La Mourisque, Susato, arr. White Piano 2017 & 2018: Grade 2, A:3



	PRACTICE ACTIVITIES
PITCH Accuracy, clarity and definition of notes and/or intonation	 What key is this piece in? Play the scale, an arpeggio and a broken chord in C. Does the key of C major make you feel happy or sad? What other chords can you find? Try playing arpeggios and broken chords in these keys too. Do these chords sound happier or sadder than C major? If these chords were each a colour, what would they be? Now use these chords to make up your own dance piece. Show it to your friends and see if you can make a Fanfare-style piece for several hands at one piano.
TIME Suitability of tempo, stability of pulse, sense of rhythm	 Tap the rhythm of the left hand in the opening bar and repeat as if on a loop. Now try adding the rhythm of the right hand. Try making up your own rhythms to go with this left hand figure – you can have fun with this on the fallboard (the name given to the lid that covers the piano keys), on a table, or with a saucepan and wooden spoon! Also try it with your friends at break time in school.
TONE Control and projection of the sound, sensitivity and awareness in use of tonal qualities	 Find a recording on YouTube of this tune. What kinds of instruments are used? Are these modern instruments or old? Do they make gentle or bold sounds? Warm or raspy? Experiment with producing sounds that match what you have heard. What kinds of physical movements do you need to make these sounds? Think about balance - try making the left hand loud and right hand soft, and vice versa.
SHAPE Effectiveness and clarity of musical shaping and detailing	 This piece has strong 4-bar phrases. Think what a phrase is. Is it like a sentence? Could this tune have words? Try making some up. There is a slurred figure at the start of each phrase. Practise dropping into the key and lifting to get the stresses correct. Have fun playing this figure up and down the piano.
PERFORMANCE Overall command, involvement with the mus musical communication	 What is the character of this piece? What does it make you feel? As an experiment, see if you can make it sound sad (play it slowly and expressively), then try making it fluffy (bouncy and light), and then stately (grand and bold). This is not just a dance, but a stately fanfare – try finding other music from the same era. Listen to <i>Te Deum</i> by Charpentier – it has a similar feel and is used as the anthem for the Eurovision Song Contest.