



“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*

4 8

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 several systems of staves:

- System 1 (Measures 1-5):** Starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The right hand features a syncopated melody with triplets and slurs. The left hand provides a steady accompaniment. Dynamics progress from *p* to *mp* to *mf*.
- System 2 (Measures 6-11):** Includes a first ending (1.) and a second ending (2.). Dynamics range from *f* to *mp*.
- System 3 (Measures 12-17):** Continues the melodic and harmonic development with a *mf* dynamic.
- System 4 (Measures 18-21):** Features a piano (*p*) dynamic in the right hand and *mp* in the left hand.
- System 5 (Measures 22-25):** Shows a *mf* dynamic and includes a triplet in the right hand.
- System 6 (Measures 26-30):** The tempo changes to "Very slow and free" (measures 26-27) and then to "tempo 1" (measures 28-30). Dynamics include *f*, *p*, *pp*, and *ppp*.