

SIGHT READING INTRODUCTION - GRADE 1

Sight-reading reading and performing a written piece of music without preparation. It helps you to look ahead and anticipate what is coming next. In time, this will help you to read charts more efficiently. The best way to improve your sight-reading skills is to practice it over and over!

In order to sight-read at a grade 1 level, we need to understand **quarter notes**, **quarter note rests** and **eighth notes**. Sometimes when reading a piece of music played on one drum only, it is written on a percussion staff, which only has one line. The following examples can be played on a snare drum or practice pad.

QUARTER NOTES AND QUARTER NOTE RESTS

Ex. 1

Two staves of music on a single-line staff. The first staff contains quarter notes numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, followed by a quarter note, a quarter rest, a quarter note, and another quarter rest. The second staff contains quarter notes numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, followed by a quarter rest, a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a quarter note. The staves are terminated with double bar lines.

EIGHTH NOTES

Ex. 2

Two staves of music on a single-line staff. The first staff contains eighth notes numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, followed by an eighth note, an eighth rest, an eighth note, and another eighth rest. The second staff contains eighth notes numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, followed by an eighth rest, an eighth note, an eighth rest, and an eighth note. The staves are terminated with double bar lines.

EVERYTHING TOGETHER

Ex. 3

Four staves of music on a single-line staff. The first staff has a quarter note, a quarter note, an eighth note pair, a quarter note, a quarter note, an eighth note pair, and a quarter rest. The second staff has an eighth note pair, a quarter note, an eighth note pair, a quarter note, an eighth note pair, an eighth note pair, a quarter rest, and a quarter note. The third staff has a quarter note, a quarter rest, an eighth note pair, a quarter note, a quarter rest, an eighth note pair, a quarter note, and an eighth note pair. The fourth staff has a quarter note, a quarter rest, a quarter rest, an eighth note pair, a quarter note, an eighth note pair, an eighth note pair, and a quarter rest. The staves are terminated with double bar lines.