

Improve your sight-reading!

Paul Harris

Stage 1 **Simple hands together**

Stage 2 **More movement between the hands,
More slurs and staccato**

Stage 3 **D major**

Stage 4  in $\frac{4}{4}$

Stage 5  in $\frac{3}{4}$

Stage 6 **E minor, More articulation**

Stage 7 **G minor**

Stage 8  **Revision of keys**

Stage 9 **Longer examples**

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!



Stage 1

Simple hands
together

Reading right and left hands together is no more difficult than reading one hand at a time! It's like reading the following:

The	on	then	and
cat	the	saw a	had a
sat	mat	rat	chat!

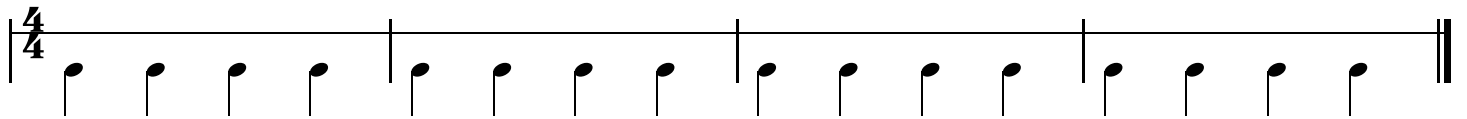
No problem! The most important thing is *preparing very carefully* and *really understanding each piece* before playing it.

So, before you start to play, look carefully at the music and:

- Check that you understand the rhythm and counting.
- Know the key and play the scale and arpeggio.
- Know what notes you are going to play and which fingers you will use.
- Try to have a good idea of what it's going to sound like.

Rhythmic exercise

Write your own rhythm and then clap it:



Melodic exercises

Always count two bars in before you begin – one bar out loud and one bar in your head.

In the next three exercises notice that one hand repeats the same note.

1

2

3

Prepared pieces

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale (or microscale*) and arpeggio.
- 2 Play the first note in each hand and try to hear the piece in your head.
In which hand is the melody?
- 3 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of the melody. Now hear that rhythm in your head and (at the same time) tap the rhythm of the right hand.
- 4 With which interval do both hands start?
- 5 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 6 How will you put character into this piece?

1

Dancing

5

f

p

5

- 1 What is the key of this piece? Play the scale (or microscale*) and arpeggio.
- 2 In which hand is the melody? What pattern do the first three notes form?
- 3 What will you count? Tap the rhythm of the melody. Now hear that rhythm in your head and (at the same time) tap the rhythm of the left hand.
- 4 Play the first note in each hand and try to hear the piece in your head.
- 5 Can you spot any repeated patterns – rhythmic or melodic?
- 6 How will you put character into this piece?

2

Flowing

5

p

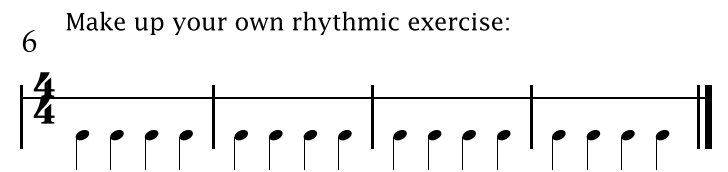
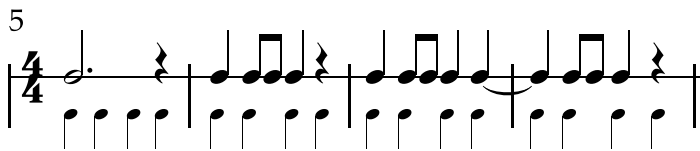
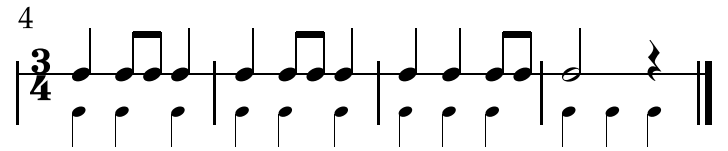
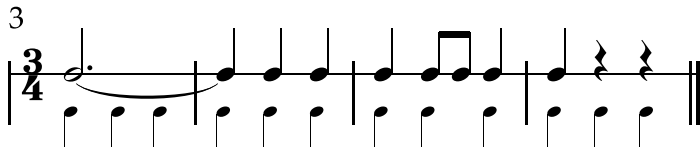
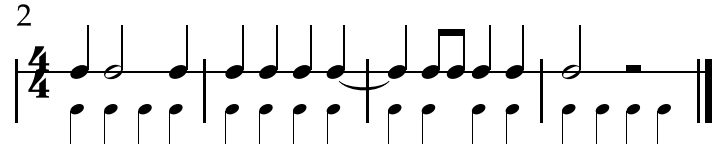
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*See page 40 for details.

Stage 2

More movement
between the hands
More slurs and
staccato

Rhythmic exercises



Melodic exercises

1

2

3