

With the Right Tools, Anyone Can Improvise!
George F. Litterst
National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy 2009

Recommended Improvisation Exercises Using *Music Pathways* MIDI Files Authored by Paul Sheftel
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Musical Issue	Piece	Comments	Source	Page
Rhythm				
—Black Key	Bouncy Rhythm	Enjoy bouncing on the black keys. Avoid falling into the cracks!	Discoveries A	13
—Slow White Key Clusters	Rising	What can you do with C-D-E played together in ascending patterns?	Discoveries A	6
	Falling	What can you do with C-D-E played together in descending patterns?	Discoveries A	6
—Broken Semi-tone Clusters	Bear and Bee	Improvise interesting rhythms, all over the keyboard, using just G and a semi-tone higher and a semi-tone lower.	Discoveries A	60
—Tonic Note in Different Octaves	Trampoline	Make an interesting rhythm using the tonic note all over the keyboard.	Discoveries A	59
	Tapping Exercise	Make an interesting rhythm using the tonic note all over the keyboard.	Discoveries B	41
	Tapping Exercise	Make an interesting rhythm using the tonic note all over the keyboard.	Discoveries B	43
	Tapping Exercise	Make an interesting rhythm using the tonic note all over the keyboard.	Discoveries C	21
	Tapping Exercise 1	Make an interesting rhythm using the tonic note all over the keyboard.	Discoveries C	30
	Tapping Exercise 2	Make an interesting rhythm using the tonic note all over the keyboard.	Discoveries C	30
	Tapping Exercise	Make an interesting rhythm using the tonic note all over the keyboard.	Discoveries C	31
	Tapping Exercise	Make an interesting rhythm using the tonic note all over the keyboard.	Discoveries D	4
	Tapping Exercise	Make an interesting rhythm using the tonic note all over the keyboard.	Discoveries D	18
	Tapping Exercise	Make an interesting rhythm using the tonic note all over the keyboard.	Discoveries D	28
	Tapping Exercise	Make an interesting rhythm using the tonic note all over the keyboard.	Discoveries D	37

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	Little Prelude in B-Flat	Choose a tonic note for each hand, one octave apart. Create conversational phrases.	Discoveries D	40
—Two Keys	Lazy Ride	What can you do with G and A?	Discoveries A	18
	Tapping Exercise	Choose a C in each hand and create a rhythmic dialog.	Discoveries B	15
	Tapping Exercise	Choose a C in each hand and create a rhythmic dialog.	Discoveries C	11
—Three Keys	Ski Lift	Take C, D, and E up the slope!	Discoveries A	20
	Parade Beat	Create a dialog between the hands. The RH gets C and D, the left hand gets C and B.	Discoveries A	29
	Close Inspection of Two Inch-Worms	Turn down the volume. Locate and explore a number of 3-note clusters consisting of semitones.	Discoveries B	29
—Lots of Chords	Puppy Pranks	Use the hand positions given in the music but change the choice of notes and rhythms. Make it interesting by avoiding complexity.	Discoveries B	42
	Slow Rock	Use the hand positions given in the music but change the rhythm to make it even more interesting.	Discoveries C	37
	Seaside Games	Use both hands to make block chords out of the notes in each measure and use those chords to make a new accompaniment that is rhythmically distinct.	Discoveries D	13
Intervals for Creating Rhythms or Melodies				
—Thirds	Tapping Exercise	Use the thirds E-G# and D-F# to make interesting rhythms. A good piece to explore syncopation.	Discoveries B	7
—Fourth	July Fourths	Enjoy blocked and broken tonic 5ths.	Discoveries A	56
—Fifths	Happy	Go crazy with blocked 5ths using F and C.	Discoveries A	8
	Contrast	Take the tempo up to 200% and rock out with blocked 5ths using C and G!	Discoveries A	9
	Bright Peak, Dark Valley	Explore the sound of the tonic 5th and the 1/2-step neighbor tones.	Discoveries A	51

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Musical Issue	Piece	Comments	Source	Page
—Broken and/or Blocked Fifths	Thunder	How many ways can you make thunder with C and G?	Discoveries A	9
Melodies with 5-Finger Patterns				
—Major 5-Finger Patterns	Ninth Inning	Syncopations are allowed!	Discoveries A	18
	My View	How sentimental can you be?	Discoveries A	19
	Ladybug	When you come up with a good idea, be sure to repeat it.	Discoveries A	24
	Feeling Fine	Let your melody move from one hand to the other.	Discoveries A	25
	View from the Moon	Does this title make you play fast or slow?	Discoveries A	26
	Cold Wind	You are permitted to use 5-note clusters for an occasional, chilling effect.	Discoveries A	34
	Night Song	Try long, sustained melody notes for a romantic effect.	Discoveries A	38
	Neighbors	Experiment with a series of short notes that move to long notes.	Discoveries A	39
	Brass Section	Improvise using open 5ths contrasting with melodic runs using the notes of the major 5-finger pattern.	Discoveries A	61
	Song to the Bells	Improvise using open 5ths contrasting with melodic runs using the notes of the major 5-finger pattern.	Discoveries A	62
	Tall Palm Trees	Alternate playing short phrases in each hand.	Discoveries B	10
	The Young Mountaineers	Mute Honky Tonk Piano, Banjo, and Clean Guitar (channels 5, 6, and 12). Explore syncopated rhythms.	Discoveries B	16
	Little Lamb	Alternate playing short phrases in each hand.	Discoveries B	22
	Hand to Hand	Play the first half in G, the second half in C.	Discoveries B	25
	Sounds from the Hills	Alternate playing short phrases in each hand.	Discoveries B	28
Hill Song	Play a phrase in one hand and imitate it in the other.	Discoveries B	31	
Daily Exercise	This exercise goes through many major 5-finger positions. Follow the score in order to place your hand correctly, but change the melody to suit yourself.	Discoveries B	32	
Smooth Tune	Mute the clarinet and oboe tracks (channels 6 and 7).	Discoveries B	33	
Daily Exercise	This exercise goes through many major 5-finger positions. Follow the score in order to place your hand correctly, but change the melody to suit yourself.	Discoveries B	36	

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	Question and Answer	Alternate playing short phrases in each hand. Use a lot of running 8th notes.	Discoveries B	39
	Questions 1, 2, and 3	Ask a question with one hand; answer with the other.	Discoveries B	40
	Blue Ridge Trail		Discoveries B	43
	Bed for Fred	Ask a question with one hand; answer with the other.	Discoveries C	11
	Dream Boat	Ask a question with one hand; answer with the other.	Discoveries C	12
	Question and Answer	Alternate playing short phrases in each hand.	Discoveries C	13
	Fast Fade-Out	Mute the 2 clarinet tracks (channels 5 and 6). Create a dialog between the two hands.	Discoveries C	20
	Highland Tune	Mute the clarinet track (channel 6). Create a dialog between the two hands, featuring repeated notes.	Discoveries C	21
	Five-Finger Express-2nd Day	Alternate hands with each 5-finger position. Change the melody and rhythm to suit yourself.	Discoveries C	15
	Five-Finger Express-3rd Day	Alternate hands with each 5-finger position. Change the melody and rhythm to suit yourself.	Discoveries C	15
	Five-Finger Express-4th Day	First try this one slowly. Switch between scale patterns and broken chords.	Discoveries C	15
	Five-Finger Express-4th Day	Switch between scale patterns and broken chords.	Discoveries C	15
	Question and Answer	Alternate playing short phrases in each hand.	Discoveries C	26
	Sweet Flute	Explore a rhythm comprised of quarters and 8ths.	Discoveries C	29
	Half-Time Show	Mute the grand piano on channel 5. Improvise syncopated phrases, alternative the melody between the hands.	Discoveries C	37
	Question and Answer 1	Alternate playing short phrases in each hand.	Discoveries C	47
	Daily Exercise Right Hand	Improvise your own 16th note exercise that features repeated alternations between adjacent notes.	Discoveries D	5
	Daily Exercise Left Hand	Improvise your own 16th note exercise that features repeated alternations between adjacent notes. In the case of this exercise, enjoy the cacophony!	Discoveries D	5

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	Major Key Study	Use just one hand and take a ride around both sides of the Circle of 5ths. Once you hear a chord change, switch to the next 5-finger pattern and improvise a short melody.	Discoveries D	7
—Major and Parallel Minor	Rock It Blue	Mute the jazz guitar track (channel 6). Alternate playing short phrases in each hand. Switch between major and parallel minor.	Discoveries B	32
	The House of Mirrors	Use slow melody notes.	Discoveries B	41
	On the Move	Listen to the accompaniment carefully to determine where to switch from major to minor.	Discoveries C	43
	Minor Triads	Be creative with major and parallel minor 5-finger patterns.	Discoveries D	10
	Daily Exercise	Be creative with major and parallel minor 5-finger patterns in every key.	Discoveries D	10
—Minor 5-Finger Patterns	Bassoon and Flute	Be sure to put your bassoon and flute in proper registers.	Discoveries A	38
	Stop and Think	Alternate between left and right hands.	Discoveries A	54
	Cave	In the lowest 2 octaves of the keyboard, created the creepiest LH part you have ever heard.	Discoveries B	46
	The Famous Haunted House	Be as creepy as you can be. Don't restrain yourself from using 2-note, 3-note, and even 5-note clusters.	Discoveries C	42
—Major and Relative Minor 5-Finger Patterns	Watch Out!	Which 5-finger pattern works best, the major pattern or the relative minor?	Discoveries A	37
—Major Pentatonic Scale	Stream	Give us a happy song!	Discoveries A	39
Melodies Using Complete Scales				
—Major	Yankee Doodle	Feeling revolutionary?	Discoveries A	23
	Fife and Drum	Let the fife have some fun, and then make a statement with the drum!	Discoveries A	28

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	Rocking Boat	Use movement between the hands to create a rocking effect.	Discoveries A	36
	Northern Winter	This one has 2 occasional scale tone changes: F# and Db. With practice, it is easy to avoid the clashes with F and D.	Discoveries A	58
	Moon Bound		Discoveries A	63
	Peaceful Afternoon	Play running 8th notes in the RH.	Discoveries B	7
	Summer Dream	Mute the Oboe and Clarinet tracks (channels 5 and 7) and improvise a dreamy melody.	Discoveries B	13
	Little Hot Dog	Play running 8th notes in either the RH or the LH.	Discoveries B	30
	Tap-Tap	Mute the jazz guitar part (channel 5). Improvise a simple melody in half notes.	Discoveries C	9
	Daily Exercise		Discoveries C	10
	Toboggan	Run with this one. Lots of 8th notes!	Discoveries C	24
	Five-Finger Express-6th Day	First try this one slowly at first. Alternate the hands. Use complete scales instead of 5-finger patterns.	Discoveries C	15
	Singing Along	Proceed with flowing 8th notes.	Discoveries C	27
	Old Rocking Chair	Create a flowing, 8th-note melody and discover which notes of the scale work best.	Discoveries C	38
	Lumberjack Dance	Create running, 16th note melodies that cadence every four measures. Listen for the harmony changes!	Discoveries D	9
	Crossings	Concentrate on your phrasing.	Discoveries D	27
	Sunday Afternoon	Create a new, flowing melody that begins every other measure with a group of 4 16th notes. Let those 16th notes energize you!	Discoveries D	35
—Major with Open 5th Drone	Desert Shadows	Explore the major scale with the RH and accompany with blocked and broken tonic 5ths in the LH.	Discoveries A	55
—Major with Tonic and Dominant Accompaniment Tones	Stadium March	Create a melody in the RH using all of the notes of the major scale and accompany with tonic and dominant tones in the LH.	Discoveries A	57

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—Major with Broken Tonic Triad	Steeple Bells	Toll those big bells slowly!	Discoveries A	15
	At the Concert	Improvise a melody with the RH; then improvise a melody with the LH.	Discoveries A	47
—Natural Minor	Small Glides	Create a melody that alternates between the treble and bass areas of the keyboard.	Discoveries D	11
	Marching	Mute the trombone and trumpet parts (channels 5 and 6). Be your own trumpet!	Discoveries D	43
	The Shepherd Pipes	Mute the pan flute part (channel 6) and be the flutist!	Discoveries D	44
—Minor or Blues	Mystery	Can you create a creepy piece?	Discoveries A	10
	Star-Shine	Create a glistening melody.	Discoveries A	12
	Queen of Night	Inspire us with a nocturnal experience.	Discoveries A	22
	Halloween	Surprise us!	Discoveries A	18
	One Color	Use one hand to imitate the other.	Discoveries A	34
	Good Advice	Be soulful!	Discoveries A	34
	Indian Echoes	Create a tribal dance.	Discoveries A	35
—Blues	Flight	Use the Blues scale for the relative minor	Discoveries A	40
	Call from the Forest	Use the Blues scale in the RH; add tonic triads in the LH	Discoveries A	46
	Approaching “Haunted Castle”	Make up a bass line using the LH.	Discoveries B	7
—Minor Bebop	Echo Dance	Also try other mixolydian.	Discoveries A	51
	Old MacDonald	Slow the tempo to 50%. Improvise a melody using the minor bebop scale.	Discoveries A	50
	Chug Along	Improvise with the RH and then do an improvisation with the LH.	Discoveries B	35
	Hand Jive	Mute the e. piano 1, grand piano, and e. piano 2 tracks (channels 5, 7, and 12). Try this one slowly at first, improvising a melody that emphasizes A, C, C#, E, F, F#, G.	Discoveries C	18

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	Gambol	Create a simple melody in quarter notes, emphasizing skips between notes of the tonic triad.	Discoveries C	45
—Dorian	Himalayan Night Song	Mute the shanai track (channel 5). Create a slow counterpoint between left and right hands. Keep it simple.	Discoveries B	16
	Scarborough Fair	Mute the oboe part (channel 6). Focus on creating long, 8-bar phrases.	Discoveries C	5
—Lydian	The Engine	Struggle to start the engine!	Discoveries A	21
	A Winter Waltz	Imagine yourself gliding on the ice!	Discoveries A	62
—Mixolydian	Echo Dance	Also try other minor bebop.	Discoveries A	51
	Folk Dance	Create a melody in the LH; punctuate with I (and VII) chords in the RH; try muting the clarinet track	Discoveries A	46
	Kite Day	Enjoy a flight on the wings of the Mixolydian mode. The notes of the tonic 9th chord will make you soar!	Discoveries D	4
—Locrian	Campfire Tale	How bizarre can you be?	Discoveries A	17
—Whole-tone	Drifting in Outer Space	Drift away as far as you can!	Discoveries B	9
	Two White Swans	Demonstrate how interesting and gentle a whole-tone scale can be. You'll be forgiven if you also use some chord clusters.	Discoveries B	48
	Lunar Landing	Orbit the keyboard. Find a place for a soft landing.	Discoveries C	33
—Chromatic	Daily Exercise Left Hand	Find your creative niche within the cacophony! Use both hands freely.	Discoveries D	5
Chords				
—Major (Slow)	Dream	Play complete tonic triads and give us an interesting rhythm.	Discoveries A	9

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	Shoo-Fly Pie	Play complete tonic triads and give us an interesting rhythm.	Discoveries A	16
	Pitcher	Use tonic triads all over the keyboard.	Discoveries A	14
	Birthday	Explore the sounds of the broken tonic chord. Alternate between the hands.	Discoveries A	16
	Monkey See, Monkey Do	Explore the sound of the broken tonic chord. Enjoy some added flavor by introducing the raised 2nd degree of the scale. Lead with one hand; imitate with the other.	Discoveries A	54
	Message from Outer Space	Explore the sound of the broken tonic chord. Enjoy some added flavor by introducing the raised 2nd degree of the scale. Lead with one hand; imitate with the other.	Discoveries A	57
	Variety	Use just tonic and dominant chords in different inversions, one chord per half note.	Discoveries A	59
	After School	Use just tonic and dominant chords in different inversions, one chord per half note.	Discoveries A	60
	Daily Exercise 1	Play blocked tonic triads in each hand, one per measure. For each 5-finger pattern, play one chord low and the second one an 8ve higher.	Discoveries C	47
	Daily Exercise 1	Play blocked tonic triads in each hand, two per measure, playing on the 1st and 3rd beats. For each 5-finger pattern, play one chord high and the second one an 8ve lower.	Discoveries C	47
—Major (Fast)	Bright World	Use 8th and 16th notes to move this piece along!	Discoveries A	11
	Candyman!	Focus on running, stepwise 8th notes.	Discoveries A	14
	Gazelle	Create a couple of motifs and work with them.	Discoveries A	16
	Phrase	Use both hands to create a flowing, arpeggiated accompaniment using just the tonic chord.	Discoveries B	39
	Five-Finger Express-1st Day	Instead of playing melodic patterns, come up with an engaging way of playing chords and broken chords based on the root note of each 5-finger pattern.	Discoveries C	15

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	Daily Exercise	Instead of playing the 5-finger patterns, create a pattern based on broken tonic chords.	Discoveries C	34
	Triad Tune	Play the arpeggiated chords as written. Create interesting rhythms in the measures that have blocked chords.	Discoveries C	40
	Daily Exercise	Play flowing, tonic arpeggios.	Discoveries C	45
—Minor (Slow)	Our Sound	Keep the melody moving!	Discoveries A	10
	Good Sound	Create a soulful melody.	Discoveries A	29
—Minor (Fast)	The Joneses	Go crazy with this one!	Discoveries A	12
	Two Drummers	Create a dialog between the hands.	Discoveries A	37
	Daily Exercise	Burst out beyond the 1-octave boundaries of the original exercise. Let those 8th notes roll off your fingers!	Discoveries D	22
—Major (Tonic) and Relative Minor	Sleepy Time	Lead us gently.	Discoveries A	28
	Covering Ground	This one can bounce along.	Discoveries A	30
	By Air or Sea?	Give us a march!	Discoveries A	31
	Daily Exercise	Make slight modifications to the rhythm to keep the exercise interesting.	Discoveries D	47
—Tonic (Major) and Dominant	Diving Board	Take us on a ride!	Discoveries A	43
	Hush, Little Baby	create LH Alberti accompaniment; then add a melody in the RH	Discoveries A	44
	Dance in Wooden Shoes	Keep it simple and listen for the change of harmony	Discoveries A	49
	Tune in Db	Play this on in the RH.	Discoveries B	29
	Tune in Eb	Play this on in the LH.	Discoveries B	29
	Over the Fence	Make up interesting rhythms using just tonic and dominant. Play in several octaves.	Discoveries B	36

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	Daily Exercise for RH	First learn the exercise at a slow tempo. As you increase the tempo, freely use different octaves, change the order of the notes within the 5-finger positions, and fill out the chords.	Discoveries C	18
	Daily Exercise for LH	First learn the exercise at a slow tempo. As you increase the tempo, freely use different octaves, change the order of the notes within the 5-finger positions, and fill out the chords.	Discoveries C	18
	Daily Exercise	Create an interesting rhythm with these chord patterns.	Discoveries C	27
	Melody	Create an accompaniment consisting of arpeggiated chords flowing between both hands.	Discoveries C	27
	Skipping Tune	Play a simple melody in the RH consisting of 1 note per measure. Create a simple accompaniment in the LH.	Discoveries C	30
	Daily Exercise	First learn the exercise at a slow tempo. As you increase the tempo, freely use different octaves, change the order of the notes within the 5-finger positions, and fill out the chords.	Discoveries C	43
	Small Procession	Create both melody and accompaniment using only broken and blocked chords.	Discoveries D	5
	Chord Exercise	Play both hands at the same time, shifting octaves frequently.	Discoveries D	22
	Chord Exercise	Change this exercise by playing all chords with the RH and play the root of each chord in octaves in the LH.	Discoveries D	25
	Parade!	Use root position octaves in the LH and conveniently voiced chords in the RH.	Discoveries D	36
	Melody Number 1	Comp using tonic and dominant.	Discoveries C	24
—Major (Tonic), Dominant, Relative Minor	Birthday Song	Find the chord changes.	Discoveries A	33
—Dominant 7th	Drifting	Explore the notes of the dominant 7th chord.	Discoveries A	36
	Cakewalk!	Find the chord changes.	Discoveries A	42

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—Tonic (Major), Subdominant, Dominant	Old MacDonald	Play simple chords; listen for the harmonic changes	Discoveries A	50
	The Gift	Make up a flowing, arpeggiated accompaniment, freely using both hands. Also try a simple LH accompaniment that alternates every other measure with a melody in the RH.	Discoveries A	52
	Popular Song	Comp chords using interesting, off-beat rhythms.	Discoveries A	53
	Voice of Bonnie Belle	Use this piece for comping the chords. Add a minor seventh to all chords.	Discoveries B	31
	Big John	Learn the original piece, note the harmony changes, and observe the way that the bass moves from harmony to harmony. Improvise a new LH along with a rhythmic RH part that based on blocked and/or broken chords.	Discoveries C	14
	Chord Exercise	Create a flowing, arpeggiating accompaniment with the notes moving smoothly from one hand to the other.	Discoveries C	35
	Circus Magic	Root position bass notes in the LH; simple chords in the RH. When the harmony is about to change, precede the new LH bass note with a 3-note, triplet, stepwise lead in from below (similar to what you see in the music).	Discoveries D	42
	Polka	Play chords only on the off-beats!	Discoveries D	43
—Tonic (Major), Subdominant, Dominant, and V7 of V	Polka Party!	Learn the harmony changes by listening to the accompaniment. Play along using block chords, either one hand alone or both hands together.	Discoveries C	39
—Tonic (Major and Minor) and Dominant	Major-Minor Express 1	Find a comfortable hand position and voice for tonic and dominant chords. Follow the chord changes in the accompaniment, playing 2 chords per bar. Vary the rhythm if you wish.	Discoveries D	33

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—Various Chords	Turning	Memorize the harmonic changes. While keeping the LH simple, improvise a new RH part featuring broken chord patterns across the keyboard.	Discoveries C	16
	Running Wild	Learn to play the chords with the hands exactly together. Then, comp the piece creating engaging rhythms.	Discoveries C	28
	Lighter Than Air	Play blocked chords all over the piano, 2 chords per measure.	Discoveries C	44
	Mountain Majesty	Learn the original piece. Then, improvise a revised version with using broken and blocked chords.	Discoveries C	48
	Moonlight on the Water	Study the chord changes and then improvise an arpeggiated accompaniment in 8th notes. Don't be afraid to enjoy the entire keyboard.	Discoveries D	3
	Spin	Study the chord changes and then improvise an arpeggiated accompaniment in 8th notes. Don't let the dissonances distract you from your mission!	Discoveries D	6
	Run with the Kite	Watch the music and determine chord for each measure or half measure. Play one chord with either hand or both every time the harmony changes.	Discoveries D	24
	Strike Up the Band	Listen for the chord changes. Create a very simple, chordal accompaniment.	Discoveries D	48
Bass Lines	Twilight	Focus on tonic and dominant	Discoveries A	40
	Free Flying	Mute the Fretless Bass track on Channel 5 and make up a bass line. Listen for changes between tonic, dominant, and tonic harmonies.	Discoveries B	6
Left-Hand/Right-Hand Dialogues	Change in the Weather	Alternate between hands every two bars; try again playing 2 hands together!	Discoveries A	41
	Rock Around Me	This piece uses just tonic (major) and dominant harmonies. Create a left hand part consisting of simple changes from the tonic note to the dominant note. Answer the changes in the bass with a simple melody in the RH.	Discoveries A	64
	Cartoon	Use major a major 5-finger pattern.	Discoveries B	12

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	The Sixth Sense	Use the minor 5-finger pattern or natural minor scale to create a dialog between the hands.	Discoveries B	34
	Daily Exercise	Create a dialogue between the LH (playing tonic and dominant tones) and the RH playing notes of the major 5-finger pattern.	Discoveries C	38
	The Bird I Heard	Freely use all notes of the major scale.	Discoveries D	16
	Wheeling	Freely use all notes of the major scale.	Discoveries D	18
	Following	Enjoy playing 16th-note stepwise patterns all of the keyboard. Can your LH keep up with your RH?	Discoveries D	22
	Mirror Answers	Mute the ocarina and e. piano 2 tracks (channels 5 ad 12). Using the C major 5-finger pattern, create a copycat dialog.	Discoveries D	28
Melody with Drone or Simple LH Accompaniment	Dance to the Morning Sun	Use the natural minor scale or minor 5-finger pattern in the RH and play open 5th drones on the tonic in the LH.	Discoveries B	3
	The Tiptoe Blues	Use the Blues scale (or the first 5 notes of it) in the RH and accompany with single tonic and dominant notes in the LH.	Discoveries B	5
	Remember the French Horn?	Major 5-finger pattern in the RH; blocked or broken fifths on the tonic in the LH.	Discoveries B	11
	Mountain Lullaby	Slow the tempo to 70%. Improvise a simple melody using the major scale accompanied by a droning 5th. Try to develop an A section that gets repeated.	Discoveries B	12
	Tuba and Flute	5-finger pattern in the RH; tonic and dominant notes in the LH. Create a dialog.	Discoveries B	14
	Austrian Melody	Mute the 2 clarinet tracks (channels 5 and 6). Use a major 5-finger pattern in the RH and a tonic 5th in the LH.	Discoveries B	15
	Old Fiddle Tune	Mute the harmonica part (channel 5) and slow the tempo to 80%. Listen for the chord changes and practice playing tonic and subdominant chords in the LH. Then, add a simple 5-finger melody in the RH.	Discoveries B	17

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	Boat Song	Mute the new age pad track (channel 5). Play a tonic octave drone in the LH and create a RH melody using only Ds, Es, and As.	Discoveries B	19
	Power March	Droning tonic in the LH; 5-finger melody in the RH.	Discoveries B	22
	Hot Popcorn	Droning tonic 5ths in the LH; 5-finger melody in the RH. Add melodic flavor to the RH by raising the 2nd degree of the scale.	Discoveries B	23
	Daily Exercise	Droning tonic in the LH; 5-finger melody in the RH. Explore different octaves with the RH.	Discoveries B	27
	Show-Me Shuffle	Make an accompaniment pattern in the LH using tonic and dominant. Add a melody in the RH.	Discoveries B	33
	Bright Morning	Plays droning tonic 5ths in the LH occasionally filling in with little stepwise runs. When creating a RH melody, focus on triad tones.	Discoveries B	37
	Love Somebody	Freely accompany with tonic and dominant tones in the left hand. Enjoy the major scale in the RH embellished with a flatted seventh degree.	Discoveries B	44
	Alpine Tune	Freely accompany with tonic and dominant tones in the left hand, engaging the RH in a quasi-dialogue.	Discoveries B	46
	Pipes on Parade	Droning tonic in the LH; expansive melody in the RH.	Discoveries C	8
	My Country	Mute the grand piano tracks on channels 6 and 12. Freely improvise a wide ranging RH melody accompanied by a tonic drone.	Discoveries C	22
	Aging Elephant	LH lumbers slowly using tonic, subdominant, and dominant tones. RH skips ahead using notes of the natural minor scale.	Discoveries C	31
	Riding the Surf	Create a simple accompaniment consisting of a tonic drone coming on the 1st and 4th beats. In the RH, recreate a slowly moving melody in half notes which come on the 1st and 3rd beats.	Discoveries D	39
Melodies and Chords				

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—Major with Tonic and Dominant	Camptown Races	To add some chromatic interest to the melody, try incorporating the raised second degree of the scale when playing the tonic chord in the LH. Use the notes of the C minor bebop scale when playing the dominant chord in the LH.	Discoveries A	47
	German Dance	Use simple tonic and dominant chords in the LH and improvise a melody in the RH.	Discoveries B	19
	Wink and Blink	Use simple tonic and dominant chords in the LH and improvise a melody in the RH.	Discoveries B	20
	On Our Way	Use simple tonic and dominant chords in the LH and improvise a melody in the RH.	Discoveries B	24
	Rolling Slowly	Use simple tonic and dominant chords in the LH and improvise a melody in the RH.	Discoveries B	37
	In the Country-1st Version	Improvise a mostly stepwise melody with an Alberti accompaniment.	Discoveries C	19
	In the Country-2nd Version	Mute the trumpet and grand piano tracks (channels 5 and 12). Improvise a melody comprised mostly of notes taken from slow, broken triads. Create a simple LH accompaniment.	Discoveries C	19
	To Be Sung in a Rowboat	Improvise and expansive melody that uses all of the notes of the scale accompanied by simple chords.	Discoveries C	20
	Melody Number 2	Create a simple LH accompaniment consisting of alternating base notes with 2-note chords above. Add a RH melody on top.	Discoveries C	24
	Question and Answer 2	Improvise a melody with the RH and accompany with tonic and dominant chords in the LH.	Discoveries C	47
	Evening Song	Improvise a melody with the LH and accompany with tonic and dominant chords in the RH.	Discoveries D	6
	Melody Number 1	Improvise a melody with the RH or LH, accompanying with simple chords in the other hand.	Discoveries D	12
	Happy Tune	Improvise a melody that switches between RH and LH every four measures. Accompany with simple chords using the opposite hand.	Discoveries D	14

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—Minor with Tonic and Dominant	Melody Number 2	In the RH or LH accompanying with simple chords in the other hand.	Discoveries D	12
	Melody Number 3	In the RH or LH accompanying with simple chords in the other hand.	Discoveries D	12
	Melody Number 4	In the RH or LH accompanying with simple chords in the other hand.	Discoveries D	12
—Minor with Tonic and Subdominant	Across the Valley	Mute the english horn part (channel 6). Listen for the harmonic changes in the accompaniment. Then, improvise and A-B-A form piece using the A and D natural minor scales with simple open fifth chords built on the 1st and 4th degrees.	Discoveries C	4
	D Minor Melody	When creating a new RH melody, stick to the notes of the natural minor scale. When playing the dominant 7th chord in the LH, avoid the 7th degree of the scale in the RH.	Discoveries D	34
	G Minor Melody	When creating a new RH melody, stick to the notes of the natural minor scale. When playing the dominant 7th chord in the LH, avoid the 7th degree of the scale in the RH.	Discoveries D	34
	A Minor Melody	Develop an upbeat motif when creating your new melody. Stick to the notes of the natural minor scale. When playing the dominant 7th chord in the LH, avoid the 7th degree of the scale in the RH.	Discoveries D	34
—Major with Tonic and Submediant	Mountain Dance	Play chords in the LH; improvise simple melodies in the RH and use chromatic inflections that resolve to chord tones	Discoveries A	48

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—Major with Tonic, Subdominant, and Dominant	Stir It Up	Mute the jazz guitar track (channel 6) and reduce the tempo to 80% or slower. Next, listen for chord changes and learn to play LH chords. Then add a RH melody. Add melody flavor with D# and Bb when playing tonic chords and G# and Eb when playing the subdominant chord.	Discoveries B	21
	Fiesta Dance	Comp chords using interesting, off-beat rhythms.	Discoveries B	38
	English Folk Song	Choose a LH accompaniment style, such as an Alberti or other broken chord configuration. Improvise a melody in the RH or decorate the original melody in the RH.	Discoveries B	40
	Flag Day Parade	Comp chords emphasizing a tuba-like bass part.	Discoveries B	45
	Scottish Song	Learn to block tonic, subdominant, and dominant chords in the LH, always over a tonic pedal point. Then, improvise a new RH melody over the top.	Discoveries C	8
—Major with Submediant and Dominant	Song on the Bayou	Learn to block out the harmony changes. Then, create a gently rocking LH part based on those changes. Lastly, improvise a RH melody over the top.	Discoveries C	34
Melodies with More Sophisticated Accompaniment	Arabian Tale	Mute the oboe part (channel 6). Learn to play the original piece. Then, show just the LH in notation and improvise a new RH part while playing the original LH. Lastly, improvise a completely new piece with similar LH/RH interaction. To make the piece more exotic, indulge yourself with melodic embellishment using Bb and D#.	Discoveries C	3
	Melody	Using tonic and dominant harmonies, add an “oom-pa” style accompaniment to the original melody. Then, hide the original melody and improvise your own.	Discoveries C	6
	Hazy and Lazy	Memorize and play the left hand as written. Improvise a new, simple RH part.	Discoveries C	32

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	Melody	Mute the grand piano tracks on channels 6 and 12. Freely improvise a wide ranging RH melody accompanied by an Alberti pattern in the LH.	Discoveries C	35
	Rocking Around	Play open fifths in the left hand, changing from tonic, to subdominant, to dominant as necessary. Improvise a melody in slowly moving 6ths in the RH.	Discoveries C	46
Variations	Light and Shade	Use the very same notes in every measure but freely change the order and rhythm. Don't hesitate to repeat notes.	Discoveries C	17
	Lightly Row	Create a variation of the melody in the RH. Create a rocking accompaniment in the LH using notes of the tonic and dominant chords.	Discoveries C	39
	Skiing the Junior Slope	Play the piece mostly as written. Change the RH part to include 16th notes in all measures.	Discoveries D	8
	Small Tune	Create a new four-measure melody with the RH using the original chords in the left hand. Repeat the new melody when the entire piece shifts up a whole step.	Discoveries D	15
	Broad Jump	Create a solo for the LH alone that features octave leaps between tonic and dominant tones as well as little step-wise runs.	Discoveries D	16
	Chord Talk	Follow the basic LH/RH structure of the piece, but change the notes in each measure to suit yourself!	Discoveries D	17
	Forest Murmur	Follow the basic LH/RH structure of the piece, but change the notes in each measure to suit yourself! Especially consider applying the technique of melodic and rhythmic inversion.	Discoveries D	19
	Snow Bells	This piece needs more snowflakes!	Discoveries D	20
	In the Tall Pines	Show us how tall and majestic these pines really are.	Discoveries D	21
	Melody Number 1	Be creative with the LH, the RH, or both!	Discoveries D	23
	Melody Number 3	Create a new RH part. Consider muting the harpsichord part (channel 5).	Discoveries D	23

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	Melody Number 4	Create a new RH part. Keep the music moving with an interesting LH accompaniment.	Discoveries D	23
	Chord Tunes	Change the melody by taking advantage of all notes in the major scale.	Discoveries D	25
	Melody Number 1	Change the melody by taking advantage of all notes in the major scale.	Discoveries D	26
	Melody Number 2	Change the melody by taking advantage of all notes in the major scale.	Discoveries D	26
	Melody Number 3	Change the melody by taking advantage of all notes in the major scale.	Discoveries D	26
	Snowfall	Use the same hand positions and harmonies but create a different pattern in the snow.	Discoveries D	27
	Variations on "Winter, Goodbye!"	Learn the piece as written. Then, create your own variations. Note: An interesting variation does not have to have a lot of changes from the original!	Discoveries D	30
	Melody Number 1	Play the RH as written. Create an arpeggiated accompaniment in the LH.	Discoveries D	32
	Melody Number 2	Play the LH as written. Improvise a variation in the RH.	Discoveries D	32
	Daily Exercise	Go for a swing rhythm in the RH. Seize the opportunity to syncopate! TIP: If you want to be adventurous, experiment with a triplet rhythm in the RH based on these notes of the scale: raised 2nd, 3rd, and 5th.	Discoveries D	32
	Major-Minor Express 3	Create a new and interesting rhythm in the 3rd measure of each phrase.	Discoveries D	33
	Major-Minor Express 3	Make this exercise swing!	Discoveries D	33
	Major-Minor Express 4	Change the way that the 16th note rhythm is used.	Discoveries D	33
	Major-Minor Express 5	No hints this time. Use your imagination!	Discoveries D	33
	Major-Minor Express 6	How creative can you be with a dotted 8th/16th rhythm?	Discoveries D	33
	Country Tune	No hints this time. Use your imagination!	Discoveries D	36
	Mosquito Dance	Make the mosquitos even more annoying!!	Discoveries D	37

