

DRAGON DANCE

By Julie Knerr

OBJECTIVES

- Play *non legato* with fingers 2 3 4 on white keys
- Play a minor piece with dragon-like energy
- Play parallel motion hands together

DUET VERSION

Right Hand

Step 1: Play the piece hands together for the student. Use a *non legato* articulation with an arm bounce on each note. *Non legato* will help the student maintain a relaxed arm, create singing tone, and maintain a good piano hand shape. Plus, *non legato* makes the piece sound more energetic and dragon-like.

Step 2: Show your student the picture of the dragon on the front of the sheet music. "This piece uses only three fingers, 2, 3, 4, because this dragon has three fingers!" (Also note that if this dragon expects to be a pianist, he will need to cut his fingernails!)



Step 3: Play RH m. 2 *non legato* with strong fingertips ("A dragon has strong fingers,") and a bouncy arm. Student imitates.

Step 4: Play RH m. 3. Student imitates.

Step 5: Play RH m. 4-5. Student imitates.

Step 6: Student plays RH m. 2-5.

Step 7: Student plays RH m. 1-5 while you play LH. If the rhythm is problematic, have the student move up an octave. You play hands together while he plays RH.

Step 8: Play RH m. 6-9, noting that this is the same as the first line, except that it begins on E instead of D.

Step 9: Student plays m. 2-9.

Step 10: Add m. 10-13, noting that this is the same as the first line (m. 2-5).

Step 11: Play RH m. 14-16. Student imitates.

Step 12: Student plays the entire RH.

Step 13: Student plays RH while you or another student play LH. This version of the piece works well as an elementary level duet.

DUET VERSION

Left Hand

Step 1: You play the whole piece hands together while the student taps the LH, which is the "Dragon Part." Say "Dragon" on each LH part. Note that the Dragon Part comes after each RH phrase. Repeat several times until the student is secure with tapping the LH rhythm.

Step 2: You play RH m. 1-3 and tap LH while the student plays LH. Say "Dragon" for each LH part.

Step 3: You play RH m. 1-13 and tap LH while the student plays LH. Say "Dragon" for each LH part.

Step 4: You play LH m. 14-16. Student imitates. Repeat until solidly learned.

Step 5: You plays the RH of the entire piece while the student plays LH. Or another student may play the RH.

SOLO VERSION

- Step 1:** You play the piece hands together while the student taps the piece hands together on a solid surface.
- Step 2:** You play the piece hands together while the student plays on a drum, with each hand correctly playing the rhythm of its part.
- Step 3:** Student plays the piece hands together. Pay special attention to helping the student play in parallel motion in m. 14-16.

DRAGON STAMPEDE

Multiple students play the piece on one, two, or more pianos to create a dragon stampede. Students may play whichever parts they know: RH, LH, or both hands.