

CONCLUSION

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 Allegro spiritoso

1 5 1 5

f

mf poco a poco cresc.

5

f

1 5

f

2 Allegretto grazioso

Handwritten musical score for 'Allegretto grazioso'. The piece is in 3/4 time, key of D major (two sharps). It begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The melody is in the right hand, featuring eighth-note patterns and triplet-like figures. The left hand provides a steady accompaniment of eighth notes. The score consists of two systems, each with a first ending (labeled '2') and a fifth ending (labeled '5'). The piece concludes with a final chord in the right hand.

STAGE 2

1 Allegretto

Handwritten musical score for 'Allegretto'. The piece is in 5/4 time, key of B-flat major (two flats). It begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The melody is in the right hand, featuring quarter and eighth notes. The left hand provides a steady accompaniment of quarter notes. The score consists of two systems, each with a first ending (labeled '1') and a fifth ending (labeled '5'). The piece concludes with a final chord in the right hand.

2 Scherzando

Handwritten musical score for 'Scherzando'. The piece is in 3/4 time, key of D major (two sharps). It begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The melody is in the right hand, featuring eighth-note patterns and triplet-like figures. The left hand provides a steady accompaniment of eighth notes. The score consists of two systems, each with a first ending (labeled '2') and a fifth ending (labeled '5'). The piece concludes with a final chord in the right hand, marked with a *dim.* (diminuendo) and an *8va* (octave) instruction.

STAGE 3

1 *Molto moderato*

mf



3



5



2 *Con moto*

f *p cresc.*



3

mf *cresc.* *f*



STAGE 4

1 Allegro con moto

First system of music for Exercise 1, measures 1-4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 3/8. The music is in treble and bass staves. The first measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic marking. The instruction "Con ped." is written below the first measure.

5

Second system of music for Exercise 1, measures 5-8. The music continues in the same key and time signature. The instruction "sub. *p*" is written below the eighth measure.

9

Third system of music for Exercise 1, measures 9-12. The music continues in the same key and time signature. The instruction "poco cresc." is written below the ninth measure. The system ends with a double bar line. The instruction "Ped." is written below the twelfth measure.

2 Allegro spiritoso

First system of music for Exercise 2, measures 1-5. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 6/8. The music is in treble and bass staves. The first measure has a forte (*f*) dynamic marking.

6

Second system of music for Exercise 2, measures 6-10. The music continues in the same key and time signature. The system ends with a double bar line.

STAGE 5

1 Blues tempo

12/8 Blues tempo

mf

f

mf *p*

2 Moderato appassionato con rubato

9/8 Moderato appassionato con rubato

mf *rall.*

3 a tempo

9/8 a tempo

cresc. *f* *dim.*

5

9/8

p *molto rit.* *p* *Ped.*

STAGE 6

1 Andante

mf espressivo

5

p *f*

9

rall. *a tempo* *mp* *dim.*

2

Andante

mf

3

poco rit. *cresc.* *f*

5

a tempo *poco rit.* *a tempo* *3* *rit.*

STAGE 7

1 Allegro ma non troppo

Exercise 1, *Allegro ma non troppo*, is written for piano in 3/4 time. It consists of 8 measures. The first measure is marked *mf*. The piece features a continuous eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more varied bass line in the left hand. Measures 5 and 8 contain fingerings (1, 2, 1) and an *8va* marking. The piece concludes with a *p* (piano) dynamic marking.

2 Allegro con fuoco

Exercise 2, *Allegro con fuoco*, is written for piano in 4/4 time. It consists of 7 measures. The first measure is marked *f* (forte). The piece is characterized by a constant triplet eighth-note pattern in both hands. Measures 4 and 7 include fingerings (3, 3) and accents. The piece ends with a repeat sign and a final triplet figure.

STAGE 8

1 Allegro agitato

ff

Ped.

simile

mp

mp

p cresc.

ff

ff

ff

2 Delicato

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

rall.

a tempo

slow

8va