

THE FIRST BOOK OF SCALES, CHORDS, ARPEGGIOS & CADENCES

*Includes all the Major, Harmonic Minor
& Chromatic Scales*

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"I don't like to practice, never have. But when I do get started at the piano, for the first 10 minutes I play scales, slowly. I've done this all my life. Listen to the sounds you make. The sound of each tone will generate a response in you. It will give you energy." Van Cliburn

"Do you ask me how good a player you may become? Then tell me how much you practice the scales." Carl Czerny

"I consider the practice of scales important not only for the fingers, but also for the discipline of the ear with regard to the feeling of tonality (key), understanding of intervals, and the comprehension of the total compass of the piano." Josef Hofmann

"Give special study to passing the thumb under the hand and passing the hand over the thumb. This makes the practice of scales and arpeggios indispensable." Jan Paderewski

"Scales should never be dry. If you are not interested in them, work with them until you do become interested in them." Artur Rubinstein

"I believe this matter of insisting upon a thorough technical knowledge, particularly scale playing, is a very vital one. The mere ability to play a few pieces does not constitute musical proficiency." Sergei Rachmaninoff

"You must diligently practice all scales." Robert Schumann

The importance of scales and arpeggios, particularly with regard to the pianist's ability to perform, cannot be overestimated. To trace the development of the major and minor scales through the history of music would require many pages, but we do know that these scales had their origins in the system of modes that was developed in ancient Greek music and music of the Church.

In ancient Greece, certain musical tribes used a lyre, a four-stringed harp called the *tetrachordon* (*tetra* meaning four). The four tones encompassed by this instrument constituted a perfect 4th, and were called a tetrachord. This was the building block that was to become the basis for our modern scales.

On the keyboard, a tetrachord consists of a whole step, a whole step and a half step. If we play a tetrachord beginning on C, we have the notes C, D, E and F. If we begin a second tetrachord on G, we have the notes G, A, B and C. The last C of this tetrachord is exactly one octave higher than the low C of the first tetrachord. These two tetrachords, played in succession, make an eight-note scale in the Ionian mode, which we now know as a major scale. If we use the same tones beginning on the 6th note of the combined two tetrachords, we get the notes A, B, C, D, E, F, G and A. These notes constitute the Aeolian mode, which is also known as our natural minor scale.

The Greek philosopher Pythagorus (around 500 BC) is credited with the discovery of the numerical ratios corresponding to the principal intervals of the musical scale. With an instrument known as a *monochord*, consisting of one string stretched over a long sounding-board, Pythagorus found that by dividing the string into 2 equal parts, one part, when vibrated, would give a tone exactly one octave above the natural tone of the whole string. By sounding 2/3 of the length of the string, the interval of a 5th above the natural tone would be produced. By sounding 3/4 of the length of the string, the interval of a 4th would be produced. In similar manner, the ratios of all the notes of the scale were discovered.

With the ongoing evolution of stringed and keyboard instruments, our modern major and minor scales were developed, and the various temperaments associated with all of the ancient and modern tunings were ultimately derived.

HOW THIS BOOK IS ORGANIZED

Part 1 The Major Scales: The key of C plus the sharp keys in key signature sequence. *Pages 2–9*

Part 2 The Major Scales: The flat keys in key signature sequence. *Pages 10–16*

Part 3 The Minor Scales: The key of A minor plus the sharp keys in key signature sequence. *Pages 17–24*

Part 4 The Minor Scales: The flat keys in key signature sequence. *Pages 25–31*

Part 5 The Chromatic Scales. *Page 32*



