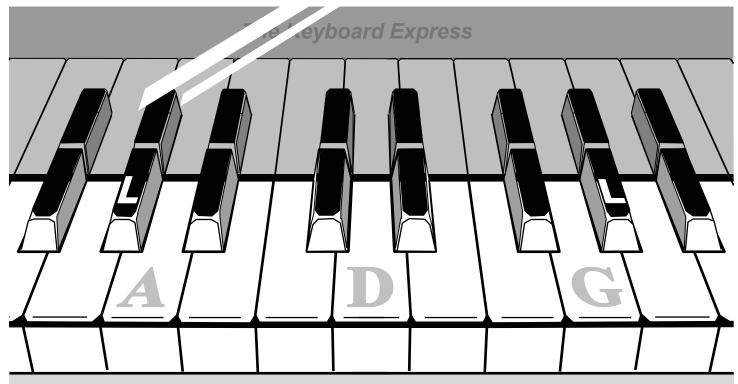






missing links and forgotten symmetry of white keys ABCDEFG:

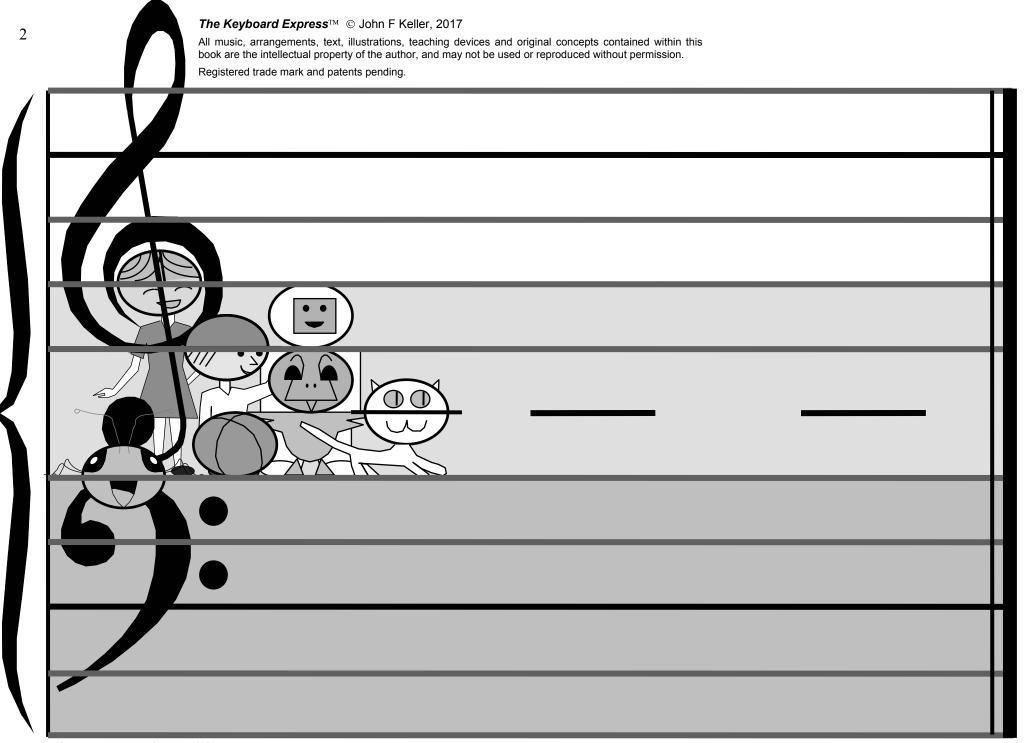






The Keyboard Express<sup>TM</sup> © John F Keller, 2005 Continuing a new approach to pianoforte study: using the symmetry of the keyboard





**Grand Staff Note Tester:** Teacher slides a small coin over the page while student plays the notes.

### T To the Piano Teacher:

After the trial of Book 1 with local piano teachers, and with grateful appreciation for the feedback and helpful suggestions from them, I am now pleased to present the second book of the method.

Beginning with a review of the concepts from Book 1, Book 2 progresses smoothly to cover all note pitches in both staves, intervals, flats and sharps as accidentals, technique, straight and swing time, and an introduction to chord formation. These topics are explored in an assortment of attractive solos and duets. As well as original tunes, there are arrangements of useful songs such as Advance Australia Fair, and familiar favourites including Chopsticks. The pieces use a variety of tonalities, hand positions and hand coordinations, which encourages the student to read notes relatively and learn their names, but to avoid associating them with particular fingers.

Seeing the keyboard in *symmetrical* groups of keys A to G, rather than in octaves of C to C, is what drives *The Keyboard Express*. The historical justification for this view and its relation to the bass stave are explained in the song 'Music History'. The method's title comes from the fact that each unit, ABCDEFG, is likened to a *carriage* of the keyboard 'train', with the middle black key in the group of three becoming the *link* that joins one carriage to the next. This approach makes it possible to clearly specify the register of any note, and each *middle carriage* note, m.A to m.G, has a *character* to help teach its position on the staves.

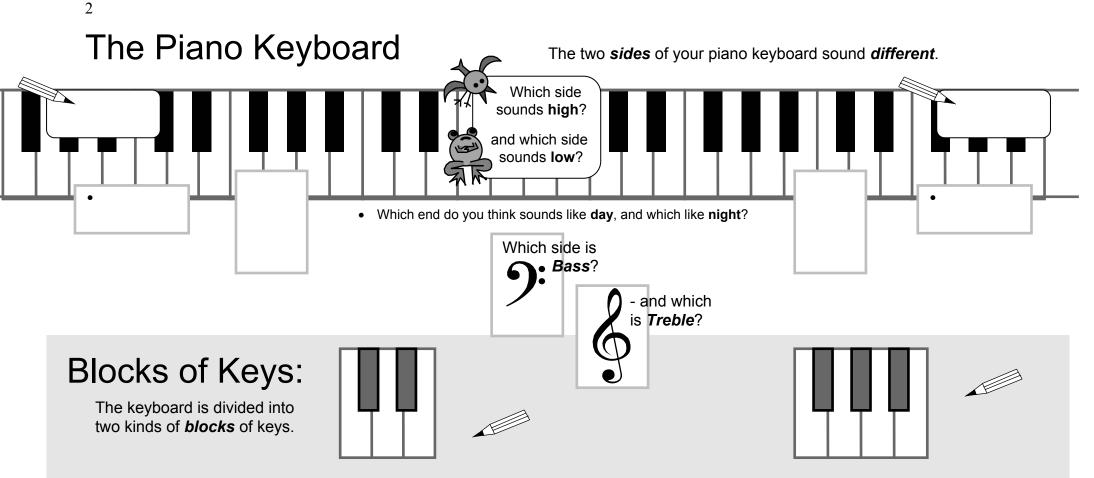
Our present system of music notation evolved over the past millennium. Staves were initially designed for a limited vocal range and only for single natural notes. A wider pitch range for instrumental music saw the addition of more leger lines, and as the full chromatic scale became established, so did five accidentals and fifteen key signatures. This book covers the three octave pitch range of the grand staff and gives some guidance for reading legerlines, but purposely limits accidentals and key signatures to one sharp and flat.

Wishing both teacher and student an interesting musical journey,

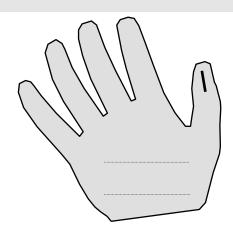
*John F Keller* (MMus, FTCL, LMusA, BSc, DipEd) - July, 2018

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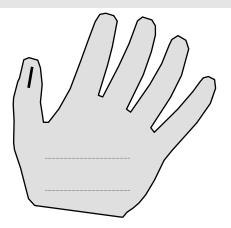
- Each *smaller block* has a *white* key at its *centre*. Colour this key *yellow*.
- Each *larger* block has a *black* key at its *centre*. Colour this key *black*.



## Your Two Hands

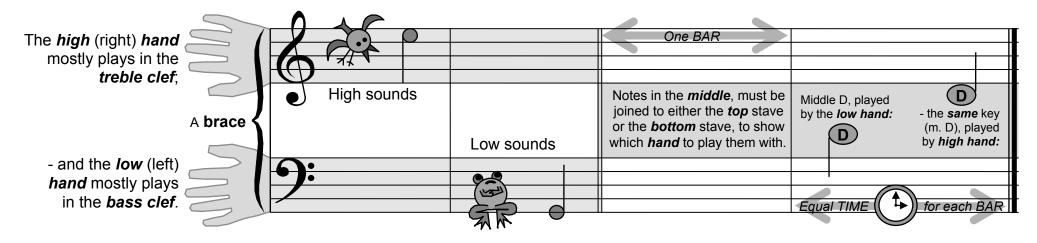
What is another name for your High Hand? What is another name for your Low Hand?

Write in the finger numbers.

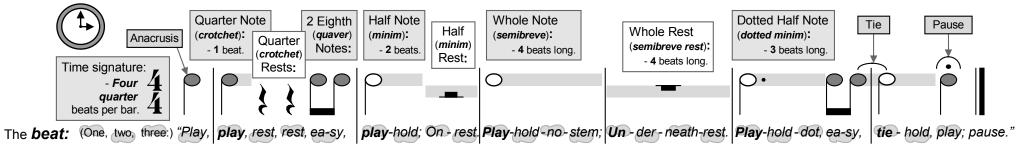


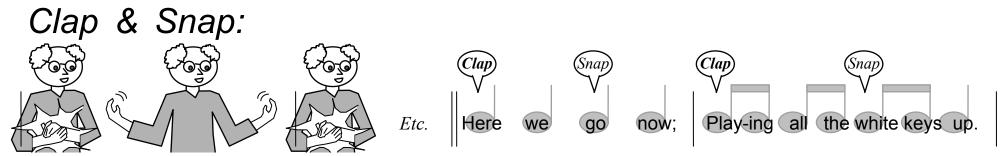


Music is written as *notes* on a *stave* (staff) of 5 lines, divided by *barlines* into *bars* of equal *time-length*. *Piano* music is usually written on *two* staves joined together by the barlines. One stave is for each *hand*.



Timing . . . Different *kinds* of *notes* represent different *time-lengths* of *sound*, measured against a steady *beat*. *Rests* show *silence*.



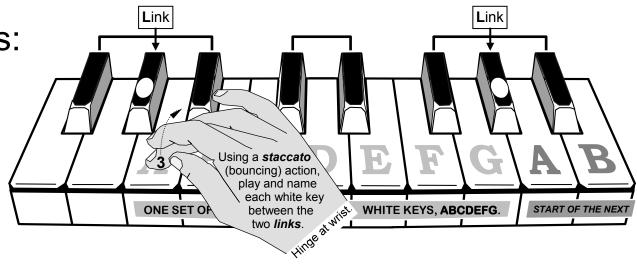


To measure out *bars* of equal time-lengths, *clap* at the start of each bar and put your hands *out* to the sides in between. *Snap* in the middle of each bar if you can. Doing this *clap* & *snap* while you chant the words of a song, gives a good strong *feeling* for the *rhythm* of the notes.

# White Key Letter-names:

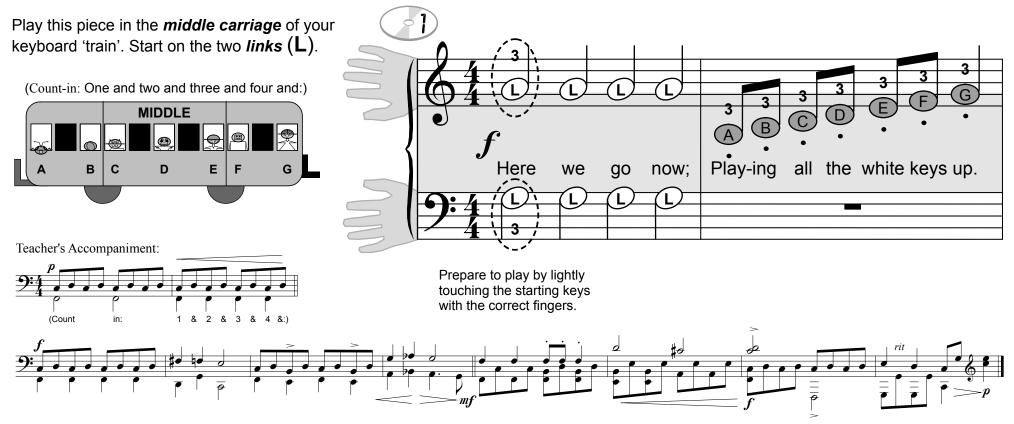
4

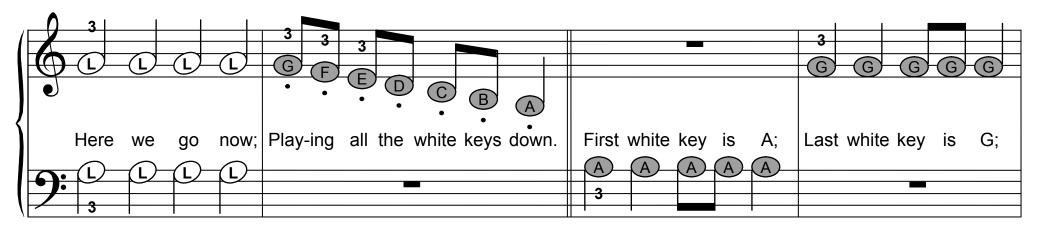
- The *white keys* are named by the first *seven* letters of the alphabet, ABCDEFG.
- The seven white keys **ABCDEFG** make a *symmetrical* pattern, with **D** in the middle.
- The 7 white keys fall between two 'special' *black* keys, each the centre of *three* blacks.
  - These 'special' black keys *link* every group of white keys **ABCDEFG** to the next.

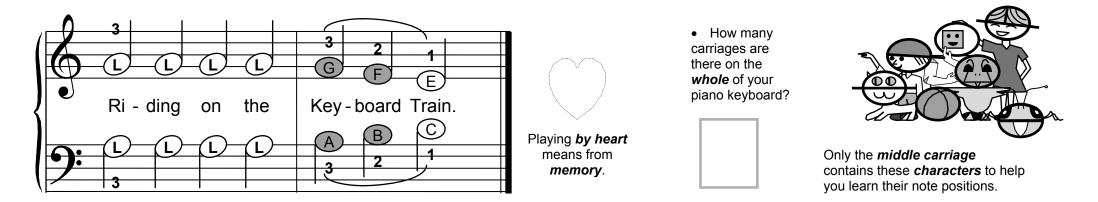


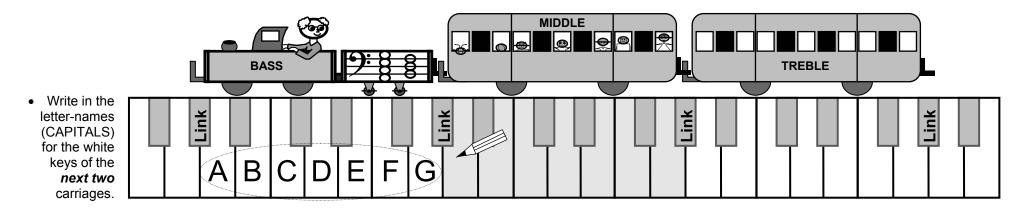
## **Riding on the Keyboard Train**

Each set of white keys ABCDEFG is like one *carriage* of the train.









## Middle Carriage Characters:

Each *white key* on the keyboard has a *note* on the grand stave. Middle carriage notes go in *between* bass and treble, except for the *top* middle notes, which have 'grown up' a bit, into the treble stave.

• Learn all the middle carriage *note positions*, with the help of the middle carriage characters.

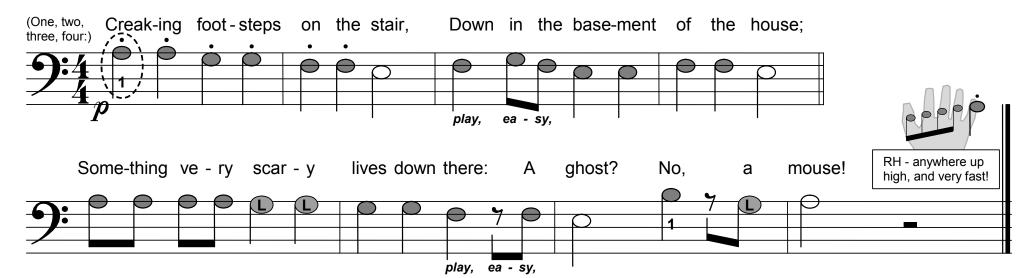
# The Basement 🕑

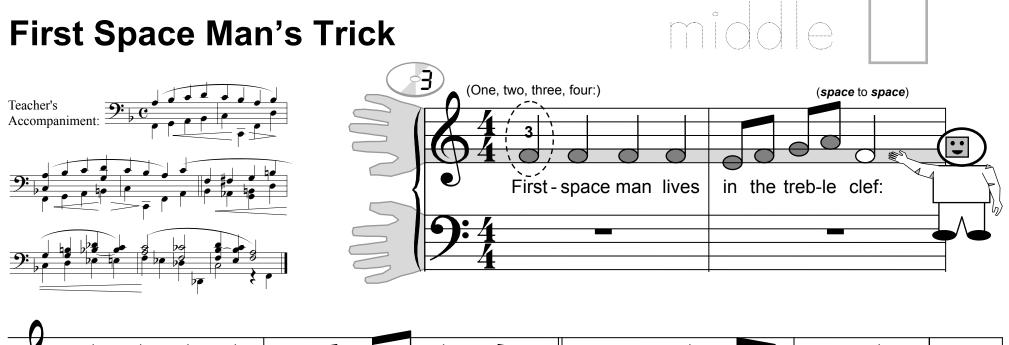
Teacher's Accompaniment:

6

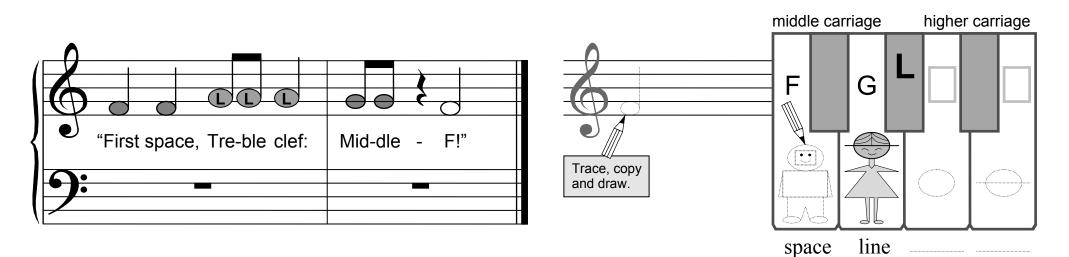


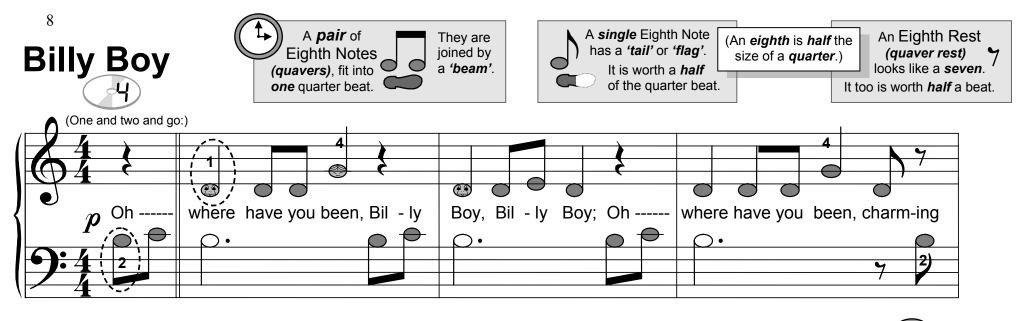
		Link		m C	m D	mE		Link		
		Ant	Ball	Cat	Duck	Edge- line	First- space	Girl		
_		- crawls on top of the bass:	- rolls on top of the bass:	- the first leger-line note in the middle:	- 'ducks' under the treble:	- of the treble stave:	- in the treble stave:	- the 2 <sup>nd</sup> treble line:		
							Ū		0	
line,	space		O	( ) ( )	C.D					
9:0	0									

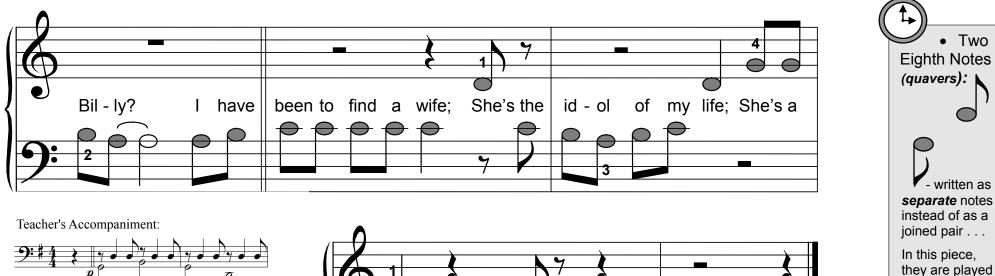




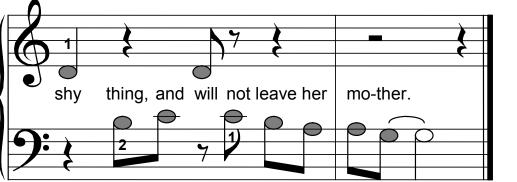












the same as *joined* eighth

 $\bigcirc$ 

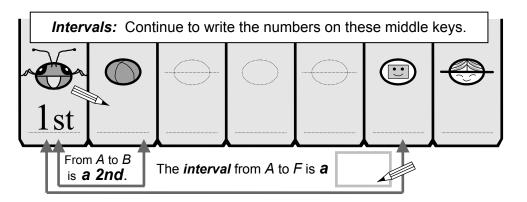
("Ea - sy")

notes:



#### Teacher's Accompaniment:

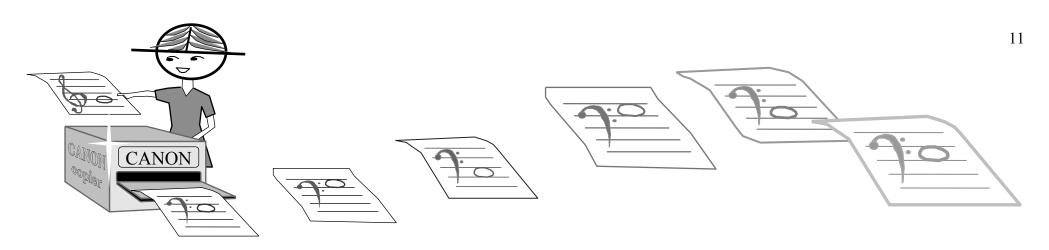




• The interval of *a second*, (also known as *a 'step'*) is the distance from any note to the *next* note.

(*Line* to *space*, or *space* to *line*.)



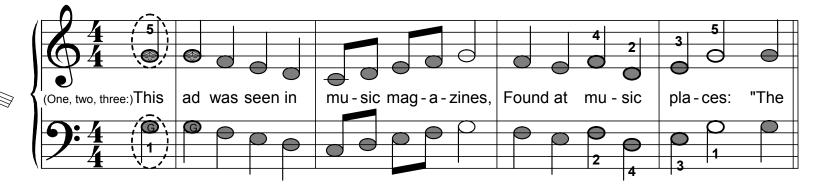


# Copying Machine

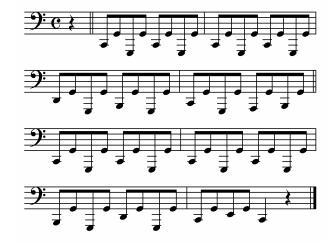
First practise each hand *separately* (sep). Later, play with both hands *together* (tog).

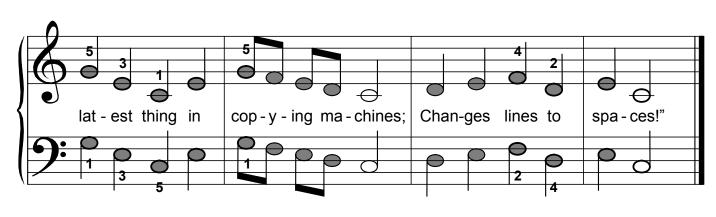
The *low hand* notes are just a copy of the *high hand* notes, but *one octave lower*.

If a note is on a *line*, the *next* octave of that letter-name will be in a



Teachers Accompaniment:





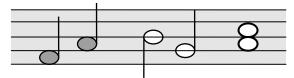
## The Interval of A 3rd:

Teacher's Accompaniment:





the distance from any note to the next *matching* type of note.
(*Line* to *line*, or *space* to *space*).  Notes a *third* apart, might be written so as to be played *upwards*, *downwards*, or *together*.



 For *thirds* played *together*, the matching notes stack neatly one on top of the other.

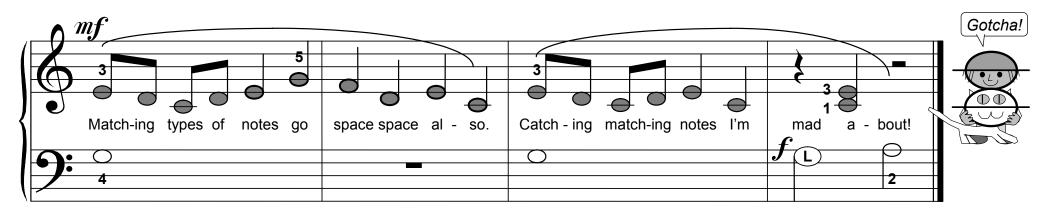
A **3rd** can be also called **a 'match'**, or **a 'skip'**.

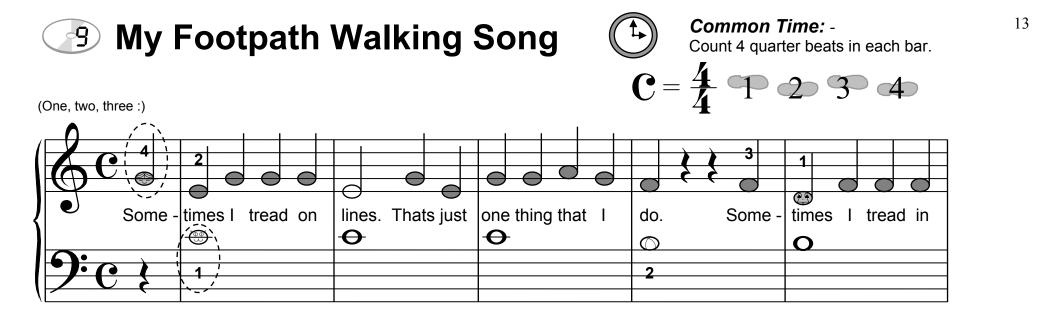


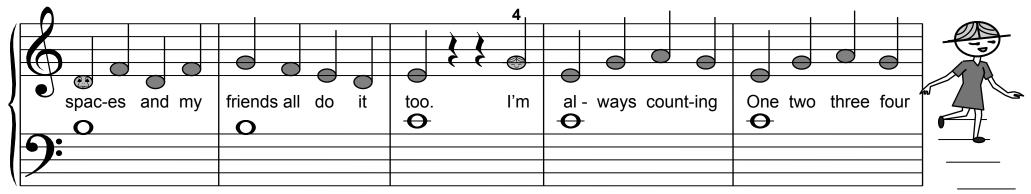
8

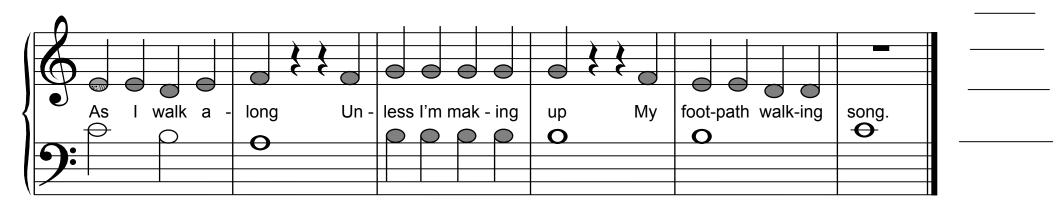
"One - and, two - and, three, four; . . ."

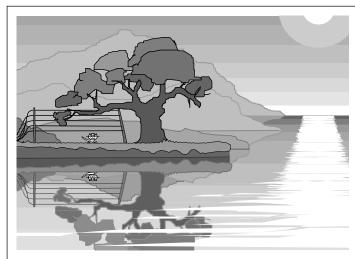
**Matching Types of Notes** 



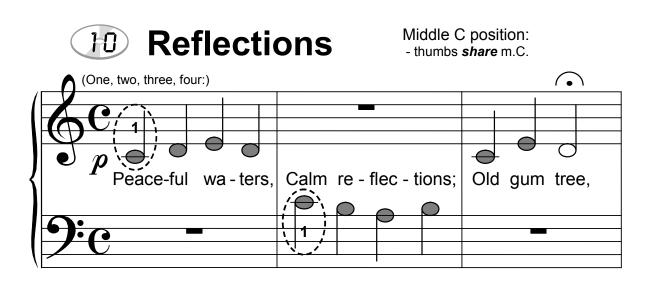


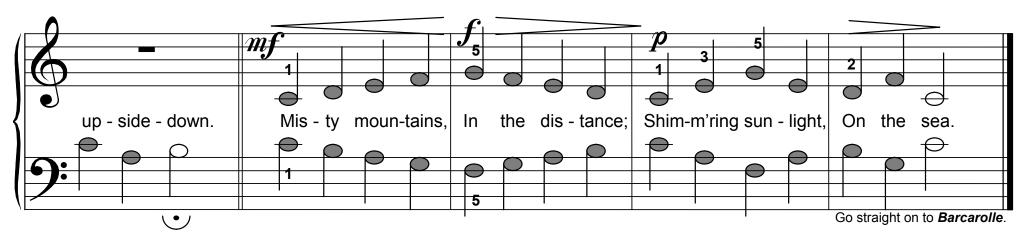






*Middle C Cat* is the 1st leger line note *underneath* the treble, as well as being the 1st leger line note *above* the bass.





Teacher's Accompaniment:

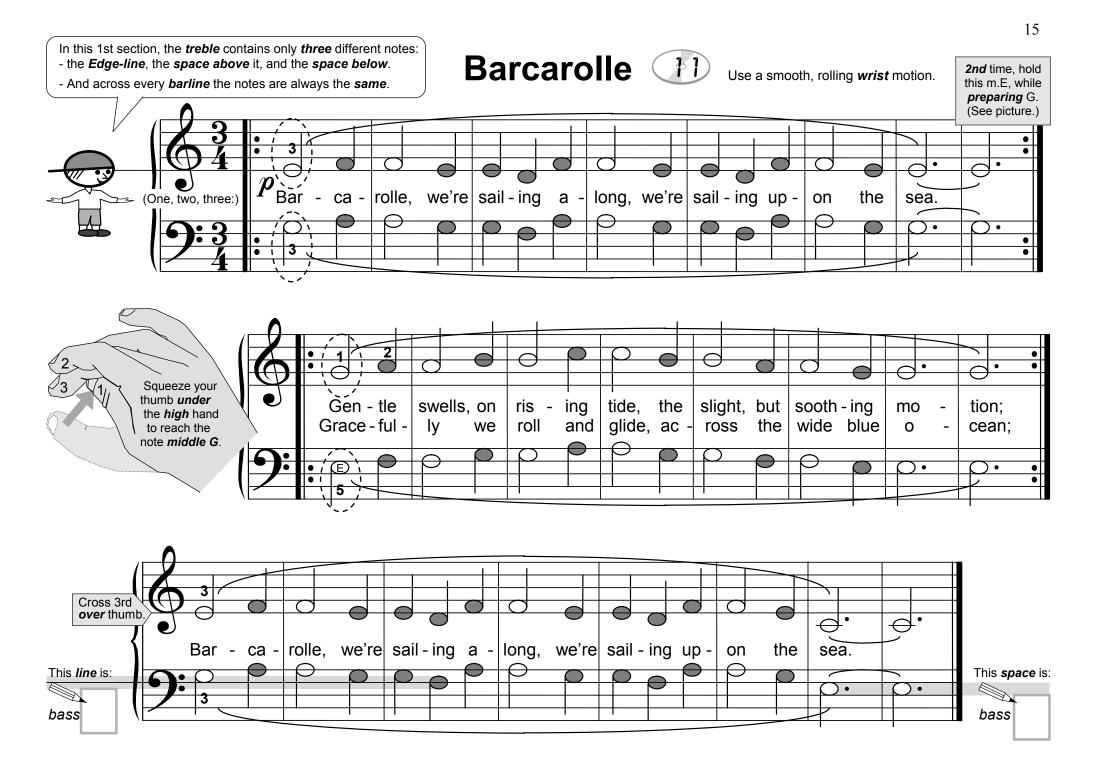


- Contrary Motion: The hands play together in opposite directions (outwards and inwards).
- Similar Motion:

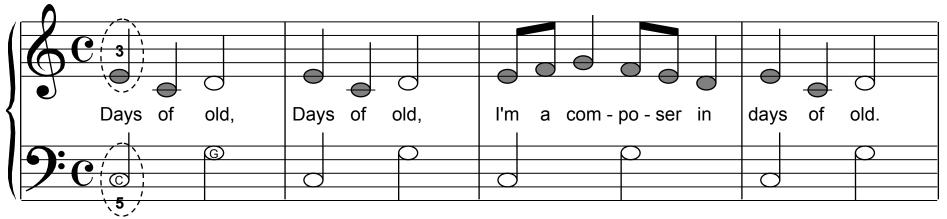
The hands play together in the *same* direction (*upwards* and *downwards*).

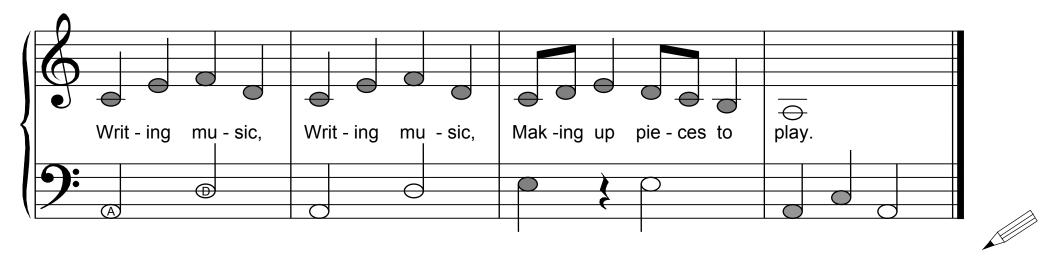
"Barcarolle" (opposite page) - Teacher's Accompaniment:

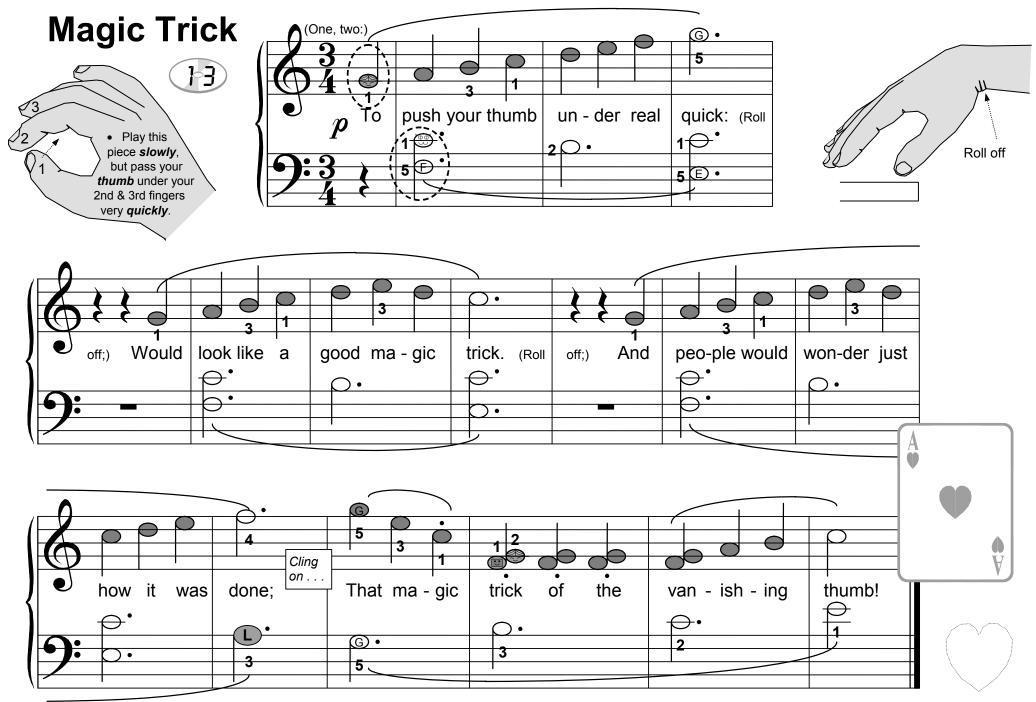




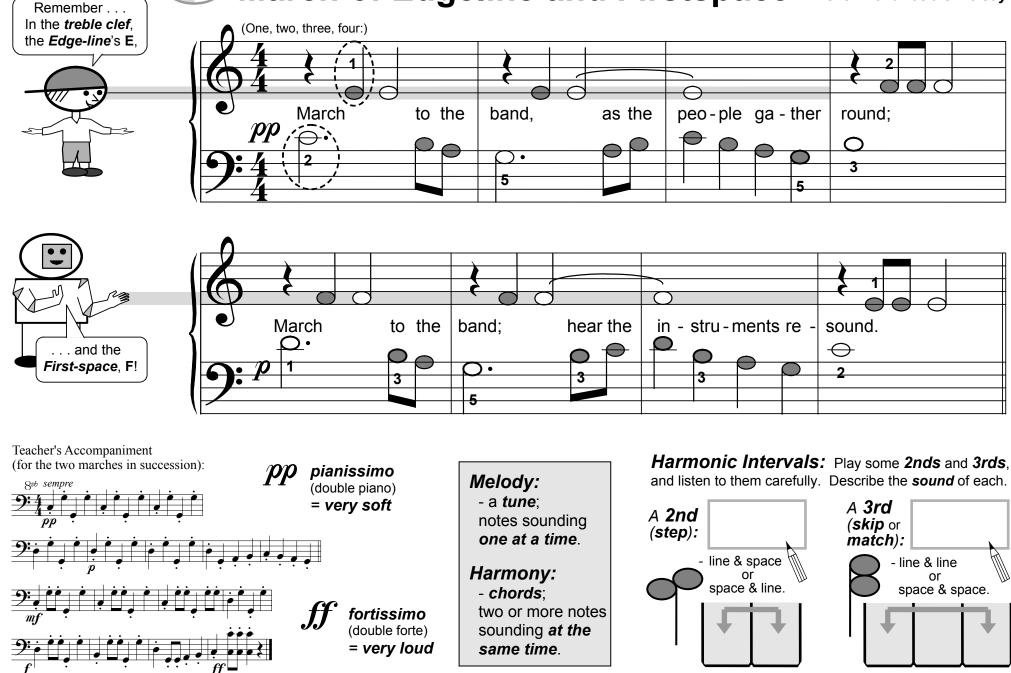






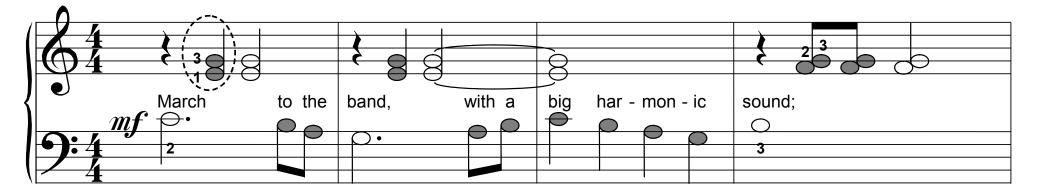


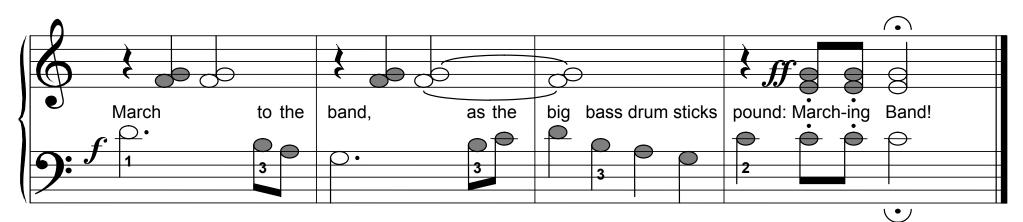
#### H) March of Edgeline and Firstspace The low hand has the melody.



## March of the Seconds and Thirds

After learning each march, play this one straight after the previous one, to make **one long piece**.

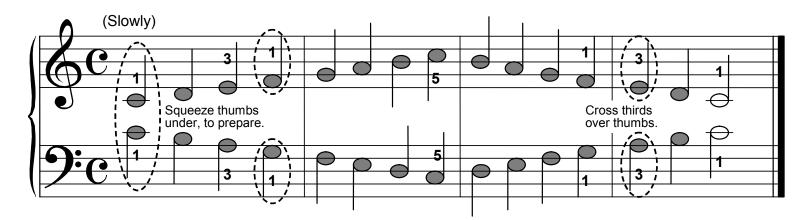


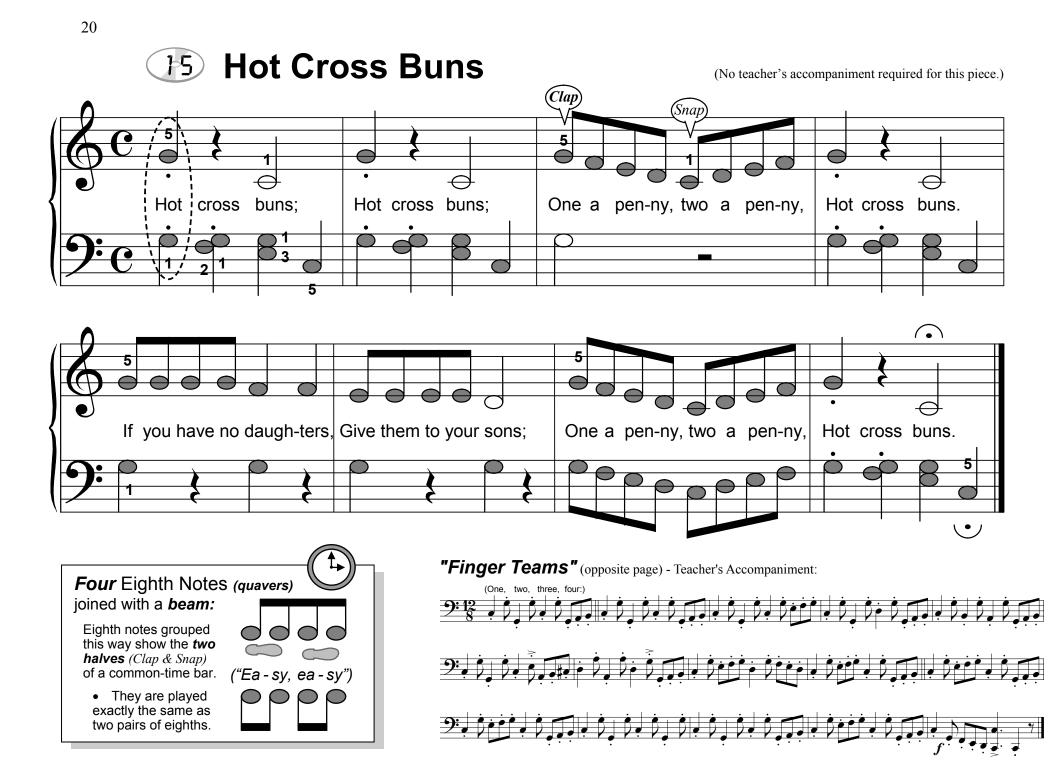


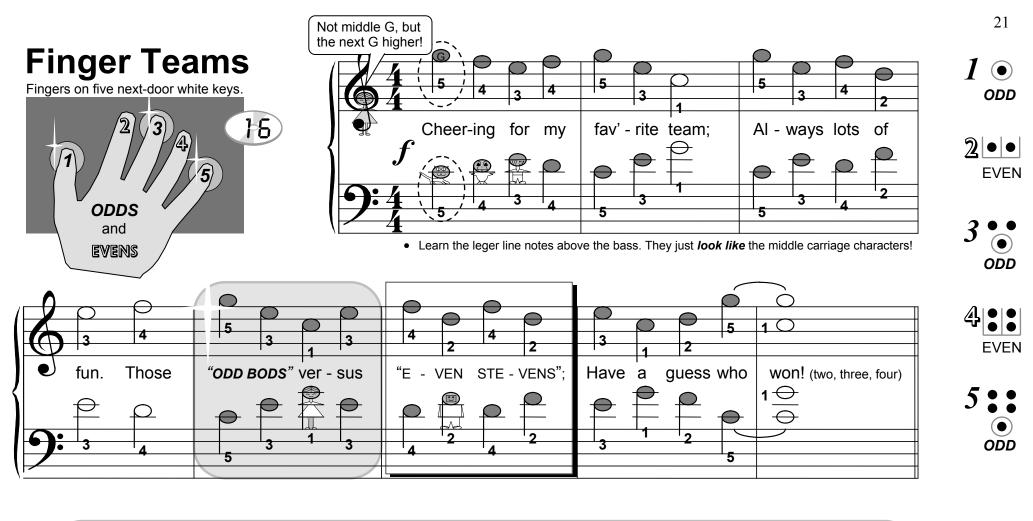
## Scales in Contrary Motion:

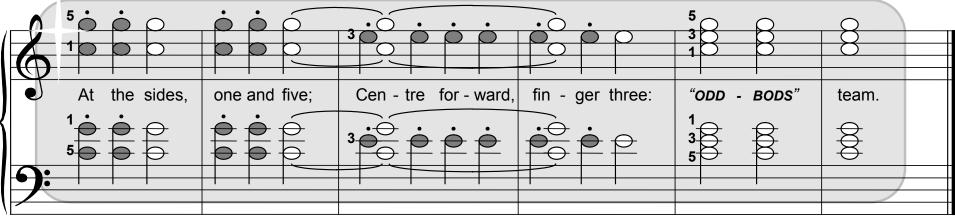
Practise with hands **separately** at first.

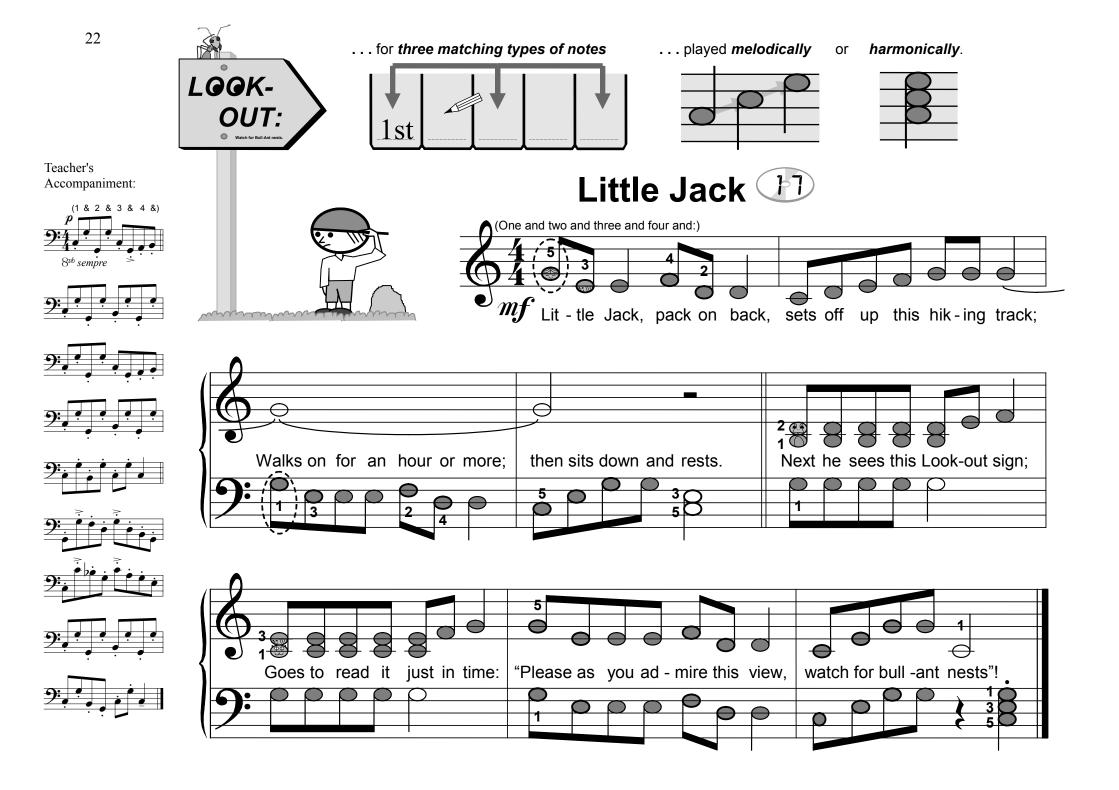
A **scale** is a row of notes **stepping** upwards or downwards one at a time.





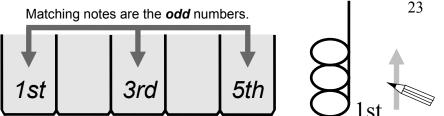


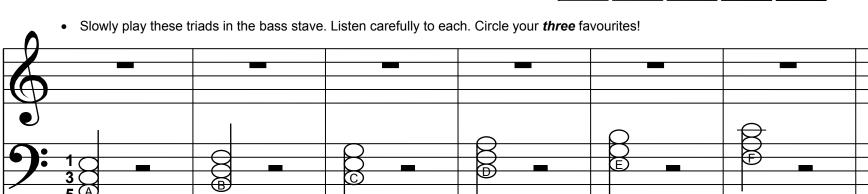




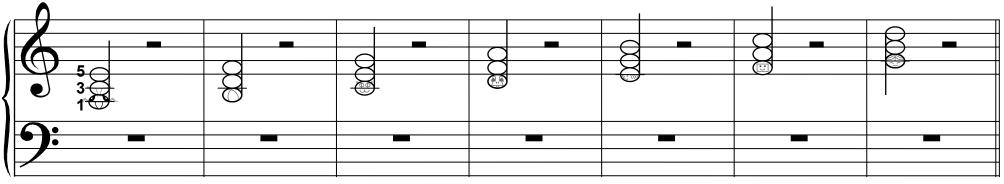
# Triads:

- *chords* built upwards by *three matching notes*; a *1st*, a *3rd* and a *5th*. The triad is named by the letter-name of its *1st* (the lowest note).





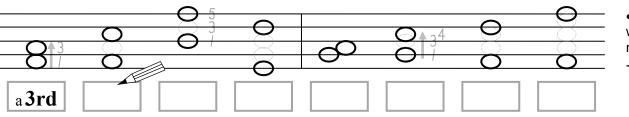
• Next play these triads written in the treble stave and starting on each middle carriage key. Again, circle your three favourite-sounding triads.



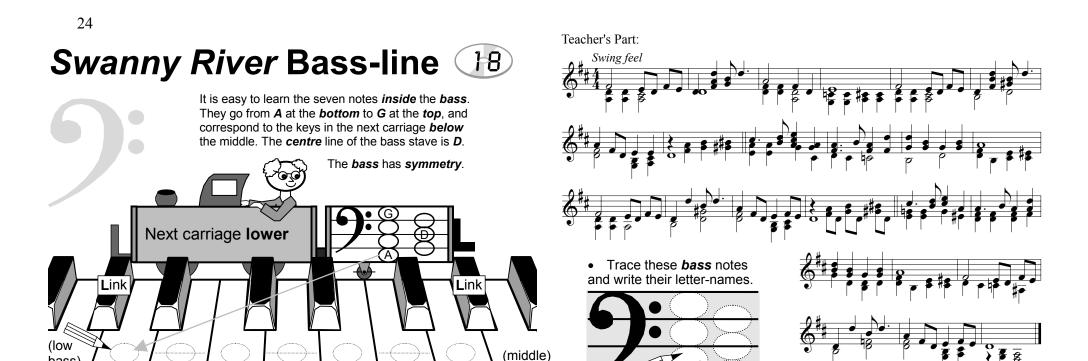
### Measuring Intervals - the quick way: Count up matching notes from the 1st by the odd numbers (1, 3, 5, 7, etc.).

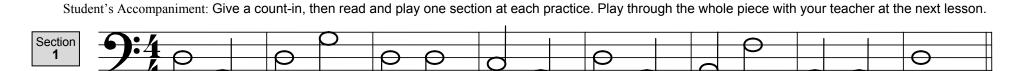
The lower note of an interval is called the *1st* (number 1), which is an *odd* number.

• *Matching* notes above the *1st*, will *also* be *odd* numbers: - the *3rd*, *5th*, *7th*, etc.



Notes above the 1st (1) which don't match with it, must be the even intervals:
the 2nd, 4th, 6th, etc.





bass G

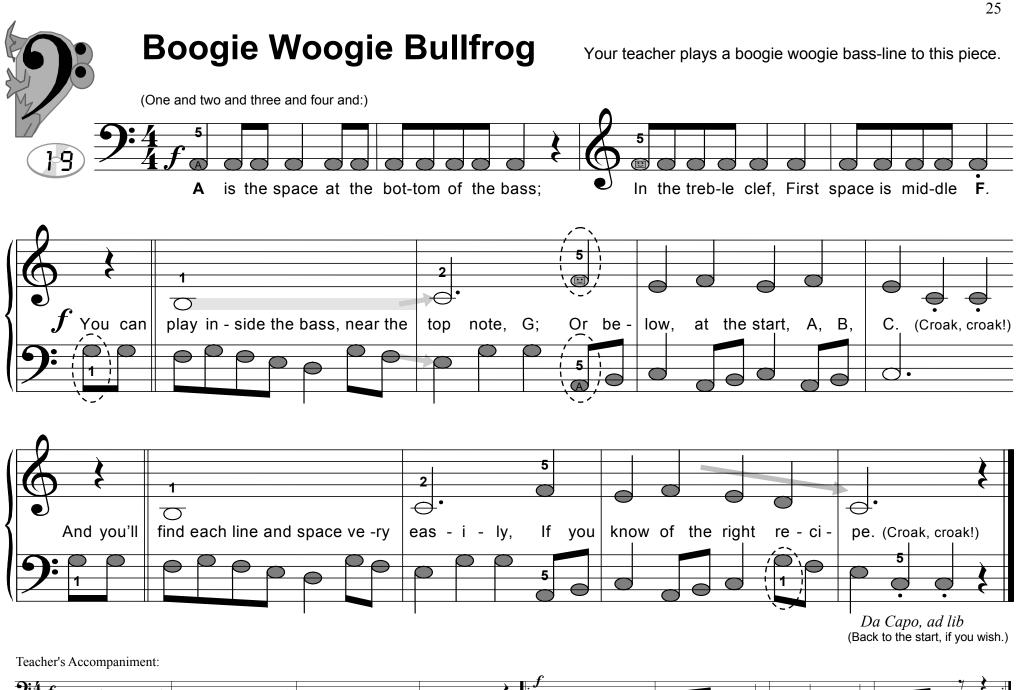
bass)

bass A

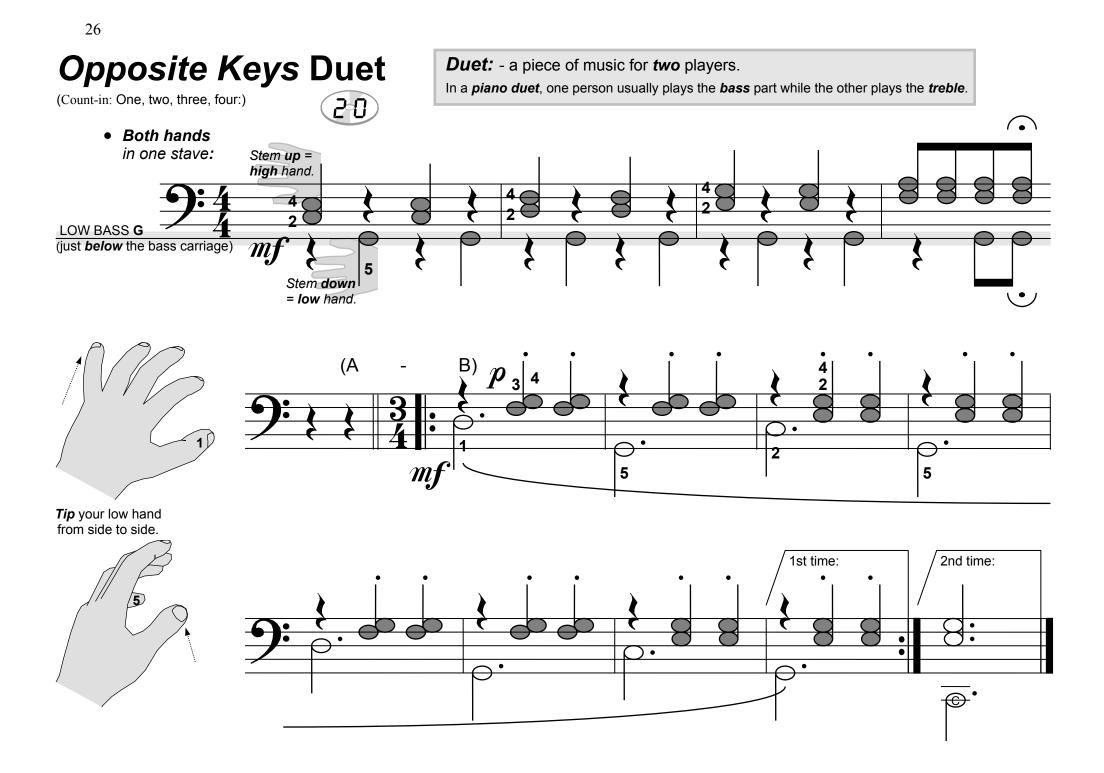
bass D

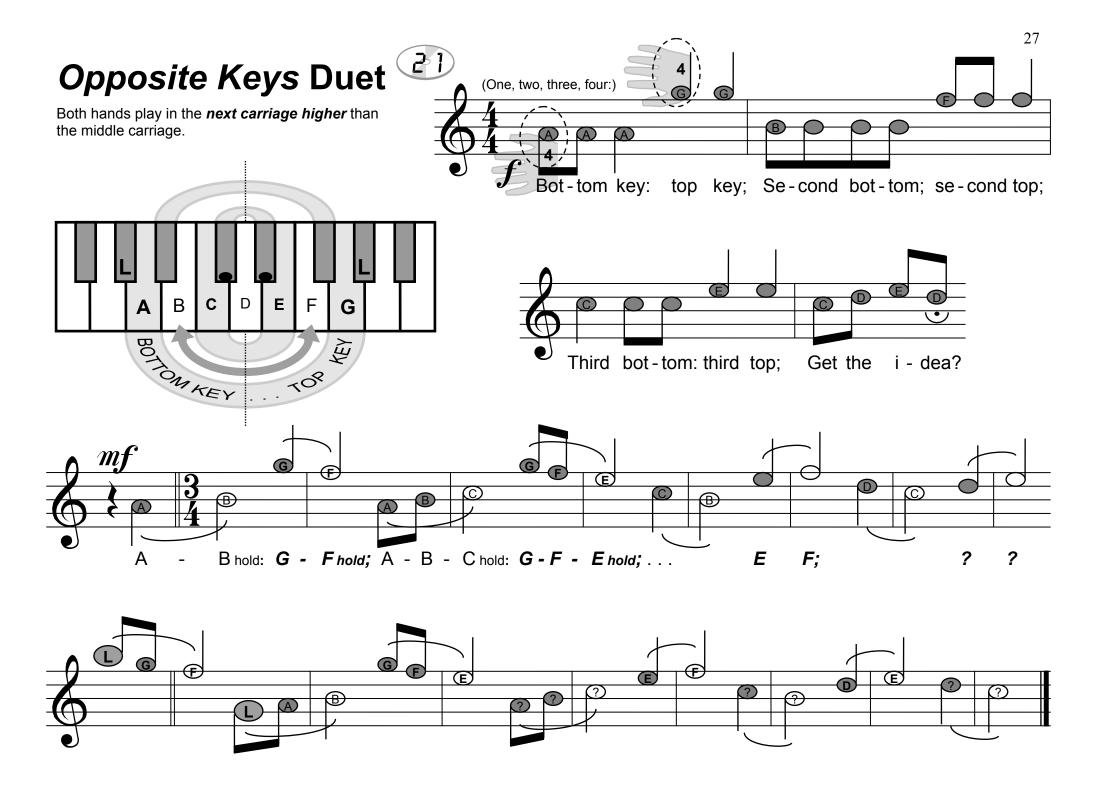






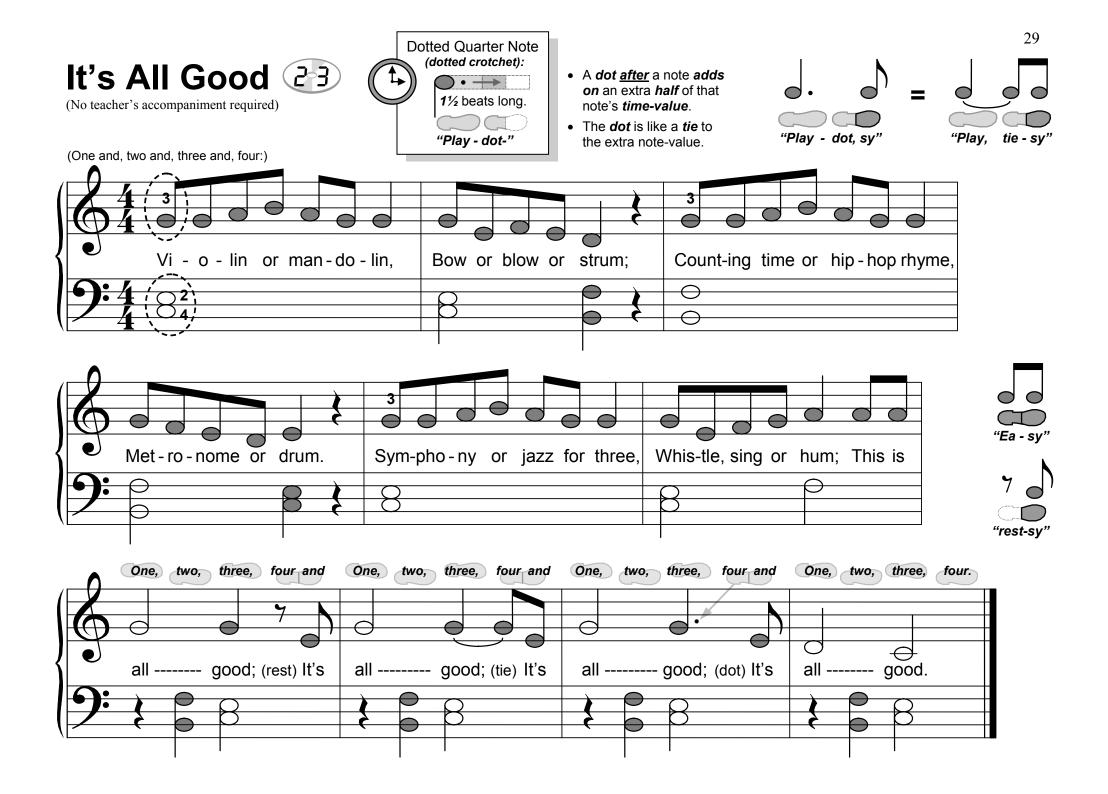


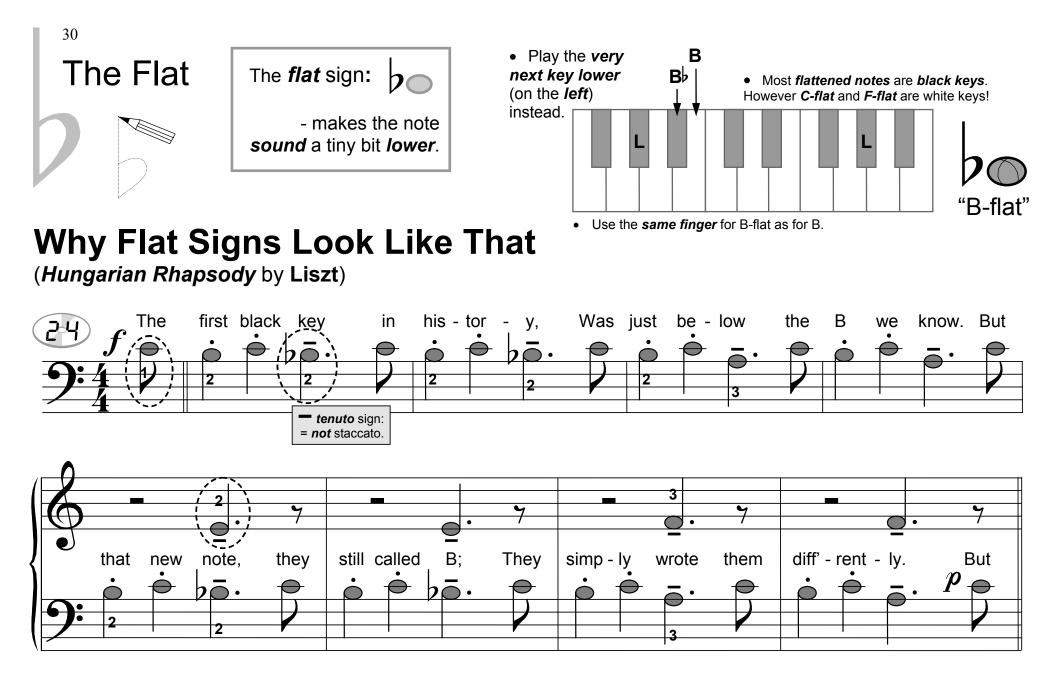




One of Second Space in Treble Clef 22 First-space's older brothers! (Introducing, to you:) ••• treble Sec-ond space in tre - ble clef; Sec-ond space in tre - ble clef; I'm the next space up from F; ۱ul Ħ You're the next space up from F. You can call me treb-le We can call you treb-le A. A: •: treble 5 (  $\frown$ 3 In the se-cond space I stay; In the se-cond space you stay. First two spa-ces. to you:) (In - tro - du-cing,

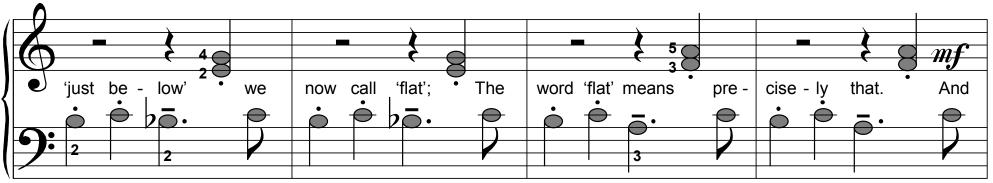


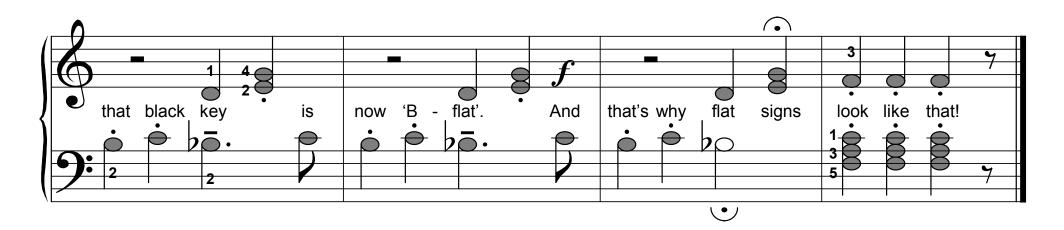




Teacher's Accompaniment:







#### The Origin of the Flat Sign

The music scale with letter-names A to G, was first defined for singing, about **1000** years ago.

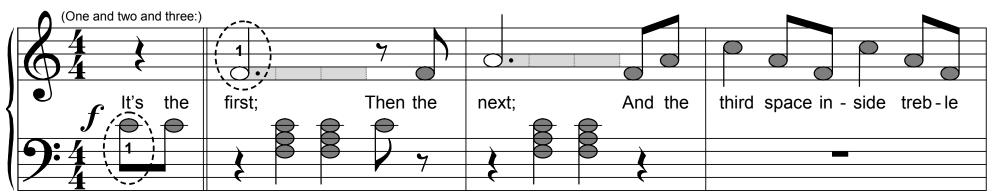
It started with the lowest note that the average man could sing, a note they called *gamma*, the Greek letter G:

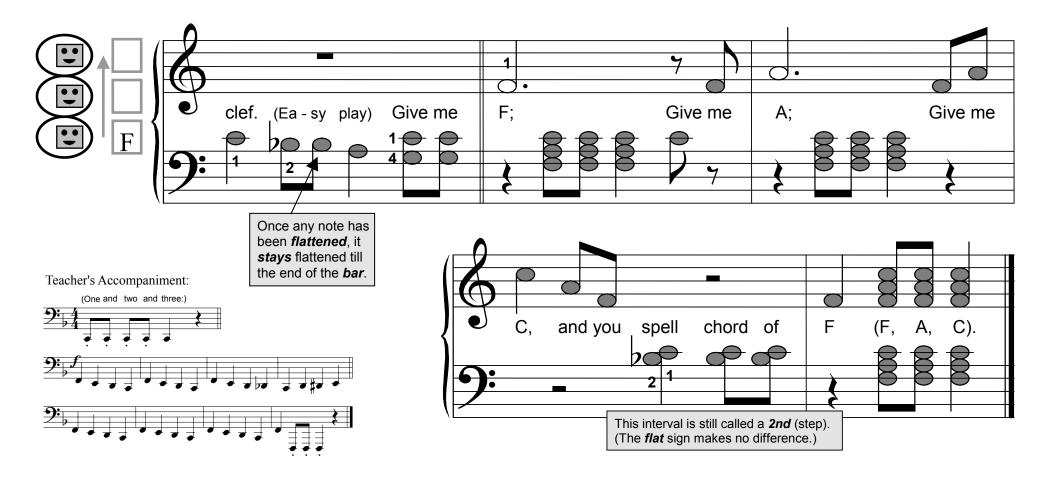


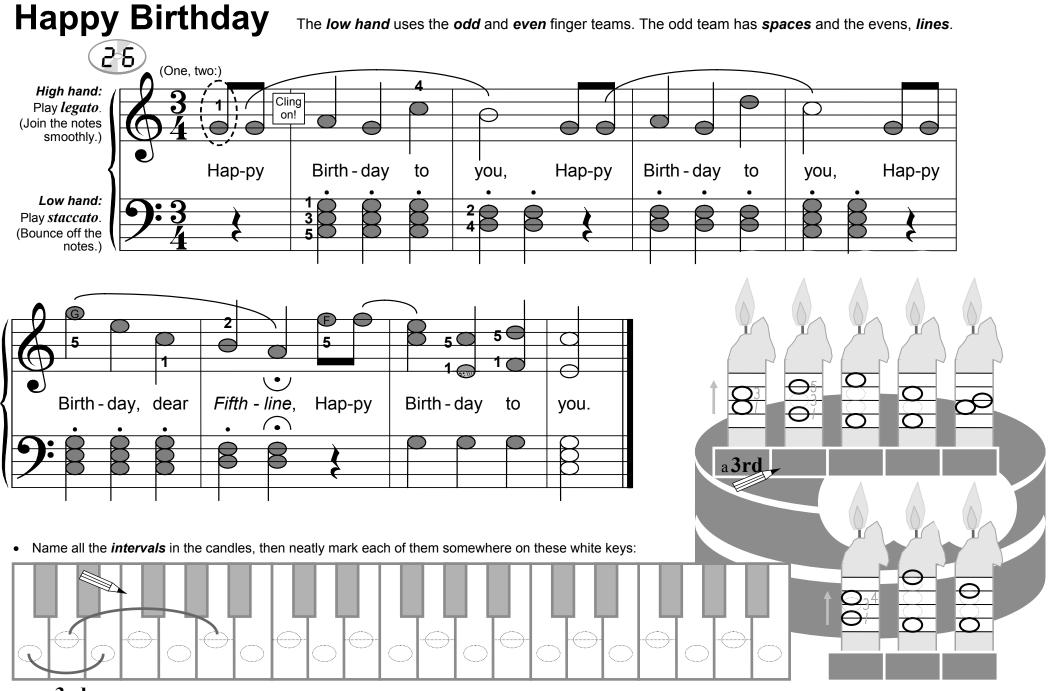
After gamma, the notes were called *capital* A to G, then *small* letters a to g, then *double* aa to gg. But there were two types of notes called **b**! One, the same as our modern (white key) B, was written as a **'square' b**. But the other, slightly lower, was written as a '**round' b**. This was in effect the first 'black key', and the round **b** became the **flat** sign.





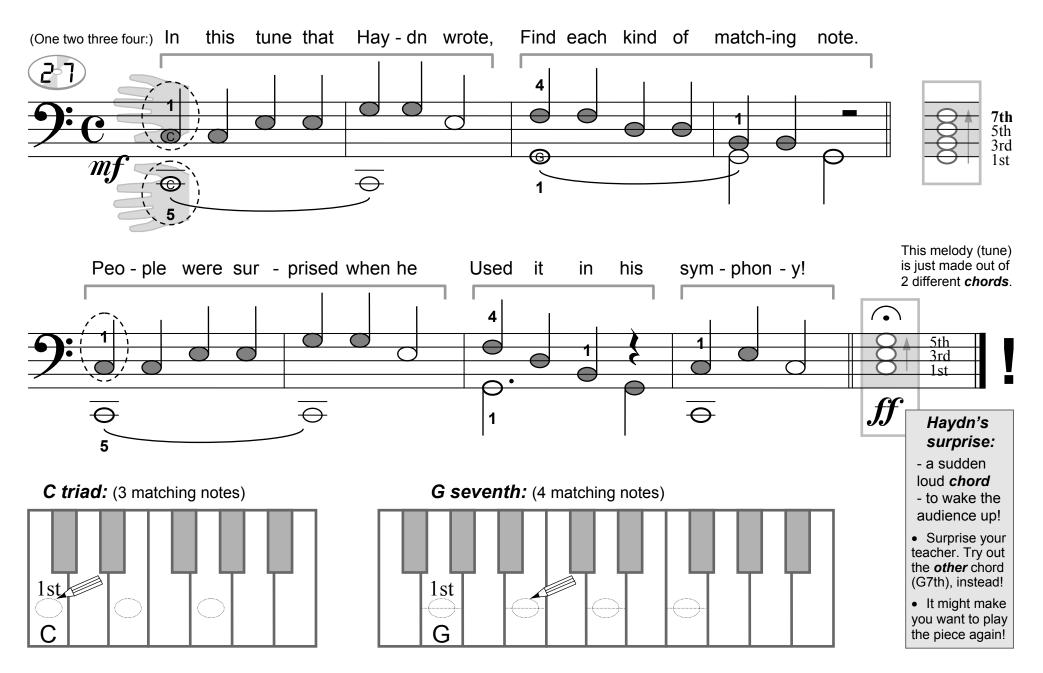






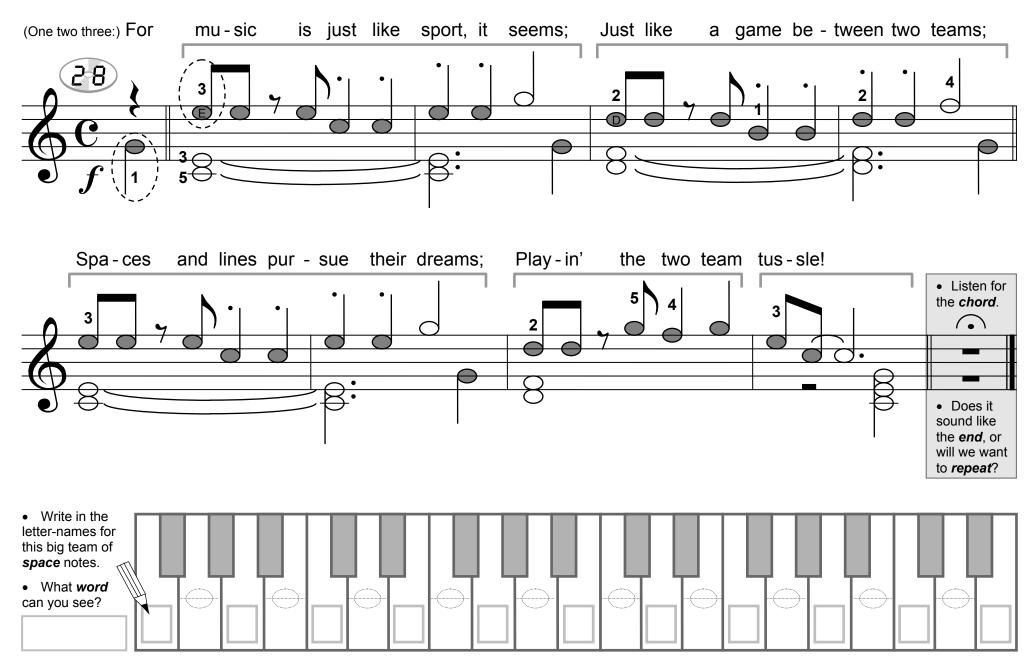
#### a **3rd**

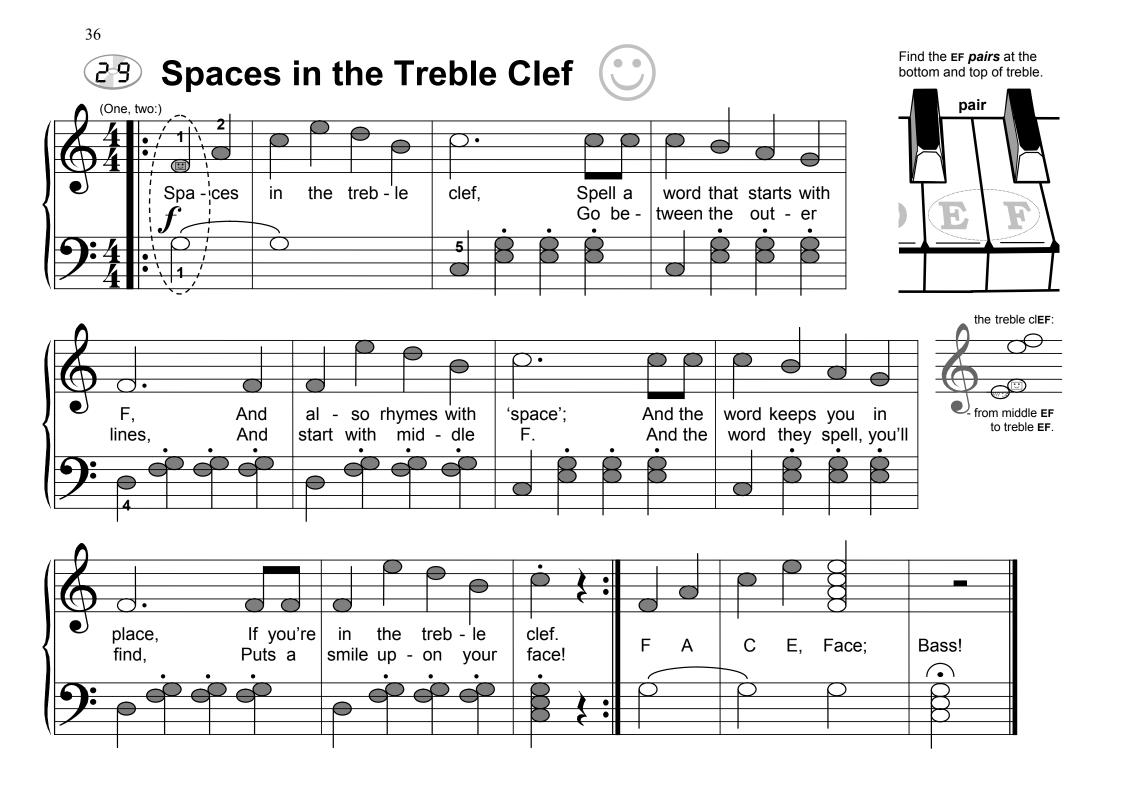
# Haydn's Surprise Symphony- May be played as a *duet* with *Two Team Tussle* (opposite page).



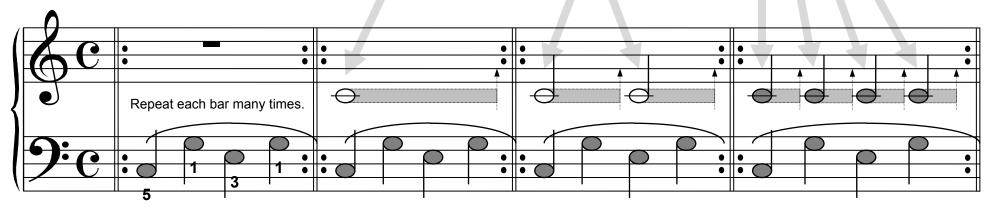
34

#### **Two Team Tussle**





# **30** Alberti Bass (with Whole Notes . . . Half Notes . . . and Quarter Notes . . . )



The *Alberti Bass pattern* is named after Domenico Alberti who made it a popular left hand accompaniment about 250 years ago.

It has been used ever since, in a great number of piano compositions.

Play the Alberti over and over with a slow steady beat, until it becomes automatic.

Use the **odd** fingers, 1, 3 & 5, and **tip** your hand slightly from side to side in a **'rotary'** action. Keep fingers 3 & 5 well **rounded**.

Next add the right hand Whole Note, Half Notes and Quarter Notes, repeating each bar many times.

Be careful to *join up* all the Alberti notes *smoothly* (shown by the *slurs*). But *lift* or 'break' the right hand between its repeated notes (shown by the *up arrows*).



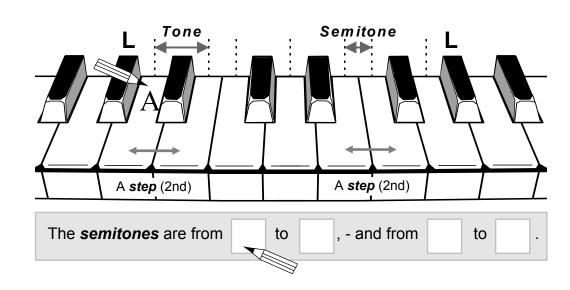
Tone or Semitone? At the *front* of the white keys, all *steps* (*2nds*) look the *same size*.

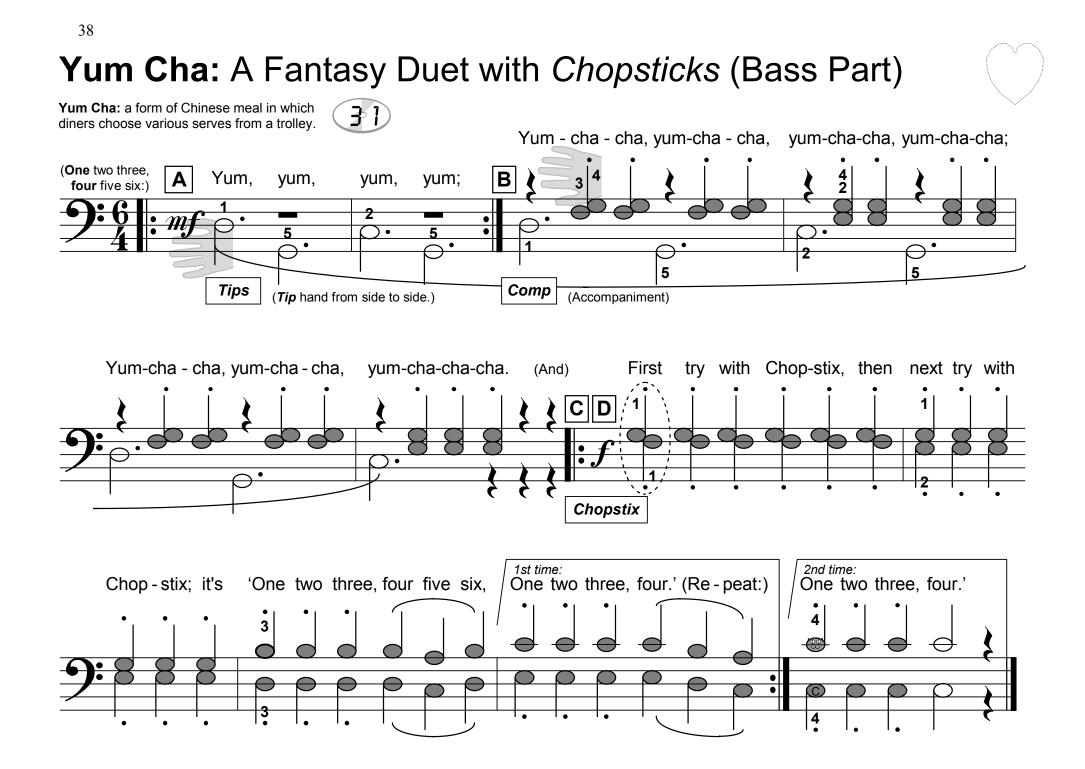
But at the **back** of the keys, you'll see there are **two sizes** of **steps**.

• On each white key, at the *back*, write its *letter-name*.

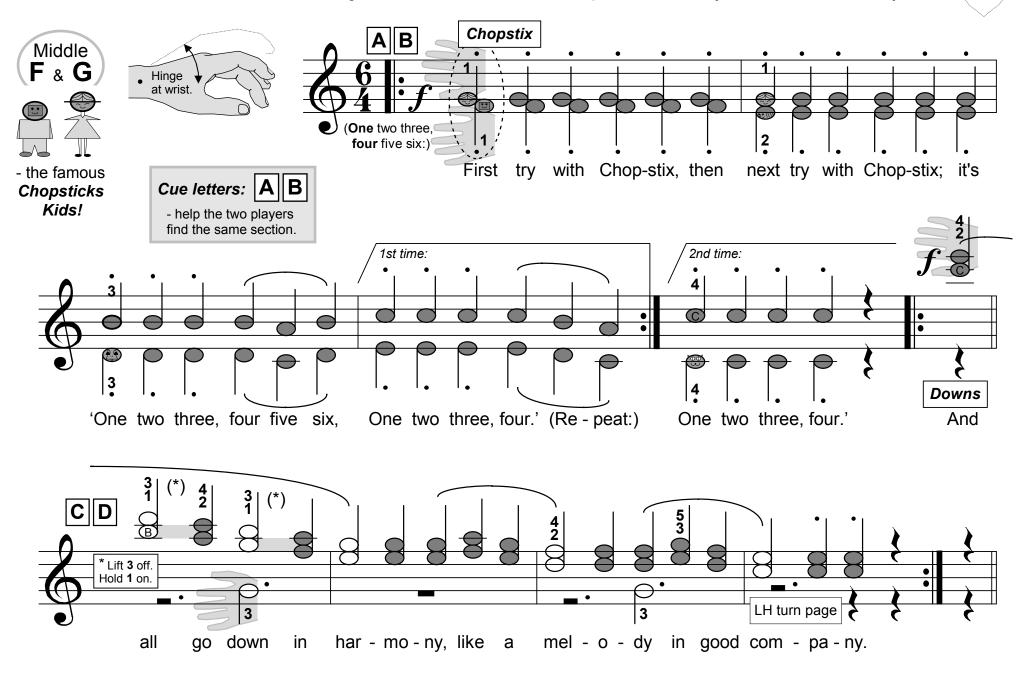
Most letters are a *large step* apart. This *large step* is called one *tone*.

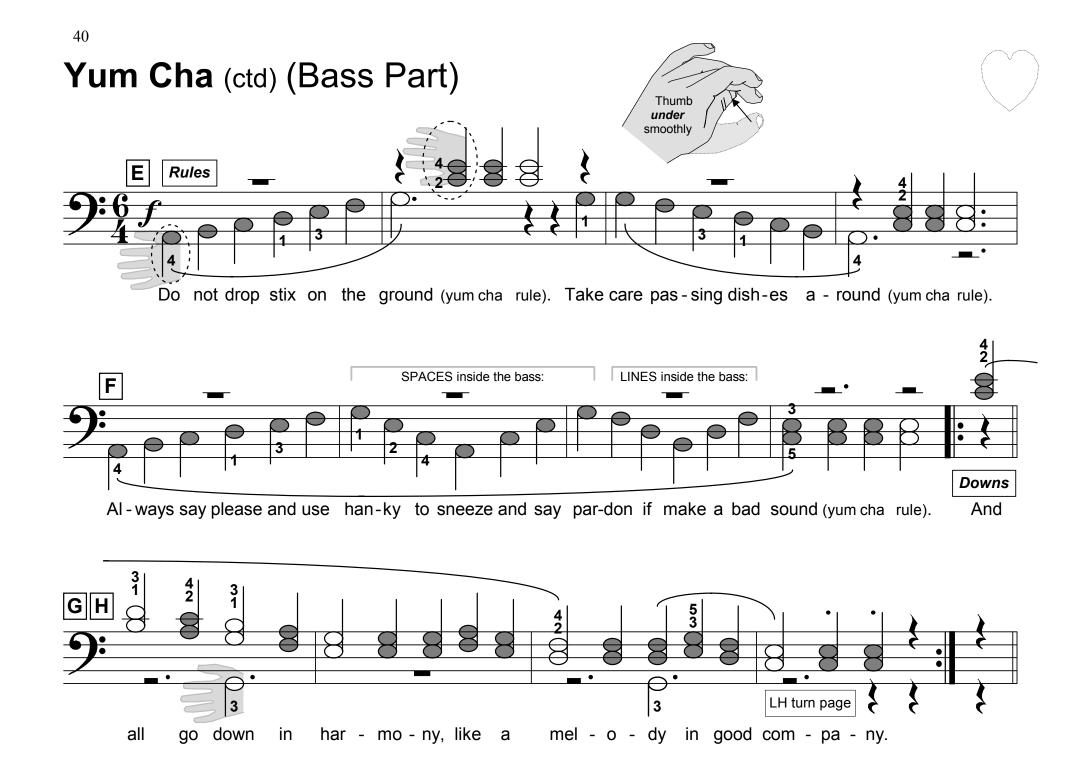
The *smaller steps* are *semitones*.Which letters are they between?

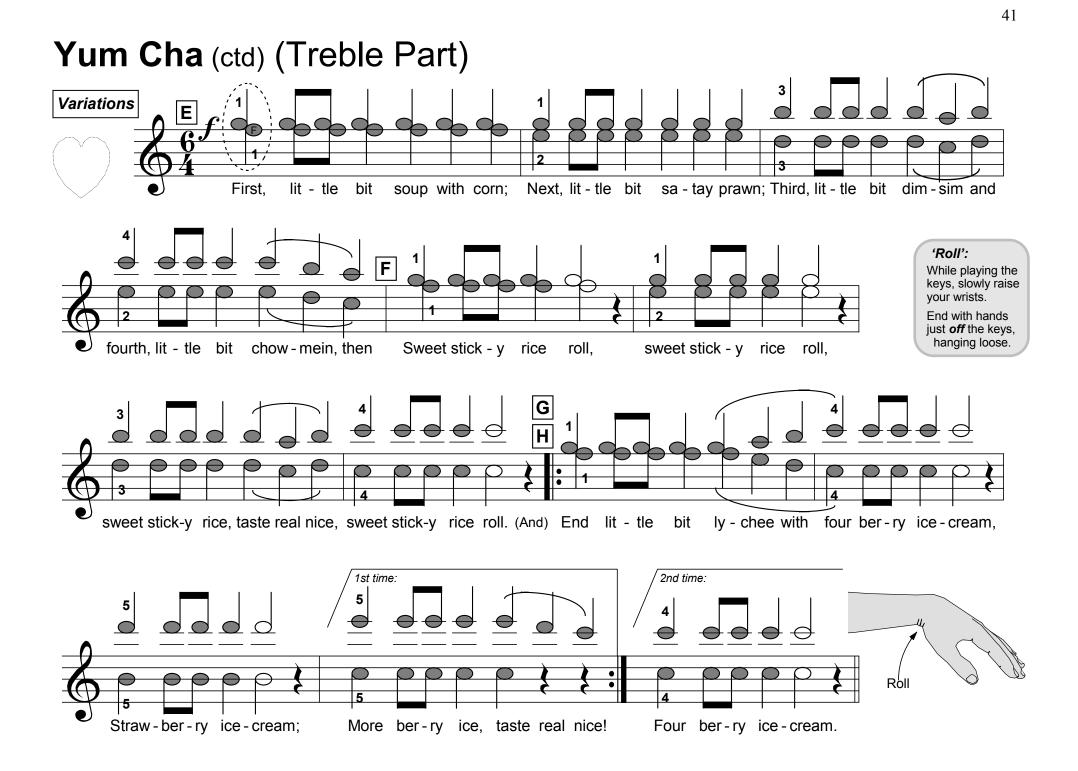


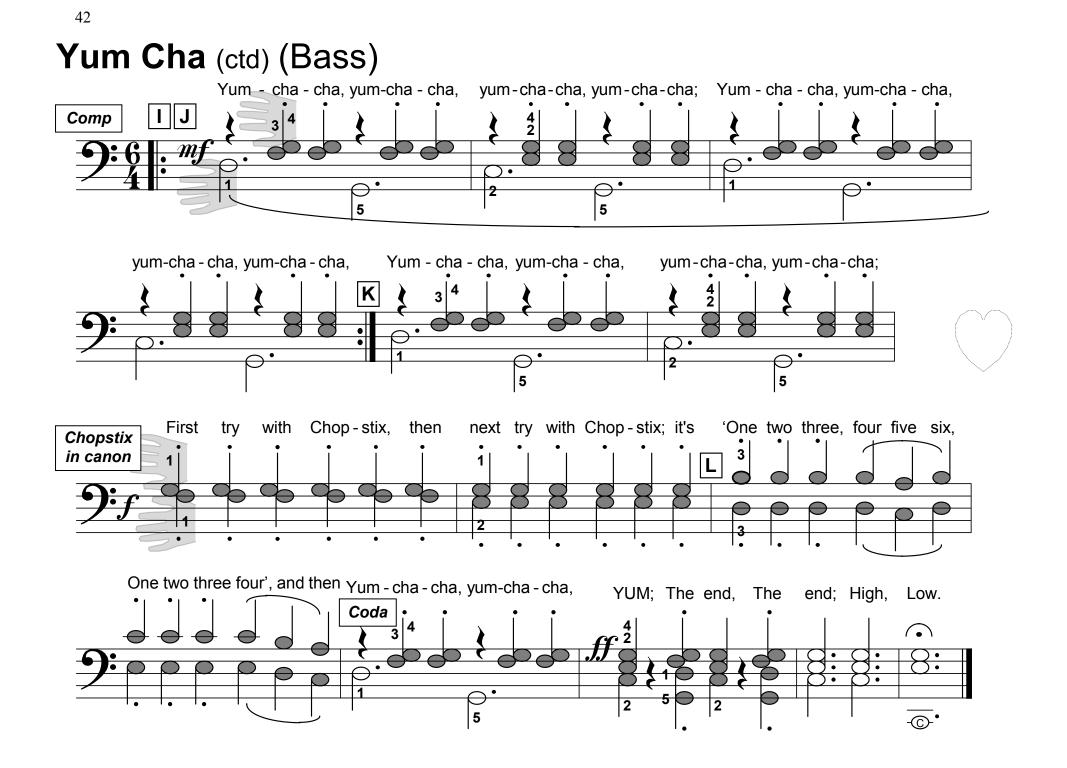


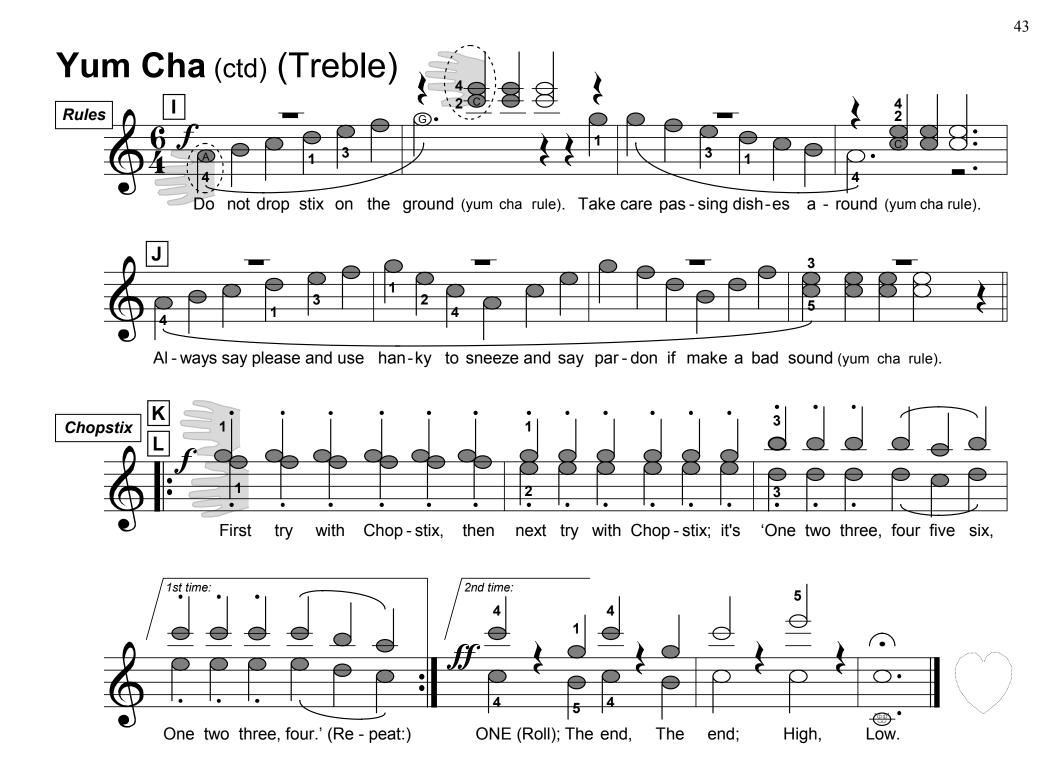
#### Yum Cha: A Fantasy Duet with Chopsticks (Treble Part)







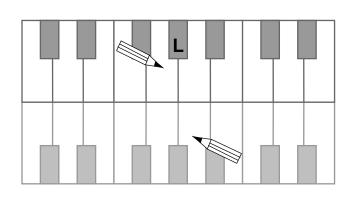




# **Keyboard Symmetry**

Starting next to the LINK, write the letter-name of the white key on one side, then its opposite on the other side of the link. Work from the centre out to the edge.

> • Then turn the book upside-down . . .



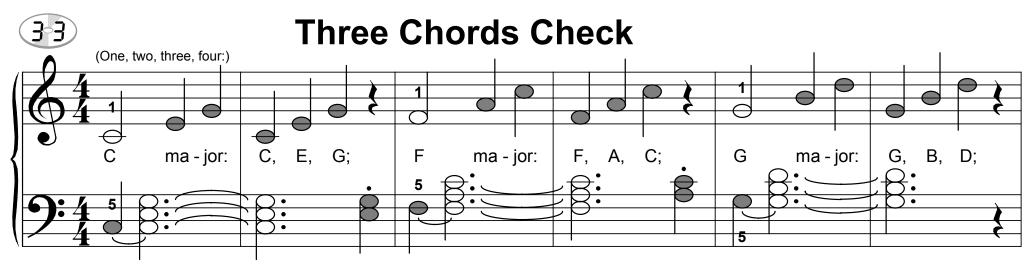
- and similarly write the letter-names on this keyboard:

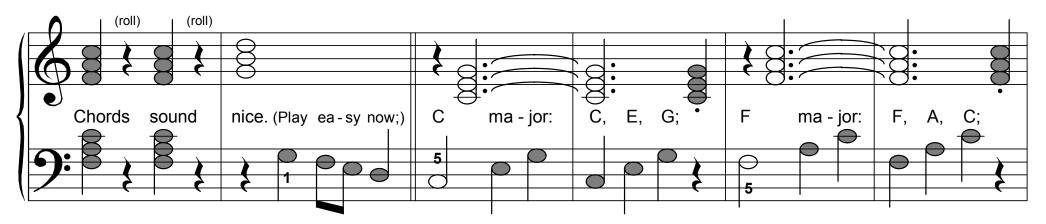
# Keyboard Symmetry

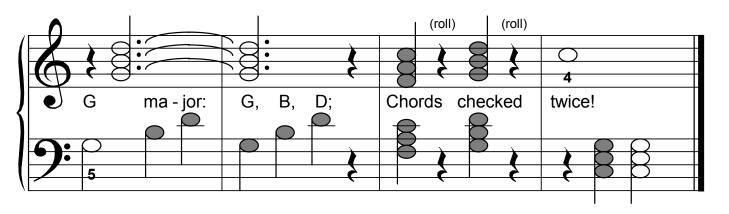
**Doh Ray Me Doh** (Frere Jaques) 32 Learn this piece one bar at a time (five repetitions each). Then join the bars together. Doh----Ō Soh----Each bar is repeated. Singing • • quarter • • -3 Singing a notes half note (crotchets): (minim): me, doh; Doh, ray, Me, fah, soh------; • • 1 • ٠ ٠ This piece can be played by two people as a *round*, either on two Soh lah • . keyboards, or at different places • | • on a single keyboard. 4 Fitting two One player starts and when they  $\ominus$ 1 eighth notes are up to bar two, the second Soh lah, soh fah, me, doh; Doh, soh ′doh-(quavers) into player comes in at bar one. The the one beat: whole piece can then be played a number of times continuously • • • (going *round* and *round*). • •

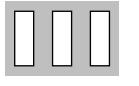
> Two people can also just sing the song as a round.



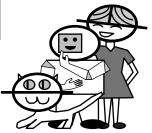


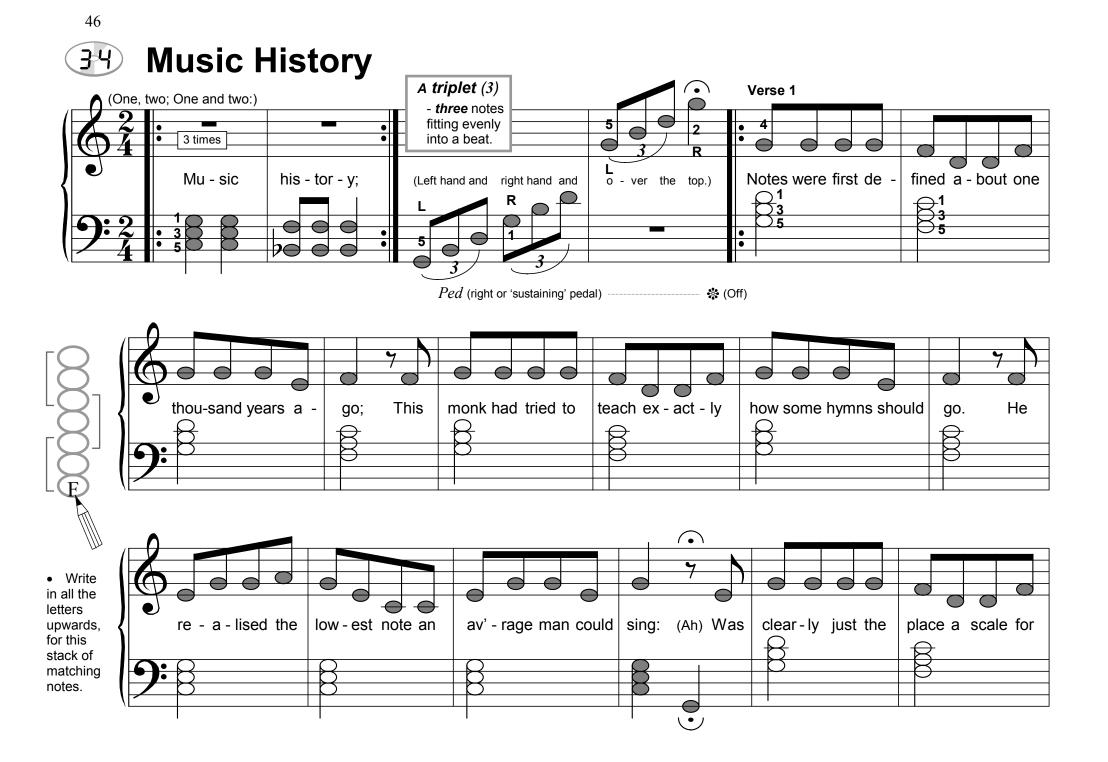


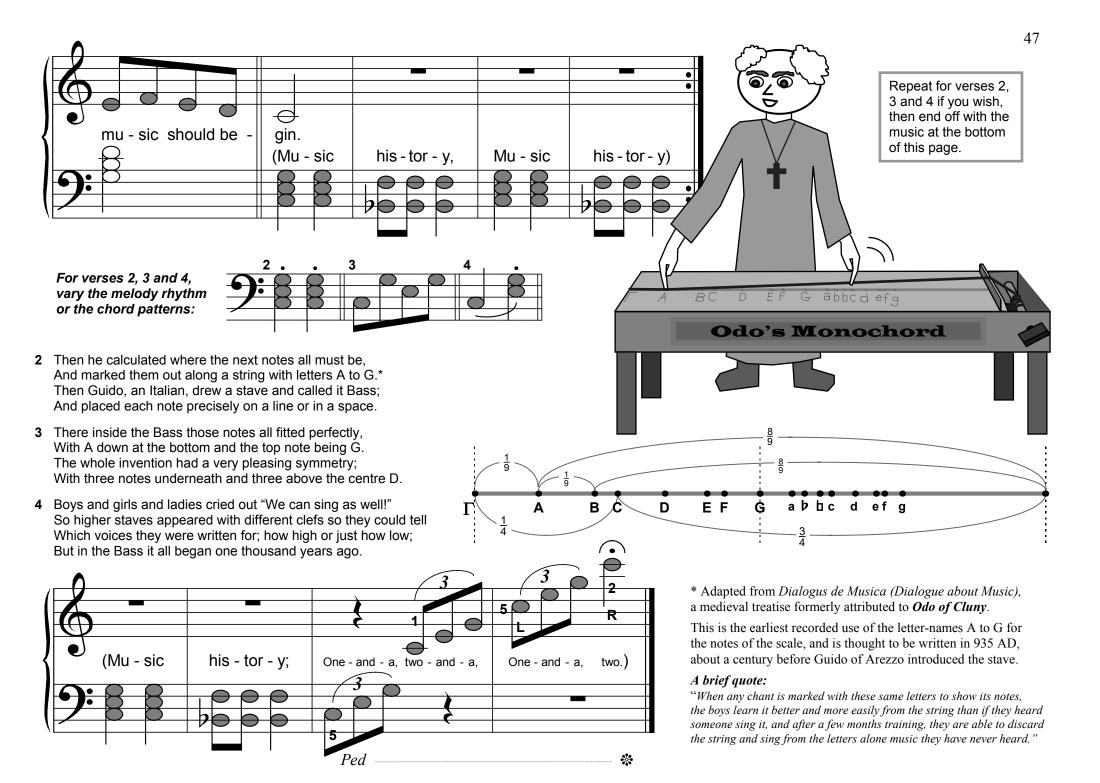


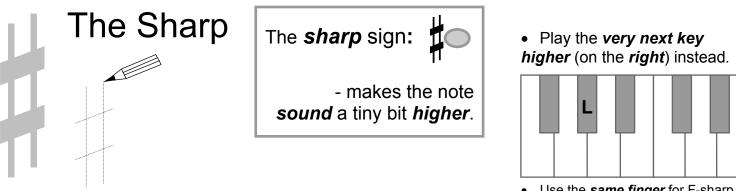


C major, F major, -G major.







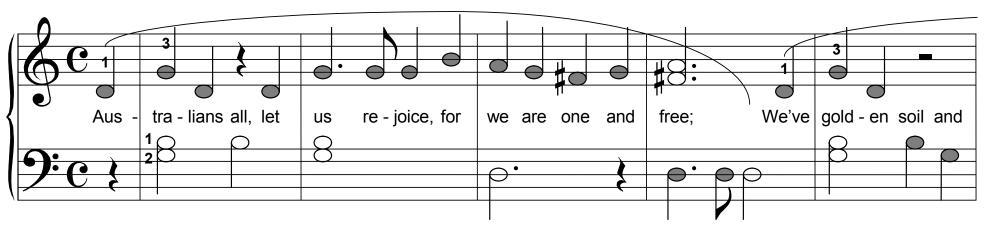


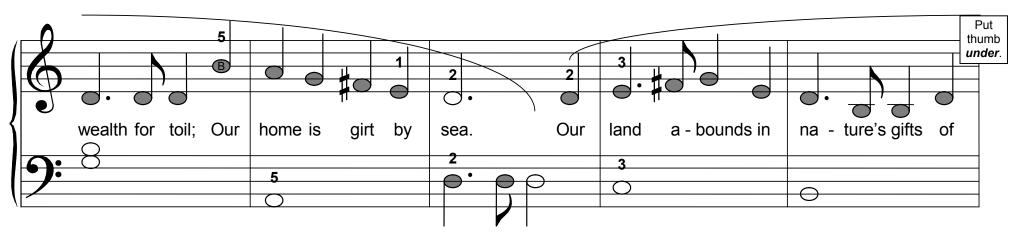
• Most sharpened notes are black keys. However B-sharp and E-sharp are white keys!

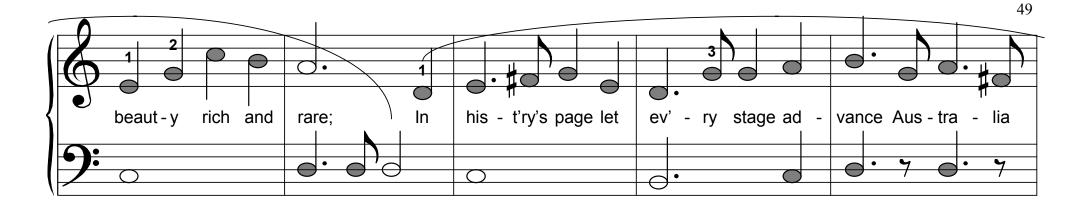
"F-sharp"

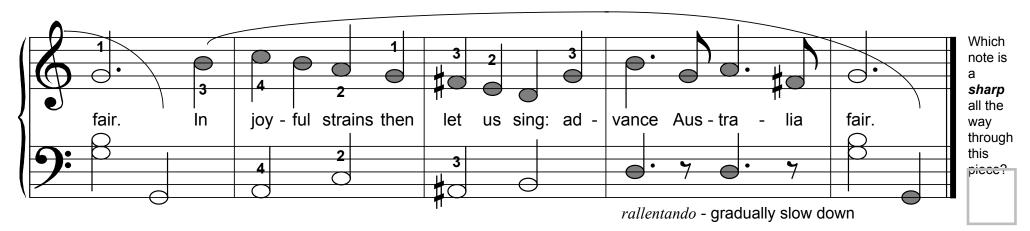
• Use the *same finger* for F-sharp as for F.

# **35 Advance Australia Fair**

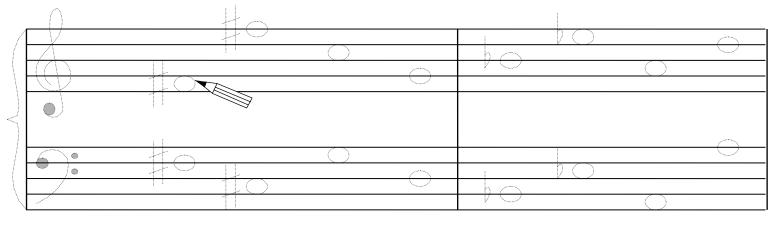








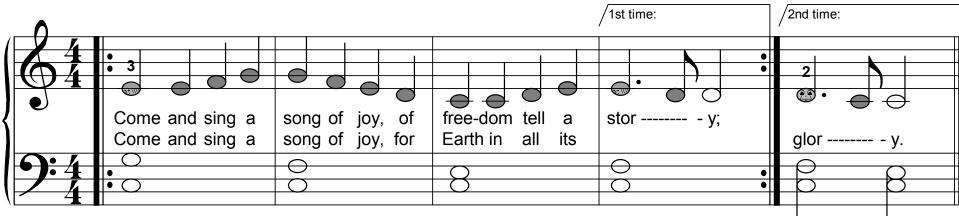
1. Trace and copy the two clefs. 2. Trace the notes and name them. 3. Place a sharp or flat carefully in front of each note.

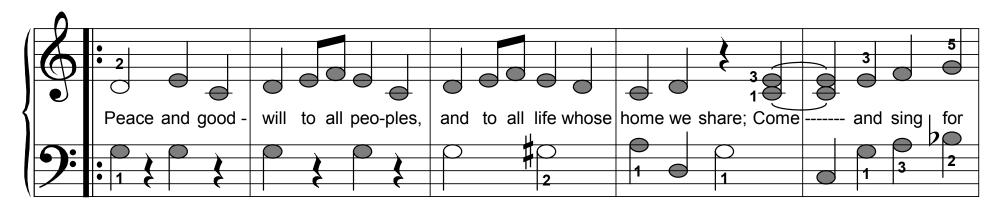


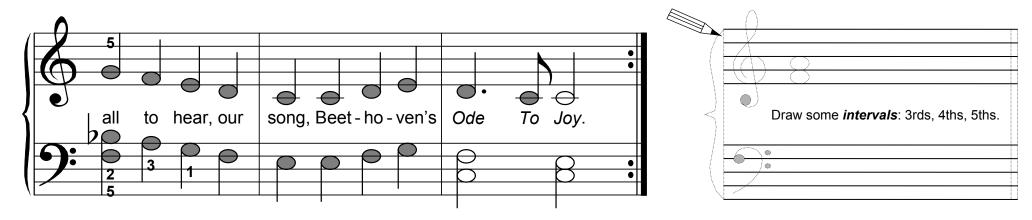




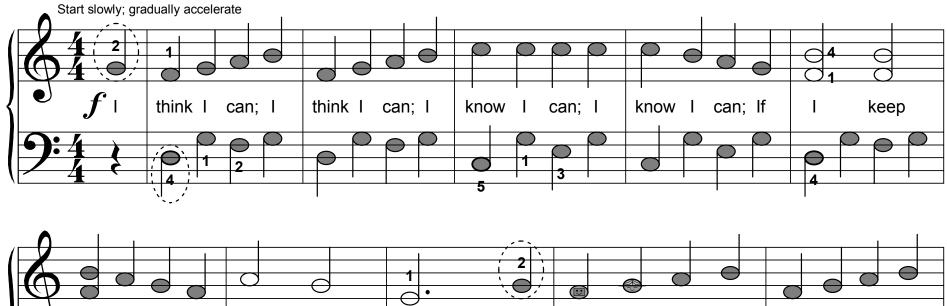
#### **36** Beethoven's Ode To Joy

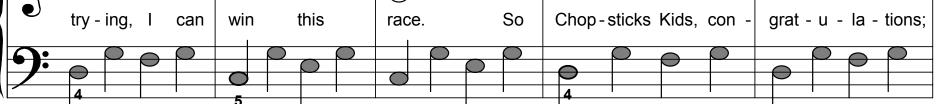


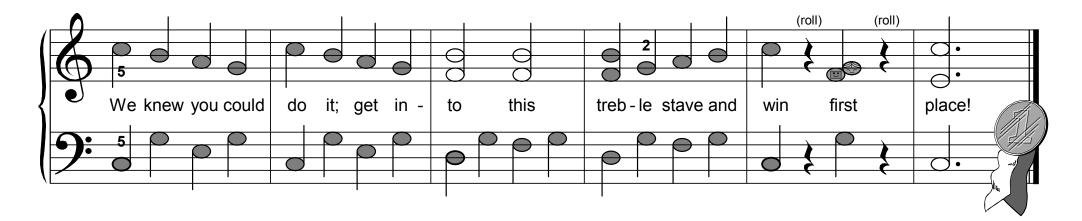




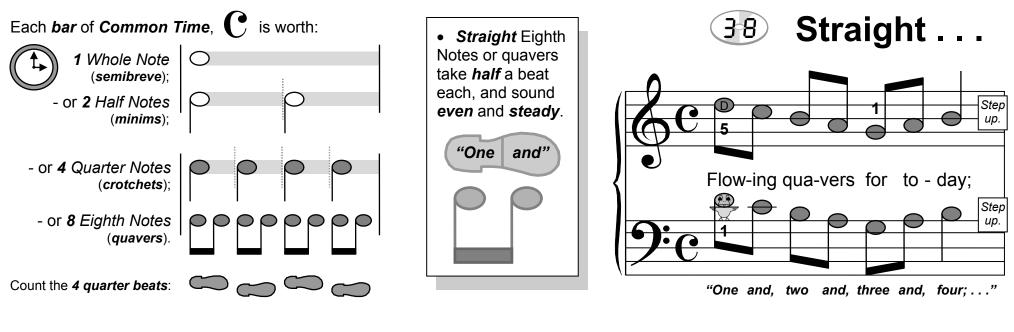
**IThink I Can** - with two different low hand Alberti patterns.

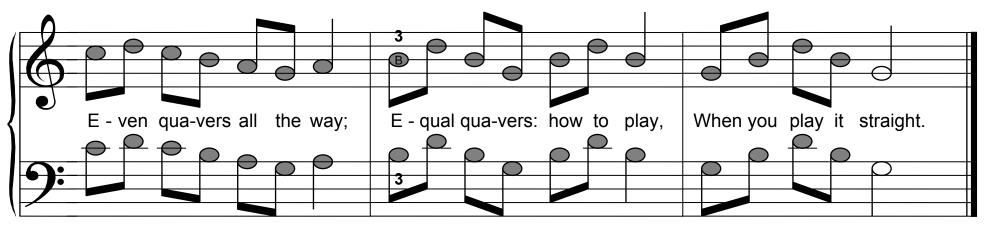






### Note-Values in Common Time

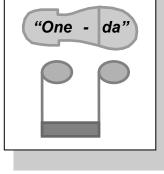


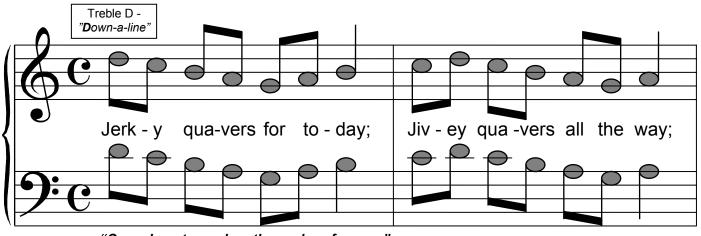




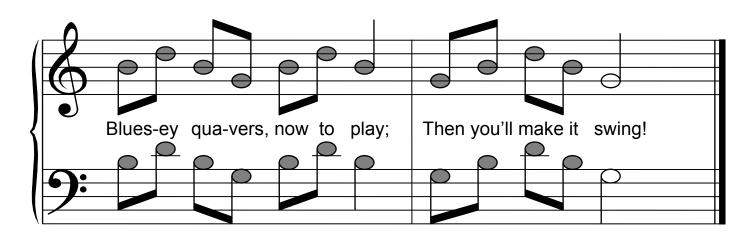
#### ... and Swing

• *Swing* Eighth Notes or quavers divide the beat *unevenly*, so that the first quaver is longer than the second. *Swing* is *jerky* and *jazzy*.





"One - da, two - da, three - da, four; ..."

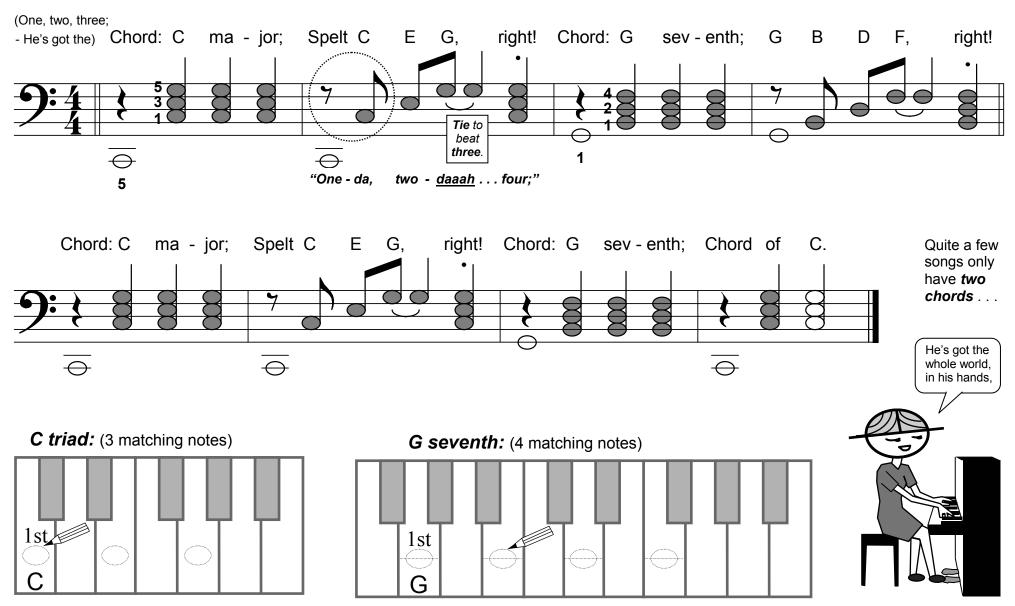






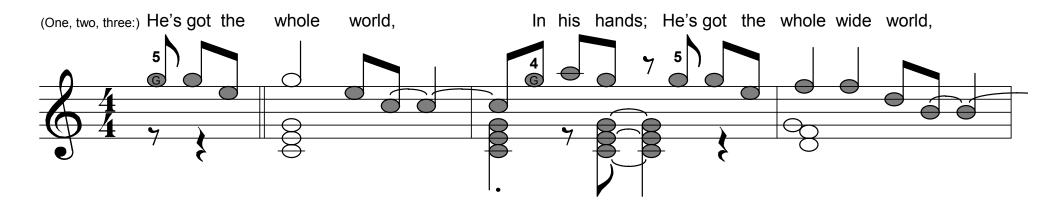
# Two Chord Accompaniment 39

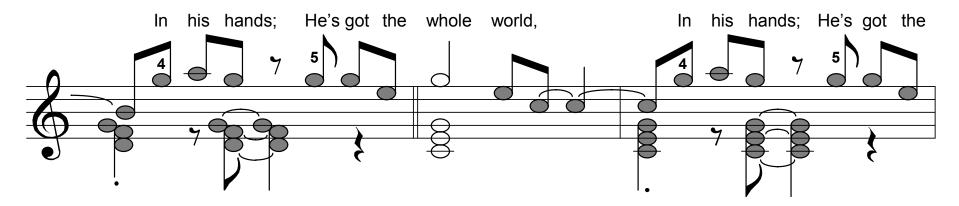
Give this piece a *swing* feel. Play as a *duet* with next page.

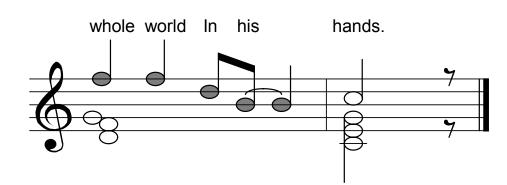


Can you say Geebidy - F really fast?

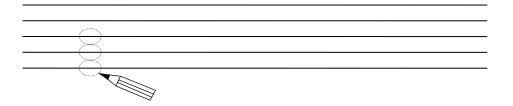
# He's Got the Whole World in His Hands (Swing feel.)







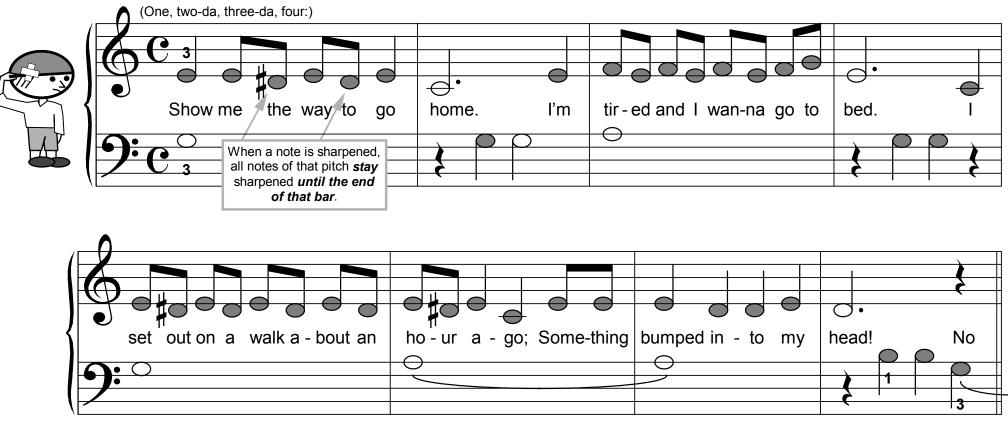
• Draw some chords: triads and 7th chords. (Draw the notes upwards.)

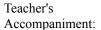


#### Show Me the Way to Go Home

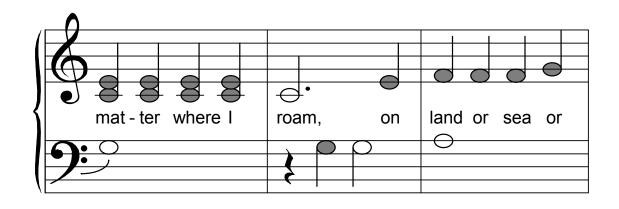


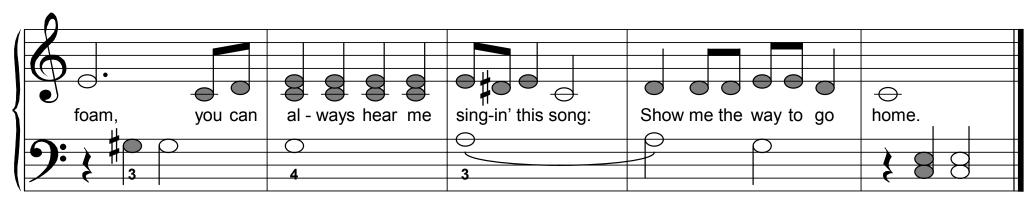
Swing the eighth notes for this song.

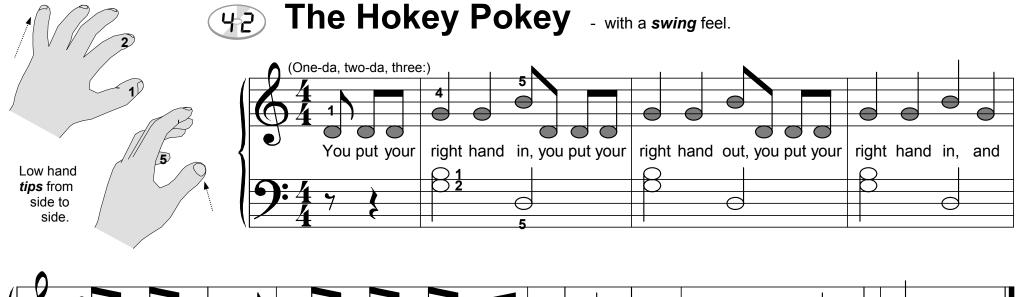


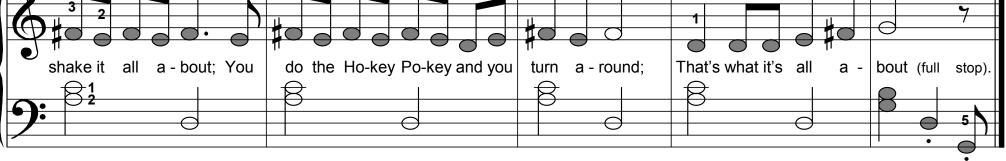






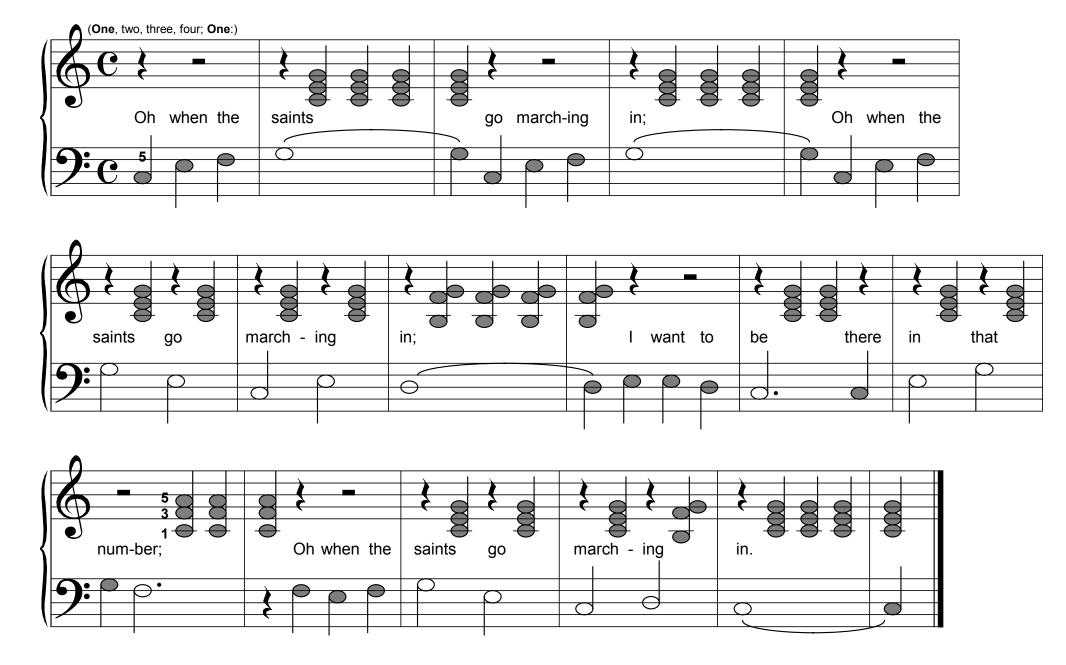








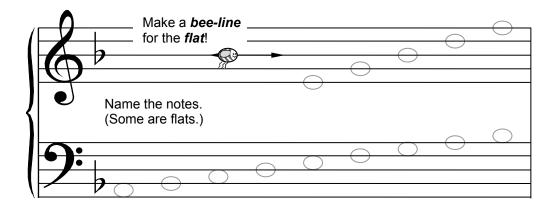
#### **Y**Y Oh When the Saints



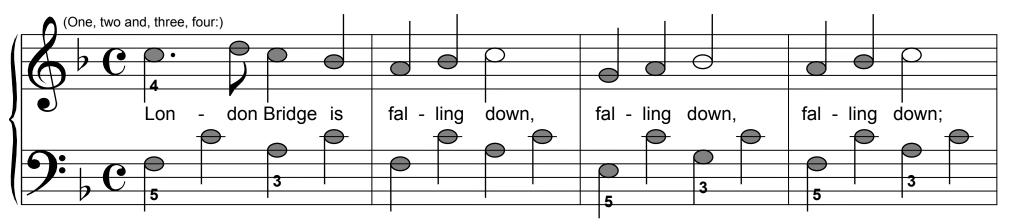
# The Key Signature of 1 Flat:

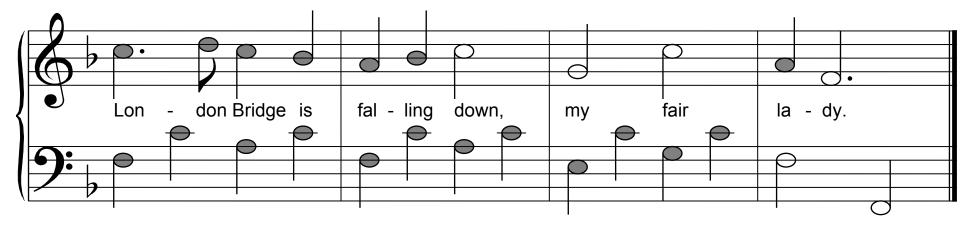
When one *flat* sign is shown at the start of each stave, it means to play that letter-name flat every time its note is written.

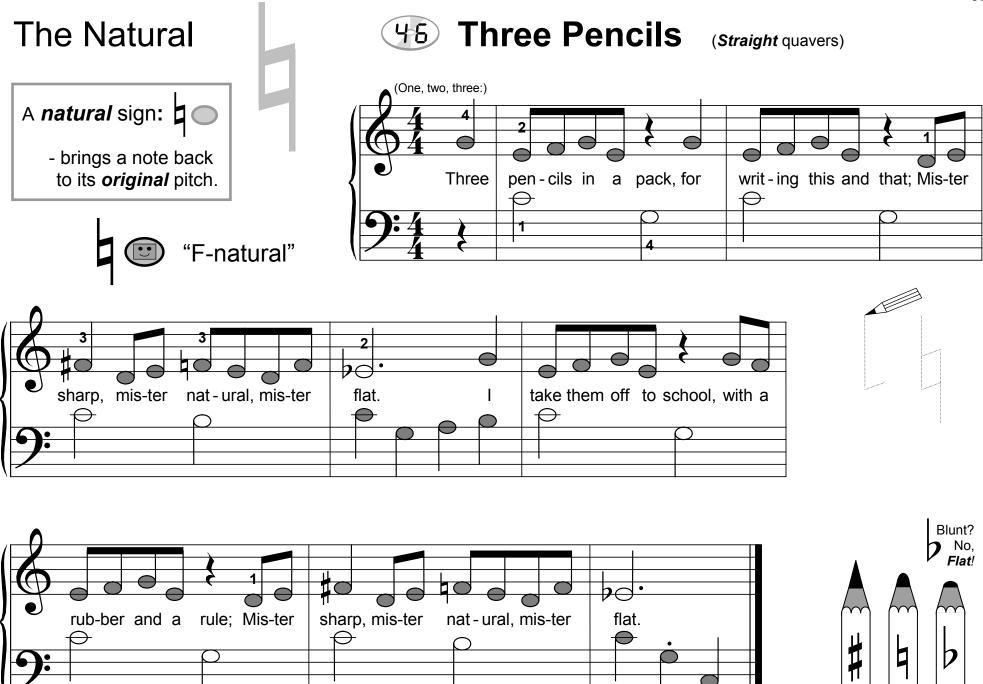
To make it easy, the one flat is always *B flat*, never any other letter. So look out for all the '*Bee*'s in this piece and play them *flat*.





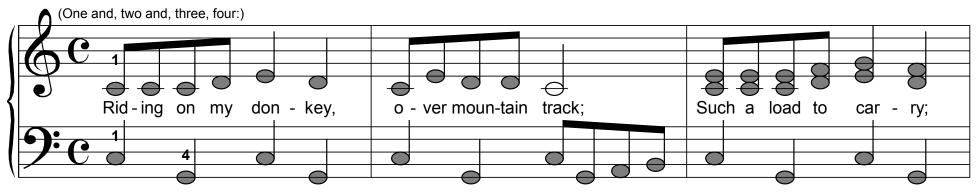


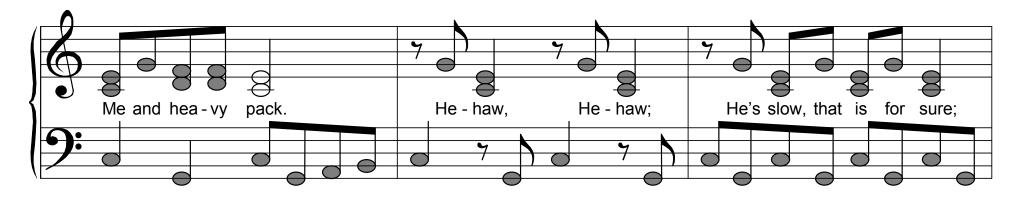


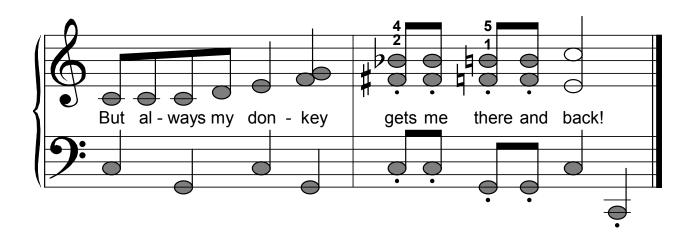


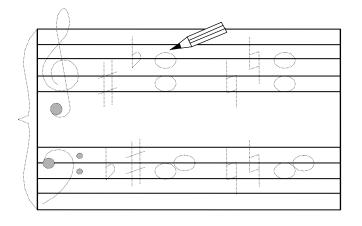


(*straight* quavers)



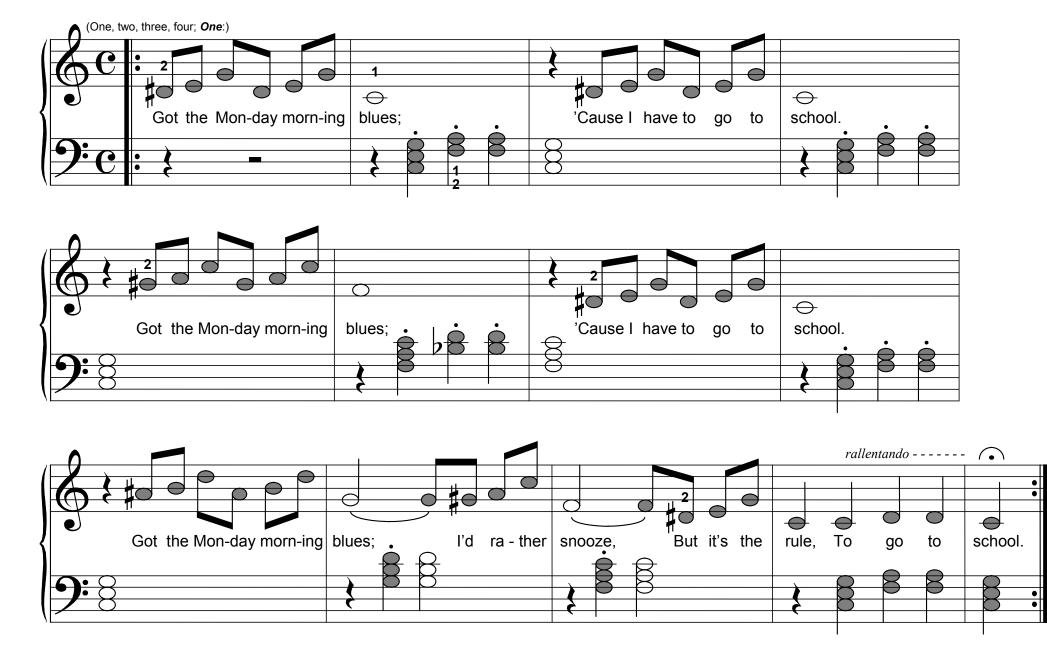








#### **Monday Morning Blues** Play with a swing feel. On the repeat, play the right hand an octave higher.

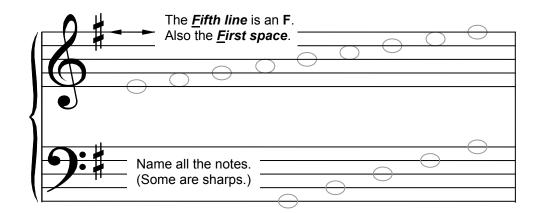


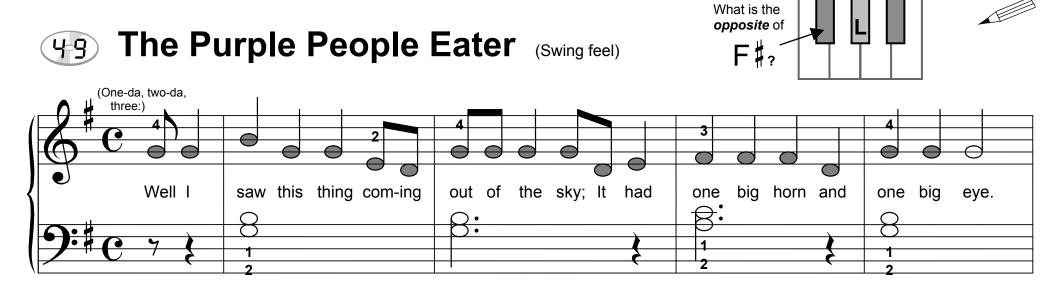
# The Key Signature of 1 Sharp:

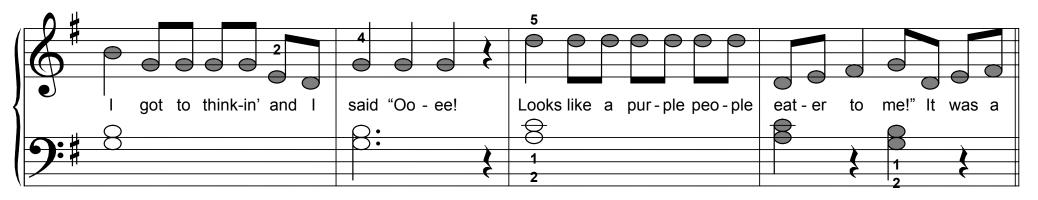
When one *sharp* sign is shown at the start of each stave, it means to play that letter-name sharp every time its note is written.

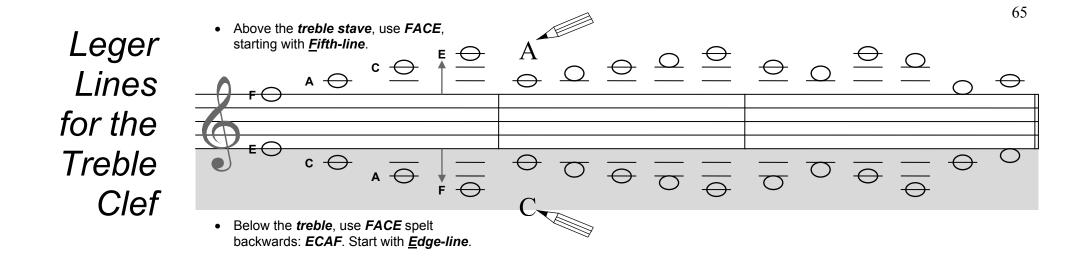
To make it easy, the one sharp is always *F* sharp, not any other letter.

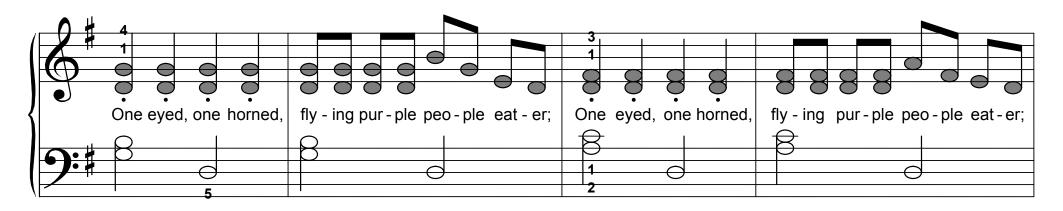
So look out for all the 'F's in this piece and play them sharp.

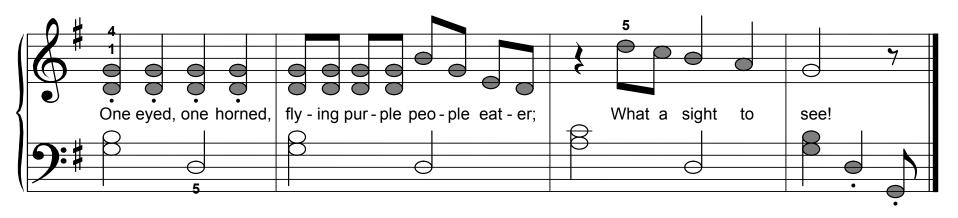


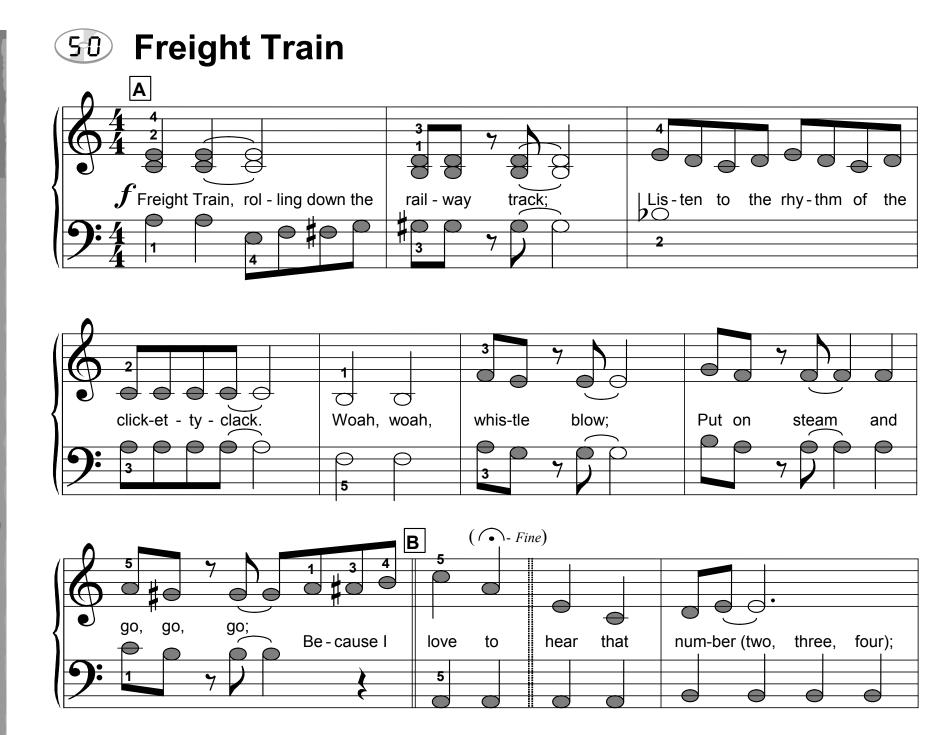


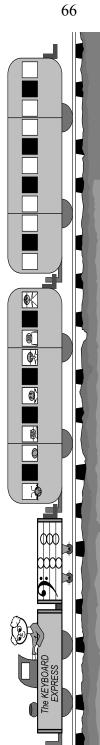


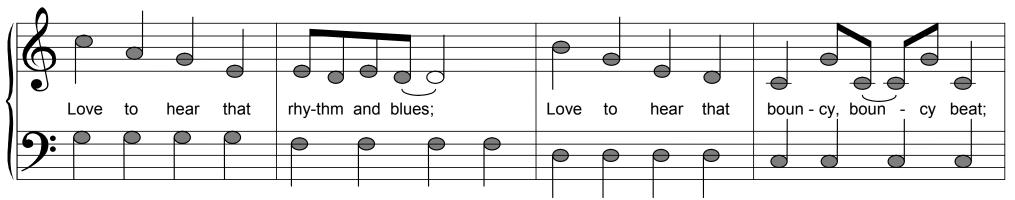


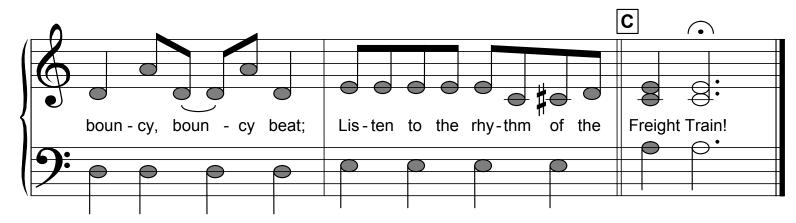












#### Suggested Duo Performance

Two players, one on piano, the other on organ, play this piece as a round.

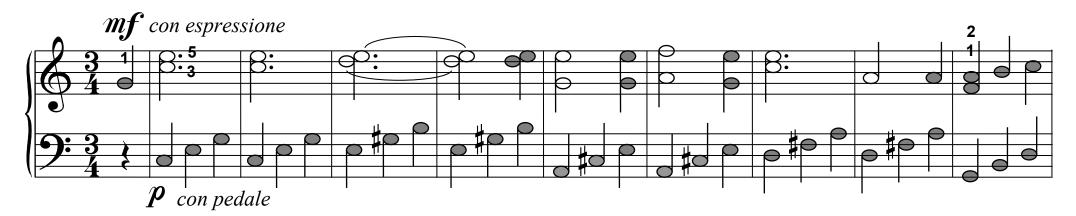
Alternate the A and B sections a few times. End with C and at the Fine.

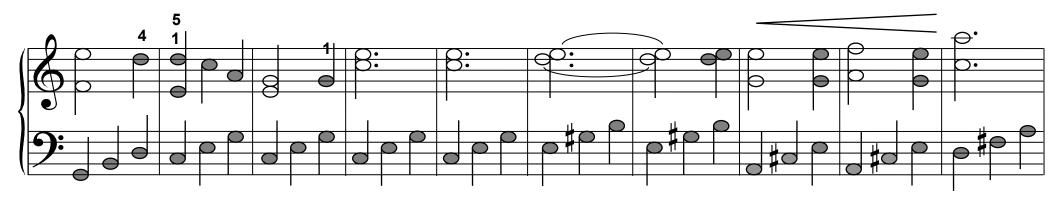
A younger student may also join in, playing the bassline (Book 1) on the piano, an octave lower throughout.

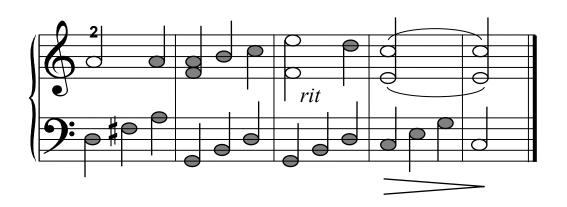
Leger Lines for the Bass Clef • Above the **bass stave**, imagine the middle carriage characters.

 $\phi$   $\phi$   $\phi$ С ¥ Ε  $\overline{\ominus}$   $\overline{\bigcirc}$  $\ominus$ • Below the **bass**, use its **symmetry** and the opposite keys to leger lines above.

68 51) Liszt: Liebestraume









#### The Keyboard Express 2

0

#### **CD** Track Numbers

1234567890112345678901 112345678901 12345678901	Riding on the Keyboard Train The Basement First Space Man's Trick Billy Boy Roll It and Rock It Notes Change Place Copying Machine Matching Types of Notes My Footpath Walking Song Reflections Barcarolle Days of Old Magic Trick March of Edgeline and Firstspace Hot Cross Buns Finger Teams Little Jack Swanny River Bass-line Boogie Woogie Bullfrog Opposite Keys Duet Opposite Keys Duet	223456789012345678901234456789	Second Space in Treble Clef It's All Good Why Flat Signs Look Like That Three Spaces March Happy Birthday Haydn's Surprise Symphony Two Team Tussle Spaces in the Treble Clef Alberti Bass Yum Cha Doh Ray Me Doh Three Chords Check Music History Advance Australia Fair Beethoven's Ode To Joy I Think I Can Straight and Swing Two Chord Accompaniment He's Got the Whole World in His Hands Show Me the Way to Go Home The Hokey Pokey Heart And Soul Oh When the Saints London Bridge Three Pencils Donkey Ride Monday Morning Blues The Purple People Eater
		50 51	Freight Train
		וכ	Liszt: Liebestraume

#### The KEYBOARD EXPRESS, Book 2 by John F Keller

With its concise review of Book 1, this second book of the piano method invites young students to continue smoothly on their musical journey. It also offers a starting point for older beginners.

The method consistently uses logical explanations that will be readily understood. Thus *The Keyboard Express, Book 2*...

rather than as octaves C to C, leading to greater insights into the geography of the keyboard, flats and sharps, and the bass stave.

... uses various tonalities, hand positions and coordinations, and encourages *intervalic* note-reading. The *middle characters* and keyboard symmetry help teach note pitches on the staves.

... treats the two staves differently: the treble by means of the traditional 'FACE', and the *bass* by its symmetry. This allows easy learning of all note pitches up to three leger-lines for each stave.

 $\bigcirc$  ... contains attractive solos and duets; original tunes as well as familiar favourites, including those fun piano 'hand-me-downs'.

• . . . covers topics such as intervals, triads and seventh chords, accidentals, technique, straight and swing time; and explains the origin of some elements of Western musical notation.

#### About the author:

In addition to his music diplomas, John Keller has a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Physics and a Diploma of Education from Sydney University. After winning the inaugural Music Students Overseas Study scholarship, he attended Indiana University, USA, and was awarded a Master of Music with High Distinction in Piano Performance.



John's diverse interests in music and music performance cover classical, jazz and popular styles. An experienced professional performer of popular music, he has played in bands and piano bars and won the grand finals of many talent quests. As a classical pianist, John has given recitals for music clubs and radio, and performed numerous piano concertos with the Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra. He is also associated with this orchestra as their lead violist and regular guest conductor.

For eight years John directed, presented and conducted *Walk Through the Orchestra*, a series of orchestral concerts for children. The programs were popular with children and adults alike, and included orchestrations of some of his pieces to demonstrate his teaching methods.

The piano has always fascinated John. When he began lessons at the age of twelve, he had already experienced seven years of musical discovery, teaching himself to play by ear. In his early years as a piano teacher, the challenges presented by young students and less than adequate teaching materials led John to devise his own beginner method. Before long *The Keyboard Express*, with its unique introduction to the white keys in the symmetrical units A to G, was on its way. Since then, John's innovative teaching strategies have encouraged his students to develop a range of skills applicable to many areas of musical endeavour, and produced many talented amateur and professional musicians.