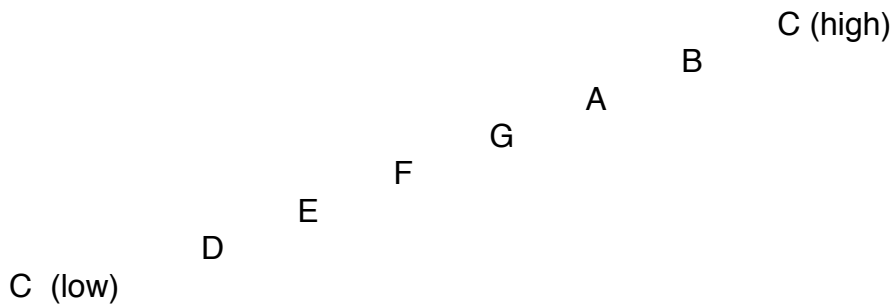
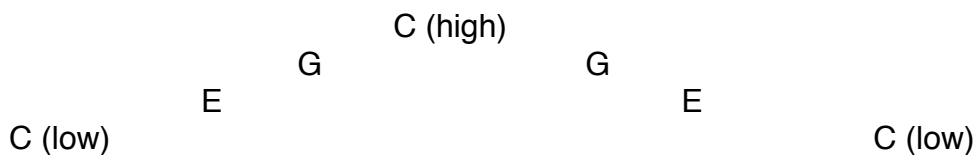


Scales and Arpeggios

A **scale** is a set of seven notes starting on a given pitch and rising one note at a time, like climbing up a musical ladder. At the top of the scale you will return to your starting note (but a higher version of that note) and then come back down a step at a time until you reach your starting note again. The seven notes of the scale, plus the starting note (but higher) is called an **octave** because there are 8 notes in total (oct is latin for 8). Scales can be in major or minor keys. For example the scale of C major one octave going up would be:



An **arpeggio** is played using the notes of a particular chord in sequence. So the notes for the C chord are C E G. As with the scale you finish the sequence by playing a higher version of your starting note then come back down the musical ladder again, so the C major arpeggio will look like this:



When you take grade exams in any instrument you are required to play specified scales and arpeggios. These get more difficult as you work your way from Grade 1 to Grade 8. In Grade 1 you only have to play one octave of any scale. The scales used in grades are different for each instrument.