

Playing By Ear

Status Check Sheet



As you read through the self assessment chapters of "Start Playing By Ear" you will have gained a good appreciation of the various aspects of playing by ear.

It's well worth taking the time now to actually go through this self-assessment process before you start learning to play by ear.

Print out a copy of this Status Check Sheet and take 10 minutes to really think through your status on each aspect of playing by ear:

- Can you already do it?

How well?

- Do you want to do it?

How much?

Putting in this little bit of effort now will pay off in a number of ways:

- Discover what your current abilities are - you may be able to do more than you think!
- Get clarity on what you truly want to learn - and what you can safely ignore for now.
- Plan how you will incorporate playing by ear practice into your music learning.
- Refer back to it periodically to check your progress.

This last point is an important one! As you improve in music, it's easy to lose sight of how far you've come. You'll start to take abilities for granted which once seemed out of reach, and it can be satisfying and encouraging to remind yourself where you started from and what you've accomplished.

By completing this status check now, you'll make it easy to check back, adjust course if necessary - and feel a sense of accomplishment in your playing by ear progress!

Melody

	Current Ability			Interest Level			Notes
	X	✓	★	👎	👍	❤️	
<p>1.Simple Isolated Tune</p> <p><i>Can you play back an easy one-note-at-a-time melody, without any surrounding music?</i></p>							
<p>2.Advanced or Atonal Tunes</p> <p><i>Can you play back an intricate melody with fast notes, or one which wanders beyond the normal major/minor scales?</i></p>							
<p>3.Tunes in a Musical Context</p> <p><i>Can you play back a melody you hear in a musical context i.e. with harmonies, other instruments, etc.</i></p>							
<p>4.Background Parts in a Musical Context</p> <p><i>Can you play back the accompaniment parts in music? e.g. vocal harmonies, instrumental fills, background elements, etc.</i></p>							
<p>Other Melody Skills</p> <p><i>Are there other aspects of musical melody you'd like to play by ear?</i></p>							

Harmony

	Current Ability			Interest Level			Notes
	X	✓	★	👎	👍	❤️	
<p>1.Simple Isolated Chords</p> <p><i>Can you recognise and play back basic chord types like major and minor triads? Augmented and diminished?</i></p>							
<p>2.Simple Chord Progressions</p> <p><i>Can you play back a chord progression which uses common chords? e.g. a I-IV-V progression in a pop or rock song</i></p>							
<p>3.Chords in a Musical Context</p> <p><i>Can you play back the chord progression of a song when you hear the full version of the song?</i></p>							
<p>4.Advanced Harmonies</p> <p><i>Can you play the chords of a complex arrangement like orchestral music? Can you play more advanced harmonies like those in jazz music by ear?</i></p>							
<p>Other Harmony Skills</p> <p><i>Are there other uses of harmony you'd like to play by ear?</i></p>							

Rhythm

	Current Ability			Interest Level			Notes
	X	✓	★	👎	👍	❤️	
<p>1. Clap back rhythms</p> <p><i>Can you repeat back a clapped (or tapped) rhythm you hear? What about the rhythm of a melody?</i></p>							
<p>2. Imitate the rhythm of a melody or chord progression</p> <p><i>Can you mimic the rhythm used by a lead or rhythm instrument in music you hear?</i></p>							
<p>3. Improvise rhythms to match a style</p> <p><i>Can you give your music the feel of a particular style (genre) by improvising appropriate rhythms?</i></p>							
<p>Other Rhythm Skills</p> <p><i>Are there other aspects of rhythm you'd like to play by ear?</i></p>							

So, what did you discover about your current play-by-ear skills?

Discuss your findings and training plan with other students: <http://eartra.in/bbpbestatus>