
LESSON 1: SHIFTING POSITIONS AND 5THS

Learning points:

- ☐ Shifting hand positions
- ☐ Review: 5ths
- ☐ Ostinato
- ☐ Review: All white-key major and minor 5-finger scales

Piece of the week:

*Choose between these pieces and practice for **one week**.*

Royal Fanfare (Donkins)

Difficulty: *

Key: Dm

Meter: 4/4

Form: ABC

Where can you find this music? [Legends & Lore \(elementary piano\) — Christine Donkin](#)

Learning points: 5ths, shifting hand positions, simple 8th note pattern, basic interval harmony. What is fanfare, and how does the sound of the music relate to the title?

To practice this piece, learn the first line in the right-hand from memory. With an understanding of 5ths, go in and, without looking at the music, try to figure out the LH in the first line by playing it a fifth underneath. Try different intervals to see how that effects the sound.

Fairy Tale, op. 98 no. 1 (Grechaninov)

Difficulty: ***

Key: G (ambig)

Meter: 4/4

Form: ABA

Where can you find this music? [Children's Album, op. 98 \(sheetmusicplus\)](#), [imslp.org](#)

Practice points: An exercise in shifting hand positions, finger substitutions, and the detail-oriented writing of the late 19th Century. This book is a good little collection, so this piece makes a good starting point.

Method book:

Piano Adventures 3a Lesson Book: Sakura (p. 6-7)

- find the ostinato in the piece
- fill in blanks
- practice syncopated pedal technique
- practice wrist motion
- learn ending trill

Technique:

Spend about 5 minutes each day practicing all major and minor white-key 5-finger scales. You do not need to do every single scale, every single day.

Sight Reading:

Go through one sight reading exercise per day (5m). This week's sight-reading exercises are very simple (note-wise) canons by Kunz, with an additional piece by Carroll. Expect the sight reading to get more difficult, though it varies from week-to-week. No need to master any sight-reading exercise. Once you've completed 5 minutes, put it away and begin a new exercise tomorrow.

Ear training:

Spend 5m/day exploring some of the following points:

- Can you memorize the first line of Royal Fanfare, right hand, by ear?
- Have you experimented with different interval gaps (besides 5ths) in Royal Fanfare?
- Have you listened to recordings of the piece you've chosen a few times (or more)?
- How well can you sing the melody (*a capella*) of the piece you're learning?
- Can you play all of the major and minor 5-finger scales from memory?

Practice tips:

- Each practice session, expect to spend approximately 5 minutes on technique, 5 minutes on sight reading, 5 minutes on ear training, and 20-30 minutes working with the main piece. You can optionally spend about an hour on the Piano Adventures piece. This translates to roughly 4.5 hours total.