The One-Staff Piano (OSP) as a valuable pedagogical tool in piano & music teaching

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Version 1.0 (24.07.2025)
(version 1.0 first created on: 24.07.2025).
No matter its current version, the latest version of this paper can be downloaded from this URL.
DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.14372.80001 [URL-RG]

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0. Abstract

This paper proposes the one-staff piano (**OSP**) as a valuable pedagogical tool in piano & music teaching, based on the guitar notation system using the treble/G-clef (**GC**).

I've also dedicated a friendly webpage to OSP: **dragoii.com/osp**. I've also dedicated a friendly webpage to GC-piano (**GCP**), GC-harp (**GCH**) and GC-accordion (**GCA**) (in which the left hand part is noted by using a type of G-clef, NOT the bass/F-clef): **dragoii.com/gcp**.

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1. Introduction

This paper proposes the one-staff piano (**OSP**) as a valuable pedagogical tool in piano & music teaching, based on the guitar notation system using the treble/G-clef (**GC**).

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This paper actually continues the work from some older papers of the same author (cited in anti-chronological order, from the latest to the oldest) [**1**, **2**, **3**, **4**].

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2. The main motivations and arguments for the One-Staff Piano (OSP)

MuseScore version 3.0 (**MS3**) (which is an open source free software) has implemented both GC8vb and GC15mb (besides **GC8va** and **GC15ma**) so that ANY FREE SCORE* offered by MuseScore site can be easily converted to universal/unified GC scores (*and this is a major advantage!), which GC scores are much easier to teach and read for any instrument: the main motivation for this universal GC proposal is that learning process of each new clef (additionally to the "basic" GC) is very time consuming, especially when applied in instrumental music which often implies high speeds of interpretation (with each new clef being almost like learning a new musical notation language, mainly meaning rapid/real-time brain recognition of visual patterns of the notes positions in the musical staff).

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Sibelius 7 (**S7**) (which is a professional notation software with capabilities much more complex than MuseScore's) has only implemented GC8vb, GC8va and GC15ma (aka double octave/ fifteenth [ascending] clefs) but offers the tools to modify an existing (rarely used) clef thus to also obtain the GC15mb and to create new (transposing) instruments that use all possible GCs (which are all implementable in the same score, as shown next in this paper).

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The advantages of using OSP. Besides its great compactness, the OSP score has some obvious advantages over the two-staves piano (**TSP**) score when writing piano pieces with limited ambitus (2-3 & even 4 octaves): a left hand written on the same treble/GC-staff is much easier to read given the same visual note-recognition patterns and the visual compactness of this OSP score. OSP offers the great advantage that any piano/ harpsichord/ harp/ accordion (etc) beginner for example may simultaneously learn note-recognition patterns in both central octave and upper octave (plus the lower octave, partially).

A compact OSP score can also be used with multiple purposes, because it can also be played by guitar (solo/ duo) and string/ wind duets (violin-viola, violin duo, viola duo, clarinet duo, flute duo etc). Furthermore, one can also mark the chords of any piece in such an OSP score so that to teach harmony and also teach lead sheet reading.

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3. The One-Staff Piano (OSP) score

Our proposed one-staff piano (**OSP**) score has just one single staff/ stave so that the bass notes (with down-stems) should be played with the left hand at piano/ harpsichord/ harp/ accordion etc

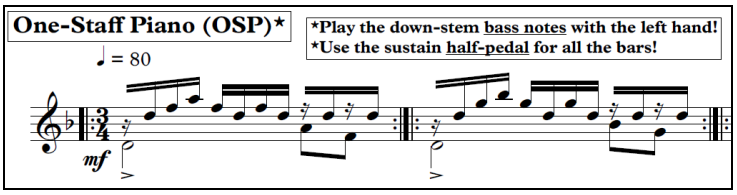

Figure 1. OSP sample bar from the Bach's Prelude BWV 999 in C minor (transposed in D minor as an OSP score) in which the bass notes (D4, A4 & F4 should be played by the left hand at piano/ harp/ accordion etc).

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Motivations of mainly using OSP. The (previously mentioned) main advantage of OSP (in speeding up the note-recognition learning in both the central and upper octaves simultaneously) is ALSO my main motivation for choosing OSP to transcribe (for GCP/GCH) a large spectrum of pedagogical compositions, including all my published piano original compositions and arrangements of other composers' works. Another important advantage (and reason!) of using OSP IS THAT notes played by the left hand generally appear visually much closer to the notes written for the right hand: this makes it easier for children, students and generally for beginners to visually encompass all the notes from the

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OSP score in their less trained visual field: this is in contrast with the great majority of TSP scores which use a quite large blanc space between the superior & inferior staves (of that same TSP score), which is not physiological for the piano beginners and which unfavorably "deforms" the visual closeness that should exist between middle C position and the other notes of the inferior staff of the TSP score (containing notes to be played by the left hand).

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4. A collection of compositions, arrangements and transcriptions for OSP

Some works of major composers were transcribed by the author for the **one-staff piano**/ harpsichord/ harp/ accordion (**OSP/ OSH/ OSA**) and are **tabled next**:

Table 1. Arrangements for OSP/ OSH/ OSA of some major composers' works.
***J. S. Bach -- Prelude 1 from "Well-Tempered Clavier" (BWV 846) (orig. in C) -- arr. for one-staff piano (OSP) in C (pdf, mp3 & wmv audio-video score): URL1** (Dr. Dragoi's digital store [DDS] main source)**, URL2** (audio-video score on my YouTube official channel). **URL3** (audio-video score on my TikTok official channel). *Public domain. **(edited in Sibelius 8)**
***J. S. Bach – Prelude BWV 999 (orig. in Cm) -- arr. for one-staff piano (OSP) in Dm (pdf, mp3 & wmv audio-video score): URL1** (Dr. Dragoi's digital store [DDS] main source)**, URL2** (audio-video score on my YouTube official channel). **URL3** (audio-video score on my TikTok official channel). *Public domain. **(edited in Sibelius 8)**
***Barrios (Agustin) – Prelude from "La Catedral" ("The Cathedral") guitar solo suite (orig. in Bm) -- arr. for one-staff piano (OSP) in Am (pdf, mp3 & wmv audio-video score): URL1** (Dr. Dragoi's digital store [DDS] main source)**, URL2** (audio-video score on my YouTube official channel). **URL3** (audio-video score on my TikTok official channel). *Public domain. **(edited in Sibelius 8)**

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FINAL CONCLUSION. OSP scores can be easily read (and even played in real time loco [URL2] or transposed in other octaves) by any other instrumentist/musician who may not be familiar with the bass/F-clef (thus cannot normally play such scores in real time): generally, writing the scores of all possible instruments in various GCs significantly helps in reaching **a unified music language for reading and writing** for any instrument, in any style and from any tradition and/or historical period.

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5. References

[**1**] Andrei-Lucian Drăgoi (April 2020). (GCP music catalog - version 2.5 - 4.05.2021 - 5.5 A4 pages) **The G-clef (GC) piano (GCP), GC harp (GCH) and GC accordion (GCA) project (GCP music catalog, including midi-mp3 audio files).** Research Gate preprint. DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.35973.50400. URL (Research Gate source).

[**2**] Andrei-Lucian Drăgoi (August 2019). (GCI - v.1.2 - 25.08.2019 - 4 pages) **The G-clef piano/harpsichord, harp, accordion, viola, cello, double bass etc, all based on a unitary G-clef grand staff (GCGS).** Research Gate preprint. DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.36258.79042. URL (Research Gate source).

[**3**] Andrei-Lucian Drăgoi (June 2018). (LM - version 1.2 - 1.01.2019 - 14 pages) **LeadMuse - a new experimental music notation software (under construction) based on a new simple and practical numerical musical notation system (NMNS) and a modular periodic bilinear (musical) staff (MPBS), also proposing a universal G-clef unified notation for all orchestral instruments.** Research Gate preprint. DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.32399.28325. URL (Research Gate source).

[**4**] Andrei-Lucian Drăgoi (January 2019). (PMS music scores collection – version 1.0 – 30.01.2019 – 14 pages). **A collection of musical scores for any solo musical instrument (piano, flute, clarinet, oboe, violin, viola, cello, guitar etc) based on a periodic musical staff (PMS)**. Research Gate preprint. DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.27445.32487. URL1a (Research Gate source), URL1b (Academia source).