BOOK 6

# FOUR STAR

SIGHT READING AND EAR TESTS



DAILY EXERCISES FOR PIANO STUDENTS

BY BORIS BERLIN





## FOUR STAR SIGHT READING AND EAR TESTS

### Book 6

## DAILY EXERCISES FOR PIANO STUDENTS BY BORIS BERLIN

**Revised Edition** 

Recommended for use in conjunction with the piano examinations of the Royal Conservatory of Music

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#### **PREFACE**

To be able to read at sight is of the first importance to every piano student. And yet so many of them seem to have trouble, with the result that they do not make the progress they should and often lose much of the real joy of being able to play the piano.

Why do they have trouble?

The main reason is that so very few of them practise reading at sight in any regular and systematic manner. They have an idea—a completely false idea—that reading at sight is a special gift peculiar to rarely endowed students.

Good sight reading is not difficult for any student. It is simply the result of careful preparation and regular use, through daily practice, of the powers of concentration and observation.

Of course there are some students who can read at sight better than others, or who learn to read at sight more quickly and more accurately than others. But these students, too, need regular practice if they want to develop and improve an ability without which no one can acquire true musicianship.

#### INTRODUCTION

While good sight reading is obviously essential to a would-be professional musician, it is no less important to the amateur. Indeed it stands to reason that, when a student has given up the idea of a musical career (if he ever entertained it), his maintaining or dropping an interest in music as a hobby will depend in almost exact proportion on his ability to read at sight. If he has nothing to play but the few pieces he has learned in his days of music study and no time to practise new ones his interest will soon pall, whereas the good sight reader may keep his interest alive with almost unlimited new material, even though he never brings his playing to a stage of technical excellence fit for public performance. I would therefore remind teachers that sight reading is *not* a "side-line" for any music student: far better let him postpone an examination or two and concentrate. He will easily make up for lost time later.

It should be impressed on a pupil that a mistake once made in sight reading is a mistake once and for all, and too late to recall. Having prepared himself as thoroughly as possible a candidate should play steadily — not because he will deceive the examiner if he makes mistakes — but because, for practical purposes the only sight reader worthwhile is the one that keeps going. A wrong note or chord will, to be sure, count against him, but it will doubly count against him if in going back to locate or correct it he makes a break in the rhythm. If he does correct it, it is in any case not playing at first sight, but at second. Of course he will keep going satisfactorily only if he has learned to read a beat or more ahead of what he is playing.

SIR ERNEST MacMILLAN
—"On the Preparation of Ear Tests"

#### AIM

The AIM of this series of Graded Books is to help students acquire a fluency in sight reading, and to prepare them for the SIGHT READING and the EAR TEST part of piano examinations.

#### DESCRIPTION

This book contains ten sets of DAILY SIGHT READING and EAR TEST EXERCISES. Each set should be practised by the student at home in preparation for the FOUR STAR TEST, which will be given by the teacher at the music lesson.

After the last FOUR STAR TEST, the FINAL TEST is given to the student before the issue of the CERTIFICATE OF MERIT.

The student should follow the directions when practising the DAILY SIGHT READING.

Excerpts by the following composers have been used in this book:

T. Arne (1710-1778) J.S. Bach (1685-1750) L. Beethoven (1770-1827) A. Corelli (1653-1713) J.F Dandrieu (1682-1738) A. Diabelli (1781-1858) J. Eccles (1650-1735) G. Farnaby (1563-1640) N. Fried J.J. Fux (1660-1741) M. Glinka (1804-1857) A. Goedicke (1877-1957) C. Graupner (1683-1760) G.F. Handel (1685-1759) J. Hässler (1747-1822) F.J. Haydn (1732-1809) J. Hook (1746-1827)

J.N. Hummel (1778-1837) D. Kabalevsky (1904-K.M. Kunz (1812-1875) A. Lvov (1798-1870) L. London (1906-S. Maykapar (1867-1938) W.A. Mozart (1756-1791) K.O. Nicolai (1810-1849) H. Purcell (1659-1695) F.T. Richter (1651-1711) R. Saint-Jean (1906-K. Sorokin D. Steibelt (1765-1823) T. Tallis (1505-1585) G.P. Telemann (1681-1767) D.G. Türk (1750-1813)

DATE

This piece is in \_\_\_\_ time. It is in the key of \_\_\_\_ and has \_\_\_ sharps/flats. Play, counting the beats.



#### Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

2) DATE

Put an X under each interval of a 5th, then play, naming the right-hand notes. Play again, naming the left-hand notes.



Clap or tap the rhythm of the melody.



4

3

DATE

Mark all the tonic chords (I) with an X. Play this chorale harmonization while singing any voice (part).



Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering



DATE

The tempo of this piece is \_\_\_\_\_\_, which means \_\_\_\_\_, which means \_\_\_\_\_, which means \_\_\_\_\_, and phrase marks and copy all the expression marks.

Dlay with correct correction

Play with correct expression.





The expression marks found in this piece are: \_



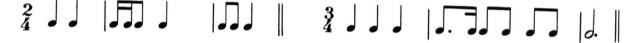
Clap or tap the rhythm of the melody.



Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

#### EAR TEST EXERCISES

1. Clap the rhythmic patterns (a) looking at the music; (b) from memory; or have someone clap the patterns for you to imitate.



2. Look carefully at this tune. Name the key, then clap or tap the rhythm. Play the tune (a) looking at the music; (b) from memory.



3. Play, then hum the two notes of each interval. Name the interval.

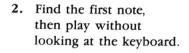




AT THE LESSON WITH THE TEACHER

1. Look at this phrase carefully. Clap or tap the rhythm, then play without looking at the music.







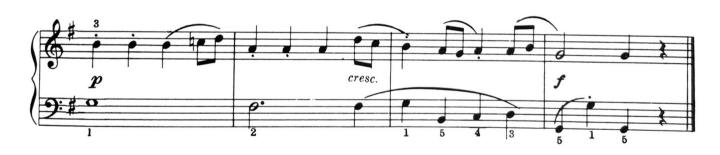




3. Play this little piece while your teacher times the reading.







..... min. sec.



4. Clap or tap the rhythm of the melody.





This piece is in \_\_\_\_ time. It is in the key of \_\_\_\_ and has \_\_\_\_ sharps/flats. Play, counting the beats.





Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

2

DATE

Put an X under each interval of a 4th, then play, naming the right-hand notes. Play again, naming the left-hand notes.





Clap or tap the rhythm of the melody.



3

DATE

Mark all the dominant chords (V) with an X.

Play this chorale harmonization while singing any voice (part).





#### Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

4

DATE

The tempo of this piece is \_\_\_\_\_\_, which means \_

Trace the slurs and phrase marks and copy all the expression marks.

Play with correct expression.





The expression marks found in this piece are: \_



Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

#### EAR TEST EXERCISES

1. Clap the rhythmic patterns (a) looking at the music; (b) from memory; or have someone clap the patterns for you to imitate.



2. Look carefully at this tune. Name the key, then clap or tap the rhythm. Play the tune (a) looking at the music; (b) from memory.



3. Play, then hum the two notes of each interval. Name the interval.





## ★ FOUR STAR TEST No. 2 ★

AT THE LESSON WITH THE TEACHER

1. Look at this phrase carefully. Clap or tap the rhythm, then play without looking at the music.



2. Find the first note, then play without looking at the keyboard.







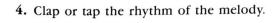
3. Play this little piece while your teacher times the reading.





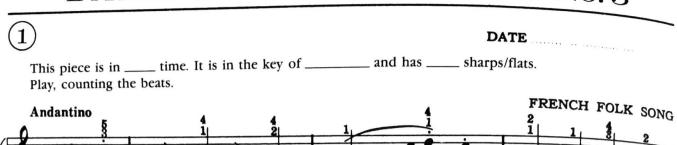


min. .... sec.











Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

2

DATE

Put an X under each interval of a 3rd, then play, naming the right-hand notes. Play again, naming the left-hand notes.





Clap or tap the rhythm of the melody.



(3)

Mark all the tonic chords (I) with an X. Play this hymn tune harmonization while singing any voice (part).





#### Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

**4** 

The tempo of this piece is \_\_\_\_\_\_, which means \_\_\_\_\_, which means \_\_\_\_\_, which means \_\_\_\_\_, the slurs and phrase marks and copy all the expression marks.

Play with correct expression.





The expression marks found in this piece are: \_



Clap or tap the rhythm of the melody.



Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

#### EAR TEST EXERCISES

1. Clap the rhythmic patterns (a) looking at the music; (b) from memory; or have someone clap the patterns for you to imitate.

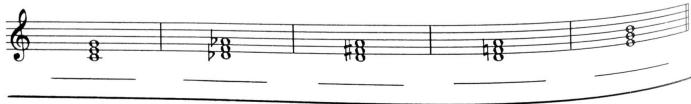


2. Look carefully at this tune. Name the key, then clap or tap the rhythm. Play the tune (a) looking at the music; (b) from memory.



3. Play, then hum the two notes of each interval. Name the interval.





AT THE LESSON WITH THE TEACHER

- 1. Look at this phrase carefully. Clap or tap the rhythm, then play without looking at the music.
- $\bigcirc$
- 2. Find the first note, then play without looking at the keyboard.







3. Play this little piece while your teacher times the reading.





..... min. .... sec.

4. Clap or tap the rhythm of the melody.





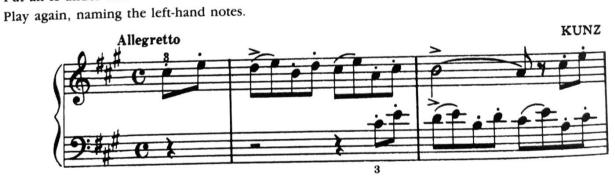
(1)

This piece is in \_\_\_\_\_ time. It is in the key of \_\_\_\_\_ and has \_\_\_\_ sharps/flats. Play, counting the beats.



Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

Put an X under each interval of a 2nd, then play, naming the right-hand notes.





Clap or tap the rhythm of the melody.



3

DATE

Mark all the dominant chords (V) with an X.

Play this hymn tune harmonization while singing any voice (part).



Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

(4)

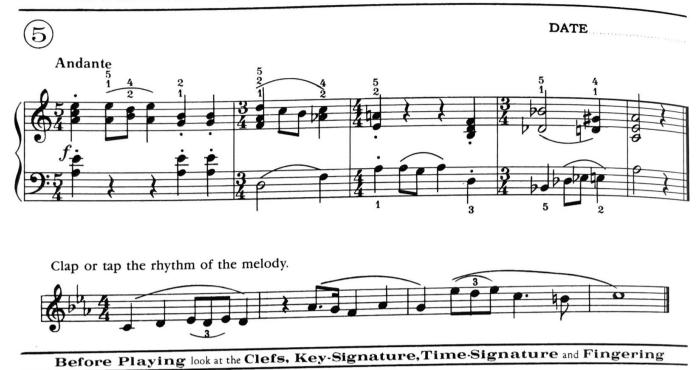
DATE

The tempo of this piece is \_\_\_\_\_\_, which means \_\_\_\_\_, which means \_\_\_\_\_, which means \_\_\_\_\_, and phrase marks and copy all the expression marks.

Play with correct expression.



The expression marks found in this piece are: \_



#### EAR TEST EXERCISES

1. Clap the rhythmic patterns of these melodies (a) looking at the music; (b) from memory; or have someone clap the patterns for you to imitate.

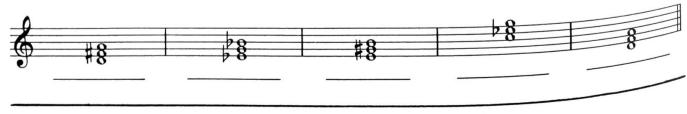


2. Look carefully at this tune. Name the key, then clap or tap the rhythm. Play the tune (a) looking at the music; (b) from memory.



3. Play, then hum the two notes of each interval. Name the interval.





## ★ FOUR STAR TEST No. 4 ★

AT THE LESSON WITH THE TEACHER

1. Look at this phrase carefully. Clap or tap the rhythm, then play without looking at the music.



2. Find the first note, then play without looking at the keyboard.







3. Play this little piece while your teacher times the reading.







min.

sec.

4. Clap or tap the rhythm of the melody.





(1)

This piece is in \_\_\_\_\_ time. It is in the key of \_\_\_\_\_ and has \_\_\_\_\_ sharps/flats. Play, counting the beats.



Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

2

DATE

Put an X under each interval of a 4th, then play, naming the right-hand notes. Play again, naming the left-hand notes.



Clap or tap the rhythm of the melody.



3

DATE

Mark all the tonic chords (I) with an X. Play this hymn tune harmonization while singing any voice (part).

NICOLAI





Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

4

DATE

The tempo of this piece is \_\_\_\_\_\_, which means \_\_\_\_\_.

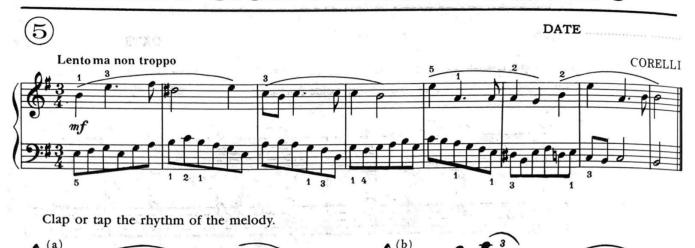
Trace the slurs and phrase marks and copy all the expression marks.

Play with correct expression.





The expression marks found in this piece are: \_



Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

#### EAR TEST EXERCISES

1. Clap the rhythmic patterns of these melodies (a) looking at the music; (b) from memory; or have someone clap the patterns for you to imitate.



2. Look carefully at this tune. Name the key, then clap or tap the rhythm. Play the tune (a) looking at the music; (b) from memory.



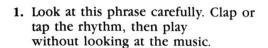
3. Play, then hum the two notes of each interval. Name the interval.



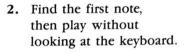


## ★ FOUR STAR TEST No. 5 ★

AT THE LESSON WITH THE TEACHER













3. Play this little piece while your teacher times the reading.





min. sec.

4. Clap or tap the rhythm of the melody.



(1)

DATE

This piece is in \_\_\_\_\_ time. It is in the key of \_\_\_\_\_ and has \_\_\_\_ sharps/flats. Play, counting the beats.



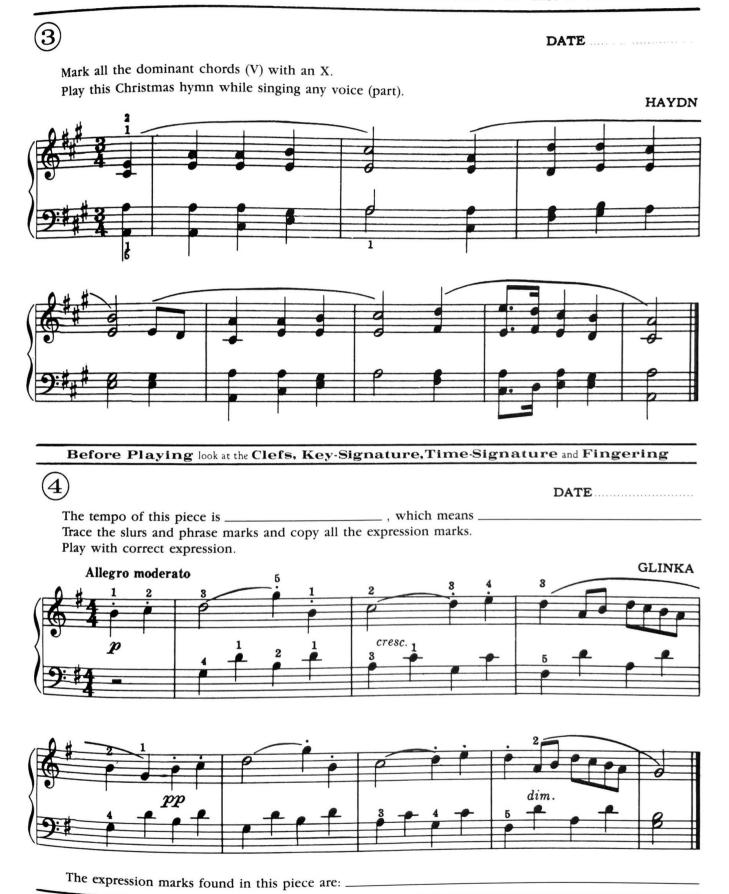
Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

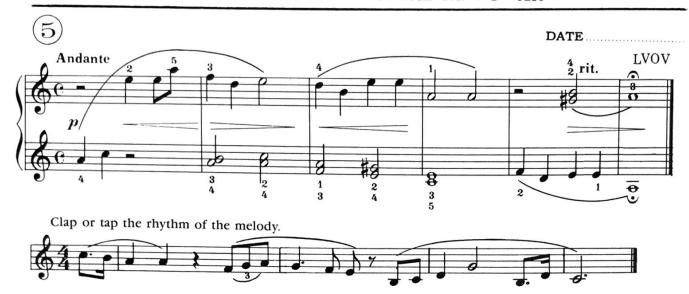
(2)

DATE

Put an X under each interval of a 3rd, then play, naming the right-hand notes.







Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

#### EAR TEST EXERCISES

1. Clap the rhythmic patterns of these melodies (a) looking at the music; (b) from memory; or have someone clap the patterns for you to imitate.



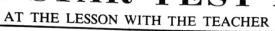
2. Look carefully at this tune. Name the key, then clap or tap the rhythm. Play the tune (a) looking at the music; (b) from memory.



3. Play, then hum the two notes of each interval. Name the interval.







1. Look at this phrase carefully. Clap or tap the rhythm, then play without looking at the music.



2. Find the first note, then play without looking at the keyboard.







3. Clap or tap the rhythm of the melody.





4. Play this little piece while your teacher times the reading.





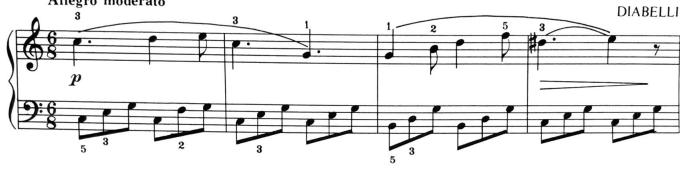


min.

This piece is in \_\_\_\_ time. It is in the key of \_\_\_\_ and has \_\_\_\_ sharps/flats.

Play, counting the beats.

Allegro moderato





Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

2

DATE

Put an X under each interval of a 6th, then play, naming the right-hand notes. Play again, naming the left-hand notes.

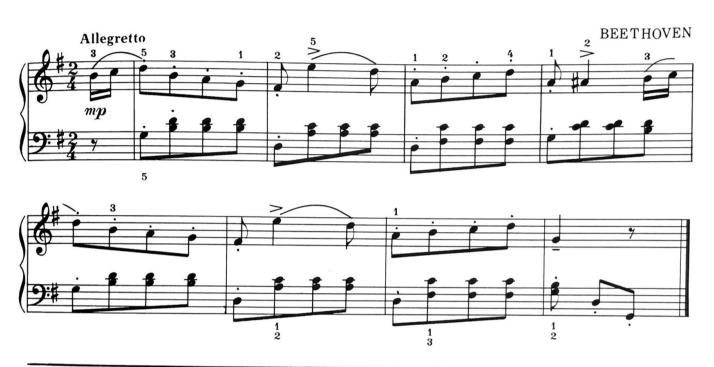




3

DATE

Mark all the tonic chords (I) with an X. Play while singing the melody.



Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

4

DATE

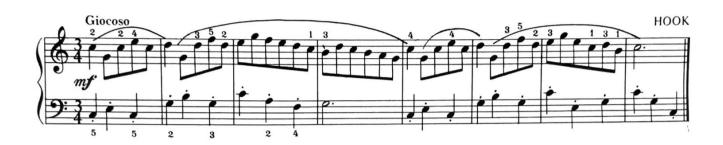
The tempo of this piece is \_\_\_\_\_\_, which means \_ Trace the slurs and phrase marks and copy all the expression marks.

Play with correct expression.



The expression marks found in this piece are: \_





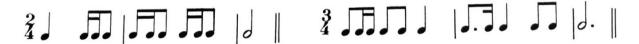
Clap or tap the rhythm of the melody.



Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

#### EAR TEST EXERCISES

1. Clap the rhythmic patterns (a) looking at the music; (b) from memory; or have someone clap the patterns for you to imitate.

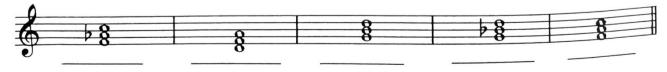


2. Look carefully at this tune. Name the key, then clap or tap the rhythm. Play the tune (a) looking at the music; (b) from memory.



3. Play, then hum the two notes of each interval. Name the interval.





## **\*** 1

## FOUR STAR TEST No. 7



AT THE LESSON WITH THE TEACHER

1. Look at this phrase carefully. Clap or tap the rhythm, then play without looking at the music.



2. Find the first note, then play without looking at the keyboard.

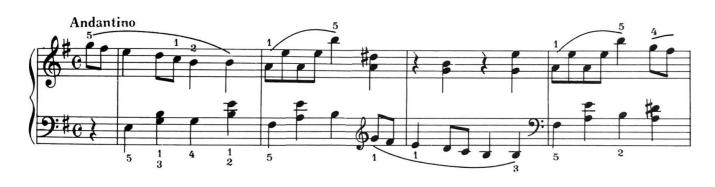






3. Play this little piece while your teacher times the reading.



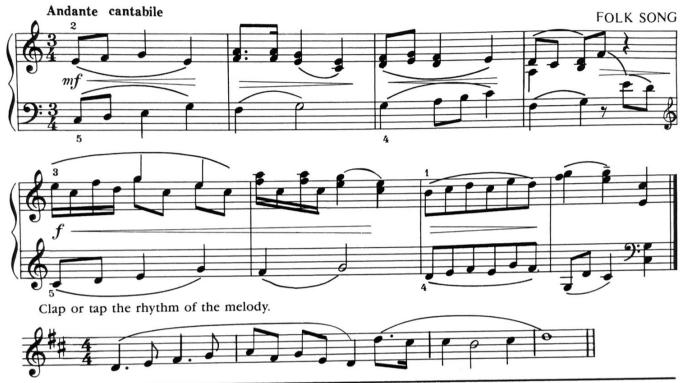






(1)

This piece is in \_\_\_\_ time. It is in the key of \_\_\_\_ and has \_\_\_ sharps/flats. Play, counting the beats.

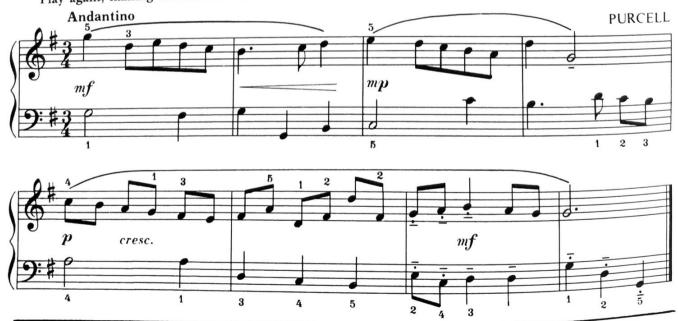


Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

(2)

DATE

Put an X under each interval of an octave, then play, naming the right-hand notes. Play again, naming the left-hand notes.

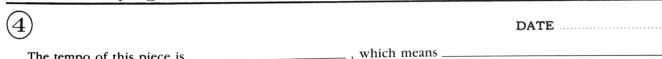


DATE

Mark all the dominant chords (V) with an X. Play while singing the melody.



Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering



The tempo of this piece is \_\_\_\_\_\_, which means Trace the slurs and phrase marks and copy all the expression marks.



The expression marks found in this piece are:



DATE



Clap or tap the rhythm of the melody.



Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

#### EAR TEST EXERCISES

1. Clap the rhythmic patterns (a) looking at the music; (b) from memory; or have someone clap the patterns for you to imitate.

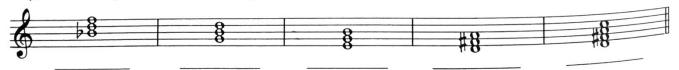


2. Look carefully at this tune. Name the key, then clap or tap the rhythm. Play the tune (a) looking at the music; (b) from memory.



3. Play, then hum the two notes of each interval. Name the interval.





## ★ FOUR STAR TEST No.8



AT THE LESSON WITH THE TEACHER

1. Look at this phrase carefully. Clap or tap the rhythm, then play without looking at the music.

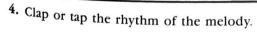


2. Find the first note. then play without looking at the keyboard.



3. Play this little piece while your teacher times the reading.

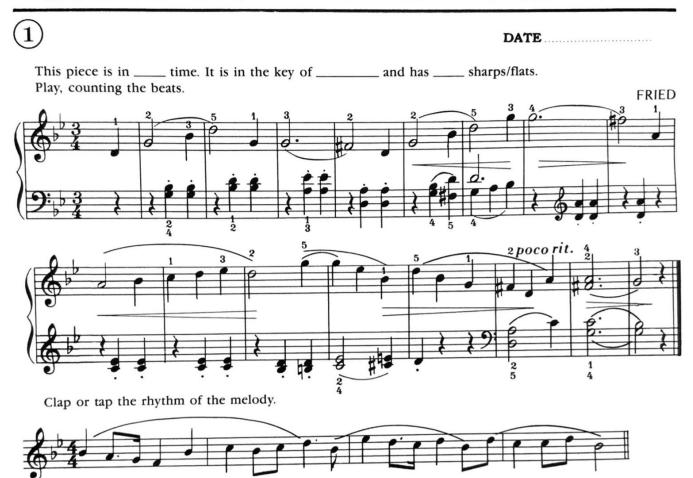






sec.

min.



Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

DATE

Put an X under each interval of a 5th, then play, naming the right-hand notes. Play again, naming the left-hand notes.



OATE....

Mark all the tonic chords (I) with an X. Play while singing the melody.



Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

DATE .....

Trace the slurs and phrase marks and copy all the expression marks.

Play with correct expression.



### DAILY SIGHT READING FOR NO. 9



#### EAR TEST EXERCISES

1. Clap the rhythmic patterns (a) looking at the music; (b) from memory; or have someone clap the patterns for you to imitate.



2. Look carefully at this tune. Name the key, then clap or tap the rhythm. Play the tune (a) looking at the music; (b) from memory.



3. Play, then hum the two notes of each interval. Name the interval.

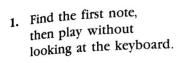


4. Play, then identify each of the following:



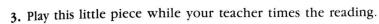
## FOUR STAR TEST No. 9

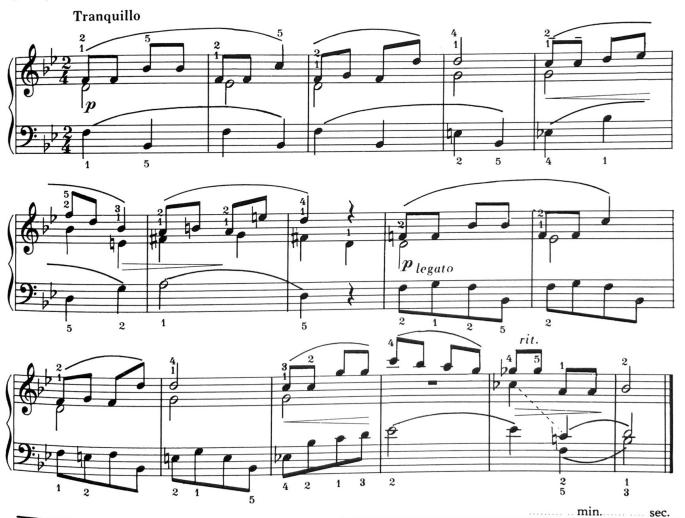
AT THE LESSON WITH THE TEACHER

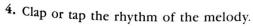




- 2. Look at these intervals. What is the difference between them? Play the intervals.
  - 9: 8 8



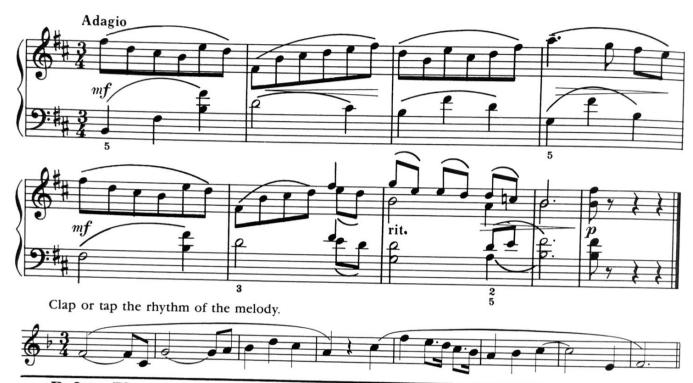






1 DATE

This piece is in \_\_\_\_\_ time. It is in the key of \_\_\_\_\_ and has \_\_\_\_\_ sharps/flats. Play, counting the beats.



Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

DATE

Put an X under each interval of a 4th, then play, naming the right-hand notes. Play again, naming the left-hand notes.



3 DATE

Mark all the dominant chords (V) with an X. Play while singing the melody.



Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

DATE .....

The tempo of this piece is \_\_\_\_\_\_, which means \_\_\_\_\_.

Trace the slurs and phrase marks and copy all the expression marks.

Play with correct expression.



The expression marks found in this piece are:

#### DAILY SIGHT READING FOR NO.10



DATE



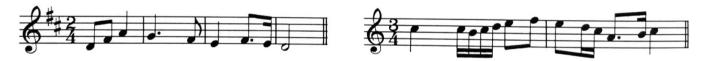
Clap or tap the rhythm of the melody.



Before Playing look at the Clefs, Key-Signature, Time-Signature and Fingering

#### EAR TEST EXERCISES

1. Clap the rhythmic patterns of these melodies (a) looking at the music; (b) from memory; or have someone clap the patterns for you to imitate.



2. Look carefully at this tune. Name the key, then clap or tap the rhythm. Play the tune (a) looking at the music; (b) from memory.



3. Play, then hum the two notes of each interval. Name the interval.



4. Play, then identify each of the following:



# ★ FOUR STAR TEST No. 10 ★



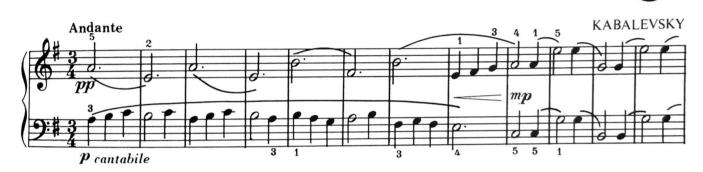
AT THE LESSON WITH THE TEACHER

1. Find the first note, then play without looking at the keyboard.



- 2. Look at these passages. What is the difference between them? Play the passages.

3. Play this little piece while your teacher times the reading.





4. Clap or tap the rhythm of the melody.



## $\bigstar$ FINAL TEST $\bigstar$

This Test must be given before filling in and signing the Certificate of Merit



# EAR TESTS AT THE LESSON WITH THE TEACHER

- 1. The teacher claps any of these rhythmic patterns or plays any of these melodies twice.

  (The student must not see the keyboard or look at the music.)

  The student then sings, taps, or claps the same rhythmic pattern from memory.
- 2. The teacher names the key, plays the tonic triad, then plays a melody of approximately 9 notes twice. (The student must not see the keyboard or look at the music.)
  The student must play back the same melody from memory (by ear).



3. The teacher plays the first note of any of the intervals shown below and the student then sings or hums the other note; OR

The teacher plays the interval in broken form, and the student identifies the interval by ear. (The student must not see the keyboard or look at the music.)

The intervals may be played in whichever octave is best suited to the range of the student's voice.

Major thirds (above a given note):



Minor thirds (above a given note):



Major sixths (above a given note):



Minor sixths (above a given note):



Perfect fourths (above a given note):



Perfect fifths (above a given note):



Perfect octaves (above a given note):



Major thirds (below a given note):



Minor thirds (below a given note):



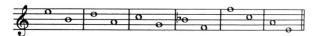
Major seconds (above a given note):



Minor sixths (below a given note):



Perfect fourths (below a given note):



Perfect fifths (below a given note):



Perfect octaves (below a given note):



4. The teacher plays a root position major or minor triad once only, in solid form and close position. The student must identify the triad as major or minor without looking at the keyboard.

Major Triads:



Minor Triads:



# Certificate of Merit

This certifies that

has completed

## FOUR STAR SIGHT READING

Level 6

and is eligible for promotion to

# FOUR STAR SIGHT READING

Level 7



Teacher .

Date

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