

Grade 4 Stage 1

B \flat major
Up-beats

Rhythmic exercises

Always practise the rhythmic exercises carefully before going on to the melodic exercises. There are different ways of doing these exercises:

- Your teacher (or a metronome) taps the lower line while you clap or tap the upper line.
- You tap the lower line with your foot and clap or tap the upper line with your hands.
- You tap one line with one hand and the other line with the other hand on a table top or any flat surface.
- You tap the lower line and sing the upper line.

Before you begin each exercise count two bars in – one out loud and one silently.

1

2

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Melodic exercises

Set 1: Exploring B \flat major

Play the scale and arpeggio from notation before you work through these exercises.

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Set 2: Exploring and

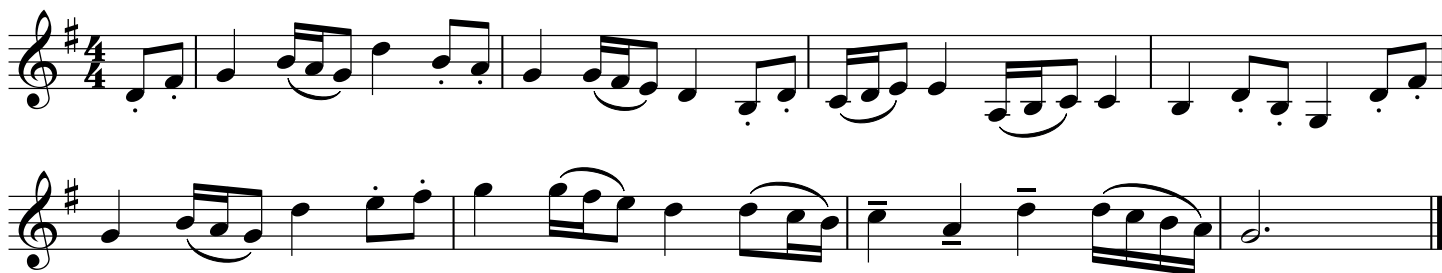
4



5



6



Improvise!

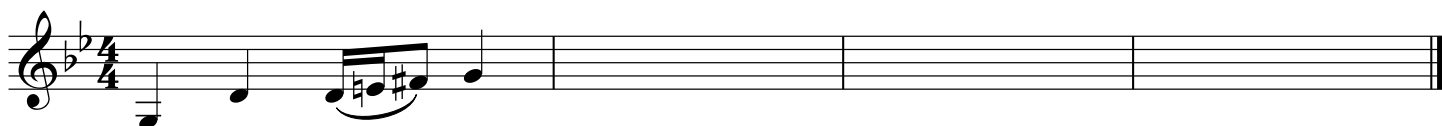
Can you think of any connections between improvising and sight-reading? Here's one: both require fast brain processing. You need quick reactions and to think on your feet, rather like playing computer games!

Use these bars to begin your next improvisation. It can be as short or long as you like.



Compose!

Compose your own 4-bar tune beginning with this bar. Use your own manuscript paper if you'd like to write a longer melody. Develop the opening ideas in your composition.



Prepared pieces

- 1 What does syncopation mean? Find an example in this piece and explain it carefully.
- 2 What is the key? Play the scale and arpeggio from notation.
- 3 Give the piece a running commentary, thinking particularly about melodic and rhythmic patterns.
- 4 Play a D (the first note), then hear the piece in your head as best you can.
- 5 How will you give the piece character?

Cool blues style

1

- 1 What is the character of this piece? What are the clues?
- 2 Find the two sets of ties then tap bars 1–4.
- 3 Count two bars of 6/8 aloud, then continue counting silently and clap or tap the rhythm.
- 4 In which key is this piece? Make up a little tune in the key.
- 5 Play an F# (the first note), then hear the piece in your head as best you can, with character.

Flowing

2