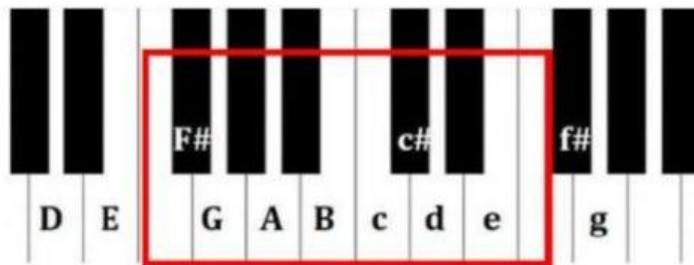


FADED THEME VARIATIONS

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., writing on the note names if you need to. This is a “2-part” melody featuring a THEME or MELODY (in the right hand) and an ACCOMPANIMENT (bass line in the left hand).

- What type of BASS line is heard here?

Ground bass

Walking bass

Alberti bass

Name the notes in the following chords:

Em	
C	

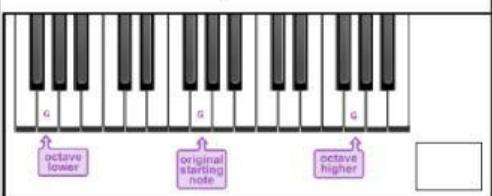
G	
D	

Variations on the theme

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.

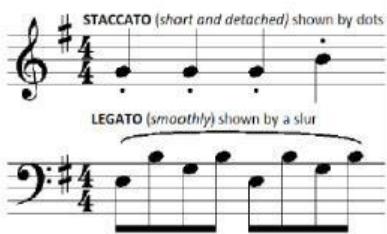
CHANGE THE PITCH

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



CHANGE THE 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 TIMBRE AND SONORITY

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

CHANGE THE RHYTHM

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

CHANGING THE RHYTHM TO REPEATED QUAVERS



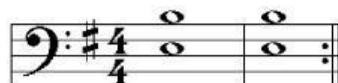
ADD AN OSTINATO

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.



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 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.



ADDING DECORATION

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



Concepts checklist

Write what each of these terms mean

Tempo	
Dynamics	
Articulation	
Staccato	
Legato	
Ostinato	
Drone	
Tonic pedal	
Alberti bass	
Passing notes	

Chords

Chords can be built on all the notes of the scale. The most common chords in any key are chord I, IV, V, VI. Notice, that in every key, chords VI is MINOR (e.g. Am)

C major scale

The diagram shows the C major scale on a staff with a treble clef. The notes are: C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C. Below the staff is a piano keyboard diagram with the following labels: C, F, G, Am. The chords are built on the notes C, F, G, and Am respectively. The piano keys are labeled with letters: I (C, D, E), IV (F, G, A), V (G, B, D), and VI (Am, B, C). The piano keys are shown with colored dots indicating fingerings: C (G, E, C), F (D, E, F), G (D, B, G), and Am (E, C, A).

C	F	G	Am
I	IV	V	VI

Practise playing the chords using the single finger setting on your keyboard. Then try with the alberti bass patterns

G major scale

A musical staff in G major. The notes are G, A, B, C, D, E, F#, G. The F# is sharp, indicated by a sharp sign (F#) above the note. The staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

2

A musical staff in G major showing a progression of chords. The chords are G, C, D, and Em. The progression is I - IV - V - VI. The staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are labeled with letters (A, B, C, D, E, F, G) above the staff, corresponding to the scale notes.

G	C	D	Em
I	IV	V	VI

D major

D major key signature

A musical staff in D major. The notes are D, E, F#, G, A, B, C#, D. The F# is sharp, indicated by a sharp sign (F#) above the note. The staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

3

A musical staff in D major showing a progression of chords. The chords are D, G, A, and Bm. The progression is I - IV - V - VI. The staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are labeled with letters (A, B, C, D, E, F, G) above the staff, corresponding to the scale notes.

D	G	A	Bm
I	IV	V	VI

Many songs are built on the chord progression I V VI IV.

Watch the following video – all the songs are in the key of D major. Practise playing the chords along with the songs:

D	A	Bm	G
I	V	VI	IV

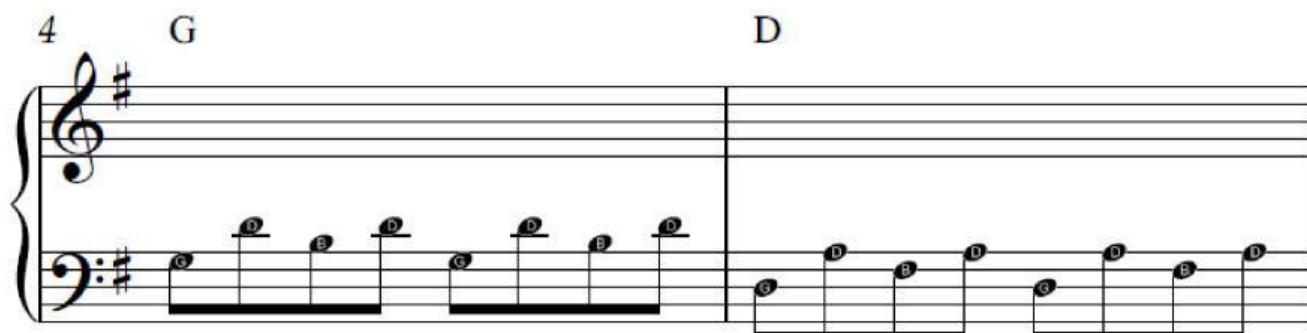
Here is the same chord progression in the key of G major

G	D	Em	C
I	V	VI	IV

Task

- Practise playing the chords – use the single finger setting on your keyboard and then try the alberti bass pattern.
- Try writing a simple tune above the alberti bass (see below), making sure that the notes fit the chord. Remember the Faded tune is very simple but effective!

4 G D



6 Em C

