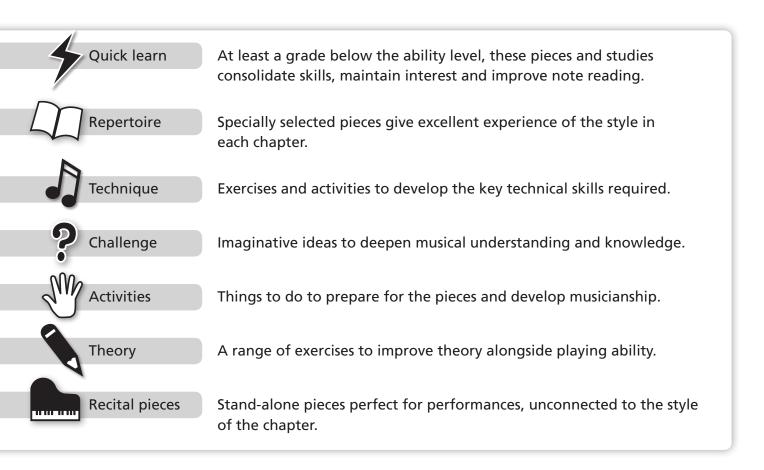
Introduction

Moving a student successfully and positively on to the intermediate levels (Grades 3 – 5) can be a tricky process. At this stage, it takes too long to learn music by rote, so **well-developed note-reading skills** are key. Students also need to have a **good understanding of style** – they can no longer simply play music the way they think it should sound to give a convincing performance. Finally, **sound technique** and **good theoretical knowledge** are required to tackle trickier repertoire. *The Intermediate Pianist* books provide a one-stop shop for building all these skills.

The material is organised into chapters that are designed to give approximately one month's work. Each chapter contains a variety of elements as described below. The music deliberately spans a range of difficulty levels, so some pieces can be learnt in just one or two weeks, whilst others are more challenging. The terms used throughout also support and reflect those required for GCSE Music.



We hope you find *The Intermediate Pianist* a journey of discovery that brings a love of music from many different periods and styles.

Happy music making!

Karen Marshall and Heather Hammond

Using the pedal

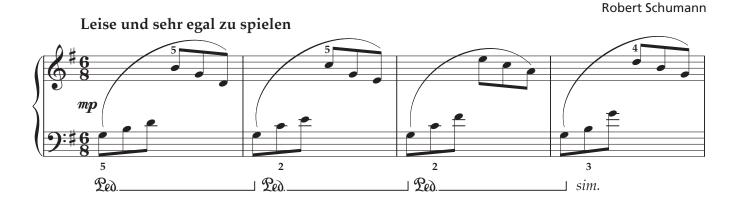
The **sustain pedal** is the pedal on the right, and is also known as the damper pedal. Find out how it works and why it is sometimes called the damper pedal.

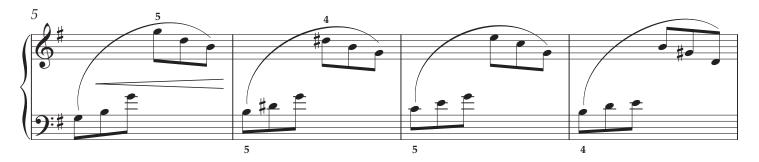
Kleine Studie

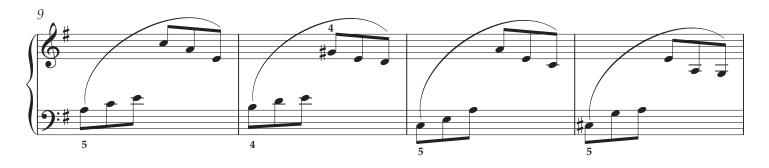
(Extract)

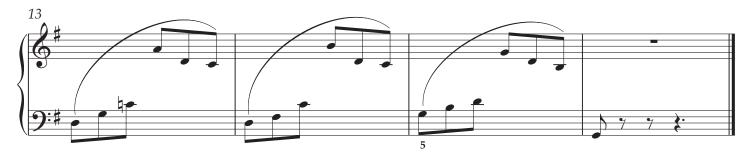
Technique

Remember to lift the pedal when the chords change, without lifting your hand off the keys at the same time. This will keep it sounding *legato*.





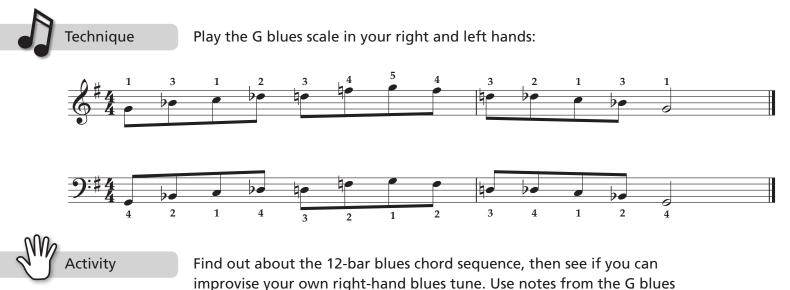




9 G

Getting to know the blues

Blues is a jazzy style which is built on a chord structure called the **12-bar blues**. The characteristic sound comes from the use of the blues scale and syncopation (a rhythm which is played off the main beat(s) of the bar).



Laid-back Blues

scale above to fit over this 12-bar blues bass line.

