

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!

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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.)

1

1

1

1

1

1

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?

1

Dancing

- 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?

2

Flowing

*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 with a fingering of 5 at the beginning. The dynamics are *mf*, *p*, and *mf*. The score consists of four measures. The right hand plays a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand plays a simple accompaniment of quarter notes.

With a smile

Musical score for 'With a smile' in 3/4 time. The piece is marked with a fingering of 3 at the beginning. The dynamics are *mp* and *f*. The score consists of four measures. The right hand plays a melodic line with quarter notes, while the left hand plays a simple accompaniment of quarter notes.

Triumphantly

Musical score for 'Triumphantly' in 4/4 time. The piece is marked with a fingering of 5 at the beginning. The dynamic is *ff*. The score consists of four measures. The right hand plays a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand plays a simple accompaniment of quarter notes.

Striding

Musical score for 'Striding' in 2/4 time. The piece is marked with a fingering of 1 at the beginning. The dynamics are *f*, *mp*, and *f*. The score consists of five measures. The right hand plays a melodic line with quarter notes, while the left hand plays a simple accompaniment of quarter notes.

Elegantly

Musical score for 'Elegantly' in 3/4 time. The piece is marked with a fingering of 1 at the beginning. The dynamics are *mp* and *f*. The score consists of four measures. The right hand plays a melodic line with quarter notes, while the left hand plays a simple accompaniment of quarter notes.

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

1
5

1

1

3

5
5

5
2

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

The musical score for 'Expressively' is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The treble clef part starts with a triplet of eighth notes (B-flat, A, G) followed by a half note (F). The bass clef part starts with a half note (B-flat) followed by a half note (A). The piece is marked *mp* and includes a fermata over the final notes of both staves.

- 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

The musical score for 'Ticking' is in 3/4 time and D major. The treble clef part starts with a dotted quarter note (D) followed by an eighth note (E). The bass clef part starts with a dotted quarter note (D) followed by an eighth note (E). The piece is marked *mf* and includes a fermata over the final notes of both staves.

Going solo!

Gently

mp

4

1

Cheerfully

p *f*

4

5

Sorrowfully

p

3

2

Confidently

mf *f* *mf*

1

1

Boldly

f

5

5

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

5

5

Stage 3, system 1: Treble and bass clefs, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), 4/4 time signature. Treble clef starts with a 5-finger fingering. The system contains four measures of music.

3

5

Stage 3, system 2: Treble and bass clefs, key signature of two sharps, 2/4 time signature. Treble clef starts with a 3-finger fingering. The system contains six measures of music.

5

1

Stage 3, system 3: Treble and bass clefs, key signature of two sharps, 4/4 time signature. Treble clef starts with a 5-finger fingering. The system contains four measures of music, with a first finger fingering (1) in the bass clef.

1

2

Stage 3, system 4: Treble and bass clefs, key signature of two sharps, 3/4 time signature. Treble clef starts with a 1-finger fingering. The system contains four measures of music, with a 2-finger fingering in the bass clef.

3

1

Stage 3, system 5: Treble and bass clefs, key signature of two sharps, 4/4 time signature. Treble clef starts with a 3-finger fingering. The system contains four measures of music, with a 1-finger fingering in the bass clef.

5

5

Stage 3, system 6: Treble and bass clefs, key signature of two sharps, 3/4 time signature. Treble clef starts with a 5-finger fingering. The system contains three measures of music, with a 5-finger fingering in the bass clef.

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

5

- 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. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The piece consists of four measures. The first measure has a treble clef with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, all beamed together. The bass clef has a half note G2. The second measure has a treble clef with a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5, all beamed together. The bass clef has a half note A2. The third measure has a treble clef with a whole rest. The bass clef has a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2, all beamed together. The fourth measure has a treble clef with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, all beamed together. The bass clef has a whole note G2. Dynamics include *f* in the first measure, *p* in the second measure, and *f* in the fourth measure. There are also accents (>) over the notes in the fourth measure. A finger number '4' is written above the first measure, and a '2' is written below the first measure of the bass line.

Moderato

Musical score for the Moderato piece. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The piece consists of four measures. The first measure has a treble clef with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, all beamed together. The bass clef has a half note G2. The second measure has a treble clef with a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5, all beamed together. The bass clef has a half note A2. The third measure has a treble clef with a whole note G4. The bass clef has a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2, all beamed together. The fourth measure has a treble clef with a whole note A4. The bass clef has a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2, all beamed together. Dynamics include *p* in the first measure and *f* in the third measure. A finger number '3' is written above the first measure, and a '5' is written below the first measure of the bass line.

Allegretto

Musical score for the Allegretto piece. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The piece consists of four measures. The first measure has a treble clef with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, all beamed together. The bass clef has a half note G2. The second measure has a treble clef with a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5, all beamed together. The bass clef has a half note A2. The third measure has a treble clef with a whole note G4. The bass clef has a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2, all beamed together. The fourth measure has a treble clef with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, all beamed together. The bass clef has a whole note G2. Dynamics include *mf* in the first measure. A finger number '3' is written above the first measure, and a '5' is written below the first measure of the bass line.

Lento

Musical score for the Lento piece. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The piece consists of four measures. The first measure has a treble clef with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, all beamed together. The bass clef has a half note G2. The second measure has a treble clef with a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5, all beamed together. The bass clef has a half note A2. The third measure has a treble clef with a whole note G4. The bass clef has a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2, all beamed together. The fourth measure has a treble clef with a whole note A4. The bass clef has a whole note G2. Dynamics include *mp* in the first measure and *p* in the fourth measure. A finger number '5' is written above the first measure, and a '5' is written below the first measure of the bass line.

Con moto

Musical score for the Con moto piece. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The piece consists of four measures. The first measure has a treble clef with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, all beamed together. The bass clef has a half note G2. The second measure has a treble clef with a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5, all beamed together. The bass clef has a half note A2. The third measure has a treble clef with a whole note G4. The bass clef has a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2, all beamed together. The fourth measure has a treble clef with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, all beamed together. The bass clef has a whole note G2. Dynamics include *f* in the first measure and *p* in the fourth measure. A finger number '1' is written above the first measure, and a '2' is written below the first measure of the bass line.

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

First system of musical notation in 4/4 time, key of D major. The right hand starts with a five-fingered scale (5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and continues with a melodic line. The left hand provides a bass line with a five-fingered scale (5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5).

Second system of musical notation in 4/4 time, key of D major. The right hand features a melodic line with a first finger (1) and a sharp sign. The left hand continues with a bass line, including a five-fingered scale (5).

Third system of musical notation in 4/4 time, key of D major. The right hand has a melodic line with a five-fingered scale (5) and a sharp sign. The left hand has a bass line with a two-fingered scale (2).

Fourth system of musical notation in 4/4 time, key of D major. The right hand has a melodic line with a two-fingered scale (2) and a fermata. The left hand has a bass line with a five-fingered scale (5) and a fermata.

Fifth system of musical notation in 4/4 time, key of D major. The right hand has a melodic line with a three-fingered scale (3). The left hand has a bass line with a five-fingered scale (5).

Sixth system of musical notation in 4/4 time, key of D major. The right hand has a melodic line with a three-fingered scale (3). The left hand has a bass line with a five-fingered scale (5).

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 'Conversationally' in 4/4 time. The piece is in G major. The right hand starts with a whole rest, then plays a quarter-note triplet of G4, A4, B4, followed by a quarter-note G4. The left hand plays a quarter-note G2, then a quarter-note A2, then a quarter-note B2. Dynamics include *f* in the first measure, *mf* in the second, and *f* in the third. A finger number '5' is written above the first measure of the right hand and below the first measure of the left hand.

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

Lightly

Musical score for 'Lightly' in 4/4 time. The piece is in B-flat major. The right hand plays a quarter-note triplet of Bb4, C5, D5, followed by a quarter-note Bb4. The left hand plays a whole note Bb2. Dynamics include *mf* in the first measure and *p* in the third. A finger number '3' is written above the first measure of the right hand and below the first measure of the left hand.

Sleepily

Musical score for 'Sleepily' in 4/4 time. The piece is in G major. The right hand starts with a whole rest, then plays a quarter-note triplet of G4, A4, B4, followed by a half-note G4. The left hand plays a quarter-note G2, then a quarter-note A2, then a quarter-note B2. Dynamics include *p* in the first measure. A finger number '3' is written above the first measure of the right hand and below the first measure of the left hand.

Sunnily

Musical score for 'Sunnily' in 4/4 time. The piece is in D major. The right hand plays a quarter-note triplet of D5, E5, F#5, followed by a quarter-note D5. The left hand plays a whole note D2. Dynamics include *f* in the first measure and *mp* in the second. A finger number '5' is written above the first measure of the right hand and below the first measure of the left hand.

Darkly

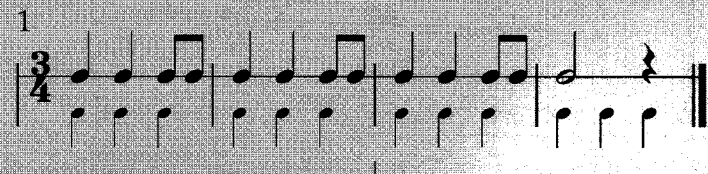
Musical score for 'Darkly' in 4/4 time. The piece is in D major. The right hand plays a whole note D5. The left hand plays a quarter-note D2, then a quarter-note E2, then a quarter-note F#2. Dynamics include *mf* in the first measure and *p* in the third. A finger number '3' is written above the first measure of the right hand and below the first measure of the left hand.

Stage 5

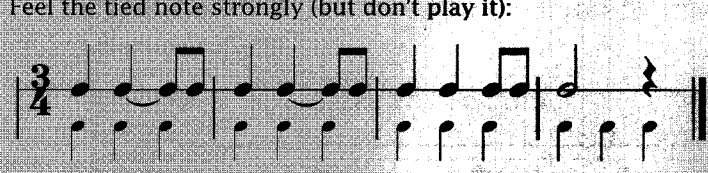
♩ ♪ in $\frac{3}{4}$

Rhythmic exercises

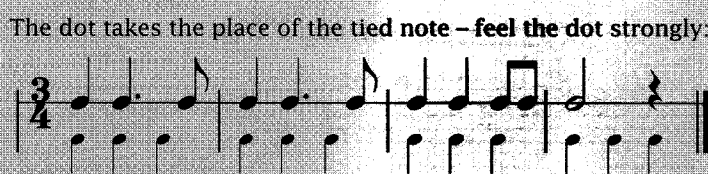
1



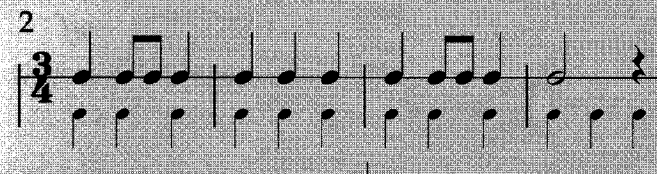
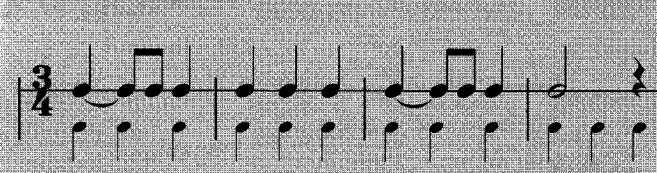
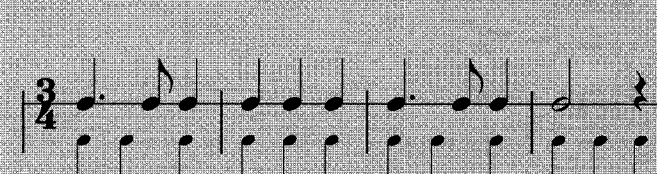
Feel the tied note strongly (but don't play it):



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



System 1: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. Treble staff contains a triplet of quarter notes (G4, A4, B4) in the first measure, followed by quarter notes (C5, B4) in the second, a half note (A4) in the third, and a quarter rest in the fourth. Bass clef contains a half note (G3) in the first measure, a quarter rest in the second, and quarter notes (F3, E3) in the third and fourth measures. A finger number '5' is written below the first bass note.

System 2: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature, key signature of one sharp (F#). Treble staff contains a half note (F#4) in the first measure, a quarter rest in the second, a half note (G#4) in the third, and a quarter rest in the fourth. Bass clef contains a triplet of quarter notes (F#3, G#3, A3) in the first measure, a quarter note (B3) in the second, a triplet of quarter notes (A3, G#3, F#3) in the third, and a half note (F#3) in the fourth. A finger number '1' is written below the first bass note.

System 3: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature, key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb). Treble staff contains a triplet of quarter notes (Bb4, Ab4, Gb4) in the first measure, a half note (Fb4) in the second, a quarter note (E4) in the third, and a quarter rest in the fourth. Bass clef contains a half note (Bb3) in the first measure, quarter notes (Ab3, Gb3) in the second, a half note (Fb3) in the third, and a quarter rest in the fourth. A finger number '2' is written below the first bass note.

System 4: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature, key signature of one sharp (F#). Treble staff contains a triplet of quarter notes (F#4, G#4, A4) in the first measure, a half note (B4) in the second, a quarter rest in the third, and a quarter rest in the fourth. Bass clef contains a half note (F#3) in the first measure, a quarter rest in the second, a half note (G#3) in the third, and a quarter rest in the fourth. A finger number '1' is written below the first bass note.

System 5: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. Treble staff contains a half note (G4) in the first measure, a quarter note (A4) in the second, a half note (B4) in the third, and a quarter rest in the fourth. Bass clef contains a half note (G3) in the first measure, a quarter note (F#3) in the second, a quarter rest in the third, and a half note (G#3) in the fourth. A finger number '1' is written below the first bass note.

System 6: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature, key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb). Treble staff contains a triplet of quarter notes (Bb4, Ab4, Gb4) in the first measure, a half note (Fb4) in the second, quarter notes (E4, D4) in the third, quarter notes (C4, B3) in the fourth, quarter notes (A3, G3) in the fifth, and a quarter rest in the sixth. Bass clef contains a half note (Bb3) in the first measure, quarter notes (Ab3, Gb3) in the second, a half note (Fb3) in the third, a half note (E3) in the fourth, a half note (D3) in the fifth, and a half note (C3) in the sixth. A finger number '5' is written below the first bass note.

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

- 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

Going solo!

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

As if your team has just won their match

Musical score for piano in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The piece is marked *f* (forte). The right hand starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and A4. The left hand plays a half note G3. The piece concludes with a final chord of G3, Bb4, and A4. A first ending bracket is shown above the right hand in the first measure.

As if you're falling asleep

Musical score for piano in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The piece is marked *p* (piano). The right hand starts with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and A4. The left hand plays a half note G3. The piece concludes with a final chord of G3, Bb4, and A4. A first ending bracket is shown above the right hand in the first measure. The dynamic marking *pp* (pianissimo) is indicated at the end of the piece.

As if there's a surprise around the corner!

Musical score for piano in 3/4 time, key of D major. The piece is marked *p* (piano). The right hand starts with a half note D4, followed by quarter notes E4, F#4, and E4. The left hand plays a half note D3. The piece concludes with a final chord of D3, F#4, and E4. A first ending bracket is shown above the right hand in the first measure. The dynamic marking *fff* (fortissimo) is indicated at the end of the piece.

As if you're not quite sure...

Musical score for piano in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The piece is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The right hand starts with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and A4. The left hand plays a half note G3. The piece concludes with a final chord of G3, Bb4, and A4. A first ending bracket is shown above the right hand in the first measure. The dynamic marking *mf* is indicated at the beginning of the piece.

As if you're quite sure!

Musical score for piano in 3/4 time, key of D major. The piece is marked *f* (forte). The right hand starts with a half note D4, followed by quarter notes E4, F#4, and E4. The left hand plays a half note D3. The piece concludes with a final chord of D3, F#4, and E4. A first ending bracket is shown above the right hand in the first measure. The dynamic marking *f* is indicated at the beginning of the piece.

First system of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of D major. The treble clef staff begins with a whole rest, followed by a half note G5, quarter note F5, quarter note E5, quarter note D5, and a half note C5. The bass clef staff starts with a half note G2, quarter note F2, quarter note E2, and a half note D2. A slur connects the G5 in the treble to the G2 in the bass. Fingerings: 5 in the treble, 5 in the bass.

Second system of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of D major. The treble clef staff has a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, and F5. The bass clef staff has a half note G2, quarter notes F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, and A1. Fingerings: 3 in the treble, 1 in the bass.

Third system of musical notation in 4/4 time, key of D major. The treble clef staff has a half rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, and F5. The bass clef staff has a half note G2, quarter notes F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, and A1. Fingerings: 5 in the treble, 4 in the bass.

Fourth system of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of D major. The treble clef staff has a half note G4, quarter notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, and F5. The bass clef staff has a half note G2, quarter notes F2, E2, and a half note D2. Fingerings: 5 in the treble, 5 in the bass.

Fifth system of musical notation in 4/4 time, key of D major. The treble clef staff has a half note G4, quarter notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, and F5. The bass clef staff has a half note G2, quarter notes F2, E2, and a half note D2. Fingerings: 2 in the treble, 5 in the bass.

Sixth system of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of D major. The treble clef staff has a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, quarter notes F4, E4, and a half note D4. The bass clef staff has a half note G2, quarter notes F2, E2, and a half note D2. Fingerings: 5 in the treble, 1 in the bass.

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

mp

5

1

Angrily

f *ff*

5

3

Calmly

p

5

5

Rudely

f

2

5

Politely

mp

3

2

Stage 7

G minor

Rhythmic exercises

1 

2 

3 

4 

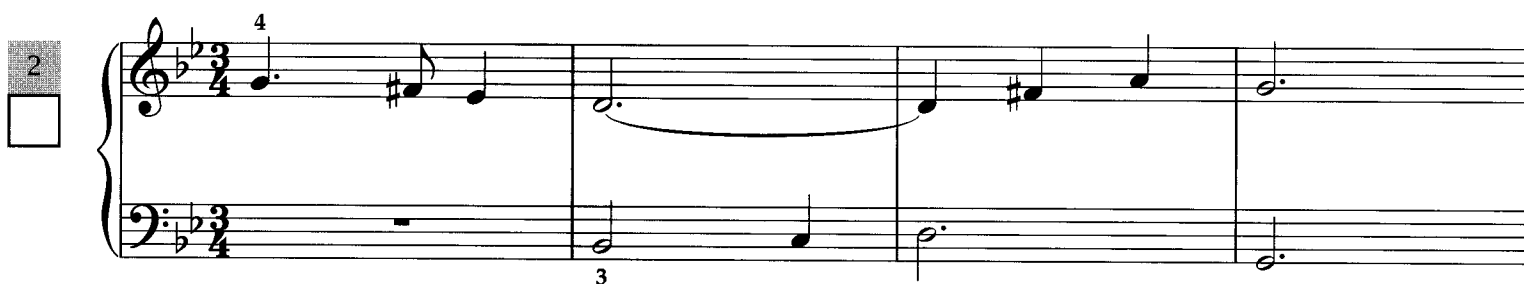
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6 Write your own rhythmic exercise: 

Melodic exercises

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

1 

2 

3 

5

5

3

5

4

2

3

5

4

5

1

1

2

1

5

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 for 'Dancing around the pyramids of Giza' is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The piece begins with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The first two measures feature a melodic line in the right hand with a slur over the first four notes, and a bass line. The third measure has a dynamic marking of *f*. The piece ends with a final note in the right 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 for 'Bouncing' is in 3/4 time and B-flat major. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The piece begins with a dynamic marking of *p cresc.*. The first two measures feature a melodic line in the right hand with a slur over the first four notes, and a bass line. The third measure has a dynamic marking of *f*. The piece ends with a final note in the right hand.

Going solo!

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

Calmly

mp

2

3

Detailed description: This musical score is for a piece titled 'Calmly'. It is written for piano in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The tempo/mood is 'Calmly'. The piece starts with a piano (mp) dynamic. The right hand begins with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, Bb4) on the first beat, followed by a series of quarter notes: C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The left hand starts with a half note chord (F3, Bb2) on the first beat, followed by quarter notes: C3, Bb2, A2, G2, F2, E2, D2, C2. There are two hairpins indicating a gradual increase in volume over the course of the piece.

Deliberately

mp cresc.

f

2

1

Detailed description: This musical score is for a piece titled 'Deliberately'. It is written for piano in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The tempo/mood is 'Deliberately'. The piece starts with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic and a crescendo (cresc.) marking. The right hand begins with a half note chord (F4, Bb4) on the first beat, followed by quarter notes: C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The left hand starts with a half note chord (F3, Bb2) on the first beat, followed by quarter notes: C3, Bb2, A2, G2, F2, E2, D2, C2. The piece ends with a forte (f) dynamic and a decrescendo hairpin.

Elegantly

mf

f

3

1

5

Detailed description: This musical score is for a piece titled 'Elegantly'. It is written for piano in 2/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The tempo/mood is 'Elegantly'. The piece starts with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The right hand begins with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, Bb4) on the first beat, followed by quarter notes: C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The left hand starts with a half note chord (F3, Bb2) on the first beat, followed by quarter notes: C3, Bb2, A2, G2, F2, E2, D2, C2. The piece ends with a forte (f) dynamic and a decrescendo hairpin.

Gracefully

f

p cresc.

f

5

1

Detailed description: This musical score is for a piece titled 'Gracefully'. It is written for piano in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The tempo/mood is 'Gracefully'. The piece starts with a forte (f) dynamic. The right hand begins with a half note chord (F4, Bb4) on the first beat, followed by quarter notes: C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The left hand starts with a half note chord (F3, Bb2) on the first beat, followed by quarter notes: C3, Bb2, A2, G2, F2, E2, D2, C2. The piece ends with a forte (f) dynamic and a decrescendo hairpin.

Flowing


mp

1

5

Detailed description: This musical score is for a piece titled 'Flowing'. It is written for piano in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The tempo/mood is 'Flowing'. The piece starts with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. The right hand begins with a half note chord (F4, Bb4) on the first beat, followed by quarter notes: C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The left hand starts with a half note chord (F3, Bb2) on the first beat, followed by quarter notes: C3, Bb2, A2, G2, F2, E2, D2, C2. There are three hairpins indicating a gradual increase in volume over the course of the piece.

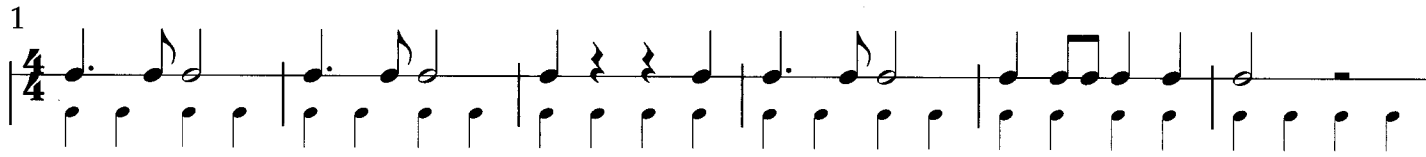
Stage 8



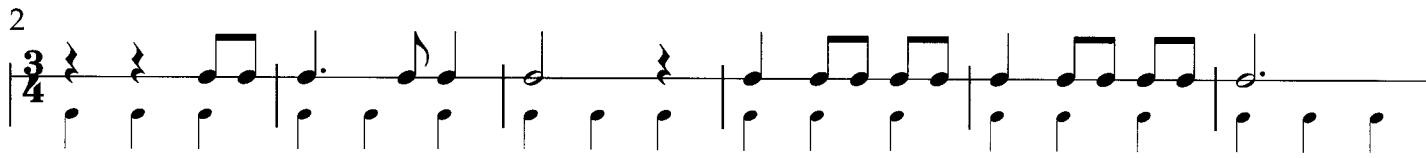
Revision
of keys

Rhythmic exercises

1



2



3



Melodic exercises

1



2



3



First system of musical notation. Treble clef, 4/4 time signature, key signature of one flat. The right hand starts with a five-fingered scale (5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and continues with a melodic line. The left hand plays a bass line with a five-fingered scale (5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and a melodic line.

Second system of musical notation. Treble clef, 4/4 time signature, key signature of one flat. The right hand features a triplet of eighth notes and a melodic line. The left hand features a triplet of eighth notes and a melodic line.

Third system of musical notation. Treble clef, 4/4 time signature, key signature of one flat. The right hand continues the melodic line. The left hand continues the bass line.

Fourth system of musical notation. Treble clef, 3/4 time signature, key signature of two sharps. The right hand features a melodic line with a triplet. The left hand features a melodic line with a triplet.

Fifth system of musical notation. Treble clef, 4/4 time signature, key signature of two flats. The right hand features a melodic line with accents. The left hand features a melodic line with accents.

Sixth system of musical notation. Treble clef, 3/4 time signature, key signature of two sharps. The right hand features a melodic line with a triplet. The left hand features a melodic line with a triplet.

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

5 1 2 1

f *p* *f*

5 2

- 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

mf *f*

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 right hand features a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure, followed by a melodic line with slurs and ties. The left hand provides a simple accompaniment with a '5' marking under the first measure.

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 right hand has a rhythmic melody with accents and slurs. The left hand has a steady accompaniment with a '2' marking under the first measure. Dynamics change from *f* to *p* (piano) and back to *f*.

Like a waltz

Musical score for 'Like a waltz' in 3/4 time, key of D major. The piece is marked *p* (piano). The right hand features a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure, followed by a melodic line with slurs and ties. The left hand has a simple accompaniment with a '1' marking under the first measure and a '2' marking under the second measure. Dynamics change from *p* to *f* (forte).

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 right hand has a simple melody with slurs and ties. The left hand has a simple accompaniment with a '5' marking under the first measure.

Like a fanfare

Musical score for 'Like a fanfare' in 4/4 time, key of D major. The piece is marked *f* (forte). The right hand has a rhythmic melody with accents and slurs. The left hand has a steady accompaniment with a '3' marking under the first measure. Dynamics change from *f* to *mp* (mezzo-piano) with a *cresc.* (crescendo) marking, and finally to *ff* (fortissimo).

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

First musical score, 4/4 time signature, key of D major. The piece consists of two staves. The right hand starts with a five-fingered scale (5, 4, 3, 2, 1) and continues with a series of eighth-note patterns. The left hand begins with a whole rest and then plays a series of eighth-note patterns. A finger number '1' is written below the first measure of the left hand.

Second musical score, 3/4 time signature, key of D major. The piece consists of two staves. The right hand plays a series of eighth-note patterns. The left hand plays a series of eighth-note patterns. A finger number '5' is written below the first measure of the left hand.

Third musical score, 4/4 time signature, key of D major. The piece consists of two staves. The right hand plays a series of eighth-note patterns. The left hand plays a series of eighth-note patterns. A finger number '5' is written below the first measure of the left hand.

Fourth musical score, 3/4 time signature, key of B minor. The piece consists of two staves. The right hand plays a series of eighth-note patterns. The left hand plays a series of eighth-note patterns. Finger numbers '5' and '4' are written below the first and fourth measures of the right hand, respectively.

Fifth musical score, 4/4 time signature, key of D major. The piece consists of two staves. The right hand plays a series of eighth-note patterns. The left hand plays a series of eighth-note patterns. Finger numbers '1' and '2' are written below the first and second measures of the right hand, respectively.

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 $\underline{\underline{\cdot}}$ (bars 4 and 8) mean?
- 5 What does *cresc.* (bar 5) mean?
- 6 Find out what a rigadoon is.

Like a rigadoon

1

5

f *mf* *cresc.* *f*

3

- 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

1

f *p* *f*

5

Going solo!

With lots of energy

Musical score for 'With lots of energy' in 4/4 time. The piece features a piano introduction with a four-measure rest in the right hand. The melody is marked with dynamics *f*, *mp*, and *f*. The bass line consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment. A four-measure rest is also present in the bass line at the beginning.

Gently

Musical score for 'Gently' in 3/4 time. The piece begins with a three-measure rest in the right hand. The melody is marked with dynamics *mf*, *p*, and *mf*. The bass line features a steady eighth-note accompaniment with a four-measure rest at the start.

Dancing

Musical score for 'Dancing' in 4/4 time. The piece starts with a three-measure rest in the right hand. The melody is marked with dynamics *mf*, *p*, and *mf*. The bass line has a steady eighth-note accompaniment with a four-measure rest at the beginning.

Cheerfully

Musical score for 'Cheerfully' in 4/4 time. The piece begins with a three-measure rest in the right hand. The melody is marked with dynamics *f*, *mp*, and *f*. The bass line features a steady eighth-note accompaniment with a four-measure rest at the start.

Boldly

Musical score for 'Boldly' in 3/4 time. The piece starts with a one-measure rest in the right hand. The melody is marked with dynamics *f*, *p*, *f*, and *ff*. The bass line has a steady eighth-note accompaniment with a three-measure rest at the beginning.

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.

