

We will be adding comprehensive support for individual instruments which will include fingerings/bowings etc. We will also be supporting transposing instruments and those that use tenor and alto clefs. I have composed many exciting new backing tracks which will be released in a future update. We are keen to connect with schools, and so far we have had several requests for a multi-licence version. To complement our existing app, we will shortly be releasing a new and exciting product that draws links between scales and other areas of musicianship. In the future, we will roll out support for ScaleTracks on other platforms including Windows and Android.

[www.scaletracks.com](http://www.scaletracks.com)

## Advanced Scales: Murray McLachlan meets Peter Rudzik

**F**inally, a free download from Calgary! Peter Rudzik is an outstanding Polish pianist-teacher-composer based in Canada, and he has recently completed quasi encyclopaedic work on scales which he is offering as free downloads from the website [www.peterrudzik.com](http://www.peterrudzik.com). I was intrigued by Rudzik's motivation for so much painstakingly detailed work on scales and took time in October to interview him specifically on this Herculean and most generous undertaking.



### Why, I wondered, did he create the book in the first place?

**Peter Rudzik:** It has been on my mind for many years. What I wrote is something I grew up with as a piano student. I still remember so-called "technical exams" every winter. I guess that's how the faculty made sure that all serious piano students kept their technique in tip top shape.

For many years I taught my advanced students all those things but found it quite time consuming; I had to show them every single inversion or position and even though smart students learn quickly, it still sometimes took half of their lesson time. I looked for a book that would contain all those exercises but never found one. That's why I decided to write it myself.

Since I couldn't find an advanced scale book I decided to write one myself. I just finished and posted it on my website. Altogether it's 227 pages of advanced scales and arpeggios as formula patterns, in all positions and inversions in all keys. Of course, it's mostly for advanced students. However, I'm sure many teachers and students will want to download grade 9-10 chord progressions/cadences that are required for RCM (Canada's Royal Conservatory of Music) examinations but aren't available anywhere. I also included a very useful chromatic exercise that is an introduction to playing double thirds'.

### How long did it take to create?

It took me a month of fairly tedious work, but I think it was worth it. It's free for anybody to download or print, no strings attached. I hope sharing



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it will increase my serotonin level and maybe traffic on my website. Please have a look and share it with anybody who might be interested. Here it is: <https://www.peterrudzik.com/free-advanced-piano-technique>

### What has been the response to it so far from students and colleagues?

The response has been overwhelmingly positive; I have received many appreciative comments by email, on Facebook or simply in person. There was not even one negative comment. Many people printed the whole book.

### What do you hope the book will achieve?

It has already made my teaching easier. When I assign some of the exercises to my own students I just tell them to go to my website, find their assigned key, print it and practise it for the next week's lesson. Many teachers have students who are serious about piano and I hope they will do the same.

Another answer to your question is that I believe practising advanced scales and arpeggios on a regular basis makes you a better pianist.

### Do you see any future expansion/development of your work in terms of additions to it?

In my experience, not all piano teachers know about them and my goal is to make all those exercises easily available to anybody who is interested, both teachers and students. Expansion is of course possible. Why stop at double thirds? What about chromatic fourths, fifths or sixths? Sixths also qualify to be played in all major and minor keys, even in formula patterns. So, to answer your question, yes, I've been thinking about it. But for now, I'm going to take a little break.

You didn't ask this, but some people did; why free? In short, my wife volunteers at the homeless shelter, I wrote a free scale book. I deeply care about classical music and the piano community in general. This is my little contribution to it.

**Clearly the piano world needs more Peter Rudziks in it - dedicated, committed talents who are not primarily interested in making money but rather in continuing the spirit of Franz Liszt. It is wonderful to know that there are still exceptional musicians in the world today who believe in generously giving something of value free of charge to enrich the lives of the younger generation of musicians. Rudzik's passion for scales is clearly an inspiration to us all.**