

# New double bass sight-reading tests for 2012 – a preview

(see pp. 14–15 of Libretto 2011:2)

## Grade 1

First position

### March



Half position

### Allegro



1st or half position, at candidate's choice. 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 (no use of E and A strings) or F or B $\flat$  majors (no use of G string). All notes separately bowed. Simple dynamics (*f*, *mf*, *p*), note values (♩, ♪, ♫, ♮) and rests (♩, ♪).

## Grade 2

### Expressively



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

### Grade 3

**Moderato**

An eight-bar piece, time and key signatures as Grade 2, with the addition of F, B $\flat$  majors and B minor, in half or 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

**Espressivo**

A piece of around eight bars in length, time and key signatures as Grade 3, with the addition of  $\frac{6}{8}$ , A major, E and D minors. Shifts between half, 1st and 3rd positions may be encountered (but no more than two positions per test). Occasional chromatic notes. Anacrusis, hooked bowing, accents and pause signs may be included.

### Grade 5

**Amabile**

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

Grade 6

The Joker

**Ritmico**

The musical score for 'The Joker' is written in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 5/8 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *mp*. The second staff ends with a fermata and a 'II' marking. The third staff begins with a dynamic marking of *mf* and includes fingering numbers 4, 4, 1, and 1. The fourth staff ends with a dynamic marking of *mp*.

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  $\frac{3}{8}$ , E $\flat$  major and C minor. Highest note G (g'): shifts as required to cover this range. Simple chords may be included (at end of piece only). A slowing of tempo within the piece followed by an *a tempo* may be encountered, as may triplet rhythms.

Grade 7

Sicilienne

**Moderato**

The musical score for 'Sicilienne' is written in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 6/8 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *mp* and includes fingering numbers 2, 1, and 4. The second staff includes dynamic markings of *mf*, *mp*, and *f*. The third staff begins with a dynamic marking of *p* and includes dynamic markings of *mf* and *f*, along with fingering numbers 4, 2, and 2. The fourth staff includes dynamic markings of *mp*, *p*, and *pp*, and is marked *pizz.* (pizzicato).

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 major and F# minor. Highest note A (a'): shifts as required to cover this range. Further use of chords. Some passages in tenor clef may be included.

Grade 8

Café Argentina

**Tango**

The musical score is written in bass clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic and includes accents. The second staff features a treble clef section with first and second endings, ending with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a *p espress.* marking. The third staff uses pizzicato (*pizz.*) and arco markings. The fourth staff includes a forte (*f*) dynamic and a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The fifth staff concludes with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic and accents.

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