



Level 4

Sunrise Music Piano Curriculum



Music tools to equip you to
Play, Create, & Embellish songs

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Intro Level 4 - Resources

Scales, chords, arpeggios are words you hear musicians say, but

- *What exactly are they?*
- *Why are they really that important?*
- *But I “just want to play” songs*
- *How will they help me play better?*

How do athletes accomplish their skills? Are there moves they do over and over and over and over and over in practice, so it becomes automatic when in the game? The same is true for musician skills, gained one step at a time. You are the one that can make practice fun by changing up the way you play scales, chords, & arpeggios. Explore playing different variations of what the music says, take different parts and put them together your way! Your music! Have fun learning about music, playing music, and creating music!

Learn to see the **Musical Patterns** in the scales, chords, & arpeggios.

Try these variations in practice & then create your own musical variations:

- Change up rhythms and add a rhythm track to play with for fun
- Try pauses – play 3 or 4 notes, pause, repeat as you go
- Try different scales – blues scale, minor scales, chromatic scale
- Try harmonies – play BH a 3rd or 6th apart or add chords
- Change articulations – smooth, staccato, slurs, accents, etc.
- Try improv using notes of the key scale – to create music!

Music has a language and code all its own.

“Cracking the Code of Music”

helps you realize your dreams to play & create Music.

Music information throughout the book helps you

Learn, Play, & Create MUSIC



Playing scales, chords, & arpeggios consistently will build your musical “muscles” and improve your improv skills!

Reading Music Lesson 1

- * **Music symbols – help you know how to play music notes and rhythm**
How you play communicates - paints a picture, tells a story, sets a mood

Articulations:



Staccato - play short, detached

Tenuto - play full note value

Accent - play note louder

Marcato - play heavier accent



Staccatissimo
- **Spiccato**
play short as possible

Mezzo Staccato
- play with only slight detachment

Accented Tenuto
- play full value & accented

Accented Staccato
- play note short & accented



Martellato
- play note strongly

Tremolo - rapidly repeated note
If the tremolo is between 2 notes, they are played in rapid alteration.
Number of slashes = how fast note repeats
2 slashes = 1/16 notes, 3 slashes = 1/32 notes
For piano: 2 notes more than a whole step apart



Arpeggio - Rolled Chord
- play notes bottom to top in rapid succession, each note held as others are played, usually ascending

Glissando - play notes in a continuous slide
Portamento - slide smoothly from one note to next
Using fingernails, slide from 1st note to the 2nd note

Expressions Marks: tools to turn notes into music → how music should sound/feel
Notes can be played to sound: elegant/beautiful or angry/sad or happy/funny.....

- **Articulation** – how you attack & release each note, your touch creates “mood”
- **Dynamics** – how loud or how soft you play notes, with all variations of "volume"
- **Tempo** – how fast or how slow you play notes, with all variations of "speed"

Beethoven's 5th Symphony

Ludwig van Beethoven 1770-1827
Classical Composer

Arr. Suzanne Solum

espressivo

First system of musical notation (measures 1-5). The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The music is marked *f* (forte). The melody in the right hand features a series of eighth notes and a half note, while the left hand provides a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. A large, faint watermark reading 'Preview Only' is visible across the page.

Second system of musical notation (measures 6-10). The music is marked *p* (piano). The right hand continues the melodic line with eighth notes and a half note, while the left hand plays a series of chords. The watermark 'Preview Only' is visible.

Third system of musical notation (measures 11-15). The music is marked *p* (piano). The right hand features a melodic line with eighth notes and a half note, while the left hand plays a series of chords. The watermark 'Preview Only' is visible.

Fourth system of musical notation (measures 16-20). The music is marked *cresc.* (crescendo) and *f* (forte). The right hand features a melodic line with eighth notes and a half note, while the left hand plays a series of chords. The music ends with a double bar line. The watermark 'Preview Only' is visible.

Reading Music Lesson 3

* Music is filled with **patterns**, smaller patterns and larger patterns.
 Know and Recognize **different musical patterns** to help you play better.

- **Motif, Motive** – short pattern used repeatedly, Beethoven's 5th is famous
 -- find the motif used repeatedly in Rock Climbin' Blues
- **Phrase** – complete musical idea, containing one or more motives
- **Sequences** – a repeated pattern started on a different note using the same intervals & rhythm - see example from *Arabesque* by Burgmuller below
- **Counterpoint** – use of 2 or more melodic lines simultaneously, Bach's music
- **Rhythm** patterns repeated in music – as seen in measures 3 – 6 in *Arabesque* below

Find the Sequences & Rhythm patterns:

Arabesque by Burgmuller

The musical score for 'Arabesque' by Burgmuller is shown in measures 1 through 6. The piece is in 2/4 time. Measures 1-2 show a melody in the treble staff and chords in the bass staff. Measures 3-4 show a sequence of eighth notes in the treble staff and chords in the bass staff. Measures 5-6 show a sequence of eighth notes in the treble staff and chords in the bass staff. Dynamics include *mp*, *cresc.*, and *mf*.

Reading the Grand Staff – both staves together

Relative Motion: the related motion in voicing chords & melodies in music

See: how notes/hands move – BH together & Independently

- **Parallel Motion:** voices moving in same direction and by the same interval between notes
- **Similar Motion:** voices move in same direction, up or down, but not by the same interval
- **Contrary Motion:** voices moving in opposite directions
- **Oblique Motion:** one voice repeats the same note, while the other voice moves

Rock Climbin' Blues

Suzanne Solum

Swing! ♩ = ♩³♩

4

7

10

Morning Mood

Edvard Grieg
1843-1907 Romantic Composer
Arr. Suzanne Solum

allegretto pastorale

p *cresc.* *dim.*

5 *mp* *cresc.* *dim.*

9 *mf* *cresc.* *dim.*

13 *mp* *rit.* *dim.* *pp*

Reading Music Lesson - 7

Remember: Songs are made up of **music keys having patterns** that can be **Major Keys** or **minor keys**, which have specific scales & chords for that key.

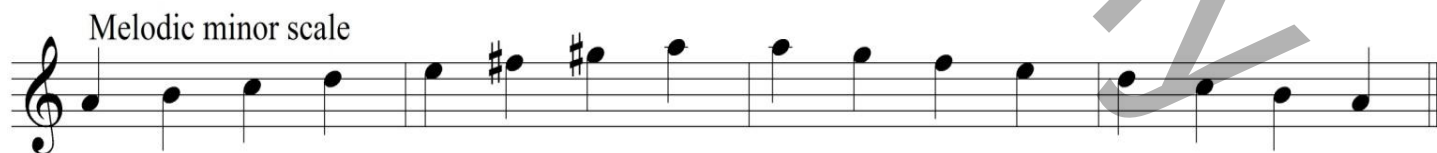
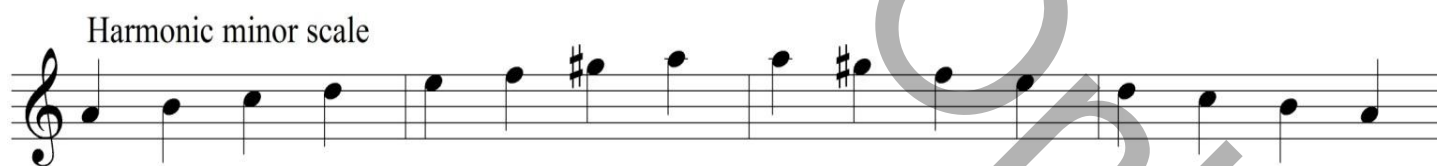
Listening to the sound of those scales & chords in the song will help you to know if it is: a **Major Key** - with a bright sound or a **minor key** - with a serious

Key of Dm - natural minor – finding scale notes & chords of minor Keys:

i	ii°	III	iv	v	VI	VII	i	<u>Natural</u> minor Keys
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Scale Degree
Dm	E _{dim}	F	Gm	Am	B ^b	C	Dm	Key of Dm Chords

Primary chords in minor keys: i (tonic), iv (sub-dominant), v (V) (dominant) are the important chords and contain all the scale notes. Key of Dm: (i) Dm, (iv) Gm, (v) Am

Key of Am - minor keys have 3 types of minor scales to choose from:



F Blues Scale

*Keys of F and Dm are **Relative Keys** – minor & Major keys with the same Key Signature

Practice ascending & descending with RH or LH until hands are fluid.

Prelude in C - Chords

J.S. Bach
by Suzanne Solum

Chords: C, Dm/C, G7/B, C, Am/C, D7/C, G/B, C/B

Measures 1-8 of the Prelude in C. The notation shows the first eight measures of the piece in 4/4 time. The chords are: C (measures 1-2), Dm/C (measure 3), G7/B (measure 4), C (measures 5-6), Am/C (measure 7), D7/C (measure 8), G/B (measure 9), and C/B (measure 10).

Chords: Am7, D7, G, Gdim7, Dm/F, Ddim7, C/E, F/E, Dm7

Measures 9-17 of the Prelude in C. The notation shows measures 9 through 17. The chords are: Am7 (measure 9), D7 (measure 10), G (measure 11), Gdim7 (measure 12), Dm/F (measure 13), Ddim7 (measure 14), C/E (measure 15), F/E (measure 16), and Dm7 (measure 17).

Chords: G7, C, C7, Fmaj7, F#dim7, Ddim7/Ab, G7, C/G, Gsus7

Measures 18-26 of the Prelude in C. The notation shows measures 18 through 26. The chords are: G7 (measure 18), C (measure 19), C7 (measure 20), Fmaj7 (measure 21), F#dim7 (measure 22), Ddim7/Ab (measure 23), G7 (measure 24), C/G (measure 25), and Gsus7 (measure 26).

Chords: G7, Adim7/G, C/G, Gsus7, G7, C7, F/C, Dm/C, G7/C, C

Measures 27-35 of the Prelude in C. The notation shows measures 27 through 35. The chords are: G7 (measure 27), Adim7/G (measure 28), C/G (measure 29), Gsus7 (measure 30), G7 (measure 31), C7 (measure 32), F/C (measure 33), Dm/C (measure 34), G7/C (measure 35), and C (measure 36).

Prelude in C

Johann Sebastian Bach
1685-1750 Baroque Composer

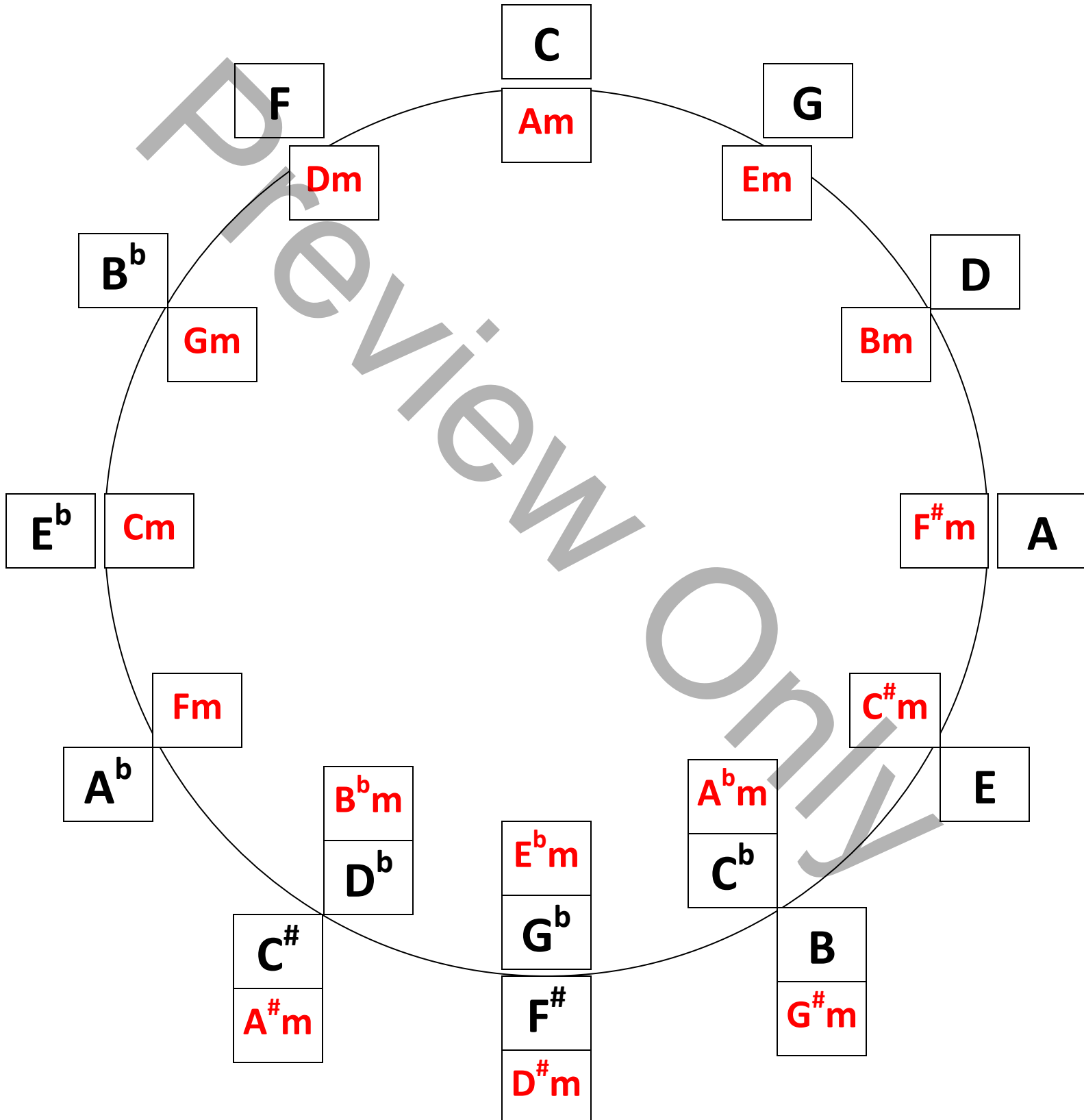
con grazia

The image displays the first ten measures of the 'Prelude in C' by Johann Sebastian Bach. The score is written for piano in 4/4 time, marked 'con grazia'. It features a treble and bass clef staff. The key signature is C major. The first system (measures 1-2) is marked with a 'C' chord above the first measure and a 'Dm/C' chord above the second. The second system (measures 3-4) is marked with a 'G7/B' chord above the third measure and a 'C' chord above the fourth. The third system (measures 5-6) is marked with an 'Am/C' chord above the fifth measure and a 'D7/C' chord above the sixth. The fourth system (measures 7-8) is marked with a 'G/B' chord above the seventh measure and a 'C/B' chord above the eighth. The fifth system (measures 9-10) is marked with an 'Am7' chord above the ninth measure and a 'D7' chord above the tenth. The music consists of a continuous eighth-note melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, primarily using half notes and quarter notes with some eighth-note patterns.

Circle of Fifths – Relative Minor Key

Order of Sharps: F C G D A E B

Order of Flats: B E A D G C F





Song Building Blocks



Music Tools to create or arrange
songs you want to play.



3 Ways to Build Blues Songs

Improvisation: Music that is created spontaneously, without preparation

- 12 Bar Chord Progressions 
- Blues Scales for creating Melody & Improv
- Listen, listen to music rhythms – LH, RH, BH

Finding Your Musical Blues Voice:

1st pick a key,

2nd use its blues scale notes for melody,

3rd use the key's primary chords for chord progression,

4th play & listen. Experiment & keep what you like.

Start by writing a Blues Song in key of C Major:

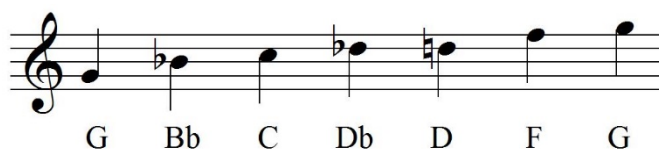
RH: Use the blues scales below. LH: Use Primary Chords C, F, G



Next try the Key of F Major: Primary Chords: F, Bb, C



Then try the Key of G Major: Primary Chords: G, C, D



The minor blues scale of 6 notes, also called hexatonic, is a blues scale made up of the minor pentatonic scale + the ^b5th degree. This added note can be spelled either a flat 5th or a sharp 4th.



Accompaniment

Skills to unlock any song you want
to play, create, or embellish. 

Accompaniment Skills Lesson 5

Explore Options: Take LH Chords apart in a variety of ways with **Broken Chords**

I I I I IV I V⁷ I

Split Chord

9

Chord Walk-up

17

Alberti Bass

O When the Saints:

I I I I I I I V

Mix It Up

9 or

Split Chord

Semper Fidelis

"Always Faithful"

Official March of U.S. Marine Corps
by John Philip Sousa 1899



Hatikvah

with Hope

Samuel Cohen 1888

LH: flowing

The musical score for the left hand of 'Hatikvah' is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo/style is marked 'flowing'. The score consists of seven staves of music. Above the staves, the following chords are indicated: Cm, Fm, Cm, Fm, G⁷, Cm, Fm, Cm, Fm, Cm, Fm, G⁷, Cm, Fm, Cm, B^b, E^b, Cm, B^b, E^b, Fm, Cm, Fm, Cm, Fm, E^b, Fm, Cm, Fm, Cm, Fm, Cm, Fm, E^b, Fm, Cm, Fm, E^b, Fm, Cm. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing beamed eighth notes. The piece concludes with a final whole note chord of Cm.

Singabahambayo

Celebration of Freedom & Hope

South African Folk Song

LH: pulsing bass

The musical score for the left hand (LH) of the song "Singabahambayo" is written in 4/4 time. The key signature has four flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, D-flat). The score consists of eight staves of music, each with a pulsing bass line and various chords. The chords are indicated by letters and accidentals above the staff.

Staff 1: D^b G^b

Staff 2: A^b7 D^b

Staff 3: G^b A^b7 D^b

Staff 4: E^bm A^b7 D^b E^bm A^b7 D^b

Staff 5: E^bm A^b7 D^b E^bm A^b7

Staff 6: D^b G^b

Staff 7: A^b7 D^b D^b

Accompaniment Skills Lesson 8

Accompaniment – Harmonizing a melody:

Octave + 5th and **Stride LH** with the song "O When the Saints"

Octave + 5th

Stride LH

Oompah Rhythm

Steps to Modulate: to change keys in a song

modulate using V7 of Eb
LH walks down 2 whole steps

*Chord Symbols are independent of key signature. Find & use the common tone shared by chords - d is shared by D & B^b7. Now try modulating into Key of E^b.