# **Grade 1 Stage 1**

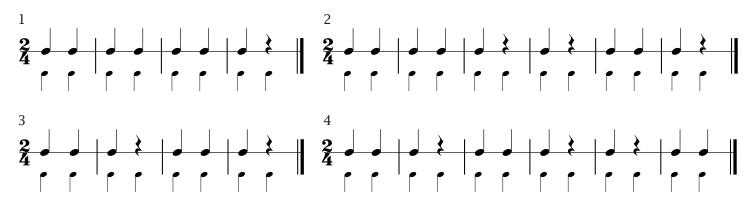
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## **Rhythmic exercises**

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.



# **Grade 2** Stage 3

**Staccato** 

## **Rhythmic exercises**



### **Melodic exercises**





# The golden rules

#### A sight-reading checklist

- Look at the time signature and decide how you will count the piece.
- Look at the key signature and think about how to finger the notes.
- Notice patterns especially those based on scales and arpeggios.
- Notice any markings that will help you convey the character.
- Count at least one bar in.

#### When performing a sight-reading piece

- Keep feeling the pulse.
- Keep going at a steady tempo.
- Remember *to think in key*.
- Ignore slips.
- Look ahead at least to the next note.
- **6** Play musically, always trying to convey the character of the music.

Look at each piece for about half a minute and try to feel that you *understand* what you see (just like reading these words). Don't begin until you think you are going to play the piece accurately.