



Lesson Twenty One

Introducing Intervals

Gigajam Keyboard School Lesson 021 IKS II

Lesson Objectives

- Introduce *intervals*.
- Introduce *melodic intervals*.
- Develop the ability to play *thirds*.

Introducing intervals

An interval is the distance between two notes. When two notes are played there is a gap or space between them, this is known as an **interval**.

Intervals are based on the major scale. For example, play the G major scale, the note names are:

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

The note numbers are:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Let's familiarise ourselves with the notes in the scale before we move on through the lesson. Watch the first video and the play along with our first exercise.

Exercise 1

lesson021.iksii.01



Playing thirds

Now let's use this knowledge and ability to help understand intervals. Firstly, keep and play the G root note. Now miss out the second note (A) and instead play the third note, which is B.

At this point you are playing G and B - that's the first and third notes of the major scale. This is known as a third. This is an interval of a third.

Practise playing this interval until you are comfortable with it.

Exercise 2

lesson021.iksii.02



Leapfrog

Notice how you step over the second note (A) - play one (G), miss one (A), play one (B). You are therefore 'leapfrogging' over the middle note.

You can do this on any note from the scale. On A for example, it would be play one (A), miss one (B), play one (C). That's A and C. This is also a third.

Exercise 3 lesson021.iksii.03



Practising intervals

Now play these two together as one exercise – G and B, A and C.

Practise playing this interval exercise until you are comfortable with it.

Exercise 4 lesson021.iksii.04



Playing the scale

The next exercise goes up the whole scale using this play one, miss one, play one routine. Remember, it's just the notes of the G major scale played in a new way.

Practise playing this new exercise until you are comfortable with it. Remember to use the correct fingering (watch the video).

Exercise 5 lesson021.iksii.05



Melodic interval

Each pair of notes is an interval of a third. Playing each note of an interval separately like this is known as a melodic interval. This is probably because that's how melodies are played, one note at a time.

Now play that exercise again, this time coming back down the scale too.

Exercise 6 lesson021.iksii.06



Further interval practise

So far in this lesson, you've only been using your right hand to play the melodic intervals. The next exercise adds the left hand playing a G root bass note on the first beat of each bar.

Exercise 7 lesson021.iksii.07



Left hand

Now try some of the right hand exercises you've been playing with the left hand. This time playing an octave lower, down in the bass clef. The next exercise goes up the whole scale using the play one, miss one, play one routine. Remember, it's just the notes of the G major scale played in a new way – play G (miss A), play B. Then, play A (miss B), play C – and so on.

Exercise 8 lesson021.iksii.08



Practise playing this exercise until you are comfortable with it. Remember to use the correct fingering (watch the video).

Now play that exercise again, this time coming back down the scale too.

Exercise 9 lesson021.iksii.09



Exercise 10
lesson021.iksii.10



Now that your left hand is in action use it to play a G major scale using half notes.

The image shows two staves of music. The top staff is a grand staff with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). It contains four measures of whole rests. The bottom staff is a grand staff with a bass clef and a common time signature (C). It contains a G major scale in half notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3. The first measure starts with a 5 above the staff, indicating the fifth finger. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Both hands

The next exercise puts both hands together. The right hand plays thirds as melodic intervals in quarter notes – you played this in exercise 7 above. The left hand plays each note of the scale using half notes. This means that your right hand plays twice as many notes.

Exercise 11
lesson021.iksii.11



The image shows a grand staff with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The right hand plays a sequence of thirds in quarter notes: G4-A4, A4-B4, B4-C5, C5-D5, D5-E5, E5-F#5, F#5-G5. The left hand plays a G major scale in half notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Bringing it all together

Finally, put everything together in one exercise with your right hand playing thirds and your left hand playing the scale.

Exercise 12 lesson021.iksii.12



Other keys

The exercises in this lesson (thirds played as melodic intervals) are all based on the G major scale. It is of course necessary to be able to apply what you have learned to other keys. The remaining exercises will help you to develop this ability. There is no new material - you have already played all of these exercises in this lesson on G – it's just the same thing on a different note.

Exercise 13 lesson021.iksii.13



Exercise 14
lesson021.iksii.14



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Exercise 15
lesson021.iksii.15



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Exercise 16
lesson021.iksii.16



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