INTRODUCTION

The keyboard is one of the best known, most played, and most loved instruments in the world!

Whether you want to play your favourite songs on the keyboard, perform in a band, or learn to write and play your own music, the keyboard is one of the most beautiful and versatile instruments ever invented!

Through the course of this book, you will be provided with everything the beginner pianist needs to grasp the basics of playing.

By the end of Level One, you will have learnt:

- About the features and parts of the keyboard.
- About the features of the music and how to read it.
- How to play simple songs.
- How to play with others.
- How to use both hands at the same time.

Learning the keyboard can be a great experience, so have fun learning the following songs and good luck!



Note For Teachers

While each piece has prescribed fingerings, these are just a guide. They are a great starting point but, it's more a case of one size *doesn't* fit all. Feel free to adjust them to better account for your students' capabilities.

SITTING AT THE KEYBOARD

When you play the keyboard, it is very important that you have the right posture.

By sitting correctly, this will prevent any pains or cramps in your back, hands, and fingers. You will also be able to reach the entire keyboard and be comfortable while practising or playing.



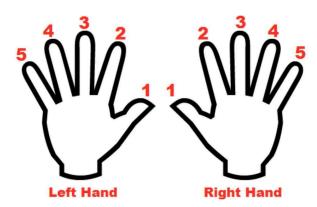
Hand Position

Now position your hands so that your fingers touch near the centre of the large area of the white keys. Hold your palms above the keyboard, but don't rest them on the keys or the wood below the keys.

Make sure to curve your fingers when you play. Pretend you have a bubble in your hand, but make sure to hold it gently so that it doesn't break.

Finger Numbers

Hold out your hands like the outlines on the right. Move the palm of your hand up slightly so that your fingers curl up into the proper hand position. Now give each finger a number starting with your thumb as number 1, and finishing with your little finger as number 5.



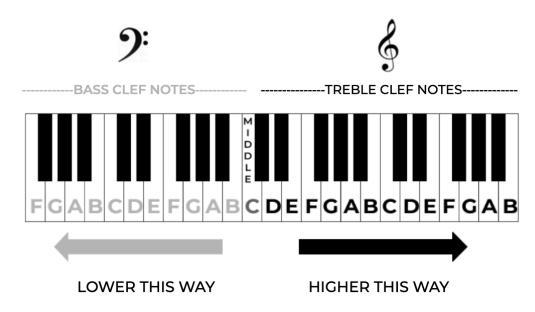
Now, move each finger just one at a time, starting with number 1 and finishing with number 5.

THE KEYBOARD

The keyboard has groups of **black** and **white** keys. As you move up the keyboard to the right, the notes sound **higher**. As you move down to the left, the notes sound **lower**.

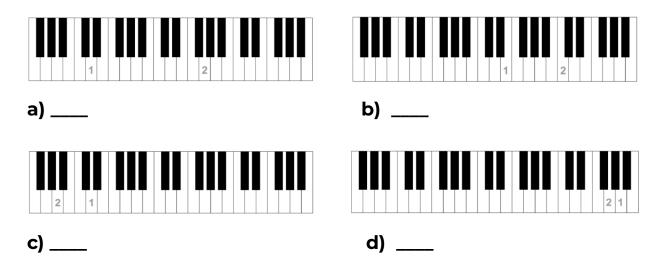


Press some keys along the keyboard. Do you notice the different sounds they make?





Which note is higher in these examples? 1 or 2?

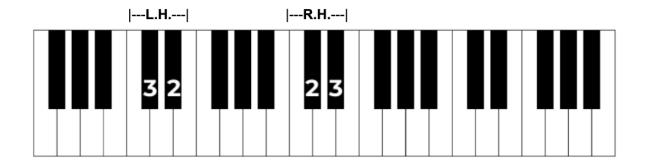


THE BLACK KEYS

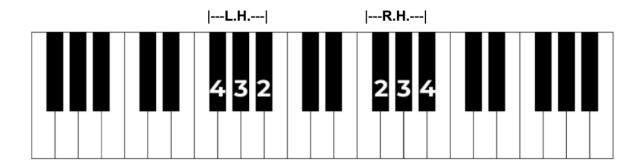
The black keys are grouped in a pattern of twos and threes.



Using your second and third fingers, see if you can find every group of two black notes on the keyboard, playing both notes at the same time:

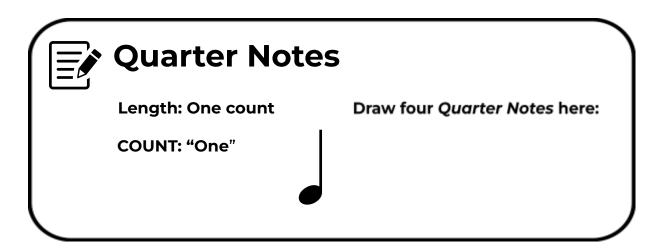


Now, using your second, third and fourth fingers, see if you can find every group of three black notes on the keyboard, playing all three notes at once:



MUSIC NOTES

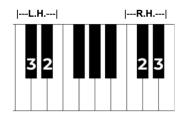
There are **short** and **long** notes in music. Different notes are held down for different lengths of time. We measure this by counting.





Two and Three

Try playing these notes in the position shown.



RIGHT HAND (R.H.):

| 2

LEFT HAND (L.H.):



	1	2	3
Step: Date:			



Half Notes

Length: Two counts

COUNT: "One, Two"

Draw four Half Notes here:



Going Up, Going Down



RIGHT HAND:





LEFT HAND:

Go -

ing





Go - ing down,





down. go - ing



Date:



Whole Notes

Length: Four counts Draw four Whole Notes here:

COUNT: "One, Two,

Three, Four"





Mary Had A Little Lamb



RIGHT HAND:









Ma - ry had

a

lit - tle

lamb,

lit - tle

lamb,

lit tle

lamb.

Ma - ry

had

lit - tle

lamb, it's

fleece was

white

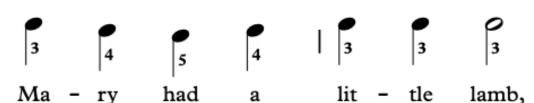
as

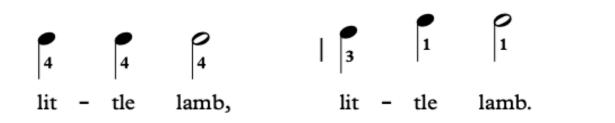
1

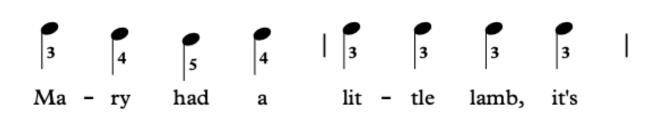
snow.

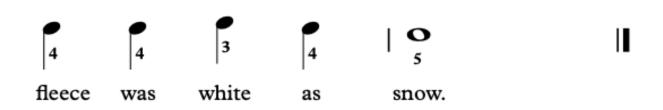
Mary Had A Little Lamb (continued)

LEFT HAND:











How many groups of 2 black notes and 3 black notes can you find on your keyboard?

Groups of 2 black notes: _____
Groups of 3 black notes: _____

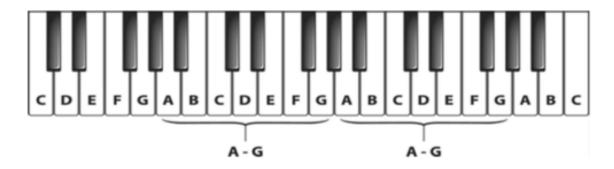


THE WHITE KEYS

The white keys are named after the first seven letters of the alphabet:

ABCDEFG

Below, you can see that following each G, the cycle begins again at A.

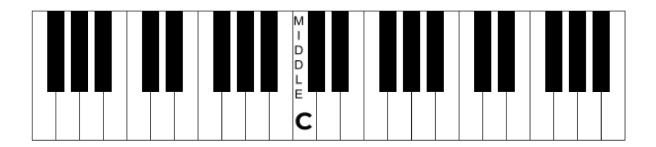


The black keys have slightly different names, but we'll touch on that later.

Middle C

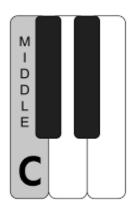


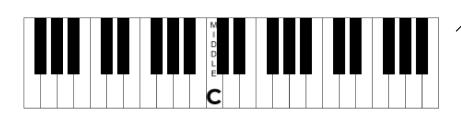
The first key that we are going to learn on the piano is **Middle C**, the C that is **closest to the middle** of the keyboard. It is very important to find Middle C because it is the **starting point** for many keyboard songs.



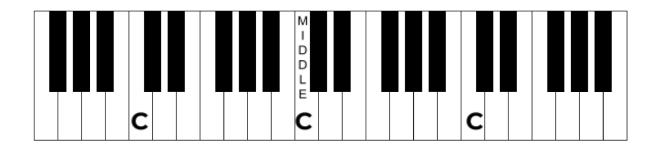
Finding Middle C

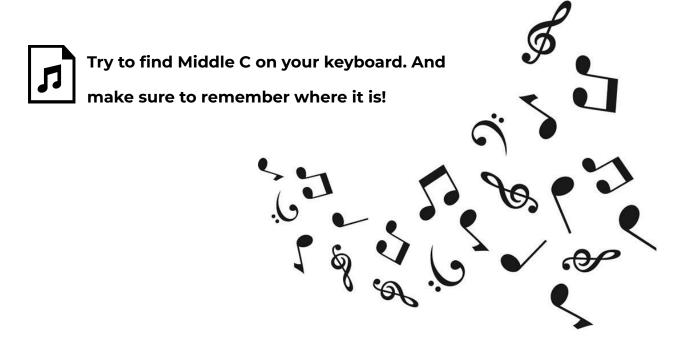
To find C, look for a group of **two** black notes. C is the note on the left, just lower than the two black notes.





See how many **C**s you can find on your keyboard. Keyboards can often have a different amount of keys, but every keyboard has a **Middle C**. For you, **Middle C** will be the **C** in the **middle** of your keyboard.







Find The Note

To begin each day you might play a quick game of **Find the Note**.

As you wait next to your keyboard with your hands on your lap, your tutor will call out a note name. This could be any note, but it's probably best if it's a note you are learning in class.

The race is on! Who will be the first to find and play the note?

Your tutor can also specify a specific hand or position, or even introduce chords for an extra challenge later on.



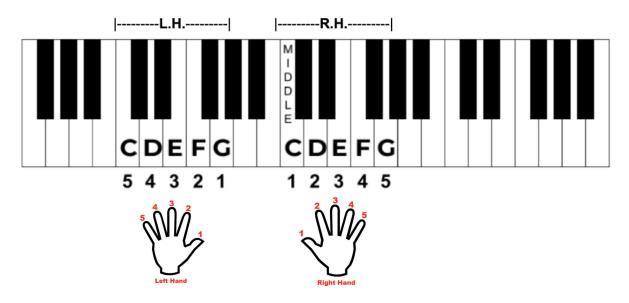
Use the diagram above as a guide, but see if you can find the note with your book closed.



T)	Tick the bo	ox when yo can find 2	ou find the or more of	note on ye	our keybo	ard
c 🗌	D	E	F	G	A	В

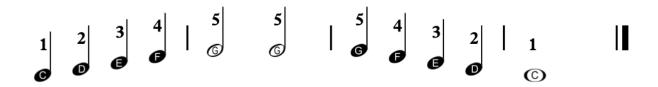
C POSITION

Try putting your fingers in the position shown:

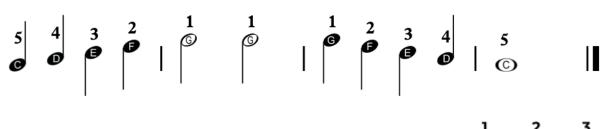


Make sure you have the correct finger on each key. Try these C Position exercises!

RIGHT HAND:

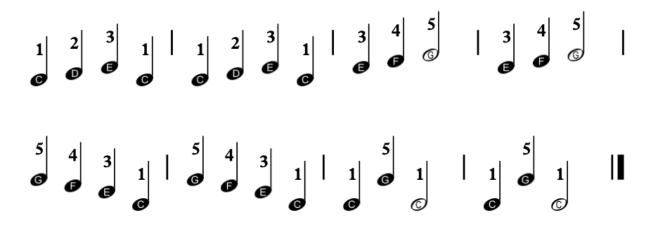


LEFT HAND:



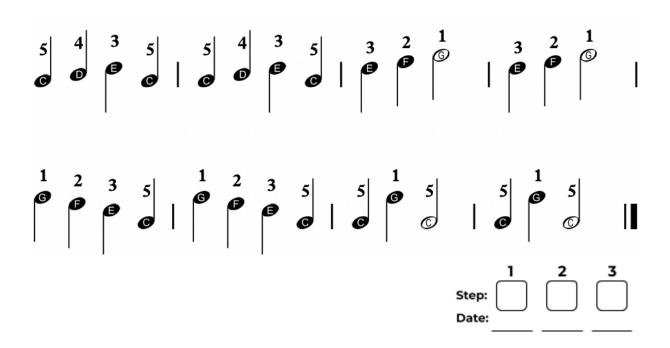
FRERE JACQUES

RIGHT HAND:



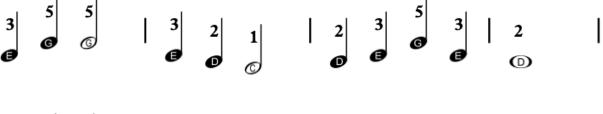
Once you have mastered "Frere Jacque" with your **right hand** try playing it with your **left hand.**

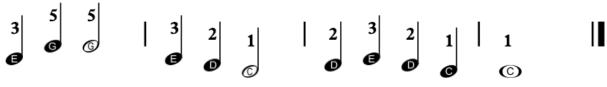
LEFT HAND:



LARGO

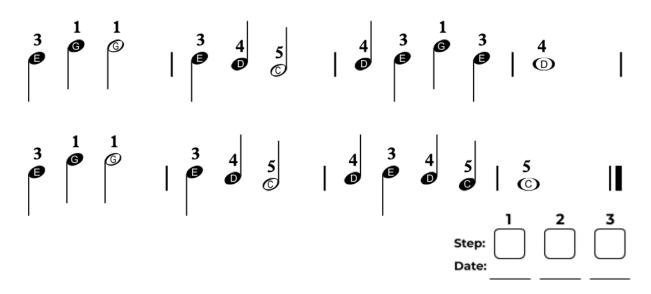
RIGHT HAND:







LEFT HAND:

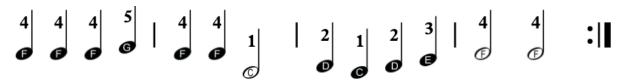


Once you become really familiar with these tunes try them without the book. You may even want to try them using both hands at the same time.

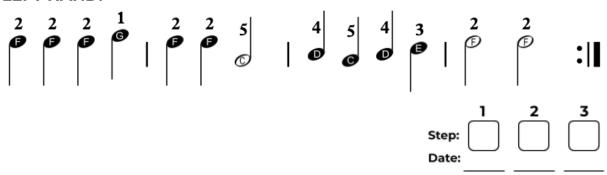
GOOD KING WENCESLAS

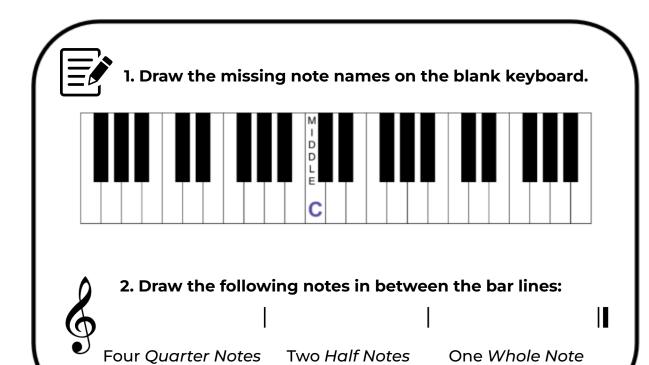
Notice the repeat sign: || at the end of the line, that means repeat from the start of the song.

RIGHT HAND:



LEFT HAND:





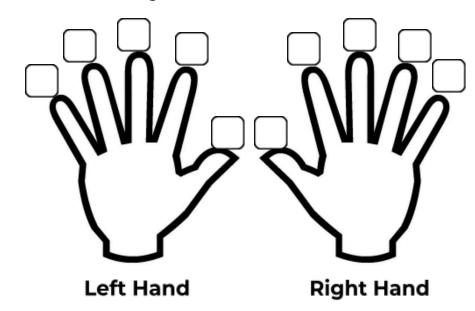
Yellow Wristband Test

Score to Pass: 60%

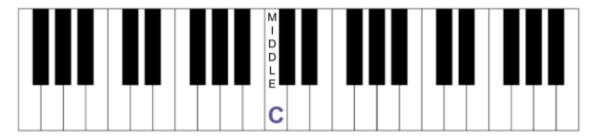


Part One: Fundamentals

1. Write the correct finger numbers in the boxes.



- 2. Higher vs Lower:
- a) Label the highest and lowest notes on this keyboard
- b) Shade in the notes we use for C position and label with "RH" and "LH"



- 3. Find the note demonstrate the following for your tutor:
 - a) Find every **C** on the keyboard
 - b) Find every A on the keyboard
 - c) Find every F on the keyboard



Percentage ____ %

Keyboard Piece Challenge

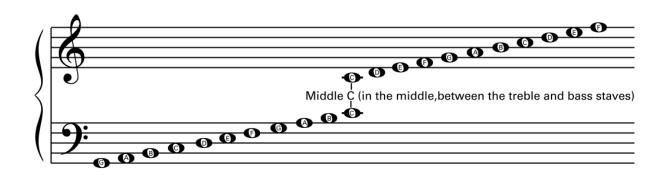
Congratulations!

a) Choose one piece that you have already played from the book and

NOTES ON THE STAFF



The staff is the group of lines that the music is arranged on. Notes are written on the **lines** and on the **spaces** of the staff. Each line and space on the staff is a different note on the keyboard.



CLEFS



THE TREBLE CLEF

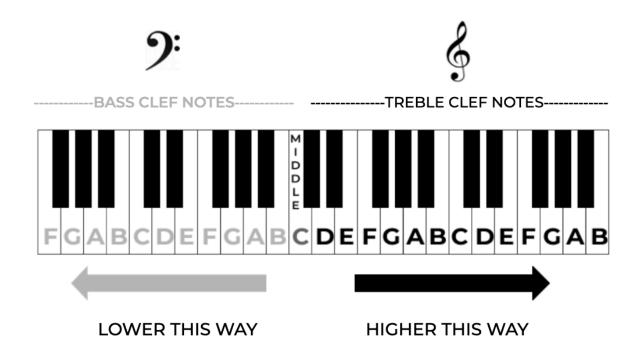
Notes on the Treble Clef are found in the **higher** section of the piano and are played with the **right hand**.

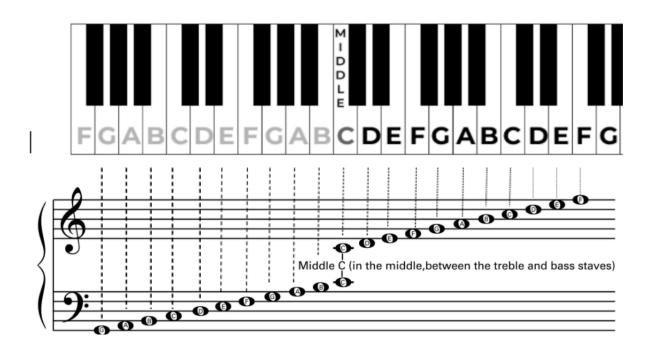
THE BASS CLEF



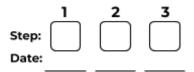
Notes on the Bass Clef are found in the **lower** section of the piano and are played with the **left hand**.

Every key on the keyboard is represented by a note on the staff





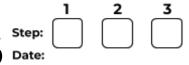
THE C SCOOTER







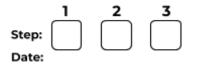
SKIP TO THE STEPS Step: Date:



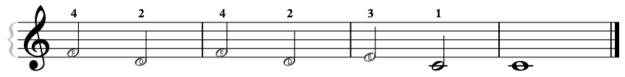


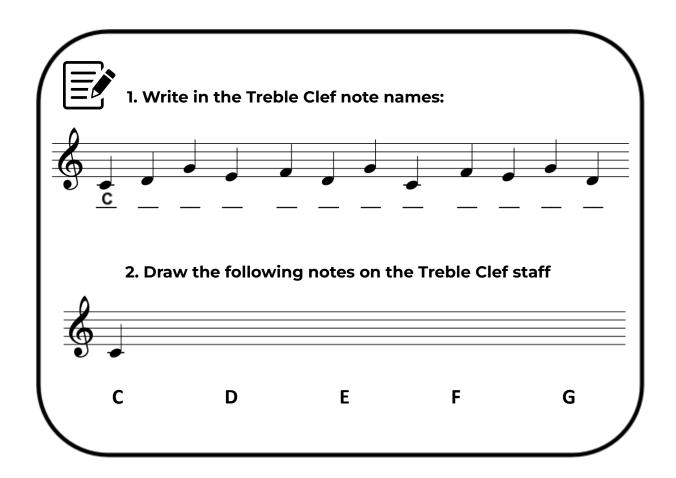


LEAPING LOLLIES Step: Date: Date:



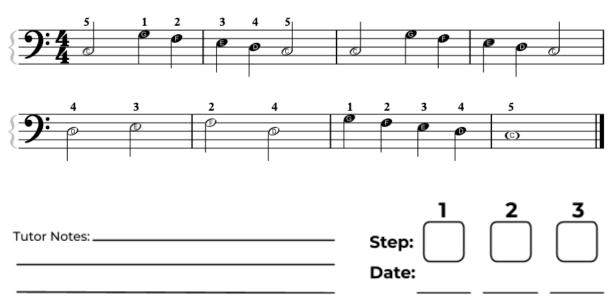




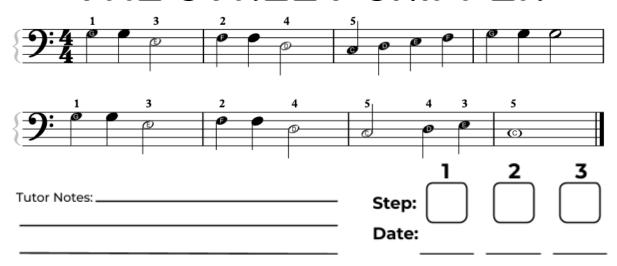




LEFTY LOOSIE



THE STREET SKIPPER

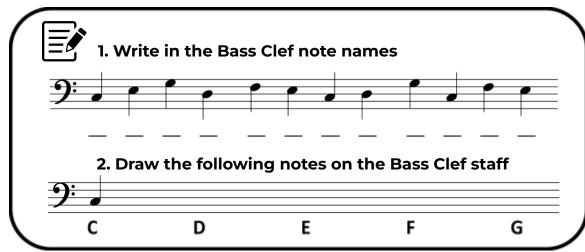


PEAKS AND VALLEYS



Tutor Notes:

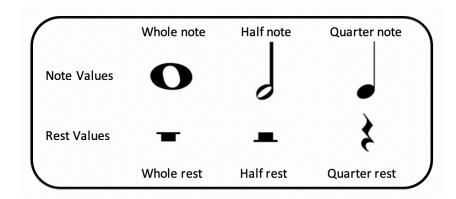
Step:
Date:



RESTS

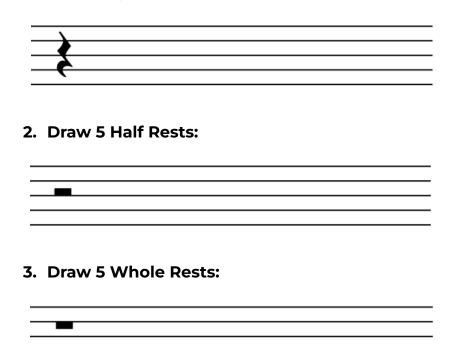


When you see a rest in music it means you don't play for an amount of time. Each type of rest is a different length just like the music notes we have learnt so far.



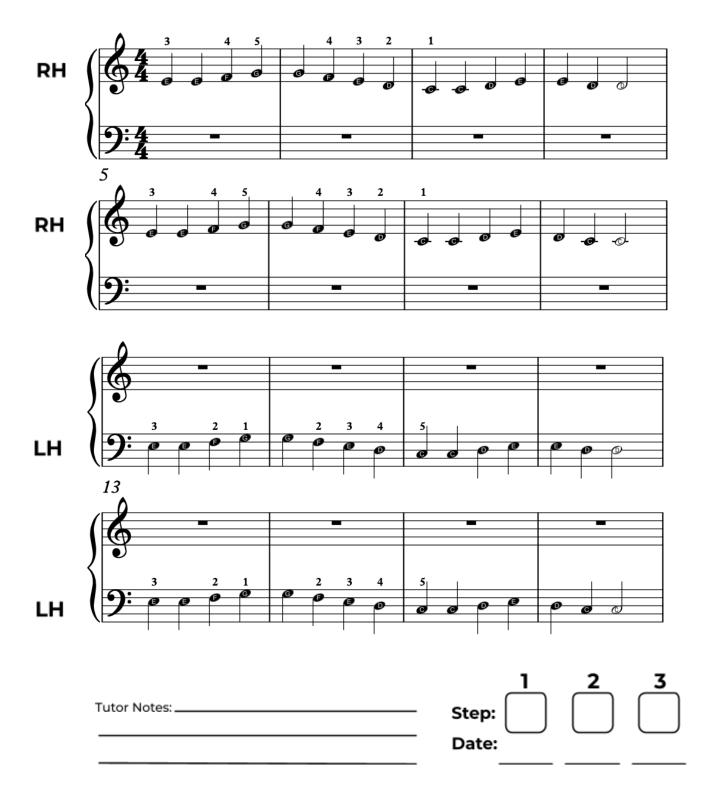
Drawing Rests

1. Draw 5 Quarter Rests:



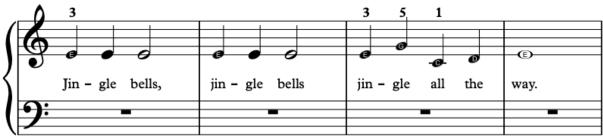
ODE TO JOY

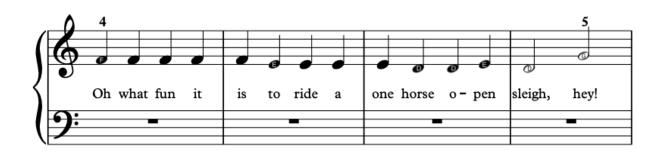
Now we are using a grand staff so make sure you have both hands on the keyboard, ready to go. Also be careful that you are playing with the correct hand. Remember **Treble Clef** is **right** hand, **Bass Clef** is **left** hand.





JINGLE BELLS



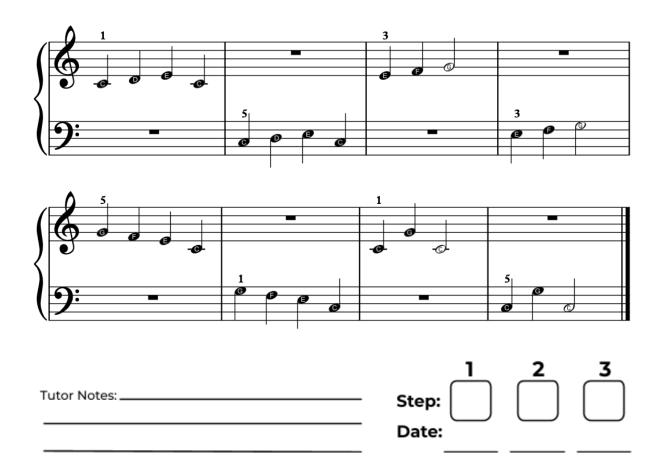


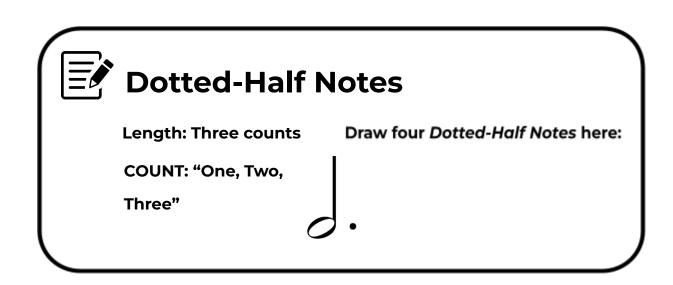


(/	-	-	-
Oh what fun it	is to ride a	one - horse o - pen	sleigh.
10:000	• • •	6 6 6	3
		0	(c)

		_	
Tutor Notes:	Step:		
	Date:		

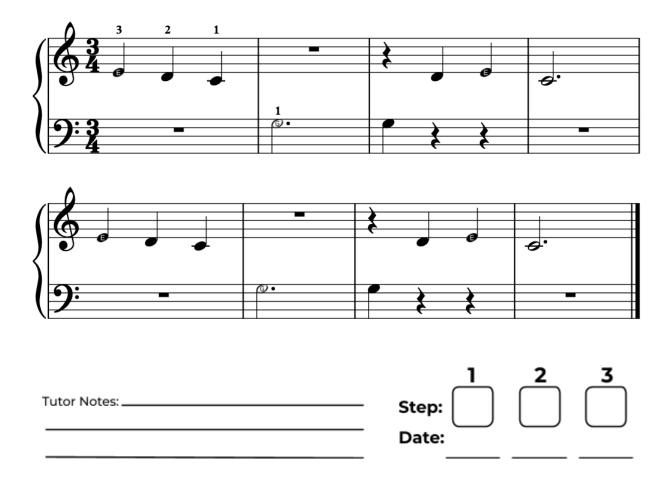
FRÈRE JACQUES 2 HANDS

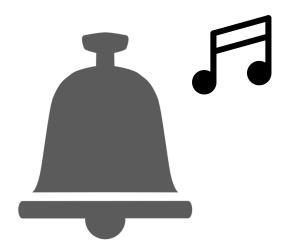




BELLS

Let's try to use this new rhythm in a song. As you can see below, "Bells" uses it quite often. You will also notice a few **D**s missing a letter name in the notehead so make sure to keep an extra eye out for them.





Orange Wristband Test

Score to Pass: 65%

Part One: Fundamentals

1. Answe	er the following o	questions for both symbols below:
a) W	hat do we call th	is symbol?
b) Is	it related to the h	igher or lower portion of the piano?
c) W	hich hand usuall	y plays the notes within this symbol?
) :	Ś
a)		a)
c)		c)
	note?	call these notes and how many counts is each Number of Counts:
<i>d</i> .	Name:	Number of Counts:
0	Name:	Number of Counts:
	Name:	Number of Counts:

3. Answer the following Note Math problems:

$$\rfloor + \rfloor = 2$$

$$o + d =$$

$$\int + o =$$



Part Two: Songs

a) Creative Challenge

Make up your own keyboard piece! Choose one of the following themes to base your piece on and circle which one you pick:

Relaxation Sadness Excitement Scary

Challenge Rules:

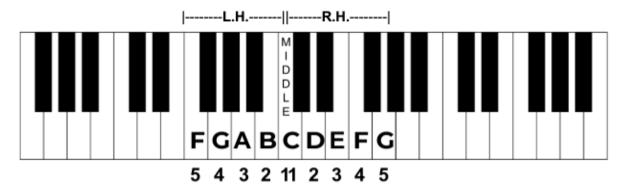
- Use both hands, either separately or together
- Use all of your fingers appropriately
- Your hands can be in any position on the keyboard but they must stay in that position
- **b)** Perform an Orange Level song of your tutor's choice from your book for your tutor.

Tutor Choice:

Date: ___/___
Percentage ____ % Congratulations!

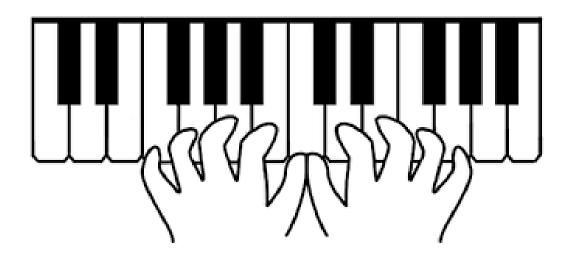
MIDDLE C POSITION

Try placing your hands in the position shown:





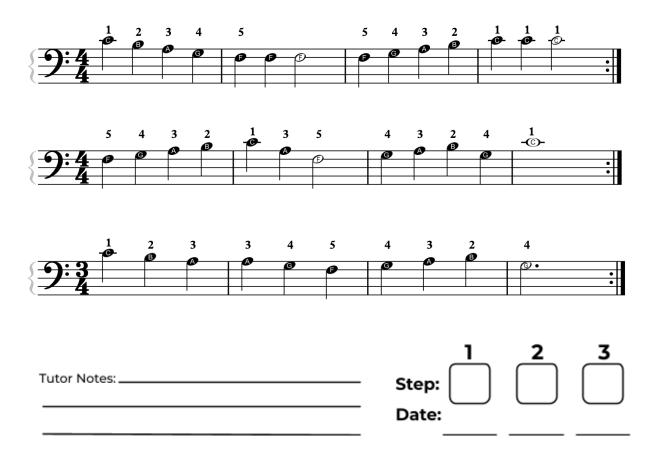
The right hand is in the same place as it was in **C position**. But now your **left hand** is in a different place and it shares a note with the **right hand** - both thumbs are on middle C.

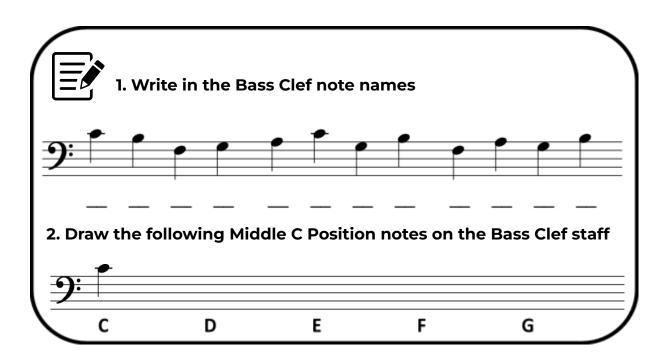


To get used to this new position with the left hand, let's try some exercises.

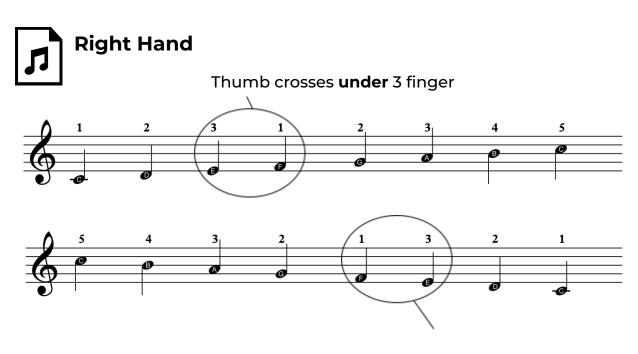
U

LEFT HAND EXERCISES

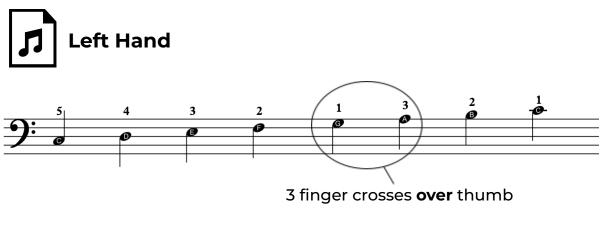


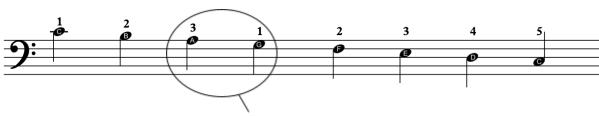


C MAJOR SCALE



3 finger crosses **over** thumb





Thumb crosses **under** 3 finger

Tutor Notes:	Step:
	Date:



TWINKLE TWINKLE



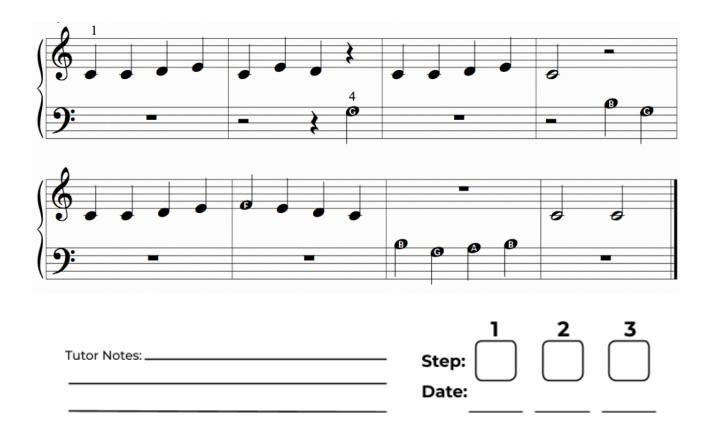
TTLE STAR

As you play through "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" you'll notice plenty of rests that we just talked about. When you come across one, make sure to rest for the correct amount of time.

Twin - kle, twin - k	ile	lit - t	tle star,		ow]		n - der	what	you	are?
2		-								_
Up a - bove the		so	high,	like	a	dia	- mond	in	the	
: -	B	B	®			_		B	B	®
2 _						_			_	
Twin - kle, twin - kle	lit	- tle	star,	now	I		just	what	you	are!
): [©] •		•				B		A		©

YANKEE DOODLE

"Yankee Doodle" is another chance to practise our rests. This time you'll see plenty of **quarter note rests**, so remember to hold these for **one beat.**





Eighth Notes



An eighth note (or quaver) looks like a quarter note but with the addition of a flag (or tail). Each flag halves the value of a note, so these will be played quite quickly.

When two eighth notes appear next to one another they are often beamed together. While they look a little different, they are still held for the same duration as two eighth notes.



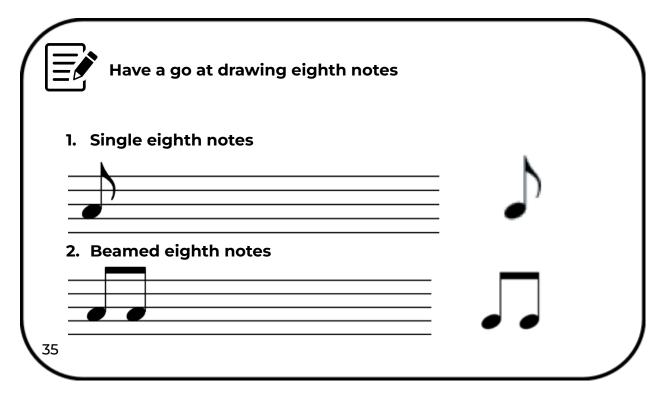
READING RHYTHMS



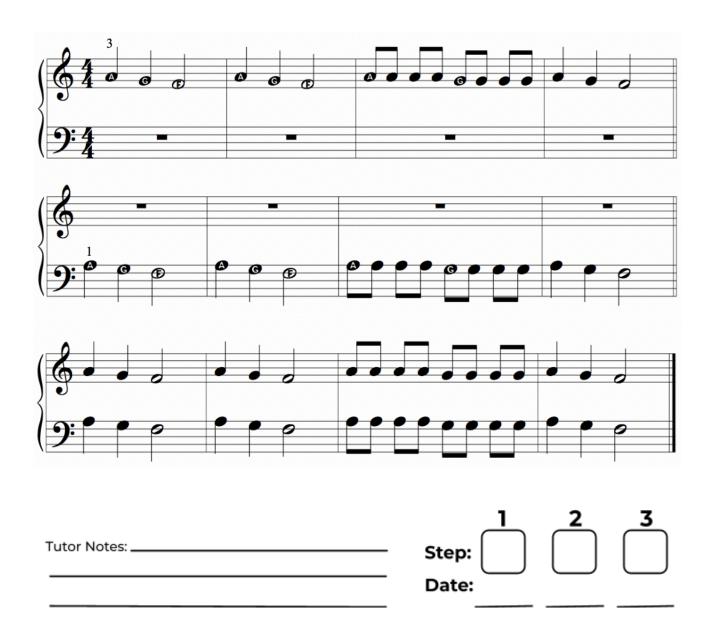
Let's have a go at the following exercises to improve our sense of rhythm. This time with the addition of several new rhythmic values.

Play the following exercises using just **middle C** (or try incorporating other notes to test your knowledge of the keyboard). Make sure to be counting the whole time. As an extra challenge, try performing these exercises in a group. This will really test your knowledge of these rhythms.





HOT CROSS BUNS



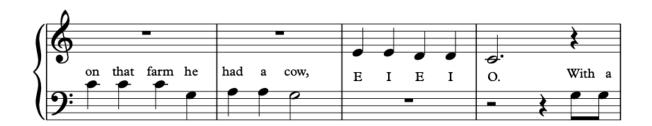


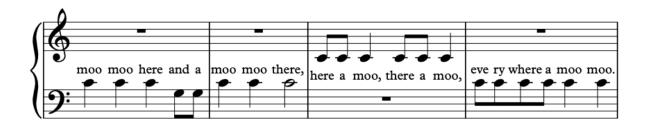
OLD MACDONALD



The final measure of "Old MacDonald" has notes written for both hands. This means that they are to be played at the same time.









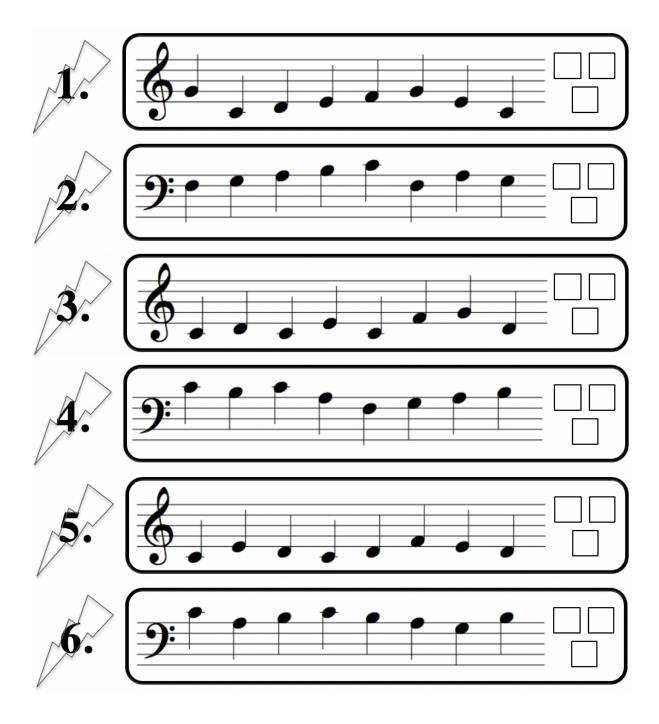
	1	_2_	_3_
Tutor Notes:	Step:		
	Date:		

U

QUICKFIRE WARM-UPS

Now that you are beginning to master reading music, why not try some more warm up exercises. This time using notation.

Play through the following exercises using the correct fingers, and repeat each one! Once again, you don't have to do all of these in a day, just one or two will do as a great warm up.



CLEMENTINE

As you play through "Clementine", you'll notice a new symbol: 7 which is an eighth note rest. Just like our other rests, this means that you will simply rest for the duration of an eighth note.

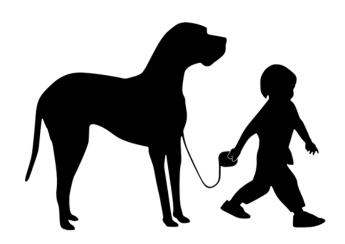




BINGO

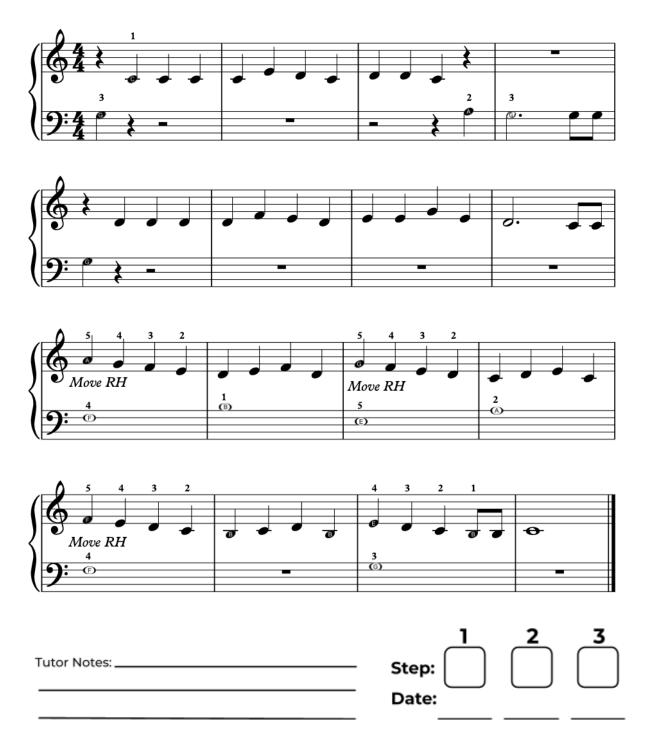


	1 2 3
Tutor Notes:	Step:
	Date:



DREAMING OF THE HOLIDAYS

In "Dreaming Of The Holidays", when both hands play at the same time, they are playing different notes. Start slowly, and practise with one hand at a time until you feel confident enough to start putting it all together.



Green Wristband Test

Score to Pass: 70%

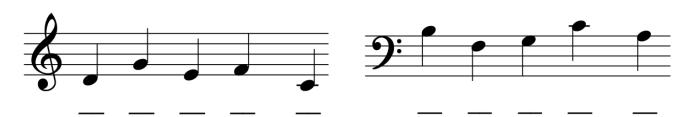


Part One: Fundamentals

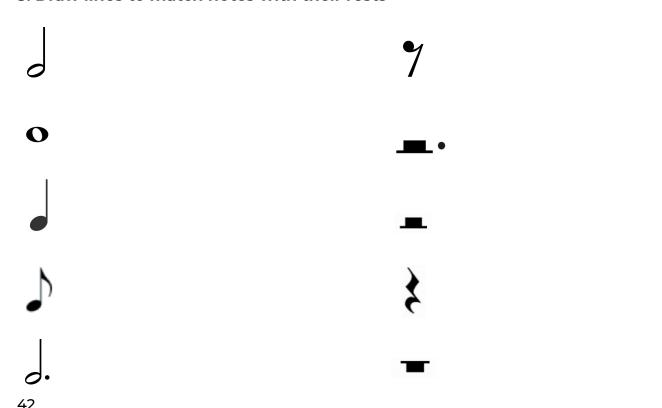
1. Draw these notes in C POSITION:



2. Name these notes in MIDDLE C POSITION:



3. Draw lines to match notes with their rests





Keyboard Piece Challenge

- a) Perform 'Dreaming of the Holidays' for your tutor.
- b) Choose one other green band level piece from the book to perform to your tutor.

Epic Green Band Piece: Dreaming of the Holidays

Student Choice:	
c) Choose one of the songs to be f	filmed to send home to your family.
d) Spend some time practising the e) Perform these two songs to you	
Total Score Out of 25	Signed:
Percentage %	Date:// Congratulations!