


Top Tips for Sight-reading practice

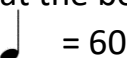
Sight-reading in music is when you sing or play a piece of music you have never seen before. This can be a challenge for some of us, but it doesn't need to be! Here are a few general tips to help you develop your sight-reading skills.


Regular weekly Practice

Try and look through a section of new music on a regular basis and put it into your usual practice regime. This will get you more familiar with different styles and genres of music and will also help you get used to what to look out for when you are sight-reading.

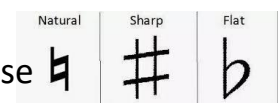
Top things to look out for when sight-reading a piece:


1. **Rhythm** - Take a few seconds to look through the piece. What time signature is it (4/4 like this example  or 3/4 or 6/8) and can you tap out the rhythm of the notes? Are there any rests in the piece you need to remember to count?


2. **Tempo** - Keeping a steady pulse is important to keep the flow of the piece. Once you have worked out the rhythms and rests, check to see if there is a Tempo set for the piece at the beginning either in a word like this: **Andante** (at a walking pace) or like this:  = 60

3. **Key signature** – Does the piece have any sharps or flats at the beginning of the piece like this?  If so, you need to remember to play them in the piece.

It might have other sharps or flats though it -accidentals like these



4. **Repeats** – Are there any repeat marks in the piece?  Repeat Sign

5. **Dynamics**- Are there any dynamic markings? These could be **p** or **f** or they might show a gradual change in dynamics 

6. **Articulation and expressions** – Look out for **legato** or **staccato** and other signs that tell you how the notes should be played.

Have fun and enjoy playing as many different pieces as you can!