

# **LCM Exams**

## **Specimen Jazz Aural Tests: Grade 3**

### **Rhythm and Improvisation Exercise No. 3:**

Syncopation is achieved by emphasising the off-beat instead of the strong beat; for example by putting rests on the strong beats, or by holding notes over the strong beat through the use of a tie or a dot.

A jazz waltz is an excellent example of syncopation.

A traditional waltz rhythm is quite straightforward:

In a jazz waltz, beats 2 and 3 are often syncopated in a  =   swing style.

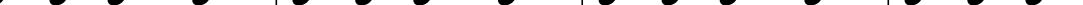
e.g.

A 3|: |

The musical score consists of ten measures. The first measure starts with a dotted half note followed by a quarter note. The second measure starts with a quarter note. The third measure starts with a dotted half note followed by a quarter note. The fourth measure starts with a quarter note. The fifth measure starts with a dotted half note followed by a quarter note. The sixth measure starts with a quarter note. The seventh measure starts with a dotted half note followed by a quarter note. The eighth measure starts with a quarter note. The ninth measure starts with a dotted half note followed by a quarter note. The tenth measure starts with a quarter note.

A musical staff starting with a bass clef, followed by a 'B' key signature, a '3/4' time signature, and a colon at the end. The staff contains ten measures of music, each with a different note head (solid black, hollow black, or white) and stem direction.

These sound as follows:

A 3||: 

B 3||: ♩     $\underbrace{\text{♩} \text{♩}}_3$     |     $\underbrace{\text{♩} \text{♩}}_3$     |     $\underbrace{\text{♩} \text{♩}}_3$     |     $\underbrace{\text{♩} \text{♩}}_3$     ||

A slightly more complicated rhythm is used a lot by jazz players.

1 + 2 + 3

3||:  $\begin{array}{c} \text{1} \\ \text{3} \end{array} \mid \text{1} \text{ } \text{1}$  |  $\begin{array}{c} \text{1} \\ \text{3} \end{array} \mid \text{1} \text{ } \text{1}$  |  $\begin{array}{c} \text{1} \\ \text{3} \end{array} \mid \text{1} \text{ } \text{1}$  |  $\begin{array}{c} \text{1} \\ \text{3} \end{array} \mid \text{1} \text{ } \text{1}$  ||

It sounds like this:

1 2 3

3||:  $\begin{array}{c} \text{1} \\ \text{3} \end{array} \mid \text{1} \text{ } \text{1}$  |  $\begin{array}{c} \text{1} \\ \text{3} \end{array} \mid \text{1} \text{ } \text{1}$  |  $\begin{array}{c} \text{1} \\ \text{3} \end{array} \mid \text{1} \text{ } \text{1}$  |  $\begin{array}{c} \text{1} \\ \text{3} \end{array} \mid \text{1} \text{ } \text{1}$  ||

and may be thought of as:

— — — —

3  $\begin{array}{c} \text{1} \\ \text{3} \end{array} \mid \text{1} \text{ } \text{1}$  |

Doo - waah - Do - wap

It can also be visualised as:

3  $\begin{array}{c} \text{1} \\ \text{3} \end{array} \mid \text{1} \text{ } \text{1}$  | with  $\begin{array}{c} \text{1} \\ \text{3} \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \text{1} \\ \text{3} \end{array}$

Many famous standard and popular waltzes have been given jazz interpretations,

e.g.

The Beatles *Norwegian Wood*

*The Gravy Waltz*

'My Favourite Things' from *The Sound of Music*

Try to listen to a recording of a jazz waltz. They are often played at a very fast tempo with what is called 'one in a bar' feel. In other words, there is not time to count 1 2 3 beats per bar; only the first beat is pronounced.

## Rhythm

Refer to *Rhythm and Improvisation Exercise No.3: Syncopation* in the Handbook [reproduced above].

The examiner will play, on one note, either Example A, Example B or the example indicated as 'a slightly more complicated rhythm'. If required, the examiner will play it twice. Candidates will be asked to:

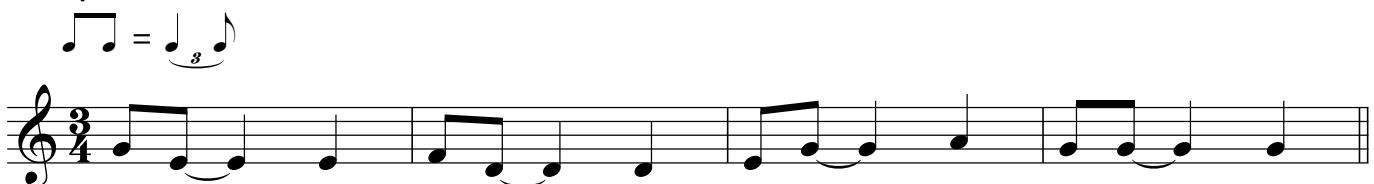
- 1(a) identify which example was played. Candidates may refer to the Handbook. [2 marks]
- 1(b) clap one of the other two patterns, as selected by the examiner. Candidates may refer to the Handbook. [2 marks]

Using the same example, candidates will be asked to:

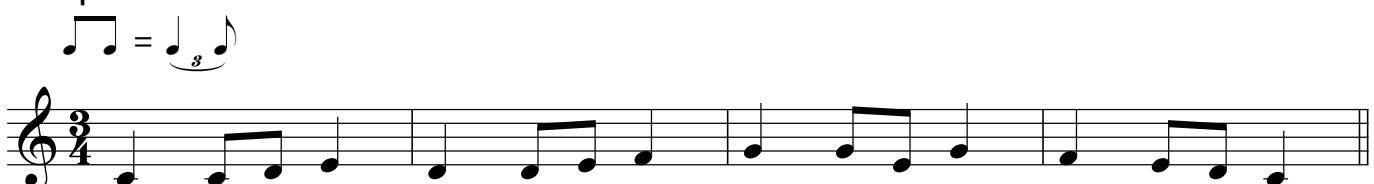
- 1(c) sing, hum, whistle or play an improvised melody based on the rhythmic pattern of the example. Candidates may refer to the Handbook. [2 marks]

Following are some ideas. Try to be creative.

### Example A



### Example B



The phrase need not be repeated, as indicated in the Handbook.

## Pitch

An interval will be played twice, once with the pitches sounded successively, and once with the pitches sounded together. The intervals will be restricted to the following: Major 2nd, Major 3rd, Perfect 4th, Perfect 5th. Candidates will be asked to:

- 2 identify the interval, by numerical value only (2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th). [1 mark]

The test will be repeated, using a different interval. [1 mark]

