1 Musical sentences

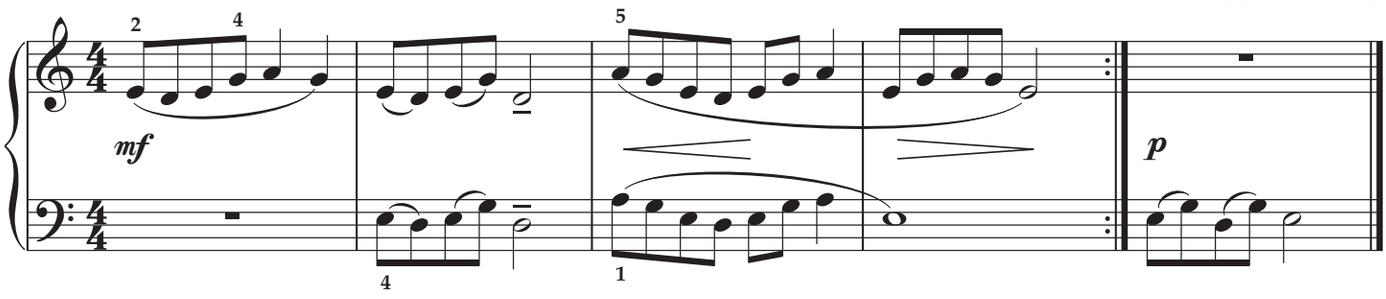
phrasing, legato *and the use of dynamics*

A **phrase** is like a musical sentence. Imagine a singer taking a breath before each new phrase. Phrases (or slurs) should be played *legato*. Often phrases are shaped by a *crescendo* and then a *decrescendo*.

Daily workout

Long and Short Phrases

Karen Marshall



Musical training

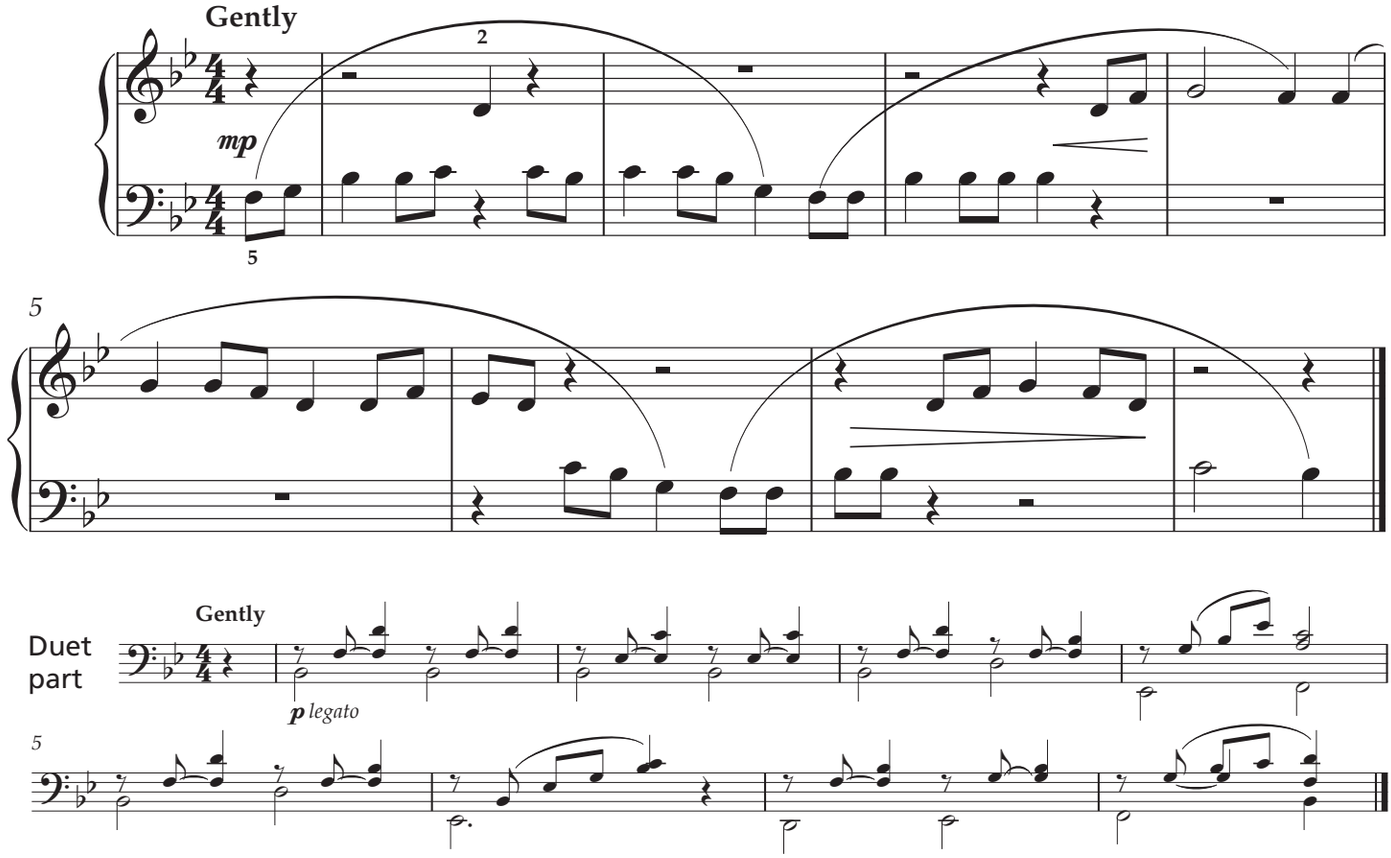
Listen to your teacher play the sight-reading piece below. Using your finger in the air (drawing in a rainbow shape), can you show the phrasing? How are dynamics used?

Sight-reading

Loch Lomond

Play your part an octave higher when playing as a duet.

Scottish traditional
Arr. David Blackwell



Musical time travel

500

Medieval

1400

Renaissance

1600

BAROQUE

1750

Classical

1810

Romantic

1910

Contemporary

The Baroque period

(about 1600–1750)

Look up the highlighted words to see what they mean.

Baroque music was composed in major and minor keys rather than modes. The bass line was provided by the **basso continuo**, played by harpsichord or organ and bass instruments like the cello, double bass or bassoon. The keyboard part also played chords using a **figured bass** – numbers below the bass notes indicating the chords to play. Music was often **contrapuntal** – the **fugue** was an important contrapuntal form. The Baroque period saw the rise of the solo concerto and **concerto grosso**. Other important forms were **dance suites**, **oratorios**, cantatas and operas. Music was often decorated with a lot of ornaments – trills, turns and mordents.

Composers: J. S. Bach, George Frederick Handel, Domenico Scarlatti (all born in 1685), Henry Purcell, Georg Philipp Telemann, Antonio Vivaldi, François Couperin, Johann Pachelbel

Instruments: **harpsichord**, organ (keyboard), violin, viola, cello (strings), flute, oboe, bassoon (woodwind), trumpet, trombone, cornet (brass), timpani (percussion)

Online listening

Listen to these pieces and write a word to describe their character.

- Handel, *Zadok the Priest*: an anthem for voices and instruments written for the coronation of King George II in 1727.

  Character _____

- Vivaldi, *The Four Seasons*: a set of four violin concertos exploring the characteristics and moods of spring, summer, autumn and winter. Choose any movement.

  Character _____

- Pachelbel, *Canon*: a contrapuntal piece built on a repeating bass line, played by the basso continuo group at the start.

  Character _____

5 Part playing

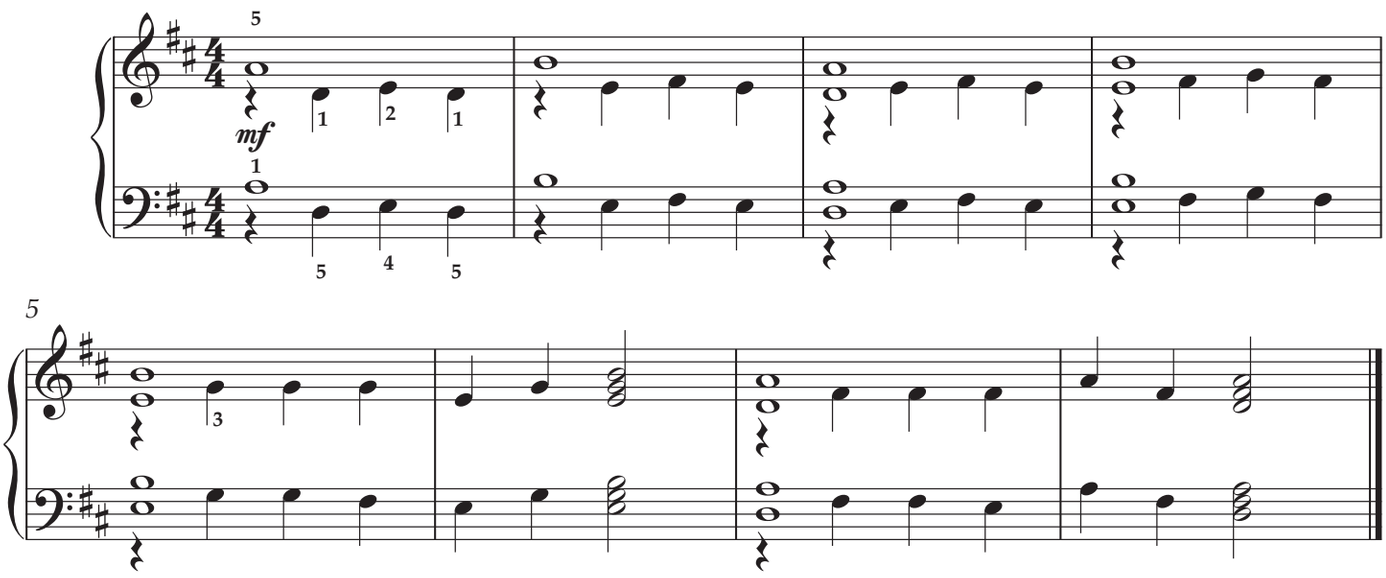
and chord voicing

On the piano we can play different parts at the same time: we call this 'part playing'. In music, it's important to understand whether all the parts should be played with the same dynamics, or if some are more important and so need to be louder. When playing chords, try to make sure all the notes sound at the same time.

Daily workout

Part Playing

Karen Marshall

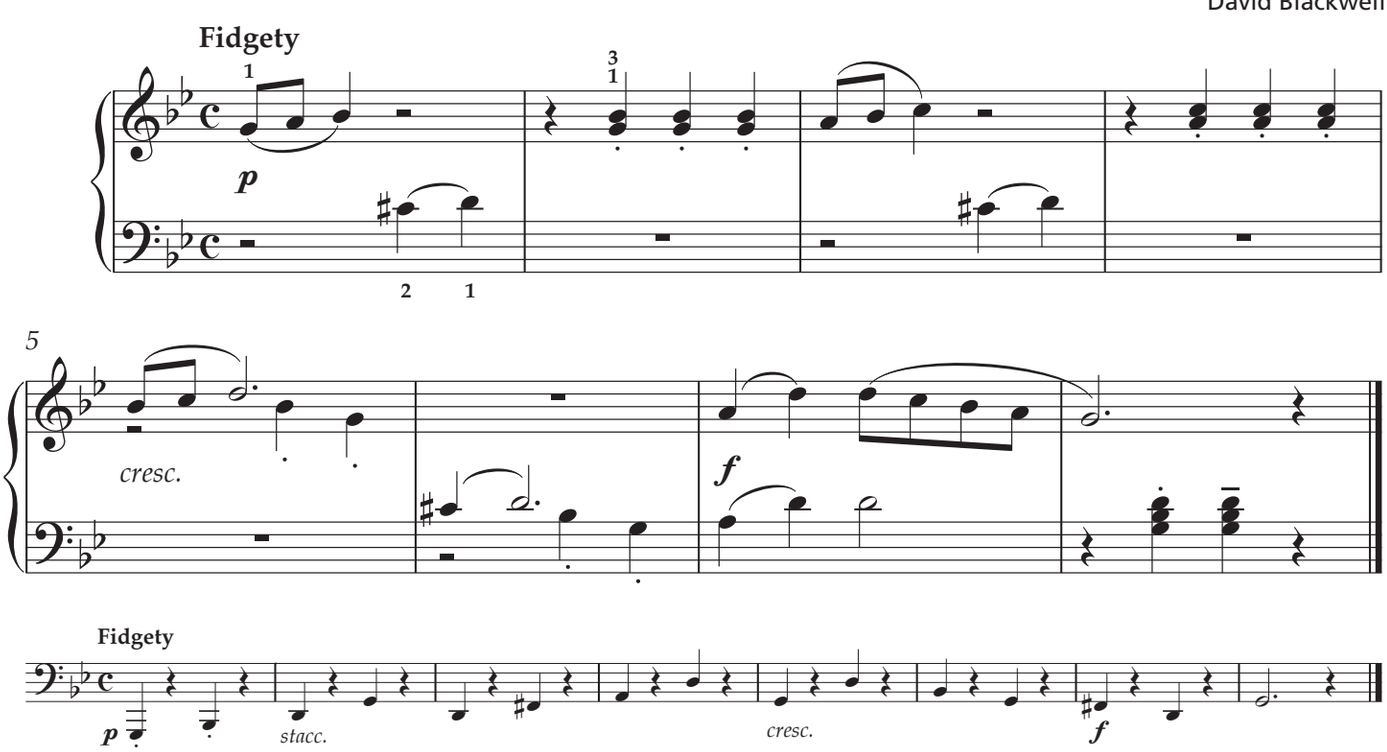


Sight-reading

Fidgety Fingers

Make sure you play the notes in the chords together.

David Blackwell



Duet part