

Associated Board Grade 3

Aural Tests

- A. Join in tapping the beat of a piece of music and say whether it is in 2 (either 2/4 time or 6/8), 3 (either 3/4 or 9/8) or 4 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 difference in the rhythm or melody in a 2-bar phrase played twice - the change being made on the second playing. Try to sing, clap or explain the difference.
- 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), **Tempo changes** (rallentando - getting slower; accelerando - getting faster), **Tonality** - whether it is in a **Major or Minor key**. 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.