

Goals and Strategies for Scales

Goal 1: Comfort

Strategy 1a.

- When possible, place the thumbs on white keys
- When possible, use only the long fingers (2, 3, 4) on the black keys

Strategy 1b.

- When possible, have turn overs where the keys are closer together

Strategy 1c.

- When possible, utilize the 3 or 4 finger on a black key for turnovers

Goal 2: Consistency

Strategy 2a.

- All notes of the same pitch class (all As, all Bs, all Cs, etc.) should use the same finger every time it is played, except sometimes at the beginning and ending of the scale.

Strategy 2b.

- Have scale fingerings similar across all scales and between the hands

Goal 3: Musicality

Strategy 3a.

- Understand context. Where are you coming from musically, and where are you going?

Strategy 3b.

- Define what “growth” or “expression” means for the scale in this instance.

Strategy 3c.

- Decide what type of articulation (connected or disjunct), dynamic, and timing to use.