# UNPROTECTED PRACTICE: Including Process as Compositional Material

## viii.iii.i Learning to Play the Piano

# Score

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The Faculty of Arts, Design and Media, Birmingham City University (Birmingham Conservatoire) For Piano, iPad and untrained musician

#### **Performance Instructions:**

The score should be followed precisely. It can be performed by any performer with no (or very little) experience of playing the piano.

The piano should be positioned so that the audience can clearly see the score and the performer's actions.

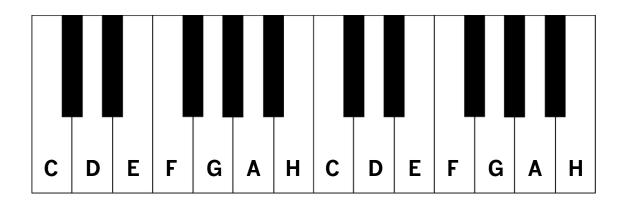
After the score has been followed, there can be a second part to the performance where the iPad (used to record the performance as described in the score) is placed on the music stand of the piano and the recording is played.

The two parts of the performance do not need to follow each other directly.

### Learning to Play the Piano

(for Marcus Dross)

- 1. Set up an iPad on video camera mode pointing at the middle 14 white keys of a piano and press record.
- 2. Introduce yourself and the piece, e.g. "Hello, I'm Marcus and today I'm going to play a new piece for piano by Paul Norman".
- 3. Label each of the 14 notes as below. Use the arrangement of the black keys to help find the right starting place.
- 4. Press down the pedal on the right side.
- 5. Speaking as naturally as possible, read aloud the text below, pausing to find notes when prompted. Each time, find all the notes in one bracket and play them together as you say the following word.
- 6. Lift the pedal and stop recording.



"I (*Piano* E + E) never really got started (*Piano* G) trying to learn (*Piano* H + E) the piano and have always regretted it. On a total whim whilst (*Piano* C + H + A) christmas shopping I bought (*Piano* A) an (*Piano* E + E + C + C) electronic keyboard with the (*Piano* E) intention to try again and I'm so glad I did and (*Piano* H + A) that I found this piece. In (*Piano* H + E) the space (*Piano* F) of a few seconds I'm already (*Piano* A + G) playing (*Piano* A) a real (*Piano* E + C + E) piece of contemporary music"

(adapted from a testimony by Craig Wilson on pianonanny.com)