



Ten graded pieces for beginners

These teaching notes provide a short description and technical information about each piece.

All pieces have been written by Jane Sebba and arranged by Chris Taylor except 'Hot and cross', 'Mary's Lamb' and 'The Saints' which are traditional songs arranged by Jane Sebba and Chris Taylor.

Key signatures have not been included.

<p>1. Easy come</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast rock version • Slow jazz version <p>A simple starter: students play repeated crotchets on B, with two-bar rests between each phrase. Two different accompaniment versions are provided for the same students' part: fast rock and slow jazz. There are several advantages to this: you can ask students to repeat the piece without their becoming bored or feeling they are just doing it again, while you can check that everyone's fingering/embouchure/posture is correct. It also introduces students to the idea of listening to the accompaniment while they are playing. Ask them which version they prefer, and why (there are no correct answers!).</p> <p>Notes used: B</p> <p>Key: Fast rock version – G major Slow jazz version – E major</p> <p>Learning points: stave treble clef time signature 4/4 note B crotchet/crotchet rest whole bar rest double bar tempo/style indication</p>
<p>2. Abie's blues</p>	<p>An easy 12-bar blues using only the notes A and B. Ask students to invent an alternative last line of lyrics (it must rhyme with blues/news) for further repetitions, eg He sank six canoes or He's been on a cruise etc.</p> <p>Notes used: A, B</p> <p>Key: A minor</p> <p>Learning points: new note A minim/minim rest</p>



<p>3. Hot and cross</p>	<p>A variation on Hot Cross Buns, using different rhythm patterns in each verse/repetition.</p> <p>Notes used: G, A, B</p> <p>Key: G major</p> <p>Learning points: new note G</p>
<p>4. Mary's lamb</p>	<p>This familiar nursery rhyme has been given a cheeky accompaniment to enable older children to play a young child's tune without losing their pride! Divide the class into two groups: one plays while the other provides the Baas – swap parts when the tune repeats. Everyone plays the last bar.</p> <p>Notes used: G, A, B</p> <p>Key: G major</p> <p>Learning points: reinforces notes B, A, G semibreve</p>
<p>5. Deep sea dance</p>	<p>A three-note piece which introduces F. Suggest images of weaving fish amid swaying seaweed to create the flowing feel.</p> <p>Notes used: F, G, A</p> <p>Key: F major</p> <p>Learning points: new note F breath mark reinforces semibreve</p>



<p>6. Medieval mystery</p>	<p>This piece is structured ABAC. While learning the piece, divide the class into three groups, one to play each section. For a performance, add tambours playing a simple ostinato rhythm throughout eg 'Play on the tam-bour' (1 2+ 3 4).</p> <p>Notes used: F, G, A, B</p> <p>Key: D min</p> <p>Learning points: dotted minim reinforces F G A B</p>
<p>7. Breezy days</p>	<p>An introduction to 3/4 that includes gently swaying from side to side. The bar immediately after the swaying is deliberately empty to allow students to get back into a good playing position. The piece requires frequently moving between intervals of a third: make sure – when students are placing or lifting more than one finger at once – that the fingers move exactly together. No extra note should be heard between the intended ones! Discuss the similarities and differences between the three sections of the piece. .</p> <p>Notes used: F, G, A, B</p> <p>Key: G major</p> <p>Learning points: time signature 3/4 whole bar rest in 3/4</p>
<p>8. Get your skates on!</p>	<p>This is a simple duet to reinforce 3/4 and to introduce Bb. In this piece the accidental is repeated even when it appears twice in the same bar to remind students to play Bb; this is changed in the next piece 'Stately dance'. Here Part 2 is easier than Part 1: it uses mostly only F and G, with a couple of As. The structure of the piece is ABA. While your students are learning the piece, divide the class into three groups – one to play each section.</p> <p>Notes used: F, G, A, Bb</p> <p>Key: F major</p> <p>Learning points: new note Bb reinforces 3/4 reading two staves</p>



9. Stately dance	<p>This dance tune was written by the English composer Henry Purcell (1659-1695). Look at pictures of dancers from that time to get an idea of how to play the piece. In this arrangement the tune is played twice through. Ask students to think of a way to make the second time through different from the first (add more players? add untuned percussion? add tuned percussion playing the tune?)</p> <p>Notes used: F, G, A, Bb</p> <p>Key: Bb major</p> <p>Learning points: reinforces Bb accidental lasts throughout the bar</p>
10. The Saints	<p>This arrangement of the popular song introduces C' and tied notes. The tune is played twice, with a slightly more difficult second part on the repeat which will stretch able students.</p> <p>Notes used: F, G, A, Bb, C'</p> <p>Key: F major</p> <p>Learning points: new note: C' ties</p>