



Ten graded pieces for beginners

These teaching notes provide a short description and technical information about each piece.

All pieces have been written by Jane Sebba and arranged by Chris Taylor except 'Hot and cross', 'When the saints', 'Jingle bells' and 'Aunt Rhodie' which are traditional songs arranged by Jane Sebba and Chris Taylor.

Key signatures have not been included.

1. Seven Gs

- Fast rock version
- Slow jazz version

2. Seven Cs

- Fast rock version
- Slow jazz version

Two simple starters: students play repeated crotchets on G or C, with two-bar rests between each phrase. Two different accompaniment versions are provided for the same students' part: fast rock and slow jazz. There are several advantages to this: you can ask students to repeat the piece without their becoming bored or feeling they are just doing it again, while you can check that everyone's fingering/embouchure/posture is correct. It also introduces students to the idea of listening to the accompaniment while they are playing. Ask them which version they prefer, and why (there are no correct answers!).

Notes used: G/C

Key: Seven Gs
Fast rock version – concert Db major
Slow jazz version – concert Bb major

Seven Cs
Fast rock version – concert Bb major
Slow jazz version – concert Eb major

Learning points: stave
treble clef
time signature 4/4
note E
crotchet/crotchet rest
whole bar rest
double bar
tempo/style indication



<p>3. High, low, earwig oh!</p>	<p>C and G are played in the same piece here, and reinforced as 'high' and 'low' notes. The piece gives plenty of repetition of both notes.</p> <p>Notes used: C, G</p> <p>Key: concert Bb major</p> <p>Learning points: reinforces crotchet/minim/minim rest</p>
<p>4. Flea fly mosquito</p>	<p>This piece is in three sections: ABA. The A section is almost identical at the start and at the end. Keep the high split notes short and harsh, as if slapping at the mosquito! Take the opportunity to practise staccato tonguing.</p> <p>Notes used: C, E, G</p> <p>Key: concert D minor</p> <p>Learning points: new note E crotchet rest dynamics: f, p high split notes</p>
<p>5. Edie's blues</p>	<p>An easy 12-bar blues using only the notes E and D. Ask students to invent an alternative last line of lyrics (it must rhyme with blues/news) for further repetitions, eg He sank six canoes or He's been on a cruise etc.</p> <p>Notes used: D, E</p> <p>Key: concert G minor</p> <p>Learning points: new note D semibreve reinforces dynamics f, p</p>



<p>6. Hot and cross</p>	<p>A variation on Hot Cross Buns, using different rhythm patterns in each verse/repetition.</p> <p>Notes used: C, D, E</p> <p>Key: concert Bb major</p> <p>Learning points: hairpin crescendo</p>
<p>7. Two-way radio</p>	<p>This duet introduces the note F. Dynamics are echoed from part to part. Part 2 is easier than Part 1: it uses only notes C and F. The pause at the end lasts for seven beats.</p> <p>Notes used: Part 1 – C, F, G; Part 2 – C, F</p> <p>Key: concert Eb</p> <p>Learning points: new note F dotted minim pause reading from two staves</p>
<p>8. When the saints</p>	<p>This arrangement of the popular song introduces tied notes and uses all the five notes learnt so far: C, D, E, F, G. The tune is played twice, starting ff the first time, and pp the second.</p> <p>Notes used: C, D, E, F, G</p> <p>Key: concert Bb</p> <p>Learning points: ties dynamics: ff, pp, cresc</p>



9. Jingle bells	<p>Here's some more practice at playing the five notes C, D, E, F, G.</p> <p>Notes used: C, D, E, F, G</p> <p>Key: concert Bb</p> <p>Learning points: dotted crotchet/quaver rhythm dynamics: mf</p>
10. Aunt Rhodie	<p>This traditional song from North America has been given a gory middle section which reinforces different note-lengths (semibreve/minim/crotchet/quavers). These four bars could be played as an ostinato on untuned percussion throughout the piece.</p> <p>Notes used: C, D, E, F, G</p> <p>Key: concert Bb</p> <p>Learning points: reinforces note values: semibreve, dotted minim, minim, crotchet, quavers</p>