
Introduction

Being a good sight-reader is so important and it needn't be difficult! If you work through this book carefully – always making sure that you really understand each exercise before you play it you'll never have problems learning new pieces or doing well at sight-reading in exams!

Using the workbook

1 Rhythmic exercises

Make sure you have grasped these fully before you go on to the melodic exercises: it is vital that you really know how the rhythms work. There are a number of ways to do the exercises – see *Improve your sight-reading* Grade 1 for more details.

2 Melodic exercises

These exercises use just the notes and rhythms for the Stage, and also give some help with fingering. If you want to sight-read fluently and accurately, get into the habit of working through each exercise in the following ways before you begin to play it:

- Make sure you understand the rhythm and counting. Clap the exercise through.
- Look at the shape of the tune, particularly the highest and lowest notes. Which finger do you need to start on to be able to play it? The exercises have this fingering added to get you started.
- Try to hear the piece through in your head. Always play the first note to help.

3 Prepared pieces

Work your way through the questions first, as these will help you to think about or 'prepare' the piece. Don't begin playing until you are pretty sure you know exactly how the piece goes.

4 Going solo!

It is now up to you to discover the clues in this series of practice pieces. Give yourself about a minute and do your best to understand the piece before you play. Check the rhythms and hand position, and try to hear the piece in your head.

Always remember to feel the pulse and to keep going steadily once you've begun. Good luck and happy sight-reading!



Going solo!

Don't forget to prepare each piece carefully before you play it.

As if your team has just won their match

1

As if you're falling asleep

2

As if there's a surprise around the corner!

3

As if you're not quite sure...

4

As if you're quite sure!

5

Prepared pieces

- 1 In which key is this piece? Play the scale.
- 2 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
Can you spot a scale pattern?
- 3 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of each hand separately.
Now tap the rhythms of both hands together.
- 4 What does the marking $\underline{\underline{\downarrow}}$ (bars 4 and 8) mean?
- 5 What does *cresc.* (bar 5) mean?
- 6 Find out what a rigadoon is.

Like a rigadoon

1

- 1 In which key is this piece? Play the scale.
- 2 What do you notice about the first two bars?
Study them for a few moments then try to play them from memory.
- 3 Can you spot an arpeggio pattern?
- 4 Can you spot any repeated rhythmic patterns?
- 5 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of each hand separately.
Now tap the rhythms of both hands together.
- 6 What ingredients give you clues to the character of this piece?

Boldly

2