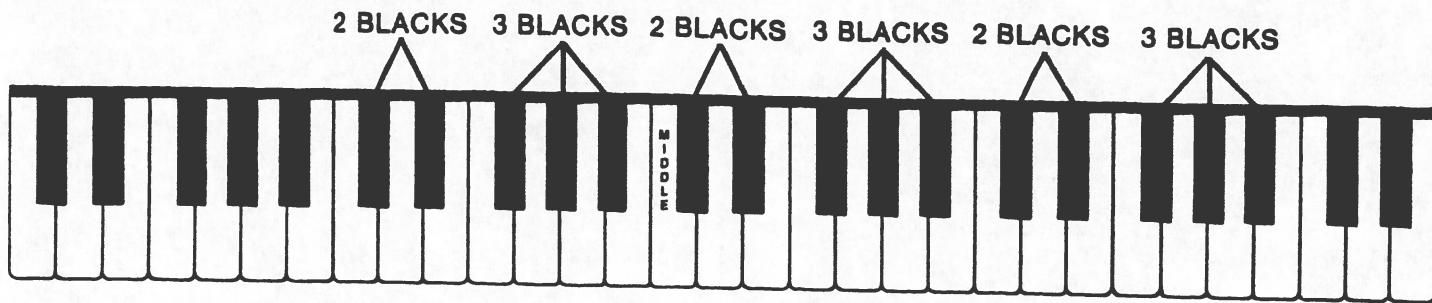


# The Keyboard

The keyboard is made up of white keys and black keys. Notice that the black keys are in groups of 2's and 3's.

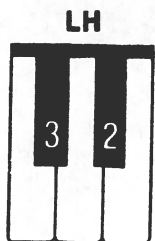


LOW SOUNDS ← LEFT IS DOWN (Lower)

RIGHT IS UP (Higher) → HIGH SOUNDS



## Play the 2 BLACK KEY groups!



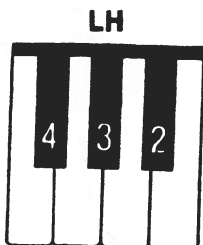
1. Using L H 2 3, begin at the middle and play all the 2 black key groups going **DOWN** the keyboard (both keys at once).

2. Using R H 2 3, begin at the middle and play all the 2 black key groups going **UP** the keyboard (both keys at once).



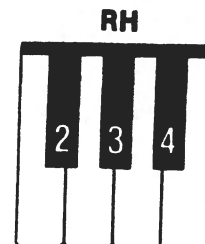
3. Repeat, without looking at your hands.

## Play the 3 BLACK KEY groups!



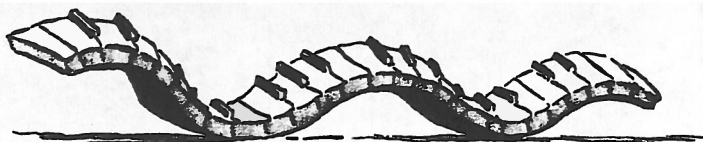
4. Using L H 2 3 4, begin at the middle and play all the 3 black key groups going **DOWN** the keyboard (all 3 keys at once).

5. Using R H 2 3 4, begin at the middle and play all the 3 black key groups going **UP** the keyboard (all 3 keys at once).



6. Repeat, without looking at your hands.

# Naming the Keys



Piano keys are named for the first seven letters of the alphabet, beginning with A.

**A B C D E F G**

Each white key is recognized by its position in or next to a black key group!

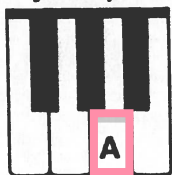
For example: A's are found between the TOP TWO KEYS of each 3 BLACK KEY GROUP.

Play the following. Use LH 3 for keys below the middle of the keyboard.

Use RH 3 for keys above the middle of the keyboard.

Say the name of each key aloud as you play!

Play all the A's  
on your piano.



Play all the B's.



Play all the C's.



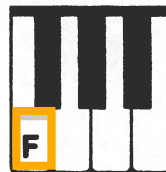
Play all the D's.



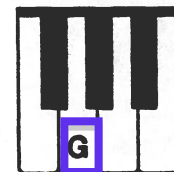
Play all the E's.



Play all the F's.

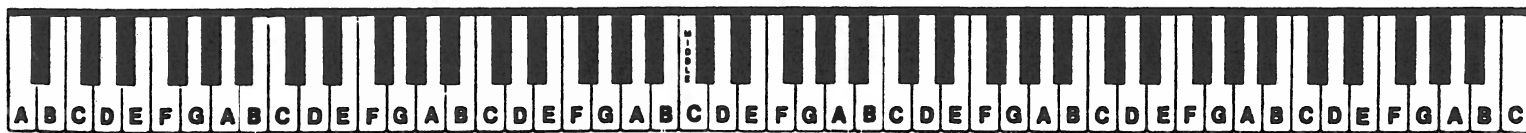


Play all the G's.



It is easy to name every white key on your piano!

The key names are A B C D E F G, USED OVER AND OVER.



The LOWEST key  
on your piano  
is A.

The C nearest the  
middle of the piano  
is called MIDDLE C.

Going UP the keyboard, the notes sound HIGHER and HIGHER!

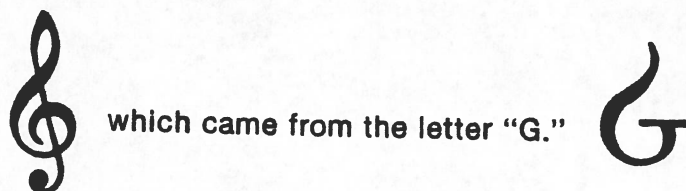
Play and name every white key beginning with bottom A.

Use LH 3 for keys below middle C, and RH 3 for keys above middle C.

# The Treble Staff

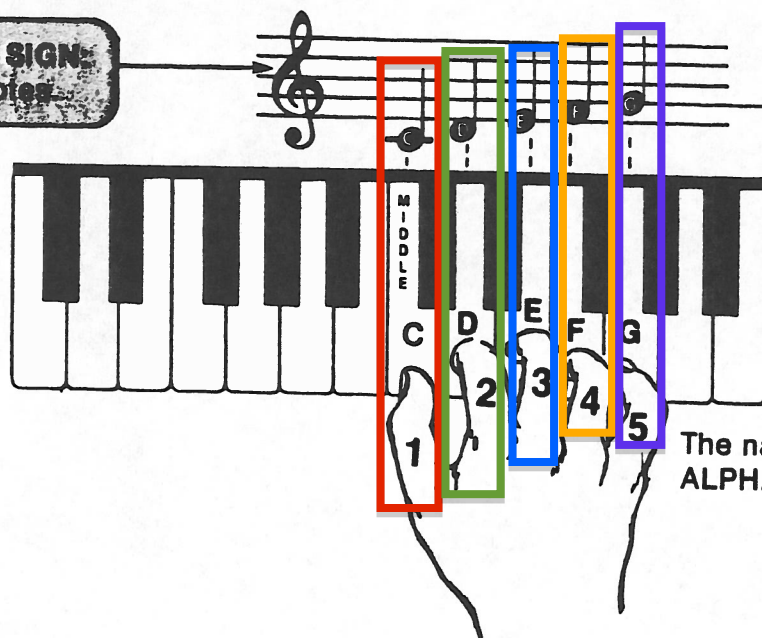
Music is written on a STAFF of 5 lines and 4 spaces.

Music for the RIGHT HAND is written on the TREBLE STAFF, identified by the TREBLE CLEF SIGN



Middle C is written on a short line below the staff, called a *leger* line. D is written higher, on the space below the staff. Each next higher note is written on the next higher line or space.

**TREBLE CLEF SIGN:**  
used for RH notes...



The clef sign curls around the G line.

The names of the 5 keys are in ALPHABETICAL ORDER: C D E F G.

## RH C Position

Place the RIGHT HAND in the above position. Keep the fingers curved and relaxed. Play the following WARM-UP. Say the name of each note aloud as you play. Repeat until you can play smoothly and evenly. As the notes go higher on the keyboard, they are written higher on the staff!


Fingers:

The first staff shows notes C, D, E, F, G on a treble clef staff. Each note is enclosed in a colored box with a number: C (1), D (2), E (3), F (4), G (5). The second staff shows notes G, F, E, D, C on a treble clef staff. Each note is enclosed in a colored box with a number: G (5), F (4), E (3), D (2), C (1).

# Quarter Notes & Half Notes


Music is made up of **short tones** and **long tones**. We write these tones in **notes**, and we measure their lengths by **counting**. The combining of notes into patterns is called **RHYTHM**.

**Quarter Note**  
a short note.



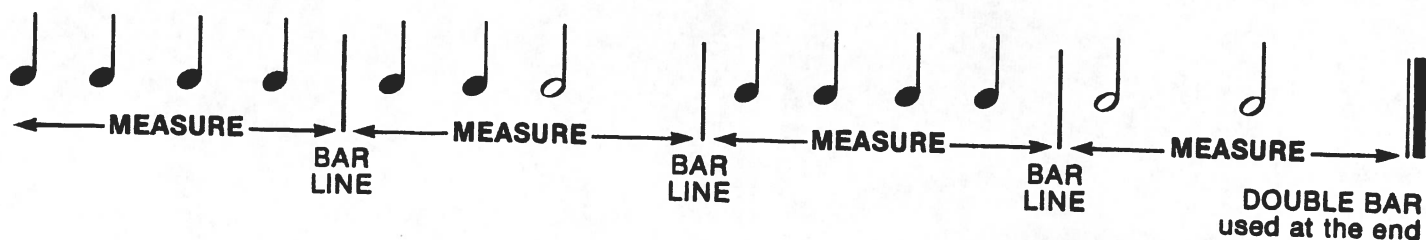
COUNT: "1"  
or: "Quarter"

**Half Note**  
a long note.



COUNT: "1 - 2"  
or: "Half-note"

Clap (or tap) the following rhythm. Clap **ONCE** for each note, counting aloud. Notice how the **BAR LINES** divide the music into **MEASURES** of equal duration.



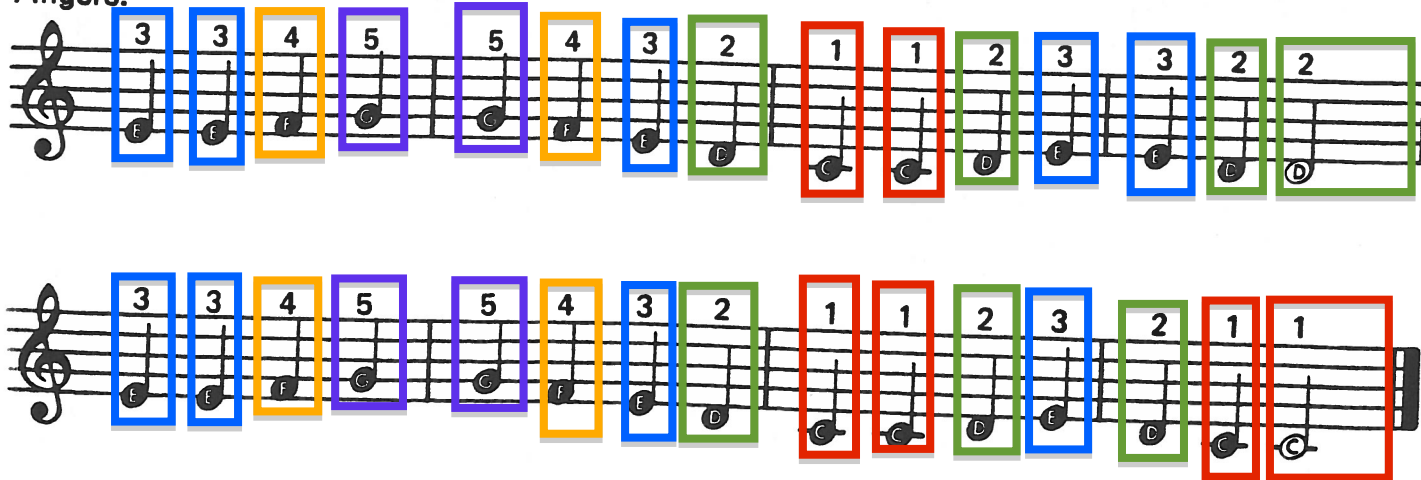
## ODE TO JOY

*(Theme from Beethoven's 9th Symphony)*

1. Clap (or tap) the rhythm evenly, counting aloud.
2. Play and sing (or say) the finger numbers.
3. Play and count.
4. Play and sing (or say) the note names.



Fingers:

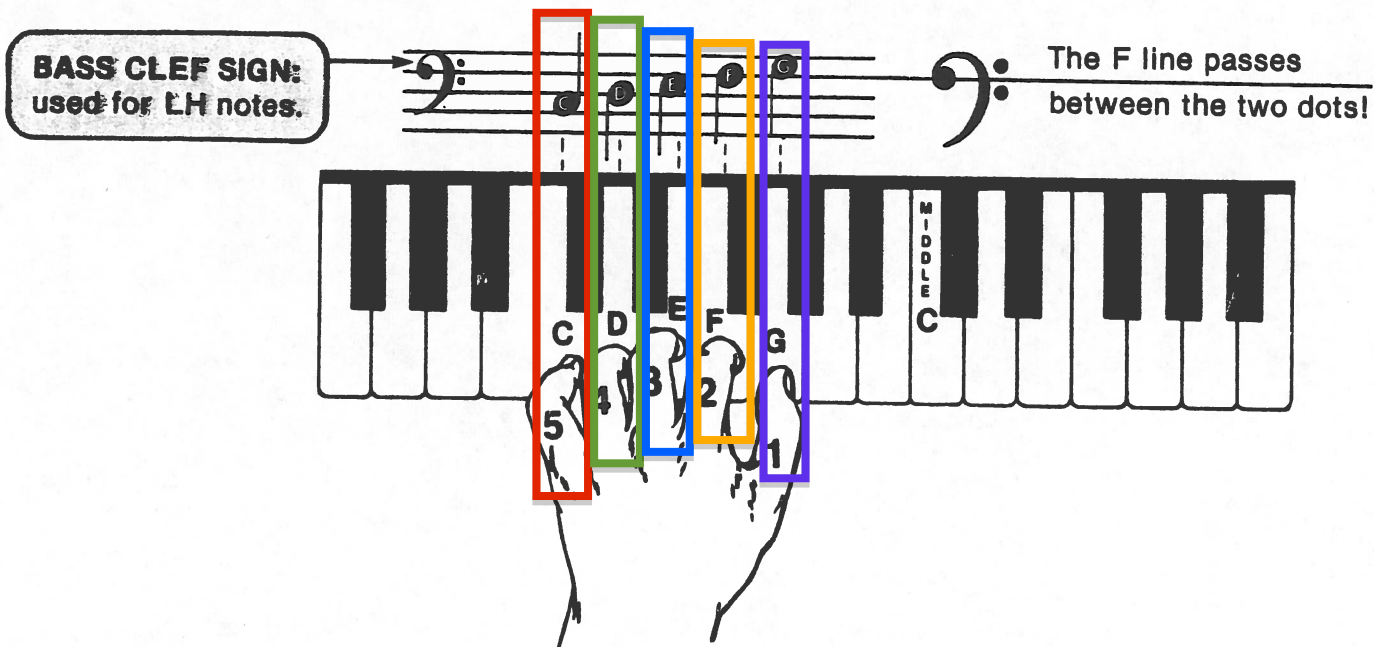


# The Bass Staff

Music for the LEFT HAND is written on the BASS STAFF.  
The bass staff also has 5 lines and 4 spaces.

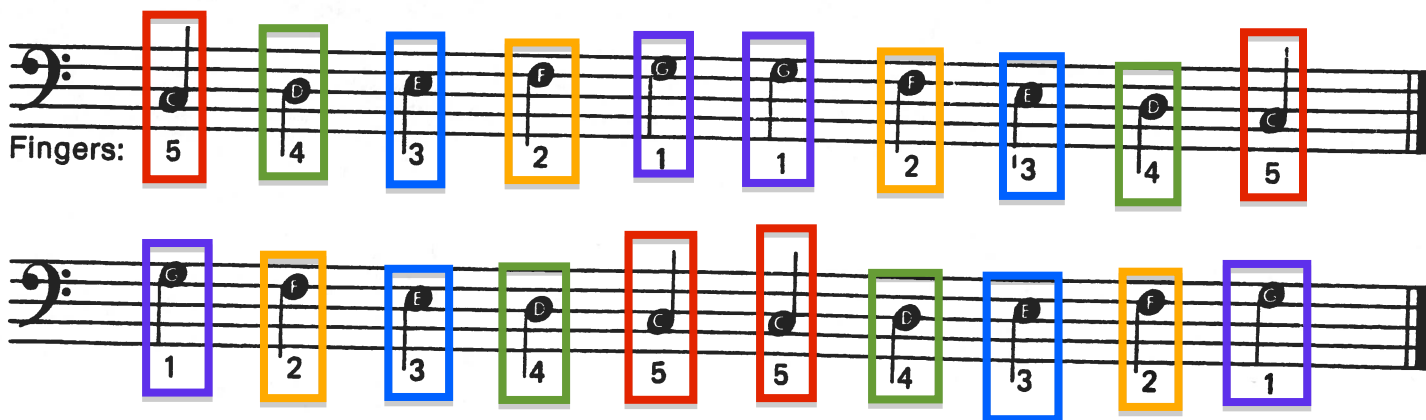
It is identified by the BASS CLEF SIGN  which came from the letter "F." 

C is written on the 2nd space of the staff.  
Each next higher note is written on the next higher line or space.



## LH C Position

Place the LEFT HAND in the above position. Keep the fingers curved and relaxed.  
Play the following *WARM-UP*. Say the name of each note aloud as you play.  
Repeat until you can play smoothly and evenly.



When notes are BELOW the MIDDLE LINE of the staff, the stems usually point UP.  
When notes are ON or ABOVE the MIDDLE LINE, the stems usually point DOWN.



# Whole Note

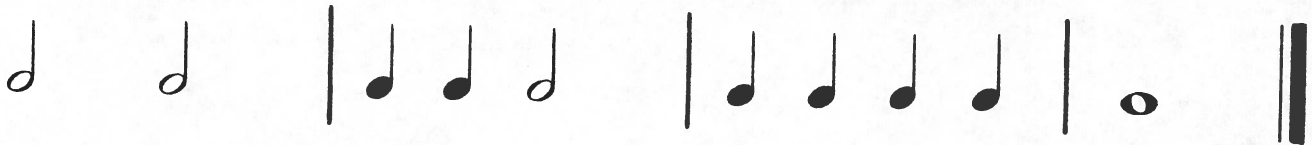
a very long note.



COUNT: "1 - 2 - 3 - 4"  
or: "Whole - note - hold - down"



Clap (or tap) the following rhythm. Clap **ONCE** for each note, counting aloud.



# Row, Row, Row Your Boat

(RIGHT SIDE UP AND UPSIDE DOWN)

The 1st line is the familiar tune.  
The 2nd line is the same, upside-down!

1. Clap (or tap) the rhythm, counting aloud.
2. Play and sing (or say) the finger numbers.
3. Play and count.
4. Play and sing (or say) the note names.



This is a good procedure to follow for each piece or exercise you play.

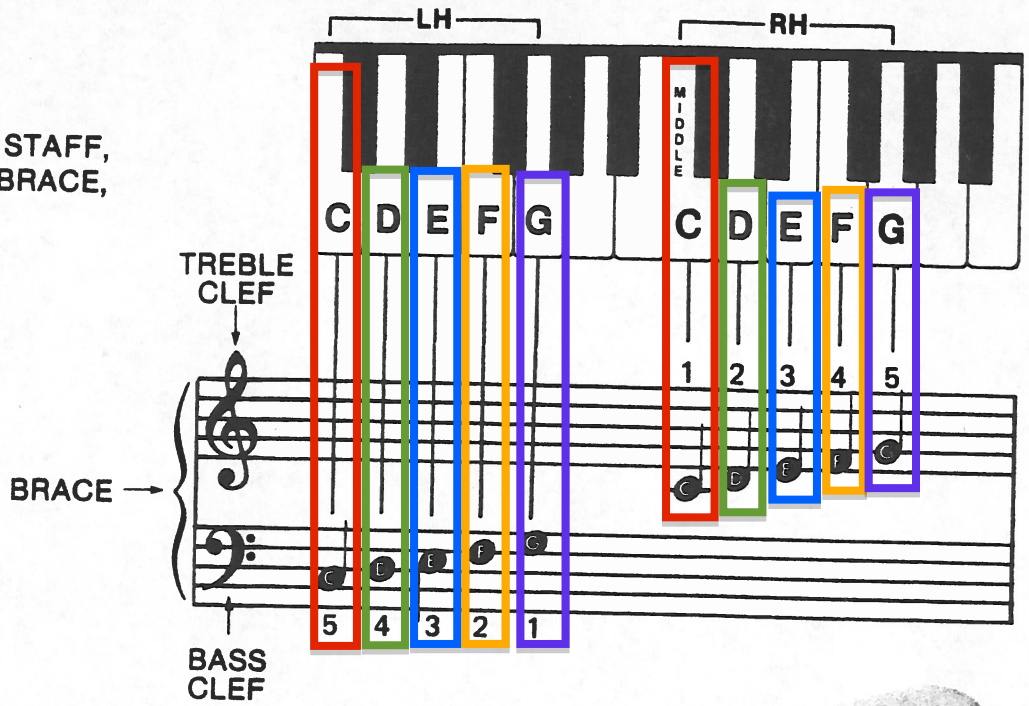
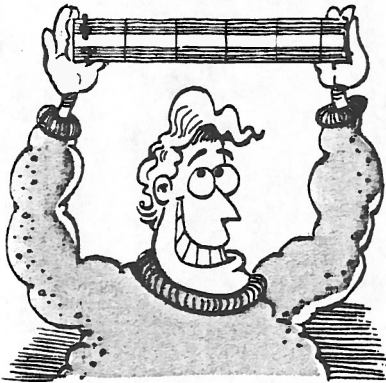
Row, row, row your boat, Don't fall in the stream!

Finger: 5 5 5 4 3 3 4 3 2 1

Swim, swim, swim for shore! Hope it's but a dream!

1 1 1 2 3 3 4 5

The **BASS STAFF & TREBLE STAFF**, when joined together with a **BRACE**, make up the **GRAND STAFF**.




## PLAYING ON THE GRAND STAFF

Only the starting finger number for each hand is given.



Musical notation for the first exercise. The right hand (RH) starts with a red box containing the number '1'. The notes are: C (red), D (green), E (blue), F (orange), G (purple), G (purple), G (purple), F (orange), E (blue), D (green), C (red), C (red), C (red). The left hand (LH) has whole rests in each measure.

This sign  is a **WHOLE REST**.  
LH is silent a whole measure!

Musical notation for the second exercise. The right hand (RH) has whole rests in each measure. The left hand (LH) starts with a red box containing the number '5'. The notes are: C (red), D (green), E (blue), F (orange), G (purple), G (purple), G (purple), F (orange), E (blue), D (green), C (red), C (red), C (red). At the end of the piece, there are double dots (repeat sign).

The **DOUBLE DOTS** mean **REPEAT FROM THE BEGINNING**.

**Legato** means connect the notes, with no break in the sound.

To play legato, “walk” your fingers on the keys.

When you walk, one foot goes down as the other foot comes up.

When you play LEGATO, one finger goes down as the other finger comes up!

## Legato Walk:

1. On the closed keyboard cover, walk back and forth using fingers 2 and 3. Try this with your R.H. and with your L.H.
2. Then repeat this exercise with fingers 1-2 and 3-4.  
Keep your fingers curved and “walk” slowly back and forth.

## Slur

A slur is a curved line over or under a group of notes.

It means to play legato.

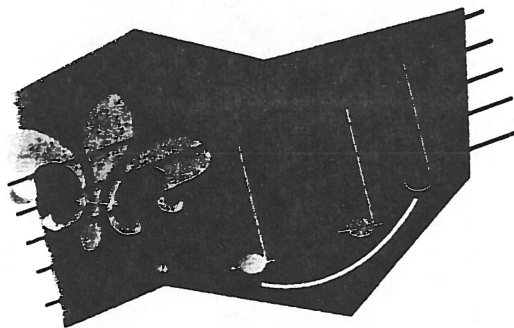


or

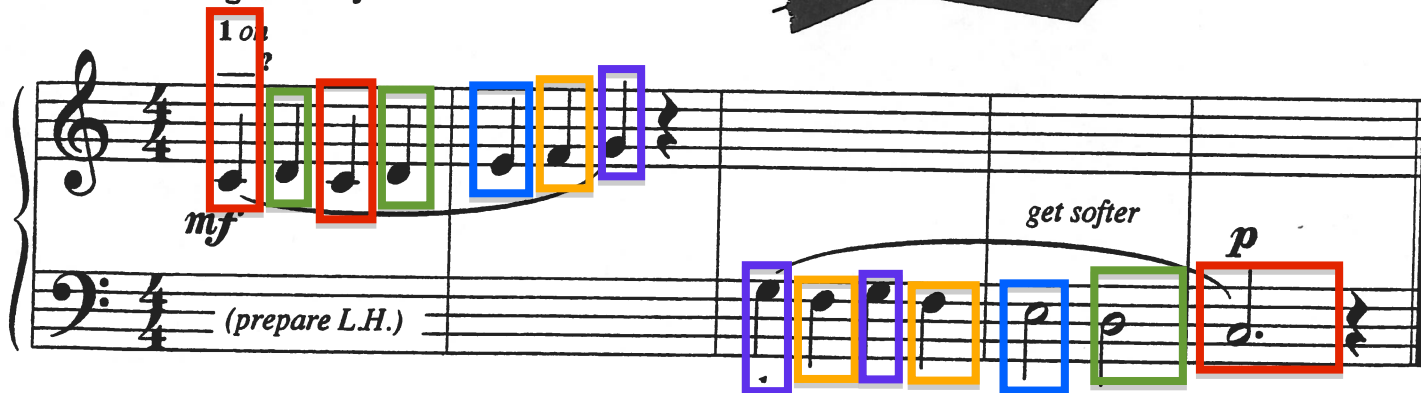


## Legato Steps

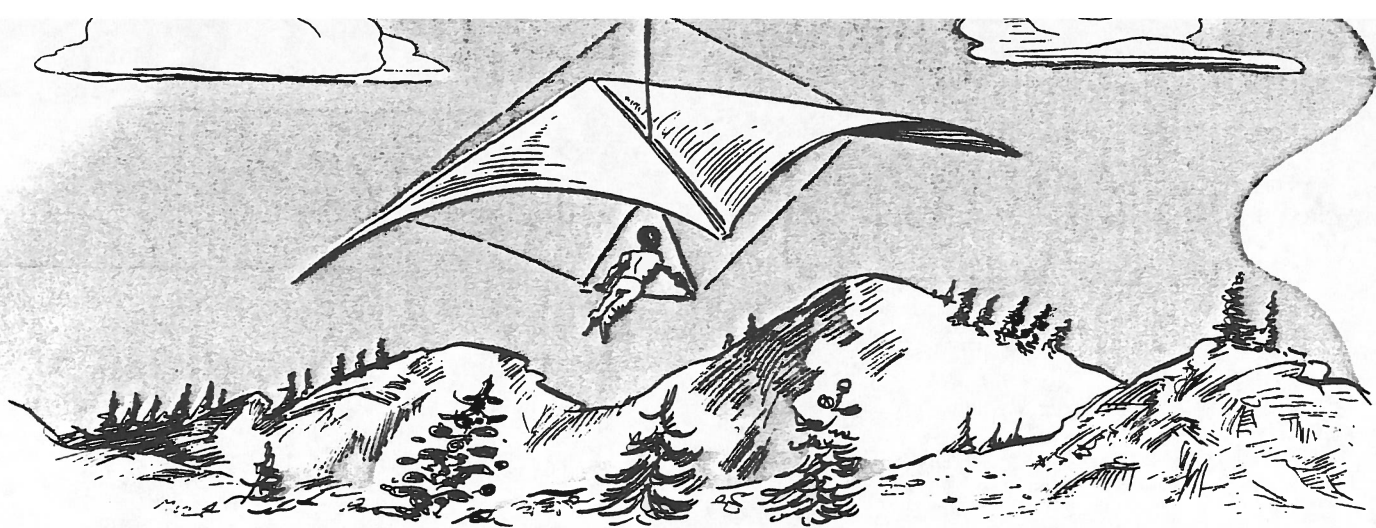
Name the position. \_\_\_\_\_



Gliding smoothly







# GLIDING

**DYNAMIC SIGNS** tell how **LOUD** or **SOFT** to play.  
*mf* (mezzo forte) = **MODERATELY LOUD**

**Moderately slow**

*mf* 1  
 Glid - ing, glid - ing, high er, high er, Fly - ing in the skyl

*mf* 1  
 Glid ing, glid ing, low er, low er, Wha a way to fly!

**DUET PART:** (Student plays 1 octave higher.)

**Moderately slow**

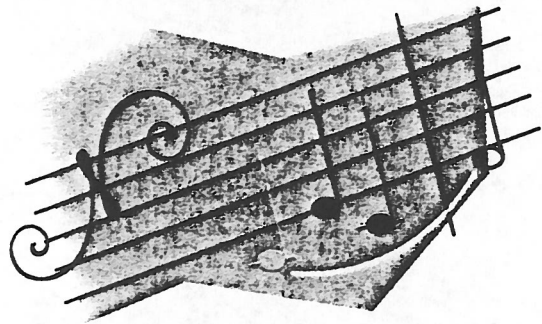
*mf* RH LH

**Review:**



A tie connects one note to the same note.  
It means to hold for the value of both notes.

Tell your teacher whether each curved line in this piece is a slur or a tie.



# Legato Skips

Smoothly

Musical notation for the first part of the exercise. It is in 3/4 time. The melody is on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are "Skip on the keys, le-ga-to, please." The notes are grouped into colored boxes: "Skip" (red), "on" (blue), "the" (red), "keys," (purple), "le" (green), "ga" (orange), "to," (green), and "please." (blue). Annotations include "\*2 on ?" above the first note, "move (2) to D" above the "le" note, and "mf" below the first note. The bass clef staff has "(prepare L. H.)" written below it.

Musical notation for the second part of the exercise. It is in 3/4 time. The melody is on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are "Left Hand can play with ease." The notes are grouped into colored boxes: "Left" (red), "Hand" (blue), "can" (purple), "play" (orange), "with" (green), and "ease." (red). Annotations include a box with "5" above the first note, "5 on" below the first note, "3 1" above the final note, and "p" below the final note.

**\*Teacher's Note:** This suggested pianistic fingering encourages relaxed hand movement and diligent note-reading.

**Teacher Duet:** (Student plays 1 octave higher)

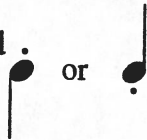
Musical notation for a teacher duet exercise. It is in 3/4 time. The right hand (R.H.) is on a treble clef staff and the left hand (L.H.) is on a bass clef staff. The R.H. part consists of eighth notes with a box containing "5" above the fifth note. The L.H. part consists of half notes, each marked with a "p" (piano) dynamic.

Sometimes we want to separate notes to create a crisp, detached sound.

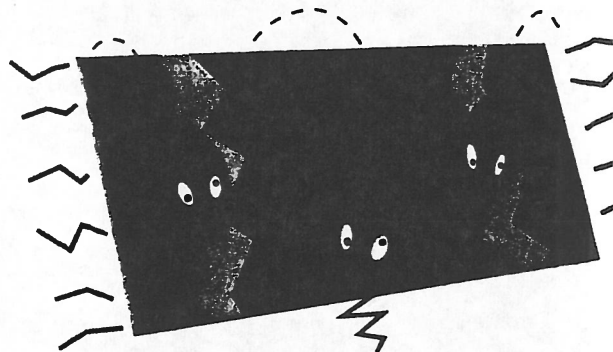
This style of playing is called **staccato** (opposite of **legato**).

To play staccato, quickly lift the finger off the key!

The staccato mark is a small dot placed above or below the note.



- First, play *Mexican Jumping Beans* using only finger 3.
- Then repeat using all 5 fingers with your hands in C Position.



# Mexican Jumping Beans

Hopping steadily

Words by Crystal Bowman

1st time (3) (3) (3) (3) (3) etc.

2nd time 1 2 3 4 5 etc.

*p* Beans are jump- ing here and there, jump- ing beans are ev- ery- where.

5

Jump- ing left and jump- ing right, one bean just jumped out of sight.

1st time 3 (3) (3) (3) (3)

2nd time 5 4 3 2 1



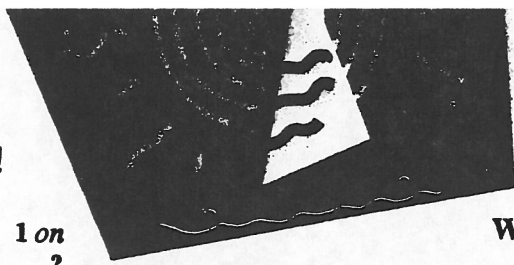
**CREATIVE** Create "popcorn sounds" by playing staccato notes in C Position. Begin slowly and gradually play faster. Then slow down and stop. Popcorn's ready!

Teacher Duet: (Student plays as written)

1 5 R.H.

2 4 5 3

# Sailing in the Sun



**Caution!** Be careful of the quarter rests!

Words by Crystal Bowman

**Briskly**

1 on \_\_\_?

*mf* Come, go sail - ing with me, it's ex - cit - ing, you'll see.

1 on \_\_\_?

5

3

What a feel - ing, so free, when you're sail - ing the sea!

9

3 1

4 2

*p* Feel the wind blow in your hair grow while the sun - shine warms the air. *f*

4

13

*mf* When you're sail - ing on the o - cean, life's the best it can be!



How many measures have this rhythm ?

# Melodic Intervals

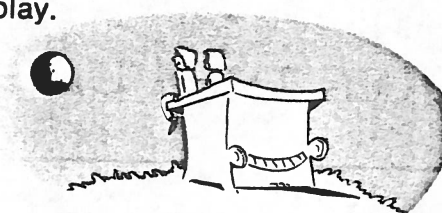
Notes played **SEPARATELY** make a **MELODY**.  
We call the intervals between these notes **MELODIC INTERVALS**.

Play these MELODIC 2nds & 3rds. Listen to the sound of each interval.

A musical staff in 4/4 time with two systems. The first system shows two staves (treble and bass) with notes. The first two notes of the first staff are boxed in red and labeled '1' and '2' with a bracket below labeled '2nd'. The next two notes are boxed in green and labeled '1' and '3' with a bracket below labeled '3rd'. The next two notes are boxed in red and labeled '2nd', and the last two are boxed in blue and labeled '3rd'. The second system shows two staves with notes. The first two notes are boxed in purple and labeled '2nd', the next two are boxed in orange and labeled '3rd', the next two are boxed in purple and labeled '2nd', and the last two are boxed in blue and labeled '3rd'.

Find all the melodic 2nds and 3rds in the following pieces before you play.

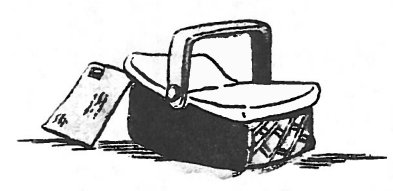
## AU CLAIRE DE LA LUNE



Moderately slow

Musical notation for 'Au Claire de la Lune' in 4/4 time. The first staff has notes boxed in red, green, blue, and green. The second staff has notes boxed in red, blue, green, and green. The third staff has a red box around a whole rest.

## TISKET, A TASKET



Moderately fast

Musical notation for 'Tisket, a Tasket' in 4/4 time. The first staff has notes boxed in purple, blue, orange, purple, blue, orange, purple, orange, purple, and blue. The second staff has notes boxed in orange, orange, green, orange, orange, orange, green, purple, orange, blue, green, and a red box around a whole rest.

# Harmonic Intervals


Notes played **TOGETHER** make **HARMONY**.

We call the intervals between these notes **HARMONIC INTERVALS**.

Play these **HARMONIC 2nds & 3rds**. Listen to the sound of each interval.

## ROCKIN' INTERVALS

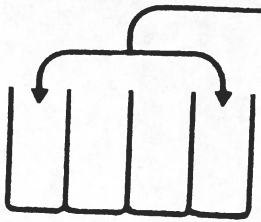


This sign  is a **QUARTER REST**.  
Rest for one count!

**Brightly**

**DUET PART:** (Student plays 1 octave higher.)

When you skip 2 white keys, the interval is a 4th.



4ths are written LINE-SPACE, skipping a space, or SPACE-LINE, skipping a line.

Play, saying "UP a 4th," etc.

Up a 4th 1 4 Down a 4th 2 5 Up a 4th 2 5 Down a 4th

Up a 4th Down a 4th Up a 4th Down a 4th

# MELODIC FOURTHS

Moderately slow

Line to space, skip two white keys; Space to line, skip two white keys;

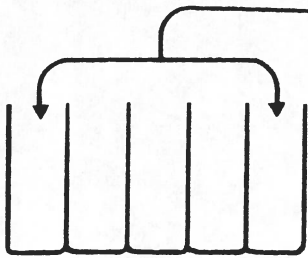
Space to line, line to space, That's the way to play a fourth!

# AURA LEE

This folk melody was made into a popular song, "LOVE ME TENDER," sung by Elvis Presley.

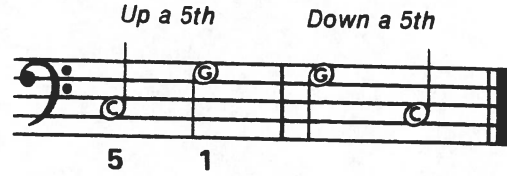
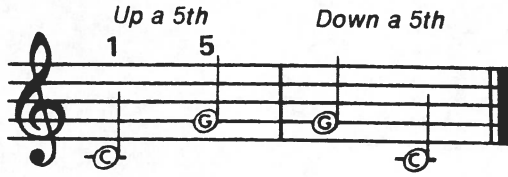
Moderately slow

When you skip 3 white keys, the interval is a 5th.



5ths are written LINE-LINE, skipping a line, or SPACE-SPACE, skipping a space.

Play, saying "UP a 5th," etc.



## MELODIC FIFTHS

Moderately slow

Musical notation for the first system of 'MELODIC FIFTHS'. It features a treble clef staff with a 4/4 time signature and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The melody consists of quarter notes. The lyrics are: "Line to line, skip three white keys; Up a fifth! Down a fifth!". Red boxes highlight the intervals between the first and fifth lines of the staff, and blue boxes highlight the intervals between the first and fifth spaces. The notes are: G4, D5, G4, D5, G4, D5, G4, D5, G4, D5, G4, D5, G4, D5, G4, D5.

Musical notation for the second system of 'MELODIC FIFTHS'. It features a bass clef staff with a 4/4 time signature and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The melody consists of quarter notes. The lyrics are: "Space to space, skip three white keys; Up a fifth! Down a fifth!". Red boxes highlight the intervals between the first and fifth spaces of the staff, and blue boxes highlight the intervals between the first and fifth lines. The notes are: G3, D4, G3, D4, G3, D4, G3, D4, G3, D4, G3, D4, G3, D4, G3, D4.

## ROCK ALONG!



Moderately fast

Musical notation for the first system of 'ROCK ALONG!'. It features a bass clef staff with a 4/4 time signature and a forte (*f*) dynamic. The melody consists of quarter notes. The lyrics are: "Play thirds and fifths, and we'll rock a long!". Red boxes highlight the intervals between the first and fifth lines, and blue boxes highlight the intervals between the first and fifth spaces. The notes are: G3, D4, G3, D4, G3, D4, G3, D4, G3, D4, G3, D4, G3, D4, G3, D4.

Musical notation for the second system of 'ROCK ALONG!'. It features a treble clef staff with a 4/4 time signature and a forte (*f*) dynamic. The melody consists of quarter notes. The lyrics are: "Just thirds and fifths for a good rock song!". Red boxes highlight the intervals between the first and fifth lines, and blue boxes highlight the intervals between the first and fifth spaces. The notes are: G4, D5, G4, D5, G4, D5, G4, D5, G4, D5, G4, D5, G4, D5, G4, D5.