

A sight-reading checklist

Before you begin to play a piece at sight, always remember to consider the following:

- 1 Look at the time-signature, and decide how you will count the piece.
- 2 Look at the key-signature, and find the notes which need raising or lowering.
- 3 Notice any accidentals that may occur.
- 4 Notice scale or arpeggio patterns.
- 5 Work out leger-line notes if necessary.
- 6 Notice dynamic levels and other markings.
- 7 Look at the tempo mark and decide what speed to play.
- 8 Count one bar before you begin, to establish the speed.

When performing your sight-reading piece, always remember to:

- 1 CONTINUE TO COUNT THROUGHOUT THE PIECE.
- 2 Keep going at a steady and even tempo.
- 3 Ignore mistakes.
- 4 Look ahead – at least to the next note.
- 5 Keep your hands in position on the keyboard during rests.
- 6 Play *musically*.

UNPREPARED TESTS

STAGE 1

1 Allegretto

5

4

f

2 Con moto

5

f

3 Lightly

mp

1 4

4 Lento

mf p f p f

1 4

STAGE 2

1 Andante

mp

1 2 3

2 Allegretto

mf

1 5

3 Moderato

f

1 4

4 Andante

mf *p cresc.* *mf*

STAGE 3

1 Allegretto

mp *f* *dim.* *rall.*

2 Andante

mf *p* *cresc.* *mf* *rall.*

3 Alla Russe

f

1/4 1/5

4 Con moto

mp *f*

1 2

1 Allegretto

Exercise 1 is in 4/8 time and D major. The right hand features eighth-note patterns with fingerings 1, 2 5, 5, and 1. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment with fingerings 5, 5, and 1. The dynamic is *mp*.

2 Allegro

Exercise 2 is in 3/8 time and D major. The right hand has eighth-note patterns with fingerings 3 2 1, 1, 3, and a slur. The left hand has dotted quarter notes with fingerings 5 and 1. Dynamics include *p*, *cresc.*, and *f*.

This section continues exercise 2. The right hand has eighth-note patterns with fingerings 4 and a slur, followed by a *rall.* section. The left hand has dotted quarter notes. Dynamics include *p*, *cresc.*, and *f*.

3 Maestoso

Exercise 3 is in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The right hand has quarter notes with fingerings 1, 1, and 1. The left hand has quarter notes with fingerings 1 and 2. The dynamic is *f*.

This section continues exercise 3. The right hand has quarter notes with fingerings 3, 4, and 4. The left hand has quarter notes with a slur. Dynamics include *p cresc.* and *f*.

1 Allegro

1

f

dim.

rall.

a tempo

p

pp

2 Allegro marcato

2

f

mf

cresc.

p

f

3 With humour

3

f

1 Allegretto

1 *p*

2 Allegro spiritoso

2 *f*

3 Con moto

3 *f* *p cresc:*

1 Allegro moderato

mp

1 2 3

1 5 1 2 4 3

2 Delicato

p dolce

2

rall.

3 Spiritoso

f

3 4

3

1 Lento

Exercise 1 is in 3/8 time, marked Lento. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The piece begins with a piano (*p*) and dolce instruction. The melody in the right hand consists of eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The exercise concludes with a *rall.* (rallentando) marking. Fingering numbers 2 and 5 are indicated for the first two notes of the left hand.

2 Con spirito

Exercise 2 is in 3/8 time, marked Con spirito. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The piece starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand features a more active melody with eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand plays a steady accompaniment of eighth notes. The exercise ends with a repeat sign.

3 Brightly

Exercise 3 is in 3/8 time, marked Brightly. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The piece begins with a forte (*f*) and leggiero instruction. The right hand has a light, bouncy melody, and the left hand provides a simple accompaniment. The exercise concludes with a repeat sign.

4 Andantino

Exercise 4 is in 3/8 time, marked Andantino. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The piece starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand features a melody with a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure, followed by eighth and quarter notes. The left hand provides a simple accompaniment. Dynamics change to piano (*p*) in the fifth measure and back to forte (*f*) in the seventh measure. Fingering numbers 5/3 and 2 are indicated for the right hand.