

# New cello sight-reading tests for 2012 – a preview

(see pp. 14–15 of Libretto 2011:2)

## Grade 1

**Lively**



A four-bar piece in  $\frac{4}{4}$  or  $\frac{3}{4}$ , or a six-bar piece in  $\frac{2}{4}$ , in G or D majors, in 1st position (no use of C string). All notes separately bowed. Simple dynamics (*f*, *mf*, *p*), note values ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{8}$ ,  $\frac{1}{16}$ ) and rests ( $\zeta$ ).

## Grade 2

**Flowing**



An eight-bar piece, time and key signatures as Grade 1, with the addition of C major and A natural minor. Further use of 1st position. Notes separately bowed or with simple two-note slurs. Addition of *mp*, 'hairpins' (*cresc./dim.*), dotted minim, and minim rest.

## Grade 3

**Andante**



An eight-bar piece, time and key signatures as Grade 2, with the addition of A, F, B $\flat$  majors and D, G minors. Further use of 1st position. Occasional accidentals (within minor keys only). Dotted rhythms, semiquavers and ties may be encountered. *Pizzicato* (at end of piece only) and *staccato* may be included. Increasing use of dynamics, rests and slurs.

Grade 4

**Grandioso**

A piece of around eight bars in length, time and key signatures as Grade 3, with the addition of  $\frac{6}{8}$ , E $\flat$  major and C minor. Shifts between 1st and 4th positions may be encountered. Occasional chromatic notes. Anacrusis, hooked bowing, accents and pause signs may be included.

Grade 5

**Con brio**

A piece of around eight to sixteen bars in length, time and key signatures as Grade 4, with the addition of E minor. Highest note A (*a'*): shifts as required to cover this range. Simple chords may be included (at end of piece only). Changes between *arco* and *pizzicato*, simple syncopation and a slowing of tempo at the end may be encountered.

Grade 6

When I Went to Sea

**Nobilmente**

A piece of around twelve to sixteen bars in length, time and key signatures as Grade 5, with the addition of  $\frac{9}{8}$ ,  $\frac{5}{4}$  and  $\frac{3}{8}$ . Highest note A (*a'*): shifts as required to cover this range. Further use of chords. A slowing of tempo within the piece followed by an *a tempo* may be encountered, as may triplet rhythms.

Grade 7

Bolero

**Molto lento**

A piece of around sixteen to twenty bars in length, time and key signatures as Grade 6, with the addition of  $\frac{7}{8}$  and  $\frac{7}{4}$ , E, A $\flat$  majors and B, F minors. Highest note B $\flat$  (*bb'*): shifts as required to cover this range. Some passages in tenor clef may be included.

Grade 8

## Early Morning Blues

**Moderato**

The musical score for 'Early Morning Blues' is written in 12/8 time and F# minor. It begins with a **Moderato** tempo. The first staff is in bass clef, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second staff continues in bass clef, featuring a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a forte (*f*) dynamic. The third staff contains a treble clef section with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a forte (*f*) dynamic, followed by a bass clef section with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a forte (*f*) dynamic. The fourth staff is in treble clef, marked *mf* and *cresc. poco a poco*. The fifth staff is in bass clef, marked *ff* and *pizz.* (pizzicato).

A piece of around sixteen to twenty-four bars in length, time and key signatures as Grade 7, with the addition of  $\frac{12}{8}$  and F# minor. Highest note D ( $d''$ ): shifts as required to cover this range. Passages in tenor clef or treble clef may be included. Acceleration of tempo, simple ornaments and left-hand *pizzicato* may be encountered.