

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

PHOENIX FEATHER ACADEMY OF MUSIC (949)458-5899

**OLDER BEGINNER/GOLD Graduation**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Practice this whole page every day:

	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6
<p><b><u>FINGER EXERCISES in your new Orange Book</u></b></p> <p>Check out Finger Exercise #1 - can you figure it out?</p>						
<p><b><u>My Favorite Songs</u></b></p> <p>Transfer the songs from your last book to your Orange Book Play/Sing your list every day.</p>						
<p><b><u>C MAJOR SCALE</u></b> (It's in your new Orange Book!)</p> <p><i>What you should be able to do by next week:</i>                      Say "middle cross" etc and play Right Hand alone                      Say "all the way to thumb" etc and play Left Hand alone</p>						
<p><b><u>RATTLIN' BOG</u></b> <i>What you should be able to do by next week:</i>                      Point and follow along with the CD                      Sing four measures by memory</p> <p>HINT: Try pointing to one measure at a time instead of pointing to each note</p>						
<p><b><u>FLOW GENTLY SWEET AFTON</u></b> <i>What you should be able to do by next week:</i>                      Point and follow along with the CD                      Sing four measures by memory</p>						
<p><b><u>HUGARIAN FOLK TUNE</u></b></p> <p><i>What you should be able to do by next week:</i>                      Point and follow along with the CD                      Sing the whole song by memory</p>						
<p><b><u>AS THE SUN GOES DOWN</u></b></p> <p><i>What you should be able to do by next week:</i>                      Point and follow along with the CD                      Sing four measures by memory</p>						
<p><b><u>MOONBIRD</u></b></p> <p><i>What you should be able to do by next week:</i>                      Point and follow along with the CD                      Sing four measures by memory                      Sing and play Left Hand FIRST THREE NOTES with the correct finger</p>						
<p><b><u>DU DU LIEGST MIR IM HERZEN</u></b></p> <p><i>What you should be able to do by next week:</i>                      Point and follow along with the CD                      Sing four measures by memory                      Sing and play the Left Hand slowly all the way through -                      DON'T PANIC! It's just like Carrousel...Do you see the "Do-Mi-Sols" and                      the "Ti-Fa-Sols"?</p>						

**CONGRATULATIONS! You made it to the Orange Book!**

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**Ms. Kirsten**

## PRACTICING

The most important part of music study takes place at home - with YOU [the parent]! At home, you and your child work together on completing the practice assignment, and try out new and fun sounds and ideas.

On the day of the lesson, when you get home, help your child read through the home-assignment and discuss what is actually new material and what is simply review. This will prepare both your child and you for the practice week ahead. It will also encourage your child to mentally review what was learned in class.

**If you and your child practice six days a week, the tasks on the home assignment will be well-reinforced... you and your child will arrive at your next lesson ready to learn more.**

The longer you wait between practice sessions the more chance that your child [and YOU] will become very frustrated with his/her ability to complete the home assignment.

It is important that YOU dedicate yourself to practice time fully.

Sit with your child and help turn pages, read directions and figure-out new material. Occasionally, you can ask your child to teach YOU how to read or play something. As your child gets older and more independent in practice (several years from now), you can simply “keep company” with your child as he/she practices. You can read, balance the checkbook, or simply relax and enjoy your child’s music-making.

Many families have discovered that morning is the best time for practice: your child’s brain is fresh, no friends are waiting outside to play, and the TV is not on. Practicing in the morning also solves the problem of conflicting after-school activities (no soccer teams practice in the mornings!). If you have a keyboard, you can move it to a convenient “morning location” so that YOU can be accomplishing the morning’s tasks while your child practices. This will take some “family adjustment”, but it is well-worth the effort.

Many students practice right after school (after a snack and 15-20 minutes of relaxation time) and just before they start homework time. Music practice usually takes between 15 and 30 minutes, but homework can go on all evening. If you and your child wait until homework is completed to begin practicing, music will often be skipped five days a week because, “there just wasn’t time”. Many families have commented that this arrangement [practice before homework] not only helps them to accomplish both practice AND homework, but helps them to get it all done FASTER than before.

**You will, of course, need to nudge your child to practice.**

No matter what his/her level of interest in music study, he/she is only human.

The temptation to do something else first, or skip practice altogether can be very strong.

**Be encouraging. Be positive. Be consistent. Be resolute.**

Remember, if your child is allowed to “get away with it” once, it will be even more difficult the next time.

If you constantly experience trouble getting your child to practice, consider these points:

- Your child needs to adjust to the time and effort necessary for learning to play a musical instrument.
- Playing a musical instrument is not like TV: Playing an instrument is a activity requiring daily hard work and TV is a “spectator sport”.
- Perhaps a noisy younger sibling OR an out-of-tune piano OR a friend, teacher, or family member making disparaging remarks could be the problem.

Don’t just give up - and DON’T WAIT for the problem to go away. Set up an extra-help lesson with Ms. Kirsten. She can discuss options and give you ideas on what to do. Learning a musical instrument is not easy - if it were, everyone would be able to do it - but in the long-run, it is wellworth the effort.