

# Preface

**All-In-One to Grade 5** is a concise, yet fully comprehensive, step-by-step explanation of music theory from beginner to Grade 5 for both Associated Board (ABRSM) and Trinity College London students. ABRSM students will need no further material however *Trinity students require the short (26 page) 'Trinity Supplement' booklet to use alongside this book.*

Most theory books can be wordy and daunting for the beginner (especially if they are young) and often information is presented in an unrelated way through a graded system, which, in essence, relies on dry repetition and rote learning of facts. **All-In-One is a \*radically different method\* which maintains an essential, overall progressive approach whilst never failing to expose the simple rules and patterns which underlie music theory.** These patterns, once understood, are understood *once and for all* by the pupil, applying as much in the later grades as the former. Students who do wish to take the individual grades can easily refer to the graded checklists (either ABRSM or Trinity College London) which can also be used as an alternative and equally simple course of study (see pages viii- xi). All material was written with the conviction that pupils gain satisfaction and enjoyment from their work if they understand *why* rules or conventions exist and, from the start, students are equipped with the bare bones of information needed to work things out for themselves independently of the teacher.

The four chapters of the book - Chapter 1: Notation, Chapter 2: Time etc... - are intended to be worked at the same time (see "How to use this material" on the next page). Within each chapter is a collection of individual, self-contained worksheets which were written originally to help my own students and free up valuable lesson time for the instrumental work it supports. The given order for working through the sections is only a suggestion (though logical) and teachers can introduce topics when best suits the need of the individual pupil; for instance, in relation to pieces a pupil is learning. Language is kept minimal and alternates with worksheets and helpful illustrations; most of which are designed to reinforce information learnt rather than being merely decorative. Therefore it is a book which appeals to a wide age range, from child to adult.

The most recent edition (THIRD EDITION) features further simplification throughout the book, making it even more accessible to the young beginner and more suitable for students taking the individual grades en route to grade 5 without, most crucially, losing All-In-One's integrated approach.

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