

Grade 6 Stage 1

E major
A \flat major
9
8

Rhythmic exercises

Always practise the rhythmic exercises carefully before going on to the melodic exercises.
Before you begin each exercise count two bars in – one out loud and one silently.

1

2

3

Melodic exercises

Set 1: Exploring E major and $\frac{9}{8}$

Play the scale and arpeggio and improvise in the key. This will help you *think in the key*, which means having E major and its finger patterns strongly in your mind as you play.

1

2

Set 2: Exploring $\frac{7}{4}$ and $\frac{7}{8}$

Feel each beat strongly as you play.

4

5

6

Improvise!

The best sports men and women are able to 'read' the game they play. They can anticipate and think ahead of the moment. The same is necessary in improvising and sight-reading.

Use these bars to begin your next improvisation. It can be as short or long as you like.

Compose!

Compose your own 4-bar tune beginning with this bar. Use your own manuscript paper if you'd like to write a longer melody. Develop the opening ideas in your composition.

Prepared pieces

The questions apply to both pieces.

- 1 In which key is this piece? Play the scale and arpeggio.
- 2 Think carefully about the style. How will you convey this in your performance?
- 3 Are there any bars, fingerings or moments in the piece that you are not absolutely sure of? If so, discuss these in detail with your teacher.
- 4 Choose a pulse and then imagine playing the piece through.
- 5 As you are about to start playing the piece, feel assured that you know what is coming, and then play confidently.

Flowing

A long ride in a slow machine

1

Musical score for 'A long ride in a slow machine' in 7/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a *mf* dynamic and a *rit.* marking. The second staff has a *mp* dynamic and an *a tempo* marking. The third staff starts with a *f* dynamic and ends with a *mp* dynamic. The fourth staff begins with a *mf* dynamic and ends with a *f* dynamic. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Allegretto grazioso

Circles

2

Musical score for 'Circles' in 12/8 time, key of D major. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a *f* dynamic and ends with a *p* dynamic. The second staff starts with a *p* dynamic and ends with a *f* dynamic. The third staff begins with a *mp* dynamic. The fourth staff starts with a *f* dynamic, includes a *rit.* marking, a *Slower* marking, another *rit.* marking, and ends with a *ff* dynamic and an *a tempo* marking. The piece concludes with a double bar line.