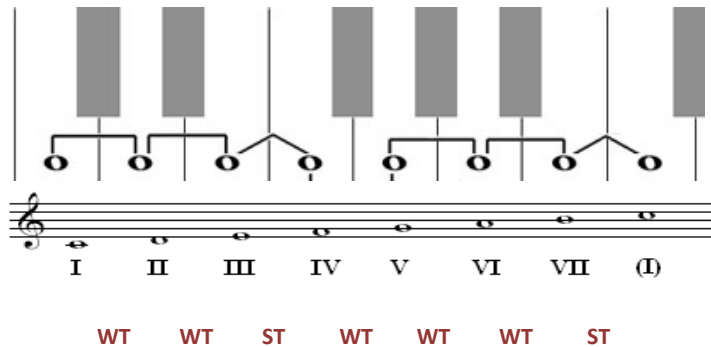


LESSON 31

THE C-MAJOR SCALE

If you use the white keys of a piano only as the tone material of a melody, one can say that the key of the melody is in C major

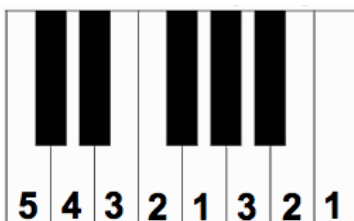


The individual tones of this scale are **called degrees**, and they are numbered by using Roman numerals from I to VIII (or again I). At first glance, it looks as if the intervals between the tones are always the same. However, if we look closely at this scale on the piano, we immediately realize that this impression is deceptive. From C to D we skip one (black) key. We call this interval a **whole tone step (WT)**. The same is the case between D and E. Since between E and F, however, the black key is missing, it is only a **half-tone step or semi-tone step (ST)**. This is also the case between B and C. We call a series of 8 tones, starting from the root note, or home key C using only the white keys on the piano a, **C-major scale**.

The following fingering is common on the keyboard:

Left hand

Right hand



1. Practice the C major scale with both hands separately on the piano. Pay attention to the finger position and the fingering.
2. Write the C-major scale in the treble clef and identify the semi tone (ST) and whole tone steps (WT) within the scale.



3. Write the C-major scale in the bass clef.

