



“I always try to find ways to make practice more enjoyable: making a game or a contest out of scales is one way. Try playing scales with a friend, at different octaves on the same piano or on two pianos.”



Posture, movement and hand shape

Message from Lang Lang



A good pianist should be well prepared in both mind and body. Always sit with good posture, ready for the energetic demands of the music. You will need to be able to move your arms, hands and fingers swiftly and confidently around the keyboard.

Warm up away from the piano

- ▶ Walk around the room with your arms swinging loosely at your sides.
- ▶ Stop and shake your hands until your fingers tingle.

Warm up moving around the piano

♩ 88 112

mp *mf*

f *ff* *sub. p*

- ▶ Play this in all the keys you know well. It follows the harmonic pattern I, IV, V, I.

Reminder



Always PREPARE before you play; never begin a piece without thinking!
 Make sure your shoulders, neck, arms, wrists and fingers are relaxed.
 Breathe evenly and focus your mind on the music you will play: tempo, rhythm, and the opening dynamics.

Let's call the whole thing off

Music and lyrics by George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin
 Arranged by Alan Bullard

This jazzy piece contains syncopation and swung eighth notes (quavers).
 Listening to the original song is the best way to 'feel' these rhythms.

Smooth swing tempo (♩ = $\overset{\frown}{\text{3}}$) ♩ = c.100

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time, featuring a key signature of one sharp (F#). It is divided into two main sections: a 'Smooth swing tempo' section and a 'Very slow and free' section.

Smooth swing tempo section (measures 1-25):

- Measures 1-5:** Treble clef has a melodic line with fingerings 5, 4, 2, 3, 1. Bass clef has a steady eighth-note accompaniment with fingerings 2, 4, 2. Dynamics range from *p* to *mf*.
- Measures 6-11:** Treble clef has a melodic line with a first ending (1.) and second ending (2.). Bass clef continues the accompaniment. Dynamics include *f* and *mp*.
- Measures 12-17:** Treble clef has a melodic line with a *mf* dynamic. Bass clef continues the accompaniment with fingerings 1, 2.
- Measures 18-21:** Treble clef has a melodic line with a *p* dynamic. Bass clef continues the accompaniment with fingerings 2, 3, 1.
- Measures 22-25:** Treble clef has a melodic line with a *mf* dynamic. Bass clef continues the accompaniment with fingerings 2, 3, 1.

Very slow and free section (measures 26-34):

- Measures 26-30:** Treble clef has a melodic line with a *f* dynamic. Bass clef has a steady eighth-note accompaniment with a *p* dynamic. Time signature changes to 5/4.
- Measures 31-34:** Treble clef has a melodic line with a *pp* dynamic. Bass clef has a steady eighth-note accompaniment with a *ppp* dynamic. Time signature changes to 4/4.