



Curriculum

& Service Features

Overarching, Memorable, Relatable, Effective.

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Intelligent Use of Colour

Ever wondered what the colours on our logo were for?...

...Well they're not just for looks.

The 7 colours are actually a new and relatable way to describe and explore music!

A to G's Musical Colour Scale

What is a Musical Colour Scale? A series of colours used to represent a series of musical notes. A to G uses a simplified approach, where the 7 music alphabet letters (abcdefg) are each given an appropriate colour.

Using colour during a piano lesson and piano study in general is a great way to help both beginner and intermediate students to more easily identify and group recurring elements found in music, such as a repeated section of a melody, recurring sets of notes, common chords, intervals and the like

Michael Bernstein (Founder of A to G)

A tremendously important element of A to G's Musical Colour Scale is that it is completely in sync with TRADITIONAL music theory in general, as it begins with a colour used to represent the musical letters already used as a notation protocol in traditional and popular music.

When is using colour useful or appropriate?

"A to G's Musical Colour Scale" has proven to be extremely useful- being helpful for key identification, note identification, hand positions, motif identification, and can also extend into so many other elements of the study of a musical work (the intelligent use of colour). Due to the universality of our Musical Colour Scale, the colours can be utilized to help students better identify, learn and play:

1. The Letters of the Music Alphabet
2. The Piano Keys (The white keys are the letters ABCDEFG)
3. Notes and chords in music found on The Grand Staff (The lines and spaces)
4. Tonalities (A minor, C Major, etc.)
5. Hand Positions

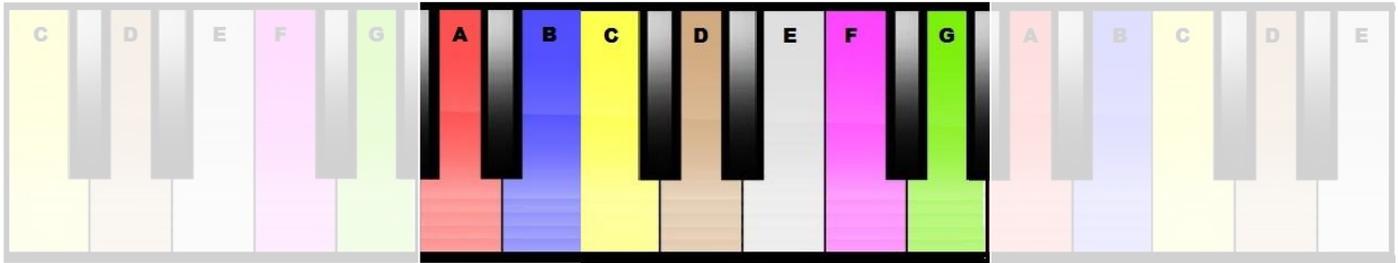
Try this out!

Study a song on your own and mark it with colour, using A to G's Musical Colour Scale in one or more ways.

Why did we choose these colours?

"I used a combination of a personal sense of synesthesia, creativity, and a little common sense logic to select the seven colours for the seven letters of the music alphabet while creating A to G's Musical Colour Scale"

Michael Bernstein (Founder of A to G).



A - Apples

The word apple begin with A, and they're usually red so we chose red.

B – Blue Berries, Blue

Blue and blueberries start with B so blue seems very appropriate for B!

C - Canaries

Canaries are yellow!

D- Donkeys

Donkeys are often brown.

E - Elephants

Elephants and E are gray.

F - Flamingos

Flamingos are pink, so F is pink!

G – Grass, Green

Grass and green start with G! – hence G is often associated with the colour green 😊

The Big Picture with A to G

A to G's Overarching Curriculum

The importance of categorization can't be underestimated...

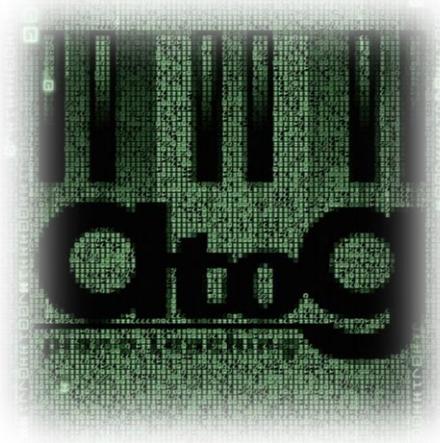
Categories make broad ranges of topics more relatable and easier to approach.

Students with a "Big Picture" understanding of music are much more capable of exploring and studying music responsibly and effectively.

Michael Bernstein (Founder of A to G).

Can you think of a more relatable and memorable set of titles to categorize music than "What, Where, When, How and Why"?

We can't, everybody uses these words routinely in their daily life. And that's why we've stuck with our priceless "What, Where, When, How, Why" Curriculum"!



Simplify the matrix. With A to G's Overarching Framework.

What? Where? When? How? Why?

Examples of subcategories of A to G's Overarching Categories of Music.

The **"What"** Category represents all of this and so much more!:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| - "What" keys
are pressed | - Intervals | - Melody |
| - Tones | - Direction | - Harmony |
| - Pitches | - Scales | - Key Signatures |
| | - Modes | |

The **"Where"** Category represents all of this and so much more!:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| - "Where" hands and fingers
are | - Hand Positions |
| - Finger Numbers | - Techniques |
| | - Rolls, drops, crosses |

The **"When"** Category represents all of this and so much more!:

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| - "When" keys
are pressed and
for how long | - Time Signatures | - Note and Rest
duration |
| - Rhythm | - Counting | - Groove |
| - Tempo | - Note and Rest
names | - Syncopation |

The **"How"** Category represents all of this and so much more!:

- | | | |
|---|-------------|----------------|
| - "How" the keys
are pressed | - Dynamics | - Accentuation |
| - Volume | - Emotion | - Emphasis |
| | - Crescendo | |

The **"Why"** Category represents all of this and so much more!:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| - "Why" the keys
are pressed 😊 | - Studying sound
and music | - Entertaining
others |
| - Exploring
creativity | - Challenge | - Brain stimulation |
| | - Entertainment,
for the fun of it | - Coordination
practice |
| | | - Relaxation |

Holidays with A to G

Celebrate with A to G!



Have a reason to celebrate?

We'd love to help!

A to G either has it, can find it or can create it all when it comes to Holiday themed music learning exercises.

A Holiday themed...

...

- Songwriting Activity (all levels)
- Piano key identification exercise (preparatory only)
- Note identification exercise (preparatory to beginner)
- Rhythm and counting exercise (all levels)
- Song Book*
- Songs Package*
- Game*
- Flash card set*

* = may include extra cost

Try this!

Email info@atog.ca with a request for 1 or more exercises for a particular Holiday you enjoy.

Subject line = "Holiday Exercise Request"



A to G's 5 Star Marking System

Some teachers use ABCD, others use percentage points, we use Stars!



With A to G's 5 Star System, a student's demonstration of a technique, song and sometimes even a measure or phrase within a technique or a song can easily be graded to show how complete that particular musical arrangement is.

5 Reasons for the 5 Star System

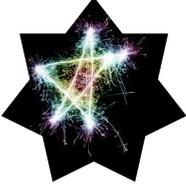
1. Shows progress and marks accomplishments for students, giving a sense of pride
2. Ensures all exercises are completed at a satisfactory level or higher.
3. Demonstrates the importance of repeated practice to the student
4. Shows a standard of quality and encourages quality completion of works among students.
5. Is a lot of fun and why not?

A to G's Badge Tracking System

A Fun and Effective Lineage of Musicianship and Music Theory Examinations!

There are 5 badge levels under "A to G's Badge Tracking System".

Note: Each badge levels includes a written and played examination.

Badge	Badge Name	Badge Shape
	Spark	Circle
	Ray	Diamond
	Star	5 Point Star
	Superstar	Heptagram
	Supernova	Decagram

How to Earn a Badge

Students earn a badge by receiving a grade equal to or exceeding 100% on the...

1. written component,
2. song playing component and
3. technical exercise component

...of the examination for the badge level and all badges prior.

Rules:

30 minutes to complete written portion of all exams

15 minutes to complete piano playing portion of each exam.

Written and piano playing portions of exams may be done separately with multiple attempts.

You must earn 100% or greater on all components to earn the page

5 attempts limit on written component of all exams.

Notes:

The badge tracking system and all examinations are only available upon special request.

Trophies, plaques and badges available at extra cost.

Online Learning and Resources

Take advantage of our free and secure student resource page!

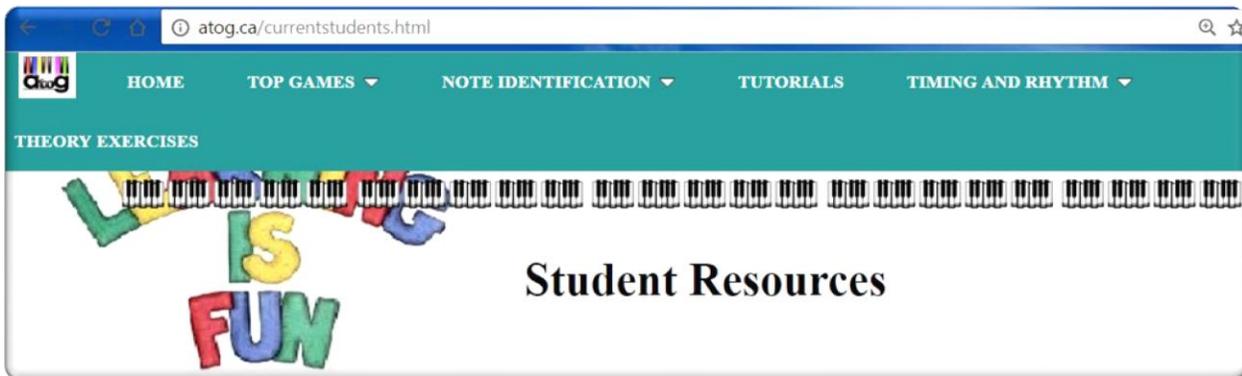
Free

Safe and Secure

Try this!

Visit this link to access A to G's Fun Resources Page

www.atog.ca/currentstudents.html



Creating the ideal learning environment

Don't Settle! Make the ideal learning environment for the lessons and the daily practice.



Use this checklist to help you!

- Instrument.** The quality and condition of the instrument used by a student is a very important factor contributing to the quality of learning for that student.
- Lighting.** Music is often black notation on white paper. The more light, the more contrast, and the easier to read! Tip: Light is needed to shine directly on the piano keys and also directly on the music. Therefore a lamp with an arch, adjustability and more coverage is desired.
- Space.** Give the student and teacher room to play and move freely without feeling cramped.
- Wall Space.** Students benefit from having easier access to important charts and diagrams. Let your teacher know if he or she can post them on the wall. Boards and stands are a great option!
- Bins (multiple students).** Keep student 1 out of the way of student 2. Give them each a clearly marked bin, drawer or shelf to allow students to remain organized.
- Accessibility.** Have the piano in a location enjoyed frequently and close to the front door. This allows the student to be more close to the instrument with more opportunity to practice. It also will decrease the amount of time a teacher takes to access the lesson location and get started with the lesson!
- Sound.** Television, dogs, cats, birds, radio, people talking on the phone, cooking... These are all commonplace occurrences. Just keep in mind they all can be serious distractions for those having a piano lesson ☺.

Try this!

Ask your teacher what can be done to improve your lesson and practice environment at home.

Testimonials

I am thrilled at how Michael, our teacher, works my son through positive reinforcement, using stickers, a progress chart, awards along the way, always focusing on motivation and affirmation. Our teacher also analyzes scores with my son before having him play them – an important teaching strategy, breaking the pieces down into sections so they don't seem so overwhelming. I am also impressed with our teacher's superb organization. He is forward-thinking, planning ahead in regards to the work in the lessons as well as administrative tasks. In this way, he ensures the lessons are more enjoyable and productive.

:::Marcia (Mother of Student in Hamilton ON)

A to G has given me confidence that I had no idea existed in me! Not only can I play songs that I love, I can even write my own... My teacher introduced me to scales in a fun and innovative way – "picture scales" – pictures of the piano with dots on them and numbers that tell you how to play scales in a fun and easy way! The combination of such useful teaching aids like "picture scales" and the professional, excited and caring attitude of A to G's teachers creates a very rewarding result, loads of memories and improvements that echo into all aspects of living.

::: Charmaine (Adult Student Hamilton ON)

A to G Piano Teaching (A to G Mobile Music) comes to our home to give my two children lessons. A to G offers a free lesson to try, experience the service, and meet a teacher. Teachers can bring a keyboard if needed (he even lent his to my friend for 3 months until they got their own). Our teacher is very focused on ensuring that the children enjoy what they are doing and that they use their passion to play... at the end of most sessions, he plays background for the kids as they free play... you should hear the results!

:::Sylvie (Mother of 2 Students in Burlington ON)

A to G provided me with fun and exciting classes to learn piano. It opened my eyes to a world of music and the positive reinforcement inspired me to want to learn more. I always finished classes feeling I had accomplished something. I would recommend A to G to anyone, any age wanting to learn the piano in a fun and exciting way.

::: Vicki (Student in Guelph ON)

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Complete our Online Survey:
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Complete our Online Availability Form:
www.atog.ca/availability.html

Explore online resources:

Visit our Online Resource Page:
www.atog.ca/currentstudents.html

Request a free trial lesson:

Visit our Online Free Trial Application Form:
www.atog.ca/tryusfree

Custom search:

Use A to G's custom online search for your own personal copies of flash cards, games, activities, print outs and so much more!

Find the custom search at the bottom of our home page: www.atog.ca
(Educational Search)

We value your feedback very much:

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