

eNovation A: Playing on the Black Keys

NOTE: All video and audio files are found in the media area on each lesson page.

eNovation A Overview

Summary: This eNovation introduces the topography of the piano keyboard through a variety of activities on the black keys. Developing a steady pulse is essential to successful completion of the drills and applications in this unit, most of which may be performed either with a partner, in a group, or with a play-along audio track.	
Goals	
Key Elements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posture at the Piano • Finger Numbers • Keyboard Topography: The Two- and Three-Black Key Groups • Pulse and Tempo • Counting Basic Rhythms (whole, half, and quarter notes and rests) • Dynamics: <i>forte</i> 'f' and <i>piano</i> 'p'
<u>Go to eNovation A Topic Page</u>	

Topic 1: Posture at the Piano / Keyboard Topography - The Black Keys / Finger Numbers

Lesson Overview			
In this lesson, students will become familiar with the topography of the keyboard, and learn how the fingers are numbered. Aural understanding of up/down/repeat on the keyboard is introduced.			
Activity Type / Title with Links			Instructions/Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technique	<u>Posture at the Piano</u>	Watch instructional video.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Theory	<u>Numbering Your Fingers</u>	Watch instructional video. Practice with the flashcards found at the bottom of this lesson.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyboard Awareness	<u>Keyboard Topography - The Black Keys</u>	Watch instructional video and follow video prompts.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Listening	<u>Aural ID: Repeat, Step, or Skip? (MT.NET)</u>	Complete the MT.NET AURAL drill.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Listening	<u>Aural Playback: Matching Pitch and Rhythm on the Black Keys (Up, Down, Repeat)</u>	There are four audio files. In these examples you will be asked to determine the direction of the melody – Does it go up, down, or is the note repeated? Practice with the audio file until you can accurately play the example. Tip: It really helps if you can accurately sing what you hear before attempting to play.



Topic 2: Rhythm: Pulse and Tempo / Counting Note Values

Lesson Overview			
In this lesson, students learn the concept of steady pulse and learn non-metrical counting of basic rhythms. Developing a steady pulse is among the most essential of skills. Students should practice with the play-along audio tracks.			
Activity Type / Title with Links			Instructions/Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rhythm	Pulse and Tempo	Watch instructional video.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rhythm	Rhythm Drill A: Basic Rhythmic Notation	Watch the video <i>Rhythm Notation: Whole, Half, Quarter Notes and Rests.</i> Count carefully while playing on the designated black-key cluster. Be sure that you play with the indicated hand (stems up – R.H.; stems down – L.H.) When you are ready, practice them with the play-along audio tracks found at the bottom of the page.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Improvisation	Creating Melodies on the Black Keys - Beijing Market	Follow the instructions on the page to improvise a black key melody. Counting is especially important in this activity as you will need to perform with a play-along audio track.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensemble	Close Quarters by Susanna Garcia (4 Players)	Multiple Piano Ensemble. Students can practice their counting skills with this rhythm only ensemble.

Topic 3: Playing and Reading on the Black Keys / Dynamics – Loud and Soft

Lesson Overview			
Students are introduced to unstaffed reading of finger numbers and rhythms, both hands separately and hands together. Playing with loud and soft dynamics is stressed.			
Activity Type / Title with Links			Instructions/Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	Theory	Dynamics: Loud and Soft	Watch instructional video.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technique	Finger Dexterity Drill	These two drills will help you develop better technique. In the first, you will develop dexterity in playing on the strong fingers of each hand (2,3,4) using a rhythm pattern that allows for slower and faster finger motions. The second exercise is a two-handed drill that requires coordination when passing the melody from one hand to the other and back. Watch the videos in the media area before beginning to practice. Play with continuity as you move from one



			hand to the next. Remember: up stems are for the right hand and down stems are for the left hand.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reading	<u>Reading A1: Black Key Finger Numbers (HS)</u>	Practice these hands separate finger number reading drills. Take care to use the required hand and fingerings and be aware of dynamics.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reading	<u>Reading A2: Black Key Finger Numbers (HT)</u>	Practice these hands together finger number reading drills. Take care to use the required hand and fingerings and be aware of dynamics.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensemble	<u>Toy Soldiers by Susanna Garcia (2-4 Players)</u>	Multiple keyboard ensemble. May be played as a duet.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Repertoire	<u>Lonely Evening by Susanna Garcia (student/teacher duet)</u>	Black Key Finger Number Piece in Romantic Style. When you can play this comfortably, perform with your teacher or with the play-along audio track.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Repertoire	<u>Saturday Night by Susanna Garcia</u>	Black Key Finger Number Piece in Doo-Wop Style. When you can play this comfortably, perform with the play-along audio track.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Repertoire	<u>Solid Ground by Susanna Garcia (student/teacher duet)</u>	Black Key Finger Number Piece in Rock Style. When you can play this comfortably, perform with your teacher or with the play-along audio track.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Repertoire	<u>Black Key Ska by Susanna Garcia</u>	Black Key Finger Number Piece in Reggae Style. When you can play this comfortably, perform with the play-along audio track.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensemble	<u>Duet: Hot Air Balloon by Chan Kiat Lim</u>	Duet for two students. Practice and perform with your duet partner. Then, perform together with the play-along audio track.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensemble	<u>Duet: Jack Jester by Chan Kiat Lim</u>	Duet for two students. Practice and perform with your duet partner. Then, perform together with the play-along audio track.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensemble	<u>Duet: Up on the Housetop by Benjamin Hanby (Christmas)</u>	Duet for two students. Practice and perform with your duet partner.

