

Practice chart

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

Teacher's name _____
Telephone _____

With many thanks to Gillian Secret for her invaluable help.

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This edition first published in 2011 by Faber Music Ltd.
Bloomsbury House 74–77 Great Russell Street London WC1B 3DA
Music processed by Donald Thomson
Cover and page design by Susan Clarke
Cover illustration by Drew Hillier
Printed in England by Caligraving Ltd
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ISBN10: 0-571-53622-0
EAN13: 978-0-571-53622-1

US editions:
ISBN10: 0-571-53662-X
EAN13: 978-0-571-53662-7

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Prepared pieces

- 1 What will you count? Tap the pulse and hear the rhythm in your head.
- 2 What is the key? Play the scale and arpeggio in a dancing style.
- 3 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 4 What is the interval between the first two notes called? Play the first note and sing the second. To which pattern do both notes belong?
- 5 How will you put some character into your performance?

1

Dancing

- 1 How will you count this piece? Hear the pulse in your head and tap the rhythm.
- 2 In which key is the piece? Play the scale and arpeggio in a singing style.
- 3 The first two notes belong to the arpeggio – how many more examples can you find of two-note patterns that belong to the arpeggio?
- 4 How many bars share the same rhythm as bar 1? How is bar 3 similar to bar 1?
- 5 How will you put character into your performance?

2

Singing

Improvising

1

Make up your own piece (it can be as long or as short as you like), beginning with this pattern. Keep the pulse steady. Decide on a mood or character before you begin.

2

Now make up your own piece in A major – using any patterns you like.

Stage 5

Sight-reading
confidently

Rhythmic exercises

Always count two bars before you begin each exercise – one aloud and the second silently.

1

3

4

5 Make up your own rhythmic exercise, then clap it:

Sight-reading confidently

Read the words in this box:

Here are some words in a box which I am reading correctly.

No problem! You looked at the words, said them (to yourself) *and* understood what they meant! It's the same with music. As long as you know the rhythms and know the notes, playing them is just the same as reading words. If you can do all the rhythmic exercises in this book (easily and on your own) and you know the notes of the four keys we've been working through (D, A and G majors and E minor) then you should be able to sight-read confidently.

Look at this next piece for a few moments. Read it like you're reading these words. Hear it in your head, then read on...

Moderato

Did you 'understand' it? Do you 'get' what it's about? Do you feel you have a good idea of how it goes?

... You know it's in D major and you can see all the scale patterns and you know how you'll finger the piece. You know all the rhythms, you understand the bowing. So you should feel confident about playing it. Have a go.