

Grade 1 Stage 1



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.

1 2

3 4

Melodic exercises

Hear each exercise in your head before you play it.

1

2

3

4

5

6

Prepared pieces

- 1 Look through this piece – do you feel you really understand it?
- 2 Are you certain of all the rhythms?
- 3 Play the appropriate scale first at *p*, then at *f*. Then play it with a *crescendo* on the way up and a *diminuendo* on the way down.
- 4 Play the first note, then hear the piece in your head as best you can, with all the markings.
- 5 How will you give the piece character?

Gracefully

1

- 1 What is the character of this piece? What are the clues?
- 2 Set a pulse in your mind, then sub-divide the pulse into quavers and then semiquavers. How will this help you play the first bar?
- 3 Count two bars of $\frac{3}{4}$ aloud, then continue counting silently and clap or tap the rhythm of the whole piece.
- 4 Give the piece a running commentary, mentioning rhythms, melodic patterns and markings.
- 5 Play a C, then study bars 5 and 6 for a few moments. Hear them in your head, then try to play them from memory.

Playfully

2

Improvise and compose!

Make up your own piece beginning with this bar, then write it down on manuscript paper. Decide on a mood or character before you begin.

Going solo!

Look at each piece carefully before you play it. If there are any passages you don't understand, discuss these with your teacher. Don't play until you feel confident.

1

Expressively

mf *f*

p *f*

2

Cantabile

f *mp*

mf *f*

3

Andante

f *p*

mf *p*

4

Energico

f *mp* *f*

mp *f*

5

Risoluto

mp *f*

p *mf*