

Focusing on simple time

1

Follow the **TRaK**

T What is the time signature?

Notice how the melody begins on the third beat. This is a characteristic feature of the gavotte.

R Can you tap the rhythm, right hand on your right knee, left hand on your left knee?

Count aloud while tapping the rhythm.

K What is the key?

Look for any accidentals in the music and work out whether or not they suggest a change of key.

? Can you study the fingering carefully and find any changes of hand position?

Notice the contraction (closing in) between thumb and 5th finger (RH) in bar 6, first and second beats.

! **Watch out** for the minims in the right hand. These should be held while playing the notes above.

Observe the dynamics and articulation: the *staccato* notes ♪ should be short and light; the *tenuto* notes ♮ should be stressed and held; the accented notes ♩ should be played with a little more attack.

Remember that a gavotte is a dance. Play it through lightly and rhythmically, without stopping. Keep looking ahead.

Tempo di gavotta

T How else could this time signature be written?

This is duple time, so count two **minim** beats per bar, not four crotchet beats.

R Are there any tied notes?

Take particular care over steady counting when you reach the semibreves at bar 11. These must not be rushed.

K This piece starts in D major. In what key does it end?

Make sure that you sustain all tied semibreves for their full value, especially in the final chord.

? Can you work out the fingering?

A change of key is called a modulation.

Practise the left-hand fingering in the first seven bars.

What is the meaning of *rit. e dim.* in bar 13?

Shape the ending carefully, but don't slow up so much that you lose the feel of two beats per bar. The final notes must be very quiet indeed.

Play in an easy and musical manner. Keep looking ahead to the next bar to achieve continuity when you play. Have your right foot ready if you want to use the sustaining pedal in the last two bars.

Moderato

6

11

mf

mp

mf

rit. e dim.

pp

rit.

On your own now ...

The following pieces do not have hints to help. Give yourself half a minute to try out any difficult-looking passages and decide on the character of the music. Then play through each piece without stopping. Remember that the most important thing is to keep to a regular pulse, without hesitating, and to keep going. Don't stop to correct mistakes. For a really good mark in the exam you will be expected to observe the expressive details and to give the music a sense of shape and purpose.

Remember ... follow the **TRaK**, look ahead, keep counting and keep going!

Animato



26



Steadily



27

