

Stage 1

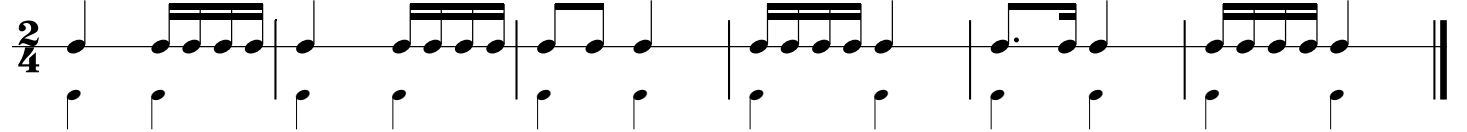
F major



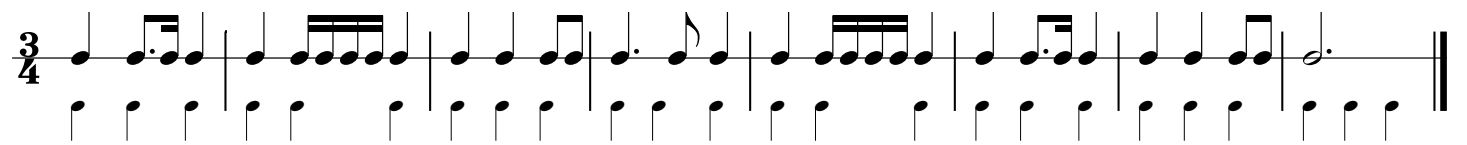
Rhythmic exercises

Always count two bars before you begin each exercise – one out loud and one silently.

1



2



3



Melodic exercises

1



2



Prepared pieces

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale and arpeggio. Are there any scale patterns?
- 2 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of each hand separately, then both hands together.
- 3 Play the first note in each hand and hear the piece through in your head.
- 4 What is a tarantella? How will you give a characterful performance?

Tarantella

1



The musical score for 'Tarantella' is written for piano in 6/8 time and the key of A major (two sharps). It consists of two systems of four measures each. The first system starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand plays a melody of eighth notes with slurs, while the left hand plays a bass line of eighth notes. The second system starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic in the right hand and a forte (*f*) dynamic in the left hand. A first ending bracket is placed over the final two measures of the second system.

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale. Which notes are altered by the key signature?
- 2 Is the melody mainly in the right or left hand?
- 3 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of each hand separately, then both hands together.
- 4 Play the first note in each hand and hear the piece through in your head.
- 5 How will you give your performance character?

The chase is on!

2



The musical score for 'The chase is on!' is written for piano in 6/8 time and the key of B-flat major (two flats). It consists of two systems of four measures each. The first system starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The right hand plays a melody of eighth notes with slurs, while the left hand plays a bass line of eighth notes. The second system starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand plays a melody of eighth notes with slurs, while the left hand plays a bass line of eighth notes. A first ending bracket is placed over the final two measures of the second system.

Stage 7

Revision

Reminders

Remember that sight-reading is really about understanding.

Are you nervous reading these words? Probably not. When you read music – in lessons, at home or in an exam – it should be as straightforward as reading these words.

Here are a few tips to keep at the front of your mind:

- Don't play too quickly and always keep a steady and even pulse.
- Look at the music with your musical brain switched on – feel that you are understanding what the music is saying, just like you understand these words.
- Notice the key, any patterns and changes of hand position. In time this will become second nature to you.

Melodic exercises

1



2



3

