

LESSON 9

THE C MAJOR SCALE

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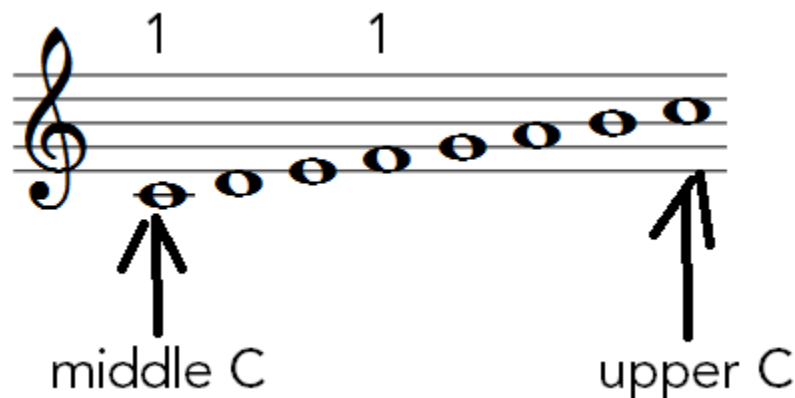
Land of my Fathers

In the last lesson you learned what scales are, and you had your first taste of a few major scales: C major, F major and D major.

In the next lessons, you're going to get more familiar with those three scales and some others as well. We'll take them one at a time, getting to know each scale by playing exercises and tunes.

These next lessons represent the last major component in the musical skills you need in order to purchase and play published music of your own choice.

You encountered the scale of C major in the last lesson. Here it is again. Play it now:

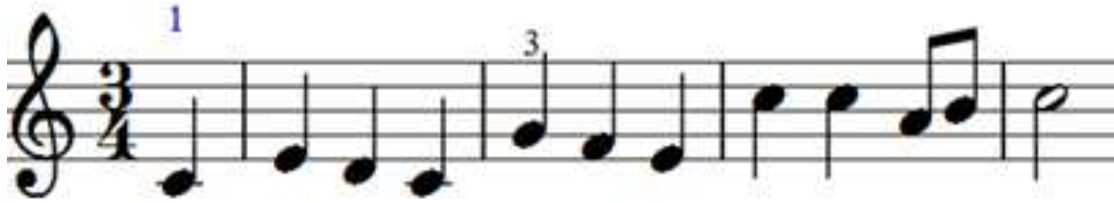


The C major scale.

The C major scale is special in that it uses only the white notes.

A tune for studying major scales

This is the start of Land of My Fathers, the Welsh national anthem. This tune is useful for our study since it happens to use all the notes of the major scale.



Land of My Fathers, based on the C major scale.

Do you see how that tune is made up of the notes C D E F G A B C? Those are the notes of the C major scale.

In later lessons, we'll see how this tune is transformed as we play it using different major scales.

Practical

Build Your Skill

In these exercises, I've given you the first few measures of some well-known tunes.

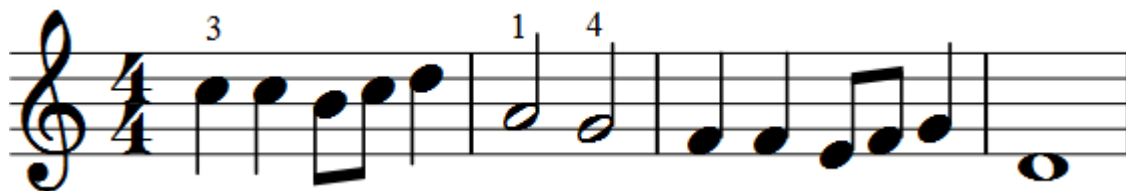
These tunes use the notes of the C major scale. How do we know that? Because they use only the white notes.

In later lessons, we'll play these same tunes using the notes of different major scales, and then we'll need to play some black notes.

Play these tunes now.

Exercise 1:

Land of Hope and Glory



Exercise 2:

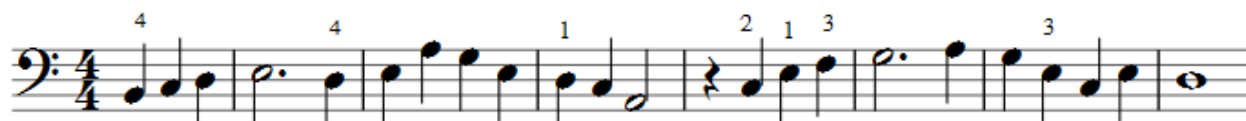
Scotland the Brave



Exercise 3:

Danny Boy

This is in the bass clef, so play it with your left hand.



Exercise 4:

America the Beautiful



Tune for Lesson 9:

Tune 1:

Our tune based on the C major scale

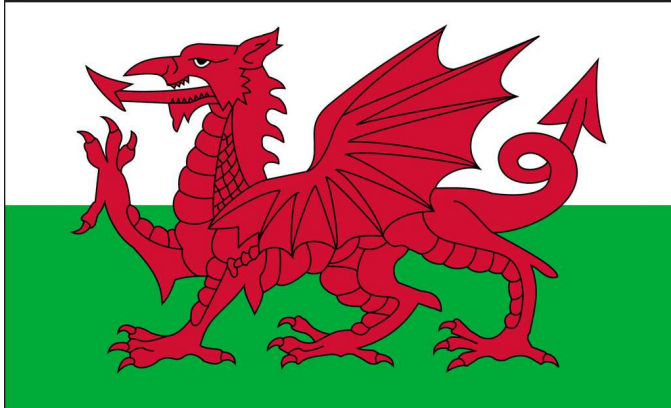
Here is the next part of Land of My Fathers.

Play this now:

Land of My Fathers – Welsh national anthem

Isn't it lovely? You can understand why the Welsh are so proud of it.

There's a bit more to this tune, and you can find the whole of it in the Companion Tune Book. You'll be able to experience the rich harmonies that come from playing this tune with two hands.



Welsh Flag