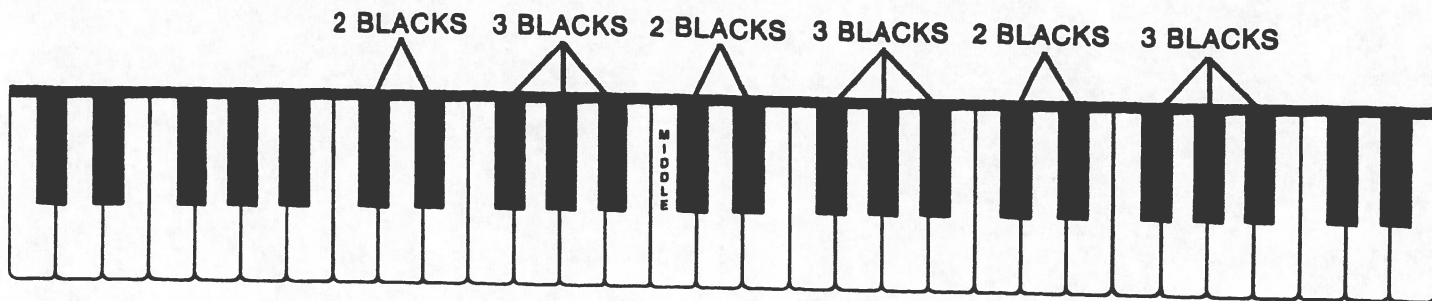


The Keyboard

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.

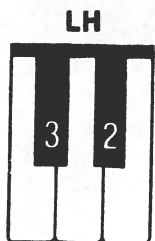


LOW SOUNDS ← LEFT IS DOWN (Lower)

RIGHT IS UP (Higher) → HIGH SOUNDS

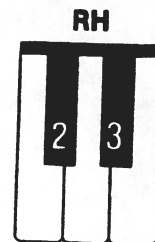


Play the 2 BLACK KEY groups!



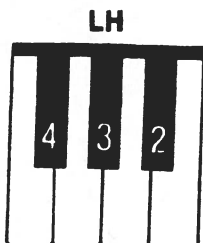
1. Using L H 2 3, begin at the middle and play all the 2 black key groups going **DOWN** the keyboard (both keys at once).

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).



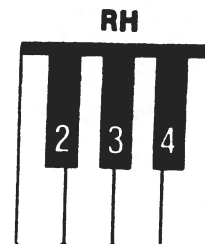
3. Repeat, without looking at your hands.

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!

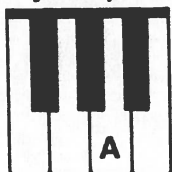
For example: A's are found between the TOP TWO KEYS of each 3 BLACK KEY GROUP.

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

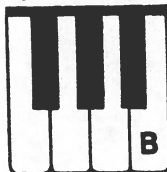
Use RH 3 for keys above the middle of the keyboard.

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.



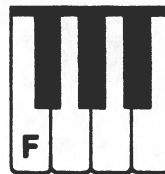
Play all the D's.



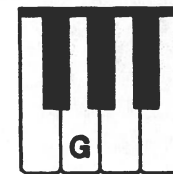
Play all the E's.



Play all the F's.

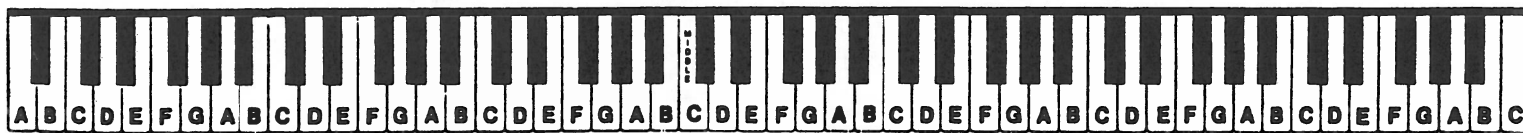


Play all the G's.



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

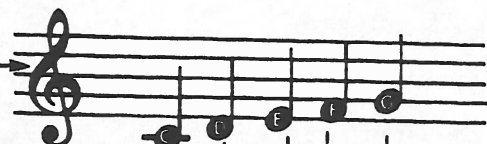


which came from the letter "G."

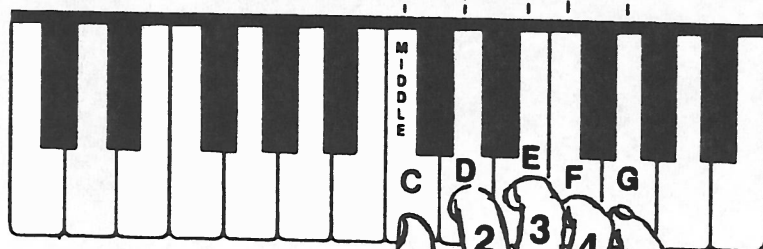


Middle C is written on a short line below the staff, called a *leger* line. D is written higher, on the space below the staff. Each next higher note is written on the next higher line or space.

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.

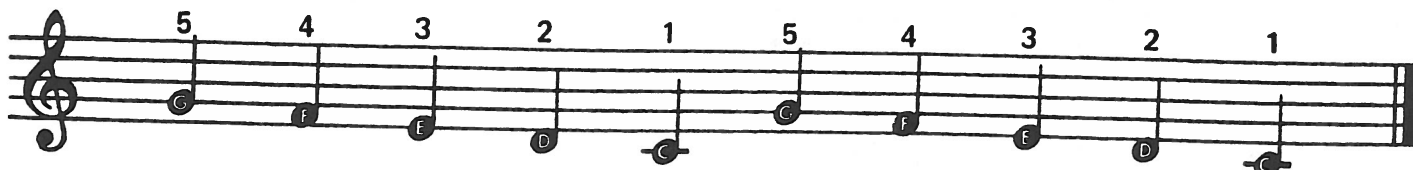
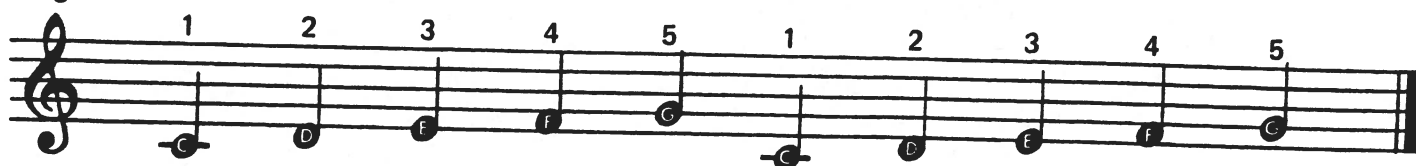
RH C Position

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:



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.



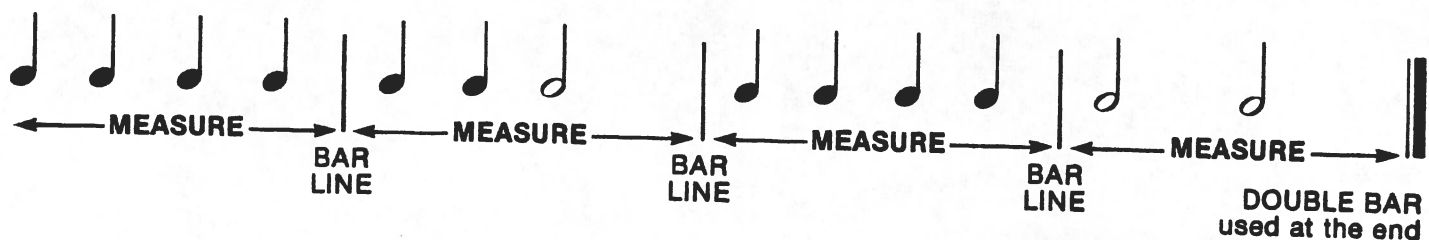
COUNT: "1"
or: "Quarter"

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.



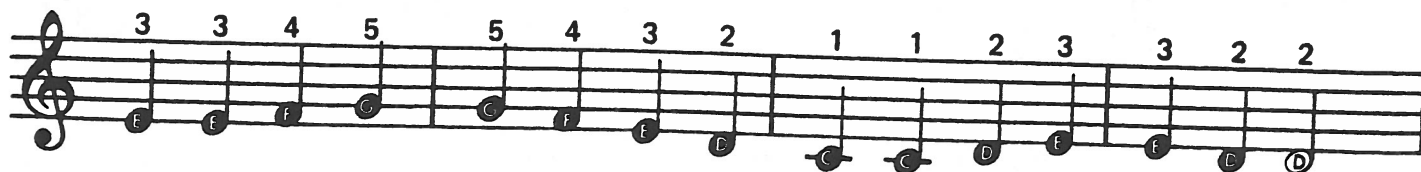
ODE TO JOY

(Theme from Beethoven's 9th Symphony)

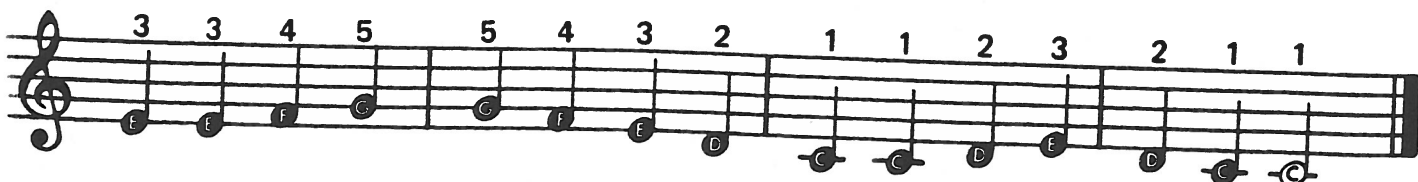
1. Clap (or tap) the rhythm evenly, counting aloud.
2. Play and sing (or say) the finger numbers.
3. Play and count.
4. Play and sing (or say) the note names.



Fingers:



3 3 4 5 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 3 2 2



3 3 4 5 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 2 1 1

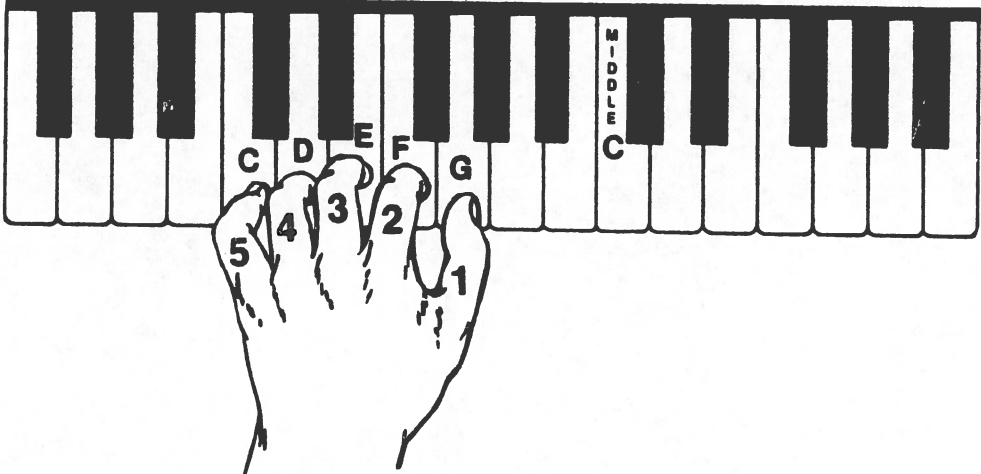
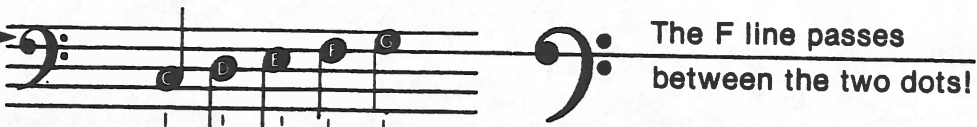
The Bass Staff

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.

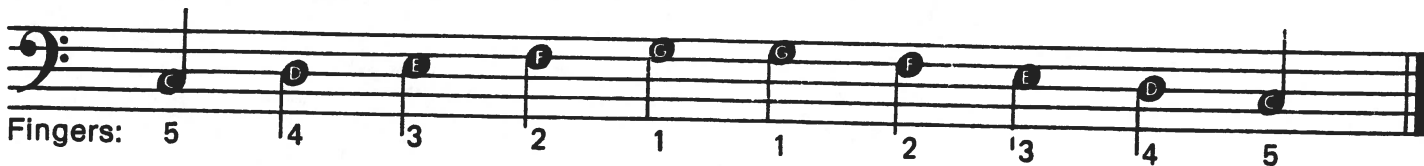
BASS CLEF SIGN:
used for L.H. notes.



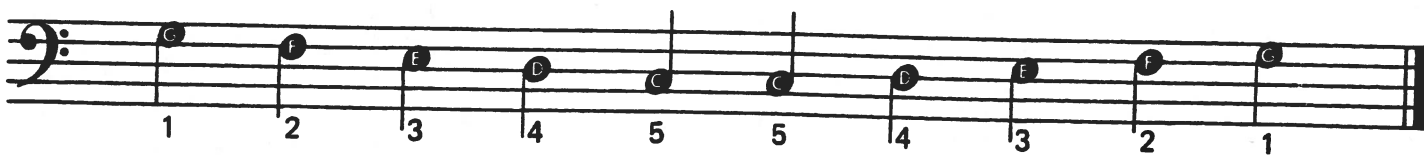
The F line passes between the two dots!

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.



Fingers: 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5



1 2 3 4 5 5 4 3 2 1

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.

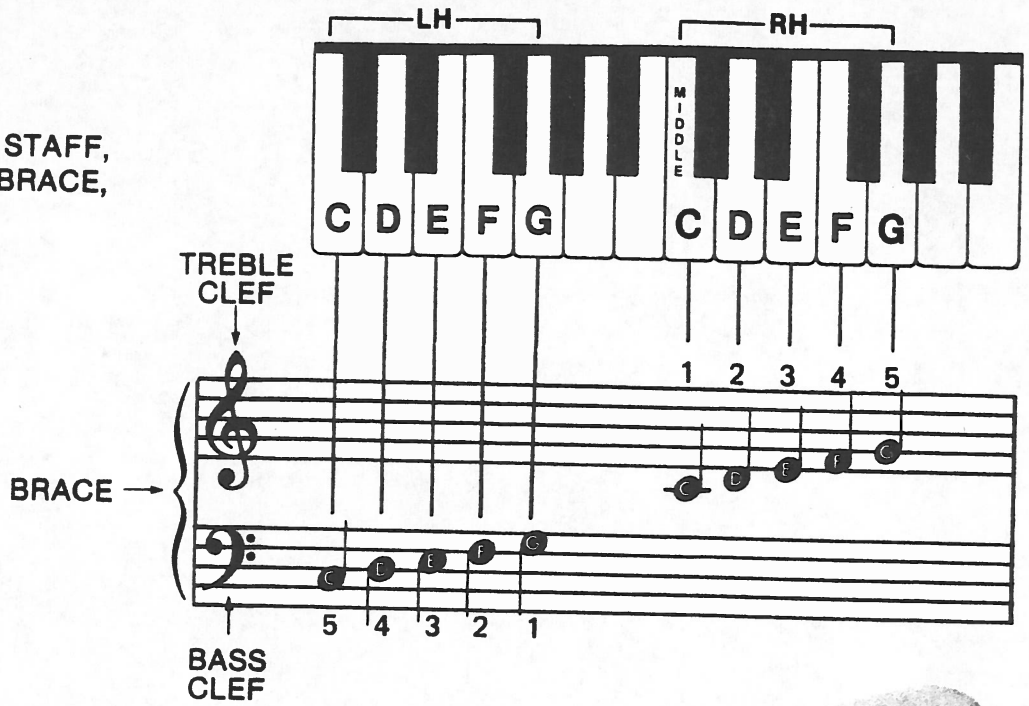
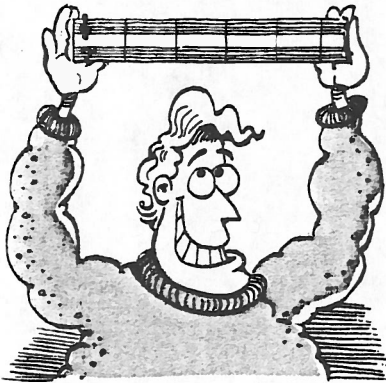
Row, row, row your boat, Don't fall in the stream!

Fingers: 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 2 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.



RH 1

 Musical notation on a grand staff. The right hand (RH) starts with finger 1. The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, C5, C5, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, C4, C4. The left hand (LH) has whole rests in the first three measures.

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

RH silent a whole measure.

 Musical notation on a grand staff. The right hand (RH) has whole rests in the first three measures. The left hand (LH) starts with finger 5. The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, G4, G4, C4, F4, E4, D4, C4, C4, C4.

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.

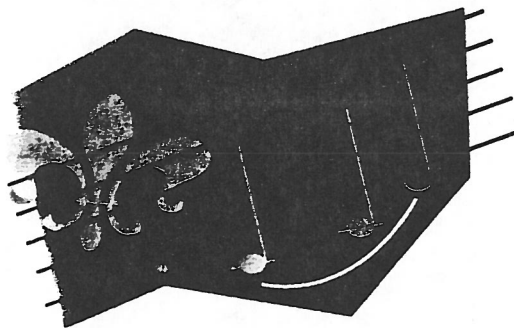


or



Legato Steps

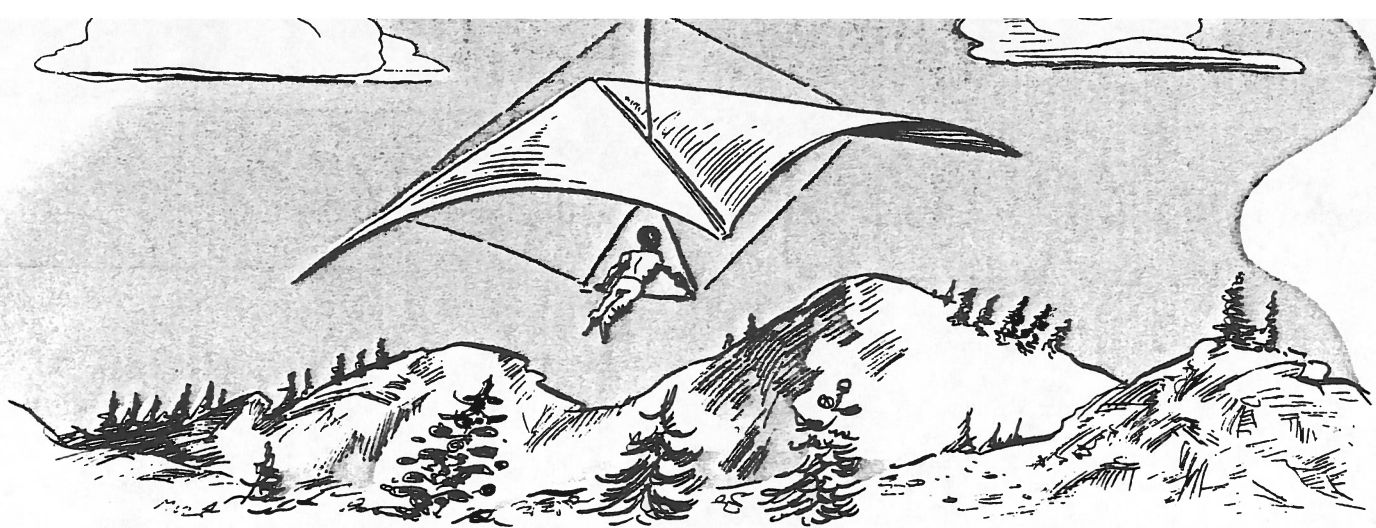
Name the position. _____



Gliding smoothly

1 on
—?





GLIDING

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

Moderately slow

1

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

mf 1

Glid - ing, glid - ing, low - er, low - er, What a way to fly!

DUET PART: (Student plays 1 octave higher.)

Moderately slow

RH

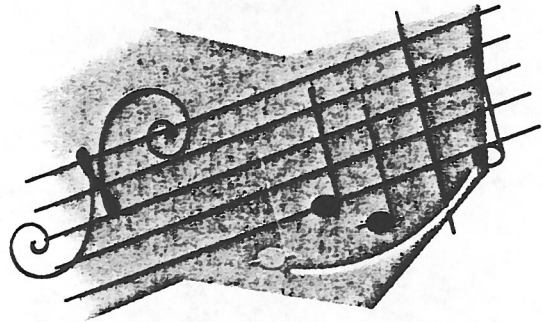
mf LH

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

*2 on ___?
mf Skip on the keys, le - ga - to, please.
(prepare L. H.)
move (2) to D

5
Left Hand can play with ease. *ps*
3 1
5 on ___?

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

Teacher Duet: (Student plays 1 octave higher)

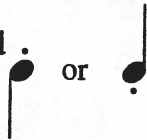
R.H.
L.H. *p.* *p.* *p.* *p.* *p.* *p.* *p.*

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

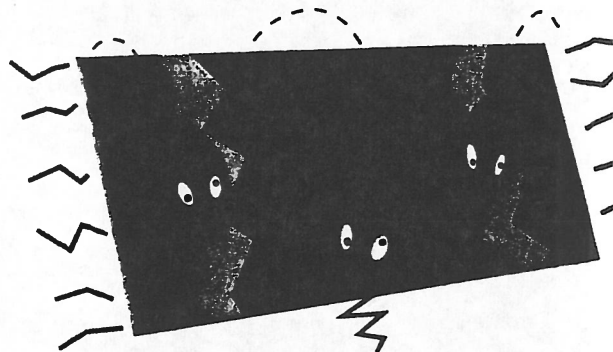
This style of playing is called **staccato** (opposite of **legato**).

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

1st time (3) (3) (3) (3) (3) etc.
2nd time 1 2 3 4 5 etc.

Words by Crystal Bowman

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

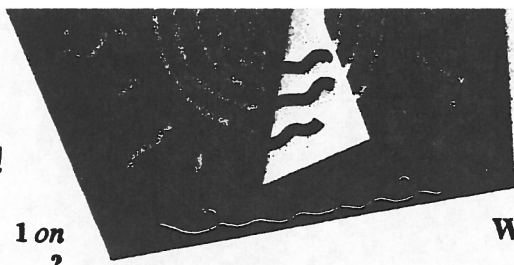


CREATIVE Create "popcorn sounds" by playing staccato notes in C Position. Begin slowly and gradually play faster. Then slow down and stop. Popcorn's ready!

Teacher Duet: (Student plays as written)

R.H. 1 5 2 1. 2. 4 5 3 1

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 4

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

grow *louder* *f*

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

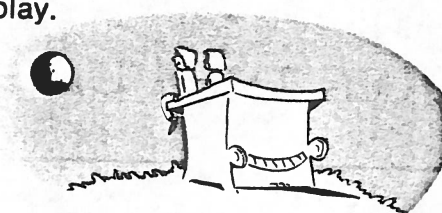
Notes played **SEPARATELY** make a **MELODY**.
We call the intervals between these notes **MELODIC INTERVALS**.

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

Musical notation for practicing melodic intervals. The piece is in 4/4 time. The first staff (treble clef) contains four measures of music. The first two measures show ascending intervals: a 2nd (labeled '2nd') and a 3rd (labeled '3rd'). The next two measures show descending intervals: a 2nd (labeled '2nd') and a 3rd (labeled '3rd'). The second staff (bass clef) contains four measures of music. The first two measures show ascending intervals: a 2nd (labeled '2nd') and a 3rd (labeled '3rd'). The next two measures show descending intervals: a 2nd (labeled '2nd') and a 3rd (labeled '3rd'). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1, 2, 1, 3 above the notes in the first two measures of each staff.

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

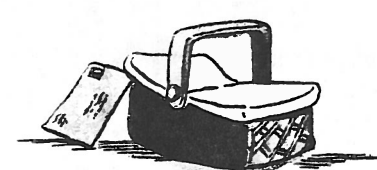
AU CLAIRE DE LA LUNE



Moderately slow

Musical notation for 'Au Clair de la Lune'. The piece is in 4/4 time. The first staff (treble clef) contains four measures of music. The first measure has a finger number '1' above the first note. The second staff (bass clef) contains four measures of music. The first measure has a dynamic marking 'p' (piano).

TISKET, A TASKET



Moderately fast

Musical notation for 'Tisket, A Tasket'. The piece is in 4/4 time. The first staff (treble clef) contains four measures of music. The second staff (bass clef) contains four measures of music. The first measure of the bass staff has a dynamic marking 'mf' (mezzo-forte) and a finger number '1' below the first note. The second staff (bass clef) contains four measures of music. The first measure has a finger number '2' below the first note.

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

1. Rock is mel - o - dic! hand!
2. Rock with the right hand!

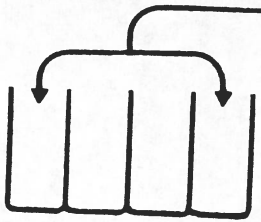
Rock is har - mon - ic!
Rock with the left hand!

Rock is mel - o - dic! hand!
Rock with the right hand!

Rock is har - mon - ic!
Rock with the left hand!

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

1

mf 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!

mf 5

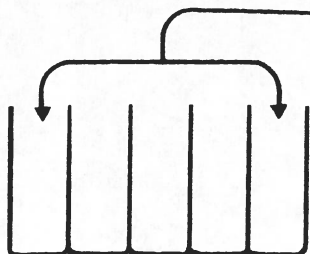
AURA LEE

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

Moderately slow

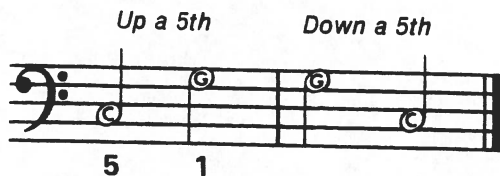
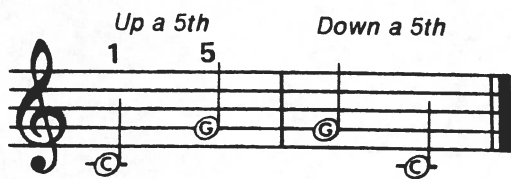
1

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

mf Line to line, skip three white keys; Up a fifth! Down a fifth!

mf Space to space, skip three white keys; Up a fifth! Down a fifth!

ROCK ALONG!



Moderately fast

f Play thirds and fifths, and we'll rock a long!

f Just thirds and fifths for a good rock song!