

Global View - Learning The Piano (C0242)

Charles: Hi Cody, how did practicing go this week?

Cody: Well I had several tests and an oral presentation this week so I didn't get a chance to memorize the second page, but I think I mastered the tricky section.

Charles: Great! Warm up with some scales and arpeggios first. Good, good. This week, work on keeping the rhythm steady when you play the last part with the sixteenth note . Now let's take a look at this tricky section.

Cody: Charles? Before I start I was wondering if it was ok if I put a small crescendo in here and then decrescendo back to pianissimo again over here?

Charles: It might work. I'll have to hear it . Show me what you've done. Not bad , not bad .

Cody: It was horrible! I played play it much better at home!

Charles: It's just nerves. Just play the right hand for now. One two three four five six, ta ti tri-ple-ti. Good, good. Don't forget the accidentals! The key signature says that note should be a G-sharp but now it's a G-natural. Now add the bass clef. You're going too fast. Remember the tempo for this piece is andante.

Cody: Is that better?

Charles: Yes, much better. Watch where you lift your foot off the pedal. What was that?

Cody: Sorry! The stretch for that octave is always hard to make.

Charles: That's ok, keep going, you're moving ahead by leaps and bounds . Watch your dynamics! Keep your elbows lifted. Remember to stroke the keys, don't pound. That's better! Remember that as a pianist or any other musician, your technique will be what separates you from the pack just as much or more so as your musicianship.

Key Vocabulary

tricky	<i>A</i>	requiring skill or caution
scale	<i>N</i>	a series of musical notes
tempo	<i>N</i>	the speed at which a musical piece is played
by leaps and bounds	<i>P</i>	very quickly
musicianship	<i>N</i>	the skill of performing music
note	<i>N</i>	a specific musical tone
dynamics	<i>N</i>	changes in how loudly a piece of music is played
key	<i>N</i>	A button depressed with fingers to produce sounds

Supplementary Vocabulary

hammer	<i>N</i>	a wooden piece which strikes the strings
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string	<i>N</i>	wires that when hit by the hammer produces sounds
plate	<i>N</i>	the iron frame which holds the strings in place
hitch pin	<i>N</i>	a metal screw that holds one end of the string
grand piano	<i>N</i>	a specific type of piano