# minor

Rhythmic exercises

1

2

3

Melodic exercises

Looking ahead The ability to look ahead is very valuable in developing sight-reading fluency. Try to read at least **one beat** ahead of the one you are playing.

Estonian folk song

Lento

1

mp

mf

rall.

1 3 5

All alone

Espressivo

2

p

mf

On a mission

Deciso

3

f

mp

f

2 1

Jackie's song

Like a cello singing

rall.

Musical score for 'Jackie's song' in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of two staves: a treble staff with chords and a bass staff with a melodic line. The piece begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a crescendo (*cresc.*). The bass line features a triplet of eighth notes. The dynamics progress to forte (*f*), then diminuendo (*dim.*), and finally piano (*p*) with a *rall.* (rallentando) marking. A fermata is placed over the final chord.

Quiet thoughts

Andante

Musical score for 'Quiet thoughts' in 6/8 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of two staves: a treble staff with chords and a bass staff with a melodic line. The piece is marked *mf dolce* (mezzo-forte, dolce). The bass line features a melodic line with a fermata over the first measure.

Continuation of the musical score for 'Quiet thoughts'. The piece begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The bass line features a melodic line with a fermata over the first measure. The dynamics progress to *p* and then *rit.* (ritardando). The piece concludes with a fermata over the final chord. Fingerings are indicated: 1 3 and 1 2 1.

Three-legged march

Spiritoso e molto ritmico

Musical score for 'Three-legged march' in 3/4 time, key of D major. The score consists of two staves: a treble staff with chords and a bass staff with a melodic line. The piece is marked *f* (forte) and *p* (piano). The bass line features a melodic line with a fermata over the first measure.

Continuation of the musical score for 'Three-legged march'. The piece begins with a crescendo (*cresc.*). The bass line features a melodic line with a fermata over the first measure. The dynamics progress to *f* (forte). The piece concludes with a fermata over the final chord. Fingerings are indicated: 1 and 1 3.

Prepared pieces

- 1 What key is this in? Are there any scale patterns? Play the scale and arpeggio.
- 2 Think the rhythm through in your head.
- 3 Play the first notes of both hands and then hear the piece through as best you can.
- 4 Look carefully at the first few bars for a few moments, then see if you can play them from memory.
- 5 What are the important ingredients that will help you give character to the performance?

The chase is on

With great excitement and as fast as possible

1

The musical score for 'The chase is on' is in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The first system consists of two staves. The right-hand staff begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and contains a melody with a four-measure phrase starting on G4, followed by a two-measure phrase starting on A4. The left-hand staff provides a bass line with chords and moving lines. The second system continues the piece, featuring a forte (*f*) dynamic in the right hand and more complex rhythmic patterns in the left hand, including triplets and sixteenth-note runs.

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale and arpeggio.
- 2 Look through the piece and decide where the melody is and how to balance the hands.
- 3 Do you feel you fully understand the rhythm? Tap the rhythm of both hands together.
- 4 Study bar 5 of the right hand, and think how it will sound. Now play it.
- 5 What character will you try to convey? Do you know what *Mesto* means?

A secret

Mesto

2

The musical score for 'A secret' is in 4/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The tempo is marked *Mesto*. The first system starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The right-hand staff features a melody with a sharp sign (#) above a note in the second measure. The left-hand staff has a bass line with chords. The second system continues the piece, with a forte (*f*) dynamic in the right hand. The final measure of the second system is marked *rit.* (ritardando) and features a long, sustained chord in the right hand.

Going solo!

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

Cops and robbers

Giocoso

Musical score for 'Cops and robbers' in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The piece is marked *Giocoso*. The first system shows a piano introduction with a forte (*f*) bass line and a piano (*p*) treble line. The second system features a crescendo (*cresc.*) in the bass line leading to a forte (*f*) conclusion. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1-5.

Evening breeze

Andante

Musical score for 'Evening breeze' in 6/8 time, key of D major. The piece is marked *Andante*. The first system has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The second system features a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic with triplets and fingerings. The third system includes a ritardando (*rit.*) and a piano (*p*) dynamic. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1-5.

Watercolour

Espressivo

Musical score for 'Watercolour' in 5/8 time, key of D major. The piece is marked *Espressivo*. The first system has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The second system features a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic with triplets and fingerings. The third system includes a ritardando (*rit.*) and a piano (*p*) dynamic. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1-5.

Nocturne

Lento espressivo

The first system of the Nocturne piece consists of two staves. The right-hand staff (treble clef) begins with a melody in D major, 4/4 time, marked *mf*. It features a series of eighth notes with fingerings 2, 2, and 2, followed by a half note chord. The left-hand staff (bass clef) provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and a triplet of eighth notes. The system concludes with a half note chord in the right hand.

The second system continues the Nocturne piece. The right-hand staff features a melodic line with fingerings 2, 3, 3, and 4, marked *p*. The left-hand staff continues with chords and a triplet of eighth notes, marked *mf*. The system ends with a half note chord in the right hand.

Haunted

Serioso

The first system of the Haunted piece is written in D major, 4/4 time, marked *f*. The right-hand staff (treble clef) starts with a melody featuring fingerings 3, 4, and 2. The left-hand staff (bass clef) begins with a triplet of eighth notes, marked *p*. The system concludes with a half note chord in the right hand.

The second system of the Haunted piece continues the melody in the right hand, marked *f*. The left hand continues with a rhythmic accompaniment, marked *p*. The system ends with a half note chord in the right hand.

Swatting flies

Molto moderato e humoroso

The Swatting flies piece is in D major, 5/4 time, marked *f*. The right-hand staff (treble clef) features a melody with dotted rhythms. The left-hand staff (bass clef) provides a rhythmic accompaniment with dotted rhythms. The piece concludes with a half note chord in the right hand.

Prepared pieces

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale and arpeggio.
- 2 Look at the chord in the left hand bar 2, then play it. Where does it reappear?
- 3 Can you spot any repeated rhythmic patterns?
- 4 What is the character of this piece? How will you balance the hands?
- 5 Play the first note in each hand and hear the piece in your head as best you can.

Forgotten dreams

Espressivo

1

The musical score for 'Forgotten dreams' is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a treble clef staff with a melodic line and a bass clef staff with a harmonic accompaniment. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. Dynamics include *mp* and *dim.*. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1-5. There are slurs and accents throughout the piece.

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale and arpeggio.
- 2 What is the character of this piece? How will you convey it?
- 3 Look carefully at the intervals in the first two bars of the left hand part. Now play them from memory.
- 4 Tap the rhythm of both hands on a table or the piano lid.
- 5 Play the first note in each hand and hear the piece in your head as best you can.

The unanswered question

Misterioso

2

The musical score for 'The unanswered question' is in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (Bb, Eb, and Ab). It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a treble clef staff with a melodic line and a bass clef staff with a harmonic accompaniment. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. Dynamics include *p* and *mf*. The tempo marking is *molto rit.*. There are slurs and accents throughout the piece.

Going solo!

Dandelion clocks

Calmato, molto espressivo e rubato

Musical score for 'Dandelion clocks' in 5/4 time, key of B-flat major. The piece is marked *Calmato, molto espressivo e rubato*. The score consists of two systems of piano and treble clef staves. The first system features a melody in the treble clef with fingerings 1, 2, and 3, and a bass line with chords. The second system includes dynamics *mf*, *dim.*, and *rit.*, with a final chord in the bass clef.

Yo-yo

Allegretto

Musical score for 'Yo-yo' in 6/8 time, key of B-flat major. The piece is marked *Allegretto*. The score consists of three systems of piano and treble clef staves. The first system features a melody in the treble clef with fingerings 5 and 3, and a bass line with chords and fingerings 4, 4, 3, 3, 2. The second system includes dynamics *mf* and *f*, with a final chord in the bass clef. The third system includes dynamics *mf* and *f*, with a final chord in the bass clef.

Stage 5

Sub-dividing at
more patterns

$\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{4}{4}$

Rhythmic exercises

Sub-dividing If you've always counted in two bars before playing each exercise you'll be feeling the pulse very strongly when you play now – like an internal metronome. This helps with understanding exactly where to put notes and keeping a steady pulse (playing *in time*). Sometimes you will also need to feel the sub-division of the pulse to help you with more complicated rhythms. It's just a matter of feeling an extra 'pulse' between the main beats. Think about how to 'feel' the counting of the following exercises. You'll find some help beneath the first rhythmic and melodic exercise ...

1

2

2

3

Melodic exercises

The rhino's tea party

Heavily

f

1

Classic rag

Moderato

Musical score for 'Classic rag' in 2/4 time, B-flat major. The piece is marked 'Moderato'. It consists of two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system has four measures: the first two are marked *mf* and the last two are marked *f*. The second system also has four measures: the first two are marked *mf* and the last two are marked *f*. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1, 2, and 3. The bass line features a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure of the second system.

Round dance

Maestoso

Musical score for 'Round dance' in 4/4 time, D major. The piece is marked 'Maestoso'. It consists of two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system has four measures, all marked *f*. The second system has four measures: the first two are marked *p cresc.* and the last two are marked *f*. The bass line consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

Carriages at midnight

Ritmico

Musical score for 'Carriages at midnight' in 3/4 time, D major. The piece is marked 'Ritmico'. It consists of two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system has four measures: the first is marked *mf*, the second is marked *p*, and the last two are marked *f* and *p* respectively. The second system has four measures: the first is marked *f*, the second is marked *p*, and the last two are marked *f* and *p* respectively. The bass line features a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

Prepared pieces

- 1 Study this piece carefully for a few minutes. Think about the rhythms.
- 2 Is the pattern in bar 1 repeated anywhere?
- 3 Can you find some passages where feeling the sub-division of beats is very important?
- 4 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of each hand separately, then both hands together.
- 5 Do you think you understand this piece? How will you bring it to life?

The puppet dances

Allegro bizzarro

1

The musical score for 'The puppet dances' is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. It consists of two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system has four measures. The right hand starts with a dynamic of *f* (forte) and features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents. The left hand has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The second system also has four measures, with dynamics ranging from *p* (piano) to *f*. The right hand has a melodic line with slurs and accents, while the left hand continues with eighth-note accompaniment. A box with the number '1' is located to the left of the first system.

- 1 How many times does the opening rhythm (right hand) return?
- 2 Think through the rhythm of the final bar (both hands).
- 3 Tap the rhythm of each hand separately. Then tap the rhythms of both hands together.
- 4 What key is this piece in? Play the scale and arpeggio.
- 5 How will you convey the mood and style of this piece?

Green tango

Tempo latino

2

The musical score for 'Green tango' is in 2/4 time and B-flat major. It consists of two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system has four measures. The right hand starts with a dynamic of *mf* (mezzo-forte) and features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents. The left hand has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The second system also has four measures, with dynamics ranging from *p* (piano) to *f* (forte). The right hand has a melodic line with slurs and accents, while the left hand continues with eighth-note accompaniment. A box with the number '2' is located to the left of the first system.

Going solo!

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

Blue minuet

Cool and lazy

The score for 'Blue minuet' is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a tempo/mood marking 'Cool and lazy'. The first measure is marked *mf* and contains a triplet of eighth notes (2, 4) in the right hand and a bass line. The second measure is marked *mp*. The second system starts with a *f* dynamic, followed by a *mp* dynamic and a 'rit.' (ritardando) marking. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Sonatina in D Op.1723b, No.734

Allegro moderato

The score for 'Sonatina in D Op.1723b, No.734' is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (D major). It consists of three systems of music. The first system starts with a *f* dynamic, followed by a *p* dynamic. The second system starts with a *p* dynamic, followed by a *f* dynamic. The third system starts with a *mf* dynamic, followed by a *p* dynamic, and ends with a *f* dynamic. The score includes various fingering numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and fingerings for the left hand (IV, V, VI). The piece ends with a double bar line.

Stage 6

Revision of key
Concentration

Rhythmic exercises

Concentration Your ability to sight-read will be all the more fluent and accurate if you develop your power of concentration. Concentrate on F minor for a moment. Imagine playing the scale in your mind. Visualise the fingering and hear it (in your head) as you 'virtually' play it. Focus your mind really strongly on each exercise and piece. In time you will find that your concentration deepens and your sight-reading becomes more secure.

1

2

3

Melodic exercises

Farmer Giles milks the cows (A tale of country folk)

Allegretto grazioso

1

Bees around the honey pot cha-cha-cha

Lively

First system of musical notation for 'Bees around the honey pot cha-cha-cha'. It consists of a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The piece is marked 'Lively'. The first measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second measure has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic with a crescendo hairpin. The third measure has a crescendo hairpin and a *cresc.* marking. The fourth measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic and a fermata over the final note. A '4' is written below the final note.

Second system of musical notation for 'Bees around the honey pot cha-cha-cha'. It consists of a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The piece is marked 'Lively'. 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 fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic and a fermata over the final note. A '4' is written below the final note.

Junk E-mail

Scherzando

First system of musical notation for 'Junk E-mail'. It consists of a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and the time signature is 3/8. The piece is marked 'Scherzando'. 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 fifth measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. A '1' is written below the first note of the fifth measure.

Bees' knees cha-cha-cha

Con spirito

First system of musical notation for 'Bees' knees cha-cha-cha'. It consists of a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb), and the time signature is 4/4. The piece is marked 'Con spirito'. 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 fifth measure has a piano (*p*) dynamic. A '5' is written above the first note of the second measure.

Second system of musical notation for 'Bees' knees cha-cha-cha'. It consists of a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb), and the time signature is 4/4. The piece is marked 'Con spirito'. 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 forte (*f*) dynamic. The fifth measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic. A '1' is written above the first note of the first measure.

Prepared pieces

- 1 Look at the first two chords in the left hand. How will you finger them? Do they appear again?
- 2 How will you convey the character of the piece?
- 3 What key is this piece in? Play the scale and arpeggio.
- 4 Think about how you will manage the *rit* and *a tempo* (bars 5 and 6).
- 5 Play the opening notes and then hear the piece through in your head as best you can.

En bateau

1

Andante

The score for 'En bateau' is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is marked 'Andante'. The piece consists of two systems of music. The first system has four measures. The right hand plays a melody with a slur over the first four notes, which are marked with fingerings 4, 3, 3, and 4. The left hand plays a series of chords. The second system has four measures. The first two measures are marked 'rit.' and the last two 'a tempo'. The right hand has a slur over the first two notes of the first measure, and the left hand has a slur over the first two notes of the first measure. The dynamics are marked 'mf' in the first system and 'p' and 'mf' in the second system.

- 1 Look carefully at the whole piece for a few moments. Do you feel you understand it?
- 2 What is the key? How many passages are based on scale patterns?
- 3 Think about how you will finger the melody. What is the purpose of the left-hand part?
- 4 Play the opening notes and then hear the piece through in your head as best you can.
- 5 What character will you try to convey?

Mazurka

2

Allegretto

The score for 'Mazurka' is in 3/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The tempo is marked 'Allegretto'. The piece consists of two systems of music. The first system has four measures. The right hand plays a melody with a slur over the first four notes. The left hand plays a series of chords. The second system has four measures. The right hand has a slur over the first four notes of the first measure, which are marked with fingerings 3, 3, 3, and 3. The left hand has a slur over the first four notes of the first measure. The dynamics are marked 'f' in both systems.

Going solo!

Mexican sock dance

Moderato

Musical score for 'Mexican sock dance' in 4/4 time, key of D major. The piece is marked 'Moderato'. The first system features a treble clef with a melody starting on G4, marked with a forte *f* dynamic. The bass clef provides a simple accompaniment. The second system continues the melody with a mezzo-forte *mp* dynamic, featuring a triplet of eighth notes (4, 3, 2) and a final forte *f* dynamic. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Shepherd's lament

Doloroso e cantabile

Musical score for 'Shepherd's lament' in 3/4 time, key of D major. The piece is marked 'Doloroso e cantabile'. The first system features a treble clef with a melody starting on G4, marked with a mezzo-forte *mf* dynamic. The bass clef provides a simple accompaniment. The second system continues the melody with a mezzo-forte *mf* dynamic, featuring a triplet of eighth notes (2, 5) and a 'rit.' (ritardando) marking. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Scurrying

Allegro

Musical score for 'Scurrying' in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The piece is marked 'Allegro'. The first system features a treble clef with a melody starting on G4, marked with a forte *f* dynamic. The bass clef provides a simple accompaniment. The second system continues the melody with a piano *p* dynamic, featuring a triplet of eighth notes (2, 1) and a forte *f* dynamic. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Stage 7

9
8
More patterns
in 3 and 5

Rhythmic exercises

1

2

3

Melodic exercises

Medieval song

With a stately and regal air

1

Five-legged race

Allegretto scherzando

2

As cool as a mountain stream

Flowing

p *con ped.*

mf *poco rit.* *dim.* *a tempo*

Ped.

Detailed description: This piece is in 3/8 time and B-flat major. The first system (measures 1-5) is marked 'Flowing' and 'p' (piano), with a 'con ped.' (con peditale) instruction. The melody features a descending line with a trill in measure 4. The second system (measures 6-10) starts with 'mf' (mezzo-forte) and includes 'poco rit.' (poco ritardando) and 'dim.' (diminuendo) markings. It concludes with 'a tempo' and a 'Ped.' (pedal) instruction.

Five-legged clown

Hilariously

f *p* *cresc.*

Detailed description: This piece is in 5/8 time and D major. The first system (measures 1-5) is marked 'Hilariously' and 'f' (forte). It features a rhythmic bass line with fingerings 4, 1, 3, 1. The melody has a trill in measure 3. The second system (measures 6-10) includes 'p' (piano) and 'cresc.' (crescendo) markings. The piece ends with a fermata in measure 10.

Two old gossips

Allegretto

f *mp* *p*

Detailed description: This piece is in 9/8 time and D major. The first system (measures 1-5) is marked 'Allegretto' and 'f' (forte). It features a complex, rhythmic melody with fingerings 3, 2, 2, 1. The second system (measures 6-10) includes 'mp' (mezzo-piano) and 'p' (piano) markings. The piece concludes with a fermata in measure 10.

Prepared pieces

- 1 In which key is this piece?
- 2 Place your fingers carefully on the notes where part-playing is required. You will need to take extra care with the fingering here.
- 3 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of the two parts in the right hand and *think* the left hand.
- 4 What does the tempo mark suggest about the character? Do you feel you understand the piece?
- 5 Play the first note and try to hear the piece in your head as best you can.

Peacefully **By a gentle brook on a warm and sunny day**

1

The musical score is for a piece titled 'By a gentle brook on a warm and sunny day' in 6/8 time, marked 'Peacefully'. It consists of two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system has four measures. The right hand starts with a melody in the treble clef, and the left hand provides a bass line in the bass clef. Fingerings are indicated: 5-1 in the first measure of the right hand, 4-3 in the second, 3-1 in the third, and 5-2 in the fourth. The dynamic is *mf*. The second system also has four measures. The right hand continues the melody, and the left hand has a more active bass line. Fingerings are 4-1 in the first measure of the right hand, and 2 in the second measure of the left hand. Dynamics are *f* in the second measure and *p* in the third.

- 1 In which key is this piece?
- 2 Are there any repeated patterns? Tap the rhythms of both hands.
- 3 What does the tempo mark suggest about the character? Do you feel you understand the piece?
- 4 Look carefully at the first few bars for a few moments, then see if you can play them from memory.
- 5 Play the first note and try to hear the whole piece in your head as best you can.

By another brook on a chilly day

2

The musical score is for a piece titled 'By another brook on a chilly day' in 9/8 time, marked 'Moderato'. It consists of two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system has three measures. The right hand has a melody in the treble clef, and the left hand has a bass line in the bass clef. The dynamic is *f*. The second system has three measures. The right hand continues the melody, and the left hand has a more active bass line. Dynamics are *mp* in the second measure. Tempo markings are 'rit.' at the beginning and end, and 'a tempo' in the middle. Fingerings are indicated: 1 in the first measure of the right hand in the second system, and 1 in the second measure of the right hand in the third system.

Going solo!

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

Dancing by the Seine

Andantino

Musical score for 'Dancing by the Seine' in 6/8 time, key of D major. The piece is marked 'Andantino'. The score consists of two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic in the right hand and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic in the left hand. The second system features a forte (*f*) dynamic in the right hand and a piano (*p*) dynamic in the left hand. The piece concludes with a 'rit.' (ritardando) marking. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1-3, and articulation marks like slurs and accents are present.

Eating patisserie by the Seine

Moderato

Musical score for 'Eating patisserie by the Seine' in 3/8 time, key of B-flat major. The piece is marked 'Moderato'. The score consists of three systems of piano accompaniment. The first system begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic in the right hand and a piano (*p*) dynamic in the left hand, with a 'cresc.' (crescendo) marking. The second system features a forte (*f*) dynamic in the right hand and a piano (*p*) dynamic in the left hand, also with a 'cresc.' marking. The piece concludes with a 'rit.' (ritardando) marking. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1-3, and articulation marks like slurs and accents are present.

Stage 8

Thinking
and playing
musically

Rhythmic exercises

If you've been preparing all the sight-reading exercises and pieces carefully you should be reading accurately, fluently and confidently. You should also remember to sight-read *musically*. Here are some reminders to bear in mind as you prepare to give a musical performance:

- Choose a suitable tempo.
- Keep the pulse even and steady.
- Give energy to the rhythm.
- Shape the phrases: small *crescendos* when the music ascends and *diminuendos* when it descends is a good start.
- Follow dynamics and other markings.
- Use the pedal carefully – not too much so as to blur the detail.
- Think *in the key*.
- Think about giving musical character to your performance.

And before you begin, make sure you really understand what the piece is saying.

1

2

3

Melodic exercises

Festive fanfare

Maestoso

1

f

ff

2

5

4

Hide and seek

Wittily rit. a tempo

f *p* *cresc.*

3 1 4 2

4 1 1

Detailed description: This musical score is for a piece titled 'Hide and seek'. It is written for piano in 5/4 time. The first system consists of two measures. The first measure is marked 'Wittily' and 'f' (forte). The second measure is marked 'rit.' (ritardando) and '4' (fingerings). The second system also consists of two measures. The first measure is marked 'a tempo' and 'p' (piano). The second measure is marked 'cresc.' (crescendo) and '1' (fingerings). The third system consists of four measures. The first measure is marked 'mf' (mezzo-forte) and '3 1' (fingerings). The second measure is marked '4 2' (fingerings). The third measure is marked 'p' and 'cresc.'. The fourth measure is marked 'f' and '1'. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

May I have this dance, Mr Boccherini?

Tempo di minuetto

mf *p* *mf*

3 2

1 3

Detailed description: This musical score is for a piece titled 'May I have this dance, Mr Boccherini?'. It is written for piano in 3/4 time. The first system consists of four measures. The first measure is marked 'Tempo di minuetto' and 'mf' (mezzo-forte). The second measure is marked '3' (fingerings). The third measure is marked '2' (fingerings). The fourth measure is marked '1' (fingerings). The second system consists of four measures. The first measure is marked 'p' (piano). The second measure is marked 'mf' (mezzo-forte). The third measure is marked '1' (fingerings). The fourth measure is marked '3' (fingerings). The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Prepared pieces

- 1 In which key is this piece?
- 2 What does the tempo mark suggest about the character? What does *rubato* mean?
- 3 Look at the left-hand chords. Decide how you'll finger them.
- 4 Are there any repeated patterns? Tap the rhythms of both hands.
- 5 Play the first note and try to hear the piece in your head as best you can.

Come chill with me

Cool (molto rubato)

1

The score for 'Come chill with me' is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has two measures. The first measure is marked *mp* and features a melody in the right hand with fingerings 3, 2, 1, 2 and a bass line with a whole note chord. The second measure is marked *mf* and features a melody in the right hand with a slur and a bass line with a whole note chord. The second system has three measures. The first measure is marked *mp* and features a melody in the right hand with a slur and a bass line with a whole note chord. The second measure is marked *rall.* and features a melody in the right hand with a slur and a bass line with a whole note chord. The third measure is marked *dim.* and features a melody in the right hand with a slur and a bass line with a whole note chord.

- 1 In which key is this piece? Make a mental note of all the accidentals.
- 2 What are the arpeggios in bar 2 and 4 (left hand)?
- 3 Where is the climax of the piece?
- 4 Which scale is formed by the notes of the left hand, bar 7?
- 5 Play the first notes of each hand and try to hear the piece in your head as best you can.

Getting up late

Flowing

2

The score for 'Getting up late' is in 6/8 time and D major. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has four measures. The first measure is marked *mp* and features a melody in the right hand with fingerings 1, 2 and a bass line with a whole note chord. The second measure features a melody in the right hand with a slur and a bass line with a whole note chord. The third measure features a melody in the right hand with a slur and a bass line with a whole note chord. The fourth measure is marked *f* and features a melody in the right hand with a slur and a bass line with a whole note chord. The second system has four measures. The first measure features a melody in the right hand with a slur and a bass line with a whole note chord. The second measure features a melody in the right hand with a slur and a bass line with a whole note chord. The third measure features a melody in the right hand with a slur and a bass line with a whole note chord. The fourth measure features a melody in the right hand with a slur and a bass line with a whole note chord.

Going solo!

Sight-reading rag

Moderato

Musical score for 'Sight-reading rag' in 4/4 time, Moderato. The score is written for piano and includes dynamic markings such as *mp*, *mf*, and *f*. It features various musical notations including slurs, ties, and fingerings (e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4). The piece concludes with a double bar line and a fermata.

Pancakes

Allegretto

Musical score for 'Pancakes' in 4/4 time, Allegretto. The score is written for piano and includes dynamic markings such as *p*, *cresc.*, *f*, and *mf*. It features various musical notations including slurs, ties, and fingerings (e.g., 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 1, 2). The piece concludes with a double bar line and a fermata.

Yoghurts and berries

Scherzando

3

Musical score for 'Yoghurts and berries' Scherzando. The piece is in 4/4 time. The first system contains four measures with dynamics *p*, *mf*, and *p*. The second system contains four measures with dynamics *mf*, *mp*, and *p*. Fingerings and articulation marks are present throughout.

Entry of the Grand Vizier

Grandioso

4

Musical score for 'Entry of the Grand Vizier' Grandioso. The piece is in 2/2 time. The first system contains three measures with dynamics *mf*, *cresc.*, and *f*. The second system contains five measures with dynamics *cresc.* and *ff*. The tempo is marked *allargando*.

A sad farewell

Semplice

The first system of musical notation for 'A sad farewell' consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The piece begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The first measure has a whole rest in the treble and a quarter-note melody in the bass. The second measure features a half-note chord in the treble and a whole note in the bass. The third measure has a half-note chord in the treble and a quarter-note melody in the bass. The fourth measure has a half-note chord in the treble and a quarter-note melody in the bass.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. The upper staff has dynamic markings of *rall.*, *slower*, and *rall.* above it. The lower staff has a *f* dynamic marking. The first measure has a quarter-note melody in the treble and a quarter-note in the bass. The second measure has a half-note chord in the treble and a half-note in the bass. The third measure has a half-note chord in the treble and a quarter-note in the bass. The fourth measure has a half-note chord in the treble and a quarter-note in the bass. The system ends with a double bar line.

Snakes and ladders

Giocoso

The first system of musical notation for 'Snakes and ladders' consists of two staves. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 4/4. The piece begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The first measure has a quarter-note chord in the treble and a quarter-note in the bass. The second measure has a quarter-note chord in the treble and a quarter-note in the bass. The third measure has a quarter-note chord in the treble and a quarter-note in the bass. The fourth measure has a quarter-note chord in the treble and a quarter-note in the bass. The system ends with a double bar line.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. The upper staff has dynamic markings of *f*, *p*, and *f*. The lower staff has a *f* dynamic marking. The first measure has a quarter-note chord in the treble and a quarter-note in the bass. The second measure has a quarter-note chord in the treble and a quarter-note in the bass. The third measure has a quarter-note chord in the treble and a quarter-note in the bass. The fourth measure has a quarter-note chord in the treble and a quarter-note in the bass. The system ends with a double bar line.