

Stage 1

Playing
musically

Whenever you speak you put expression into what you say. Do the same with your sight-reading performances! As you're preparing the piece, as well as thinking about the notes, shape and rhythm, think about how you'll interpret the piece – or play it musically. You will need to think about:

- Does it require crisp or more gentle and sustained playing?
- Do you need to use accents in addition to those that are marked?
- Is it a tune with accompaniment? (Balance of hands will be important if so.)
- Are both hands equally important?
- What would be an effective speed?

Rhythmic exercises

Always count two bars before you begin each exercise – one out loud and one silently.

1

2

Melodic exercises

1

Brightly

Prepared pieces

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale and arpeggio.
- 2 Play the tonic triad of the home key. Can you find that chord in the piece? (There are four appearances!)
- 3 Think about how you will finger the first four bars of the right hand.
- 4 Can you spot any repeated rhythmic patterns?
- 5 There is only one change of hand position necessary – where is it?
- 6 Play the first note in each hand and hear the piece in your head as best you can.

Tempo di valse

1

mf

p

f

3

5

1

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale and arpeggio.
- 2 Where is the melody in this piece? Does it change hands?
- 3 Clap the left hand and think the right hand silently.
- 4 Can you spot any repeated patterns or patterns based on scales?
- 5 What does 'mesto' mean? How will you give character to this piece?
- 6 Play the first note in each hand and hear the piece in your head as best you can.

Mesto

2

p

mf

5

1

5

3

1

Don't get your fingers in a tangle tango!

Espressivo

4



Musical score for 'Don't get your fingers in a tangle tango!' in 4/4 time. The piece is marked 'Espressivo' and 'mf'. The score consists of two systems of two staves each. The first system includes fingerings 1, 3, and 5. The second system includes fingering 3. The music features flowing eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs and ties.

I haven't got those sight-reading blues!

With feeling (swing quavers)

5



Musical score for 'I haven't got those sight-reading blues!' in 4/4 time. The piece is marked 'f' and 'mp'. The score consists of three systems of two staves each. The first system includes fingerings 2 and 5. The second system includes fingerings 1, 3, and 2. The third system includes dynamics 'f', 'p', and 'mf', and the instruction 'rit.'. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes with slurs and ties.