

## APPENDIX 6 KEYBOARD EXERCISES (SCALES, TRIADS, AND CHORD PROGRESSIONS)

### Playing Major Scales on the Keyboard

Play the following major scales using the finger number given *above* the scale for the **right hand** and finger number *below* the scale for the **left hand**. Notice that we have five digits, but the scale consists of eight notes. In the first five scales (C, G, D, A, E), three fingers will play twice. In the last two scales (B, F), the fifth finger does not play in one of the hands.

- Beginning with the thumb on each hand, the digits are numbered from one to five. The thumb is referred to as a finger for convenience.
- For the first five scales (C G D A E): when ascending in the right hand (RH), the thumb crosses *under* the third finger. When descending, the third finger will cross *over* the thumb.
- For the first five scales (C G D A E): when ascending in the left hand (LH), the third finger crosses *over* the thumb. When descending, the thumb crosses *under* the third finger.
- For the last two scales (B F), the fingering changes for one of the hands.
- Practice slowly, hands separately. If possible, then play hands together, one octave apart as shown in the C major scale below.

C major

The image displays the C major scale on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The scale is presented in two measures: the first measure for ascending and the second for descending. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1 through 5 above the notes for the right hand and below the notes for the left hand.

Hand	Direction	Note	Finger
Right Hand (RH)	Ascending	C	1
		D	2
		E	3
		F	1
	Descending	E	2
		D	3
		C	4
		B	1
Left Hand (LH)	Ascending	C	5
		D	4
		E	3
		F	2
	Descending	E	1
		D	3
		C	2
		B	1

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### G major

RH 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1

LH 5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5

### D major

RH 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1

LH 5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5

### A major

RH 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1

LH 5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5

### E major

RH 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1

LH 5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5

B major (LH begins with the fourth finger and does not use the fifth finger. When ascending, the *fourth* finger crosses over the thumb. When descending, the thumb crosses under the *fourth* finger.)

RH 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1

LH 4 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

F major (RH does not use the fifth finger. When ascending, the thumb crosses under the *fourth* finger. When descending, the *fourth* finger crosses over the thumb.)

RH 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 3 2 1 4 3 2 1

LH 5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5

## Playing Minor Scales on the Keyboard

Play the three forms of the minor scales using the finger numbers given above the scale for the right hand (RH) and finger numbers below the scale for the left hand (LH). Slowly play hands alone ascending and descending, listening carefully for the changes in the sixth and seventh notes in the harmonic and melodic forms. Notice that the first five notes of the three different forms are always the same.

Or you may wish to play the scales using both hands to play one octave.

- Begin with the left hand playing the lower four notes with four consecutive fingers.
- Play the upper four notes with four consecutive fingers of the right hand. For example:

Right hand

1 2 3 4

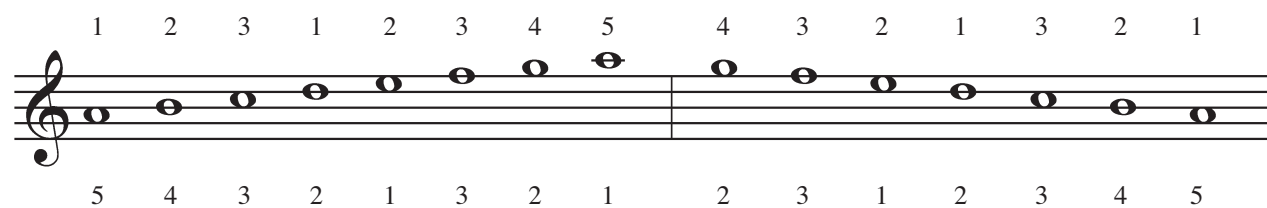
Left hand

4 3 2 1

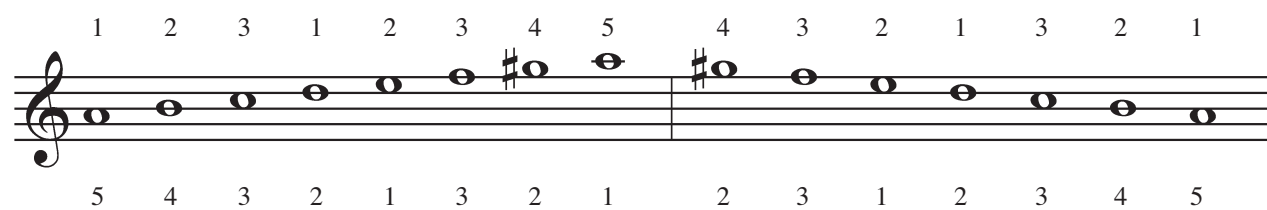
The fingering is provided for all three forms of the A minor scale. For subsequent scales, the fingering is given only for the harmonic form, which is the most useful form of the minor because of its harmonic implications.

## APPENDIX 6

### 1. A natural minor



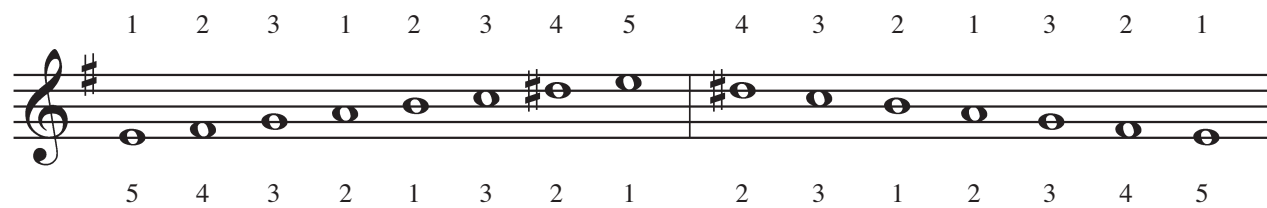
### A harmonic minor



### A melodic minor



### 2. E harmonic minor



### 3. D harmonic minor



## 4. G harmonic minor

1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1

5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5

## 5. C harmonic minor

1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1

5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5

## 6. F harmonic minor

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 3 2 1 4 3 2 1

5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5

## Playing Triads on the Keyboard

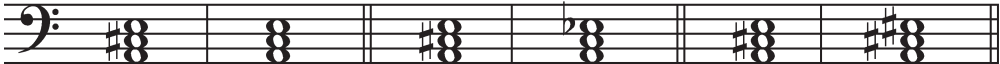
Play the following groups of triads, noticing the notes that change.

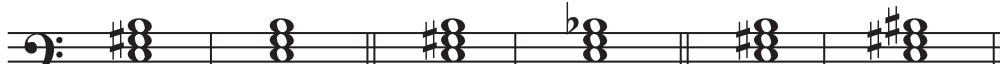
1.

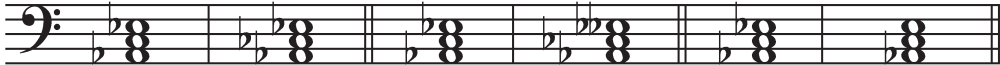
CM Cm CM C° CM C+

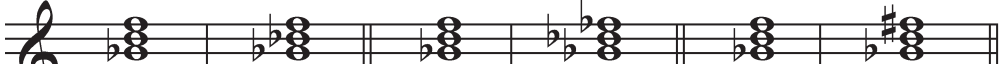
2.

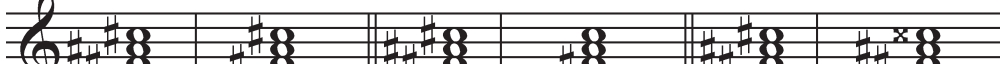
FM Fm FM F° FM F+

3.   
AM Am AM A° AM A+

4.   
EM Em EM E° EM E+

5.   
A♭M A♭m A♭M A♭° A♭M A♭+

6.   
B♭M B♭m B♭M B♭° B♭M B♭+

7.   
F♯M F♯m F♯M F♯° F♯M F♯+

## Playing Triad Inversions on the Keyboard

1. G major inversions (Note: You may use the suggested fingerings given below the triads.)



5	5	5	5	1	1	1	1
3	2	3	3	3	3	2	3
1	1	1	1	5	5	5	5

## 2. G minor inversions



## Playing Chord Progressions

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1.

CM: I IV<sub>4</sub><sup>6</sup> V6 I CM: I IV<sub>4</sub><sup>6</sup> V<sub>5</sub><sup>6</sup> I Cm: i iv<sub>4</sub><sup>6</sup> V6 i

2.

AM: I IV<sub>4</sub><sup>6</sup> V6 I AM: I IV<sub>4</sub><sup>6</sup> V<sub>5</sub><sup>6</sup> I Am: i iv<sub>4</sub><sup>6</sup> V6 i

3.

FM: I IV<sub>4</sub><sup>6</sup> V6 I FM: I IV<sub>4</sub><sup>6</sup> V<sub>5</sub><sup>6</sup> I Fm: i iv<sub>4</sub><sup>6</sup> V6 i