

Juilliard

Extended Warm-Ups

(optional for each practice session)

These warm-ups will get your fingers moving in different ways and are specifically for the purpose of building a well-developed piano technique. They will enhance your ability to tackle passagework and musical situations in Classical repertoire that employ the concepts you learn here. Try to include these extensive warm-ups in your practice sessions throughout the course.

Chord Progressions

Chord progressions are one of the basic building blocks of music, especially music from the Classical era. They can provide clues as to how one should shape a particular phrase, so it is useful to be aware of some basic chord progressions in various keys. Including the following exercises in your warm-ups will help you recognize common chord progressions in your chosen repertoire.

Begin by practicing two C major chord progressions:

C Major, Chord Progression Exercise 1

5 2 1 5 3 1 5 2 1 4 2 1 5 2 1
5 2 1 5 2

C Major, Chord Progression Exercise 2

5 2 1 5 3 1 5 3 1 5 2 1 5 2 1 4 2 1 5 2 1
1 2 4 4 3 3 1

If desired, move to G major and D major chord progressions:

G Major, Chord Progression Exercise 1

5 2 1 5 3 1 5 2 1 4 2 1 5 2 1
5 2 1 5 2

G Major, Chord Progression Exercise 2

5 2 1 5 3 1 5 3 1 5 2 1 5 2 1 4 2 1 5 2 1
1 2 4 4 3 3 1

D Major, Chord Progression Exercise 1

5 2 1 5 3 1 5 2 1 4 2 1 5 2 1
5 2 1 5 2

D Major, Chord Progression Exercise 2

5 2 1 5 3 1 5 3 1 5 2 1 5 2 1 4 2 1 5 2 1
1 2 4 4 3 3 1

Hanon Exercise No. 1

The French piano pedagogue and virtuoso pianist Charles-Louis Hanon created a compilation of sixty exercises to train pianists' hands and fingers in speed, strength, and finger independence. His Exercise No. 1 is useful in strengthening the independence and flexibility of each finger.

In principle, this exercise begins with one up and down figuration of 8 notes, repeating the figuration a step higher each time until reaching the top of the octave. Once at the top, the pianist repeats the figuration in the opposite direction, descending a step lower each time until reaching the initial starting point.

The musical score for Hanon Exercise No. 1 is presented in three systems, each consisting of a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) in 2/4 time. The exercise is in C major. The first system shows the initial ascending and descending patterns. The second system shows the patterns moving up the scale. The third system shows the patterns moving down the scale. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes.

If desired, apply this exercise in G major and D major, making sure to keep the key signature consistent in either key.

G Major, Hanon Exercise I

The musical score for Hanon Exercise No. 1 in G major is presented in five measures, each consisting of a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) in 2/4 time. The exercise is in G major. The first measure shows the initial ascending and descending patterns. The subsequent measures show the patterns moving up the scale. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes.

D Major, Hanon Exercise

Scales and Arpeggios in Contrary Motion

As you develop a more advanced piano technique, move to other scales and arpeggios in contrary motion, such as G major, D major, or A major, to suit your needs.