

Introduction

Being a good sight-reader is so important and it needn't be difficult! 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. There are a number of ways to do the exercises, several of which are outlined in Stage 1. Try them all out. Can you think of more ways to do them?

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 simple habit of working through each exercise in the following ways before you begin to play it:

- Make sure you understand the rhythm and counting. Clap the exercise through.
- Look at the shape of the tune, particularly the highest and lowest notes. Which finger do you need to start on to be able to play it? The exercises have this fingering added to get you started.
- 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 playing until you are pretty sure you know exactly how the piece goes.

4 Going solo!

It is now up to you to discover the clues in this series of practice pieces. Give yourself about a minute and do your best to understand the piece before you play. Check the rhythms and hand position, and try to hear the piece in your head.

Always remember to feel the pulse and to keep going steadily once you've begun. Good luck and happy sight-reading!



Going solo!

Remember to prepare each piece carefully before you play it.

Anyone seen my keys?

1

Floating

3 5

5

Make mine large, with extra fries!

2

Hungrily

1

G-force

3

With energy

5

At the C-side

4

Cheerfully, with ice cream

4 5

Is that a cow I see behind that tree?

5

Andante

5 1

Prepared pieces

- 1 How many hand-position changes can you find in the right-hand line?
- 2 To what pattern do the first three notes in the right hand belong?
- 3 To what pattern do the three notes in bar 2 of the left hand belong?
- 4 Tap the rhythms of each hand, hands together.
- 5 Play the first note of each hand and hear the piece through in your head.
- 6 How will you put character into this piece?

Waltz of the sleepy swedes and lethargic leeks

Moderato tiredoso

1

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale.
- 2 Where will you need to change your hand position?
- 3 Tap the rhythms of each hand, hands together.
- 4 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 5 Play the first note in each hand and hear the piece through in your head.
- 6 What is the character of the music? How will you bring it to life?

March of the boisterous bananas and crazy carrots

Allegretto energico

2