

Grade 1 Stage 1



Rhythmic exercises

Always practise the rhythmic exercises carefully first. 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.
- 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

3 4

Melodic exercises

Hear each exercise in your head before you play it.

1

2

3

4

5

6

Grade 2 Stage 3

Staccato

Rhythmic exercises

1

2

3

Melodic exercises

1

2

3

4

The golden rules

A sight-reading checklist

- 1 Look at the time signature and decide how you will count the piece.
- 2 Look at the key signature and think about how to finger the notes.
- 3 Notice patterns – especially those based on scales and arpeggios.
- 4 Notice any markings that will help you convey the character.
- 5 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 *to think in key*.
- 4 Ignore slips.
- 5 Look ahead – at least to the next note.
- 6 Play musically, always trying to convey the character of the music.

Look at each piece for about half a minute and try to feel that you *understand* what you see (just like reading these words). Don't begin until you think you are going to play the piece accurately.