Grade 1 Level 1 Early elementary **Piano**

Improve your sight-reading!

Paul Harris

Stage 1 $\frac{4}{4}$ 𝅗𝅥 𝄽 **C major**

Stage 2 𝅗𝅥 **Small leaps**

Stage 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ 𝅗𝅥. **G major**

Stage 4 **F major, Mixing left and right hands**

Stage 5 **Tied notes**

Stage 6 **A minor, Phrasing,** $\frac{2}{4}$ **and** ♫

Stage 7 **Staccato, slurs and accents**

Stage 8 **D minor**

Stage 9 **Longer exercises**

FABER MUSIC

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, several of which are outlined in Stage 1. Try them all out. Can you think of more ways to do them?

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 simple 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!

Terminology:
Bar = measure

Stage 1

C major

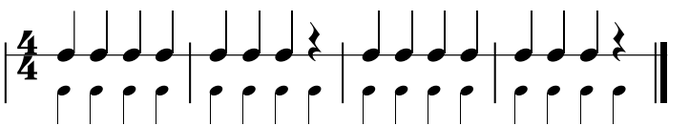
Rhythmic exercises

Always vary the way you do the rhythmic exercises. Here are a few ideas:

- Tap the pulse with your right foot (sometimes use your left foot!) and clap the rhythm.
- Tap the pulse with one hand and the rhythm with the other (swap hands!).
- Tap the pulse with your foot and play the rhythm on a note (either hand).
- Tap the pulse with your foot and make up a tune to fit the rhythm.

Before you begin each exercise count two bars in; the first out loud and the second silently.

1



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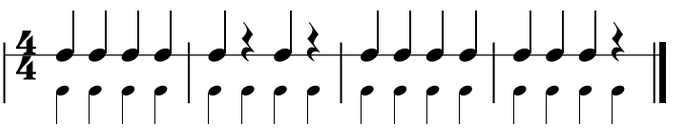

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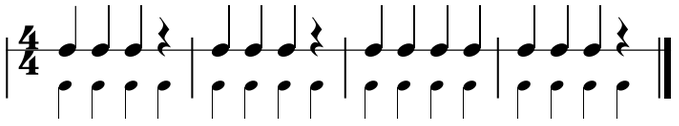
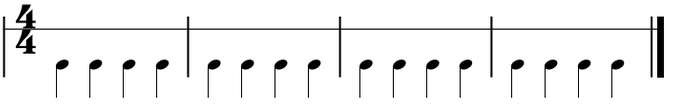


4 Now write your own exercise and then clap it.



Melodic exercises

Before playing this first melodic exercise, write down the rhythm on the line underneath. The first bar is done for you. Then clap it.

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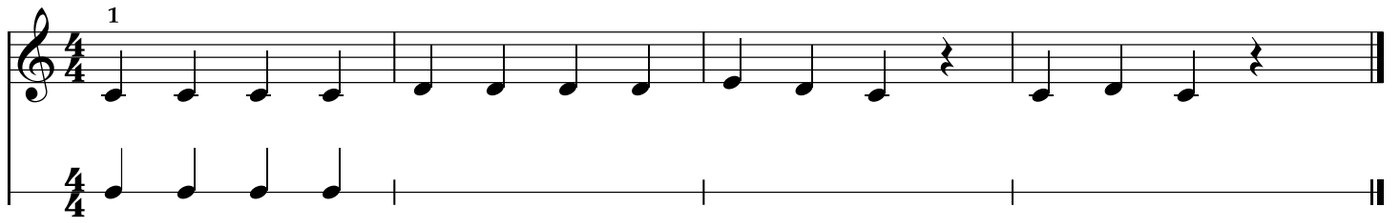

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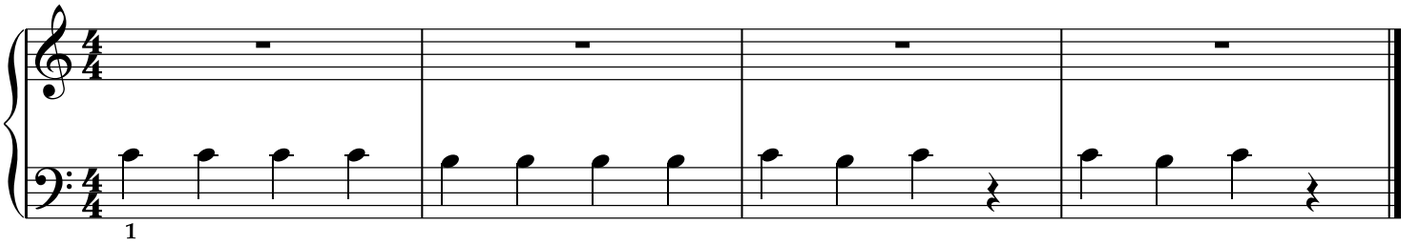

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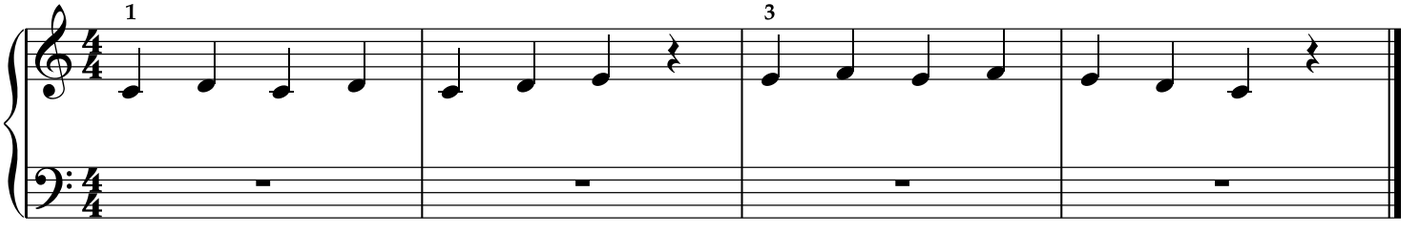
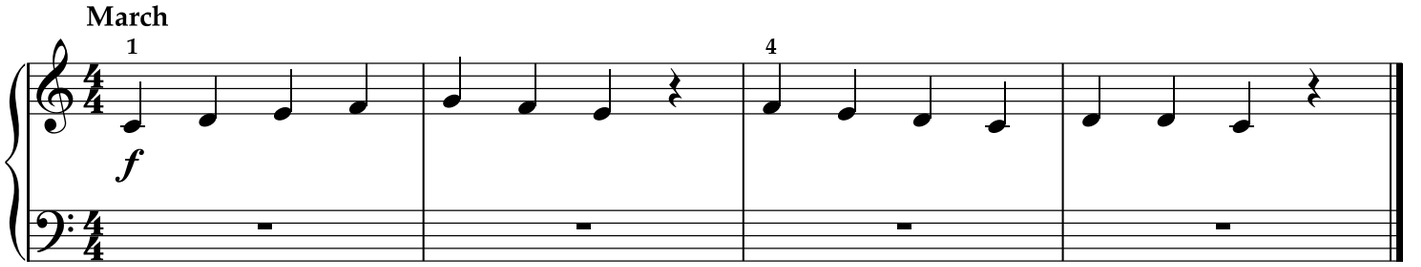


Prepared pieces

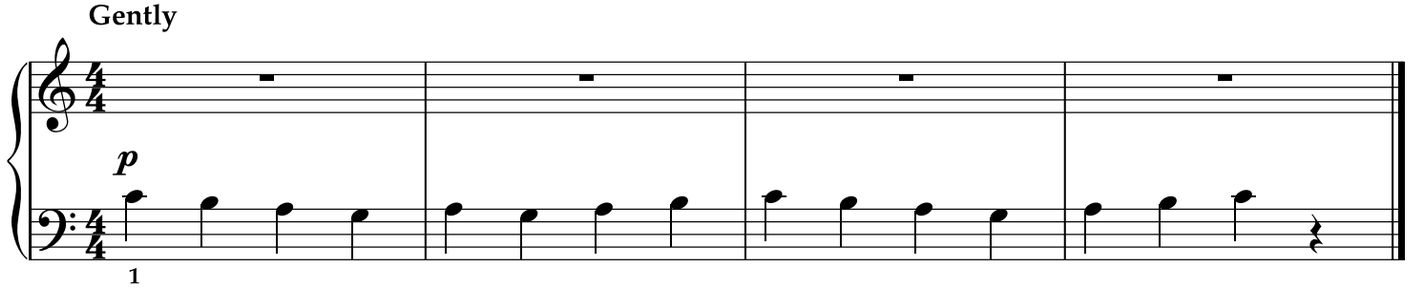
1. How many beats are there in each bar? What will you count?
2. What is the key? Play the scale (or microscale*).
3. Look for the highest and lowest notes and check your fingering.
4. Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
5. How will you put character into this piece?
6. Try to hear the music (melody and rhythm) in your head before you begin.

1 ☐



1. How will you count this piece?
2. Tap the rhythm then hear the rhythm silently in your head.
3. What is the key? Play the scale (or microscale).
4. Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
5. How will you put character into this piece?
6. Try to hear the music in your head.

2 ☐



* See page 40 for details.

Stage 7

Staccato, slurs and accents

Rhythmic exercises

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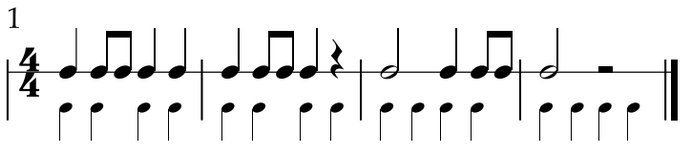

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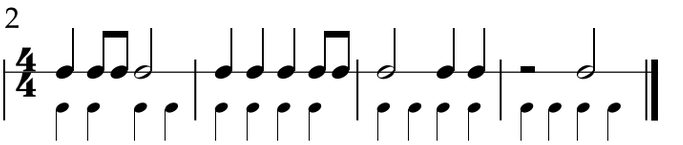

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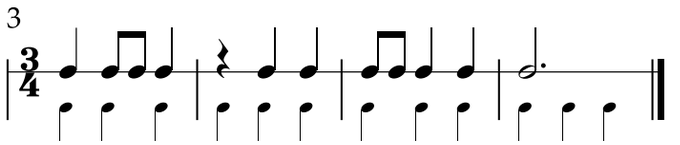

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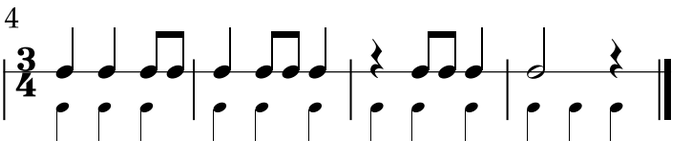

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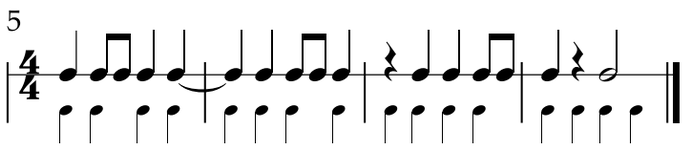
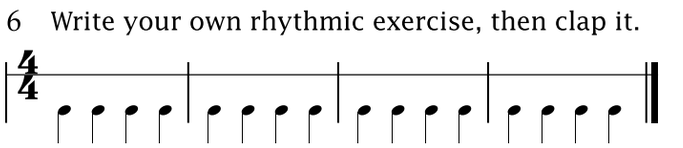


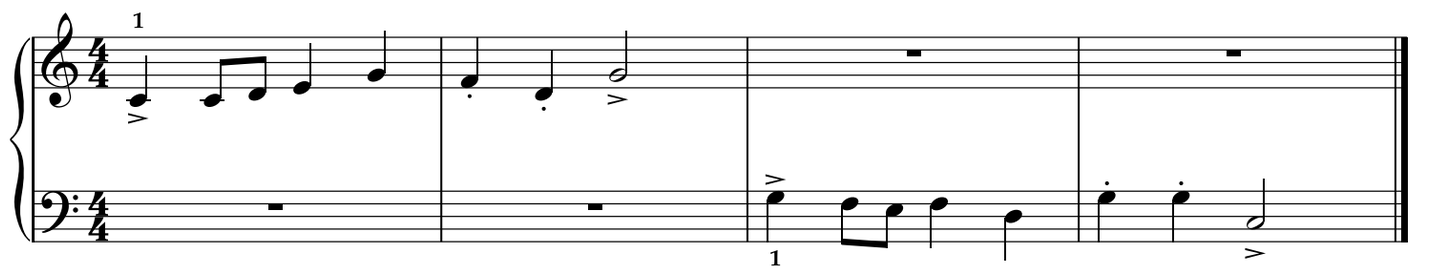
6 Write your own rhythmic exercise, then clap it.



Melodic exercises

You'll find lots of markings on the music now. Staccatos and accents, and in the Prepared pieces and Going solo sections, dynamic markings too. Do your best to bring these to life!

1



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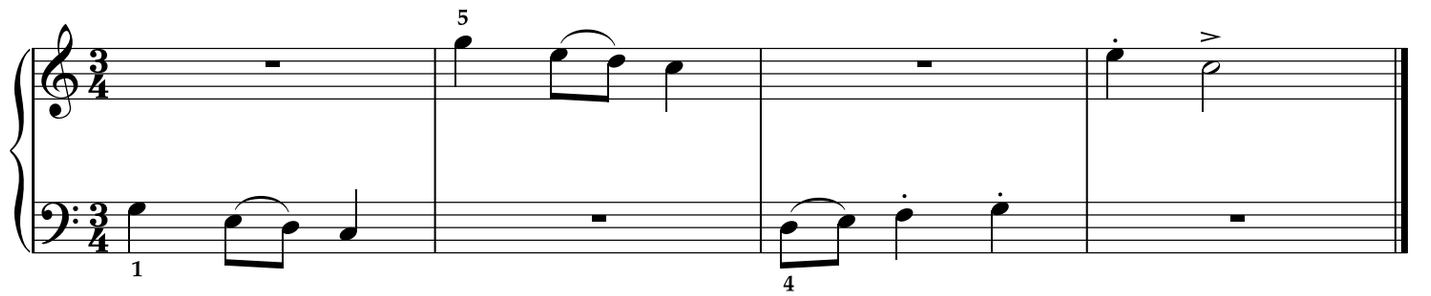

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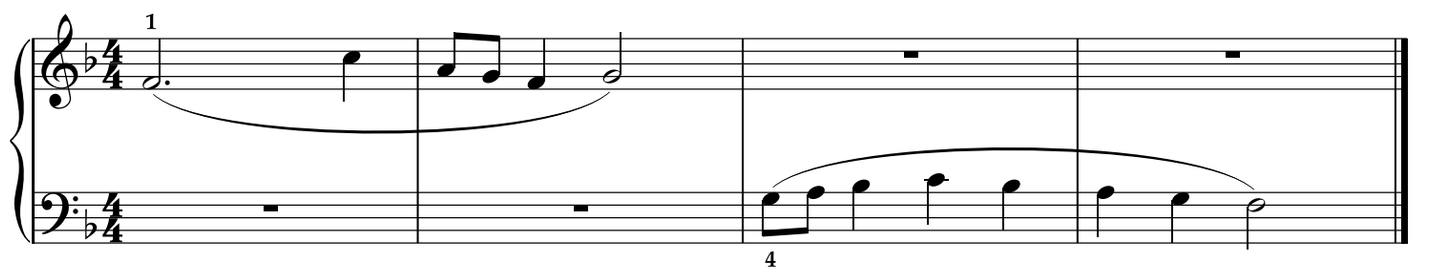
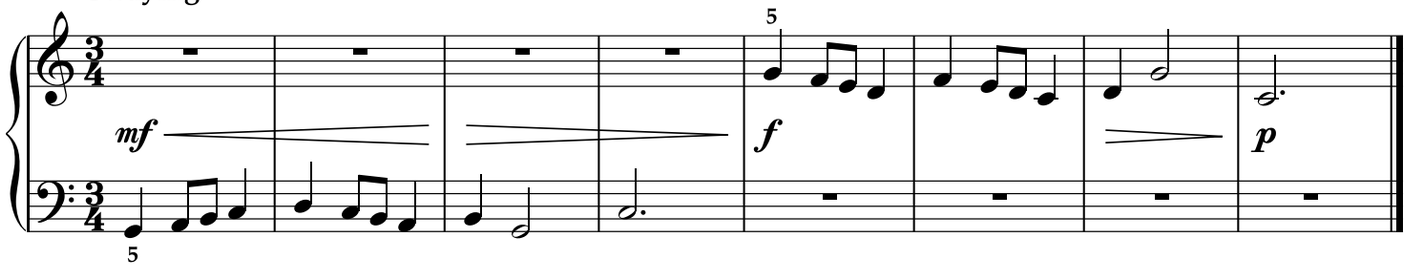


Going solo!

1

Swaying



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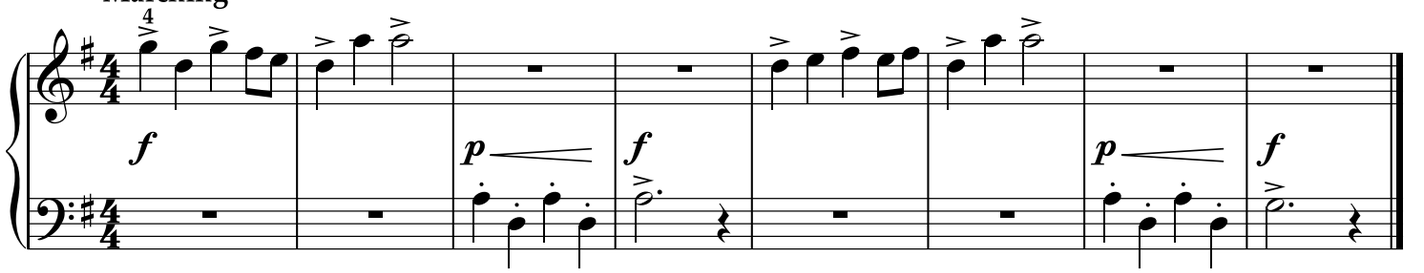
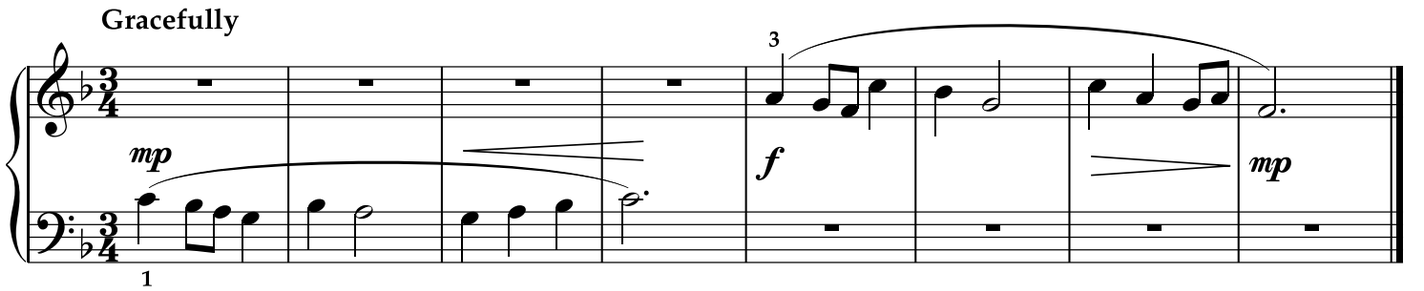
Marching



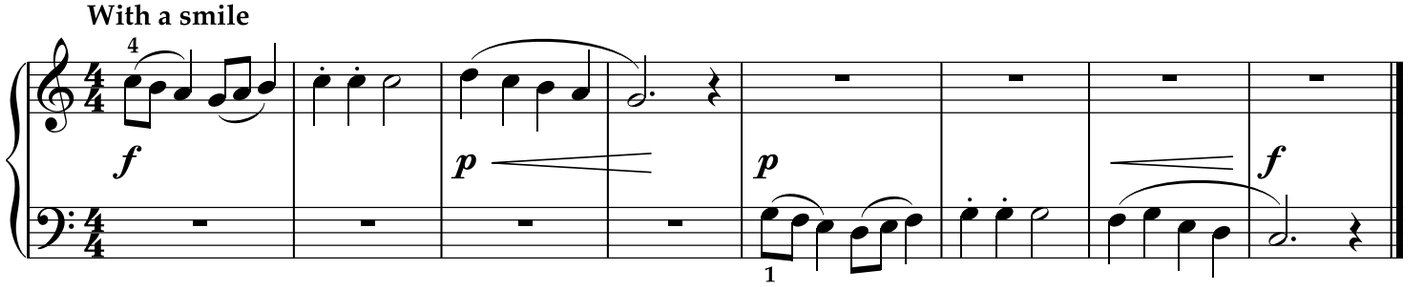
3

Gracefully



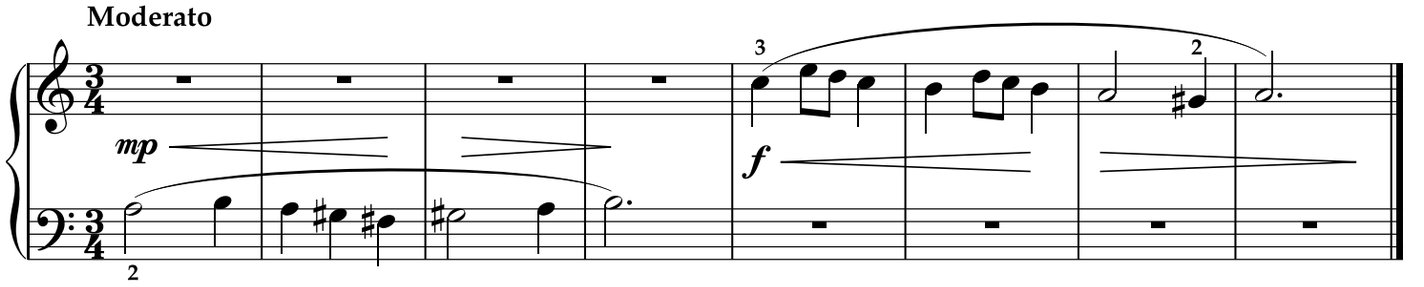
4

With a smile



5

Moderato



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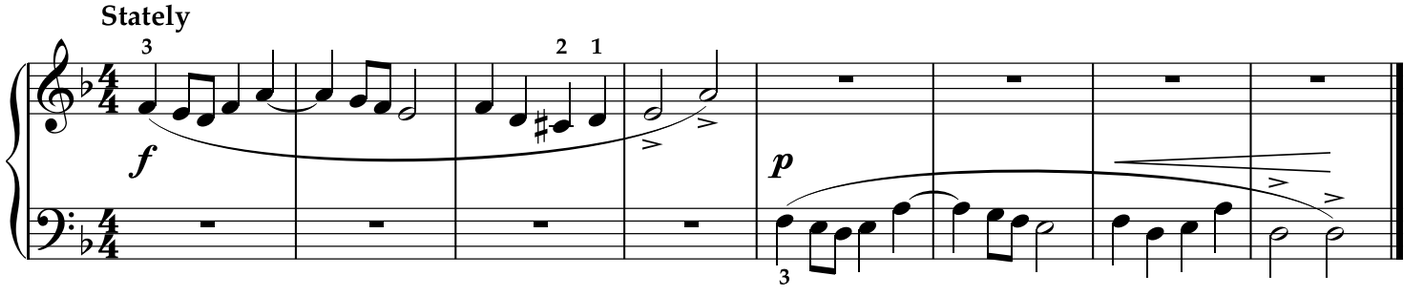
Stately