

A B C *of Music*

Elementary knowledge for kids

The subject contains four main pillars of music which introduce children to a music world.

As studies has shown the most profitable way to learn is through the joy, excitement and fun. Therefore the course will be based on activities like games, painting, clapping and quizzes related to music. This way children will learn about music without hours of studying, learning by heart and what is the most important without being bored.

Music is a large concept which contains many inner subjects. To understand the music and be capable to perform on instrument or sing the student has to be introduced to main pillars like reading notes, understanding the rhythm, recognizing the different tonalities etc. To approach the knowledge from each angle the subject will focus on each aspect separately. When students will become more aware of each part the aspects will be combined.

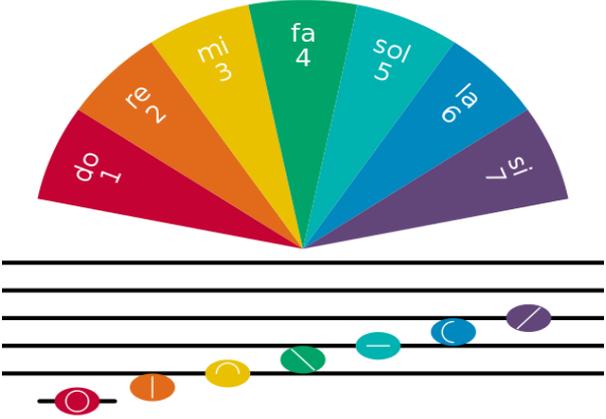
Main pillars elaborated during the course

I. Reading notes and finding them on the keyboard

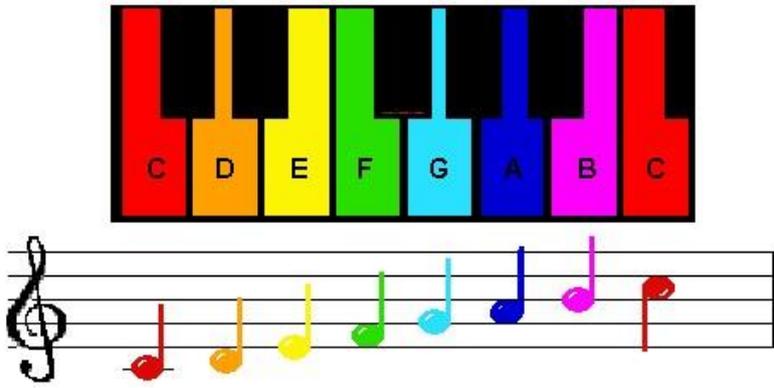
Understanding the notes system could be found difficult at first. Therefore to make it easier and more joyful the special method will be used.

1. Introduction to music notes – teaching methods

- Method of colors where each note has different color:



- Applying the same color system to a keyboard:

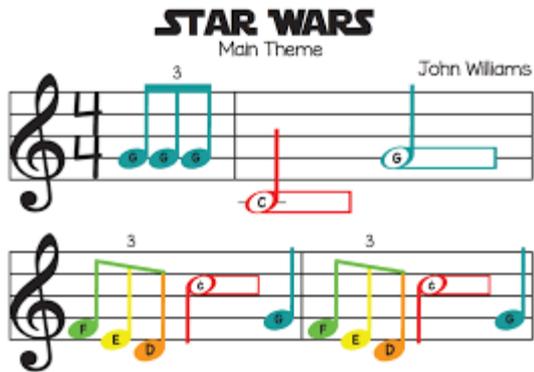


- Adjusting the color system to the two main keys:



2. Practical exercises:

- Finding a particular note among the other and painting it with a right color:



- Giving a correct name of the note given on the card:



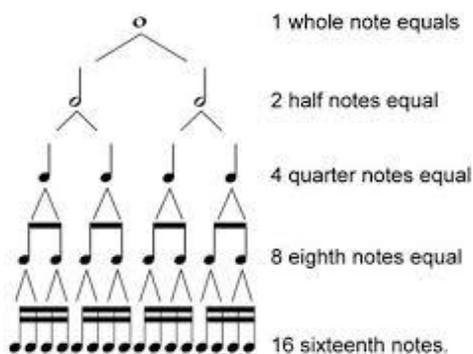
- Pressing the correct key on the keyboard asked by a teacher.
- Giving a name of the note pressed by a teacher.
- Becoming a detective and finding out if the note/key was given a right name by a teacher.
- Singing simple songs presented on the lesson by a teacher.

II. Recognizing the rhythm, knowing how to write it and perform it.

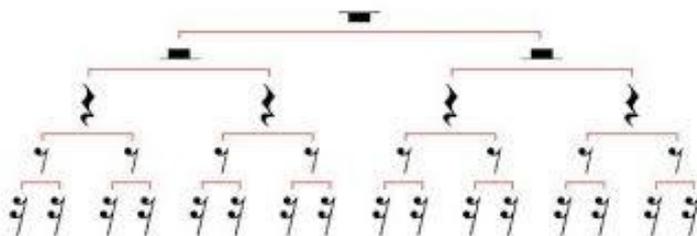
The rhythm could be very demanding on the beginning. It demonstrate the length of the note and it is mostly combine with a height of the note as well. Since it could be difficult to combine it at once the rhythm will be demonstrate separately.

1. Introduction to music rhythm – teaching method

- Exploring the basic rhythmic notes and dividing them based on their length:



- Exploring the rest notifications and dividing them based on their length:

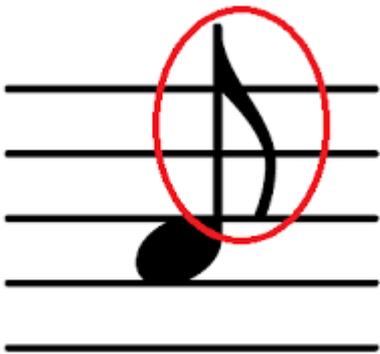


- Combining the rhythm and rests together:

ITEM	NOTE	REST	VALUE (number of beats)
Whole note/rest			4
Half note/rest			2
Quarter note/rest			1
Eighth note/rest			1/2
Sixteenth note/rest			1/4

2. Practical exercises:

- Repeating the rhythmical sequence after the teacher:
as one group
divided in two, three groups and clapping different rhythmical sequences at the same time
- Recognizing if the rhythm played by a teacher combine long or short notes.
- Find if there were some rests in the sequence which were played by a teacher.
- Write in a circle the particular note asked by a teacher among the other:



- Giving a name of the note written on the card and clapping it :



III. Knowledge about the most popular instruments and being able to recognize them.

Instruments are essential part of the music. Without them the music could not exist. Each one of them has its specific construction, sound, register and way of performing on it.

Therefore to understand the music better it is important to have a knowledge of some most known instruments. The way how they look, sound and how they contribute with music.

1. Introduction to instruments – teaching methods

- Presenting pictures of the particular instrument and explaining its construction and the way of performing on it:



- Listening recordings of to the particular instrument to recognize its sound.

- Presenting a partitions for the particular instrument to see how the notes are written for it and why:

Swan Lake

Tchaikovsky

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The Swan

Carnival of the Animals

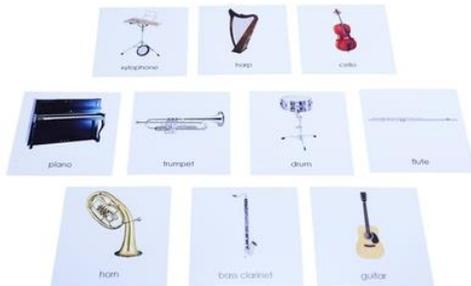
Camille Saint-Saens 1835 - 1921

Violin

© SilverTonalties 2010

2. Practical exercises:

- Recognizing the name of the instrument shown on the card:



- Recognizing the instrument by listening to it:



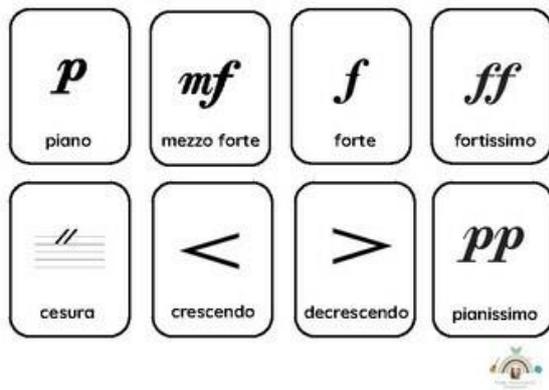
- Becoming a detective and recognizing if the name of the instrument was given right by a teacher comparing to the recording or the picture.
- Receiving a painting of explored instrument during the lesson to color it at home.

IV. Learning the most important indications like dynamic and articulation.

Music is the art full of expression and emotions. It can be achieved thanks to certain indications on the scores like articulation and dynamic. It is a very important factor in a process of creating and performing the music. Therefore to become more sensitive and creative toward music it is important to understand a music expression and how to read in in the scores.

1. Introduction to a dynamic and articulation – teaching method

- Explaining what is a dynamic, how it is indicated and performed:



- Explaining main articulations, how they are written on the scores and how to perform them:

Term	Symbol	Meaning
<i>staccato</i>		Play the note with a quick key strike, not holding the note to blend with the next
<i>accent</i>		Accent the note
<i>tenuto</i>		Hold the note for its full length
<i>fermata</i>		Hold the note longer than its full length

- Playing on piano certain dynamic or articulation.

- Listening to a fragment of piece representing particular dynamic or articulation.

2. Practical exercises:

- Recognizing the dynamic or an articulation played by a teacher on piano.

- Performing a certain articulation or dynamic on piano or by singing.

- Recognizing the indication name and the meaning on the given card:



All the methods presented here are combination between knowledge and playful games. Students will absorb the knowledge through fun exercises, games between each other, singing and painting. Since the course requires painting the students have to have with them seven colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, pink and purple. The rest of the materials will be provided during the course.