

ABRSM Grade 1

Aural Tests

- A.** Join in tapping the beat of a piece of music and say whether it is in 2 or 3 time. You can tell this by stressing the strong beat. Make sure that you don't try and clap the rhythm instead of the beat.
- B.** Sing, as an echo, three 2-bar phrases. The examiner will count the test in. Try and keep the beat going - the examiner is looking for the right rhythms as well as pitch shapes.
- C.** Listen out for a change in the pitch of a 2-bar phrase played twice - the change being made on the second playing. You need to say whether the change was near the beginning or near the end.
- D.** Answer some questions about a short piece of music played on the piano. You might be asked about: Dynamics (forte - loud; piano - soft), Gradation of tone (crescendo - getting louder; diminuendo - getting quieter), Articulation (staccato - detached; legato - smooth). Try and use the Italian terms if you can remember them.

Practise singing as much as you can - TV themes; songs you hear on the radio; CDs or anything else. Also, when you listen to any music try tapping the beat to yourself and feel the strong beat. Remember that ALL music has a beat