



“Pedalling is an important issue for a pianist – it is our extended voice.”



“Don't be afraid of playing in keys with more black notes – it's actually very comfortable.”

Study in D

unit 1

Carl Czerny
Op.599 No.50

I like this study because it begins by warming up the left hand first for once!

It gets both hands moving around the keyboard and explores both legato and staccato playing.

Allegro ♩ = c.128

5 3 4 2 3 1 4 2

mf

5 4 2 3 1 5 2 1

5 4 2 3 1 4 2 3 1

9 4 2 4 2 5 4 2 4 2 1

p

1 5 1 2

13 3 1 2 3 5 3 2 1 4 3 5 4 2 1 3 5

cresc. *f*

1 3 5 1 3 5 1 3 5 2 4

Introducing the pedal

unit 3

Message from Lang Lang



You may have already used the pedal occasionally but from now on it's something you will be including more and more in your playing. Pedalling is a very important issue for pianists, it is our extended voice. Our hands on their own are not enough.

Most pianos have two pedals, some have a third middle pedal. From left to right, they are:

- ▶ **Soft pedal:** known as *una corda* (one string), this pedal makes a softer sound.
- ▶ **Sostenuto pedal:** only found on grand pianos, this middle pedal will sustain a selection of notes without affecting the rest of the keyboard.
- ▶ **Sustaining pedal:** raises all the dampers off the strings so the sound rings on.

Getting started with the sustaining pedal

Musical notation for a 4-measure exercise in 4/4 time. The right hand plays a melody with slurs and ties. The left hand plays a bass line. Pedal markings are shown below the staff: a downward arrow labeled 'Ped.' at the start of the first measure, followed by upward arrows at the end of each measure, and downward arrows at the start of each measure.

- ▶ Sit at the piano and check your feet are flat on the floor.
- ▶ Your right heel rests on the floor so your foot can press the pedal down like a lever.
- ▶ Listen carefully. Depress (press down) and release the pedal rhythmically on the beat.

Warm up 2-bar phrases

Musical notation for a 4-measure exercise in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The right hand plays a melodic line with slurs and ties. The left hand plays a bass line. Pedal markings are shown below the staff: a downward arrow labeled 'Ped.' at the start of the first measure, followed by a horizontal line with a vertical tick mark at the end of the first measure, and another horizontal line with a vertical tick mark at the end of the third measure.

- ▶ Enjoy holding the pedal for longer in this exercise.
- ▶ Make sure you release it accurately!