

# Handel's Thoroughbass Exercises

Solutions by Derek Remes (Version: July 3, 2019)

**1**

Exercise 1 is a 7-measure piece in C major. The notation is arranged in four staves: two treble clefs (upper and lower) and two bass clefs (upper and lower). The upper treble staff contains a sequence of chords: C4-E4-G4, C4-E4-G4, C4-E4-G4, C4-E4-G4, C4-E4-G4, C4-E4-G4, and C4-E4-G4. The lower treble staff contains a sequence of chords: C4-E4-G4, C4-E4-G4, C4-E4-G4, C4-E4-G4, C4-E4-G4, C4-E4-G4, and C4-E4-G4. The upper bass staff contains a sequence of chords: C4-E4-G4, C4-E4-G4, C4-E4-G4, C4-E4-G4, C4-E4-G4, C4-E4-G4, and C4-E4-G4. The lower bass staff contains a sequence of notes: C4, E4, G4, C4, E4, G4, C4.

**2**

Exercise 2 is a 7-measure piece in D major. The notation is arranged in four staves: two treble clefs (upper and lower) and two bass clefs (upper and lower). The upper treble staff contains a sequence of chords: D4-F#4-A4, D4-F#4-A4, D4-F#4-A4, D4-F#4-A4, D4-F#4-A4, D4-F#4-A4, and D4-F#4-A4. The lower treble staff contains a sequence of chords: D4-F#4-A4, D4-F#4-A4, D4-F#4-A4, D4-F#4-A4, D4-F#4-A4, D4-F#4-A4, and D4-F#4-A4. The upper bass staff contains a sequence of chords: D4-F#4-A4, D4-F#4-A4, D4-F#4-A4, D4-F#4-A4, D4-F#4-A4, D4-F#4-A4, and D4-F#4-A4. The lower bass staff contains a sequence of notes: D4, F#4, A4, D4, F#4, A4, D4.

**3**

Exercise 3 is a 6-measure piece in Bb major. The notation is arranged in four staves: two treble clefs (upper and lower) and two bass clefs (upper and lower). The upper treble staff contains a sequence of chords: Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, and Bb4-Db5-Fb5. The lower treble staff contains a sequence of chords: Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, and Bb4-Db5-Fb5. The upper bass staff contains a sequence of chords: Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, and Bb4-Db5-Fb5. The lower bass staff contains a sequence of notes: Bb4, Db5, Fb5, Bb4, Db5, Fb5.

**4**

Exercise 4 is an 8-measure piece in Bb major. The notation is arranged in four staves: two treble clefs (upper and lower) and two bass clefs (upper and lower). The upper treble staff contains a sequence of chords: Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, and Bb4-Db5-Fb5. The lower treble staff contains a sequence of chords: Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, and Bb4-Db5-Fb5. The upper bass staff contains a sequence of chords: Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, Bb4-Db5-Fb5, and Bb4-Db5-Fb5. The lower bass staff contains a sequence of notes: Bb4, Db5, Fb5, Bb4, Db5, Fb5, Bb4, Db5, Fb5.

5

2 3 4 5 6 7 8

6

2 3 4

3 b 3 b # ♯ # ♯ # # 3 #

5 6 7 8

3 # b ♯

7

2 3 4 5

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 # 6 # 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

8

2 3

#6 6 6 # 6 6 #6 6 6

4 5 6

# 6 # 6 6 #

9

2 3 4

6 6 6 b6 6 #6 # 6 6 b6 6 b # 6 3 6

5 6 7 8

b6 b 6 # 6 6 b6 6 #6 6 6 #

10

Musical score for exercise 10, measures 1-15. The score is written for piano in a single system with two staves (treble and bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is common time (C). The piece consists of 15 measures. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. Measure numbers 1 through 15 are placed above the treble staff. The bass staff contains various chords and melodic lines, with some notes marked with accidentals (sharps and naturals).

11

Musical score for exercise 11, measures 1-15. The score is written for piano in a single system with two staves (treble and bass clef). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and the time signature is common time (C). The piece consists of 15 measures. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. Measure numbers 1 through 15 are placed above the treble staff. The bass staff contains various chords and melodic lines, with some notes marked with accidentals (sharps and naturals).

12

Handwritten musical score for exercise 12. The score is written for piano and consists of 20 measures. It features a treble clef and a bass clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The exercise includes various chords and fingerings, with some measures containing accidentals (sharps and naturals). The bass line includes some slurs and rests. The score is numbered 1 through 20.

13

Handwritten musical score for exercise 13. The score is written for piano and consists of 6 measures. It features a treble clef and a bass clef. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The exercise includes various chords and fingerings, with some measures containing accidentals (sharps and naturals). The bass line includes some slurs and rests. The score is numbered 1 through 6.

7 8 9

5 5 # 5 5

10 11 12 13

6 # 5 4 2 6 6 #6 6 # 6 4 #5

**14**

5 3 4 2 6 5 3 4 2 6 4 3 4 2 6 6 5 4+ 6 6 4 #5 5 3 4 2 6

7 8 9 10

4 2 6 4 2 6 6 6 4 3 4+ 6 4 2 #6 4 3 4 2 6 5

11 12 13 14

4 2 6 4 2 6 5 4 2 6 5 4 2 6 5 6 6 4 5

**15**

6 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 4 3 6 5 3 #4 2 6 7 #6 6 7 6

7 8 9 10 11

7 6 7 6 5 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 6 4 5 3

**16** 2 3 4 5 6

6 4 3 7 7 7 7 7 6 5 4+ 6 7 7 7 # 5 #

7 8 9 10 11 12

7 7 7 7 7 6 # 6 6 5 # 7 6 7 7 7 7 6 6 4 3

13 14 15 16 17 18

4 6 6 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 6 5 6 6 4 5 3

**17** 2 3 4 5 6

6# 6 6 4 3 9 8 4 3 9 8 6 4 3 #4 6 9 8 6 #

7 8 9 10 11 12

9 8 #4 6 7 7 9 8 4 3 9 8 4 3 9 8 4 3 4 #

18

2 3 4 5

6 6 5 7 9 6 5 9 6 5 6 5 9 10 6 5 6

11 5 6 4 3 5 6 12 4 6 9 6 5+ 13 6 9 6 5 3 14 4 6

5 6 5 9 6 5 9 6 5 6 5

19

2 3 4 5 6

6 4 9 3 5 4 6 9 3 5 6 4 9 6 4

7 8 9

9 b5 6 11 4 4 6 9 3 b6 6

9 3 5 5 9 3 5 4 7 6 7 4 4



20

2 3 4 5

6 9 8 9 8 9 7 6 6 9 8 7

6 7 8 9 10 11

6 5 9 8 9 8 9 8 9 7 6 7 4 #

21

2 3 4 5

6 # 6 5 9 8 4 3 4 # 6 6

6 7 8 9 10

6 4 5 4 3 6 5 9 8 7 4 3 4 9 8 4 #

22

4 3 6 4 3 5 6 4 3 5 8 7 5 6 4 5 6 5 3 6 4 3 6 6 7

4 3 7 4 2 7 5 3 6 5 4 3 6 4 5 9 7 8 6 7 5 6 4 3 8 +7 4 2 7 5 3

6 5 4 3 6 4 5 4 3 2 3 # #5 7 6 6 5 9 8 6

9 8 7 # 6 5 6 4 5 3 6 4 6 4 5 3 7 5 7 5 6 4 8 6

8 6 7 5 6 4 3 6 6 6 # # 9 7 6 # 7 # 6 5 6 4 6 5 4 # 6 # 3 # 6

6 5 6 4 # 5 3 8 # 7 6 7 # 6 5 6 4 5 6 4 # 3 # 4 2 6 6 5 4 # 5 6 6 4 3

44 45 46 47

48 49 50 51 52

23

2 3 4

5 6 7 8

9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

Measures 1-3 of the exercise. The treble clef contains block chords, and the bass clef contains a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Measure numbers 1, 2, and 3 are indicated above the treble staff. Fingerings 6 and 6 are shown below the bass staff for measures 1 and 2.

Measures 4-6 of the exercise. Measure numbers 4, 5, and 6 are indicated above the treble staff. Fingerings 6, 6, and 6 are shown below the bass staff for measures 4, 5, and 6.

Measures 7-9 of the exercise. Measure numbers 7, 8, and 9 are indicated above the treble staff. Fingerings 6, 6, 6, and 5 are shown below the bass staff for measures 7, 8, and 9.

Measures 10-12 of the exercise. Measure numbers 10, 11, and 12 are indicated above the treble staff. Fingerings 6, #, #, 6, #, #, 6, ♯, ♯ are shown below the bass staff for measures 10, 11, and 12.

Measures 13-15 of the exercise. Measure numbers 13, 14, and 15 are indicated above the treble staff. Fingerings 6, ♯6, ♯5, 6, ♯6, ♯ are shown below the bass staff for measures 13, 14, and 15.

Measures 16-18 of the exercise. Measure numbers 16, 17, and 18 are indicated above the treble staff. Fingerings 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 5, # are shown below the bass staff for measures 16, 17, and 18.

19 20 21

6/5 6/5 6 6 6

22 23 24

6 6 6 6 6/4 6

25 26 27

6 6/4 6 7 7 7 6 6/5 6

28 29

6 6 6 6/4 6

30 31 32

6 6/4 6 7 7 7 6/5