Grade 1   Stage 1

Rhythmic exercises

Always practise the rhythmic exercises carefully first. There are different ways of doing them:
- 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.

All exercises in Stage 1 should be played with the right-hand thumb.

Set 1: Exploring C major

Set 2: Exploring A minor

Going solo!

Before you play each piece, choose a single bar, study it for half a minute, then play it
from memory. When you are confident, repeat this activity, trying to memorise two bars.

Lively

Happily

Smoothly

Dancing

Andante
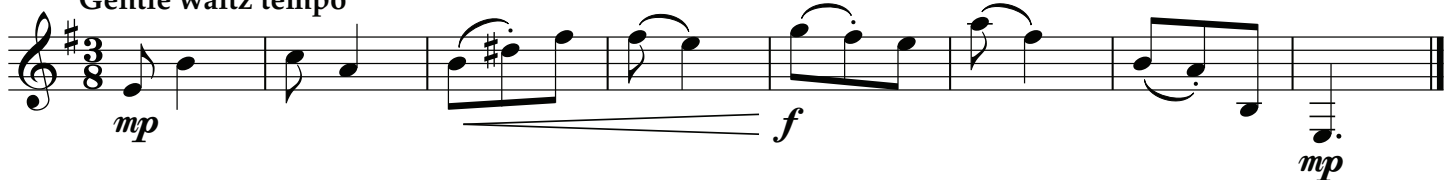

Allegretto

Marching

Prepared pieces

> **1** How will you control the articulation in this piece?
>
> **2** In which key is the piece? Find the notes affected by the key signature.
>
> **3** Play the scale in ♪, feeling a ♪ pulse.
>
> **4** Play the first note, then hear the piece in your head as best you can, with all the musical expression.
>
> **5** Which word best describes the piece: dance, dirge, dolce or driven?

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> **1** In which key is this piece?
>
> **2** How will you play the notes with signs in bars 1, 3, 5 and 6? What are these signs called?
>
> **3** Count two bars of ⁴⁄₄ aloud, then continue counting silently and clap or tap the rhythm of the whole piece.
>
> **4** How will you maintain a good sound when playing loudly?
>
> **5** Hear the piece as best you can in your head. Then play it with absolute confidence.

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Improvise!

Make up your own piece beginning with this phrase:

Compose!

Compose your own tune beginning with these four bars. Use some patterns and ideas from the opening bars. Add your own musical markings too!