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Alberti Bass

This style of LH accompaniment takes its name from the 18th-century Italian composer, Domenico Alberti, who used it extensively in his keyboard music. It consists of broken chords played in the following style, and it was frequently used by almost all the “classical” composers, including Haydn, Mozart, Clementi and Beethoven.

The first line of the music below shows a basic I–IV–V⁷ progression. The second and third lines introduce the corresponding Alberti bass in $\frac{4}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ time.

Play the following several times:

1. 2.

I IV V⁷ I I

Alberti bass in $\frac{4}{4}$ time

1. 2.

5 1 3 1 5 1 2 1 5 1 2 1 5 1 3 1 5

Alberti bass in $\frac{3}{4}$ time

1. 2.

5 1 3 5 1 2 5 1 2 5 1 3 5 1 3

G MAJOR PROGRESSION

1. 2.

I IV V⁷ I I

Write in the missing measures of Alberti bass, then play several times:

Alberti bass in $\frac{4}{4}$ time

1. 2.

I IV V⁷ I I

Alberti bass in $\frac{3}{4}$ time

1. 2.

I IV V⁷ I I

THEME FROM "THE UNFINISHED SYMPHONY"

Preparation: Play several times, counting aloud.

Preparation exercise for the theme from "The Unfinished Symphony". It consists of two measures of music in 3/4 time, marked with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first measure contains a sequence of eighth notes: F#4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5. The second measure contains a sequence of eighth notes: F#4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5. The bass line consists of a single note, F#3, in the first measure and a single note, F#3, in the second measure. The exercise is labeled "COUNT: 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 2 & 3 &".

Main musical score for the theme from "The Unfinished Symphony" by Franz Schubert. The score is in 3/4 time, marked with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked "Moderato". The score is divided into four systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a half note F#4. The second system begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a half note F#4. The third system begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a half note F#4. The fourth system begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and a half note F#4. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and fingerings. The piece concludes with a "ritard." (ritardando) marking and a final half note F#4.

*Play the C & D together with the side tip of the thumb.

THE MORDENT

Rapidly play: written note, note below written note, then written note again.



WALTZ WITH MORDENTS

1. In the measure above each mordent sign, write out the mordent in full, using one of the rhythms shown above. Be sure the first note is the same as the note that appears under the sign.
2. Play.

KEY OF D MAJOR

Allegro moderato

p *mf*

last time 8va

323 434 323 1 2 1 1 2 1 5 1/3 5 1/2

Fine

KEY OF B MINOR (Relative of D MAJOR)

p

323* 323 434 1. 3 2. 3 4 2 1 (pause) 5 1/2

D. S.  al Fine

*For the lower tone of this mordent, use the raised 7th tone of the B minor scale (A#).