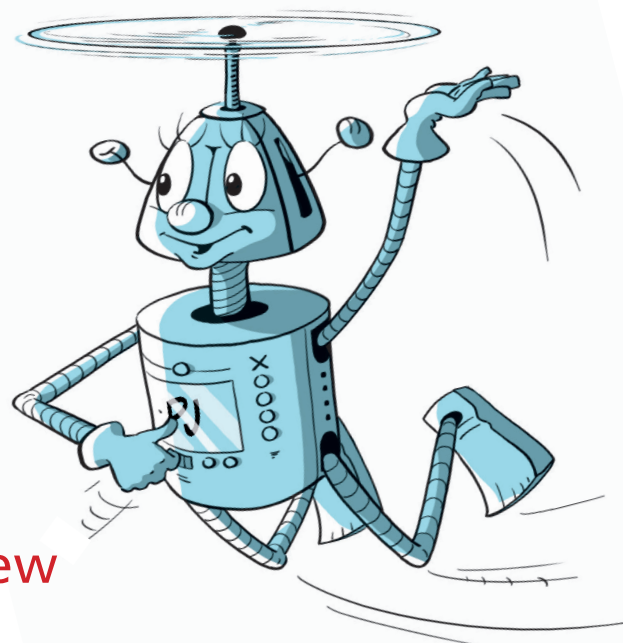


Piano Junior

Pedagogical Overview



Piano Junior provides today's aspiring young piano students with a complete, creative and interactive approach to learning the piano. Intended for children from the age of 6, it has been carefully constructed to introduce them to the wonderful world of making music by emphasizing creativity and imagination together with a solid grounding in pitch and rhythm reading and basic piano technique by progressing in small, manageable steps that children will find both fun and rewarding.

Written by **Hans-Günter Heumann**, one of Europe's most respected and renowned pedagogical piano composers, it is based on many years of experience successfully teaching children of all abilities. Hans-Günter studied piano, composition, and music pedagogy at the Musikhochschule Hannover, Germany and in the USA and has written a great number of internationally successful and award-winning publications.

Piano Junior progresses through four levels with four books at each level:

Lesson Book Theory Book

runs in parallel with each Lesson Book, with compositional and creative activities presented in a playful, imaginative way

Duet Book

runs in parallel with each Lesson Book to provide motivation for playing the piano together

Performance Book

runs in parallel with each Lesson Book with great repertoire, which is fun to play

In addition is an extensive range of free online resources and material to complement the series is available at **www.piano-junior.com** including:

- Introductory Video, PJ's Song
- Audio downloads of all pieces in Lesson Books, Duet Books and Performance Books
- Video demonstrations of all pieces and exercises in Lesson Books played on an acoustic piano
- Additional rhythm check, workout and sight-reading exercises available to download
- Printable pages with homework plans and manuscript paper
- Facts and fun with music dictionary, composer biographies and piano jokes
- Interactive resources with piano games, quizzes, flash cards and piano selfies

These resources will be continually expanded to and updated.

Accompanying the young student on their music learning journey through *Piano Junior* are two friendly characters: '**PJ**' – a robot that loves to play the piano and his cheeky friend '**Mozart**' – a little dog.

Key musical information and creative activities are highlighted throughout the course through 'Corners' dedicated to Composing, Improvising, Action, Playing, Technique, Ear Training, Memory, and Sight-Reading. It's a fun way to reinforce learning and acquire new skills.

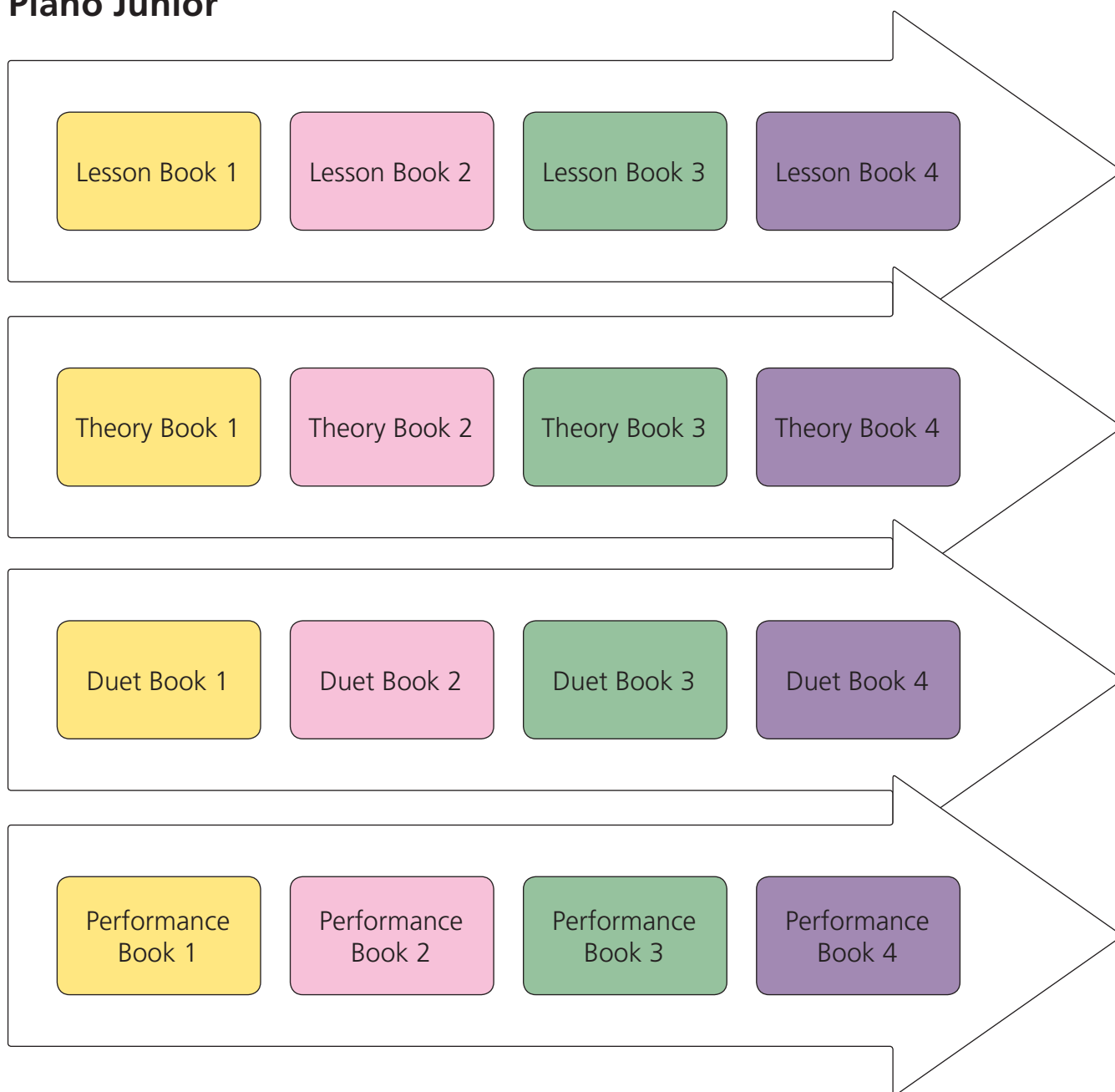
In *Piano Junior* the experience of learning the piano is multi-faceted with four main skill areas being continually developed:

- aural: with regular ear-training exercises
- visual: with sight-reading
- tactile: with clear explanations of the technical aspects of playing
- creative: with exercises in composing and improvising

Piano Junior includes exciting and beautiful compositions from the classical period to the present day as well as arrangements of folk tunes, children's songs, jazz and pop melodies.

Music greatly enriches the learning experience of any child and *Piano Junior* aims to establish a musical basis for this in the most creative and motivating way.

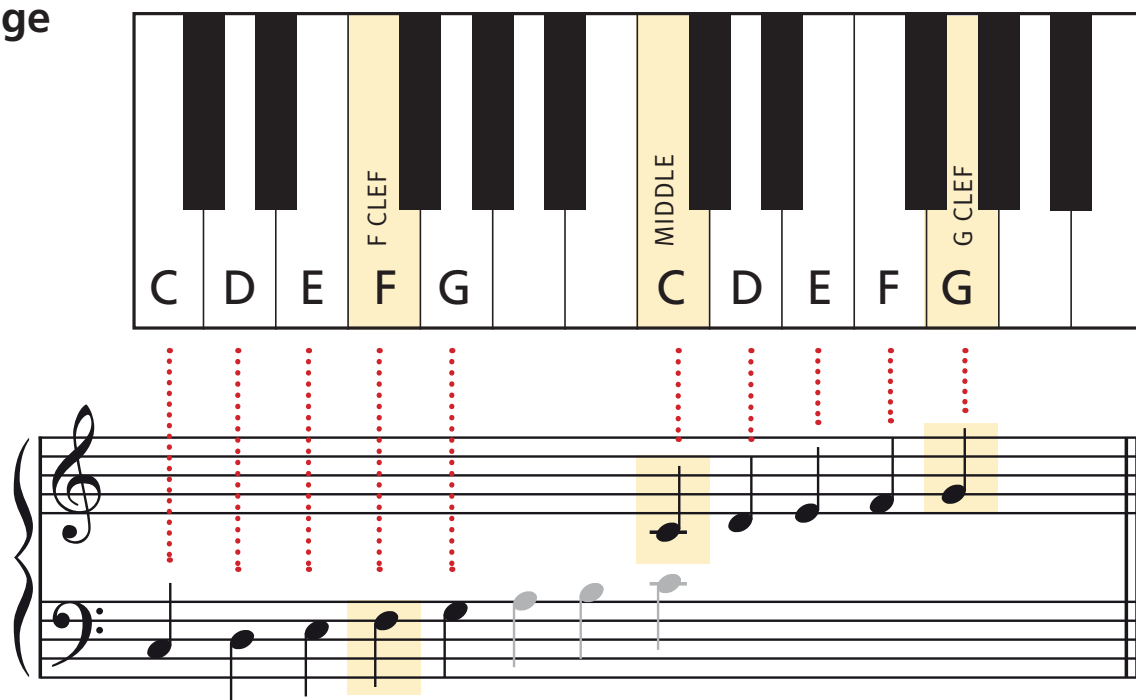
Piano Junior



Extra material for download available on: www.piano-junior.com

LEVEL 1

Range



Begin with playing notes in the physiologically favorable octave: LH bass C / RH middle C. This avoids uncomfortable ulnar deviation of the wrists as a starting point.

Rhythm and Symbols

Terms

- Andante
- Moderato
- Allegro
- D.C. al Fine

Intervallic Reading

- Repeats, steps, skips

Keyboard Exploration / Improvisation / Composition

- Black key groups
- White key groups: CDE and CDEFG (5-note range), octave transposition sign, transposition
- Accompaniment with the lowest and the highest note in the 5-finger position (bordon)
- Simplest way to develop one's own music; for example, by responding to musical stories or the development of given melodies.

Pianistic Skills / Development of Playing

- Posture, fingering
- Discovery of the entire keyboard (alternating hands, crossing hands)
- Tone quality: using arm weight, finger movement, resting the arm (feel the key bed)
- Legato: two to five-note slurs
- Finger strength and equalization of all fingers
- Playing in the 5-note range in parallel (unison), contrary and lateral motion
- Playing the same melody in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 time with different emphasis
- Musical interpretation, playing by heart and in front of audience

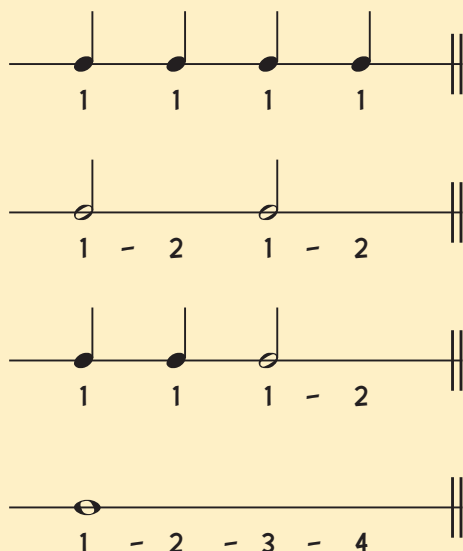
Reading Skills

- Reading without staves
- Reading in C 5-finger position with staves, landmark notes (G and F line)
- Flash cards with single notes or groups of notes in C 5-finger position
- Short unanimously melodies in 5-note range
- Melodies with alternating hands in 5-note range
- One or two measure patterns with both hands

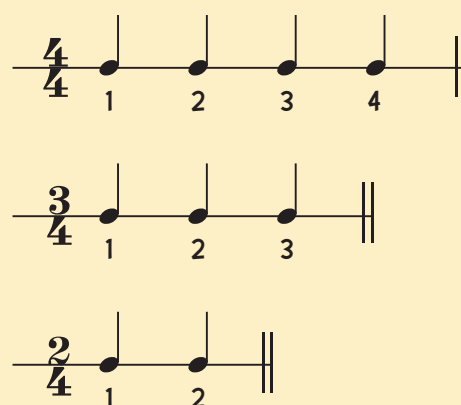
Development of Rhythm Skills

- The crotchet/quarter note is the pulse or heart beat.
- Development in logical and sequential ways, such as:

1. Numerical counting



2. Counting by measure



Development of Ear Training

- Singing notes
Play middle C and listen
Sing the note (hum/whistle)
Do the same with the neighbour note D
- Hearing a note before you sing it
Play middle C, imagine the neighbour note D, then sing it
Play the note D to check that it's correct
- Always play the note C for reference
Now sing the neighbor note D quietly, then the next note E, loudly
Try to imagine the note in your head before singing it and so on
- Identify the time signature (pay attention to the strong and weak beats in a bar)
- Clapping teacher's rhythm immediately afterwards

Learning Song Accompaniment

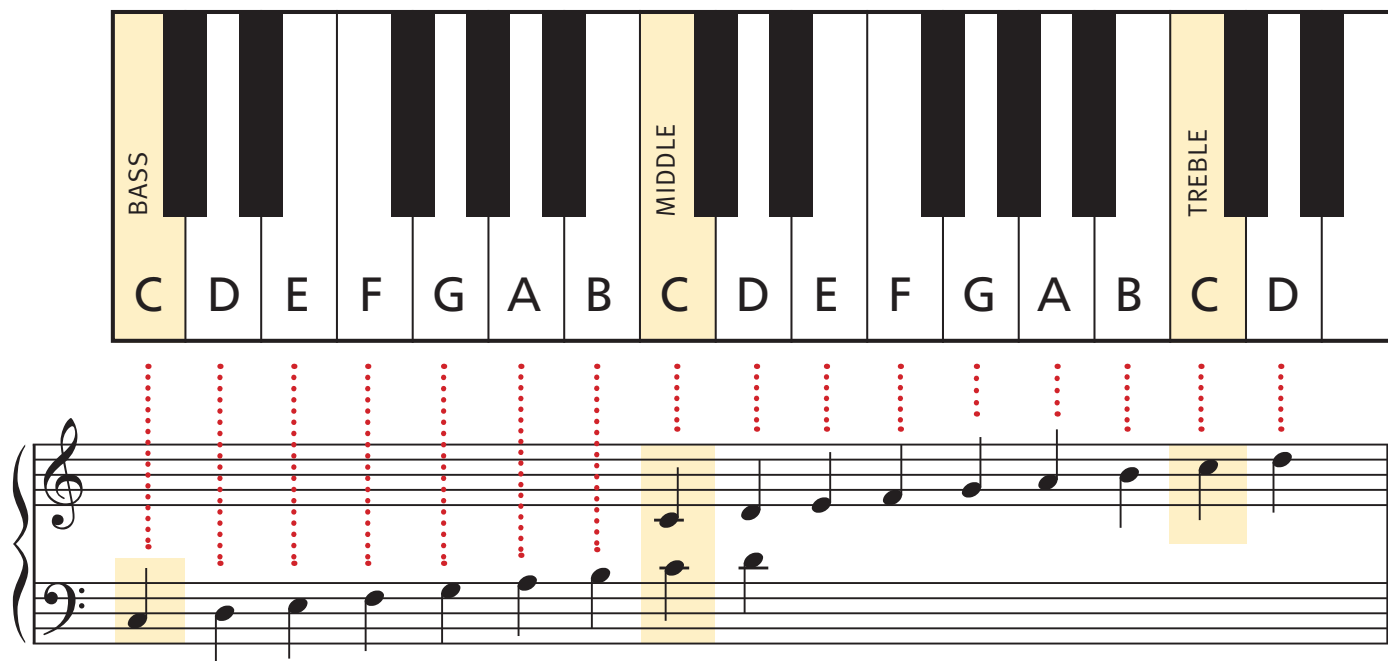
- Begin with a simple accompaniment on the fifth (a drone) plus variations.

Style of Repertoire

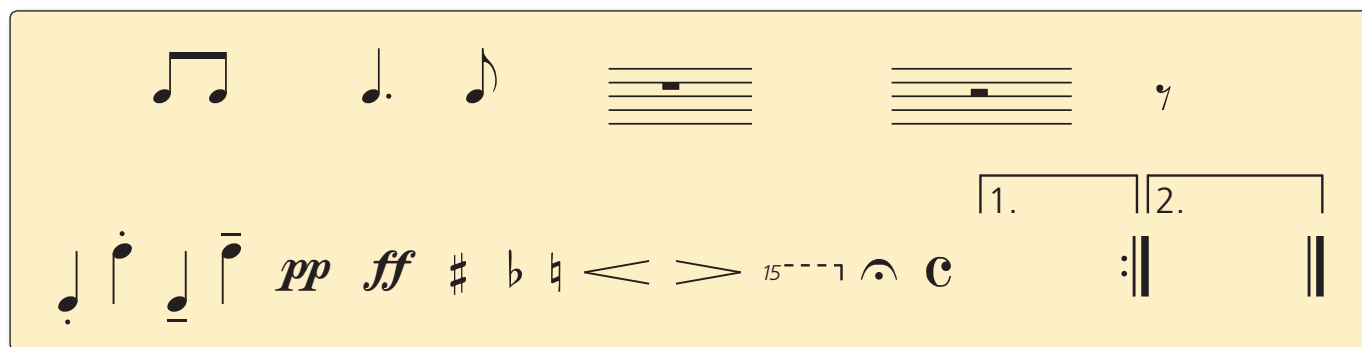
- Pieces include attractive original compositions from the classical period to the present day as well as interesting arrangements of folk tunes and children's songs, classical masterpieces, jazz and pop melodies.

LEVEL 2

Range



Rhythm and Symbols



Terms

- *Adagio*
Allegretto
Presto
- *gracioso*
marcato
dolce
maestoso
- *poco a poco*
rit./ritard.
dim./dimin.
- *Articulation*
Variation
Intervall
Upbeat/anacrusis
A-B-A

Intervallic Reading

- 2nds 3rds 4ths 5ths
- half steps whole steps

Keyboard Exploration / Improvisation / Composition

- C 5-finger position
- Seven white keys: C D E F G A B
- Middle C position
- G 5-finger position
- Several new accompaniments
- 8----- 8----- 15----- 15-----
- Accidentals # b

Pianistic Skills / Development of Playing

- Playing harmonic and melodic intervals from a 2nd to a 5th
- Cluster notes
- RH/LH melodies
- Evenness of all 5 fingers
- Walking fingers
- Finger changes on the same key
- 5-fingers positions (expansion of the range)
- Reading all black keys
- Independence of both hands: articulation legato-staccato

Reading Skills

- C 5-finger position: two to four measure patterns with harmonic and melodic intervals from a 2nd to a 5th
- Melodies in different 5-finger positions (middle C, G) with differentiated musical expressions and accidentals
- Rests: semibreve/whole rest, minim/half rest, crotchet/quarter rest, quaver/eighth rest
- Note values: quaver/eighth note, dotted crotchet/quarter note
- Sharp signs, flat signs
- Chamber music pieces to play along
- Sight-reading

Development of Rhythm Skills

- Upbeat / anacrusis
- Quaver / eighth note 
- Dotted crotchet / quarter note  

Development of Ear Training

- Sing an easy melody with and without the help of the instrument – then play an accompaniment with the LH to the melody
- Interval training and singing exercises

Learning Song Accompaniment

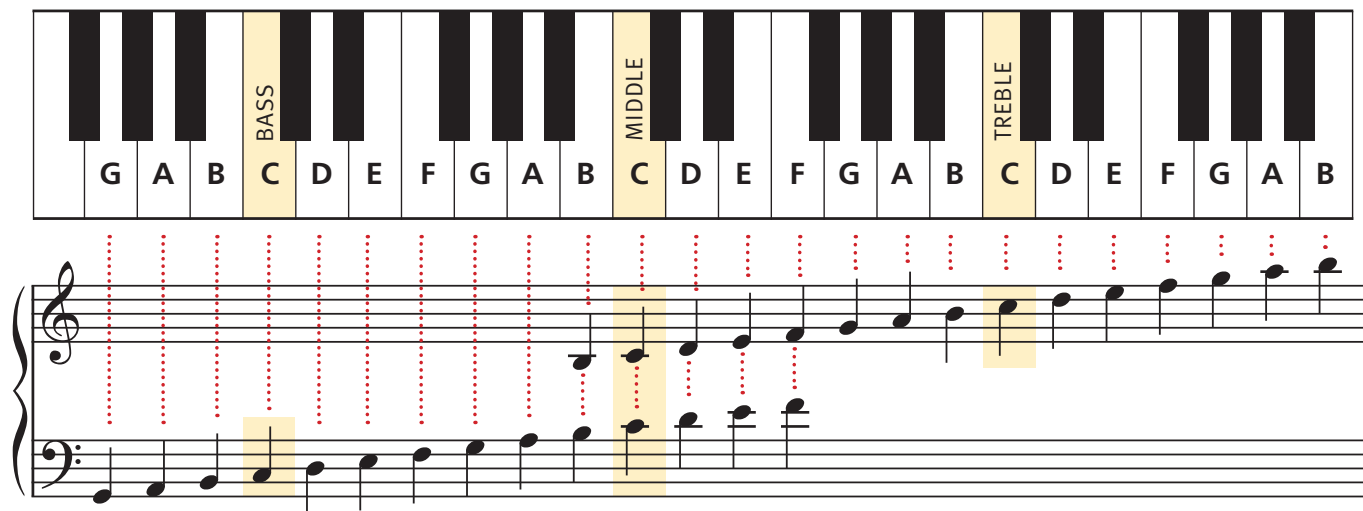
- With harmonic and melodic intervals from a 2nd to a 5th

Style of Repertoire

- Pieces include attractive original compositions from the classical period to the present day as well as interesting arrangements of folk tunes and children's songs, classical masterpieces, jazz and pop melodies.

LEVEL 3

Range



Symbols

- sf* *sim.* T (I) S (IV) D (V) D7 (V7) C G7 Am E7 Op.

Terms

- Largo*
- Con moto*
- Vivo*
- grazioso*
- espressivo*
- non troppo*
- Major scale
- Minor scale
- Leading note
- Triad/chord
- Major triad
- Minor triad
- Inversion
- Dominant seventh chord
- Coda
- Canon
- Minuet
- Polka
- Ostinato
- Alberti bass

Five-Note Patterns

- C major D major E major F major G major A major B major
- C minor D minor E minor F minor G minor A minor B minor

Major and Related Minor Scale and Chord

- C major
- A minor (Natural, Harmonic, Melodic)

Primary Triads

- Tonic (T) Subdominant (S) Dominant (D)

Primary Triads with Inversions

- Root position 1st inversion 2nd inversion

Dominant Seventh Chord V7

- G7
- E7

Pianistic Skills / Development of Playing

- Finger changes on the same key
- Spread the fingers
- Sixths, sevenths, octaves
- Expansion of the tonal range in the RH
- Walking fingers (sequence)
- Passing under – Crossing over
- C major scale – C major triad/chord (chord symbols)
- Primary chords in C major (T S D)
- Primary triads and inversions
- Dominant seventh chord (D7)
- A minor scales (Natural, Harmonic, Melodic), A minor triad, primary triads with inversions
- Interchange between hands
- Right Pedal (Sustaining Pedals)

Reading Skills

- Harmonic and melodic intervals from a 6th to an 8th
- Expansion of the 5-finger position and expansion of the range
- Motif and sequence
- C major and A minor scales with primary triads and inversions
- Dominant seventh chord
- Sight-reading

Development of Ear Training

- Metronome
- Interval training (6th, 7th, 8th) and singing exercises
- Major/minor scale, major/minor chord

Learning Song Accompaniment

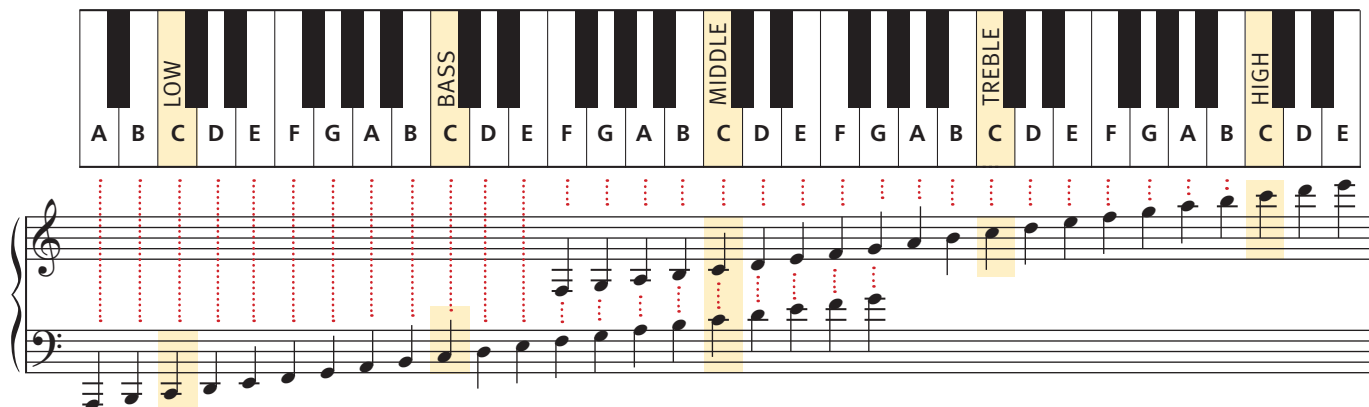
- With primary chords (I IV V V7) in C major and A minor with inversions

Style of Repertoire

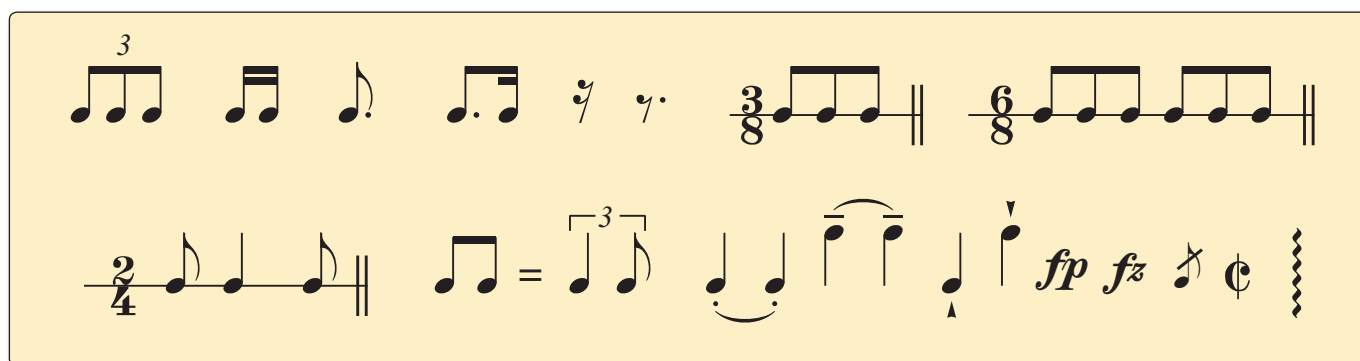
- Pieces include attractive original compositions from the classical period to the present day as well as interesting arrangements of folk tunes and children's songs, classical masterpieces, jazz and pop melodies.

LEVEL 4

Range



Rhythm and Symbols



Terms

- *giocosso*
- *leggero*
- *accel.*
- *D. S. al Coda*
- Bourrée
- poco moto*
- pesante*
- a tempo*
- Cadence
- scherzando*
- poco*
- meno*
- Mazurka
- vivace*
- sempre*
- più*
- Tarantella
- subito*
- rall.*
-
- risoluto*
- riten.*
-
- tranquillo*
- Tempo I
-
- sotto voce*

Major and Related Minor Scales / Chords

- G major D major F major B♭ major
- E minor B minor D minor G minor

Cadences in Major and Harmonic Minor

- G major D major F major B♭ major
- E minor B minor D minor G minor





Pianistic Skills / Development of Playing

- Scales in major (G, D, F, B♭) and minor (E, B, D, G)
- Primary chords and cadences in major and minor with inversions
- Transposing
- Two-part writing in both hands
- Accelerando – Tempo primo, ritenuto – a tempo
- Arpeggio
- Acciaccatura
- Portato, staccatissimo
- Chromatic scale

Reading Skills

- Expansion of the range
- Mirror-Image Cs
- Major (G, D, F, B♭) and minor (E, B, D, G) scales with chords
- Primary triads and cadences with inversions
- Leger lines
- Sight-reading

Development of Rhythm Skills

- 3/8 time, 6/8 time
- Triplet 
- Semiquaver/sixteenth note 
- Dotted quaver/dotted eighth note 
- Syncopation
- Swing rhythm 

Development of Ear Training

- Metronome
- Interval training
- Major/minor scales, major/minor chords
- Cadences

Learning Song Accompaniment

- With primary chords (I IV V V7) in major (G, D, F, B \flat) and minor (E, B, D, G) with inversions

Style of Repertoire

- Pieces include attractive original compositions from the classical period to the present day as well as interesting arrangements of folk tunes and children's songs, classical masterpieces, jazz and pop melodies.