

Course Content

Exact order and pacing of topics is subject to change.

Unit 1:

Grand Staff pitch layout, performance posture & warm-up routine development.

Scales: Major white-key finger-pattern, five-note finger-pattern in C major, C major scale performance (hands separate).

Intervals: Half-steps & whole-steps (white-key).

Chords: None.

Voicings: None.

Arpeggios: None.

Étude: Five-note pattern in C major.

Unit 2

Warm-up: Performance posture.

Scales: Five-note pattern in all major keys, C, G, D, A major scale performance (hands separate).

Intervals: Half-steps & whole-steps (black-key).

Chords: Diatonic triads in C major with Arabic number labels.

Voicings: None.

Arpeggios: Two-note practice.

Étude: Five-note pattern in all major keys (ascending & descending).

Unit 3:

Warm-up: C, G, D & A major scale performance.

Scales: E & B major scale performance (hands separate), black key finger-pattern, Gb & Db major scale performance (hands separate).

Intervals: None.

Chords: Diatonic chord performance in C, G, D & A major.

Voicings: None.

Arpeggios: Play melodic diatonic chords in both hands with prescribed fingerings.

Étude: Play C, G, D & A major scales using prescribed fingerings (right hand) with tonic chord (left hand).

Unit 4

Warm-up: E, B, Gb & Db major scale performance.

Scales: Ab, Eb, Bb & F major scale performance (hands separate).

Intervals: Diatonic simple intervals based on C major.

Chords: Diatonic chord performance in E & B major.

Voicings: None.

Arpeggios: Play melodic diatonic chords in both hands with prescribed fingerings.

Étude: Play E & B major scales using prescribed fingerings (right hand) with tonic chord (left hand).

Unit 5

Scales: Major scale performance in all 12 keys (hands separate).

Intervals: Diatonic simple interval performance in all 12 major keys.

Chords: Diatonic chord performance in all major white-keys.

Voicings: None.

Arpeggios: Play melodic diatonic chords in both hands with prescribed fingerings.

Étude: Play all major white-key scales using prescribed fingerings (right hand) with tonic chord (left hand).

Unit 6A: MIDTERM

Scales: Major scale performance in all 12 keys (hands separate).

Intervals: Diatonic simple interval performance in all 12 keys.

Chords: Diatonic chord performance in all major white-keys.

Unit 6B

Warm-up: Review major scales in all 12 keys (hands separate).

Scales: Jazz melodic minor (b3) white-key finger pattern, five-note pattern in all melodic minor keys, C melodic minor scale performance (hands separate & together).

Intervals: Diatonic compound intervals based on C major.

Chords: Diatonic chord performance in all major keys using the Circle of 5ths/4ths.

Voicings: None.

Arpeggios: Play melodic diatonic chords in all major keys (both hands together).

Étude: Play all major scales using prescribed fingerings (both hands together).

Unit 7

Warm-up: Review major scales in all 12 keys (hands together) & C melodic minor (hands separate & together).

Scales: G, D, A & E melodic minor scale performance (hands separate & together).

Intervals: Diatonic compound interval performance in all 12 keys.

Chords: Major, minor, diminished & augmented triad construction & chord symbols.

Voicings: None.

Arpeggios: Melodic and harmonic sequences: Major-minor-diminished-Major-Augmented in C major.

Étude: Play all major scales using prescribed fingerings (both hands together).

Unit 8

Warm-up: Review C, G, D, A & E melodic minor (hands separate & together).

Scales: B, F#, C# & Ab melodic minor scale performance (hands separate & together).

Intervals: Diatonic compound interval performance in all 12 keys (cont.)

Chords: Perform diatonic triads in all major keys while verbalizing Roman number labels.

Voicings: The Major I-IV-V-I progression.

Arpeggios: Melodic and harmonic sequences: Major-minor-diminished-Major-Augmented with all 12 tones (hands separate), Major triad arpeggios with all 12 tones (hands separate).

Étude: Play I-IV-V-I progression (left hand only) with all corresponding major scales.

Unit 9

Warm-up: Review C, G, D, A, E, B F#, C# & Ab melodic minor (hands separate & together).

Scales: Eb, Bb & F melodic minor scale performance (hands separate & together).

Intervals: Diatonic simple & compound interval performance in all 12 keys.

Chords: Perform diatonic triads in all major keys while verbalizing Roman number labels.

Voicings: Play I-IV-V-I progression (left hand only) with all corresponding major scales as well as the i-IV-V-i progression in C melodic minor.

Arpeggios: Melodic and harmonic sequences: Major-minor-diminished-Major-Augmented with all 12 tones (hands separate), minor triad arpeggios with all 12 tones (hands separate).

Étude: Play the i-IV-V-i progression (left hand only) with all corresponding melodic minor scales.

Unit 10

Warm-up: Review all major & melodic minor scales (hands separate & together).

Scales: Melodic minor scale performance in all 12 keys (hands separate & together).

Intervals: Diatonic simple & compound interval performance in all 12 keys.

Chords: Perform diatonic triads in all major keys while verbalizing Roman number labels.

Voicings: Play I-IV-V-I progression (left hand only) with all corresponding major scales as well as the i-IV-V-i progression (left hand only) with all corresponding melodic minor scales.

Arpeggios: Melodic and harmonic sequences: Major-minor-diminished-Major-Augmented with all 12 tones (hands separate), major & minor triad arpeggios with all 12 tones (hands separate).

Étude: Play I-IV-V-I progression (left hand only) with all corresponding major scales as well as the i-IV-V-i progression (left hand only) with all corresponding melodic minor scales.

Finals Week: One-on-one Individual 15 min. Session with instructor.

Final Exam Day/Time: _____ Room Number: _____



KEYBOARD PROGRAM

KEYBOARD TECHNIQUE I UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION

LESSON GUIDE

CORE

KEYBD-102

2 CREDITS

Description

In this unit, you will learn about the physical layout of the piano and how it relates to the Grand Staff. Proper performance posture, warm-up routine development, major white-key finger-patterns & whole and half-step intervals based on the major scale will also be discussed.

Upon completion of this unit, you should:

- Understand the layout of the keyboard and how it relates to the Grand Staff
- Comprehend proper performance posture
- Apply the specified warm-up routine to all practice sessions
- Comprehend the major scale pattern and corresponding right & left hand fingerings (C major)
- Be able to identify (and play) half-steps & whole-steps (white-keys)

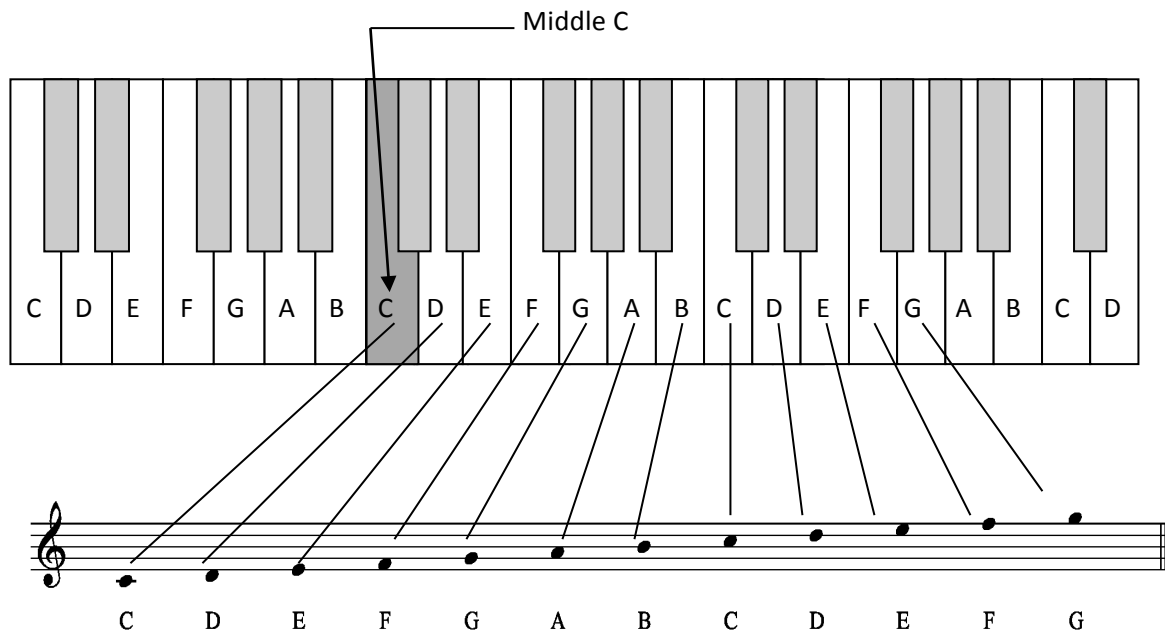
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Grand Staff Pitch Layout

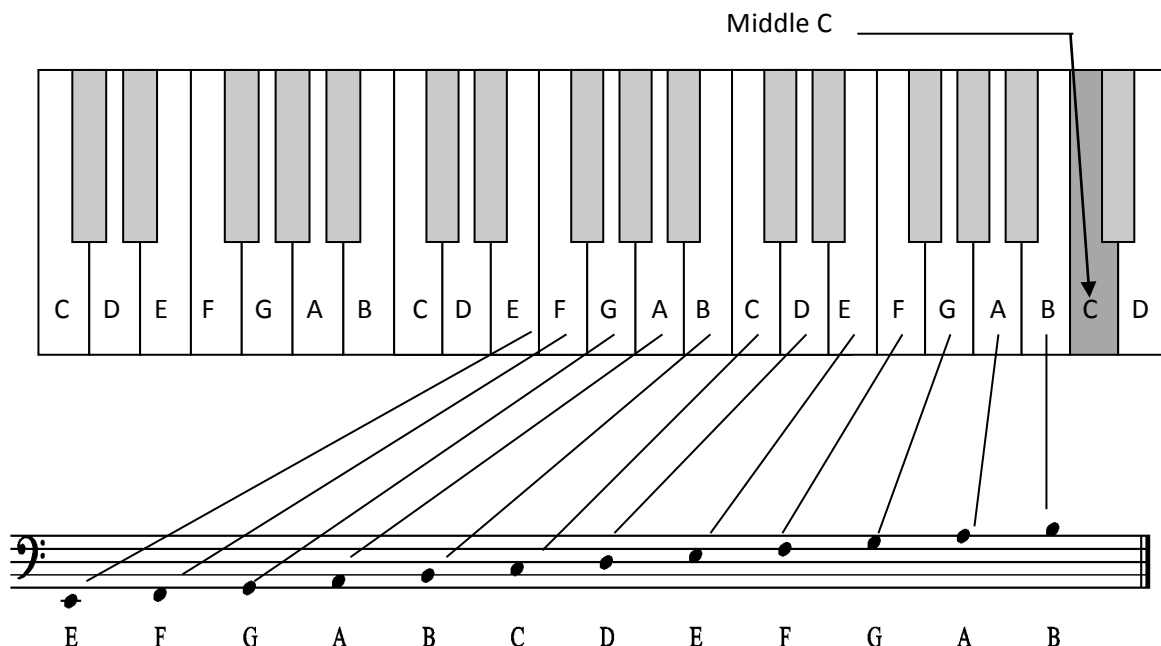
Each note within the range below (Ex. 1.1) relates to a specific position on the **Treble Clef** staff and is located in the registers **above** “Middle C”. Middle C sits in the middle of an 88 key (full size) keyboard, and is also known as “C4”. The “4” refers to the 4th register C on the keyboard (ascending from Left to Right). For example:

Ex. 1.1



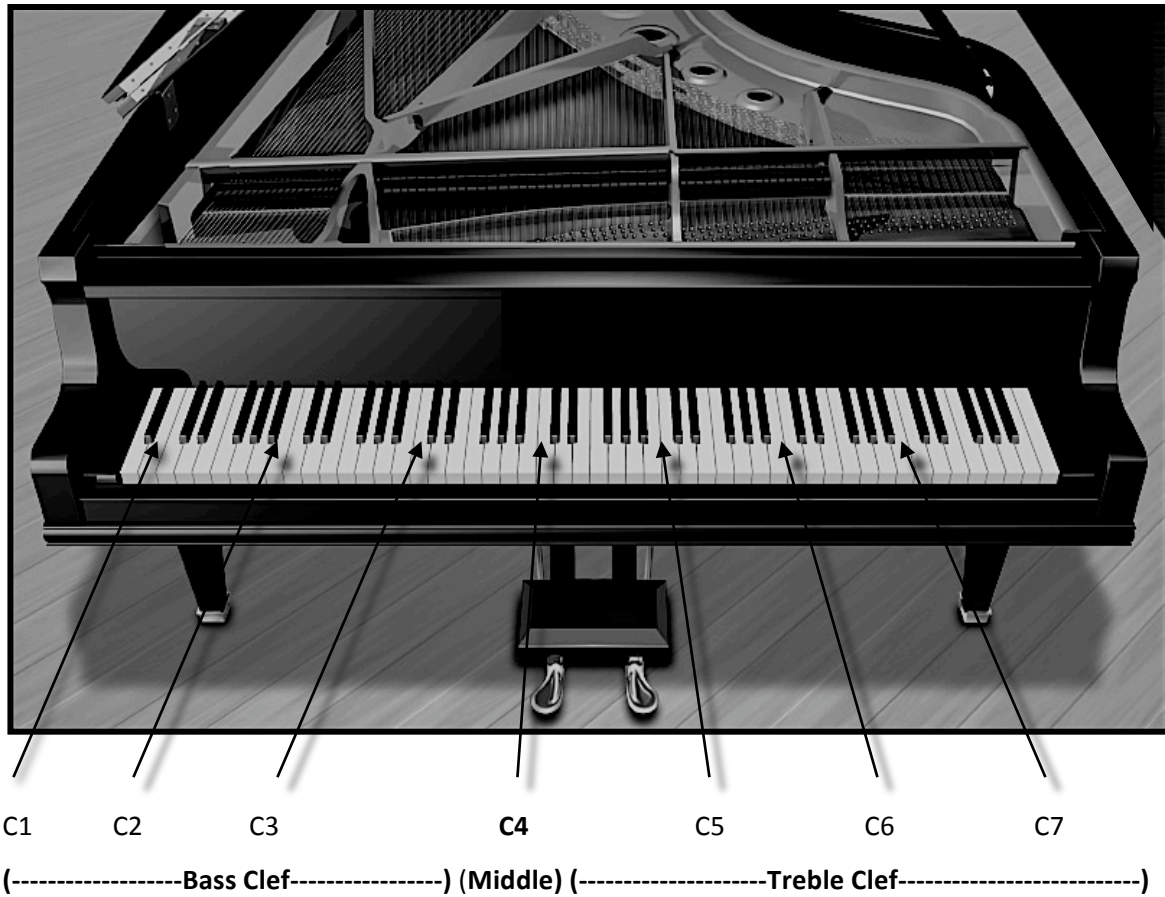
Just as with the Treble Clef example above, each note within the range below (Ex. 1.2) relates to a specific location on the **Bass Clef** staff. All the notes within the Bass Clef are located within the registers **below** Middle C.

Ex. 1.2



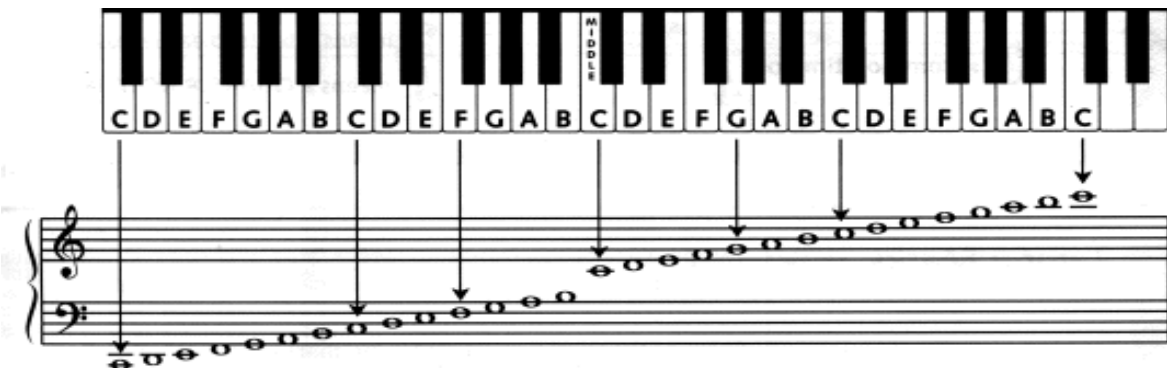
Here is the physical layout of the piano. Registers correspond to the Bass and Treble Clef as follows:

Ex. 1.3



When these two staves (Treble & Bass Clef) are combined, they form the **Grand Staff**. The keyboard relates to the Grand Staff as follows:

Ex. 1.4



Performance Posture

Sit on the **front edge** of the bench and **keep your back straight**. Your feet should be **flat on the floor**. Make sure you can comfortably reach the pedals on the piano.

Ex 1.7



Keep your back straight.

Sit on the front edge of the piano bench.

Ex 1.8

(without pedals)



Ex 1.9

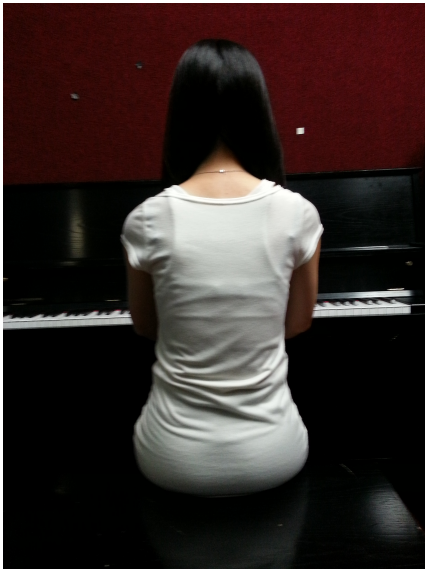
(with pedals)



Make sure that your **shoulders are relaxed**, not raised up toward your ears.

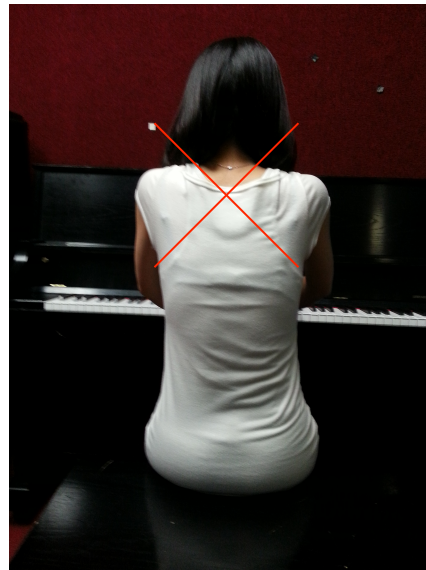
Ex. 1.10

(CORRECT)



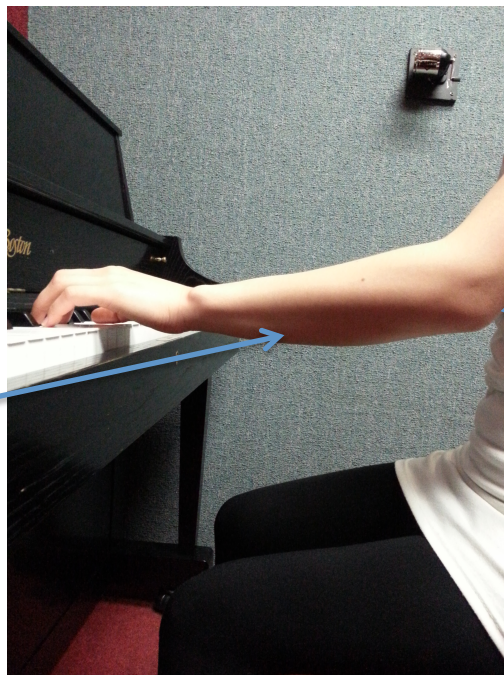
Ex. 1.11

(INCORRECT)



Next, position your **elbows at your sides** and **forearms pointing straight toward the piano**. Finally (and with your fingers resting on the keys), position your **elbows slightly above the height of the playing surface** - while sitting up straight (with your shoulders relaxed.)

Ex. 1.12



Forearms toward the piano.

Elbows higher than keyboard.

Relax the fingers and create a “dome” with your hand. **All fingers should be curved with your fingertips resting on the keys** (Ex. 1.13). **The wrist should be at the same height as the knuckles** (Ex. 1.14).

Ex. 1.13



Ex. 1.14



Relaxation is energy conservation. Energy conservation yields better quality practice. Take note of any tension present in the body, (i.e., fingers, neck, mouth, toes, etc.). Be sure to stop practicing if you feel pain. **If it hurts, stop and rest.**

Memorize the following ***acronym** and recite it to yourself before each practice session:

Kee your back straight.

Elbows relaxed & higher than keyboard.

Your fingers curved & wrists straight.

Shoulders down.

*An **acronym** is an abbreviation formed from the initial letters in a phrase or a word.