

Grand Staff Prep Exercises

PG-15s

Five-Finger Exercises

The image shows two musical staves, a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The treble clef staff has a yellow highlight on the first line and a green highlight on the first space. The bass clef staff has a cyan highlight on the first space and a purple highlight on the first line. Both staves are divided into four measures. The first measure of each staff contains a single orange dot on the first line. The second measure contains four gray dots on the first line. The third measure contains four gray dots on the first space. The fourth measure contains four gray dots on the first space.

From the Music
Innovator's Workshop

Introduction

This Unit provides provides beginning exercises on the grand staff for students who have a working knowledge of keyboard playing but who have not yet learned how to read and play from traditional notation.

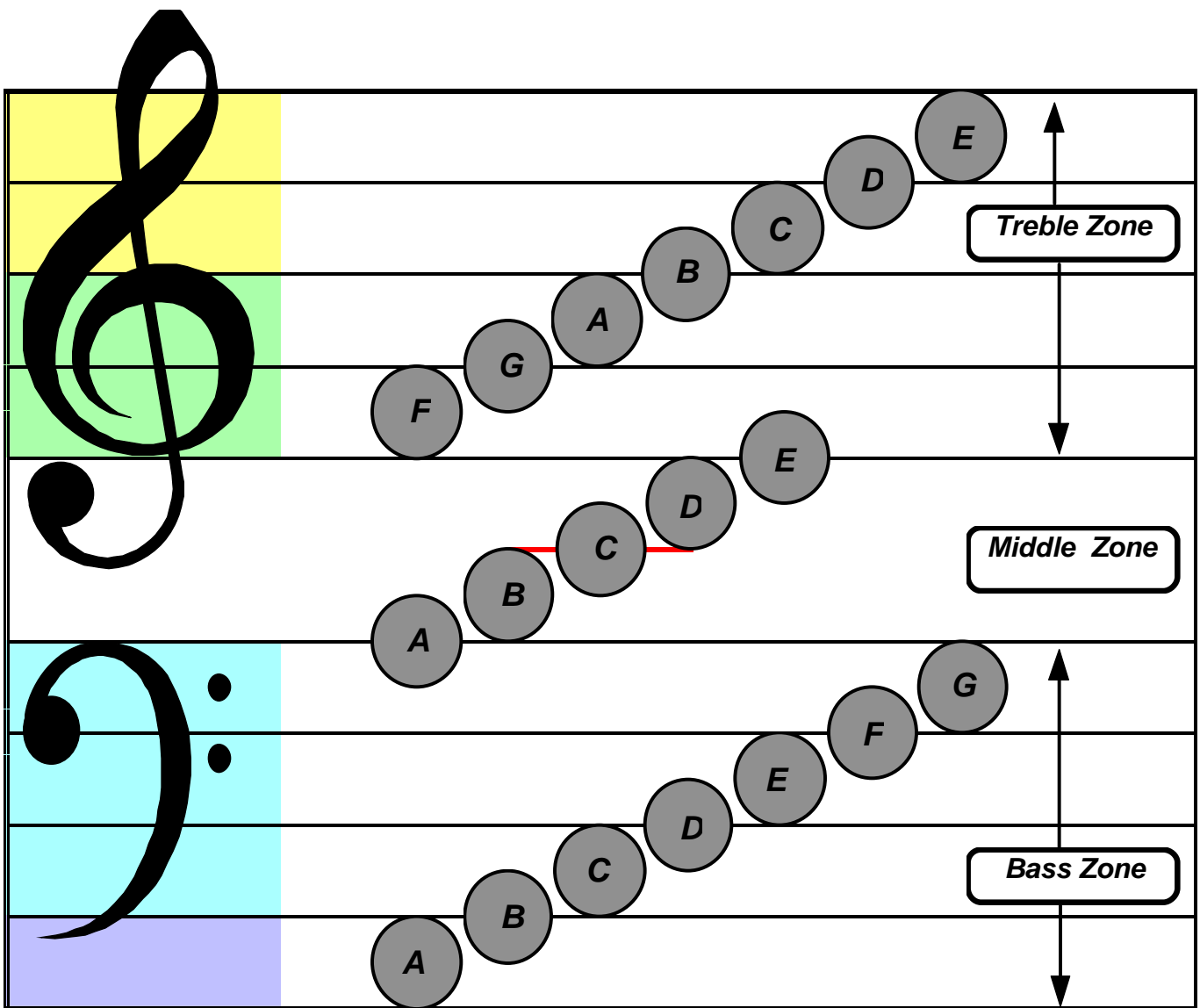
At this early stage of note reading, one the most important skills to be developed is the ability to recognize the note names at sight. The 5 note limit of each exercise is designed to draw attention to just 5 notes at a time, as an aid to learning and remembering the note names. Most students will also need to study these groups of notes with a set of flash cards as directed by the instructions within this unit. You should make every effort to learn to identify the notes by their letter names as soon as you can.

Another important skill to be developed at this early stage of note reading is the ability to recognize intervals and use them as an aid to reading the notes. The exercises focus on reading and responding to the sizes of the intervals between notes. Most intervals in these exercises are easily identified as "hops," "steps," and "skips.", or by the return to the last previous note (alternating pitch). To help you get started, the letter names of the 5 notes in each exercise are provided at the end of each exercise. The few notes in each exercise forming intervals larger than "skips" are identified by orange coloring. Recognizing their letter names will help you find which keys to play.

Each exercise is to be played in the 5 finger position. Each exercise is limited to a 5 note melody, making it unnecessary to move the hand to a new position while playing the exercise. The ability to stay in a 5 finger position while playing a melody is a very important skill that should be developed at an early stage of training. One of its benefits of this position is that you learn to play with all fingers, not just the strongest ones. Learning to stay in this position also is a great help in learning to keep the eyes on the music while playing the melody; another very important skill.

Just so you know - all of the exercises are of the same melody. The difference is that they all use DIFFERENT notes. Also, if you are able play from the chord symbols provided along with the melodies, you will find the exercises much more interesting and rewarding.

**Notes in the Treble, Bass,
and Middle Zones of the
GRAND STAFF**



Melody in D Minor – Middle and Treble Zones -1

Moderately

The image displays a musical score for a melody in D minor, consisting of five systems of a treble clef staff and a guitar fretboard diagram. The score is divided into four measures per system. The first system includes a 4/4 time signature and a first finger indicator '1'. Chord progressions are indicated above the staff: Dm, Gm, Dm, Gm. The second system has chord progressions: Dm, A7, Dm. The third system has: A7, Dm. The fourth system has: Gm, Dm. The fifth system has: A7, Dm, A7, Dm. The fretboard diagrams use grey circles for notes and orange circles for the first finger. The melody starts on the D string, 2nd fret (D4) and moves through various intervals across the strings.

Melody in D Minor – Middle and Treble Zones -2

The image shows three systems of musical notation for a melody in D minor. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The first system has a yellow highlight on the first staff and a green highlight on the second staff. The second system has a green highlight on the first staff and a yellow highlight on the second staff. The third system has a yellow highlight on the first staff and a green highlight on the second staff. Notes are represented by grey circles on the treble staff and grey circles on the bass staff. Chord symbols A7, Dm, and Gm are placed above the first system, Dm, A7, and Dm above the second system, and Gm, A7, and Dm above the third system.

The 5 notes shown at the right are for all of the 5 pitches used in this exercise. The following exercises in this unit will add more notes until you will have played all of the natural notes on the grand staff. You should plan on learning to identify the names of the new notes as they are added in new exercises.

The diagram shows the five natural notes of the D minor scale on a grand staff. The treble clef staff has a yellow highlight on the first line and a green highlight on the second line. The bass clef staff has a cyan highlight on the first line and a purple highlight on the second line. The notes D, E, F, G, and A are shown as orange circles on the treble staff, and the notes B, C, and D are shown as grey circles on the bass staff.

You will be able to remember the names of these notes by practicing them with your flash cards. Start with these 5 notes. Then, as you start new exercises, add the flash cards for the new notes to the set that you are practicing.

Melody in A Minor – Treble Zone - 1

Moderately

Am Dm Am Dm

4/4 1

Am E7 Am

E7 Am

Dm Am

E7 Am E7 Am

Melody in A Minor – Treble Zone - 2

The exercise consists of three staves of music. The first staff has a yellow highlight on the first measure and a green highlight on the second measure. The second staff has a green highlight on the first measure. The third staff has a green highlight on the first measure. Notes are represented by gray circles, with some new notes in orange. Chord names (E7, Am, Dm) are written above the staves.

At the right, the notes used in this exercise are colored orange. The notes from first exercise are colored gray.

Letter names are shown for the new notes.

Be sure to practice all of these notes with your flash cards.

The diagram shows a treble clef staff with a yellow highlight on the first measure and a green highlight on the second measure. Notes are shown in orange (B, C, D, E) and gray. A bass clef staff is shown below with a cyan highlight on the first measure and a purple highlight on the second measure.

Melody in D Minor – Bass Zone - 1

Moderately

Dm *Gm* *Dm* *Gm*

A musical staff in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. The first measure contains a half note D (orange) and a half note G (grey). The second measure contains a half note F (grey) and a half note C (grey). The third measure contains a half note B (grey) and a half note G (grey). The fourth measure contains a half note F (grey) and a half note C (grey). The bottom staff shows the 4/4 time signature and the number 5.

Dm *A7* *Dm*

A musical staff in bass clef. The first measure contains a half note D (grey) and a half note G (grey). The second measure contains a half note F (grey) and a half note C (grey). The third measure contains a half note B (grey) and a half note G (grey). The fourth measure contains a half note F (grey) and a half note C (grey).

A7 *Dm*

A musical staff in bass clef. The first measure contains a half note D (grey) and a half note G (grey). The second measure contains a half note F (grey) and a half note C (grey). The third measure contains a half note B (grey) and a half note G (grey). The fourth measure contains a half note F (grey) and a half note C (grey).

Gm *Dm*

A musical staff in bass clef. The first measure contains a half note D (grey) and a half note G (grey). The second measure contains a half note F (grey) and a half note C (grey). The third measure contains a half note B (grey) and a half note G (grey). The fourth measure contains a half note F (grey) and a half note C (grey).

A7 *Dm* *A7* *Dm*

A musical staff in bass clef. The first measure contains a half note D (grey) and a half note G (grey). The second measure contains a half note F (grey) and a half note C (grey). The third measure contains a half note B (grey) and a half note G (grey). The fourth measure contains a half note F (grey) and a half note C (grey).

Melody in A Minor – Bass Zone - 1

Moderately

Am Dm Am Dm

Am E7 Am

E7 Am

Dm Am

E7 Am E7 Am

Melody in A Minor – Bass Zone - 2

E7 *Am* *Dm*

1

Am *E7* *Am*

Dm *E7* *Am*

At the right, the notes used in this exercise are colored orange. The notes from earlier exercises are colored gray.

Letter names are shown for the new notes.

Be sure to practice all of these notes with your flash cards.

A B C

Melody in A Minor – Middle Zone - Part 1

Am Dm Am Dm

4/4

1

Am E7 Am

E7 Am

Melody in A Minor – Middle Zone - Part 1

At the right, the notes used in this exercise, Part 1, are colored orange. The notes from earlier exercises are colored gray.

Letter names are shown for the new notes.

Be sure to practice all of these notes with your flash cards.

Melody in A Minor – Middle Zone - Part 2

(Left Hand)

E7 *Am* *E7* *Am*

The first system shows a bass clef staff with four measures. Above the staff are chord diagrams for E7, Am, E7, and Am. The E7 chords have an orange circle on the 2nd string, 1st fret, with a '2' below it. The Am chords have a grey circle on the 5th string, 2nd fret. The notes are: Measure 1: 2nd string (orange), 3rd string (grey), 4th string (grey), 5th string (grey); Measure 2: 3rd string (grey), 4th string (grey), 5th string (grey); Measure 3: 2nd string (orange), 3rd string (grey); Measure 4: 2nd string (orange), 3rd string (grey).

E7 *Am* *Dm*

The second system shows a bass clef staff with four measures. Above the staff are chord diagrams for E7, Am, and Dm. The E7 chord has a grey circle on the 2nd string, 1st fret. The Am chord has grey circles on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th strings, 2nd fret. The Dm chord has grey circles on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th strings, 2nd fret. The notes are: Measure 1: 2nd string (grey), 3rd string (grey), 4th string (grey), 5th string (grey); Measure 2: 3rd string (grey), 4th string (grey), 5th string (grey); Measure 3: 2nd string (grey), 3rd string (grey), 4th string (grey); Measure 4: 2nd string (grey), 3rd string (grey), 4th string (grey), 5th string (grey).

Am *E7* *Am*

The third system shows a bass clef staff with four measures. Above the staff are chord diagrams for Am, E7, and Am. The Am chord has grey circles on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th strings, 2nd fret. The E7 chord has a grey circle on the 2nd string, 1st fret. The Am chord has grey circles on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th strings, 2nd fret. The notes are: Measure 1: 2nd string (grey), 3rd string (grey), 4th string (grey), 5th string (grey); Measure 2: 3rd string (grey), 4th string (grey), 5th string (grey); Measure 3: 2nd string (grey), 3rd string (grey), 4th string (grey); Measure 4: 2nd string (grey), 3rd string (grey), 4th string (grey), 5th string (grey).

Melody in A Minor – Middle Zone - Part 2

(Left Hand)

A musical staff for the left hand, divided into four measures. Above the staff, notes are represented by circles: orange circles for new notes and gray circles for notes from previous exercises. The notes are placed on lines and spaces. Above the staff, the chords Dm, E7, and Am are indicated. The staff has a green highlight on the first measure, a cyan highlight on the first two lines, and a purple highlight on the first line.

At the right, the notes used in this exercise, Part 2, are colored orange. The notes from earlier exercises are colored gray.

Letter names are shown for the new notes.

Be sure to practice all of these notes with your flash cards.

A musical staff showing notes in both treble and bass clefs. The notes are represented by circles, with orange circles for new notes and gray circles for notes from previous exercises. The new notes are labeled with letter names: C, D, and E. The staff has a yellow highlight on the first measure, a green highlight on the first two lines, a cyan highlight on the first two lines, and a purple highlight on the first line.

**Notes on the
GRAND STAFF**
*Showing their octave
groups by color.*

