

Technical exercises for Grade 3 pianoforte

Fingering and practice schedule

Introduction

This schedule is designed to assist students at about the grade 3 level to prepare their technical exercises for examination and also for general practice. I have included notation, fingering and other handy hints. I have also included a practice diary to assist in bringing technical exercises up to exam standard.

How to use this guide

I give all my students a small notebook in which I record the work covered in each lesson and their practice tasks for the week. I also ask them to complete certain homework tasks in this book such as vocabulary and ornamentation research.

Students should practice in the way that suits them best... it's a very individual process. However most students will find it useful to print out the timetable and technical tips to keep by the piano and to paste or tape their practice diary into their notebook. Some students may like to keep a technical practice scrapbook with the static pages in the front and the diary pages filling out the pages of the scrapbook.

Another thing that may help some students is creating their own practice timetable or colour-coding their work. The timetable I have produced is simply an example of how practice *could* be scheduled. There is no hard and fast rule on how to assign scales and arpeggios, as long as each technical exercise is practised every week.

Supplementary materials

Students who really enjoy the improvements that come to their playing from concentrating on technical work and want to practice independently may consider purchasing *Piano Technical Work* (2008) All Music Publishing.

Also consider at this stage starting to work from *The Virtuoso Pianist* by Hanon. Just walk into any sheet music store (such as Better Music in Canberra) and ask for *Hanon*. They will probably express sympathy that your piano teacher is making you do such work – but nobody questions the effectiveness of this type of practice!

Practice timetable

You have to practice every day – even the day on which you have your piano lesson! If you wish you can take a cue from body-builders and work very hard one day and just revise your favourite repertoire the next – but don't be too easy on yourself if you haven't worked hard for it! Remember: practice is for your benefit, not your teacher's!

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|---------------------------------------|--------|------------|-----------|----------|------------|-----------|--------|
| <i>Scales</i> | | | | | | | |
| Similar motion legato, 2 8ve | | | | | | | |
| Major | A | B | E | F | E | Bb | F, A |
| Harmonic Minor | D | G | D | G | D | G | F# |
| Melodic Minor | D | G | G | D | D | G | |
| Chromatic on | A | E | F | A | E | F | |
| Similar motion staccato, 2 8ve | F | D harmonic | D melodic | F | D harmonic | D melodic | |
| Contrary motion, 2 8ve | | | | | | | |
| Major | A | Bb | E | F | A | Bb | F |
| Harmonic Minor | D | G | D | G | D | G | D, G |
| <i>Arpeggios and broken chords</i> | | | | | | | |
| Broken Chords, 1 8ve | F | D minor | F | D minor | F | D minor | |
| Arpeggios, 2 8ve | | | | | | | |
| Major | A | E | F | A | E | F | E,F |
| Minor | A | E | F | A | E | F | E,F |
| <i>Optional</i> | | | | | | | |
| Hanon | 1,2 | 3,4,5 | 1,2 | 6,7,8 | 3,4 | 1,2 | 6,7,8 |

Practice Diary

Aim to practice smoothly and evenly. If you reach a plateau, slow down the metronome and practice in rhythms for a week.

| | Goal | | Week 1 | | Week 2 | | Week 3 | |
|--|------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|
| | MM= | Notes per beat | MM= | Notes per beat | MM= | Notes per beat | MM= | Notes per beat |
| Similar motion, legato, 2 8ve | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Major</i> | | | | | | | | |
| A | 63 | 4 | | | | | | |
| E | 63 | 4 | | | | | | |
| F | 63 | 4 | | | | | | |
| Bb | 63 | 4 | | | | | | |
| <i>Harmonic Minor</i> | | | | | | | | |
| F# | 63 | 4 | | | | | | |
| D | 63 | 4 | | | | | | |
| G | 63 | 4 | | | | | | |
| <i>Melodic Minor</i> | | | | | | | | |
| D | 63 | 4 | | | | | | |
| G | 63 | 4 | | | | | | |
| <i>Chromatic</i> | | | | | | | | |
| A | 63 | 4 | | | | | | |
| E | 63 | 4 | | | | | | |
| F | 63 | 4 | | | | | | |
| Similar motion, staccato, 2 8ve | | | | | | | | |
| F | 80 | 2 | | | | | | |
| D harmonic | 80 | 2 | | | | | | |
| D melodic | 80 | 2 | | | | | | |
| Contrary motion, legato, 2 8ve | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Major</i> | | | | | | | | |
| A | 80 | 2 | | | | | | |
| E | 80 | 2 | | | | | | |
| F | 80 | 2 | | | | | | |
| Bb | 80 | 2 | | | | | | |
| <i>Minor</i> | | | | | | | | |
| D minor | 80 | 2 | | | | | | |
| G minor | 80 | 2 | | | | | | |
| Broken chords, 1 8ve | | | | | | | | |
| F | 76 | 2 | | | | | | |
| D minor | 76 | 2 | | | | | | |
| Arpeggios, 2 8ve | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Major</i> | | | | | | | | |
| A | 76 | 2 | | | | | | |
| E | 76 | 2 | | | | | | |
| F | 76 | 2 | | | | | | |
| <i>Minor</i> | | | | | | | | |
| A | 76 | 2 | | | | | | |
| E | 76 | 2 | | | | | | |
| F | 76 | 2 | | | | | | |

