Sight Reading Folk Songs from Around the World

PAUL SHEFTEL

correlates with
Alfred's Basic Piano Library
Level 1B

Foreword

Sight reading, like any other skill, improves with practice. It can be difficult, however, to develop this skill, and particularly frustrating in finding just the right material. The music may be too complex, not well organized for the specific purpose of developing reading skills, or perhaps may simply be too dull.

The approach taken in writing these books has been to group the material sequentially by presenting musical ideas and technical problems in a logical and systematic manner. The music itself consists of folk songs from around the world—music which is tuneful and appealing to all ages.

Along with the actual pieces, additional activities are also provided. These include ensemble experience, additional sight reading, keyboard drills, rhythm drills, theory, and suggestions for practicing.

These books can be used independently but have been specifically written so that they can be easily incorporated into the structure of Alfred's Basic Piano Library. Students using this method are referred to the specific points as to when these pieces can best be introduced.

I would like to give my very special and warm thanks to Willard Palmer and Morty Manus who were largely responsible for much of the organization of this material and who were so generous with their time, enthusiasm and encouragement.

For my wife Sara and my two daughters Claudia and Gigi.

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Deaf Woman's Courtship

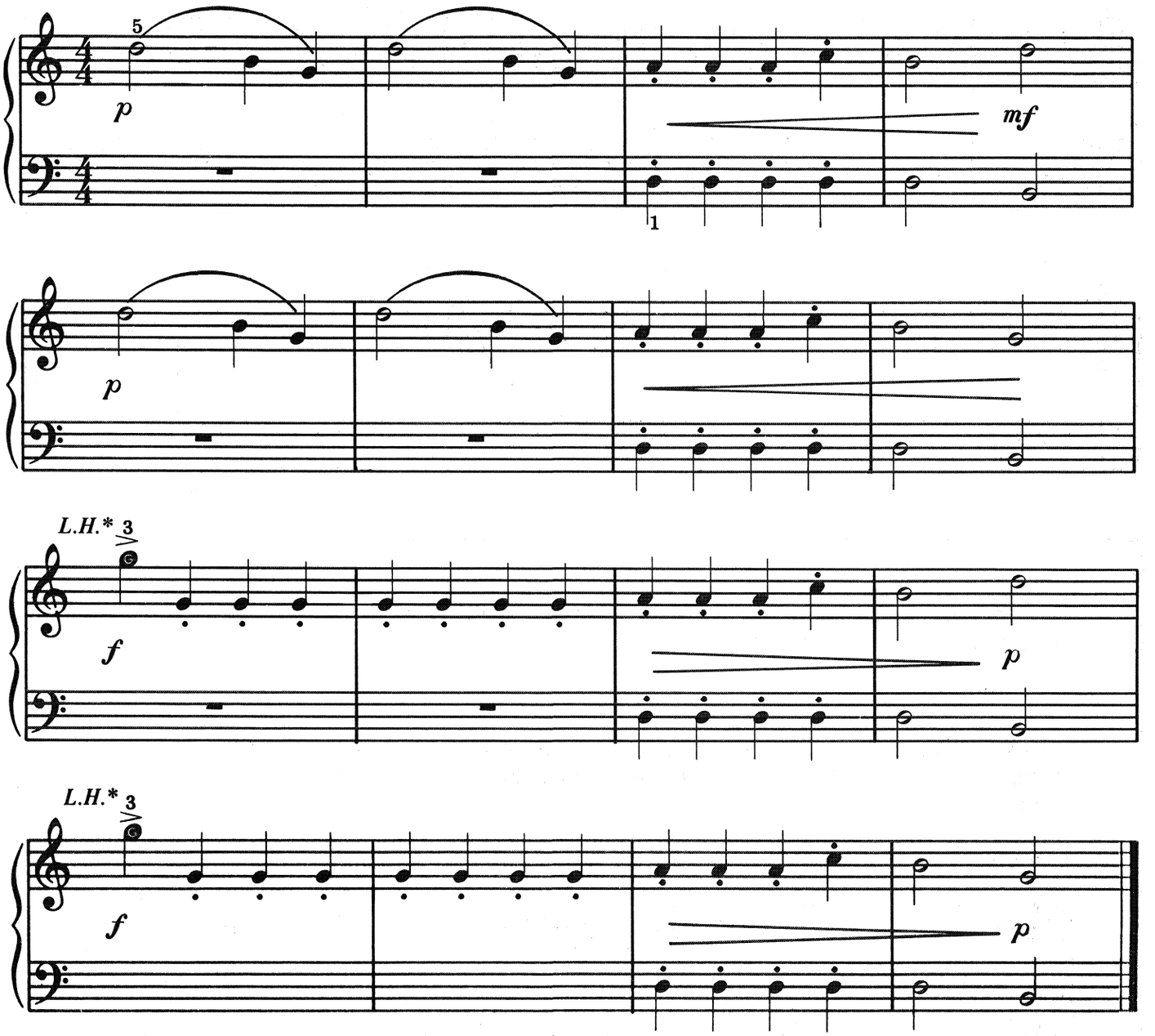
Use after page 14.

G Position

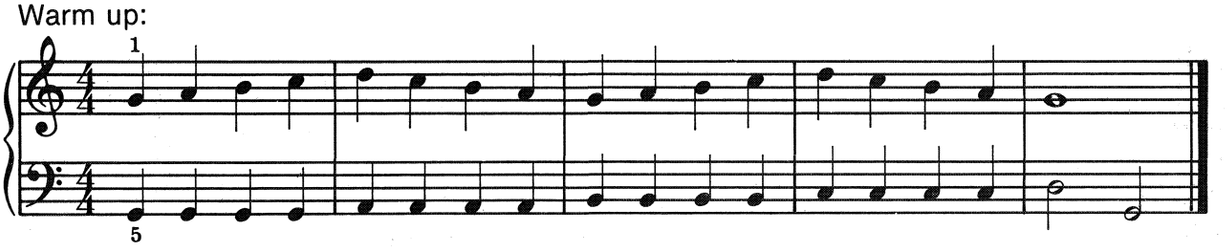
(Crescendo) = getting louder
(Diminuendo) = getting softer
> = accent. Emphasize this note.

American

Allegro



Warm up:



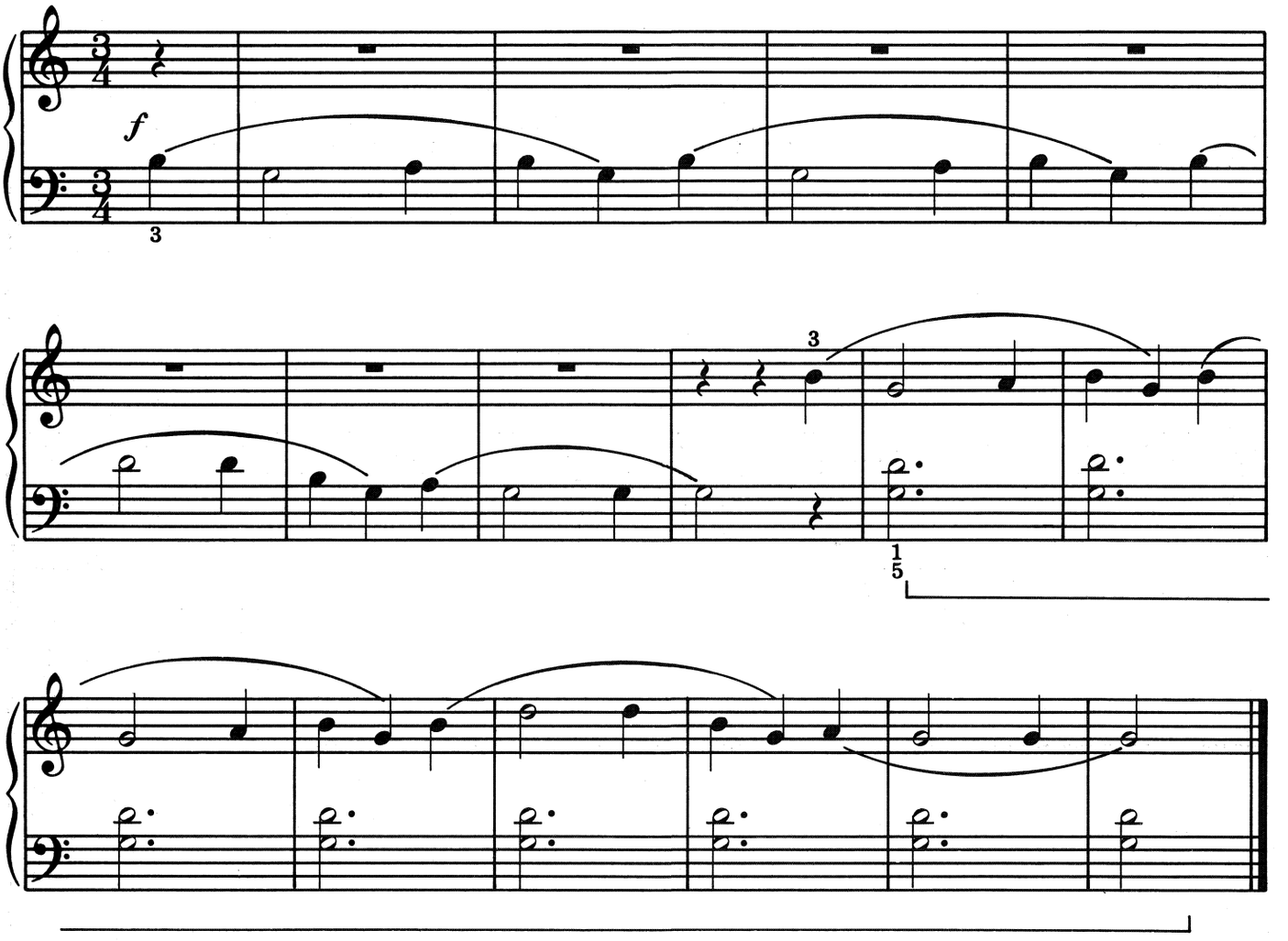
What is the interval between the first and second notes in measure 9?

Use after page 27.

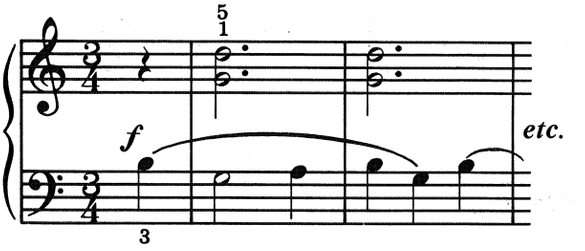
Tower Guard

New G Position

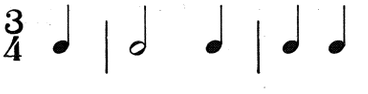
Moderato *French*



When the melody is in the right hand there is a "drone" accompaniment in the left (the steady repeating 5ths). Try playing a drone with the right hand when the melody is being played with the left.



Clap the following rhythm, counting aloud:



Find this rhythm in the melody.

Don't forget to hold your right pedal (the damper pedal) down starting at measure 9 as indicated in the music.

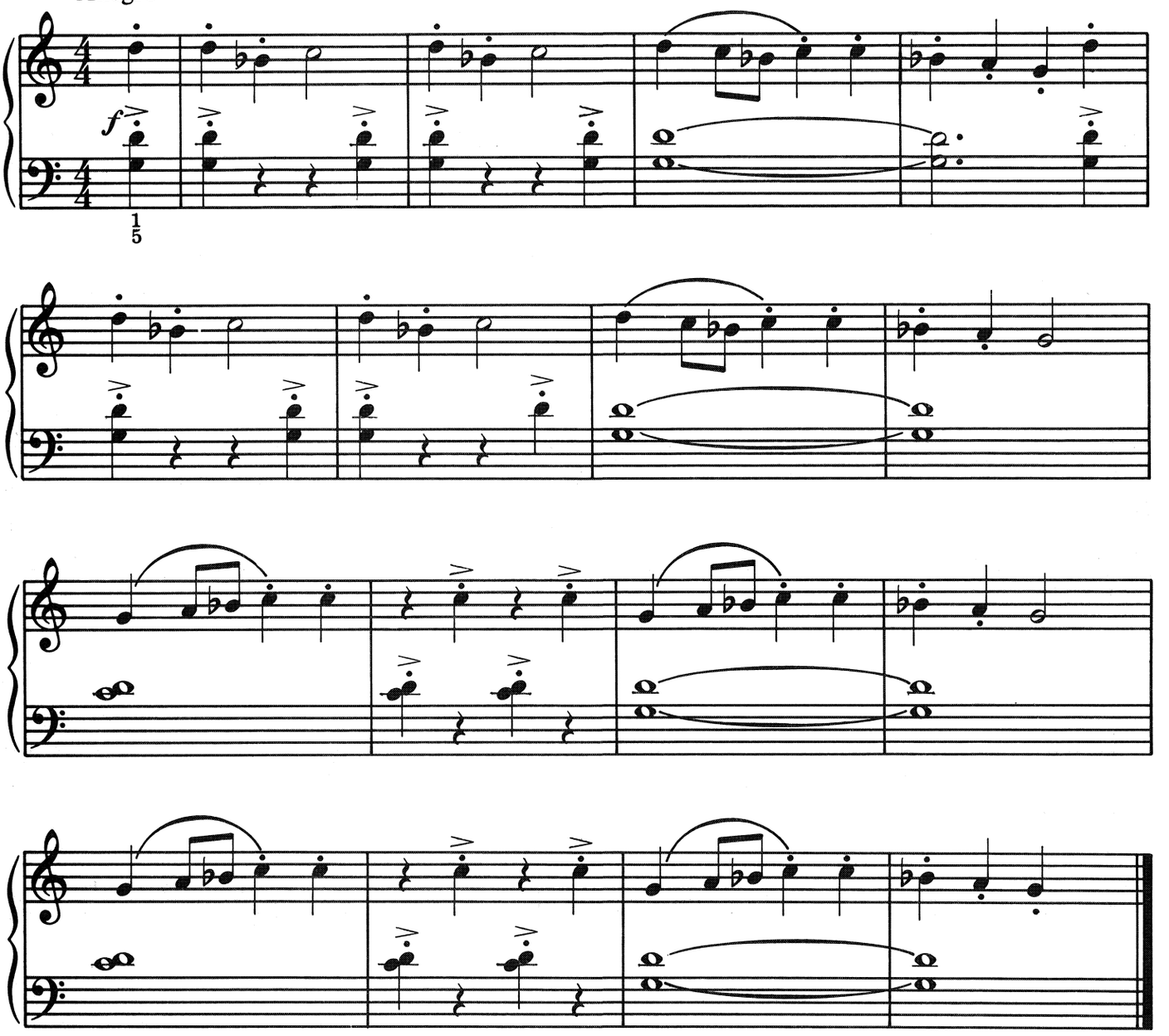
Use after page 38.

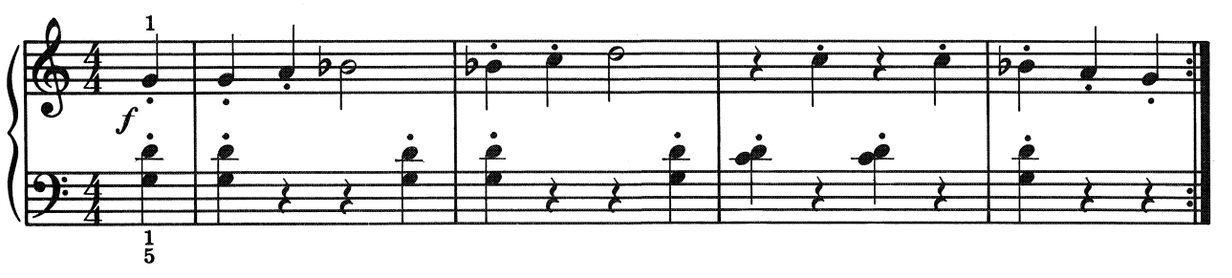
Hora*

New G Position

Israeli

Allegro



*The *Hora* is a lively Israeli dance.

Warm up: