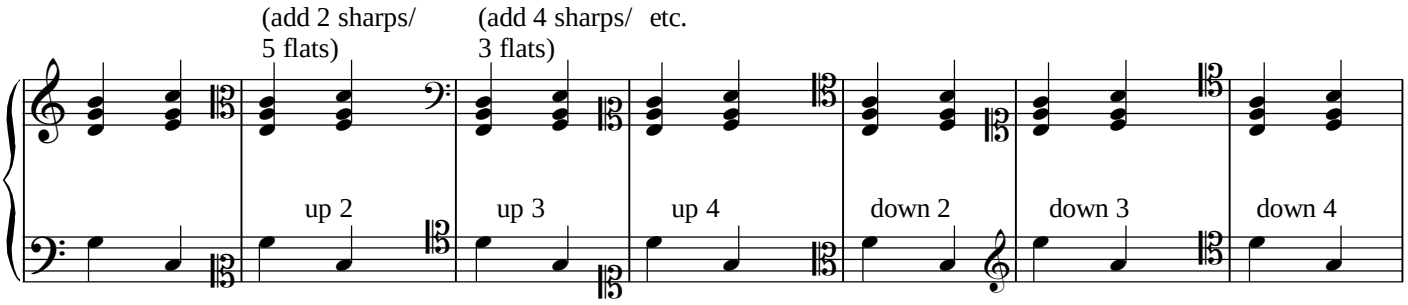
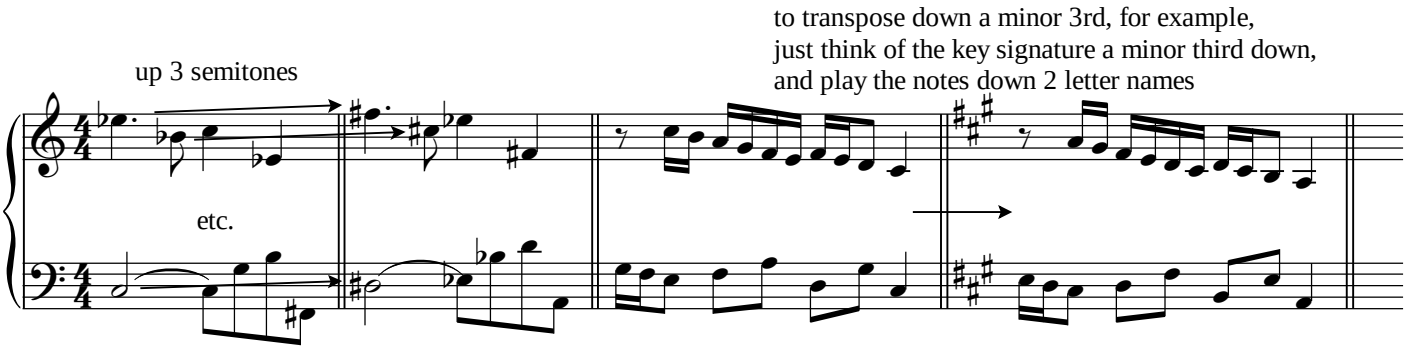
Transposition 1a

Here are 3 ways to transpose at the keyboard:

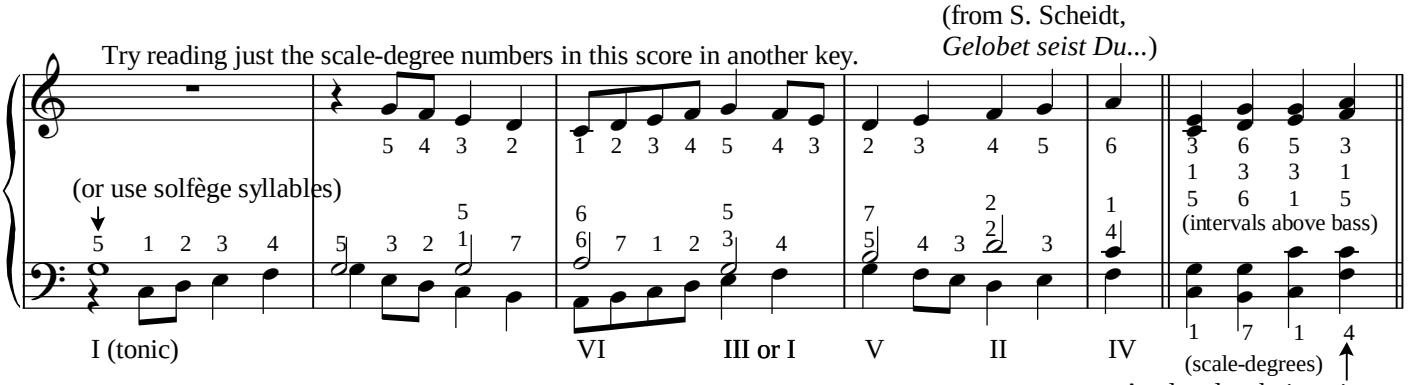
1. By imagining different clefs and key signatures (this takes a lot of work to get familiar with the more unusual of the 7 clefs - sight-reading sheet 1a will help), often with a change of octave.



2. By transposing every note by the given number of semitones (for very chromatic or atonal music), or by imagining a new key signature and just transposing letter-names.



3. By thinking in terms of scale-degrees, probably with functional (Roman-numeral) harmonies at the same time.



A related technique is to transpose just 1 or 2 lines, and relate the others by interval (this works well for hymns).

- Most people probably combine these techniques, depending on circumstances.
- When practicing, try using the metronome.
- Try to avoid practicing transposition on pieces you already know, because you start to play by ear.

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