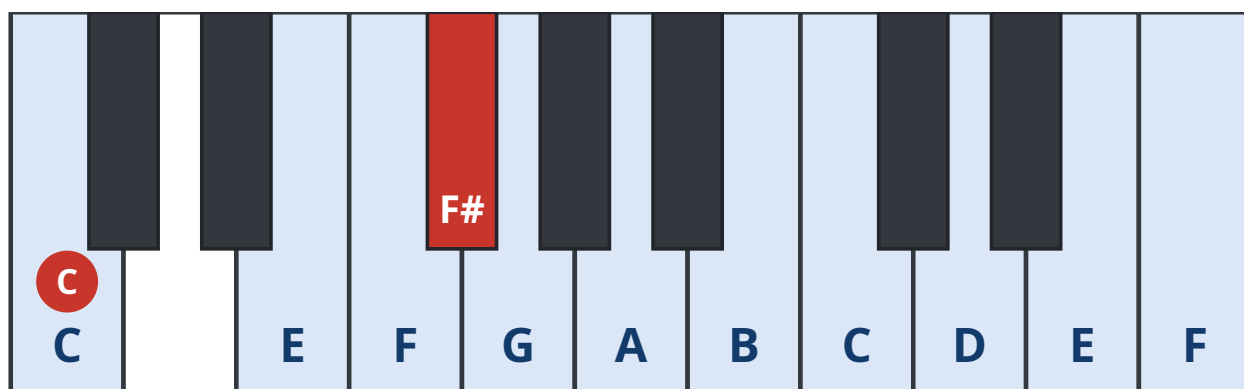


鉄腕アトム — Astro Boy

The song the trains leave to at Takadanobaba Station, Tokyo · right hand · for Isaac

At **Takadanobaba** station on the Yamanote loop, the trains don't whistle when they leave. They play this song. It is the **Astro Boy** theme, because the studio that draws Astro Boy is right next to the station. They switched it on in April 2003 for one month as a treat — everybody loved it so much that it never got switched off. Every train, every few minutes, for more than twenty years. You are about to learn what a Tokyo train sounds like when it goes.

Where your hand goes

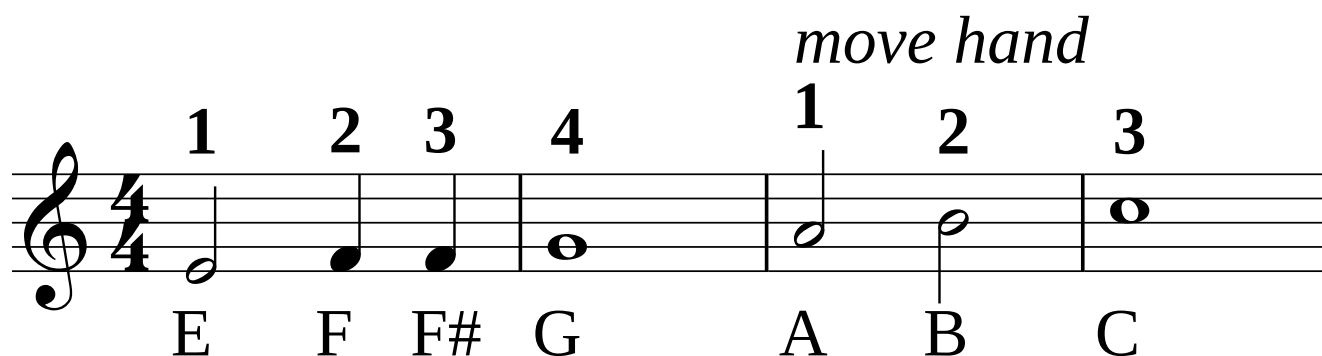


middle C

These are the only keys in the whole song. The red one is **F#** — a black key. Everything else is white.
Where your **thumb** starts: **E** for Part 1 · **A** for Part 2 · **middle C** for Part 3.

1 The Climb

This is the famous bit — the rocket going up. The numbers on top tell you which finger. **1** is your thumb, **5** is your little finger. The letters underneath are the key names.



👉 After the long G, hop your hand up so your thumb sits on A. Then keep going.

1. Play it slowly first. Slow and right beats fast and wrong — always.
2. A **fat white note** (○) is held long. A note **with a stem and a full head** is short. Count "one-two" on the long ones.
3. The third note is the black key **F#**. That squeeze between F and G is what makes it sound like lifting off.

Part 2 and Part 3

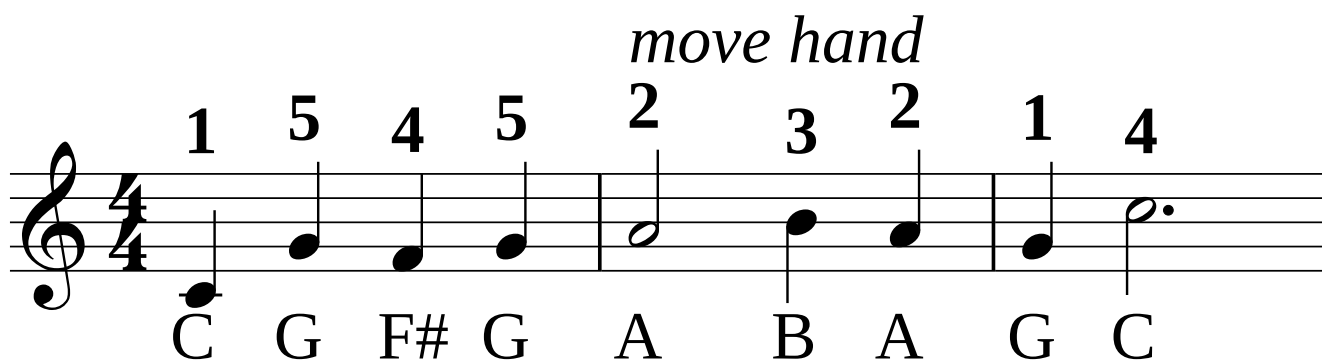
2 Up in the Stars

Now the tune jumps high. Put your **thumb on A** and leave it there — every note in this part is under your fingers already. Only the **F** needs your little finger to stretch up one key.



3 Coming Home

Back down low, starting on **middle C** with your thumb. The **F#** is back too — finger 4 on the black key.



👉 After the second G, slide your hand up so your thumb sits on G. Then the last note, high C, is finger 4 — hold it and let it ring, like the doors closing.

空をこえて

sora wo koete — "crossing over the sky".
These are the words to Part 1, the climb.

ラララ 星のかなた

ra-ra-ra hoshi no kanata — "la la la, beyond the stars".
These are the words to Part 2, the high bit.

How to practise it

1. Learn Part 1 on its own until your hands know it without you watching them. Then add Part 2. Then Part 3. Never all three at once on the first day.
2. Say the letters out loud while you play — "E, F, F-sharp, G" — until you don't need the page.
3. When you can play the whole thing, ask for the real recording and play **along** with the train. That is the test.

The whole song

All three parts joined up. This is exactly what plays on the platform.

1 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 2 5 5 5

move hand

E F F# G A B C E F E

6 4 4 1 5 4 3 1 5 4 5 2 3 2 1 4

move hand

D D A E D C C G F# G A B A G C

Things worth knowing

1. The tune was written by **Tatsuo Takai** (高井達雄) in 1963, for the very first Astro Boy cartoon — older than your dad. The words are by the poet Shuntaro Tanikawa.
2. Takadanobaba is stop **15** of the 29 on the Yamanote loop — the line that goes round and round and never ends. Sixteen of those stations share one sleepy little brook tune. Yours is one of only fourteen with a song of its own.
3. Next time you are on the Yamanote line, get off at Takadanobaba and just stand on the platform. You will hear this about every two minutes.

Tick one off every time you get there

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Part 1, slowly, all the way through | ☐ Part 3 on its own |
| ☐ Part 1 without looking at your hands | ☐ All three joined up |
| ☐ Part 2 on its own | ☐ Played along with the real train |

Transcribed from the actual Takadanobaba departure melody (outer-loop version B) by ear and by machine — harmonic-salience pitch tracking over the station recording — then written down one octave to fit a small right hand. Rhythm is simplified for a first-time player: the real melody has a few extra quick ornaments between the long notes. Key of C major.
Made for Isaac by Nahla.