

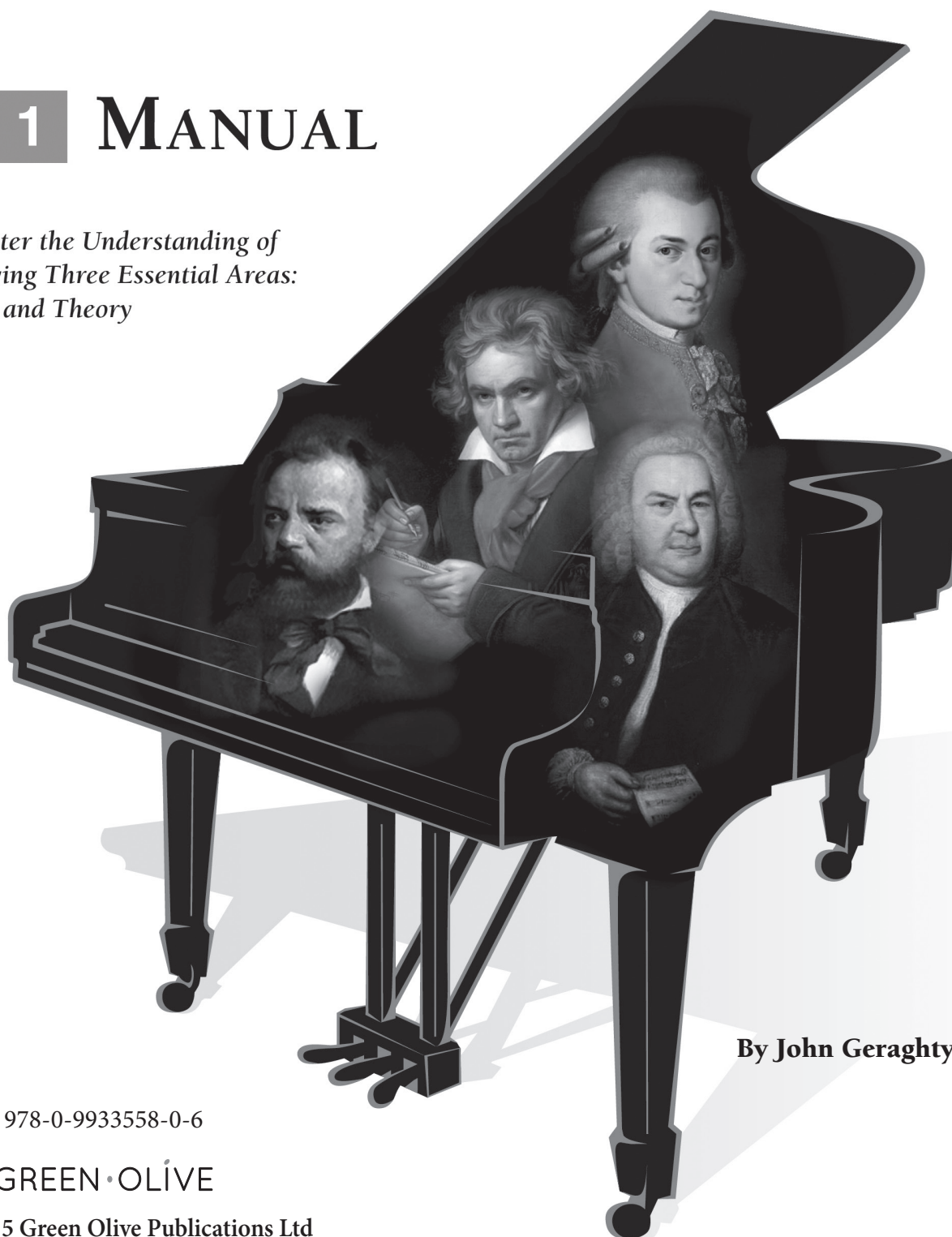
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The Complete Classical Piano Course

*A Comprehensive Self-Learning
Guide to Classical Piano*

BOOK **1** MANUAL

*Learn and Master the Understanding of
Music by Studying Three Essential Areas:
Notes, Rhythm and Theory*



By John Geraghty

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BOOK ONE — MANUAL AND CD-1

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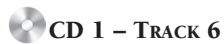
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Exercise 8

- Write out the counting. Remember that a *dotted crotchet* and a *quaver* make up 2 beats.
- Then practice them like the previous exercises.

Now count and clap Schumann's "Sonata No. 1", Level 4. Any group of 2 or 3 notes above each other are played simultaneously. Treat them as single notes. If in doubt—leave them out!

Ties



When two or more notes of the same pitch, i.e., on the *same line* or *same space* (e.g., E and E, C and C, etc.) are connected by a curved line, this is called a *tie*. Add all the notes together connected by the tie to give the tied note its full value. Note: A *tie* is not necessary in bars 1, 2 and 3 because they can be replaced by a *minim*, *semibreve* and a *dotted crotchet*. Therefore: Ties are usually found over bar lines and can be joined over more than one bar line.

Exercise 9

- Write out the beats.

Slurs

When a curved line joins different pitched notes, it is called a *slur*. It means that the notes are to be played smoothly with legato. Slurs are studied in "Dynamics and Articulation", *Book One—Manual* and "Phrasing the Music" in *Book Three—Practice Notes*.

Understanding Major and Minor Scales

Before you start to practice the *major* and *minor* scales, it's important to understand how they are formed.

Any *major* or *minor* scale is made up of 8 notes, starting from any of the 12 notes on the piano, to the same note one octave higher. They are formed using tones and semitones. The first note can be called either the *root note* or *tonic note*. ()

A *tone* (T) is two notes higher or lower than the principle note. Example: C to D or C to B \flat .

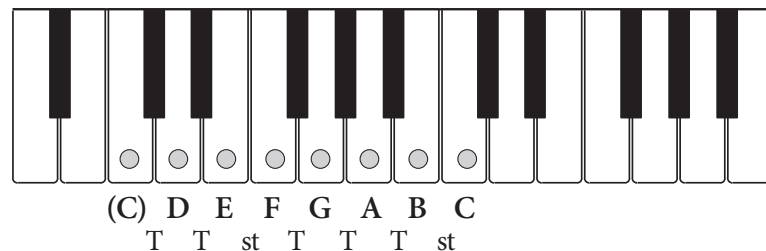
A *semitone* (st) is one note higher or lower than the principle note. Example: C to C \sharp or C to B.

MAJOR SCALES

Major scales are made up of the following formula: T T st T T T st.

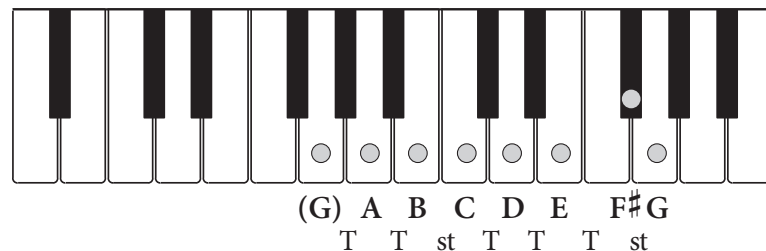
Example 1: C Major (all white notes)

CD 1 – TRACK 34



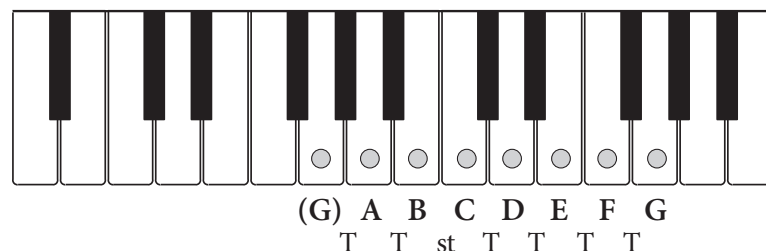
Example 2: G Major (7 white notes plus 1 sharp)

CD 1 – TRACK 35



In the next track, I have played F instead of the F \sharp . Can you hear how the scale doesn't sound right? This is why a sharp needs to be added to the F.

CD 1 – TRACK 36



Now, try playing a major scale starting on any note using the formula T T st T T T st. Use any fingering for now. Does it sound similar to C and G major? If not, check that you are following the exact T and st formula.

MINOR SCALES

There are three types of minor scales. These are the *natural*, *melodic* and *harmonic minor*. The minor scale that you will be learning to play within this course will only be the *harmonic minor scale*, as this is the most popular form.

CD 1 – TRACK 37

This music uses the harmonic minor scale. Does the overall tone of the music sound familiar?

To form the harmonic minor scale, you first have to understand the relationship between the natural minor and major scales. I will use C major as an example.

We know that the C major scale contains all white notes from C–C. If you go down 3 semitones from C, which is A, and play all the white notes from A to A, you will be playing the A natural minor scale. This is also known as the “relative minor” to C major. So therefore, the natural minor scale consists of all the same notes as the relative major scale.

A Natural Minor

CD 1 – TRACK 38

(A) B C D E F G A

C Major A Natural Minor

A Harmonic Minor Scale

CD 1 – TRACK 39

Play the A natural minor scale again, but this time raise the 7th note by one semitone, i.e., play G[#] instead of G. This forms the harmonic minor scale.

Follow these steps when learning harmonic minor scales.

Step 1: Play any major scale

Step 2: Go down 3 semitones lower than the root note.

Step 3: From this note, play the *same* notes that were in the major scale, counting up to the 7th note, then raising the 7th by 1 semitone. Remember to finish one octave higher and to use the correct fingering.

Harmonic minor scales are made up of the following formula: **T st T T st T + st st.**

(A) B C D E F G[#] A

T st T T st T + st st