John Thompson's Easiest Piano Course

PART FOUR

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Foreword

The primary purpose of PART FOUR is to allow the pupil opportunity to develop efficiency and fluency in the application of knowledge gained in the earlier books. For that reason, there are not many new demands made in a technical way. Several new Keys are introduced, namely, E Major, B Major, A Flat Major, D Flat Major and G Flat Major. The examples in the new Keys are purposely kept simple. Leger Lines between the staves are also presented with charts showing an easy way to recognize notes written on the added lines. The dotted crotchet is explained and examples given in Three-Four and Four-Four. There are also examples in which a change of fingers is required when playing repeated notes. This, of course, results in an extension of hand position and prepares the way for passing the Thumb under and the Hand over—a phase of technique taken up in Part Five. Simple, most elementary use of the Pedal is allowed in some of the later pieces and prepares the pupil for detailed study of the art of pedalling which is also taken up in Part Five.

In general, PART FOUR, except for the points outlined above, is mostly a book of review work. It should afford the pupil a chance to enjoy the fruits of his labour to date, and at the same time develop better pianism, musicianship and general musical understanding.

When this book is finished, the student will be ready for another advance in technique and the following book will contain material with more extended passage playing. Meantime, every effort should be made to play the examples in this book with the best possible artistry.

John Thompson

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Wrist Staccato

TEACHER'S NOTE: This number should be played with a bouncing wrist staccato. For development of the various Touches, assign John Thompson's HANON STUDIES, specially designed for use in this grade.





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Melody in the Left Hand

In this piece, the melody lies in the left hand.

Try to play it with your best singing tone while the right hand supplies a light, staccato accompaniment of familiar chord patterns, learned earlier in the Course.



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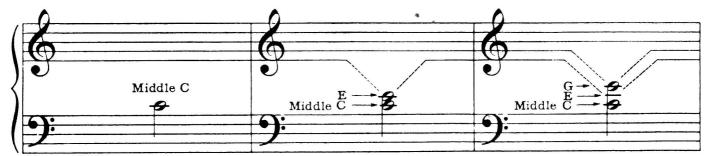
Leger Lines

(Above the Bass Staff)

Leger Lines are little lines added above or below the staff upon which to write additional notes.

The Leger Lines above the Bass Staff are easy to read if it is remembered that all lines above Middle C are really Treble Lines, borrowed and brought down for use as Leger Lines.

Example:

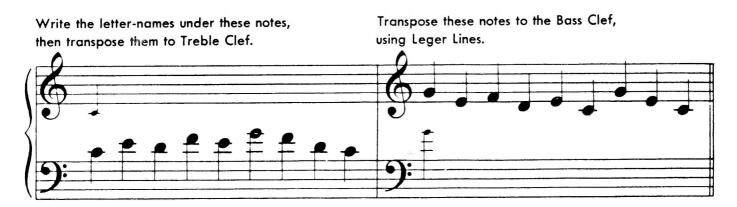


1st line of the Treble brought down to become E in the Bass. 2nd line of the Treble brought down to become G in the Bass.



These notes in Treble Clef-----when transposed to Bass Clef-----look like this on the music.

Writing Exercises



Remember that all added lines <u>above</u> Middle C are <u>borrowed</u> from the Treble and brought down as Leger Lines.

Etude on Leger Lines



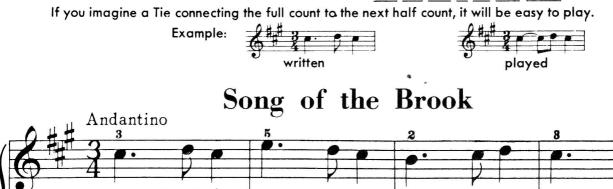
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Dotted Crotchets

(In Three-Four)

You have already played dotted minims and learned how the dot adds an extra <u>half</u> <u>value</u> to each note so marked.

A dotted crotchet will be equal to one full count plus one half of the next count.











Dotted Crotchets



Leger Lines

(Below the Treble Staff)

The Leger Lines <u>below</u> the Treble Staff are easy to read if it is remembered that all lines <u>below</u> <u>Middle C</u> are really Bass Lines, <u>borrowed</u> and <u>brought up</u> for use as Leger Lines.



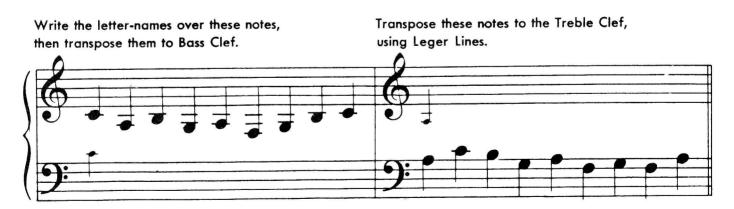
1st line of the Bass brought up to become A in the Treble.

2nd line of the Bass brought up to become F in the Treble.



These notes in Bass Clef —— when transposed to Treble Clef —— look like this on the music.

Writing Exercises



Remember that all added lines <u>below</u> Middle C are Bass Lines, <u>borrowed</u> and used as Leger Lines in the Treble.

Etude on Leger Lines



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Finger Change on the Same Key

A change of fingers when a key is repeated, results automatically in a new Hand Position, thus increasing the number of keys lying within reach of the fingers.

Watch the fingering carefully in the following example.

From a Story Book





Watch carefully for the finger changes in the above example.

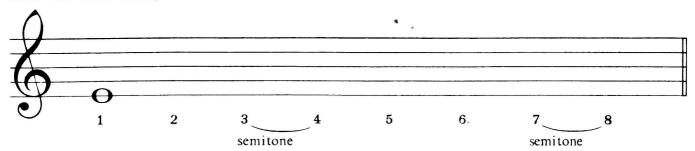
Work Sheet

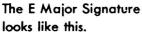
New Key — E Major

E MAJOR has tour sharps — F# C# G# D#.

Write the E Major Scale, using accidentals as necessary to preserve the scale pattern.

Remember that semitones occur only between the <u>3rd and 4th</u> and <u>7th and 8th</u> degrees of the scale. All others are whole tones.



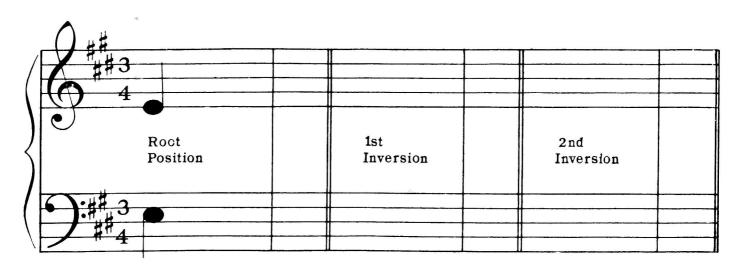












Five-Finger Drill in E Major



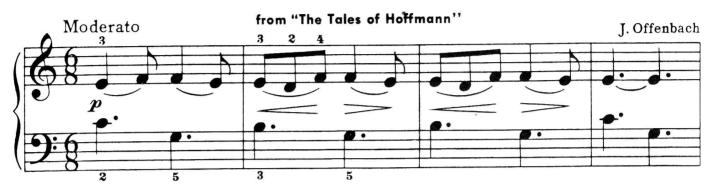
Be sure to make a distinction between the slurred groups and staccato notes in this piece.

Two and Three-note Slurs

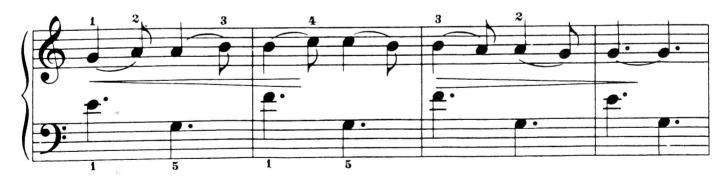
Be sure to observe the Two and Three-note slurs. When they are played correctly, they will imitate the rocking motion of a Gondola as it glides over the waters of a Venetian canal.



Barcarolle









Short and Long Slurs



Staccato Thirds

Sostenuto is a musical term meaning "in a sustained manner." A note or chord to be played thus is often indicated by a little line placed above or below it like this,

In the following piece, see how much contrast you can make between the chords marked staccato and those having the sostenuto sign.





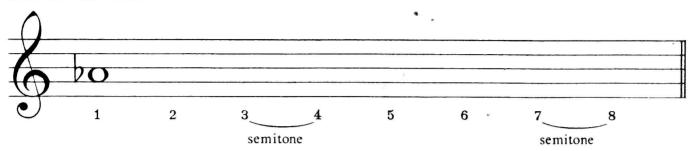
Work Sheet

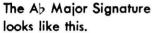
New Key — Ab Major

A FLAT MAJOR has four flats — Bb Eb Ab Db.

Write the A flat Major Scale using accidentals as necessary to preserve the scale pattern.

Remember that semitones occur only between the <u>3rd and 4th</u> and <u>7th and 8th</u> degrees of the scale. All others are whole tones.





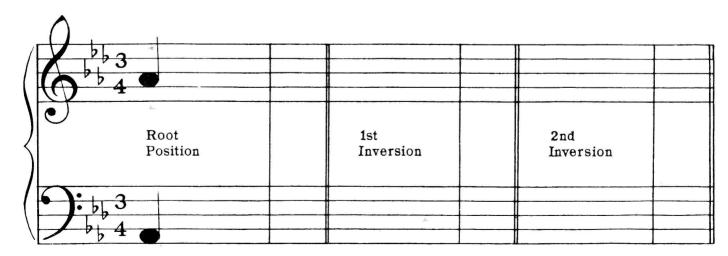






Write the Ab Major Triad in this form:





Broken Chord Study in A Flat Major

TEACHER'S NOTE: While the art of Pedalling has not yet been presented (it will be given in detail later in the Course) it seems advisable to allow its use in simple, elementary form in this piece as well as in some others which follow, especially as extended appeggio passages are rather lifeless without it.

It will suffice at this point to explain to the pupil that the damper (right) pedal is pressed down at the word, "Ped." and is held until the star (*) appears, when it is immediately released.





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Staccato Study

TEACHER'S NOTE: The following piece may be played with either wrist or finger staccato. If wrist staccato is used, the repeated notes are played with the same finger. Whereas if finger staccato is employed, it calls for a change of finger on each note. For this reason, two sets of fingering are given.

For full description of the various staccato Touches (finger, wrist, forearm) see John Thompson's HANON STUDIES.



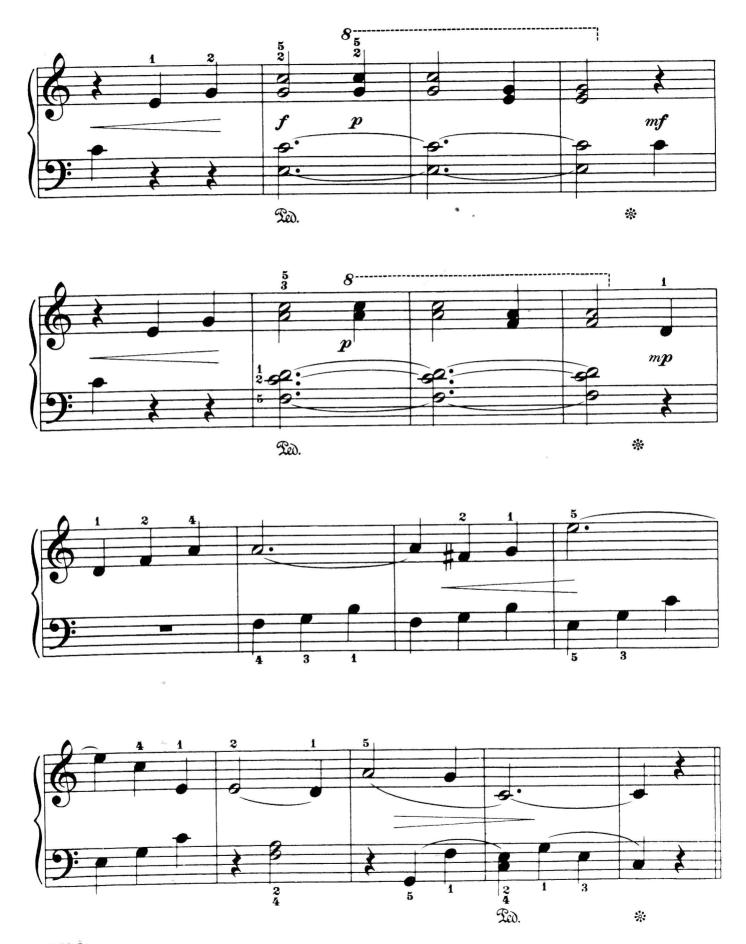


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Ted.

*



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Cross-Hand Piece



Syncopation

To produce a syncopated effect, be sure to apply heavy accents as marked. College Capers Allegro moderato mp 0 0 mpmp 0 0 ff

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Work Sheet

New Key — B Major

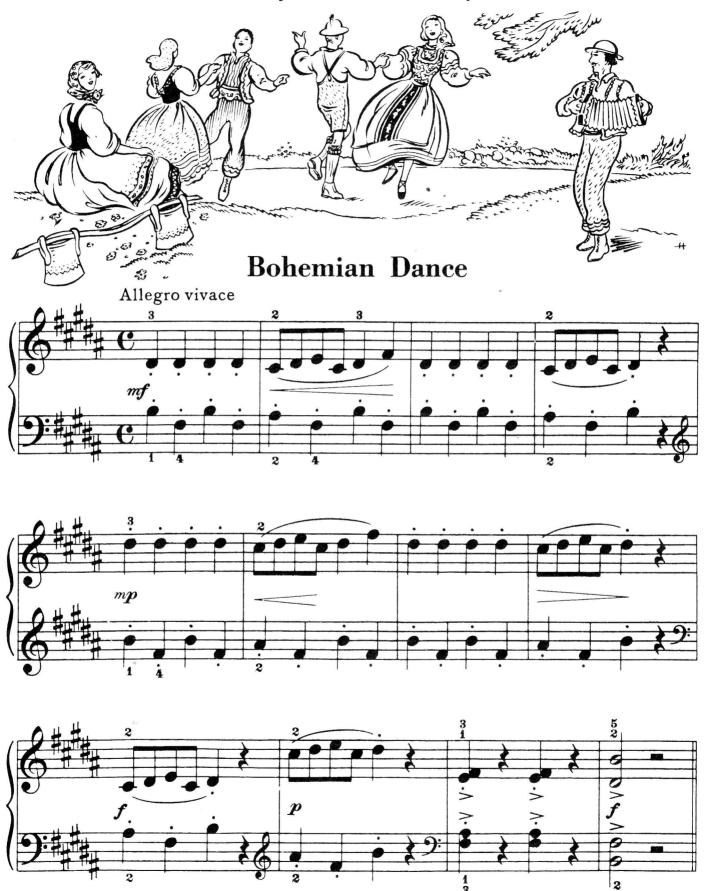
B MAJOR has five sharps — F# C# G# D# A#.

Write the B Major Scale, using accidentals as necessary to preserve the scale pattern.

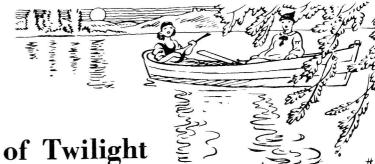
Remember that semitones occur only between the 3rd and 4th and 7th and 8th degrees of the scale. All others are whole tones



Study in B Major



NOCTURNE means Night Song. It is a form of composition often used and always consists of a lyric piece with a mood suggesting the quiet of evening.





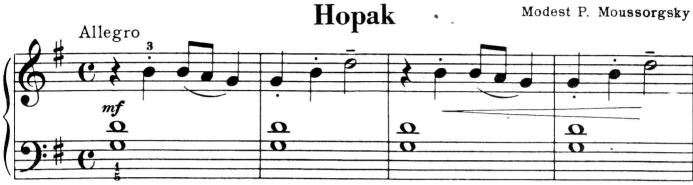


Staccato and Sostenuto

Play this dance with plenty of fire and dash.

Apply sharp staccatos, heavy accents and watch for the occasional <u>sostenuto</u> marks.











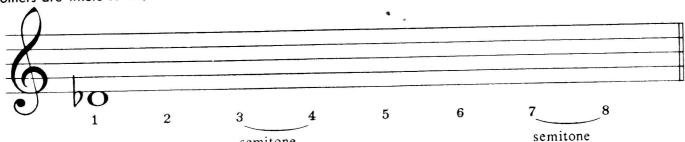
Work Sheet

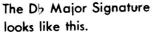
New Key—Db Major

D FLAT MAJOR has five flats — $B\flat$ $E\flat$ $A\flat$ $D\flat$ $G\flat$.

Write the D flat Major Scale, using accidentals as necessary to preserve the scale pattern.

Remember that semitones occur only between the 3rd and 4th and 7th and 8th degrees of the scale. All others are whole tones.





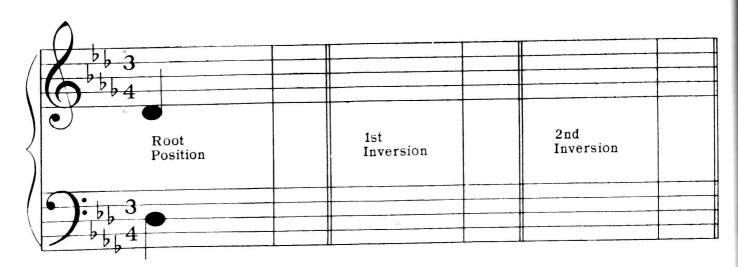






Write the Db Major Triad in this form:





Etude in D Flat Major



At the Skating Rink





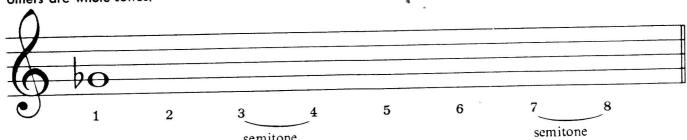
Work Sheet

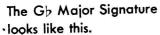
New Key—Gb Major

G FLAT MAJOR has six flats — Bb Eb Ab Db Gb Cb.

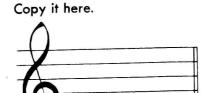
Write the G flat Major Scale, using accidentals as necessary to preserve the scale pattern.

Remember that semitones occur only between the 3rd and 4th and 7th and 8th degrees of the scale. All others are whole tones.

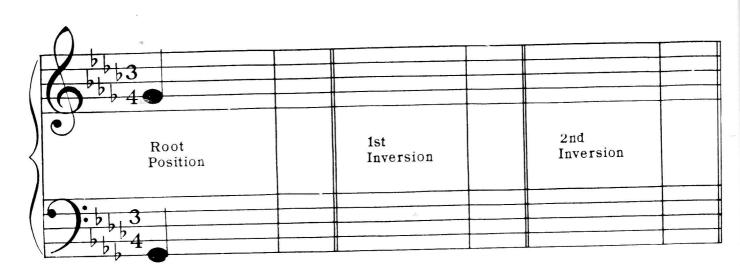








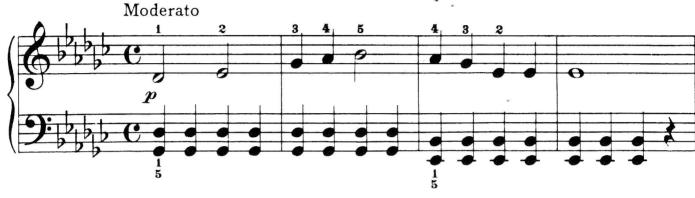




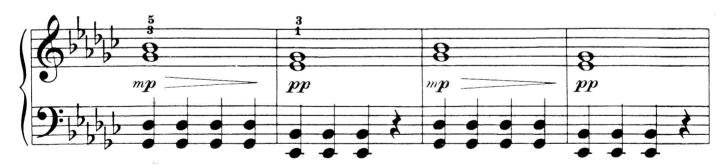
Study in G Flat Major

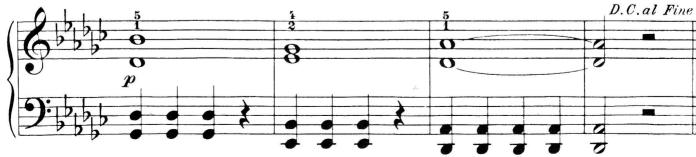


Korean Serenade









Watch for the new flat (Cb). It occurs only once. Be sure to find it!

The Man on the Flying Trapeze





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from Narcissus



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GLOSSARY

of

Musical Terms and Expression Marks Used in this book.

> — Accent . . . Special emphasis on a note or chord Allegretto . . . Light and Lively Allegro . . . Fast Andante . . . Slow Andantino . . . Slow, but not as slow as Andante Animato . . . Animated a tempo . . . Return to original speed — Crescendo . . . Gradually louder — Decrescendo . . . Gradually softer Diminuendo . . . Softer by degrees f — Forte . . . Loud # -- Fortissimo . . . Very loud Legato . . . Smooth and connected L.H. . . . Left Hand

mf — Mezzo Forte . . . Moderately loud mp — Mezzo Piano . . . Moderately soft Moderato . . . Moderately fast - Pause . . . Hold the note or chord longer according to taste pp - Pianissimo . . . Very soft P - Piano ... Soft Poco . . . Little Repeat Sign R.H. . . . Right Hand Rit . . . Ritard . . . Slower by degrees - Slur . . . Connected Staccato . . . Detached, short

Tempo . . . Rate of speed

Vivace . . . Fast and vivacious

8 Play one octave higher

New Scales and Chords

