

Grade 2

Essential Skills Examples

Here are some additional examples for you to work through as you prepare for your Grade 2 Exam. Remember, you'll get the actual examples 10 days before your exam, so you should have time to try them out with your teacher. Then you choose just ONE skill to present at your exam.... What's your favourite skill!?

Quick Study – this will be a grand staff, 2 hands, 8 bar piece in C, G or F major, in simple quadruple or simple triple time. Make sure you check the key signature and look through the whole line example you begin to play. If you'd like to do more sight reading, the examples here are a similar level to the pieces in the UME 'Junior Plus' level. So go to the Junior Plus section of the syllabus, click on 'PDFs of pieces' and try playing through those as well!



Musical notation for the first 4 bars of a piece in F major, 4/4 time. The piece is written for grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one flat (Bb). The time signature is 4/4. The melody in the treble clef starts with a whole rest in the first bar, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, Bb4, C5 in the second bar, quarter notes C5, Bb4, A4, G4 in the third bar, and quarter notes G4, A4, Bb4, C5 in the fourth bar. The bass clef accompaniment starts with a quarter note F3, a quarter note G3, and a whole rest in the first bar, followed by a whole chord (F3, A3, C4) in the second bar, a whole note F3 in the third bar, and a whole note F3 in the fourth bar.



Musical notation for the last 4 bars of the first piece in F major, 4/4 time. The piece is written for grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one flat (Bb). The time signature is 4/4. The melody in the treble clef starts with a whole rest in the first bar, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, Bb4, C5 in the second bar, quarter notes C5, Bb4, A4, G4 in the third bar, and a quarter note G4 followed by a whole rest in the fourth bar. The bass clef accompaniment starts with a quarter note F3, a quarter note G3, and a whole rest in the first bar, followed by a whole chord (F3, A3, C4) in the second bar, a whole note F3 in the third bar, and a quarter note G3, a quarter note F3, and a whole rest in the fourth bar.



Musical notation for an 8-bar piece in G major, 3/4 time. The piece is written for grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature is 3/4. The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, quarter notes B4, A4, G4, quarter notes G4, A4, B4, quarter notes B4, A4, G4, quarter notes G4, A4, B4, quarter notes B4, A4, G4, and a half note G4. The bass clef accompaniment consists of a series of chords: F#3, A3, B3, F#3, A3, B3, F#3, A3, B3, F#3, A3, B3, F#3, A3, B3, F#3, A3, B3, and a quarter note G3, a quarter note F#3, and a quarter note E3.



Improvisation – this will be a simple chord progression using only chords I, IV and V7. You can choose to play these in your favourite key!

There will be 4 chords and they may be presented in any order.

Your job is to play the chords as they are written (block chords) and then to play them again and ‘improvise’ a simple RH melody over the chords.

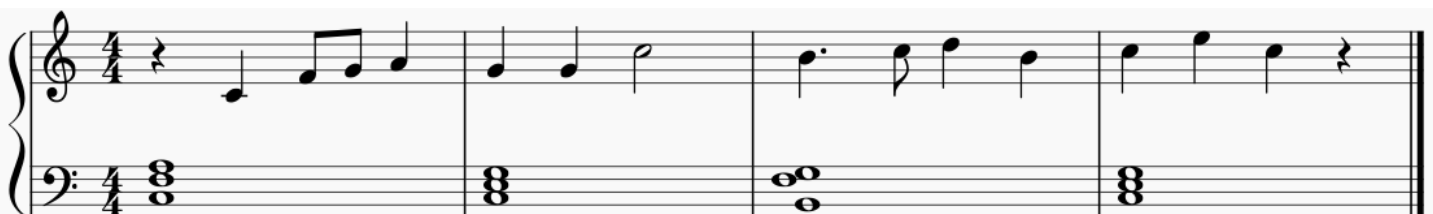
Here’s an example in C major - the chord progression might look like this:

IV I V7 I

So first you play it like this with your LH:



And then play it again with a melody in your RH:



Pick a key, try these progressions and see if you can come up with some cool 'improvised' melodies over the chords!

IV I V7 I

V7 I IV I

IV V7 I I

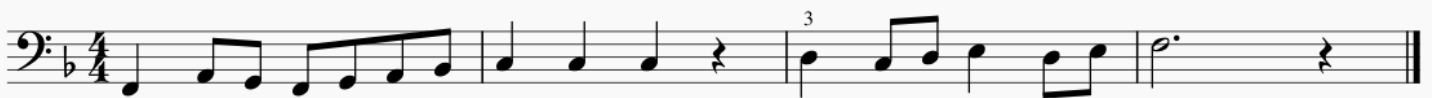
I I IV V7

Transposition – This will be a simple 4 bar melody in either C, F or G major – but this time it will be in the BASS clef, so play it with your left hand. You need to play it as written and then transpose it into 2 other major keys – of your choice!

Here's an example. First play this as written:



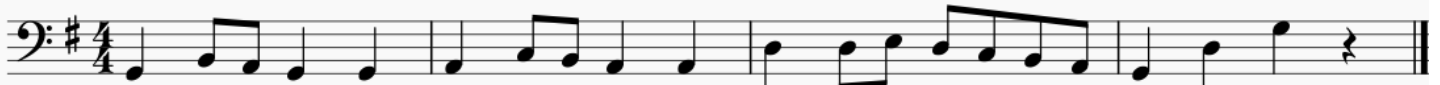
Then play it in a different key (how about F major?)

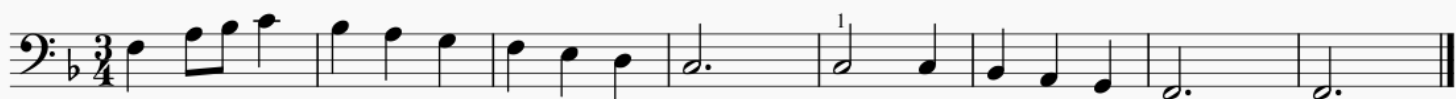


(You could have played this an octave higher if you like – that's up to you!)

And then play it again in another key of your choice.

Here are a few examples for you to try. You can choose any keys so start experimenting! Try starting on a different note, check which black notes you might need and see if you can work out some interesting keys. Start by playing the melody as written.





Transposition is a great skill! It's fun to find simple pieces from anywhere and try them out in different keys! Maybe you can have a try of some of your performance pieces in other keys or make up your own little melody and then transpose it!? Have fun.