

Better by Sight

(Four Steps to Mastering Sight Reading)

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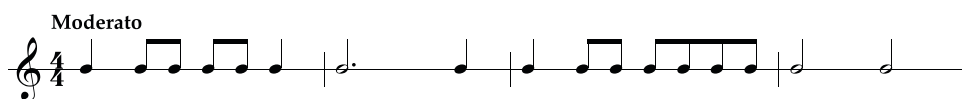


Music that Inspires™

How to Use

The beauty of **Better by Sight's** system is its simple step-wise structure. Each base unit is set up in a similar format: four steps which progressively add musical concepts until by step four, the entire etude is presented. This creates an internal priority for the musician, who begins to view each etude in this way before and during sight reading. Additionally, a "mastery" step is included at the conclusion of each basic unit for an entirely fresh sight reading experience.

Step
1



Step 1: Rhythm & Time The first concept presented for each exercise is rhythm and time. Focus on counting, clapping, or playing the rhythm on a single pitch.

Step
2



Step 2: Key & Pitch adds the exercise's pitch and key to the exercise. Think of this as building on to the foundation that was set for the exercise during the rhythmic step.

Step
3



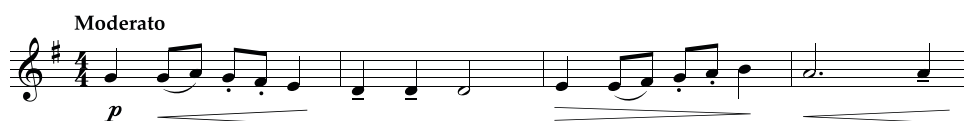
Step 3: Dynamics begins layering in more expressive concepts on to the foundation set by the first two steps. Focus on the dynamic contrast and variations of dynamic indicators.

Step
4



Step 4: Style The final step is two-fold. Initially, this is where we add the musical "details" to the exercise, including slurs, tempo alteration, articulations, and other stylistic markings/texts. Beyond that, this reinforces the priority map with the first "complete" presentation of an etude.

MASTERY



Mastery: The **Mastery Etude**, in all its forms should be considered a full and complete sight reading etude. This exercise can be used to apply whatever specific pedagogy you employ prior to sight reading, while also focusing on concepts that were reinforced in the previous unit.

Extended Mastery Etudes: At the conclusion of each unit (Units 1 –7) as well as the final unit of the book (Unit 8.1 – 8.3) - Much larger **Mastery Etudes** are presented for authentic sight reading practice.

MASTERY

1

MASTERY

2

MASTERY

3

MASTERY

4



Moderato

Handwritten musical notation for the first system, measures 1-8. The key signature is D major (two sharps) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody consists of quarter notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Fingerings are indicated as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



Moderato

Handwritten musical notation for the second system, measures 1-8. The key signature is D major (two sharps) and the time signature is 4/4. The bass line consists of quarter notes: D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, F#2, E2, D2. Fingerings are indicated as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



Moderato

Handwritten musical notation for the third system, measures 1-8. The key signature is D major (two sharps) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody and bass line are as in the previous systems. Dynamics markings include *p* (piano) at measure 1 and *f* (forte) at measure 5.



Moderato

Handwritten musical notation for the fourth system, measures 1-8. The key signature is D major (two sharps) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody and bass line are as in the previous systems. Dynamics markings include *p* (piano) at measure 1 and *f* (forte) at measure 5. The word 'Pizz.' (pizzicato) is written above the bass line at measure 5.



Moderato

Handwritten musical notation for the fifth system, measures 1-8. The key signature is D major (two sharps) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody and bass line are as in the previous systems. Dynamics markings include *f* (forte) at measure 1, *mp* (mezzo-piano) at measure 3, and *p* (piano) at measure 5. The word 'Pizz.' (pizzicato) is written above the bass line at measure 5.

Moderato



RHYTHM & TIME

4/4

1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8

Moderato



KEY & PITCH

4/4

1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8

Moderato



DYNAMICS

4/4

1 *f* 2 3 *p*

5 *f* 6 7 8

Moderato



STYLE

4/4

1 *f* 2 3 *p* 4

5 *f* 6 7 8

Pizz.

Moderato



MASTERY

4/4

1 *f* 2 3 *p* 4

5 *f* 6 7 8

Pizz.

MASTERY

1

Moderato

Musical score for Mastery Etude 1, bass clef, 4/4 time, key of D major. The score consists of three staves. The first staff contains measures 1-5, with dynamics *f* and *p*. The second staff contains measures 6-10, with dynamics *f* and *p*, and markings for *Arco* and *Pizz.*. The third staff contains measures 11-16, with dynamics *p* and *f*, and a *Pizz.* marking. A box containing the number 9 is placed above measure 9.

MASTERY

2

Moderato

Musical score for Mastery Etude 2, bass clef, 4/4 time, key of D major. The score consists of three staves. The first staff contains measures 1-5, with dynamics *p* and *f*. The second staff contains measures 6-10, with dynamics *f* and *p*, and markings for *Arco* and *Pizz.*. The third staff contains measures 11-16, with dynamics *p* and *f*, and a *Pizz.* marking. A box containing the number 9 is placed above measure 9.

MASTERY

3

Moderato

Musical score for Mastery Etude 3, bass clef, 4/4 time, key of D major. The score consists of three staves. The first staff contains measures 1-5, with dynamics *p* and *f*. The second staff contains measures 6-11, with dynamics *f* and *p*, and markings for *Arco* and *Pizz.*. The third staff contains measures 12-16, with dynamics *p* and *f*, and a *Pizz.* marking. A box containing the number 9 is placed above measure 9.

MASTERY

4

Moderato

Musical score for Mastery Etude 4, bass clef, 4/4 time, key of D major. The score consists of three staves. The first staff contains measures 1-5, with dynamics *f* and *p*. The second staff contains measures 6-11, with dynamics *f* and *p*, and markings for *Arco* and *Pizz.*. The third staff contains measures 12-16, with dynamics *p* and *f*, and a *Pizz.* marking. A box containing the number 9 is placed above measure 9.