

# Alfred's Premier Piano Course

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**Edited by Morton Manus**

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## Technique Tool 1

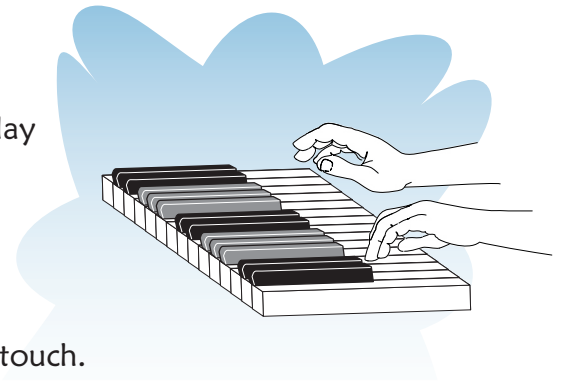
### Staccato against Legato

As you play more advanced piano music, sometimes you will play *staccato* in one hand and *legato* in the other.

On the closed keyboard cover, “play” the patterns below.

- First, “play” slowly and exaggerate the shortness of the *staccato* notes.
- “Play” the stepwise *legato* notes with a smooth, even *legato* touch.

As you play *Portabella Tarantella*, stay close to the keys for the *staccato* notes. Continue to play the *legato* notes with attention to smoothness.



1. **RH** 1 2 3 4 3 2 | 1 2 3 4 3 2 | 1 2 3 2 3 4 | 5 .

**LH** 1 5 | 1 5 | 1 5 | 1 5 | 1 5

2. **RH** 5 1 | 5 1 | 5 1 | 5 1

**LH** 1 2 3 4 3 2 | 1 2 3 4 3 2 | 1 2 3 2 3 4 | 5

## Portabella Tarantella

1. **Lively** 1

**mf** **f**

1 5 | 1 5

2. **Lively** 5 1 | 5 1

**mf** **p**

1



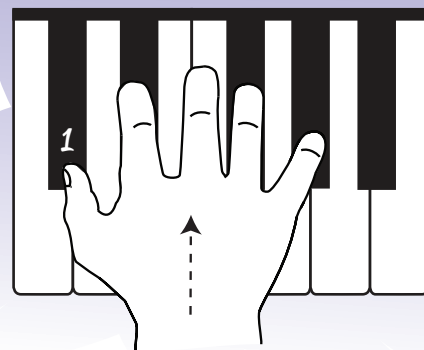
## Technique Tool 2

### Playing In and Out of the Black Keys

Pianists must constantly move the hands slightly “in” and “out” of the black keys as they play.

When playing triads with finger 1 on a white key, your hand will play *further away* from the open keyboard cover.

When playing triads with finger 1 on a black key, your hand will play *closer* to the open keyboard cover.



## A Distant Galaxy

- First, play the RH triads alone. Observe the accidentals as you move “in” and “out” of the black keys.
- Then, play the LH alone.
- Finally, play hands together.



**Technique Tip:** Use beautiful arches as you move from chord to chord in the RH.

### Floating

5 3 1  
1

5

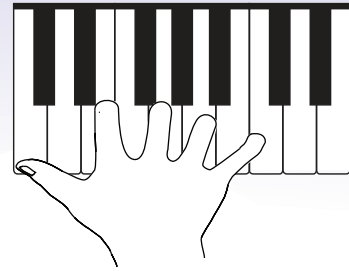
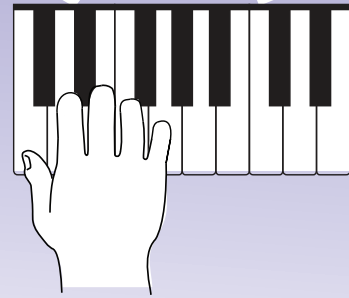
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## Technique Tool 4

### Open the Hand

- Lightly cup your RH so your fingertips (including the thumb tip) are touching each other. Then, slowly and gently open your hand as you gradually spread your fingers without creating tension in the hand. Repeat with the LH.
- Play the examples below using a *rising wrist* while transferring weight from one key to the next.
- Let the wrist lead the hand gently up from the keyboard.



**Moderato** wrist up

1. Play again in C minor.

**Moderato**

2. Play again in C minor.

**Moderato** wrist up

3. Play again in F major.

**Moderato**

4. Play again in F major.

# Artistic Etude 3

## Rhythmic Freedom

The clicking sound of a metronome is a constant reminder of the steady beat. Sometimes, however, your playing needs to become slower (*rit.*) or faster (*accel.*) to play expressively.

- Set the metronome to 176. A quarter note will get one beat.
- On your lap, tap the rhythm of measures 31–34 hands together while staying with the steady beat.
- Now, turn off the metronome and tap the rhythm, gradually getting faster for the *accelerando*.



## Midnight Adventure



**Technique Tip:** Stay close to the keys when playing the LH *staccato* notes.

Mysteriously

5

mf

5 3 1

4 3 2 1

5

1 2 3 1

1

5

3 1

1 3 1 2

1

5

1

10

5 2

4 1

3 2

1 3 2

2