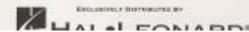
dventures by Nancy and Randall Faber THE BASIC PIANO METHOD





Piano Adventures[®] Primer Level

Discovery, creativity, and adventure for beginning piano students ages 6-11

Welcome to the **Second Edition of the Piano Adventures® Primer Level**. The four core books are Lesson, Theory, Technique & Artistry, and Performance.

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- A wide range of musical styles from jazz to classical
- Expressive, appealing pieces with teacher duets
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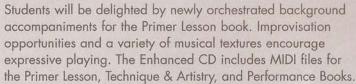
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ANO Destruction of S

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Sitting at the Piano

1. Are you seated the correct **DISTANCE** from the keyboard?



- Check yourself:
- Sit straight and tall on the front part of the bench.
- With arms straight, your knuckles should reach the fallboard. If you have to lean, move the bench forward or backward.

2. Are you seated the correct **HEIGHT** at the piano?



- Check yourself:
- Put your hands on the keys.
- Your arms should be level with the keyboard. If not, you may need to sit on a cushion or book.

3. Are you SITTING TALL yet relaxed?



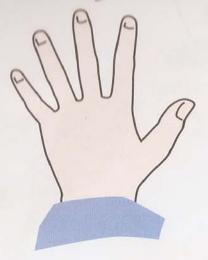
- Check yourself:
- Is your back straight with shoulders relaxed?
- Can you easily take a deep breath?



This is your position for playing the piano.

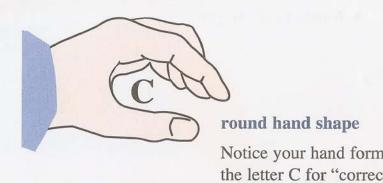
making a nound frand shape

Hold your hands out with fingers straight.
 Notice the fingers are all different lengths.



2. Now relax and round the hand.

Magic! Your fingers are all the same length.

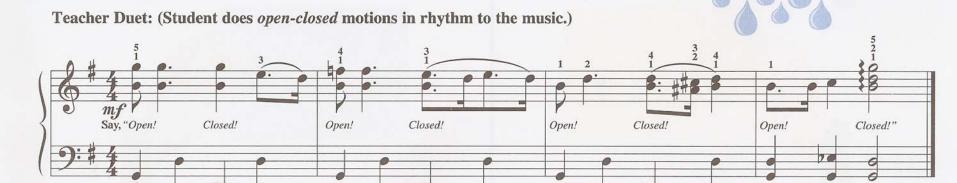


Hand Shape Warm-up

3. Open, then close your fingers to a round hand shape. Do it several times. Say, "Open, closed," etc.
Now continue the motions in rhythm with the duet!

Wrist Warm-up

4. Gently flop your wrists down (and up) with a round hand shape. Pretend to shake water drops off your fingertips.



Teacher Note: This duet allows the student to practice an open and round hand shape to a steady beat.



Finger Numbers

Each finger has a number.

- Trace your hands below.
 Write L.H. or R.H. on each hand.
- Number each finger.



L.H. = Left Hand



R.H. = Right Hand

Finger Flashcards

On the CLOSED KEYBOARD LID

• Play each flashcard four times, saying the finger numbers aloud. Listen for a strong tap using **firm fingertips**.



Practice Steps

DOWN

- 1. On the closed keyboard lid, your teacher will tap a steady beat. Match the beat with your **left hand**.
- 2. Now set a steady "L.H. beat" for your teacher to match!
- 3. To play, start in the **middle** of the piano. Brace your 3rd finger with the thumb and "peck" all the white keys going LOWER—to the left.

This is going DOWN the keyboard.



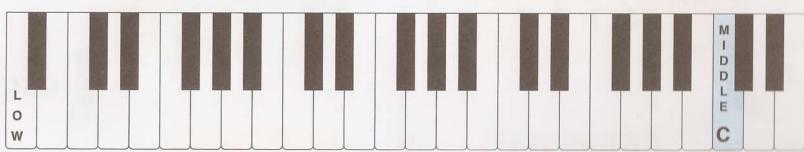
The Pecking Rooster FOR LEFT HAND ON WHITE KEYS

When the keys are lower, the sound is lower!

L.H.



Keep a great steady beat!



Teacher Duet: (Student begins on Middle C and plays a quarter-note beat going lower.)





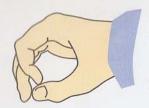
- On the closed keyboard lid, your teacher will tap a steady beat. Match the beat with your right hand.
- 2. Now set a steady "R.H. beat" for your teacher to match!
- 3. To play, start in the **middle** of the piano. Brace your 3rd finger with the thumb and "peck" all the white keys going HIGHER—to the right.

This is going UP the keyboard.

cincina arelas

The Pecking Hen

FOR RIGHT HAND ON WHITE KEYS



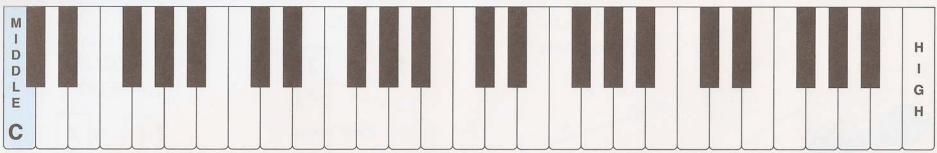
FF1075

R.H.

When the keys are higher, the sound is higher!

UI

Keep a great steady beat!



Teacher Duet: (Student begins on Middle C and plays a steady quarter-note beat going higher.)







On the KEYBOARD

- Count all the groups of TWO. groups
- Count all the groups of THREE. ___ groups

Start in the **MIDDLE** of the piano.

Two black ants

play together

Move down to next LOWER group.

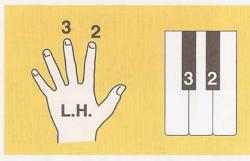
dig - ging down

3

g

to their home

Two Black Ants



• Use Left Hand fingers 2 and 3. Play on the 2-black-key groups.

Your teacher will demonstrate.

0 n

the ground.

LOW



DISCOVERY A short musical pattern begins this piece. How many times does the pattern appear? Can you memorize this piece?

Two Blackbirds



• Use Right Hand fingers 2 and 3. Play on the 2-black-key groups.

Your teacher will demonstrate.

Move up to next HIGHER group.

3 2

fly - ing high

> 0 g

HIGH

3 the sky.

r

go - ing up e

h g h

g n

2

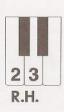
Two black-birds

Start in the

MIDDLE

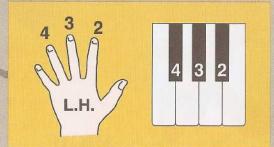
of the piano.

DISCOVERY Turn the two blackbirds into "two snowflakes." Slide fingers 2 and 3 down to these two white keys. Play with these new words: "Two snow-flakes, fly-ing high, swirl-ing up, in the sky."





Into the Cave



• Use Left Hand fingers 2, 3, and 4. Play on the 3-black-key groups.

Your teacher will demonstrate.

Start in the MIDDLE of the piano.

play 3 together In - to the cave,

Move down to next LOWER group.

you are brave,



Point out the musical pattern used in this piece. How many times does it appear?



deep down and

Three Little Kittens



• Use Right Hand fingers 2, 3, and 4. Play on the 3-black-key groups.

Your teacher will demonstrate.



HIGH

Spring of the keys!

MEOW!

Move up to next HIGHER group.

Start in the **MIDDLE** of the piano.

3 2

Kit - tens are

play - ing the keys,

Kitten Conversation



CREATIVE Your teacher will choose two keys and say, "ME-OW!" You choose two keys and answer with your own "ME-OW!" } Keep going. To end, leap your "paws" into your lap.

The Quarter Note

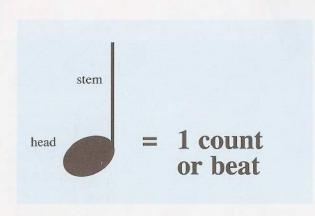
one

UNO

eins

Music, like your body, has a steady "heartbeat."

The beat can be slow, medium, or fast, but must always be steady.



1. Tap and count aloud:

1 1 1 1 1 or Ta Ta Ta T

2. Play four quarter notes on any key. Count aloud. Counting with a steady beat gives us RHYTHM.

count

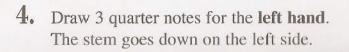
If your teacher has a metronome, tap I notes to its steady beat.



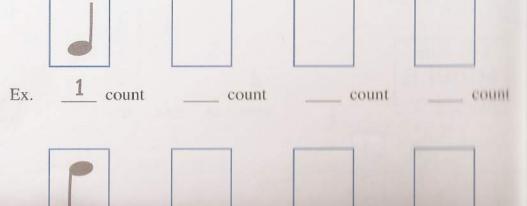
count

3. Draw 3 quarter notes for the **right hand**. The stem goes up on the right side.

Write a 1 below each note.

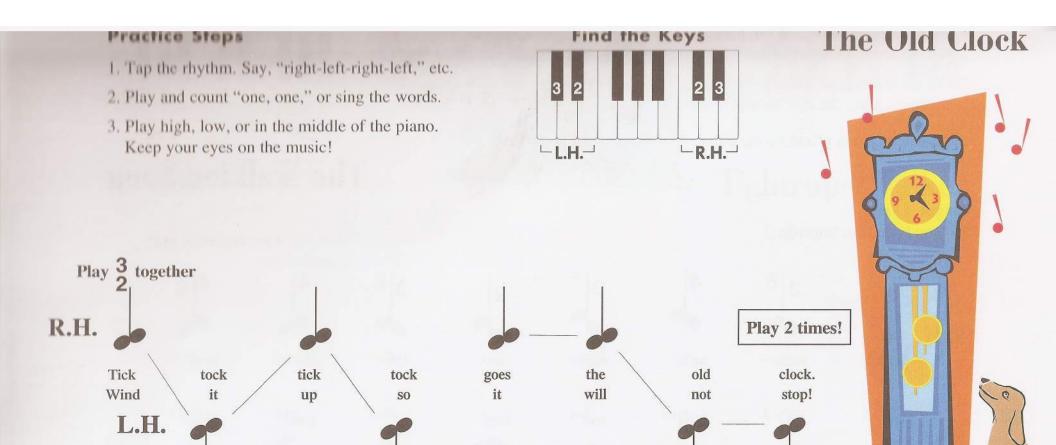


Write a 1 below each note.



count

count



To end, chime the time. Choose any hour and play the 2-black-key groups hands together. Explore holding the right-foot pedal (damper pedal) down as you chime the time!

Teacher Duet: (Student plays in the middle of the keyboard)



- On the closed keyboard lid, play and say the finger numbers aloud.
- On the piano, play and say the finger numbers. Keep the beat steady.
- 3. Play in different places on the piano.



Finger Check:

Do you have firm fingertips?



PISCAVERY

Can you play hands together s-l-o-w-l-y and say the finger numbers aloud?

66

repeated note

Double B

(thin line, th

of the

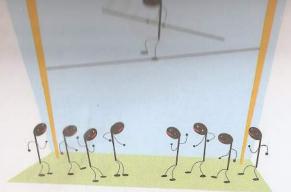
Teacher Duet: (Student plays in the middle of the keyboard)



1. Find the hand position.

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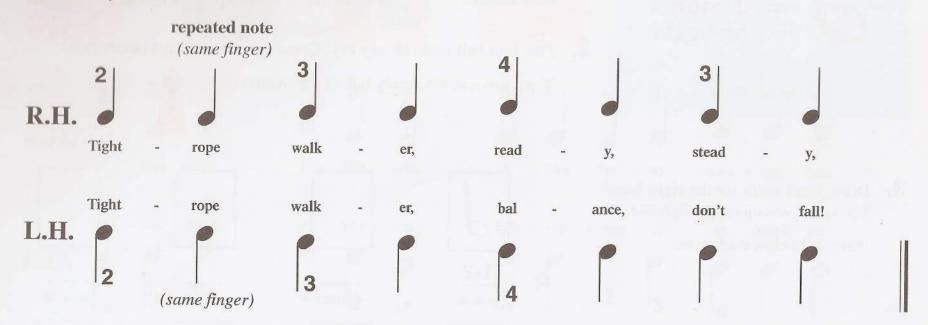
- 2. To warm up, play the last four L.H. notes. Can you balance finger 4 on the fingertip?
- 3. Play and say finger numbers or words.





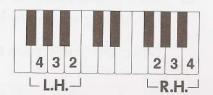
Tightrope Walker

Eye Check: Are your eyes on the music and not on your hands?



DISCOVERY

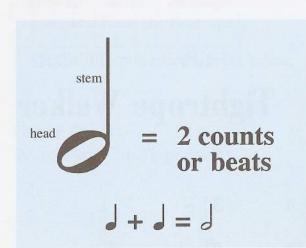
Slide fingers 2-3-4 up to these white keys. Now play the song on these white keys.



Teacher Duet: (Student plays in the middle of the keyboard)



The Half Note









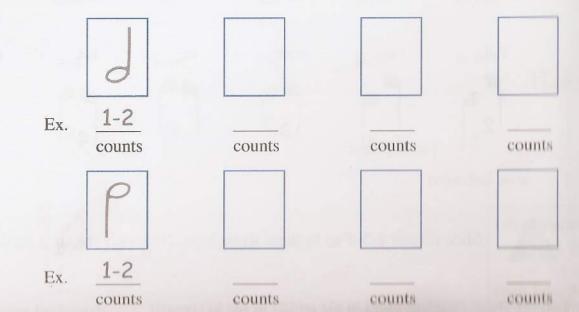


- 1. Tap and count aloud: 1-2 1-2 1-2 Feel 2 beats. or Ta-ah Ta-ah Ta-ah Ta-ah
- 2. Play four half notes on any key. Count aloud and keep a steady beat!

 Tap J notes to the steady tick of the metronome.
- 3. Draw 3 half notes for the **right hand**. The stem goes up on the right side.

 Write 1-2 below each note.

4. Draw 3 half notes for the **left hand**. The stem goes down on the left side. Write 1-2 below each note.



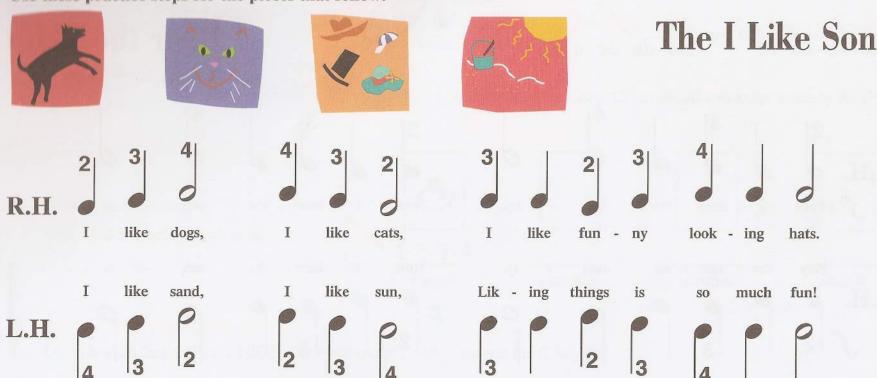


1. On the closed keyboard lid, play and say finger numbers aloud.

- Feel the half notes by saying, "four-or" or "two-oo" for these fingers.
- 2. Play and count, "one, one, one-two."
- 3. Play and sing the words.

Procince steps

Use these practice steps for the pieces that follow.



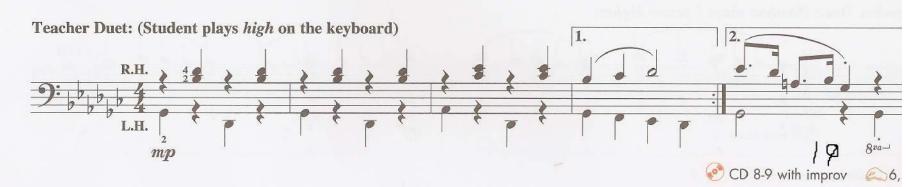
Find the Keys

└R.H.┘

L.H.



This **rhythm pattern** J J occurs six times. Circle each time it appears.



ESSOU BING BOTT SOURCE TRAKE music more interesting.

Forte means loud.

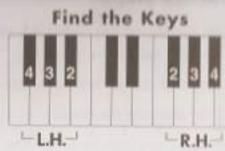
Piano means soft.

$$f = forte$$

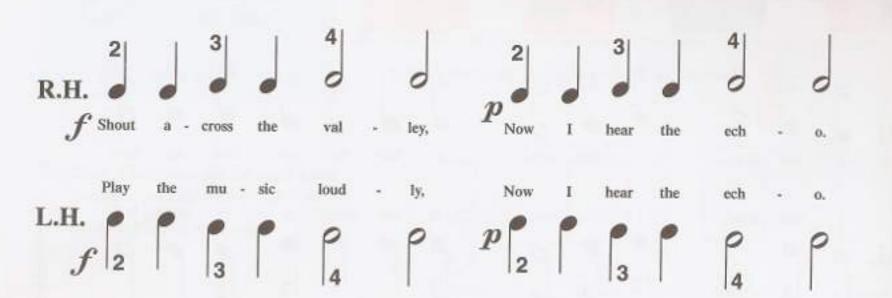
$$f = forte$$
 $p = piano$

Circle the f and p signs below.





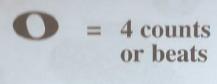
I Hear the Ech



This rhythm pattern I I occurs four times. Circle each time this pattern appears.

Teacher Duet: (Student plays I octave higher)





1-2-3-4

Ta-ah-ah-ah

1-2-3-4

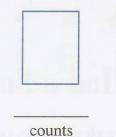
Ta-ah-ah-ah

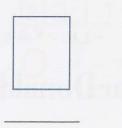
Play four whole notes on any key. Count aloud and keep a steady beat!

3. Draw 3 whole notes. Write 1-2-3-4 below each note.



1. Tap and count aloud: Feel 4 beats.





counts



counts

Forte and Piano Rhythms

4. Use a braced finger 3 on a HIGH C. (Your teacher will point out the C key.)



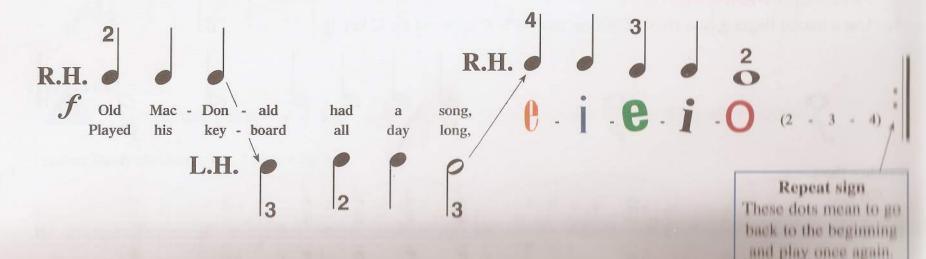
Practice Steps

- 1. On the **closed keyboard lid**, play and say finger numbers. Feel the whole notes by saying, "**two-oo-oo**" for this finger.
- 2. On the keyboard, play and count.
- 3. Play and sing the words.

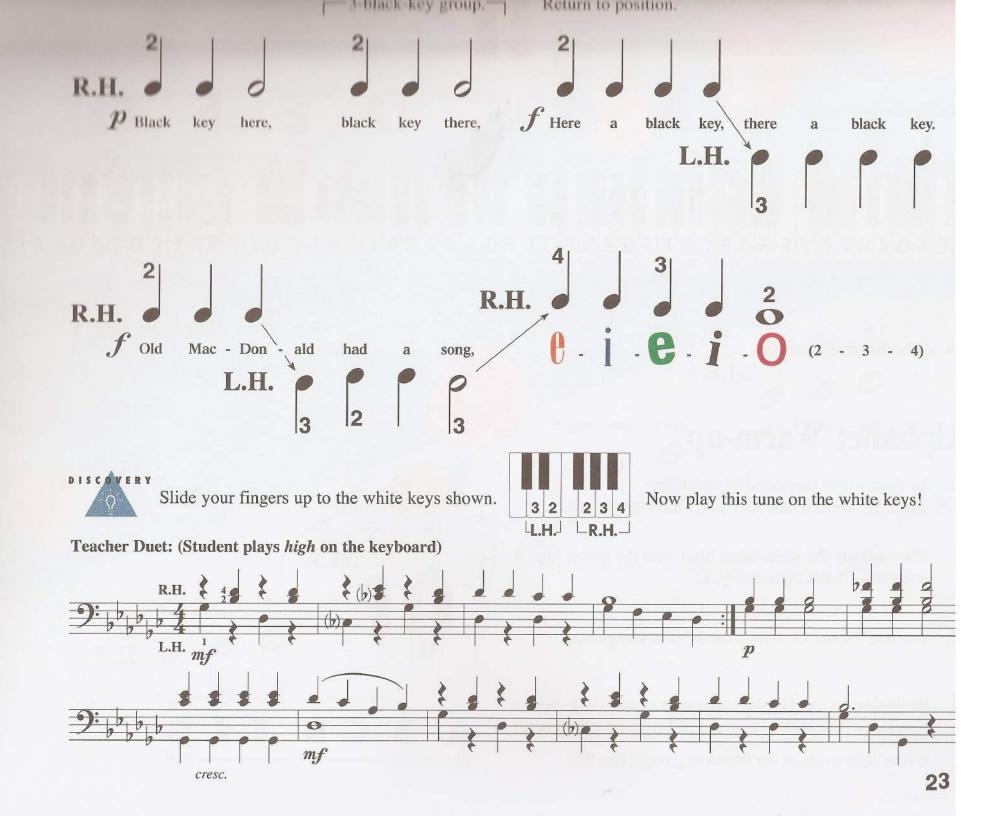


Old MacDonald Had a Song

Eye Check: Ask your teacher to watch your eyes as you play. Did you have to look down?







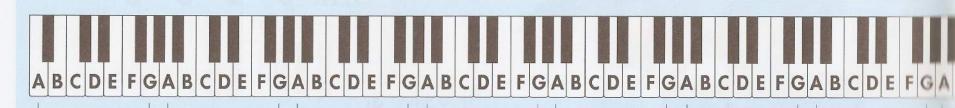
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The Music Alphabet

Each white key on the piano has a name that comes from the music alphabet.

The music alphabet has 7 letters:

A B C D E F G



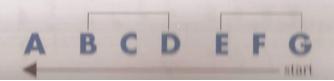
0	Write the music alphabet.		<u> </u>		/	
					start again wi	ith?

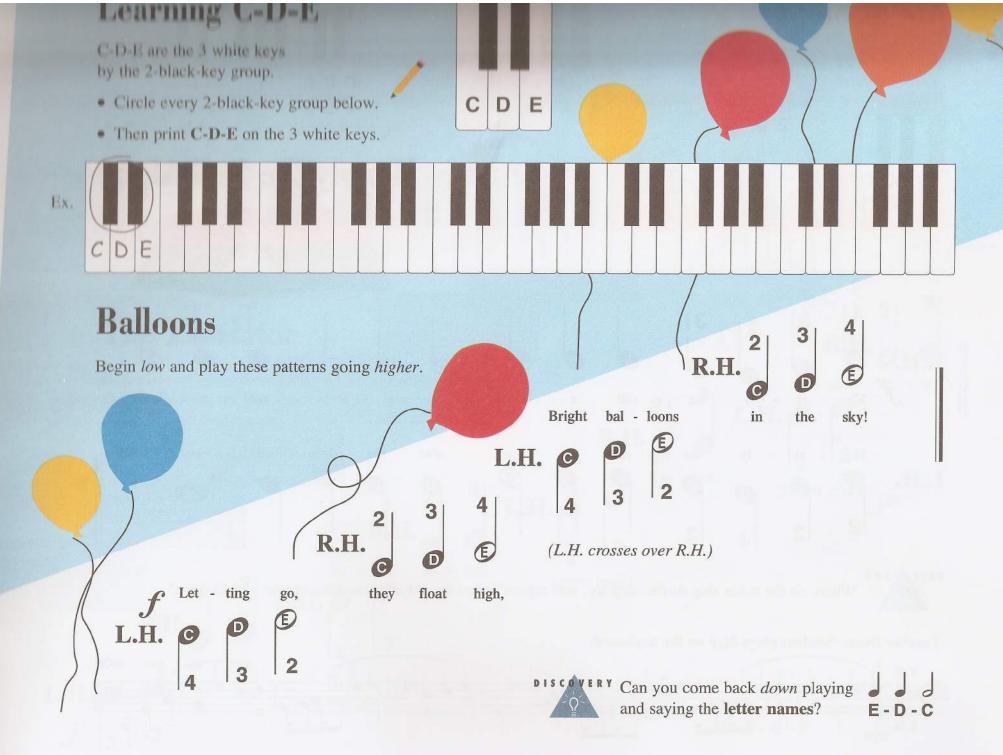
Alphabet Warm-up

Use the third finger supported by the thumb. L.H. plays the lower notes, R.H. plays the higher notes.

- 1. Play and say the white keys. Start with the lowest key, A, and end with the highest key, C.
- 2. Practice finding Gs within the 3-black-key group.
- 3. Beginning on any G, play and say the music alphabet going down the entire keyboard. What is the lowest note? It may help to chant the letters in groups, like this:







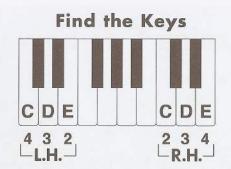
About Steps

To play a **STEP**, move to the...

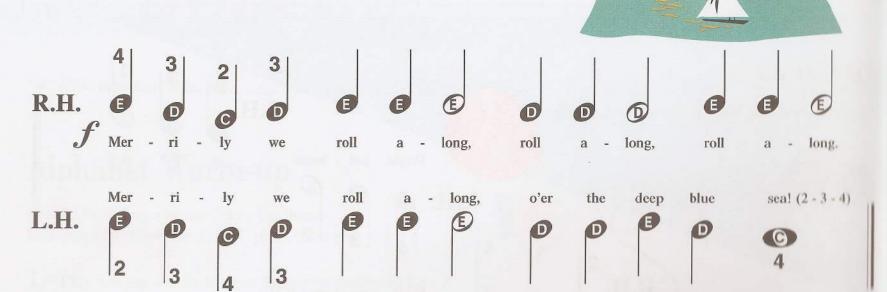








Merrily We Roll Along

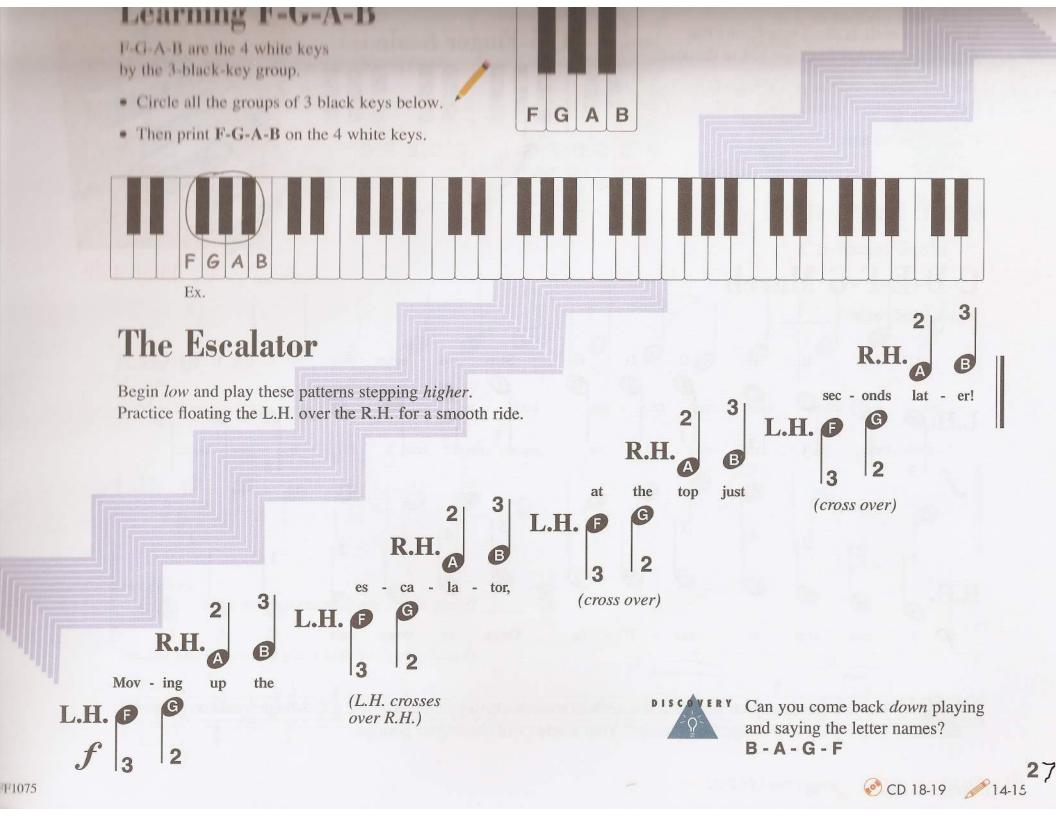




Where do the notes step down, step up, and repeat? Now try playing this song on the 3 black keys!

Teacher Duet: (Student plays high on the keyboard)

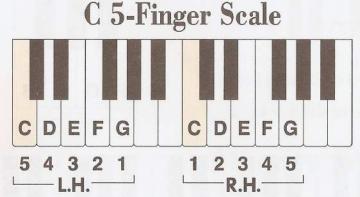


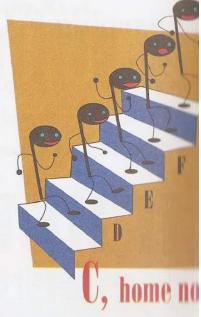


In music, a **scale** is like a set of stairs that steps UP or DOWN from one key to the next.

The C 5-finger scale steps UP from C. C is the LOWEST note for each hand.

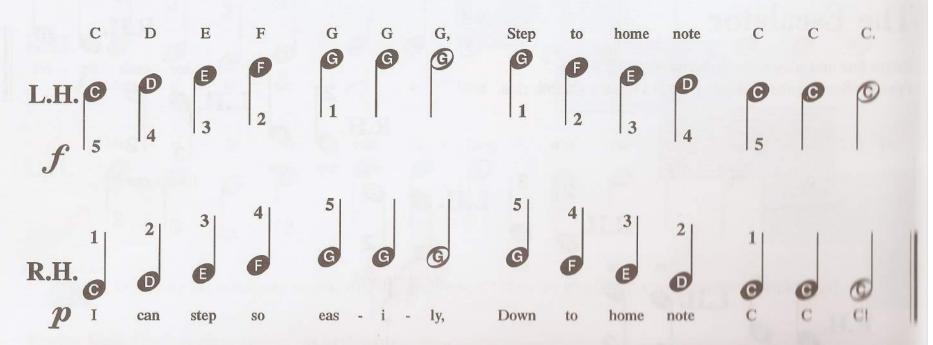
C is the "home note."





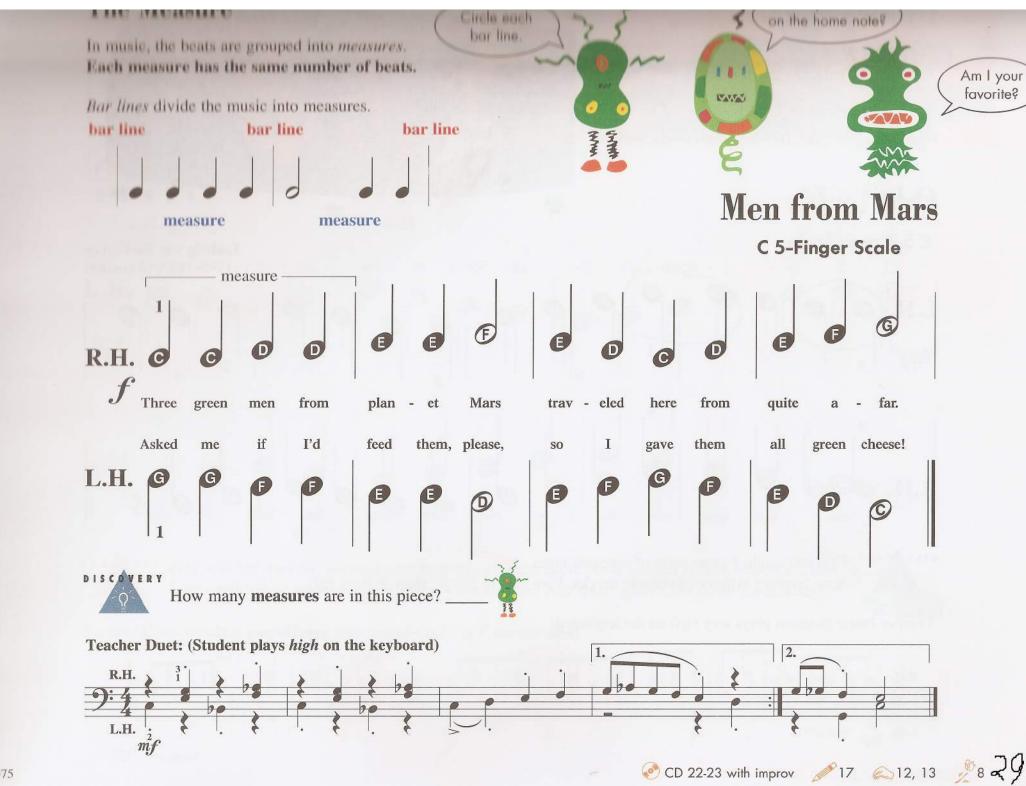
C-D-E-F-G March

Which hand begins? _____





Put your hands in your lap. Your teacher will close his/her eyes. Quickly find a C 5-finger scale on the piane with BOTH HANDS and say "ready." Your teacher will check your position.



Dynamic Marks

Remember p is soft, f is loud. These are called **dynamic marks**.

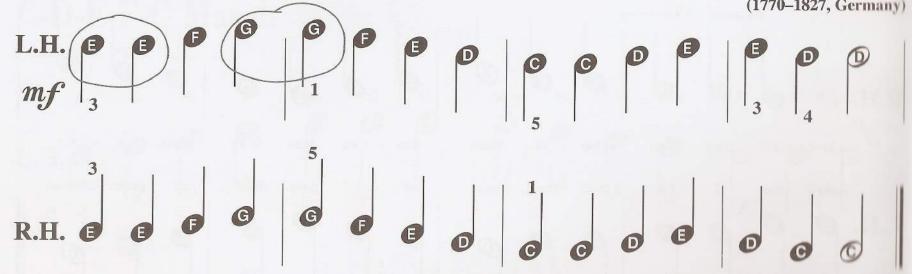
A new dynamic mark between p and f is: mf = mezzo forte (moderately loud)

Ode to Joy

C 5-Finger Scale



Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827, Germany)



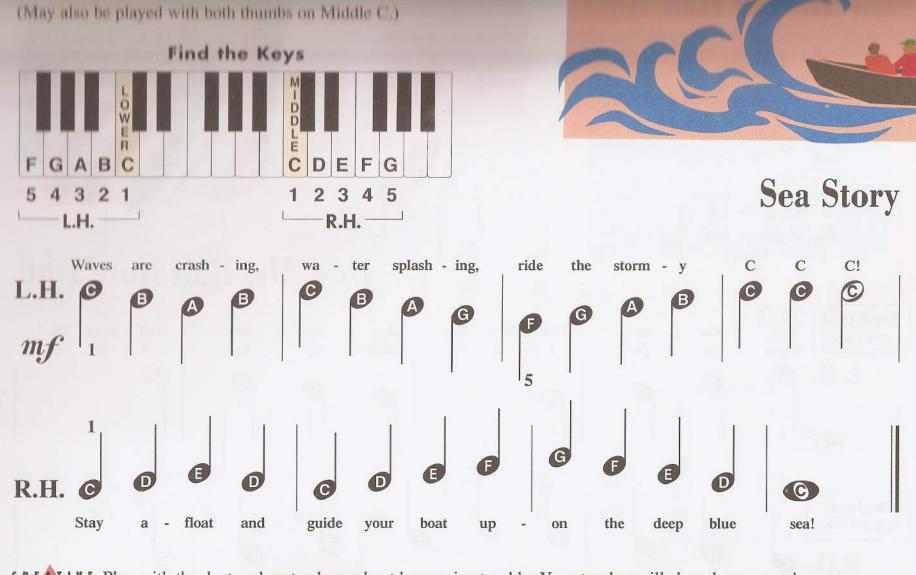
DISCOVERY

Find and circle 7 more pairs of repeated notes.

Now, explore different dynamic marks. Play Ode to Joy p, then f, then mf.

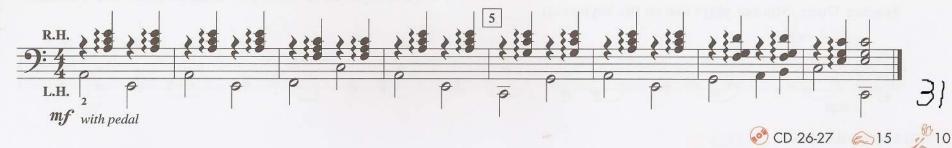
Teacher Duet: (Student plays very high on the keyboard)



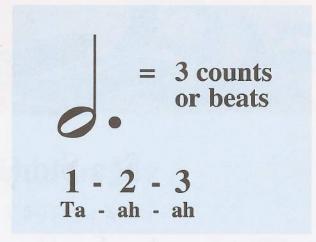


Play with the duet and pretend your boat has engine trouble. Your teacher will slow down, speed up, etc. Listen and follow your teacher's speed. Then reverse. You speed up or slow down the melody!

Teacher Duet: (Student plays higher with thumbs sharing C for the duet)

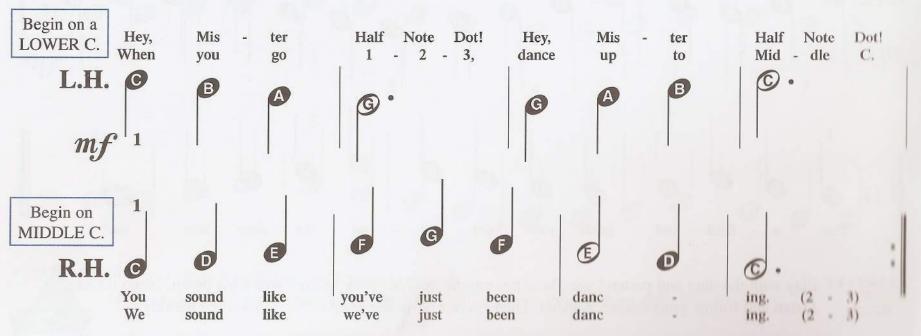


The Dotted Half Note





Hey, Mr. Half Note Dot!



Teacher Duet: (Student plays low on the keyboard)

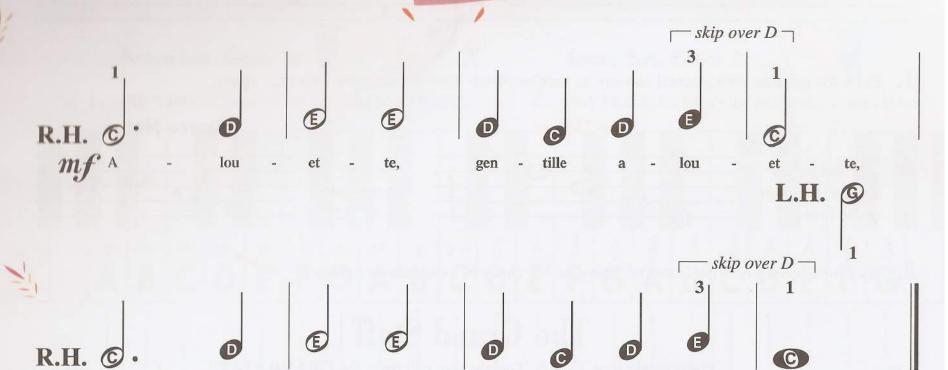


Rhythm Alert:

- · Circle each dotted half note in this piece.
- Write "1-2-3" under each one.



C 5-Finger Scale



DISCOVERY

Circle this **rhythm pattern** two times in the music:

Teacher Duet: (Student plays very high on the keyboard)

lou



Je

plu

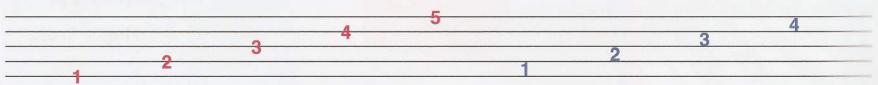
me

rai.

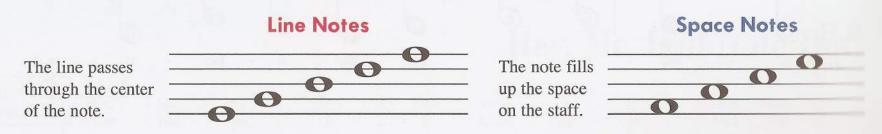


The Staff

This is a staff. A staff has 5 LINES and 4 SPACES.



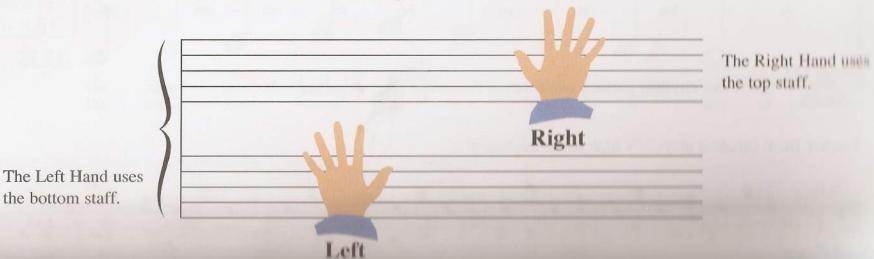
1. Point to each line with a pencil and say its number aloud. Then do the same with each space.



2. As your teacher says "line note" or "space note," shade in a note above to match.

The Grand Staff

Piano music uses 2 staffs. Together we call them the GRAND STAFF.



bass Clef

Treble Clef

9:

This is a Bass Clef. Bass means low sounds.

The bass clef is placed on the bottom staff. It shows notes **BELOW Middle C**.



This is a Treble Clef. Treble means high sounds.

The treble clef is placed on the top staff. It shows notes **ABOVE Middle C**.

Brace L.H. finger 3:

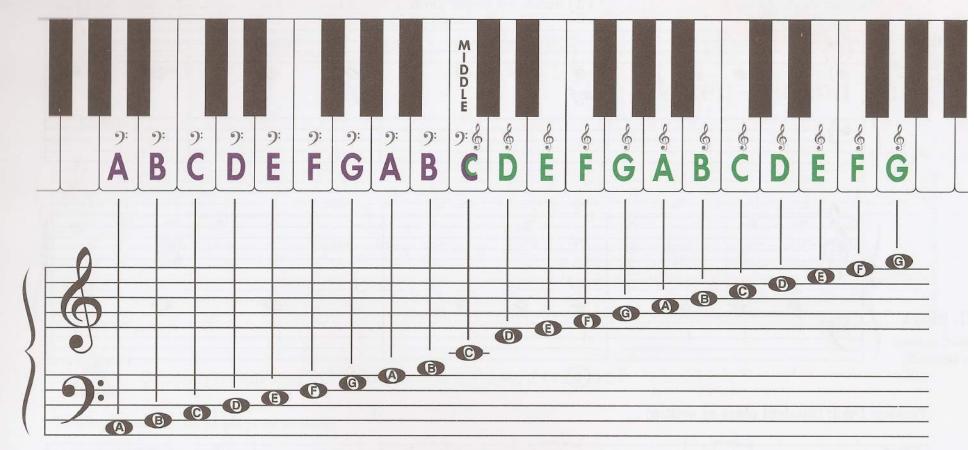


1. Play Middle C and all the bass clef notes below.





2. Play Middle C and all the treble clef notes above.



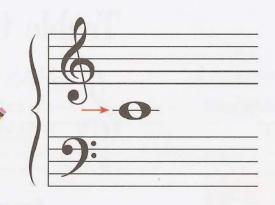
3. How many times can the **music alphabet** be written on the staff? _____ Begin at the bottom and circle each group.

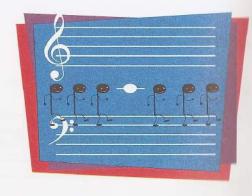
35

Learning Middle C

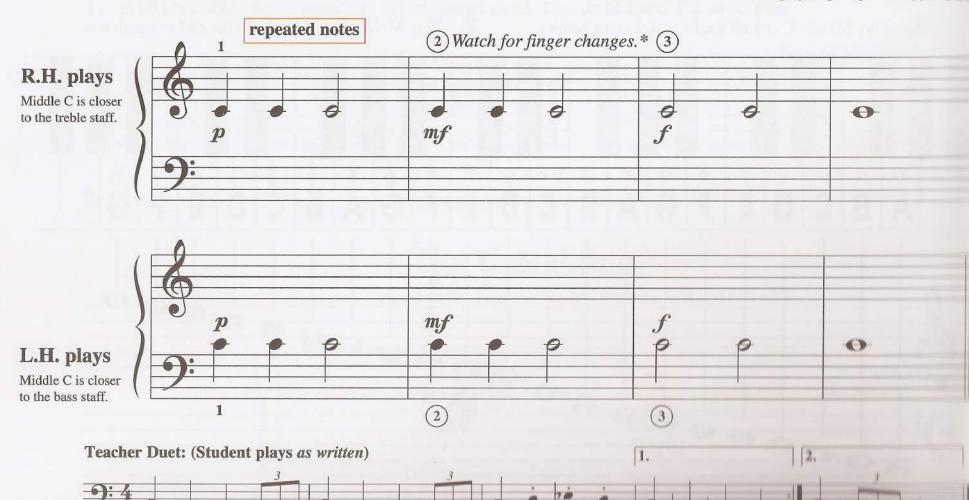
On the staff, Middle C is written on a *short line* between the staffs.

- Darken the short line with a pencil.
- Now draw two more Middle C's.





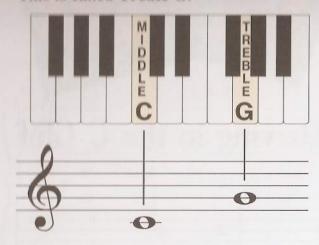
Middle C March



*Teacher Note: The change of fingering prevents the student from equating a certain note (e.g., Middle C) with a specific finger (e.g., thumb).

Learning Treble G

Find the first G above Middle C. This is called Treble G.



Hand Shape Check:

With R.H. fingers 1 and 5, play back and forth between Middle C and Treble G.

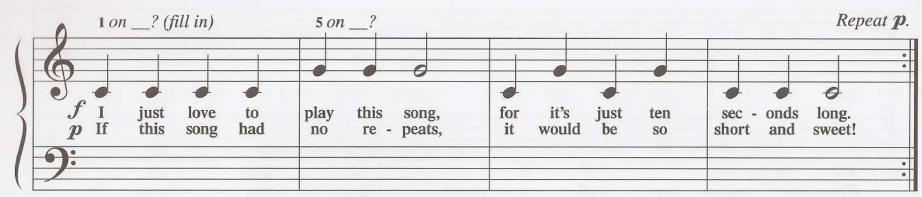
Reading Check:

Treble G is written on LINE 2.



A Ten-Second Song





DISCOVERY

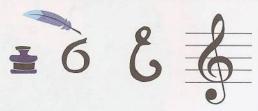
Can you play this song in 10 seconds (with the repeat)? Good luck!



Treble Clef = G Clef

The Treble Clef is also called the **G** clef because it circles around the G LINE on the staff.

The Treble or G clef came from the old letter G shown below.





Driving in the G Clef







- . Play Middle C with L.H. finger 1, then 2, then 3.
- * Play Treble G with R.H. finger 1, then 2, then 3.
- Which fingers play these notes in Best Friends?



Best Friends



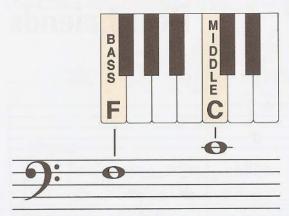


DISCALERY Can you play Best Friends using only finger 2 for each hand? finger 4 for each hand? FINGER FUN! Be sure to play with a firm fingertip!



Learning Bass F

Find the first F *below* Middle C. This is called **Bass F**.



Hand Shape Check:

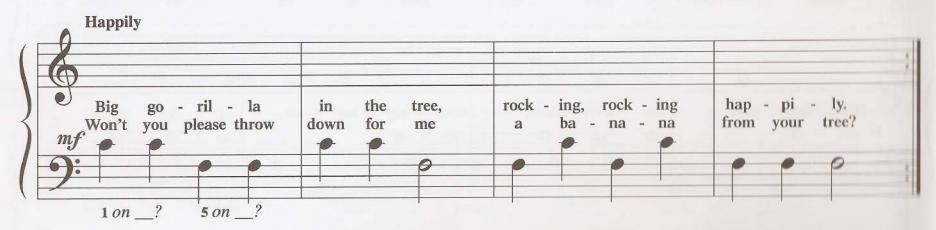
With L.H. fingers 1 and 5, play back and forth between Middle C and Bass F.

Reading Check:

Bass F is written on LINE 4 (or LINE 2 going down).



Gorilla in the Tree



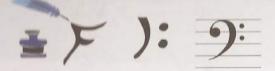


Can you play this piece hands together? (R.H. uses a higher C and F.)



The Bass Clef is also called the F clef because the big starting dot is on the F LINE. Notice the two smaller dots surround the F LINE.

The Bass or F clef came from the old letter F shown below.



TATELLIO CITAL TO THE PARTY







CREATIVE Make My Invention longer with more Bass F, Middle C, and Treble G notes. To end, have your invention "break down" and stop.







Learning D-E-F

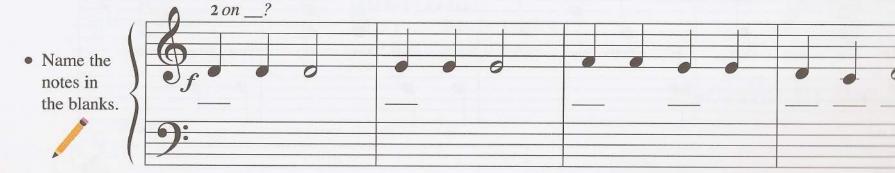


- What are the 3 notes between Middle C and Treble G?
- Which are space notes? Which is a line note?



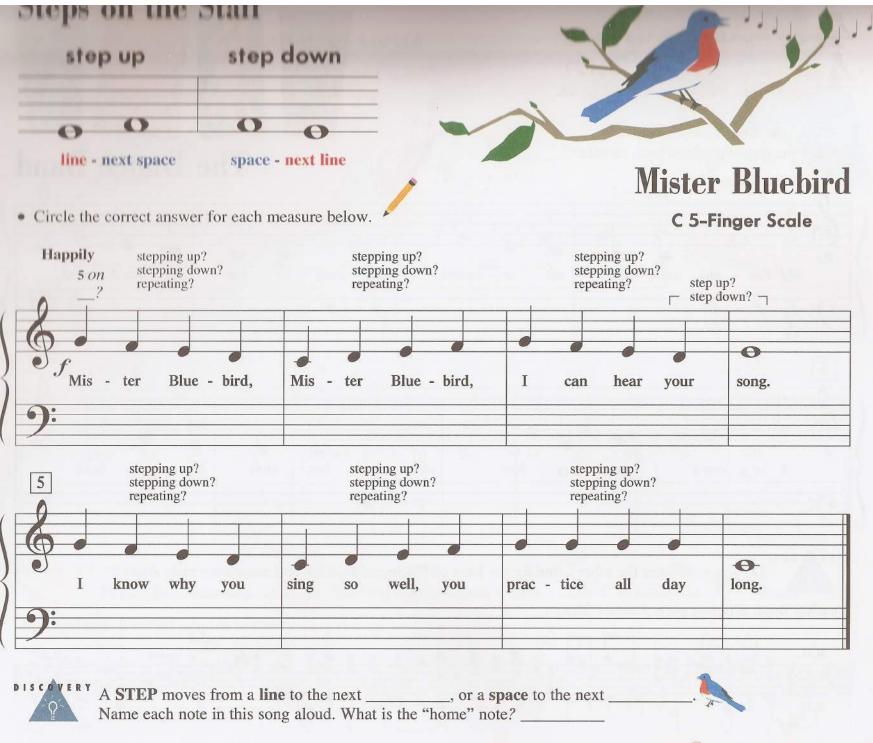
Like a march

March on D-E-F











4 means 4 counts or beats in a measure.

This 4 stands for a quarter note (1). It tells us the quarter note gets 1 count.

• Circle the time signature below.

How many counts are in each measure? _



The Dance Band



DISCOVERY

Do you remember the other name for the bass clef? (See p. 41) Can you name each note aloud?

Teacher Duet: (Student plays 1 octave higher)

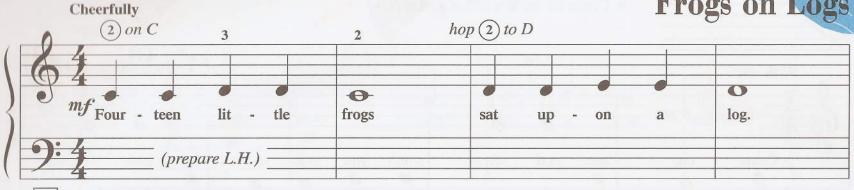


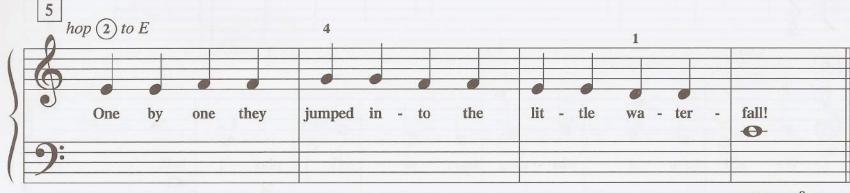
This piece uses a hand shift to "hop up" the keys. Hint: A circled finger number will help you see a hand shift.

To prepare: Play C with R.H. finger 2. Hop to D with finger 2. Hop to E with finger 2.



Frogs on Logs





1 on __?

CREATIVE Play this piece with your L.H. in your lap.

1075

For the final measure, do a L.H. "bullfrog leap" and play a VERY LOW C as a surprise.



Learning B



B is a step below Middle C.

B is a space note. It sits on top of the bass clef staff.

• Circle all the B's in Let's Play Ball!







DISCOVERY

Practice naming each note in this piece. If you are successful at your next lesson, circle the baseball.



means 3 counts or beats in a measure.

means the quarter note gets 1 count or beat.

• Circle the time signature in this piece.

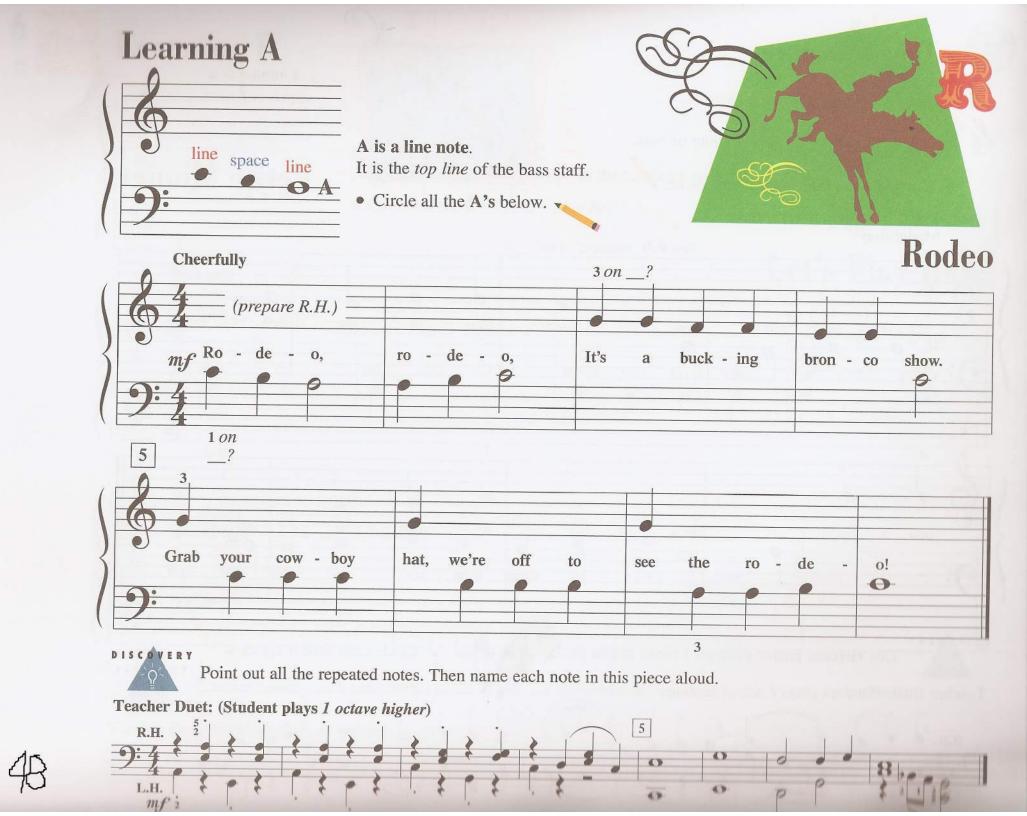


A minuet is a dance in $\frac{3}{4}$ time.

Petite Minuet







Reading Alert: For each measure, show your teacher where the music steps up, steps down, and repeats. Quickly 3 on __?



Russian Folk Song

Russian melody Lyrics added





DISCOVERY Play VERY LOW and s-l-o-w for an old man dancing. (Play duet 1 octave higher.)

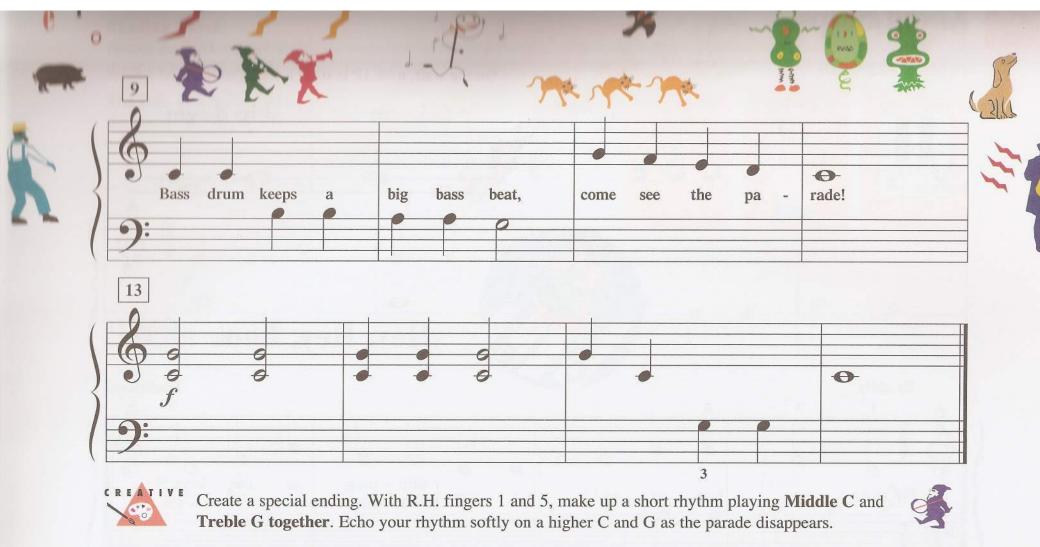
Play AS WRITTEN at a moderate speed for a teenager. (Play duet high in the treble clef.)

Play VERY HIGH and fast for a small boy or girl dancing. (Play duet 1 or 2 octaves higher.)

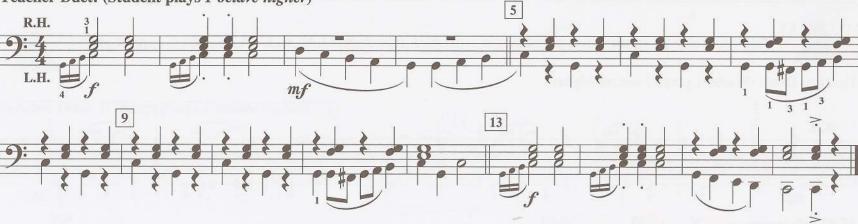
Teacher Duet: (Student plays 1 octave higher)











About Skips

To play a SKIP...







On the staff, a SKIP is from a LINE to the next LINE.

skip up	skip down	
0	0	

Hey, Hey, Look at Me!

Traditional



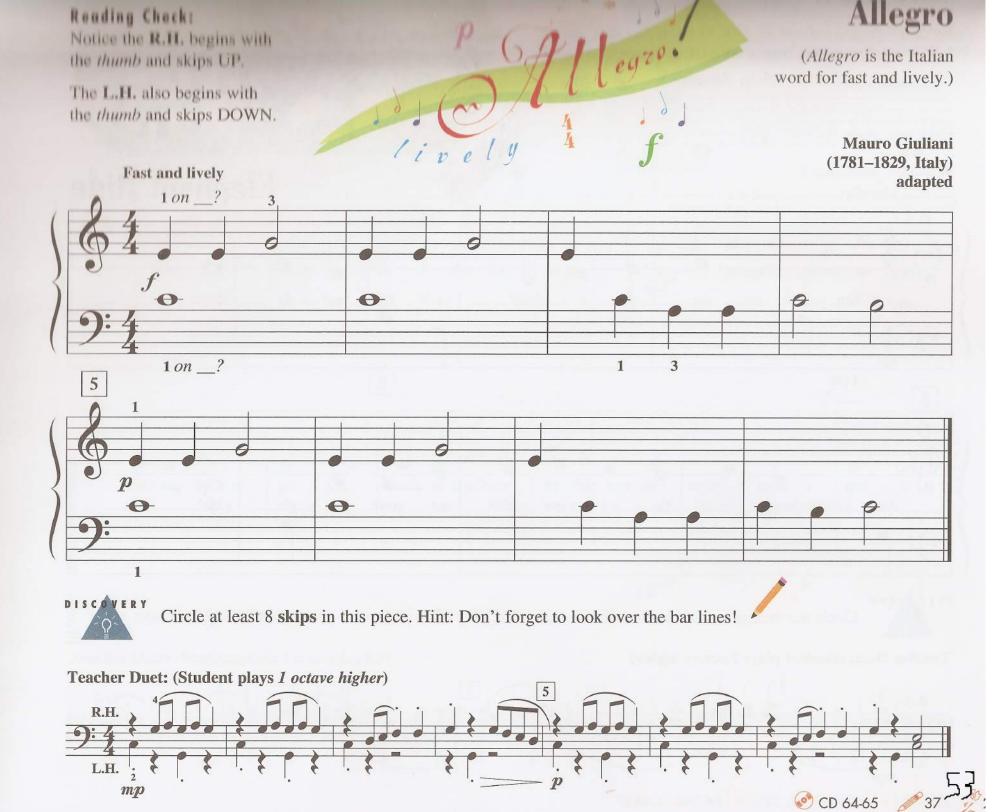
DISCOVERY

Play this song on more white keys! Begin with R.H. thumb on D, E, F, G, A, B, and C. Think skips!

Teacher Duet: (Student plays 1 octave higher)









Review: A skip is from a LINE to the **next LINE**.

NEW: A skip is also from a SPACE to the next SPACE.



view while

DISCOVERY

Circle the measures that match measure 1. For fun, play LOW, s-l-o-w-l-y, and forte. (Play duet high.)

your

on

jun - gle

0

ride!

Teacher Duet: (Student plays 1 octave higher)

the

fin - est

And you'll have



 Play the introduction s-l-o-w-l-y with big tone and pedal. Your teacher will guide you.

I duling a popular a pullante

• At measure 5, lift the pedal and play the melody brightly!



on a pony..

Yankee Doodle



DISCOVERY

What kind of skips does the introduction use? _

Teacher Duet: (Student plays 1 octave higher)

2





Learning Bass D

- Find and play the D below Middle C.
 This is called Bass D.
- Play Bass D with L.H finger 2, then 3, then 4.
- Look at the staff to the right.
 Bass D is LINE 3 on the bass staff.

Technique Check:

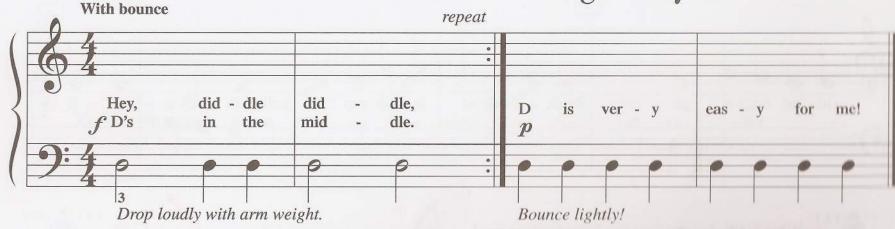
Brace L.H. finger 3 with the thumb as you play.





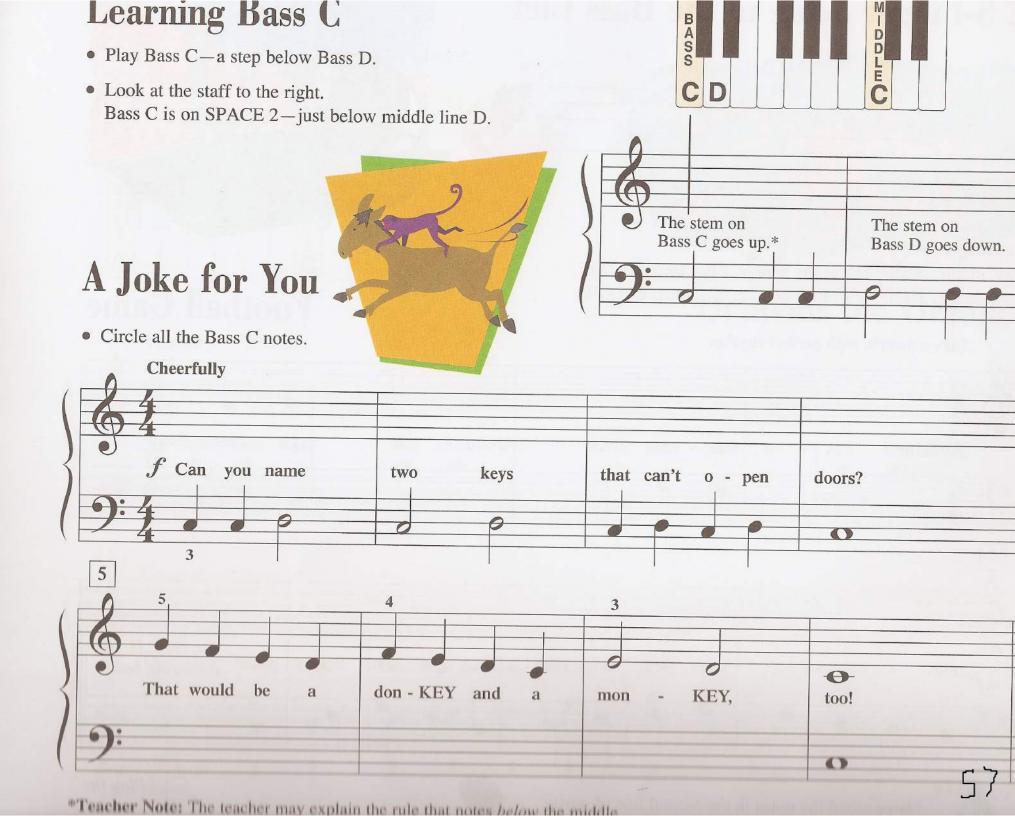
BASS

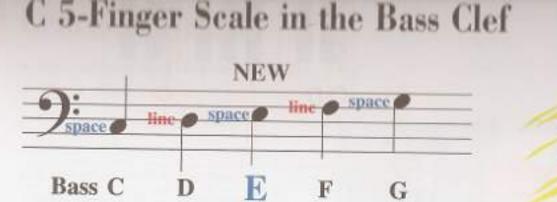
Magic Rhyme for Bass D





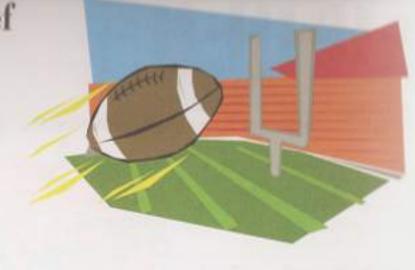
Try some "finger magic" and switch to a braced finger 2 for the last two measures.



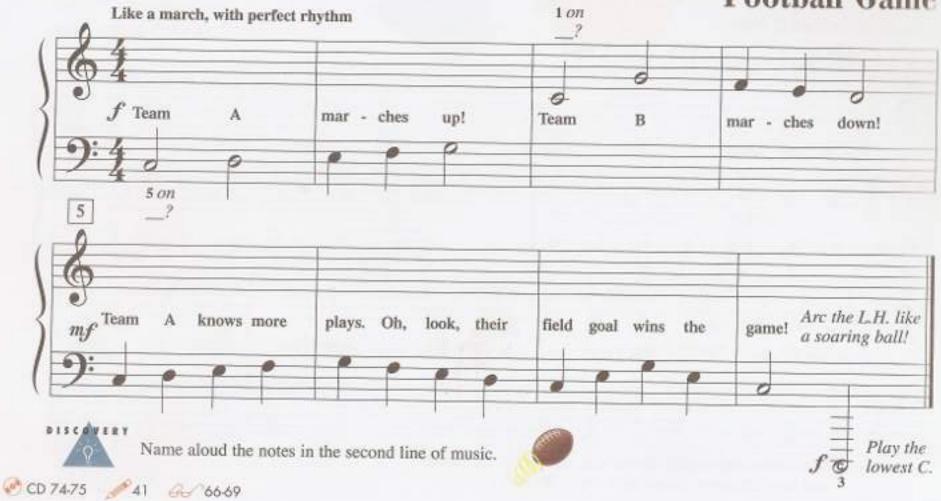


Reading Hint:

Hey, diddle, diddle, D's in the middle. E's a step ABOVE. Hey, diddle, diddle, D's in the middle. C's a step BELOW.







The Octave

The distance from Middle C to Bass C is 8 notes. This is called an octave. Say this word.

 Practice leaping from Middle C to Bass C with L.H. fingers 1 and 5. Leap, don't stretch!





Octavius the Octopus

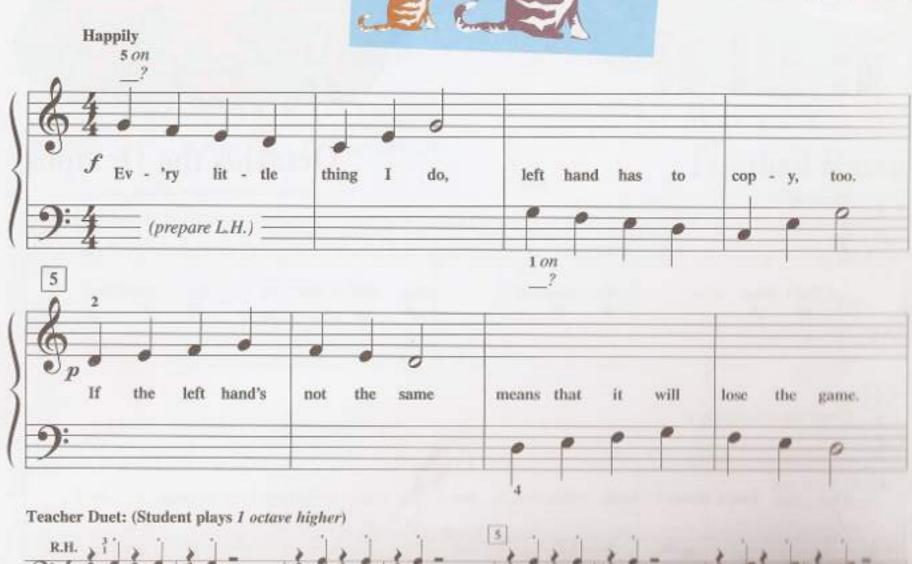


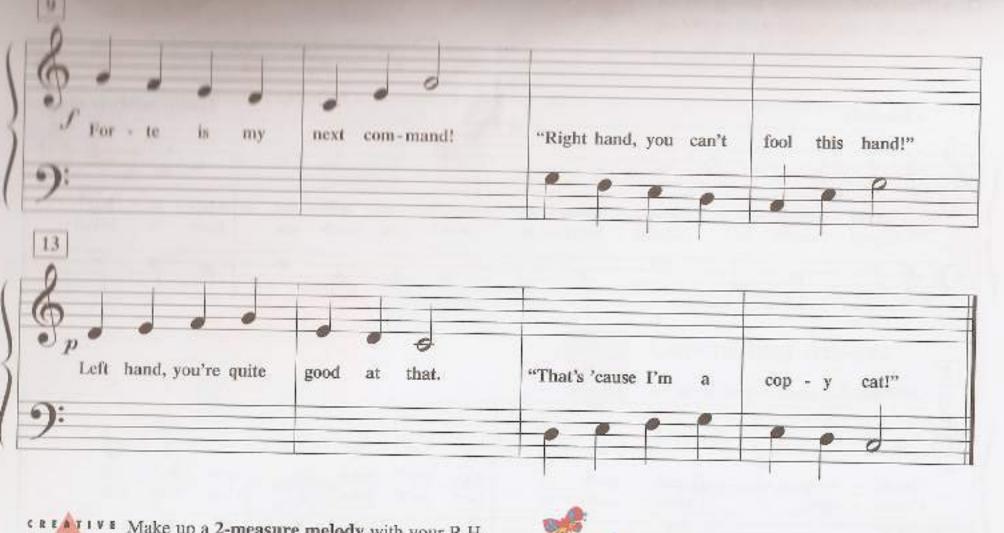
Reading Alert: Circle 2 skips in the last line of music. Hint: Be sure to look over the bar lines!

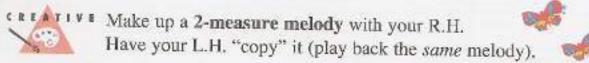


Copy Cat

5-Finger Scale









Grandmother

Question and Answer Song



075

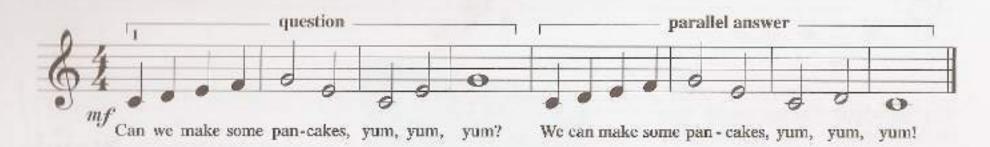
Musical Question

A short melody that DOES NOT end on the "home note." For the C 5-finger scale, the home note is C.



Parallel Answer

An answering melody that begins the SAME as the question, then changes and ends on the "home note."

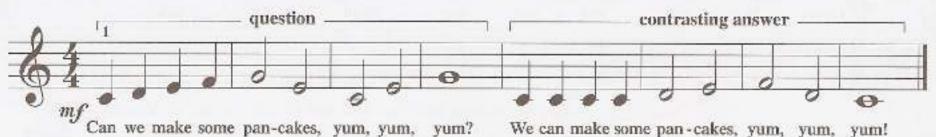






Contrasting Answer

An answering melody that does NOT begin the same as the question, but still ends on the "home note."



CREATIVE Notice that Grandmother has a parallel answer (measures 5-8). Can you make up a parallel answer of your own by changing measures 7-8? Can you make up a contrasting answer?

The Tie

A tie is a curved line connecting 2 notes on the same line or space.

It means the note will be played *once* but held for the length of both notes combined.



9: p = 0

Rhythm Alert: Can you tap this piece on the closed keyboard lid, counting aloud "1 - 2 - 3" with your teacher?

Be sure to tap with the correct hand!



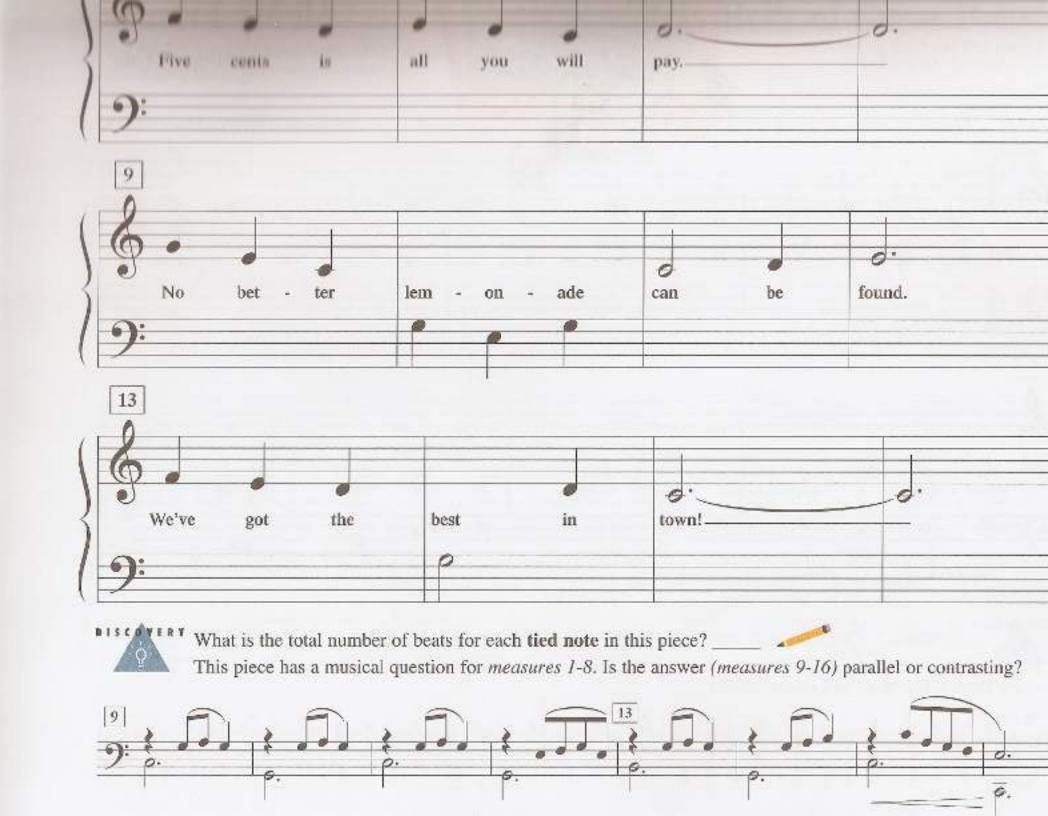
Lemonade Star

5-Finger Scale



Teacher Duet: (Student plays I octave higher)





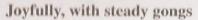


- Hold down the damper pedal (right-foot pedal) throughout the entire piece.
- · For the last line of music, make slow, graceful lifts across the keys.

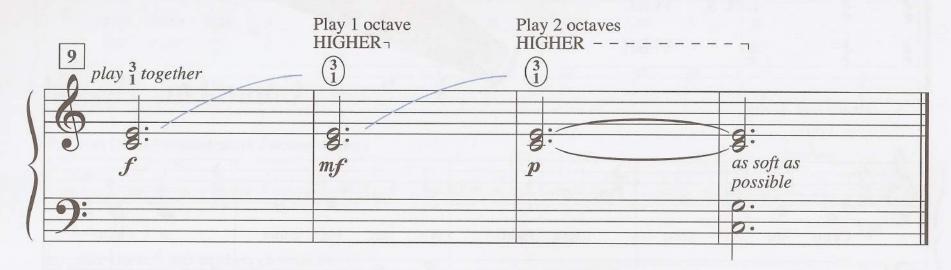


Bells of Great Britain

5-Finger Scale





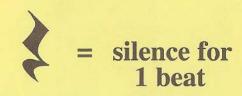


CREATIVE Hold the damper pedal down and play skips with R.H. fingers 1 and 3 played together. Sding dong Play high on the piano and listen to the bell-like sounds!



The Quarter Rest

Music often has moments of silence. These are shown by **rests**.



• With your teacher, chant and tap the "cheer" below.

On the rests, feel the beat by opening your hands, palms up.

Win!



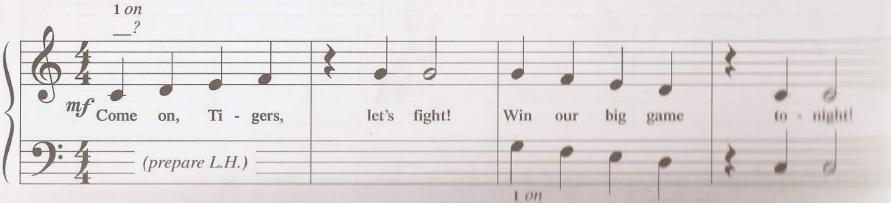
Go Team Let's Win
Go Team Let's Win

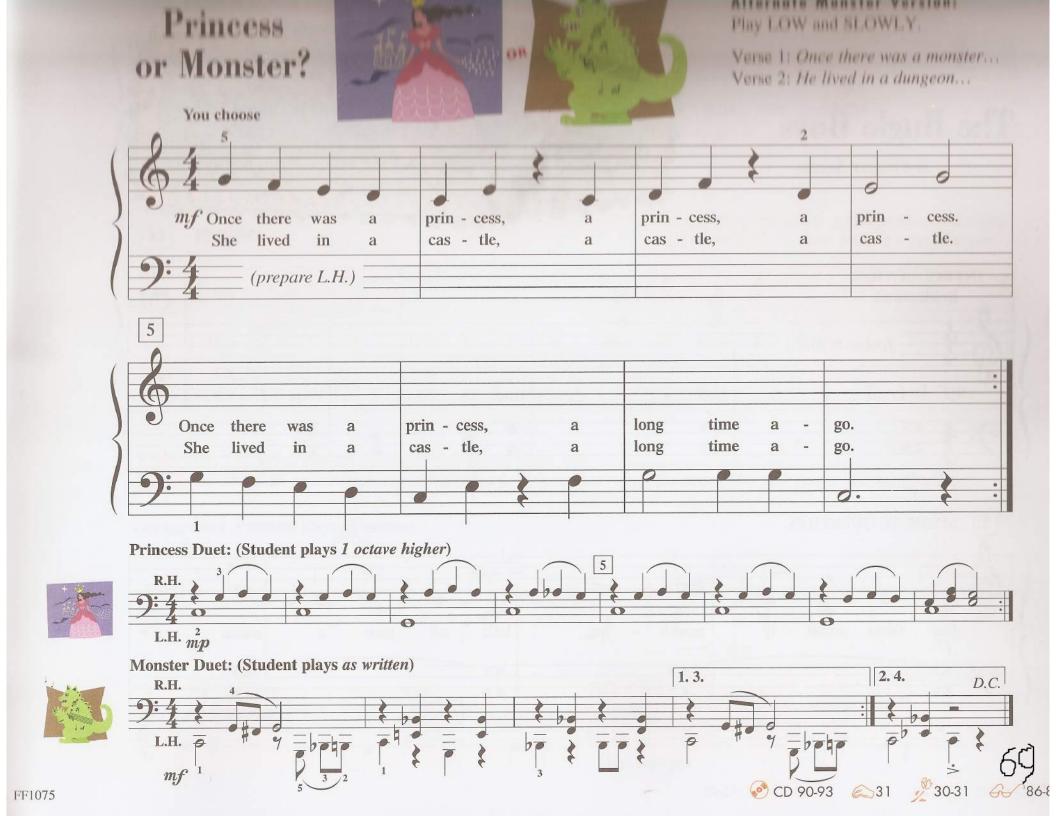
₹ Team Let's Win

★ Let's Win

Steady and strong







The Bugle Boys

_____ 5-Finger Scale



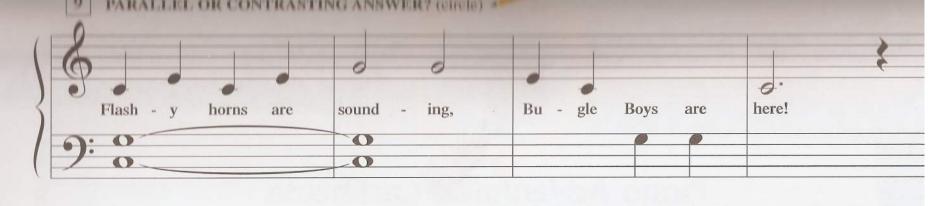
INTRODUCTION

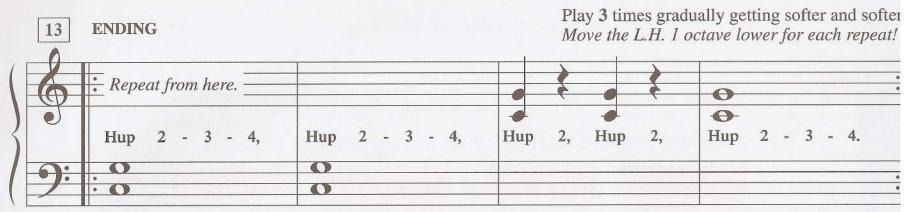
Brisk march

(prepare R.H.)			
<i>mf</i> Hup 2 - 3 - 4,	Hup 2 - 3 - 4,	Hup 2, Hup 2,	Hup 2 - 3 - 4.
0:40	0		0
140	0		0

5 MUSICAL QUESTION







This piece uses only three letter names. Name them. _____ ___ ____ Make up your own march using notes C-E-G. Call it Congratulations March. You've finished the book!





Piano Adventures® Certificate

Congratulations to:

(Your Name)

You have completed the PRIMER LEVEL and are now ready for LEVEL 1



LESSON BOOK



THEORY BOOK



TECHNIQUE & ARTISTR



DEDECORMANCE BOOK

Teacher:____

Date:____



Alphabetical Listing of Pi

All My Friends	Lemonade Stand
Affegro	Let's Play Ball!
Alouette	Magic Rhyme for B
Balloons	March on D-E-F
Bells of Great Britain 67	Men from Mars
Best Friends	Merrity We Roll Ale
The Bugle Boys	Middle C March
C-D-E-F-G-March28	Mister Bluebird
Come on Tigers!	My Invention
Come See the Panade! 50	Octavius the Octopu
Copy Cat	Ode to Joy
The Dance Band	The Old Clock
Driving in the G Clef	Old MacDonald Had
Elephant Ride 54	Petite Minuet
The Escalator	Princess or Monster
Football Game	Rodeo
Frogs on Logs	Russian Folk Soong
Gorilla in the Tree	Sea Story
Grandmother	A Ten-Second Song
Hey, Hey, Look at Me!	Three Little Kittens
Hey, Mr. Half Note Dot!32	Tightrope Walker.
I Hear the Echo	Two Black Ants
The I Like Song	Two Blackbirds
Into the Cave12	The Walking Song.
A Joke for You 57	Yankee Doodle