

# The A-B-C Approach to Accurate & Artistic Sight Reading

Apply the **A-B-C** approach to the exercises in this book and you will gradually learn to process all of the skills simultaneously!



**A** Perform Line A to the best of your ability.  
Look ahead  while reading.

**B** Get **IN**side the music by following these steps:



## 1 Map

Look at the big picture: Notice time and key signatures, tempos, repeats, etc.

## 2 Pitch

Find and finger the accidentals and notes in the key signature, then listen for accuracy, pitch, blend, and balance as you play and hold each note.

## 3 Rhythm

Count the rhythm as you tap your foot, then tap and play. Shadow pulse ties and observe other markings.

## 4 Pitch & Rhythm

Perform accurate pitch with accurate rhythm.

## 5 Articulation


Add the articulation layer as you perform correct pitches and rhythms.

## 6 Dynamics


Add the dynamics layer—static, fluid, or both.

## 7 Style/Musicianship

Put the above skills on autopilot as you focus on creating an expressive and artistic performance.



**C** Perform the Line A music again, synthesizing all skills learned in the layered steps. You are now on your way to becoming a proficient sight reading artist!



# 1. Tap Into the Counting Zone

A. Perform this line. Look ahead  while reading.

**Andante**

*f cantabile* *p*

B. Study line 1, then play lines 2-7. ✓ each completed line.

**1 Map**

Observe time and key signatures, tempos, repeats, etc.

4 counts per measure  
4/4 time, no sharps or flats. **Andante** (♩ = 76-88)  
quarter note = 1 count

✓

**2 Pitch**

Hold each note while matching pitch, blend, and balance.

*simile*

**3a Rhythm**

Tap foot and count. Then tap foot and play. Observe breath mark (☹).

wait as long as possible, then breathe very quickly ☹

**3b Rhythm**

*fermata* (∞):

Hold fermata note longer than its written value. Watch conductor for release.

**4 Pitch & Rhythm**

Combine lines 2 + 3, pitch and rhythm.

**5 Articulation**

*slur*:

Connect slurred notes while maintaining steady air stream.

**6 Dynamics**

*static*:

Maintain consistent volume until next change.

*f* *p*

**7 Style/Musicianship**

*cantabile*:

Perform in a singing style.

*f cantabile* *p*  
as you would sing a melody

C. Perform line A again. Demonstrate synthesis of all layered steps.

✓ after each item performed correctly.

Map  Pitch  Rhythm  Articulation  Dynamics  Style/Musicianship

# 16. Western Duo (Part A)

Duet to be performed with #17

A. Perform this line. Look ahead  while reading.

**Moderato**

B. Study line 1, then play lines 2-7. ✓ each completed line.

**1 Map**

Observe time and key signatures, tempos, repeats, etc.

**Moderato** (♩ = 96-104)

**2 Pitch**

Hold each note while matching pitch, blend, and balance.

*simile*

**3 Rhythm**

Tap foot and count. Then tap foot and play. Shadow pulse tied note. Observe fermata.

*shadow pulse*

**4 Pitch & Rhythm**

Combine lines 2 + 3, pitch and rhythm.

**5a Articulation**

*slur:*  
Connect slurred notes.

**5b Articulation**

*staccato:*  
Lift off of slurred staccato notes.

**6 Dynamics**

*static:*  
First time play *f*;  
Second time play *p*.

**7 Style/Musicianship**

*lament:*  
Perform in a sad manner.  
rit. (ritardando) = gradually slower.

*lament*  
*unhappy, yet hopeful*

C. Perform line A again. Demonstrate synthesis of all layered steps.

✓ after each item performed correctly.

Map  Pitch  Rhythm  Articulation  Dynamics  Style/Musicianship

# 17. Western Duo (Part B)

Duet to be performed with #16

A. Perform this line. Look ahead  while reading.

**Moderato**

B. Study line 1, then play lines 2-7. ✓ each completed line.

**1 Map**  
Observe time and key signatures, tempos, repeats, etc.

**Moderato** (♩ = 96–104)

**2 Pitch**  
Hold each note while matching pitch, blend, and balance.

*simile*

**3 Rhythm**  
Tap foot and count. Then tap foot and play. Observe fermata.

**4 Pitch & Rhythm**  
Combine lines 2 + 3, pitch and rhythm.

**5a Articulation slur:**  
Connect slurred notes.

**5b Articulation staccato:**  
Lift off of slurred staccato note.

**6 Dynamics static:**  
First time play *f*; Second time play *p*.

**7 Style/Musicianship lament:**  
Perform in a sad manner. rit. (ritardando) = gradually slower; "to the fore" = slightly louder.

C. Perform line A again. Demonstrate synthesis of all layered steps.

✓ after each item performed correctly.

Map  Pitch  Rhythm  Articulation  Dynamics  Style/Musicianship

# 38. Times, They are a-Changin'

A. Perform this line. Look ahead  while reading.

**Andante**

B. Study line 1, then play lines 2-7. ✓ each completed line.

**1 Map**

Observe time and key signatures, tempos, repeats, etc.

**2 Pitch**

Hold each note while matching pitch, blend, and balance. Accidental in m. 5 carries through entire measure.

**3 Rhythm**

Tap foot and count. Then tap foot and play. Observe time signature changes. Observe breath marks (♯).

**4 Pitch & Rhythm**

Combine lines 2 + 3, pitch and rhythm.

**5 Articulation**

*slur:*  
Connect slurred notes.

**6 Dynamics**

*static:*  
Maintain consistent volume until next change.

**7 Style/Musicianship**

*cantabile:*  
Perform in a singing style.

C. Perform line A again. Demonstrate synthesis of all layered steps.

✓ after each item performed correctly.

Map  Pitch  Rhythm  Articulation  Dynamics  Style/Musicianship

# Duet: Skill Review of Exercises 35-42

If you are working independently, you may wish to record Part A and then play Part B along with the recording.

**Part A** Andante ♩ = 76

*mf* *giocoso*

*p*

*mf* *f*

✓ each item performed correctly.

Map  Pitch  Rhythm  Articulation  Dynamics  Style/Musicianship

**Part B** Andante ♩ = 76

*mf* *giocoso*

*p*

*mf* *f*

✓ each item performed correctly.

Map  Pitch  Rhythm  Articulation  Dynamics  Style/Musicianship