

Piano **suite** Classroom

Chapter 2: Lesson 7

Chapter 2: The Grand Staff

Lesson 7

This lesson plan was written for use with Piano Suite Premier software, and is intended as a guideline and procedure for 1 week (6 hours) of music instruction. For specific information on Piano Suite Premier and how to purchase, please visit one of the following links:

<http://www.adventus.com/purchase/premier.html>

<http://www.adventus.com/purchase/bundle.html>

Lesson Overview

- The student will practice the “additional” four exercises from lesson five using the “Notes and Timing” method.
- The student will view all of the theory pages found within the theory topic: The Grand Staff, and will practice the piano exercises to achieve a score of “Good Work” (or Better).
- The student will open the History Happens section of Piano Suite, locate and read the biography on the composer Eric Satie, and listen to the following piece in the Piano Player: Satie-Princess (2).
- The student will begin to learn to play the following song using “Wait for Note”: “Down in the Valley (1)”.

New Vocabulary

grand staff

New Material

Theory:

- 1-4: The Grand Staff

Songs:

- Down in the Valley (1)

History Happens:

- Biography of Eric Satie.

Review Material

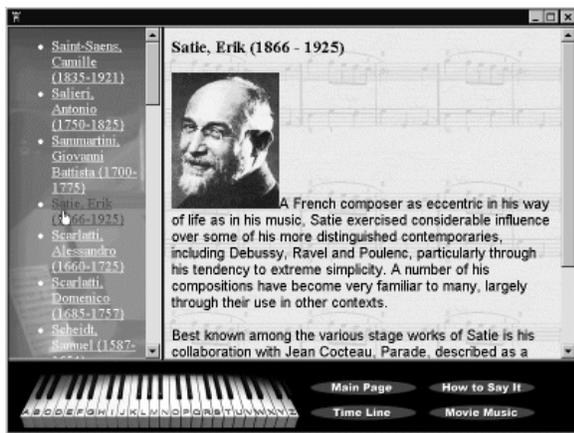
- Four “additional” exercises from lesson five using the “Notes and Timing” method.

Procedure

Open the Piano Player and then select custom from the drop down box, select Lesson 5, Exercise 1. Practice this “additional” exercise from lesson five using the “Notes and Timing” method until you can achieve a score of 85 % (or higher). Follow the same procedure for the remaining three “additional” exercises from lesson five.

Open the following Theory Topic: “The Grand Staff” and view/practice all of the contained pages/exercises. Practice each piano exercise until you are able to achieve a score of “Good Work” (or better) using “Wait for Note”.

Open the History Happens section of Piano Suite and read Eric Satie’s biography.



After reading this biography, listen to the following song in the Piano Player: “Princess (2) by Satie. (Remember that all of the classical pieces are listed in Piano Suite beginning with the composer’s last name. You will find this song listed as Satie-Princess (2).

Does this song fit the description of Satie’s music as presented in his biography?

You will now return to the Piano Player and practice the new song “Down in the Valley (1)” using the “Wait for Note” method. Practice this song until you can receive the score of “Good Work” (or better).

Select the song “Down in the Valley (1)” in the Piano Player, and look closely at the numbers located beside each of the clef signs. These numbers are what is known as a time signature. The top number tells you how many beats will be in each measure of music, while the bottom number tells you what type of note is equal to one beat. All of the songs that you have learned to play so far have used the 4/4 time signature. The 4/4 time signature tells you that there are four beats in each measure of music and that a quarter note is equal to one beat. The time signature for this new song is 3/4. This time signature tells you that there are three beats in each measure of music and that a quarter note is equal to one beat.

Indicators of Success

- You score 85 % (or higher) using the “Notes and Timing” method on the four “additional” exercises from lesson five.
- You perform the piano exercises in Theory Topic: “The Grand Staff” and achieve a score of “Good Work” (or better) using the “Wait for Note” method.
- You score “Good Work” (or better) using the “Wait for Note” method while practicing the song “Down in the Valley (1)”.

Enrichment Activities

- Find another piece composed by Satie within the Piano Player. Is this piece similar to the piece “Princess”? If so, in what ways are they similar? How are they different from each other? Can you sing part of the melody of one of the pieces? Try learning to play a small part of the melody “by ear”, in other words, see if you can find the correct notes on the keyboard for a small part of the melody without looking at the notes on the staff. You will have to listen to the piece several times to become familiar with it before attempting to play part of the piece by ear.
- Learn to play the left hand part for the song “Princess”.

Additional Materials

Read the biography for one or more of the following composers: Debussy, Ravel, and Poulenc.

Hints

* If you are having trouble playing a song on the grand staff (Both the left and right hands together) try practicing the parts for each hand separately. To do this, click on the picture of the right or left hand which is located at the bottom left of the screen. After you are familiar with each part, try playing them together again.

* If, after practicing the right and left hand parts separately, you find it difficult to coordinate the rhythms between the left and right hand, click on the “Rhythm” button. After clicking on this button, you will notice that the staff disappears and instead you only see the rhythm for the left and right hand parts of the song. Click on the “PLAY” button to hear the piece. Click on the “Notes and Timing “ button to practice the rhythm of the song.