



Instrumental Updates May 2020

Piano/Keyboard



Hi everyone. We hope you are all keeping safe and well.

Each half term we will be sending you some hints and tips to keep you motivated in your playing. We'll have a specific focus for each update as well as suggested further listening/videos to watch. If you would like to send us a video of your playing to be shared on social media then please let us know. It would be great to see some more piano and keyboard performances!

FOCUS OF THE MONTH – SCALES!

Learning scales and arpeggios helps you to develop reliable muscle memory for common finger movements and improves your tone control across the full note range.

They help you to develop your pitch and interval awareness and become familiar with keys and their related patterns. It will also give you more confidence when sight-reading, learning new pieces and performing.

C major scale (123 tuck under 12345)

- Choose a rhythm/style on your keyboard and try playing the scale along with it, keeping in time
- Select a voice that goes with the style – you could try a few and pick your favourite
- Try changing the tempo – speeding up or slowing down
- Piano players – you could try a different rhythm for your fingers eg. dum de dum de dum or walk running walk running

Chromatic scale (black and white)

- Put your thumb on D then play the nearest black key to the right with finger 3
- Your thumb plays the next white key and you keep walking up the keyboard this way
- When you get to a gap (two white keys) use finger 2
- Now try putting both thumbs on D and try hands together (contrary-motion)
- For your next challenge, find G# and put your 3rd finger on it - play the same pattern from here

WARM-UPS

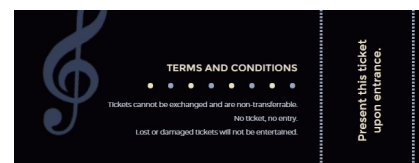
Check out our Musica Kirklees YouTube channel for some warm-up ideas. There are videos to help you with your posture, hand position, finding middle C, five finger exercises and a reminder of how to read music notation. Keep checking the Piano/Keyboard playlist below for further videos being added.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLU7ZU3i58ey9lvfYnkSzAR1D3CUNL4gj2>

Put on a concert!

Have fun with your old tunes

- You could put on a concert for your family! Write a programme listing the pieces you are going to perform
- Issue tickets to your family so they know when and where you will perform eg: 3pm, in the lounge
- You could play them your own made-up tunes, or try other pieces that you know but with a different style/rhythm on your keyboard
- Something else you could try is teaching a member of your family how to play your favourite piece. Maybe help them out by playing the left hand if they struggle with both hands



A good practise routine

- Check your posture: are you lined up with middle C and sat at a comfortable distance away from the keys? Sit up straight with a tall back but remember to keep your shoulders down and relaxed
- Warm up with some scales and finger exercises
- Practise your pieces - try to have a clear goal in mind of what you are wanting to achieve
- Don't always start your pieces at the beginning! Choose a different place to start from each time or just work on a particular section
- Finish off by playing something that you know really well and enjoy



Have you been watching this years BBC Young Musician?

You can watch the competition on BBC Four and BBC iPlayer. Some of the UK's best young musicians compete to win the title of BBC Young Musician 2020. Episode one is the Keyboard category final. Here's a link to the highlights where five young pianists show off their virtuosic skills! Can you pick the winner? Did you agree with the judges decision?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000hy1p/bbc-young-musician-2020-1-keyboard-final-highlights>

Enjoy your music making!
Mr Kitchen

