

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 INside the music by following these steps:

1 Map

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

2 Pitch/Sticking

Establish sticking and stroke. Find the accidentals and notes in the key signature for mallet instruments. Listen for accuracy, resonance, blend, and balance as you play each note.

3 Rhythm

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

4 Pitch & Rhythm

Perform accurate pitch with accurate rhythm and prepare for flams and rolls.

5 Articulation

Add the articulation layer as you perform correct pitches and rhythms. Continue flam and roll development.

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!

3. Telegraph

A. Perform this line. Look ahead  while reading.

Allegretto

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

1 Map

Observe time signatures, tempos, repeats, etc.

4 counts per measure

4/4 time. **Allegretto** (♩ = 100-108)
quarter note = 1 count

2 Pitch/Sticking

Create resonant tone while matching balance and blend. Observe stickings.

R L R R L R simile R R L R R R L R

squeeze stick between thumb and forefinger to play one extended buzz with RH

3 Rhythm

Tap foot and count. Then tap foot and play.

R L R R L R R R L R R R L R

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

4 Pitch & Rhythm

roll prep 1: Subdivide whole note in m. 4 into eighth note primary strokes and tap/air-stick as shown. Create resonant tone.

R L R R L R R R L R Tap Air Air Air Air Air Air

tap on count 1; air-stick the rest of the measure

5a Articulation

roll prep 2: Play primary (roll) strokes in m. 4.

R L R R L R R R L R L R L R L R L R R R L R

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

5b Articulation

roll: Buzz primary (roll) strokes in m. 4.

R L R R L R R R L R L R L R L R L R R R L R

6 Dynamics

static: Maintain consistent volume until next change. Observe roll notation.

R L R R L R R R L R L R L R L R L R R R L R

p f maintain subdivision p

7 Style/Musicianship

elegante: Perform in an elegant and graceful manner. Use rapid sticking to musically smooth out roll in m. 4.

lift, lift, lean R L R R L R R R L R R R L R R R L R

p elegante f feel timing of eighth note subdivisions while sticking rapidly p

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

✓ each item performed correctly.

Map Pitch/Sticking Rhythm Articulation Dynamics Style/Musicianship

13. Give Me Some Space

A. Perform this line. Look ahead  while reading.

Andantino

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

- 1 Map**
Observe time signatures, tempos, repeats, etc.
- 2 Pitch/Sticking**
Create resonant tone while matching balance and blend. Observe stickings.
- 3 Rhythm**
Tap foot and count. Then tap foot and play. Hold fermata (∞) note longer than written value. Watch conductor for release.
- 4 Pitch & Rhythm flam prep:**
Play downstroke where indicated to position stick for grace note. Create resonant tone.
- 5a/b Articulation flam:**
Start grace note stick close to drumhead. Start primary stroke stick higher.
- 6 Dynamics static & fluid:**
Static = maintain consistent volume until next change. Fluid = make incremental volume changes over time.
- 7 Style/Musicianship espressivo:**
Perform expressively.

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


✓ each item performed correctly.

Map Pitch/Sticking Rhythm Articulation Dynamics Style/Musicianship

23. Time Travel

A. Perform this line. Look ahead  while reading.

Andante Moderato



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

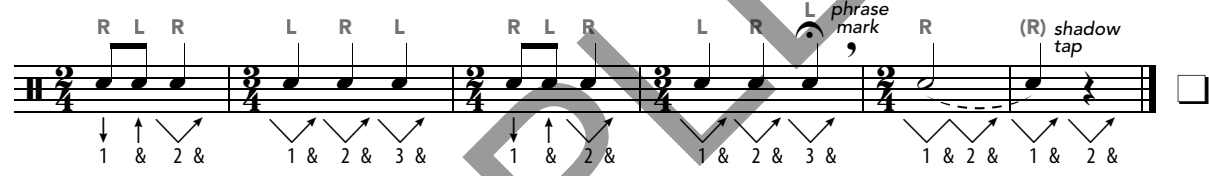
1 Map
Observe time signatures, tempos, repeats, etc. Notice change from 2/4 to 3/4.



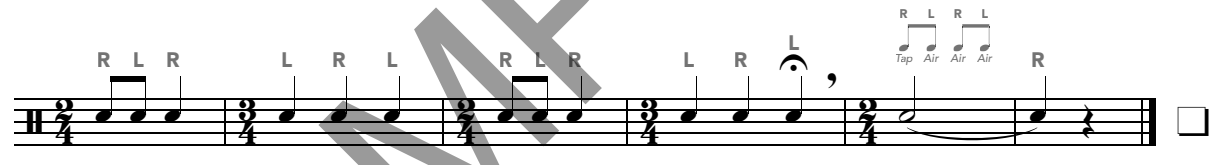
2 Pitch/Sticking
Create resonant tone while matching balance and blend. Observe stickings.



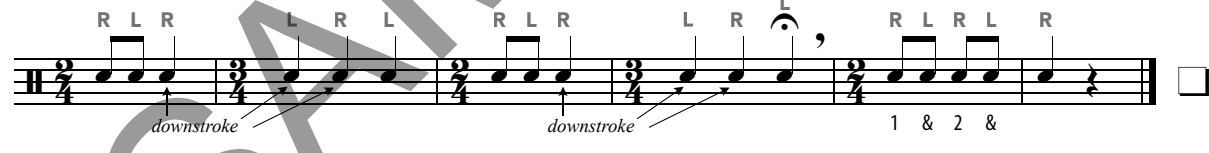
3 Rhythm
Observe fermata. Watch conductor for release. Pause at phrase mark (♩).



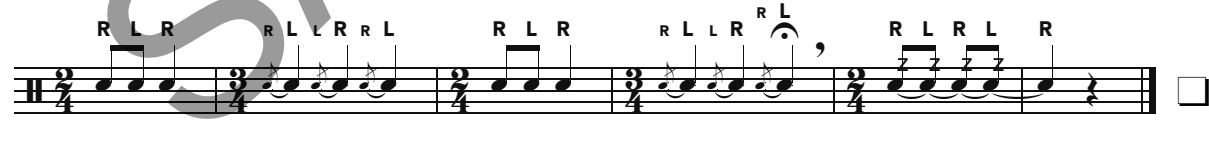
4 Pitch & Rhythm roll prep 1:
Subdivide half note in m. 5 into eighth note primary strokes and tap/air-stick as shown. Create resonant tone.



5a Articulation flam prep, roll prep 2:
Play primary (roll) strokes in m. 5. Observe downstrokes.



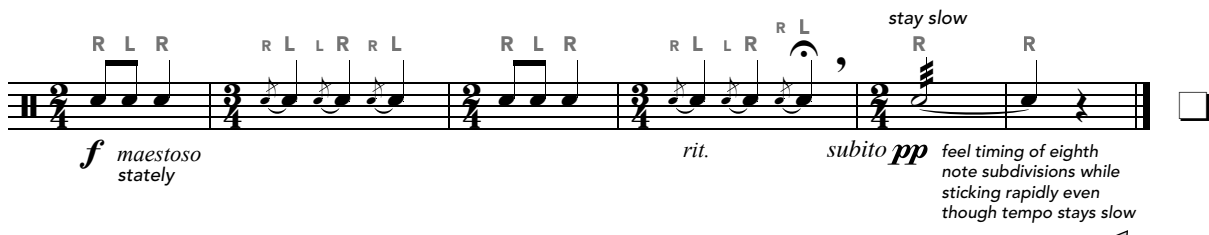
5b Articulation flam, roll:
Buzz primary (roll) strokes in m. 5. Observe flams.



6 Dynamics static & fluid:
Maintain consistent volume until next change. subito pp = suddenly pp. Observe roll notation.



7 Style/Musicianship maestoso:
Perform in a majestic manner. rit. (ritardando) = gradually slower. Use rapid sticking to musically smooth out roll in m. 5.




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

✓ each item performed correctly.

Map Pitch/Sticking Rhythm Articulation Dynamics Style/Musicianship

37. Western Hop

A. Perform this line. Look ahead  while reading.

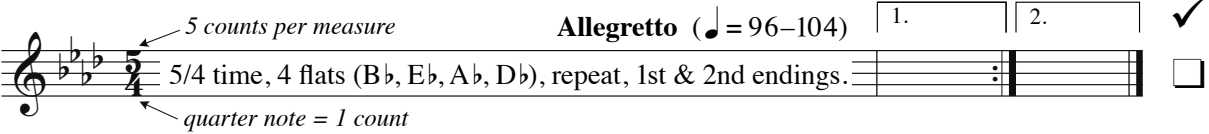
Allegretto



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

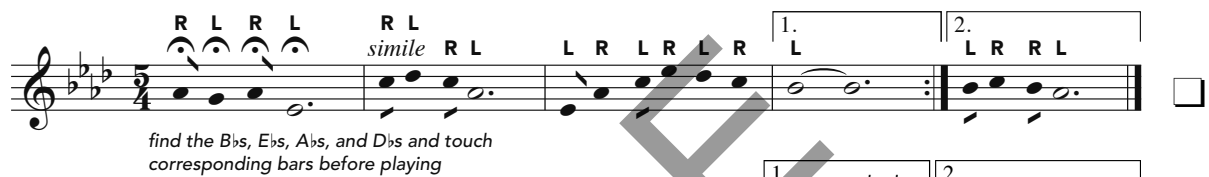
1 Map
Observe time and key signatures, tempos, repeats, etc.

5 counts per measure **Allegretto** (♩ = 96-104) 1. 2. ✓



2 Pitch/Sticking
Create resonant tone while matching balance and blend. Observe stickings.

simile RL LRLRLR 1. 2.



find the B♭s, E♭s, A♭s, and D♭s and touch corresponding bars before playing

3 Rhythm
Observe up-down (Λ) foot taps on syncopated (off-beat) quarter notes. Shadow tap the tied note.

RLRL RLRL LRLRLR L shadow tap (L) 1. 2.



1 & 2 & 3&4&5& 1 & 2 & 3&4&5& 1 & 2 & 3& 4& 5& 1&2& 3&4&5& 1 & 2 & 3&4&5&

4 Pitch & Rhythm roll prep 1:
Combine lines 2 + 3, pitch and rhythm. Subdivide dotted half note in m. 2 and half note in m. 4 into 8th note primary strokes and tap/air-stick as shown.

RLRL RLRLRLRLR LRLRLR Tap Air Air Air 1. 2.



5a Articulation roll prep 2:
Play primary (roll) strokes in m. 2 & 4.

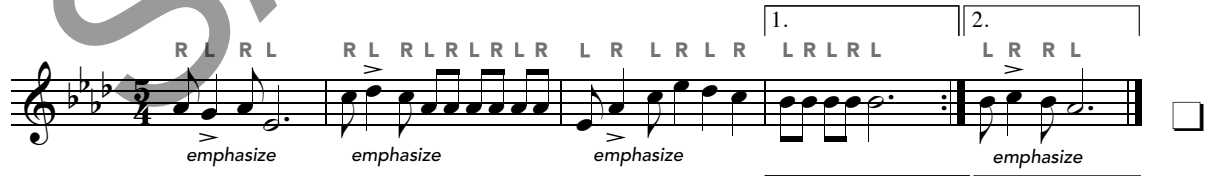
RLRL RLRLRLRLRLR LRLRLR LRLRL 1. 2.



3 & 4 & 5 &

5b Articulation accent:
Emphasize syncopated notes.

RLRL RLRLRLRLRLR LRLRLR LRLRL 1. 2.



emphasize emphasize emphasize emphasize

6 Dynamics static & fluid:
Static = maintain consistent volume until next change. Fluid = make incremental volume changes over time. Observe roll notations.

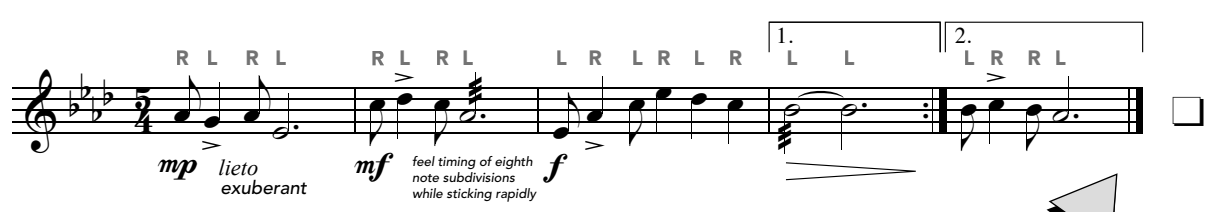
RLRL RLRLRLRLRLR LRLRLR LRLRL 1. 2.



mp mf f f-f-mf

7 Style/Musicianship lieto:
Perform in a joyful manner. Use rapid single strokes to musically smooth out roll in m. 2 & 4.

RLRL RLRL LRLRLR 1. 2.



mp lieto exuberant mf feel timing of eighth note subdivisions while sticking rapidly f

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

✓ after each item performed correctly.

Map Pitch/Sticking 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/Sticking Rhythm Articulation Dynamics Style/Musicianship

Part B *Andante* ♩ = 76

mf giocoso

p

mf *f*

✓ each item performed correctly.

Map Pitch/Sticking Rhythm Articulation Dynamics Style/Musicianship