

days, weeks, months, years

for piano

(for amy beal)



Either hand any octave, any time. Accidentals affect only those notes they directly precede.

days: [phase] Repeat the two-handed phrase as many times as you like. No pause at the end of either hand. Since they are different numbers of beats they will phase against each other, beginning again together after 7 repeats of the bottom and 9 of the top.

weeks: [mode] Once a week, transpose one or both of the parts up or down some number of half steps. There are 144 (12^2) possible combinations (12^2). Do this systematically over each 144-week (almost 3 year) cycle, so that each hand is transposed to all half-step levels. For each cycle, use any order for those transpositions (but keep track, and use each only once).

months: [key] Change the key signature of one or both of the two parts, so that eventually (again, over 144 months), you use all combinations of the 12 signatures (it doesn't matter if you use Gb or $F\#$). If there is an accidental in the original, it remains as the same accidental in the new key. Only uninflected notes are affected by the key signature change.

years: Once a year, on Yom Kippur, change one note: either its duration, pitch, or both. Don't change the total duration of the part: if you change a note's duration, you need to change some other note's duration to compensate. Whatever change you make is permanent, except that you can, if you like, change an already changed note in a later year. Try not to go back though.

tempo: Around 60 (or slower) at the winter solstice, getting faster to around 120 (or faster) at the summer solstice.

loudness: Begin quietly at Rosh Hashanah, getting gradually much louder by Pesach, and quietly again by Rosh Hashanah.

Play every day, or don't. On Saturday, improvise some of it if you like. Best to keep a sort of diary of phase, mode, key, addition. The chronological progressions continue even when you don't play, so if you miss a day, be aware (but not necessarily regretful) that you'll most likely never play that particular combination again.