

QUARTAL EXERCISE

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THIS EXERCISE CONSISTS OF TRIPLETS IN ASCENDING PERFECT FOURTHS, WITH EACH GROUP OF 3 TRIPLETS SPELLING OUT A DIMINISHED TRIAD. AS YOU ASCEND, EACH MASURE BEGINS THE PATTERN A WHOLE STEP HIGHER, WITH THE OVERALL EXERCISE MOVING THROUGH THE WHOLE-TONE SCALE.

The musical score is written for piano in common time (C) and consists of three systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). The exercise is composed of triplets of eighth notes. The first system starts on C4 in the bass clef and G4 in the treble clef. The second system starts on D4 in the bass clef and A4 in the treble clef. The third system starts on E4 in the bass clef and B4 in the treble clef. Each system contains four measures of music, with the first measure of each system containing two triplets. The notes in each triplet are separated by a whole step. The overall progression moves through the whole-tone scale: C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C.