

Improve your sight-reading!

Paul Harris

Stage 1 **$\frac{5}{4}$ and $\frac{5}{8}$, Part playing**

Stage 2 **More ties**

Stage 3 **F minor and C# minor**

Stage 4 **Moving around the piano, Triplets**

Stage 5 **Sub-dividing and more patterns in $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{4}{4}$**

Stage 6 **Revision of keys, Concentration**

Stage 7 **$\frac{9}{8}$, More patterns in $\frac{3}{8}$ and $\frac{5}{8}$**

Stage 8 **Thinking and playing musically**

Introduction

By now you should be able to read music as easily as you are reading this. 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.

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.
- Look at the shape of the tune, particularly the highest and lowest notes and think about how you will finger the piece.
- 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 until you are pretty sure you know exactly what you are going to play and how you're going to play it.

4 Going solo!

It is now up to you to discover the clues in this series of practice pieces. Give yourself about thirty seconds and do your best to understand the piece before you play. Check the rhythms and fingering, 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

$\frac{5}{4}$ and $\frac{5}{8}$
Part playing

Rhythmic exercises

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

1

2

3

Melodic exercises

Penta-minuet

Allegretto

1
☐

Dozing in the long grass

Andante

2
☐

Texting

Allegro leggiero

3
☐

Stage 8

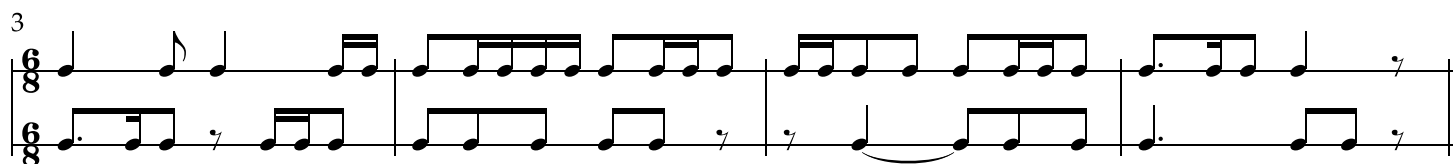
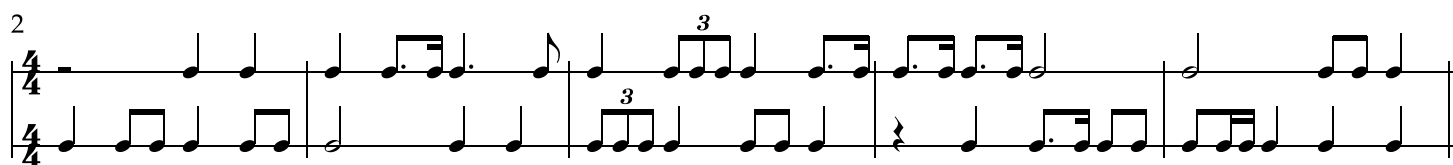
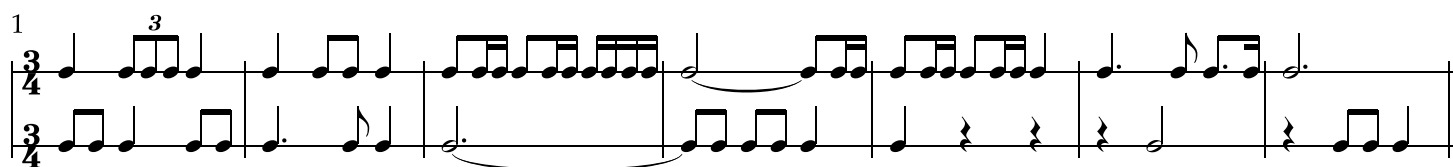
Thinking
and playing
musically

Rhythmic exercises

If you've been preparing all the sight-reading exercises and pieces carefully you should be reading accurately, fluently and confidently. You should also remember to sight-read *musically*. Here are some reminders to bear in mind as you prepare to give a musical performance:

- Choose a suitable tempo.
- Keep the pulse even and steady.
- Give energy to the rhythm.
- Shape the phrases: small *crescendos* when the music ascends and *diminuendos* when it descends is a good start.
- Follow dynamics and other markings.
- Use the pedal carefully – not too much so as to blur the detail.
- Think *in the key*.
- Think about giving musical character to your performance.

And before you begin, make sure you really understand what the piece is saying.



Melodic exercises

Festive fanfare

Maestoso

1

