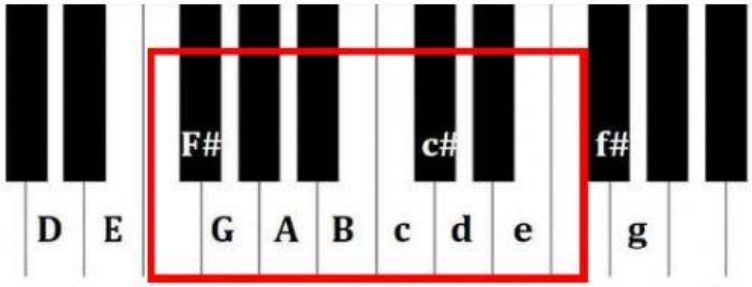
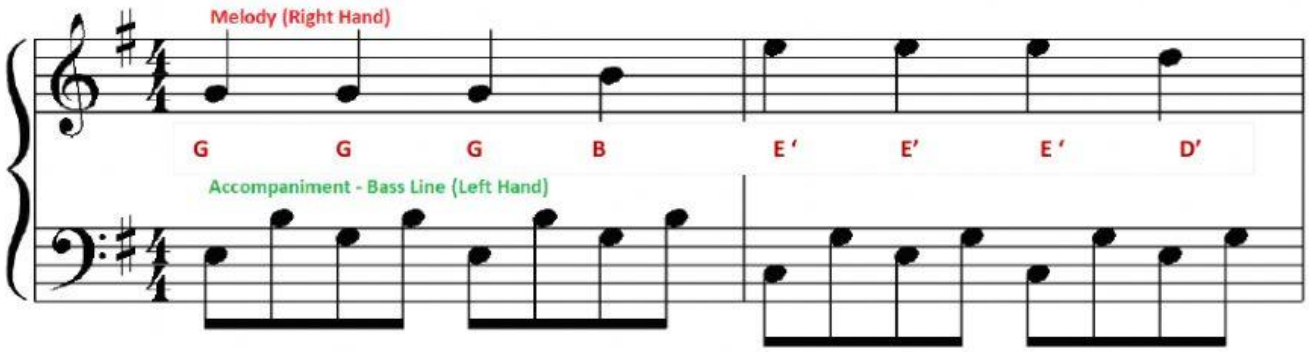
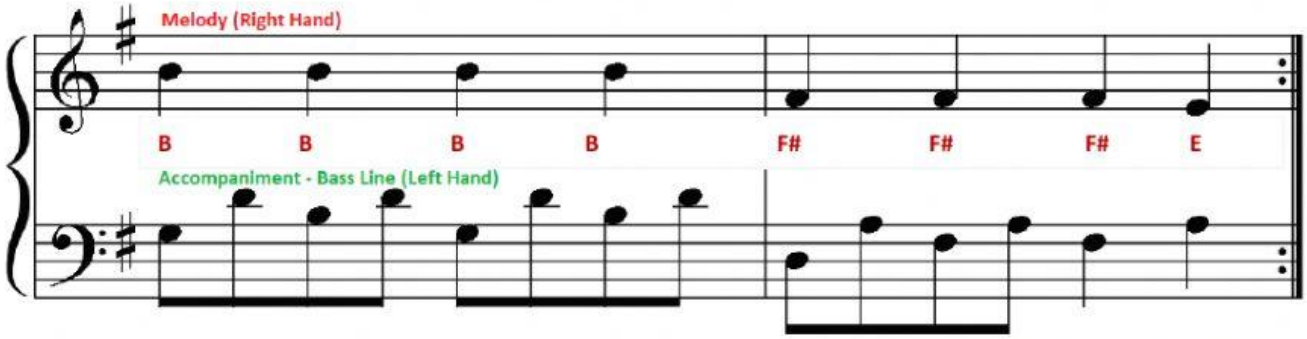
FADED THEME VARIATIONS SHEET 1



TASK 1 – Learning to play the THEME

Before creating a set of musical **VARIATIONS**, you need a **THEME** (the main **TUNE** or **MELODY**). Look at the melody line of *Faded* by Alan Walker below and learn to play the melody on a piano, keyboard, or virtual piano app. This is a "2-part" melody featuring a **THEME** or **MELODY** (in the right hand) and an **ACCOMPANIMENT** (bass line in the left hand). If you can, have a go at the Left hand accompaniment too.





You are now going to create a simple set of **VARIATIONS** on the *Faded* **THEME** that you learned in Task 1. Some ideas have been given on page 2 which you may like to use in your **VARIATIONS** (you can tick the boxes when you have explored or used each variation technique). You can change, alter, or vary more than one element of music or by using one or more musical devices in each variation, but for now keep each variation simple.

If you want to try and play the whole piece on piano, the music is in the next *liveworksheet*

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

CHANGE THE PITCH

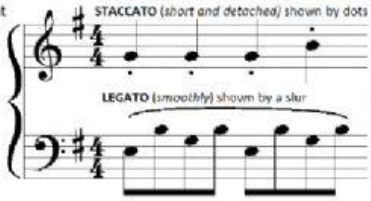
Play the same notes of the theme (and accompaniment) but at different pitches *e.g., in different* ***OCTAVES*** or swap.

CHANGE THE TIMBRE AND SONORITY

Change the **SOUND** of the theme and accompaniment by playing them on different instruments or keyboard voices/tones/sounds.

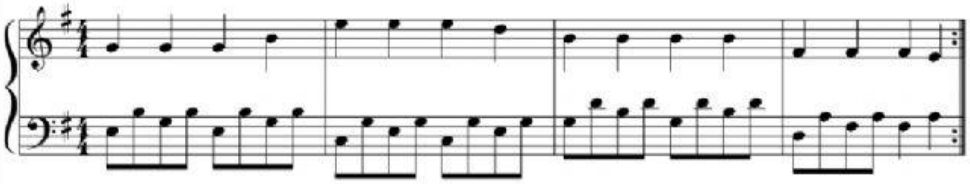
CHANGE THE ARTICULATION

Change the **WAY** the theme and accompaniment are played *e.g.*, smoothly (**LEGATO** - shown by a **SLUR**) or short, detached, and spiky (**STACCATO** – shown by **DOTS**). Change this around for the theme and accompaniment.



CHANGE THE TEMPO

Change the **SPEED** of the music *e.g., playing it faster, slower, gradually getting faster, gradually getting slower.*

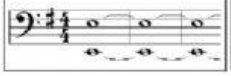


CHANGE THE DYNAMICS

Change the **VOLUME** of the music *e.g., playing it louder, softer, gradually getting louder, gradually getting softer.*

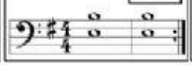
ADD A TONIC PEDAL

Add a **TONIC PEDAL** using the note E (in **OCTAVES**) in the **BASS PART** to add to the **TEXTURE**, playing the **THEME** and accompaniment higher in pitch.



ADD A DRONE

Add a **DRONE** using the **ROOT (TONIC)** E, and the **FIFTH, B** in the **BASS** to add to the **TEXTURE**, playing the **THEME** and accompaniment higher in pitch.



ADD AN OSTINATO

Add a repeated **OSTINATO** pattern to the theme and accompaniment using some notes from the melody to add to the **TEXTURE**, this can be performed lower or higher. Create your own **OSTINATO** *e.g.*

ADD A RHYTHM

Add a **RHYTHM BACKING TRACK** from a keyboard or create a simple **RHYTHM PATTERN** using drums or percussion instruments to add to the **TEXTURE**.

CHANGE THE RHYTHM

Perform the notes to different rhythms, perhaps repeating some or using dotted rhythms *e.g.*,

ADDING DECORATION

Add some **EXTRA NOTES** (or embellishments) to the melody including **PASSING NOTES** (extra notes between the main melody notes) *e.g.*,

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LIVEWORKSHEETS