
The golden rules

A sight-reading checklist

Before you begin to play a piece at sight, always consider the following:

- 1 Look at the piece for about half a minute and try to feel that you are *understanding* what you see (just like reading these words).
- 2 Look at the time signature and decide how you will count the piece.
- 3 Look at the key signature and think about how to finger the notes.
- 4 Notice patterns – especially those that repeat, or are based on scales and arpeggios.
- 5 Notice any markings that will help you convey the character.
- 6 Don't begin until you think you are going to play the piece accurately.
- 7 Count at least one bar in.

When performing a sight-reading piece

- 1 Keep feeling the pulse.
- 2 Keep going at a steady tempo.
- 3 Remember the finger pattern of the key you are in.
- 4 Ignore mistakes.
- 5 Look ahead – at least to the next note.
- 6 Play musically, always trying to convey the character of the music.

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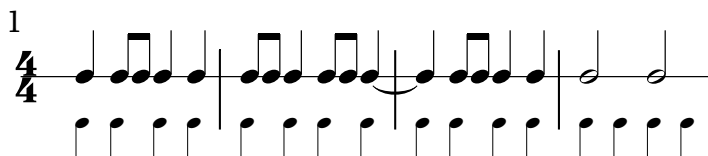
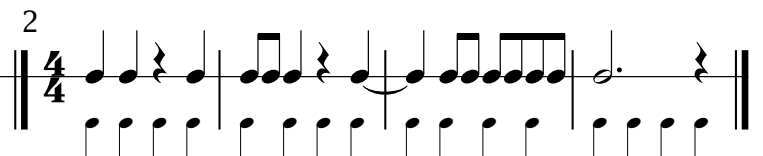
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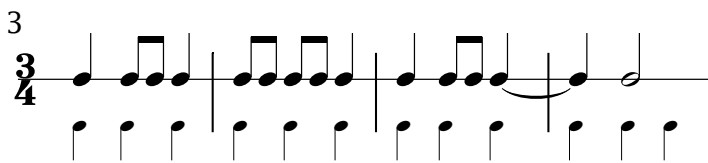
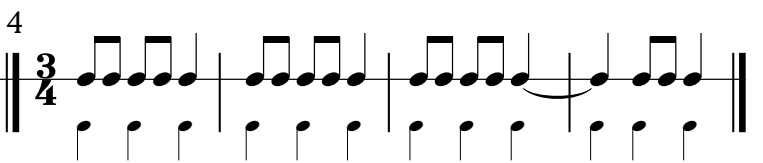
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Stage 3

**B \flat major and
G minor
More ties**

Rhythmic exercises

1  2 

3  4 

Melodic exercises

Set 1: Exploring B \flat major

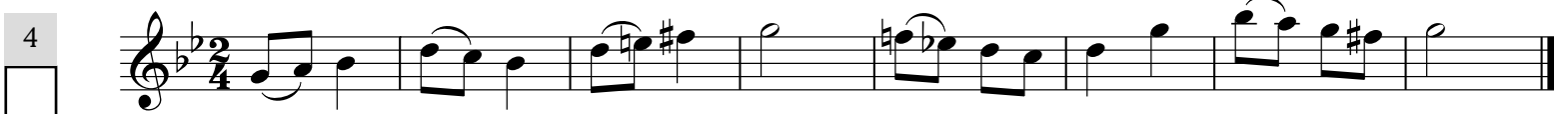
How are B \flat major and
G minor connected?

1 

2 

3 

Set 2: Exploring G minor

4 

5 

6 

Prepared pieces

- 1 Play the scale and arpeggio loudly ascending and quietly descending.
- 2 To which pattern do the first three notes belong?
- 3 What will you count? Tap the pulse strongly and think through the rhythm.
- 4 Play the rhythm of the piece on the open D string.
- 5 Play the first note and hear the piece through in your head, including dynamics.

1

Spirito

- 1 In which key is this piece? Play the scale using rhythms from the piece.
- 2 How many repeated ideas can you find?
- 3 Set a pulse going in your head and hear the piece through in your head.
- 4 Study the first bar for a moment then play it from memory.
- 5 How will you put character into your performance?

2

Solemn

Improvising

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.