



Lesson Twelve

Gigajam Keyboard School Lesson 012 IKSIM

Introducing Melody

Lesson Objectives

- Introduce the concept of *Melody*.
- Develop the ability to perform melody using half and quarter notes in the right hand.
- Develop two hand co-ordination using left hand triads and right hand melody.
- Introduce quarter note rests in melody.
- Introduce *Key Signatures*.

Introducing Melody

A keyboard player is often required to play a melody. A melody is usually written in the **Treble Clef** and played with the right hand.

A **melody** usually contains notes from a scale, and is often supported with a chord played in the left hand.

A melody is often based upon or around the notes of a chord. In the first exercise of this lesson you will learn to play a melody based upon the notes of the A Major scale. You can revise this information in Lesson 2. The information on the A Major Triad is in Lesson 1.

Major Scale Melody

This exercise contains the first five notes of the A Major scale (A to E) played as a series of half notes and quarter notes. Use the major scale right hand fingering to play this melody.

Practise playing this melody until you are comfortable with it. Make sure you can read the melody as you play it and remember to use the correct right hand fingering. The notes used in this melody are A, B, C#, D and E.

Before we look at Exercise 1 though, we need to introduce Key Signatures.

Introducing the use of Key Signatures

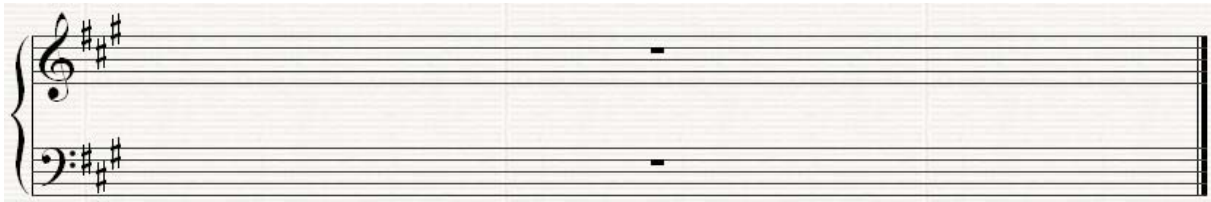
Key Signatures are used at the beginning of music to denote the dominant scale used in the piece of music that follows.

Key means the Root note at the bottom of a Scale. For instance, a piece of music maybe written in the Key of A Major, which means that predominantly the notes in the piece are contained within the scale of A Major. Accordingly, we therefore know that it is a sharp key, as all the Accidental notes (Black) are sharp in pitch. You will recall from our studies that the notes in the Key of A Major are;

A, B, C#, D, E, F#,G# A

You will see that we have 3 accidentals in the scale and accordingly the Key Signature will show the 3 accidentals at the beginning of the piece of music to denote the Key in which to play. Look at Fig 1 below.

Figure 1 Introducing Key Signatures-Key of A Major denoted by the 3 sharps at the beginning of the Stave



In our first exercise of this lesson you will see that we are playing in the Key of A Major. This gives you your first opportunity to use Key Signatures in your playing. We will use more Key signatures as we move through the rest of the course to help you become more familiar with the use of Key Signatures.

Exercise 1
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Left Hand Triad

The notes used in this melody are from the A Major Scale – A,B,C#,D and E (F# and G# are not used). Three of the notes used form the A Major Triad – A,C# and E. Play the A Major Triad with your left hand to support the melody. You can first practise doing this by revising Lesson 4 – left hand triads and right hand scales.

Now practise exercise 2, which combines both melody and triad. Remember you are still only playing notes from the A Major Scale. Use the correct fingering for each hand.

Practise playing this melody until you are comfortable. Also, make absolutely sure that your right and left hand are synchronised. This means that they should both play right on time on the first beat of each bar. Keep practising this exercise until you can do this perfectly.

Exercise 2

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Thinking about Melody

The melody you have learned to play begins on the first note of the A Major scale and is played on the first beat of the bar. A melody could of course begin on any of the notes of the scale, although it is more likely to begin on one of the notes of the Triad. Additionally, a melody could begin on any beat of the bar (of which in common time there are four).

Adding Rests

Exercise 3 is another melody created from the notes of the A Major scale. The difference is that this time there are some Rests involved. You can revise Rests in Lesson 11. The rests involved are whole and quarter note rests.

In this exercise you need to count carefully. The melody begins on the third beat of the bar, so you do not need to play on the first two beats (beats 1 and 2). Make sure you can read and understand the rhythm involved in the melody, which you will play with your right hand. Practise this on it's own first. This rhythm still only contains half and quarter notes and uses only the first five notes of the A Major scale (A to E).

The left hand does not play at all in the first bar. The chord falls on the first beat of the second bar. Practise this until you are comfortable with it. Remember that in the first bar you only use your right hand, whereas in the second bar you use both hands. Make sure they are synchronised and fall exactly on time together.

Exercise 3
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Practising

As with all the lessons you need to repeat the skills you have learned so that the new ideas can be merged with all the skills you have been developing. It is important to reflect on what you have learned so that you can identify the progress in your playing and your musical knowledge.

Re read the objectives of the lesson and identify which new skills you are now applying and which skills you are using from the material you have developed throughout the course.