

# Alfred's Premier Piano Express

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## All-In-One Accelerated Course

Lesson ■ Theory ■ Technique ■ Performance

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## Foreword

*Premier Piano Express* is designed for students who need a fast-paced approach to piano study. Based on the concepts and music from *Premier Piano Course*, this All-in-One Accelerated Course integrates Lesson, Theory, Technique, and Performance pages. This comprehensive course is organized into skills-based units that feature clear explanations of important musical concepts and written worksheets to provide review and strengthen understanding.

Book 4 continues the steady development of artistry and keyboard skills that began in Book 1. The keys of B-flat and E-flat major are introduced. Also introduced are melodic minor scales, augmented triads, diminished triads, and major key signatures with more sharps and flats. Sixteenth notes in  $\frac{3}{8}$  and  $\frac{6}{8}$  meter, , and cut time are added to other rhythms of gradually increasing complexity, including mixed meter and syncopated rhythm patterns. Elements of musical style in the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary periods introduce students to considerations in performing music of those eras. Technical skills include the development of playing two-octave scales and arpeggios, grace notes, off-beat accompaniment patterns, and note-against-note coordination.

Audio recordings can be downloaded for those pieces in the book identified with a speaker icon (  ). There are two versions of each piece:

1. A **practice tempo** performed on acoustic piano.
2. A **performance tempo** performed on acoustic piano.

These files can be downloaded at [alfred.com/premierpianoexpress](http://alfred.com/premierpianoexpress).

TNT 2 Custom Mix Software (also downloadable) allows the user to change tempos in these audio files.

These recordings add musical interest, and motivate students in the lesson and during practice.

The authors of *Premier Piano Express* send our best wishes as you begin this exciting musical journey!

All music was composed or arranged by  
Dennis Alexander and Martha Mier.

### Audio Recordings Download Instructions:

**PC:** After downloading the “Premier Piano Express Book 4.zip” file, right-click on it and select “Extract All.” Follow the onscreen prompts to extract the zip file. Once the extraction is finished, the MP3s can be moved to your computer or MP3 player for listening.

**Mac:** After downloading the “Premier Piano Express Book 4.dmg” file, double-click it to open the disc image. From there, the MP3s can be moved to your computer or MP3 player for listening.

### TNT 2 System Requirements:

#### Windows

10, 8, 7, Vista, XP  
QuickTime 7.6.7 or higher  
1.8 GHz processor or faster  
350 MB hard drive space, 2 GB RAM minimum  
Speakers or headphones  
Internet access for updates/downloads

#### Macintosh

OS X 10.4 or higher (Intel only)  
QuickTime 7.6.7 or higher  
350 MB hard drive space, 2 GB RAM minimum  
Speakers or headphones  
Internet access for updates/downloads

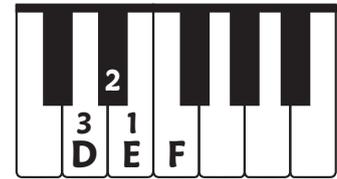
Windows is a registered trademark or trademark of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries. iPad, Macintosh, OS X and QuickTime are trademarks of Apple Inc.

## UNIT 1 D Minor Scales and Chords

### D Minor Scale *Relative Minor of F Major*

The *relative minor* scale begins on the 6th note of the major scale. Therefore, D minor is the *relative minor* of F major. The keys of F major and D minor have one flat in the key signature—B $\flat$ .

#### F Major



#### D Minor

You can also find the relative minor by counting 3 *half steps* down from the tonic.



#### F MAJOR SCALE

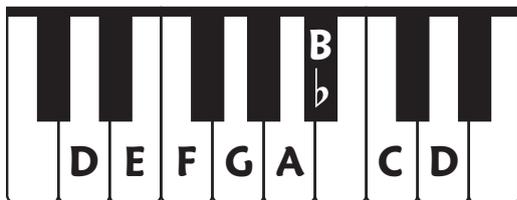
#### D NATURAL MINOR SCALE



### D Natural Minor Scale

In the D natural minor scale, there is one flat (B $\flat$ ).

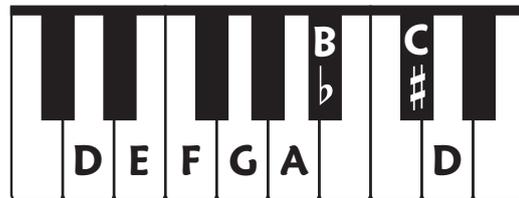
Half steps occur between notes 2–3 (E–F) and 5–6 (A–B $\flat$ ).



### D Harmonic Minor Scale

The D harmonic minor scale is the same as the D natural minor scale, but with the 7th (C) raised a half step. The C $\sharp$  is written as an accidental.

#### 7th raised

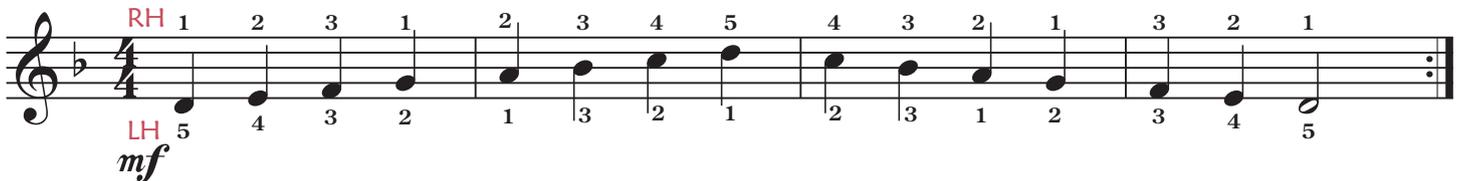


## Playing D Minor Scales—Hands Separately

Say the finger numbers as you practice slowly. Play the LH 2 octaves *lower* than written. Memorize the fingering.

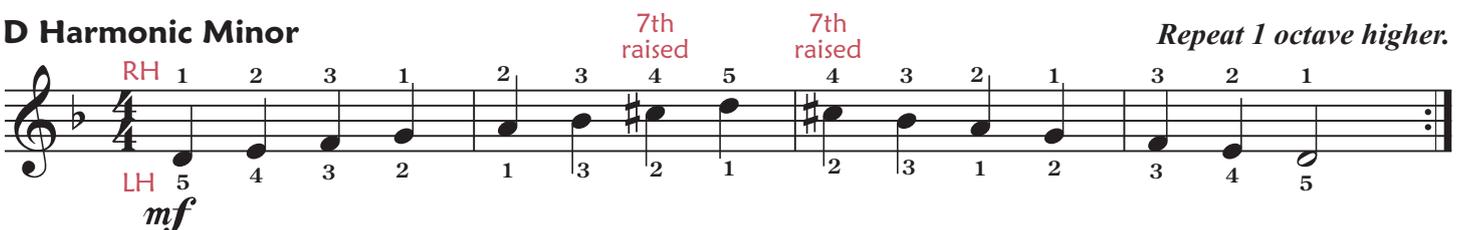
### D Natural Minor

*Repeat 1 octave higher.*



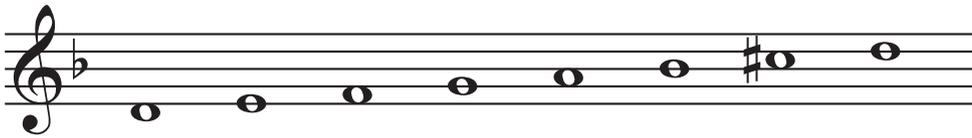
### D Harmonic Minor

*Repeat 1 octave higher.*



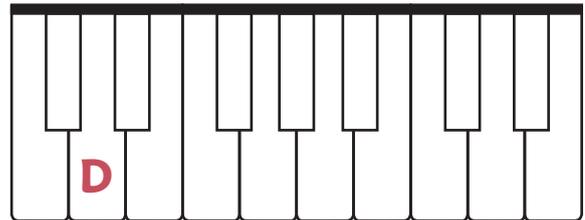
**Worksheet D Harmonic Minor Scale**

**D Harmonic Minor Scale**

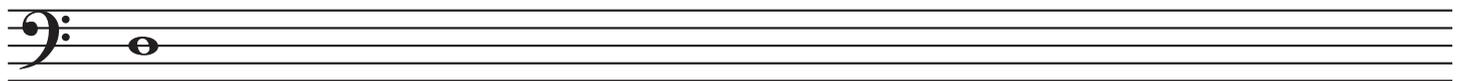


1. The D harmonic minor scale is the same as the D natural minor scale, but with the 7th note raised a half step. The raised note in D harmonic minor is \_\_\_\_ #.

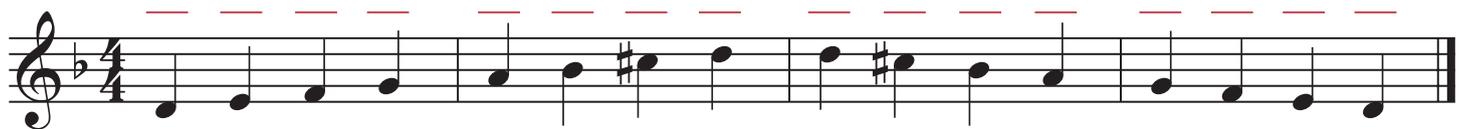
2. On the keyboard, write the letter names for the notes in the D harmonic minor scale. Circle the keys that have a half step between them.



3. Using whole notes, write the D harmonic minor scale going up.



4. On the blank lines *above* the notes, write the fingering for the RH D harmonic minor scale. Then play.



5. On the blank lines *below* the notes, write the fingering for the LH D harmonic minor scale. Then play.

