



A workbook for examinations Including over 80 practice tests for ABRSM exams with supporting audio available online

Grade 6

Piano

Improve your sight-reading!

Paul Harris



FABER *ff* MUSIC

Grade 6 Level 6 Late intermediate **Piano**



Improve your sight-reading!

Paul Harris

Stage 1 $\frac{5}{4}$ and $\frac{5}{8}$, Part playing

Stage 2 **More ties**

Stage 3 **F minor and C# minor**

Stage 4 **Moving around the piano, Triplets**

Stage 5 **Sub-dividing and more patterns in $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{4}{4}$**

Stage 6 **Revision of keys, Concentration**

Stage 7 $\frac{9}{8}$, **More patterns in $\frac{3}{8}$ and $\frac{5}{8}$**

Stage 8 **Thinking and playing musically**



For online audio of all the pieces scan the QR code
or go to fabermusic.com/content/audio

FABER *ff* MUSIC

Practice chart

	<i>Comments (from you, your teacher or parent)</i>	<i>Done!</i>
Stage 1		
Stage 2		
Stage 3		
Stage 4		
Stage 5		
Stage 6		
Stage 7		
Stage 8		

Teacher's name _____

Telephone _____

Many thanks to Jean Cockburn, Claire Dunham, Graeme Humphrey and Diana Jackson for their invaluable help, and particular thanks to Lesley Rutherford whose editorial skills and perpetual encouragement went far beyond the call of duty.

© 2008 by Faber Music Ltd.
 This edition first published in 2018 by Faber Music Ltd.
 Bloomsbury House
 74–77 Great Russell Street
 London WC1B 3DA
 Music setting by Graham Pike
 Cover and page design by Susan Clarke
 Printed in England by Caligraving Ltd
 All rights reserved
 ISBN10: 0-571-53306-X (US edition 0-571-53316-7)
 EAN13: 978-0-571-53306-0 (US edition 978-0-571-53316-9)

To buy Faber Music publications or to find out about the full range of titles available please contact your local music retailer or Faber Music sales enquiries:

Faber Music Ltd, Burnt Mill, Elizabeth Way, Harlow CM20 2HX
 Tel: +44 (0) 1279 82 89 82 Fax: +44 (0) 1279 82 89 83
sales@fabermusic.com fabermusic.com

Introduction

By now you should be able to read music as easily as you are reading this. If you work through this book carefully – always making sure that you really understand each exercise before you play it – you'll never have problems learning new pieces or doing well at sight-reading in exams!

Using the workbook

1 Rhythmic exercises

Make sure you have grasped these fully before you go on to the melodic exercises: it is vital that you really know how the rhythms work.

2 Melodic exercises

These exercises use just the notes (and rhythms) for the Stage, and also give some help with fingering. If you want to sight-read fluently and accurately, get into the habit of working through each exercise in the following ways before you begin to play it:

- Make sure you understand the rhythm and counting.
- Look at the shape of the tune, particularly the highest and lowest notes and think about how you will finger the piece.
- Try to hear the piece through in your head. Always play the first note to help.

3 Prepared pieces

Work your way through the questions first, as these will help you to think about or 'prepare' the piece. Don't begin until you are pretty sure you know exactly what you are going to play and how you're going to play it.

4 Going solo!

It is now up to you to discover the clues in this series of practice pieces. Give yourself about thirty seconds and do your best to understand the piece before you play. Check the rhythms and fingering, and try to hear the piece in your head. Always remember to feel the pulse and to keep going steadily once you've begun.

The **online audio** is for you to listen to *after* you have performed any sight-reading piece. Use it to check whether you have understood the rhythm and overall feel and style of the piece correctly.

Good luck and happy sight-reading!



Terminology:
Bar = measure

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

Allegretto

Penta-minuet

1

Andante

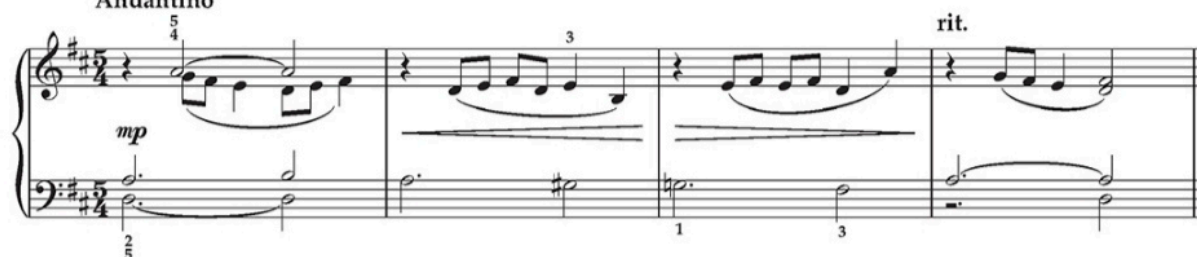
Dozing in the long grass

2

Texting

Allegro leggiero

3

Dancing in the rainforest*Alla latino*4
☐**At the Prince's feast***Stately dance - molto moderato*5
☐**Sunset***Andantino*6
☐

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!

1

Con moto

The musical score for 'Got to go!' is in 3/8 time. The right hand starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic, playing a series of eighth notes. The left hand starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic, playing a series of eighth notes. The piece ends with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The score includes a first ending bracket and a second ending bracket.

- 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

2

Andante

The musical score for 'Boating on a Sunday afternoon' is in 4/4 time. The right hand starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, playing a series of eighth notes. The left hand starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, playing a series of eighth notes. The piece ends with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The score includes a first ending bracket and a second ending bracket.



Going solo!

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

Monster movie

Grandioso

1
☐

Musical score for 'Monster movie' in 5/8 time. The piece is marked 'Grandioso'. The first system shows a piano introduction with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second system features a crescendo leading to a mezzo-forte (*mf*) section. The third system includes a fortissimo (*ff*) section. The score is written for piano with treble and bass staves.

March for Martians

Moderato

2
☐

Musical score for 'March for Martians' in 5/4 time. The piece is marked 'Moderato'. The first system shows a piano introduction with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second system features a mezzo-piano (*mp*) section. The third system includes a forte (*f*) section. The score is written for piano with treble and bass staves.

Hornpipe for five feet

Allegretto

3
☐

Musical score for 'Hornpipe for five feet' in 5/8 time. The piece is marked 'Allegretto'. The first system shows a piano introduction with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second system features a piano (*p*) section. The third system includes a fortissimo (*f*) section. The score is written for piano with treble and bass staves.

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

Andante

Toast with honey

1

Procession

Stately

2

The great Gate of Kiev

Maestoso

3

Trumpets**Pomposo**

4

f

p cresc.

f

Ballooning**Allegro spiritoso**

5

p

f

Trombones**Moderato**

6

f

p

Gone fishing**Andante****rall.**

7

mf

p cresc.

mf

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

Adagio

1

Musical score for 'Bach-ing up the wrong tree' in 2/4 time, key of D major. The tempo is Adagio. The score consists of two systems. The first system has two staves. The right hand starts with a melody marked *mf* (mezzo-forte), featuring a 4-measure phrase, a 2-measure phrase, and a 3-measure phrase. The left hand provides a simple accompaniment. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment, ending with a double bar line.

- 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

Flowing

2

Musical score for 'Stately dance' in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The tempo is Flowing. The score consists of two systems. The first system has two staves. The right hand starts with a melody marked *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *cantabile*, featuring a 1-measure phrase, a 2-measure phrase, and a 3-measure phrase. The left hand provides a simple accompaniment. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment, ending with a double bar line.

Going solo!

Holiday romance

1

Andantino

The musical score for 'Holiday romance' is in 6/8 time and B-flat major. It consists of two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and features a melody in the right hand with eighth and quarter notes, and a bass line in the left hand with dotted half notes. A crescendo leads to a fortissimo (*f*) dynamic. The second system begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and includes a 'rall.' (rallentando) marking. It features a more melodic right hand and a bass line with eighth notes. A decrescendo leads to a piano (*p*) dynamic. Fingering numbers 2 and 1 are indicated for the left hand in the second system.

Zig-zagging about

2

Allegro energico

The musical score for 'Zig-zagging about' is in 2/4 time and D major. It consists of two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system starts with a fortissimo (*f*) dynamic and features a rapid, zig-zagging melody in the right hand. A decrescendo leads to a piano (*p*) dynamic, followed by a crescendo back to fortissimo (*f*). The second system continues this pattern with a fortissimo (*f*) dynamic. Fingering numbers 2, 1, 2, and 3 are indicated for the left hand in the first system, and 4, 2, and 2 in the second system.

Joke

3

Giocoso

The musical score for 'Joke' is in 6/8 time and D major. It consists of two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and features a melody in the right hand with eighth notes and rests. A decrescendo leads to a piano (*p*) dynamic. The second system begins with a fortissimo (*f*) dynamic and features a more melodic right hand. A decrescendo leads to a piano (*p*) dynamic. Fingering numbers 4 and 3 are indicated for the right hand in the second system, and 4 for the left hand.

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

1

Lento

mp

mf

rall.

1 3 5

All alone

2

Espressivo

p

mf

On a mission

3

Deciso

f

mp

f

1 2 1

Jackie's song

Like a cello singing

rall.

4
☐

Musical score for 'Jackie's song' in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The piece is marked 'Like a cello singing' and 'rall.'. The piano part features a triplet in the first measure, followed by a crescendo, then a forte section, and finally a decrescendo to piano. The melody is simple and cello-like.

Quiet thoughts

Andante

5
☐

Musical score for 'Quiet thoughts' in 6/8 time, key of B-flat major. The piece is marked 'Andante' and 'mf dolce'. The piano part features a triplet in the first measure, followed by a decrescendo to piano. The melody is simple and cello-like.

Three-legged march

Spiritoso e molto ritmico

6
☐

Musical score for 'Three-legged march' in 3/4 time, key of D major. The piece is marked 'Spiritoso e molto ritmico'. The piano part features a triplet in the first measure, followed by a decrescendo to piano. The melody is simple and cello-like.

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, key of B-flat major (two flats). It consists of two systems of four bars each. The first system starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The right hand has a melody with a fourth and second fingerings indicated. The left hand has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The second system starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand has a melody with a first finger indicated. The left hand has a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

- 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, key of D major (two sharps). It consists of two systems of four bars each. The first system starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The right hand has a melody with a sharp sign indicating a natural. The left hand has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The second system starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The right hand has a melody with a sharp sign indicating a natural. The left hand has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The piece ends with a *rit.* (ritardando) marking.

Going solo!

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

Cops and robbers

Giocoso

1
☐

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*) treble line. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Evening breeze

Andante

2
☐

Musical score for 'Evening breeze' in 6/8 time, key of D major. The piece is marked 'Andante'. The first system shows a mezzo-piano (*mp*) treble line and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) bass line. The second system features a mezzo-piano (*mp*) treble line and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) bass line. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Watercolour

Espressivo

3
☐

Musical score for 'Watercolour' in 6/8 time, key of D major. The piece is marked 'Espressivo'. The first system shows a mezzo-forte (*mf*) treble line and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) bass line. The second system features a mezzo-forte (*mf*) treble line and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) bass line. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Stage 4

Moving around
the piano
Triplets

Rhythmic exercises

1

2

3

Melodic exercises

As you progress, you'll find that you are sight-reading pieces that move around the piano more – intervals, wider stretches of the hand and bigger leaps around the keyboard. Enjoy these challenges! Always prepare carefully – remember to look for patterns and don't forget you'll need to make good use of the pedal.

Ballet

1

Delicato

mp

Strolling

2

Andantino

mp

cresc.

dim.

Nocturne*Lento espressivo*4
☐

Musical score for Nocturne, measures 4-5. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo/mood is *Lento espressivo*. Measure 4 starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The right hand has a melodic line with a slur and a second ending bracket. The left hand has a bass line with a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 5 continues the melodic line with a slur and a triplet of eighth notes. The dynamic changes to piano (*p*) for the first half and mezzo-forte (*mf*) for the second half. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Haunted*Serioso*5
☐

Musical score for Haunted, measures 6-7. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo/mood is *Serioso*. Measure 6 starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand has a melodic line with a slur and a triplet of eighth notes. The left hand has a bass line with a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 7 continues the melodic line with a slur and a triplet of eighth notes. The dynamic changes to piano (*p*) for the first half and forte (*f*) for the second half. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Swatting flies*Molto moderato e humoroso*6
☐

Musical score for Swatting flies, measures 8-9. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo/mood is *Molto moderato e humoroso*. Measure 8 starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand has a melodic line with a slur and a triplet of eighth notes. The left hand has a bass line with a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 9 continues the melodic line with a slur and a triplet of eighth notes. The dynamic changes to piano (*p*) for the first half and forte (*f*) for the second half. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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

Musical score for 'Forgotten dreams' in 3/4 time, key of D major. The piece is marked *Espressivo* and *mp*. The score consists of two systems of two staves each. The first system shows the right hand playing a melody with a slur over the first two bars and a triplet in the fourth bar. The left hand plays a bass line with a chord in the second bar. The second system continues the melody and bass line, with a *dim.* marking in the second bar of the right hand and a triplet in the third bar. The piece ends with a double bar line.

- 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

Musical score for 'The unanswered question' in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The piece is marked *Misterioso* and *p*. The score consists of two systems of two staves each. The first system shows the right hand playing a melody with a slur over the first two bars and a triplet in the third bar. The left hand plays a bass line with a chord in the second bar. The second system continues the melody and bass line, with a *mf* marking in the second bar of the right hand and a *molto rit.* marking in the third bar. The piece ends with a double bar line and a *Red.* marking.

Going solo!

Dandelion clocks

Calmato, molto espressivo e rubato

1
☐

Musical score for 'Dandelion clocks' in 5/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of two systems. The first system has a treble staff with a melodic line featuring slurs and fingerings (1, 2, 3) and a bass staff with a simple accompaniment. The second system continues the melody with a 'rit.' (ritardando) marking and a 'dim.' (diminuendo) marking in the bass staff. The piece ends with a final chord in the bass staff.

Yo-yo

Allegretto

2
☐

Musical score for 'Yo-yo' in 6/8 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of three systems. The first system features a treble staff with a melodic line and a bass staff with a simple accompaniment. The second system continues the melody with a 'f' (forte) marking and a 'rit.' (ritardando) marking. The third system concludes the piece with a final chord in the bass staff.

Stage 5

Sub-dividing and
more patterns in
 $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ 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

3

Melodic exercises

The rhino's tea party

Heavily

1

1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2

Classic rag**Moderato**2
☐

Musical score for 'Classic rag' in 2/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system has four measures: the first measure is marked *mf*, the second is marked *f*, and the third and fourth measures are marked *f* with first and second endings indicated by '1' and '2' above the notes. The second system also has four measures: the first is marked *mf*, the second is marked *f*, and the third and fourth measures are marked *f*. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Round dance**Maestoso**3
☐

Musical score for 'Round dance' in 4/4 time, key of D major. The score consists of two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system has four measures: the first measure is marked *f*, and the second, third, and fourth measures are marked *f*. The second system has four measures: the first measure is marked *p* with a *cresc.* marking, the second measure is marked *f*, and the third and fourth measures are marked *f*. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Carriages at midnight**Ritmico**4
☐

Musical score for 'Carriages at midnight' in 3/4 time, key of D major. The score consists of two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system has four measures: the first measure is marked *mf*, the second is marked *p*, the third is marked *f*, and the fourth is marked *p*. The second system has four measures: the first measure is marked *mf*, the second is marked *p*, the third is marked *f*, and the fourth is marked *p*. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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

- 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

Going solo!

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

Blue minuet

1

Cool and lazy

The musical 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 two measures: the first measure is marked *mf* and the second *mp*. The second system has four measures: the first is marked *f*, the second and third measures have a crescendo hairpin, and the fourth is marked *mp* and ends with a 'rit.' (ritardando) marking. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Sonatina in D Op.1723b, No.734

2

Allegro moderato

The musical 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 has three measures: the first is marked *f*, the second *p*, and the third *f*. The second system has three measures: the first is marked *p*, the second *f*, and the third *f*. The third system has three measures: the first is marked *mf*, the second *p*, and the third *f*. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Stage 6

Revision of keys
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

2
☐

Two systems of piano music in 4/4 time, key of D major. The first system starts with a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble staff has a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff has a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The first system includes dynamics *f*, *mp*, and *cresc.*. The second system includes dynamics *f* and *ff*. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Junk E-mail

Scherzando

3
☐

Two systems of piano music in 8/8 time, key of D major. The first system starts with a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble staff has a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and an 8/8 time signature. The bass staff has a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and an 8/8 time signature. The first system includes dynamics *f*, *p*, and *f*. The second system includes a first ending bracket and a double bar line.

Bees' knees cha-cha-cha

Con spirito

4
☐

Two systems of piano music in 4/4 time, key of D major. The first system starts with a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble staff has a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff has a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The first system includes dynamics *f*, *p*, and *ff*. The second system includes a first ending bracket and a double bar line.

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

mf

rit.

a tempo

p

mf

- 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

f

p

Going solo!

Mexican sock dance

Moderato

1

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in two systems. The first system is marked 'Moderato' and 'f' (forte). The second system is marked 'mp' (mezzo-piano) and 'f' (forte). The score is written for piano with a treble and bass clef. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The first system consists of four measures, and the second system also consists of four measures. The melody features a variety of note values, including eighth, quarter, and half notes, as well as rests. The accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in the first two measures of each system, followed by a change in the third measure of the second system. The score is written in a clear, legible style with standard musical notation.

Shepherd's lament

Doloroso e cantabile

2

Dolcissimo e cantabile

3/4

mp

mf

rit.

2

5

1

Scurrying

Allegro

3

The image shows a musical score for a piece titled "Allegro" in 4/4 time. The score is written for piano and features two systems of music. The first system begins with a treble clef and a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The tempo is marked "Allegro". The first measure of the first system is marked with a forte dynamic (*f*) and a fingering of 4. The second measure is marked with a piano dynamic (*p*) and a fingering of 3. The third measure is marked with a piano dynamic (*p*) and a fingering of 5. The second system begins with a treble clef and a key signature of three flats. The first measure is marked with a forte dynamic (*f*) and fingerings of 2 and 1. The second measure is marked with a forte dynamic (*f*). The third measure is marked with a forte dynamic (*f*). The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, as well as slurs and ties.

Stage 7

9
More patterns
in $\frac{3}{8}$ and $\frac{5}{8}$

Rhythmic exercises

1

2

3

Melodic exercises

Medieval song

With a stately and regal air

1

2

Five-legged race

Allegretto scherzando

2

As cool as a mountain stream**Flowing**3
☐

p
con ped.

mf
poco rit.
a tempo
dim.
Ped.

Five-legged clown**Hilariously**4
☐

f
p
cresc.

f

Two old gossips**Allegretto**5
☐

f
mp
p

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.

By a gentle brook on a warm and sunny day

Peacefully

1

The musical score is for a piece titled 'By a gentle brook on a warm and sunny day' with the tempo marking 'Peacefully'. It is written in 6/8 time and B-flat major. The score consists of two systems of four measures each. The first system starts with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The second system includes a forte (f) dynamic in the second measure and a piano (p) dynamic in the third measure. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

- 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

Moderato

2

The musical score is for a piece titled 'By another brook on a chilly day' with the tempo marking 'Moderato'. It is written in 9/8 time and B-flat major. The score consists of two systems of four measures each. The first system starts with a forte (f) dynamic. The second system includes a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic in the second measure. The piece features various tempo markings: 'rit.' (ritardando) at the beginning and end, and 'a tempo' in the middle. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Going solo!

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

Dancing by the Seine

Andantino

1

The musical score for 'Dancing by the Seine' is in 6/8 time and D major. It begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic in the right hand, followed by a crescendo leading to a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The piece concludes with a ritardando (*rit.*) and a piano (*p*) dynamic. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1, 2, and 3. A box with the number 1 is provided for the student to write their name.

Eating patisserie by the Seine

Moderato

2

The musical score for 'Eating patisserie by the Seine' is in 3/8 time and B-flat major. It begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, followed by a crescendo leading to a piano (*p*) dynamic. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The piece concludes with a ritardando (*rit.*) and a piano (*p*) dynamic. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1, 2, and 3. A box with the number 2 is provided for the student to write their name.

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.

Three rhythmic exercises for piano. Exercise 1 is in 3/4 time, Exercise 2 is in 4/4 time, and Exercise 3 is in 6/8 time. Each exercise consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with various rhythmic patterns including eighth notes, quarter notes, and triplets.

Melodic exercises

Festive fanfare

Maestoso

1

f

ff

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

Hide and seek

Wittily rit. a tempo

2

f *p* *cresc.*

mf

p *cresc.* *f*

The musical score for 'Hide and seek' is written for piano in 5/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is 'Wittily', then 'rit.' (ritardando), and finally 'a tempo'. The first system includes a box with the number '2' and a small square box below it. The dynamics are *f* (forte), *p* (piano), and *cresc.* (crescendo). The second system includes a box with the number '3' and a small square box below it. The dynamics are *mf* (mezzo-forte). The third system includes a box with the number '1' and a small square box below it. The dynamics are *p* (piano), *cresc.* (crescendo), and *f* (forte). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and fingerings.

May I have this dance, Mr Boccherini?

Tempo di minuetto

3

mf *p* *mf*

The musical score for 'May I have this dance, Mr Boccherini?' is written for piano in 3/4 time. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F-sharp). The tempo is 'Tempo di minuetto'. The first system includes a box with the number '3' and a small square box below it. The dynamics are *mf* (mezzo-forte), *p* (piano), and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The second system includes a box with the number '1' and a small square box below it. The dynamics are *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and fingerings.

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

Musical score for 'Come chill with me' in 4/4 time. The piece is marked 'Cool (molto rubato)'. The first system shows a treble clef with a melody starting on G4, moving up to B4, then down to A4, G4, F4, E4, and D4. The bass clef has chords: G2-B2-D2, G2-B2-D2, and G2-B2-D2. The second system shows a treble clef with a melody starting on D4, moving up to E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, and then down to A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. The bass clef has chords: G2-B2-D2, G2-B2-D2, and G2-B2-D2. The piece ends with a final chord in the bass clef.

- 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

Musical score for 'Getting up late' in 6/8 time. The piece is marked 'Flowing'. The first system shows a treble clef with a melody starting on G4, moving up to A4, B4, and then down to A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. The bass clef has chords: G2-B2-D2, G2-B2-D2, and G2-B2-D2. The second system shows a treble clef with a melody starting on D4, moving up to E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, and then down to A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. The bass clef has chords: G2-B2-D2, G2-B2-D2, and G2-B2-D2. The piece ends with a final chord in the bass clef.

Going solo!

Sight-reading rag

Moderato

1

Musical score for 'Sight-reading rag' in 4/4 time, Moderato. The score is written for piano and features a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first system includes a box with the number 1. The score is marked with *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The second system includes a box with the number 2. The score is marked with *f* (forte). The third system includes a box with the number 3. The score is marked with *f* (forte). The score concludes with a double bar line.

Pancakes

Allegretto

2

Musical score for 'Pancakes' in 4/4 time, Allegretto. The score is written for piano and features a key signature of one sharp (F-sharp). The first system includes a box with the number 2. The score is marked with *p* (piano) and *cresc.* (crescendo). The second system includes a box with the number 3. The score is marked with *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *f* (forte). The third system includes a box with the number 4. The score is marked with *p* (piano) and *f* (forte). The score concludes with a double bar line.

Yoghurt and berries

Scherzando

3

Entry of the Grand Vizier

Grandioso

4

allargando

A sad farewell

Semplice

5



Musical score for 'A sad farewell' in 5/4 time. The score consists of two systems. The first system has four measures. The first measure is marked *mf*. The second measure has a long note in the bass. The third measure is marked *f*. The fourth measure is marked *mf*. The second system has four measures. The first measure is marked *rall.*. The second measure has a long note in the bass. The third measure is marked *slower* and *f*. The fourth measure is marked *rall.*. There are fingerings 2 and 1 indicated in the bass of the first and third measures of the second system respectively.

Snakes and ladders

Giocoso

6



Musical score for 'Snakes and ladders' in 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems. The first system has three measures. The first measure is marked *f*. The second measure is marked *mf*. The third measure is marked *cresc.*. The second system has three measures. The first measure is marked *f*. The second measure is marked *p*. The third measure is marked *f*. There are fingerings 4, 4, and 1 indicated in the treble of the first three measures of the first system respectively.

The golden rules

Get into the following habits before you play a piece at sight and you'll be well prepared:

- 1** Scan the piece and get a feel for the *overall musical shape and idea*. What is the mood? Are there important or recurring melodic or rhythmic patterns? *What is the piece about?* Do you understand it?
- 2** Check the key – look for accidentals that may suggest a modulation.
- 3** Notice recurring patterns – rhythmic and melodic.
- 4** Get a feel for the fingering and try to spot potential hand position changes.
- 5** Notice markings that will help you convey the character and get ready to bring them to life!
- 6** Count yourself in (silently) in the usual way.

When performing your sight-reading piece:

- 1** Maintain a feel for the pulse.
- 2** Keep going at a steady tempo (though some musical *rubato* if appropriate is of course welcome).
- 3** If you make any mistakes, ignore them.
- 4** Look ahead.
- 5** Above all, play musically – convey the mood and character.
- 6** If you've prepared carefully (both over a period of time in your practice and in lessons, and immediately before playing) then simply relax and enjoy the experience.