Grade 1 Stage 1

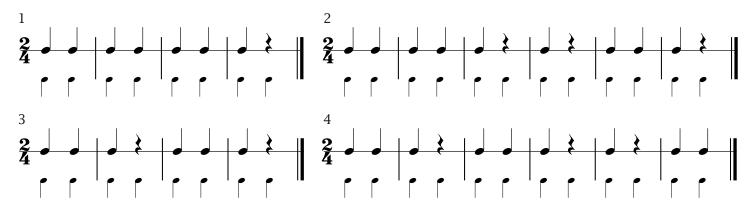## Rhythmic exercises

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.
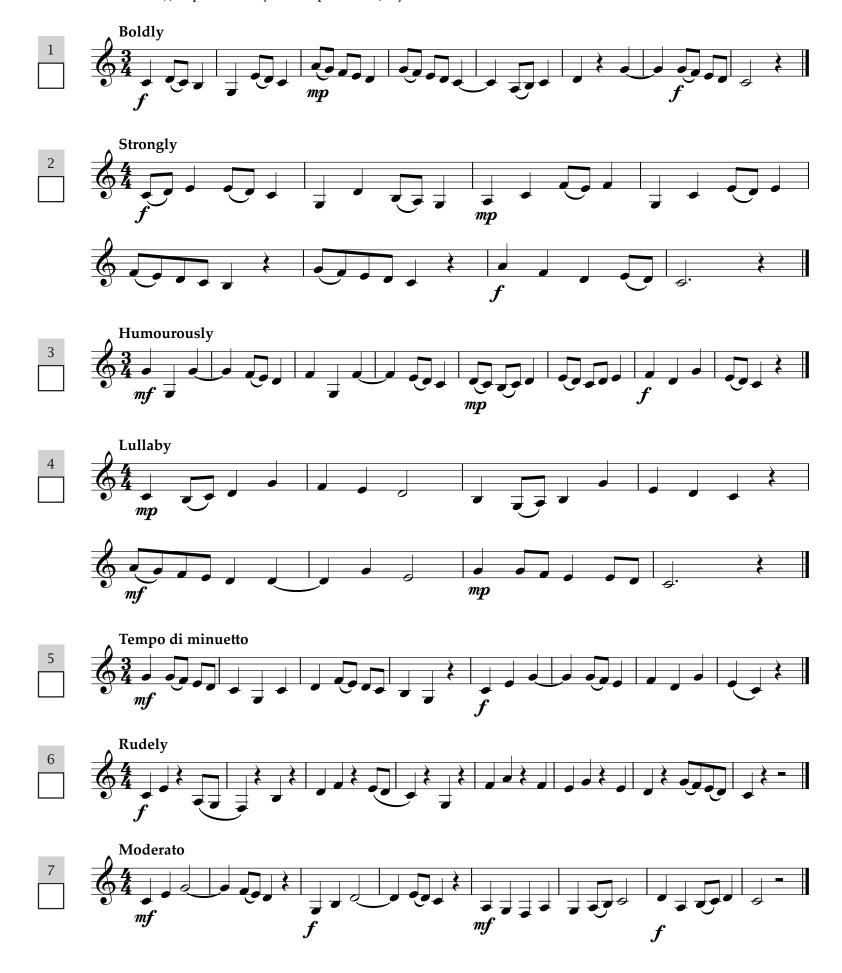

Melodic exercises

Hear each exercise in your head before you play it.

Going solo!

Before playing the piece describe, with as much detail as possible, what you see.
Mention key, melodic shapes and patterns, rhythm (particularly quaver patterns and
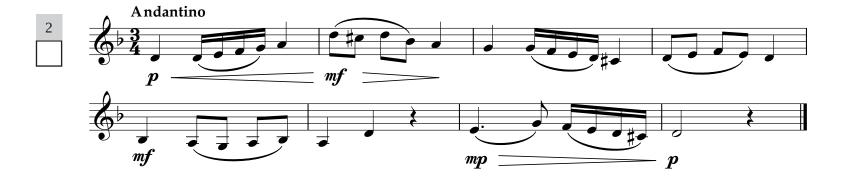tied notes), repeated rhythmic patterns, dynamics and character.

1

Boldly

2

Strongly

3

Humourously

4

Lullaby

5

Tempo di minuetto

6

Rudely

7

Moderato

Prepared pieces

1 Look through this piece. Do you feel you really understand it?

2 Each phrase is two bars long, how will you make this clear in your performance?

3 Play the appropriate scale first at *mf*, then at *f*.

4 Play the first note, then hear the piece in your head, with all the musical expression.

5 How will you give the piece character?

1 How much of this piece is based on scale patterns?

2 Set a pulse in your mind, then sub-divide the pulse into 2 and 4. How does this relate to the first bar?

3 Count two bars of $\frac{3}{4}$ aloud, then continue counting silently and tap the rhythm of the whole piece.

4 Give the piece a running commentary, mentioning rhythms, melodic patterns, and markings.

5 Play a D, then study bars 1 and 2 for a few moments. Hear them in your head, then try to play them from memory.

Improvise and compose!

Make up your own piece beginning with this phrase and write it down on manuscript paper.

Now compose a piece in D minor, including the ♩. ♪ pattern. Remember to write it down.