Keyalities & Tonalities
The Complete Book of Arpeggios, Cadences & Scales

Music Moves for Piano

By Marilyn Lowe
In Cooperation with Edwin E. Gordon
DO Signatures

The flats and sharps that give us the letter name of DO (traditionally called a ‘key signature’) is a DO signature. DO is the resting tone for Major tonality. Each DO signature represents all tonalities (see Unit 13 of this book) when the moveable DO with a LA-based-minor solfege system is used. This solfege system is the only one that fosters audiation.

The resting tones for tonalities other than Major are: RE/Dorian, MI/Phrygian, FA/Lydian, SO/Mixolydian, LA/Harmonic Minor and Aeolian, and TI/Loerian. The DO signatures in this book are presented in the circle of 4ths (circle of dominants).
Keyalities and Tonalities
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Music Moves for Piano is designed to develop improvisation, audiation and keyboard performance skills.
The piano series builds on the ideas and theories of Orff, Kodaly, Dalcroze, Suzuki, Taubman and Gordon.

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Introduction

The purpose of this book is to help the keyboard player acquire an aural and kinesthetic knowledge of all the keyalities and tonalities. This knowledge is the foundation for successful reading, improvisation and performance. Keyalities and Tonalities may be used as a reference book, to introduce new students to tonal solfege, to learn the sounds and cadences for eight different tonalities, and for review projects.

The keyalities in this book are arranged in the circle of 4ths, also known as the circle of dominants. Each keyality is the dominant of the next keyality. Letter names of the tonic, such as A or E, are keyalities.

The tonalities are arranged alphabetically: Aeolian, Dorian, Harmonic Minor, Lydian, Locrian, Major, Mixolydian, and Phrygian. Each tonality has its own resting tone/tonic, such as DO (Major), LA (Harmonic Minor and Aeolian), RE (Dorian), and so forth.

The sharps or flats that denote the letter name of DO (traditionally called a key signature) is a DO signature. One DO signature represents all the tonalities. For example, when F is DO (Major tonality), then D is LA (Harmonic Minor tonality or Aeolian tonality), G is RE (Dorian tonality), C is SO (Mixolydian tonality), and so forth. The syllable name for a tonality is the resting tone. The ‘moveable DO with a LA-based Minor solfege system’ is the only solfege system that fosters audiation.

Study Ideas

1. Have students use this book as a reference for transposing.
2. Establish a project of “unit study” for several weeks, during which time students emphasize one DO signature. Study scales, arpeggios and cadences in different tonalities; learn performance pieces; improvise, transpose, compose and create arrangements.
3. Introduce a new tonality, such as Dorian or Phrygian, during the study of any Major keyality if the student demonstrates interest. These tonalities are presented in Unit 13.
4. Establish a “unit study” to practice all the tonalities one DO signature represents. Master the cadences, improvise, transpose, compose and create arrangements. Students should sing the syllables of the primary triads for each tonality.
5. Use this book to introduce tonal solfege to transfer students. Have students sing the syllables for the primary triads of each tonality. Before playing arpeggiated cadences, have students sing the roots of each triad in order to hear and reinforce the root harmony. Then have students learn where the root chord changes are located on the keyboard for each keyality and tonality. This aural and kinesthetic knowledge provides a basic foundation for improvisation, arranging, and composing as well as for reading and writing music fluently.
6. Teachers and students may create a variety of improvisation activities for each keyality and tonality. For example, have students improvise a melody using the following: one phrase (four DUs) using tones from the tonic triad, one phrase using tones from the dominant triad, one phrase using tones from the tonic triad, and the final phrase using tones from the dominant triad then the tonic triad. At first, use the root chord changes for the accompaniment. Other suggestions are:
   - Have students play folk songs in different tonalities.
   - Have students improvise a two-four phrase melody in different tonalities that have the same DO signature OR tonic.
7. Challenge students to learn to play the Major and/or Harmonic Minor scales two, three and four octaves with the metronome. The Harmonic Minor scale is presented on page 81. Keep a metronome chart to encourage students to increase speed.
8. Remind students that they are storing permanent files in the brain, similar to computer files, for quick access to every keyality and tonality. This information is useful in performance, for learning new music with or without notation, and for creative activities such as improvising, arranging and composing.
## Unit 1

### Check List

#### Tonic Arpeggio

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#### Melodic Cadence

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### Major Tonality - When DO is C

#### Tonic Arpeggio

This picture is the keyboard “look” and “feel” of a C Major arpeggio: W W W

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#### Tonic-Dominant-Tonic Melodic Cadence

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<tr>
<td>C</td>
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Tonic Major (I) | Dominant Major (V) | Tonic Major (I)
C Major Scale

Play the scale with one finger.

This picture is the keyboard “look” and “feel” of a C Major scale. All the keys are white.

Check List

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<th>Lesson</th>
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<td></td>
<td>One Octave</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Two Octaves</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Three Octaves</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Four Octaves</td>
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Play the scale from DO to DO.
### Harmonic Minor Tonality - When LA is A

#### Check List

##### Tonic Arpeggio

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##### Melodic Cadence

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##### Transposition

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### Tonic Arpeggio

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<th>Tonic</th>
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<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>La</td>
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### Melodic Cadence

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>La</th>
<th>Do</th>
<th>Mi</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
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### Tonic-Dominant-Tonic Melodic Cadence

(Alternate fingering for RH is on page 9)

#### Tonic Minor (i)

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>La</th>
<th>Do</th>
<th>Mi</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
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```

#### Dominant Harmonic Minor (V)

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Si</th>
<th>Mi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
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#### Tonic Minor (i)

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>La</th>
<th>Do</th>
<th>Mi</th>
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</thead>
</table>
```

This picture is the keyboard “look” and “feel” of an A Minor arpeggio: W W W
# Tonic - Dominant - Tonic Arpeggios

When DO is C then LA is A

## Check List
- **Major Tonality**
  - **Lesson**
    - Separated
  - **Home**
    - Connected
  - **Sing Syllables**

## Harmonic Minor Tonality
- **Lesson**
  - Separated
- **Home**
  - Connected
  - Sing Syllables

## Fingers to Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DO is C</th>
<th>LA is A</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tonic Major (I)</td>
<td>Tonic Minor (i)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominant Major (V)</td>
<td>Dominant Harmonic Minor (V)</td>
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#### Tonic-Dominant-Tonic Arpeggios

<table>
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<tr>
<th>C</th>
<th>C</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Tonic Major (I)</td>
<td>Tonic Major (I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominant Major (V)</td>
<td>Dominant Harmonic Minor (V)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonic Minor (i)</td>
<td>Tonic Minor (i)</td>
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</table>
Tonic - Subdominant - Tonic
When DO is C

Check List

Melodic Cadence

<table>
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<td>Sing Syllables</td>
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<td>_______</td>
<td>Play I-IV-V-I</td>
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<td>Add LH Roots</td>
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Arpeggios

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<td>Sing Syllables</td>
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<tr>
<td>_______</td>
<td>Play I-IV-V-I</td>
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Melodic Cadence

- Tonic Major (I)
- Subdominant Major (IV)
- Tonic Major (I)

Arpeggios

- Tonic Major (I)
- Subdominant Major (IV)
- Tonic Major (I)
Tonic - Subdominant - Tonic
When LA is A

Check List

Melodic Cadence

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<td>Play i-iv-V-i</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>______</td>
<td>Add LH Roots</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Arpeggios

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson</th>
<th>Arpeggios</th>
<th>Home</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>______</td>
<td>Separated</td>
<td>______</td>
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<tr>
<td>______</td>
<td>Connected</td>
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<tr>
<td>______</td>
<td>Sing Syllables</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>______</td>
<td>Play i-iv-V-i</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Melodic Cadence

Tonic Minor (i)  
Subdominant Minor (iv)  
Tonic Minor (i)

Arpeggios

Fingers to Use

Tonic Minor (i)  
Subdominant Minor (iv)  
Tonic Minor (i)
Lesson Time Objectives

Steps for Learning New Tonalities
1. Learn and remember the resting tone for each tonality. For example, the resting tone for Dorian tonality is RE.
2. Sing the tonic triad for each tonality. For example, the tonic triad for Dorian is RE-FA-LA.
3. Learn the primary triads for each tonality.
4. Learn the melodic cadence for each tonality. The melodic cadence includes the tonic, the note above the tonic, and the note below the tonic. The exception is Harmonic Minor: The melodic cadence is Mi-Si-La.
5. Learn the characteristic tone for each tonality. The characteristic tone is the one scale tone that makes each tonality sound different.
6. Plan to master each tonality. Study one tonality for a six-week period of time in order to become immersed in the sound of the new tonality.

Improvisation Practice Ideas
1. Improvise a melody in one of these new tonalities. Use the piano or sing a melody.
2. Change a Major melody to a new tonality.
3. Change a Harmonic Minor melody to a new tonality.
4. Add root-harmony to an improvised melody in a new tonality.
5. Improvise two-four phrases in different tonalities. Use the same DO signature.
6. Improvise a rhythmic, contemporary sounding melody using only the scale tones from one of the new tonalities in this unit.

Six Other Tonalities

Description
This unit presents six tonalities that are different from Major and Harmonic Minor. Composers before 1600 A.D. wrote in these tonalities, as well as the Beatles, other contemporary composers and early music composers.

Different sounding melodies can be composed in these different tonalities by using the characteristic tone, the melodic cadential tones, and the primary triad tones. The characteristic tone is the one scale tone that makes each tonality sound different.

The melodic cadence is the three tones that include the tonic, the note above the tonic, and the note below the tonic. The exception is Harmonic Minor: The melodic cadence is Mi-Si-La.

Tonalities and Resting Tones
The tonalities are listed alphabetically. However, they may be studied in any order.

- Acolian Resting tone is LA
- Dorian Resting tone is RE
- Harm Minor Resting tone is LA
- Locrian Resting tone is TI
- Lydian Resting tone is FA
- Major Resting tone is DO
- Mixolydian Resting tone is SO
- Phrygian Resting tone is MI

Primary Triads and Characteristic Tones

- Acolian Primary triads are: i - iv - v - VII - i (characteristic tone: SO)
- Dorian Primary triads are: i - IV - VII - i (characteristic tone: TI)
- Harm Minor Primary triads are: i - iv - V - i (characteristic tone: SI)
- Locrian Primary triads are: i° - iii - vii - i° (characteristic tone: FA)
- Lydian Primary triads are: I - II - V - I (characteristic tone: TI)
- Major Primary triads are: I - IV - V - I (characteristic tone: TI)
- Mixolydian Primary triads are: I - IV - v - VII - I (characteristic tone: FA)
- Phrygian Primary triads are: i - II - vii - i (characteristic tone: FA)
Appendix

Check List

Melodic Cadence

Lesson | Home
-------|------
| | Hand
| | Hand
| | Separated
| | Connected
| | Sing Syllables
| | New Keyality
| | New Keyality
| | New Keyality

Arpeggios

Lesson | Home
-------|------
| | Separated
| | Connected
| | Sing Syllables
| | New Keyality
| | New Keyality
| | New Keyality

Cadences for Eight Tonalities

When F is DO

| Tonalities | Key
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aeolian</td>
<td>D is LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorian</td>
<td>G is RE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmonic Minor</td>
<td>D is LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locrian</td>
<td>E is TI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lydian</td>
<td>B♭ is FA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td>F is DO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixolydian</td>
<td>C is SO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phrygian</td>
<td>A is MI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Aeolian Tonality — D is LA

Dorian Tonality — G is RE

Harmonic Minor Tonality — D is LA

Locrian Tonality — E is TI

Lydian Tonality — B♭ is FA

Major Tonality (Ionian) — F is DO

Mixolydian Tonality — C is SO

Phrygian Tonality — A is MI
**Music Moves for Piano** is the first piano method of its kind. It applies Edwin E. Gordon’s Music Learning Theory to the teaching of piano. When music is taught as an aural art, lessons build a foundation for lifelong musical enjoyment and understanding. With guidance, “sound to notation” leads to fluent music performance, reading, and writing. Following are some of the major concepts of this approach:

- **Rhythm** is based on body movement: Feel the pulse and meter then chant rhythm patterns. Move in both a continuous fluid way and a rounded, pulsating way.
- **Tonal audiation** is developed by singing. Singing songs and tonal patterns develops pitch sensitivity, singing in tune, and a “listening” ear.
- **Music pattern vocabularies** are acquired and applied to listening and performing.
- **Various elements** of music, such as rhythm, meter, pulse, tonality, harmony, style, and form, are studied.
- **Creativity** is fostered by using different elements of music, such as rhythm, pitch, harmony, and form to create something new.
- **Improvisation activities** apply everything a student learns. Use familiar patterns from folk songs, transpose, change tonality and meter, create variations and medleys, and create melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic variations.
- **Perform** with technical freedom. Students learn how to use the playing apparatus from the beginning of lessons.

**Marilyn Lowe**, who has taught piano for more than 40 years, has used her experiences and knowledge to create a non-traditional piano method based on Edwin E. Gordon’s theories of audiation. Other influences include the techniques and theories of Carl Orff, Shinichi Suzuki, Emile Jaques-Dalcroze, Zoltan Kodaly, and Dorothy Taubman. Lowe has been using this approach successfully with her students for more than 20 years. Her academic credits include degrees in liberal arts and piano from Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, and a master’s degree in piano from Indiana University in Bloomington. Lowe completed additional graduate study in organ and music theory at Indiana University. She would like to express appreciation to her former music teachers: Nadia Boulanger, Murray Baylor, Walter Robert, and Menahem Pressler.

**Edwin E. Gordon** is known throughout the world as a preeminent researcher, teacher, author, editor, and lecturer in the field of music education. In addition to advising doctoral candidates in music education, Gordon has devoted many years to teaching music to preschool-aged children. Through extensive research, Gordon has made major contributions to the field of music education in such areas as the study of music aptitudes, stages and types of audiation, music learning theory, and rhythm in movement and music.