



Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust

Hello to all keyboard students ☺

Here are some tips to help keep you practising at home on your keyboards! All us teachers are missing you and look forward to seeing and hearing about what you've been up to when we get back to school. Hopefully some of these ideas can help you to keep the music going!

C major scale (1 2 3 tuck under 1 2 3 5 6)

- Choose a rhythm or style and try playing the scale along with it, keeping in time
- Select a voice that goes with the style – you could try a few and pick your favourite
- Try changing the tempo – speeding up or slowing down
- Piano players – you could try a different rhythm for your fingers eg. dum de dum de dum or walk running walk running

Chromatic scale (black and white)

- Put your thumb on D then play the nearest black note with finger 3
- Your thumb plays the next white note and you keep walking up the keyboard this way
- When you get to a gap, use finger 2
- Now try putting both thumbs on D and try hands together
- For your next challenge, find G# and put your 3rd fingers on it - play the same pattern from here

Make up your own tune

- Put your hand in C position (thumb on C)
- Choose a style/rhythm and suitable voice
- Make up a pattern using C in your right hand with a C chord in your left hand
- You could add an E with your right hand if you're feeling confident
- Use a different pattern using D (and maybe F!) in your right hand with a G chord in your left
- Combine the two patterns in any combination you like
- Try writing them down and performing to your family

Have fun with your old tunes

- You could put on a concert for your family! Write a programme listing the pieces you are going to perform, issue tickets to your family so they know when and where you will perform eg: 3pm, in the lounge
- You could play them your own made-up tunes, or try other pieces that you know but with different styles/rhythms
- Try changing the voice – experiment with percussion, DJ or synth voices
- Something else you could try in teaching a member of your family how to play your favourite piece. Maybe help them out by playing the chords if they struggle with both hands

Finally... if you would like specific help or hint and tips with the pieces you are learning, or if you need something new to get your teeth into, please contact me on canderson@nmpat.co.uk

Happy practicing!