

Alfred's Premier Piano Express

Dennis Alexander, Gayle Kowalchyk, E. L. Lancaster, Victoria McArthur & Martha Mier

All-In-One Accelerated Course

Lesson ■ Theory ■ Technique ■ Performance

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Foreword	2
	Review	3
UNIT 1	The C 5-Finger Pattern	4
UNIT 2	Dynamics and Tempo	10
UNIT 3	Tonic and Dominant in C	14
UNIT 4	Eighth Notes	21
UNIT 5	Tonic and Dominant in G	30
UNIT 6	Half and Whole Steps	38
UNIT 7	Major 5-Finger Patterns	42
UNIT 8	Interval of a 6th	48
UNIT 9	New Notes on the Staff	54
UNIT 10	Minor 5-Finger Patterns	60
UNIT 11	Intervals of 7ths and Octaves	68
UNIT 12	C and G Major Scales and Chords	80
UNIT 13	Dotted Quarter Note	92

Copyright © 2016 Alfred Music
All rights reserved. Printed in USA.

No part of this book shall be reproduced, arranged, adapted, recorded, publicly performed, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any means without written permission from the publisher. In order to comply with copyright laws, please apply for such written permission and/or license by contacting the publisher at alfred.com/permissions.

ISBN-10: 1-4706-3370-1
ISBN-13: 978-1-4706-3370-7


Alfred Music
P.O. Box 10003
Van Nuys, CA 91410-0003
alfred.com



Foreword

Premier Piano Express is designed for students who need a faster-paced approach to piano study. Based on the concepts and music from *Premier Piano Course*, this All-in-One Accelerated Course integrates Lesson, Theory, Technique, and Performance pages. This comprehensive course is organized into skills-based units that feature clear explanations of important musical concepts, written worksheets to provide review and strengthen understanding, as well as optional duet accompaniments to create fulfilling musical experiences.

Book 2 continues the steady development of artistry and keyboard skills that began in Book 1. Note-reading skills are expanded to include ledger-line notes. Melodic and harmonic 6ths, 7ths, and octaves are used to help the student move freely around the keyboard. Eighth notes and dotted eighth notes are added to other rhythms of gradually increasing complexity. Technical skills include the development of one-octave scales, hand-over-hand crossings (including arpeggios), finger crossings, and legato pedaling.

Included with the book is a CD-ROM that contains MP3 files of audio performances on acoustic piano and orchestrated accompaniments for selected pieces in the book. Pieces with recordings are identified in the book with a speaker icon (). There are four versions of each piece on the CD-ROM:

1. A digitally orchestrated accompaniment **with** piano.
2. A digitally orchestrated accompaniment **without** piano.
3. A **practice tempo** performed on acoustic piano.
4. A **performance tempo** performed on acoustic piano.

The TNT 2 Custom Mix Software allows the user to change tempos in these audio files. In addition, the CD-ROM contains General MIDI files that can be downloaded.

These recordings add musical interest, and motivate students in the lesson and during practice. For students who do not have a CD-ROM drive, these files can be downloaded at alfred.com/premierpianoexpress.

The authors of *Premier Piano Express* send our best wishes as you begin this exciting musical journey!

All music was composed or arranged by
Dennis Alexander and Martha Mier.

In Units 1–7, a **blue** finger number indicates that the hand moves up or down.



CD-ROM Instructions:

When you insert the disc into your computer, navigate to **Computer** or **My Computer**, right-click on the disc drive icon, and select **Open** or **Explore**. (Mac users can simply double-click the disc icon that appears on the desktop.) The MP3s can be dragged to your desktop and then transferred to your smartphone or iPod, or burned to an audio disc.

Alternatively, to install the TNT 2 software, double-click on the installer file—please note that installation may take up to 15 minutes. Once it is installed, you will be able to slow down or speed up each MP3, loop playback, and select specific sections for practicing.

TNT 2 System Requirements:

Windows

10, 8, 7, Vista, XP
QuickTime 7.6.7 or higher
1.8 GHz processor or faster
350 MB hard drive space, 2 GB RAM minimum
CD or DVD drive for installation
Speakers or headphones
Internet access required for updates

Macintosh

OSX 10.4 or higher (Intel only)
QuickTime 7.6.7 or higher
350 MB hard drive space, 2 GB RAM minimum
CD or DVD drive for installation
Speakers or headphones
Internet access for updates

Windows is a registered trademark or trademark of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries. iPad, Macintosh, OSX and Quick Time are trademarks of Apple Inc.

Worksheet Review

1. On the blank lines, name the notes.

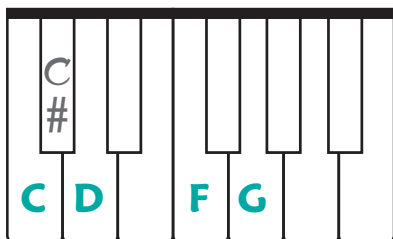
a.

b.

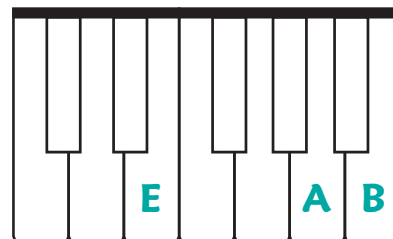
2. Write **M** on the line next to each *melodic* interval and **H** next to each *harmonic* interval. Then connect each melodic and harmonic interval to its matching name.

_____		2nd		_____
_____		3rd		_____
_____		4th		_____
_____		5th		_____

3. Write the name on the correct black key for D \sharp , F \sharp , and G \sharp .



4. Write the name on the correct black key for E \flat , A \flat , and B \flat .



UNIT 1 The C 5-Finger Pattern

On with the Show! 🎧 1

Lively

f

5

9

mf

Duet: Student plays one octave higher.

Lively

RH *mf*

LH

*Optional: The half notes in the left hand of measures 1–6 may be played as a tremolo.

Moving Up from Treble C for the C 5-Finger Pattern

Treble C and the four notes that step up from it are called the **C 5-finger pattern**.

Stepping Up

Skipping Up

Bartók's Study 2

(First Term at the Piano)

Béla Bartók
(1881–1945)

Moderately

7

Duet: Student plays **LH** one octave higher.

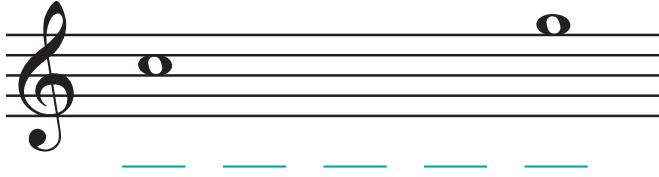
Alexander/Mier

Moderately

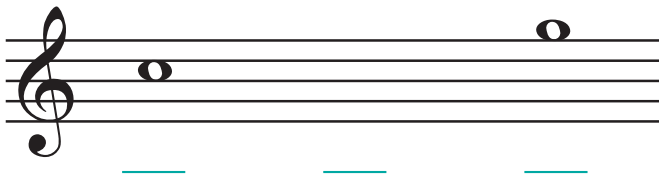
7

Worksheet C 5-Finger Pattern in Treble Clef

1. Using whole notes, write the C 5-finger pattern *going up*. Name each note.



2. Using a whole note, write one note that will make a 3rd between each note. Name the notes.



3. Name each note. Then play on the keyboard.

a. b. c. d.

Sharp and Flat Review

1. A sharp sign \sharp raises
lowers a note a half step to the right
left
(Circle one.) (Circle one.)

2. A flat sign \flat raises
lowers a note a half step to the right
left
(Circle one.) (Circle one.)

Finger Independence

Play each key with *finger independence*— moving precisely from one finger to the next with energy.

Yankee Doodle Dazzle 3

March-like

1 *mf* *f* 5

5 *mf* *f* 1

1/5

Duet: Student plays **RH** one octave higher and **LH** two octaves higher.

March-like

RH *mp* *mf* 3 1

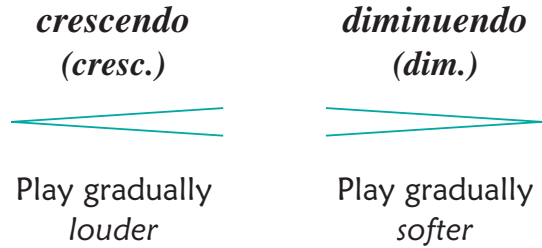
LH 1 *mp* *mf* 3 1

5 *mp* *mf* 3 1

UNIT 2 Dynamics and Tempo

Crescendo and Diminuendo

Playing *gradually louder* or *gradually softer* allows music to express moods and feelings.



Dynamic Shaping


To shape the phrases:

- Use a light arm for the first note of the phrase.
- Gradually *increase* the arm weight for the *crescendo*.
- Gradually *decrease* the arm weight for the *diminuendo*.
- Lift off the last note of the phrase with a rising wrist.

Au clair de la lune 🎧 4

French

Flowing



Duet: Student plays one octave higher.

Flowing



UNIT 13 Dotted Quarter Note

A quarter note tied to an eighth note equals a dotted quarter note.

1 + 1/2 counts 1 1/2 counts

The dotted quarter note is almost always followed by an eighth note.

Count: 1 + 2 +

The dot increases the length of a note by *half its value*.

Tap and count each rhythm pattern.

1. :||
Count: 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

3. :||
Count: 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

2. :||
Count: 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

4. :||
Count: 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

Draw a line to connect each rhythm on the left to the rhythm on the right that sounds the same.

New Rhythm

Tap and clap aloud.



Count: 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

Dutch Dance ♩ 36

Joachim van den Hove
(1567–1620)

Moderato

5

9

Duet: Student plays **RH** one octave higher and **LH** two octaves higher.

Alexander/Mier

Moderato