

REAL PIANO PLAYER

BOOK ONE



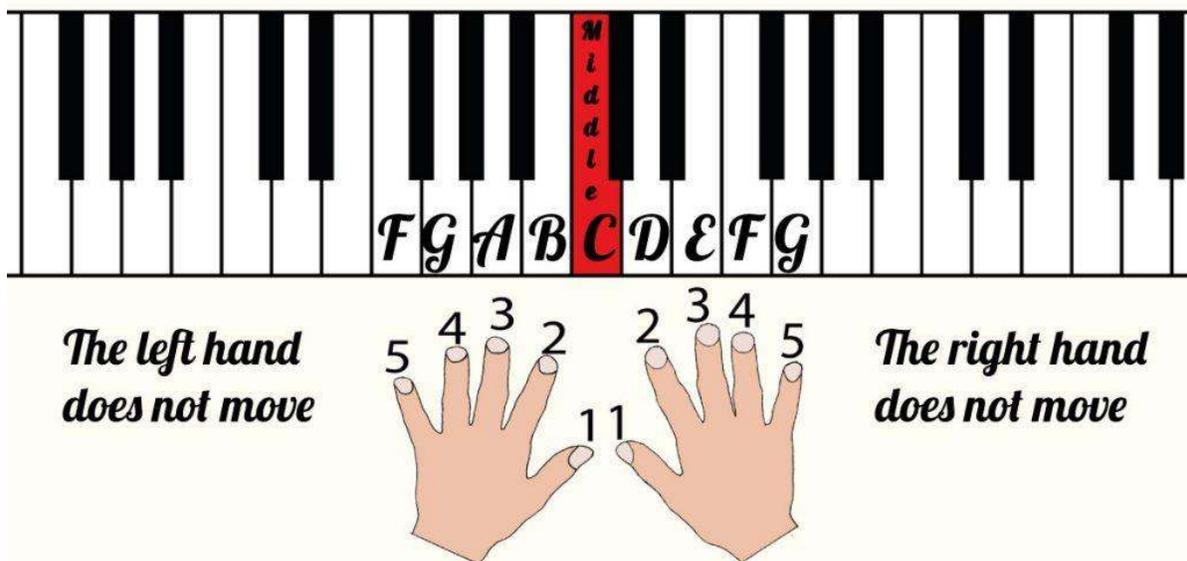
BY
ANDREA MONK

REAL PIANO PLAYER

BOOK ONE

REAL PIANO PLAYER series written by Andrea Monk.

Level 1



REAL PIANO PLAYER BOOK ONE



Welcome to Book One. You have taken your first step into the exciting world of playing the piano.

Throughout Book One you are playing at Level One, where your thumbs share the note Middle C. Piece 1 begins by playing 2 notes in each hand. By the end of the book you will be using all 10 fingers, playing the black keys and playing 2 notes together.

In Book One you will be covering:

- Posture (how you sit)
- Fingering (how your fingers are numbered)
- Sharps and flats (the names of the black keys)
- Repeat marks (play certain bars twice)
- Playing hands together
- Using a variety of different rhythms
- Reading from two staves (lines of music) simultaneously.

Reading music notation is similar to learning a language. This requires regular practice. Aim to practice for 10 to 20 minutes every day. Try to play each piece smoothly, without mistakes or hesitations, before moving on to the next piece.

Helpful tips and advice are available on the website.
Please click on the link below to access Resources

[Resources](#)

Printing the Book

Ideally, print the cover separately onto card and then print the Book choosing the duplex (double sided) setting if there is one. For help with printing only certain pages click the "Printing" button below.

[Printing](#)

REAL PIANO PLAYER

BOOK 1

Getting Started



<p>Posture</p>	<p>Curved Fingers</p>	<p>7 Letters</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1029 827 1456 884"> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>B</td> <td>C</td> <td>D</td> <td>E</td> <td>F</td> <td>G</td> </tr> </table>	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
A	B	C	D	E	F	G			
<p>Fingering</p> <p>Left Hand Right Hand</p>	<p>Legato</p> <p>Legato means smooth and joined.</p>	<p>Find the C's</p> <p>C Middle C C</p>							

Left Hand Notes



In Book One the left hand stays still and uses the 5 notes from Middle C down to F.

Line Note

Space Note

Middle

F G A B C

5 4 3 2 1

F G A B C

5 4 3 2 1

Left Hand

Play these note names in your LH. What pattern do you see?

C C
 1 B A B
 A G G A
 F F

Now play these note names all jumbled up.

C C C C
 1 B B A B
 A A G G A
 F F F F

Play these notes in your LH.

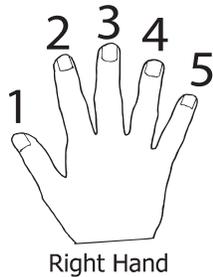
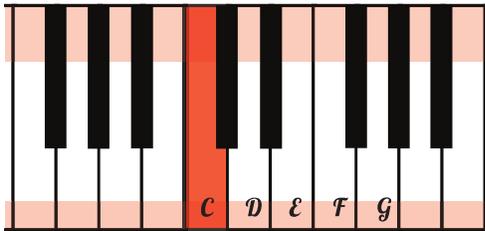
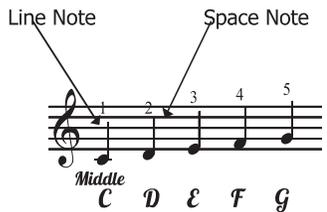
Look for patterns:
 *Up or down? *Lines or spaces? *Highest and lowest?

Now play these notes in your LH.

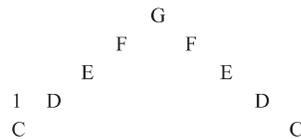
Right Hand Notes



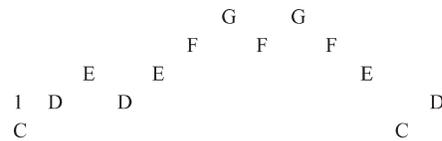
In Book One the right hand stays still and uses the 5 notes from Middle C up to G.



Play these note names in your RH. What pattern do you see?



Now play these note names all jumbled up.



Play these notes in your RH.



Look for patterns:

*Up or down? *Lines or spaces? *Highest and lowest?

Now play these notes in your RH.



Rhythm Symbols



Here are the rhythms you will find in the first half of Book One

	<i>English Names</i>	<i>American Names</i>
 = 1 Beat	<i>Crotchet</i>	<i>Quarter Note</i>
 = 2 Beats	<i>Minim</i>	<i>Half Note</i>
 = 3 Beats	<i>Dotted Minim</i>	<i>Dotted Half Note</i>
 = 4 Beats	<i>Semibreve</i>	<i>Whole Note</i>

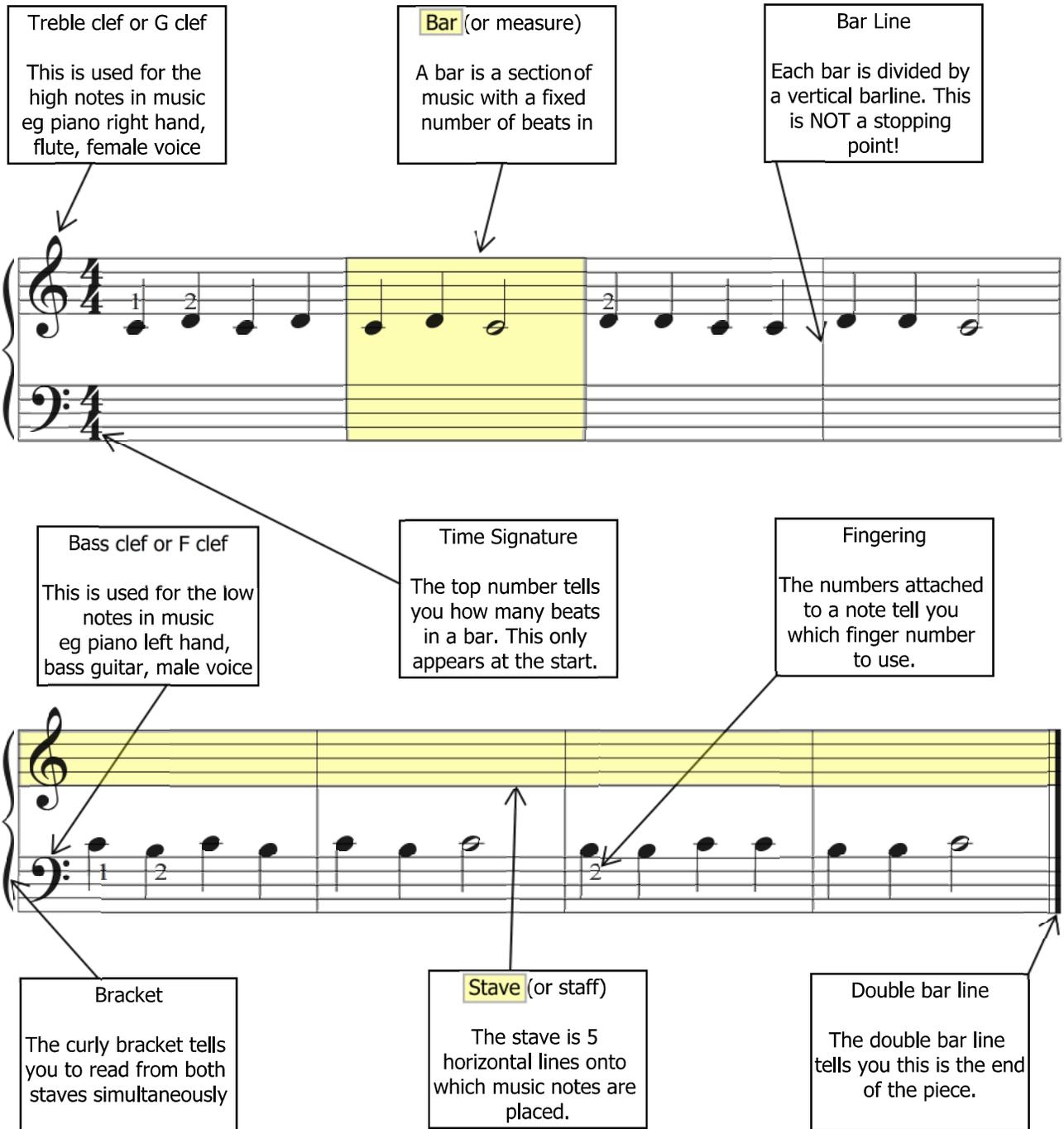
In the second half of Book One
quavers (eighth notes)
are introduced

	<i>English Name</i>	<i>American Name</i>
 = $\frac{1}{2}$ Beat	<i>Quaver</i>	<i>Eighth Note</i>
 +  = $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1$ Beat		
<i>And they are written...</i>		
 = $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1$ Beat		

Music Notation Explained



Here is piece 1. Pairs with every music symbol clearly labelled



The diagram illustrates musical notation with two staves. The top staff uses a treble clef and the bottom staff uses a bass clef. Both are in 4/4 time. The first staff has a yellow highlight on the second bar. The second staff has a yellow highlight on the top staff. Labels with arrows point to various symbols: Treble clef, Bass clef, Bar, Time Signature, Fingering, Bracket, Stave, and Double bar line.

Treble clef or G clef
This is used for the high notes in music eg piano right hand, flute, female voice

Bar (or measure)
A bar is a section of music with a fixed number of beats in

Bar Line
Each bar is divided by a vertical barline. This is NOT a stopping point!

Bass clef or F clef
This is used for the low notes in music eg piano left hand, bass guitar, male voice

Time Signature
The top number tells you how many beats in a bar. This only appears at the start.

Fingering
The numbers attached to a note tell you which finger number to use.

Bracket
The curly bracket tells you to read from both staves simultaneously

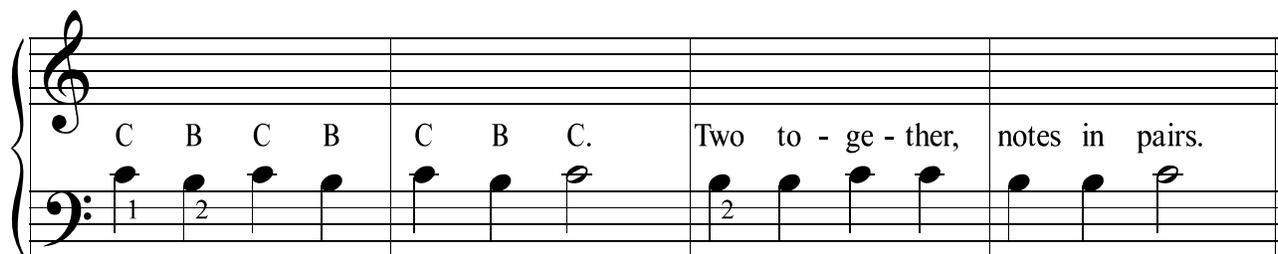
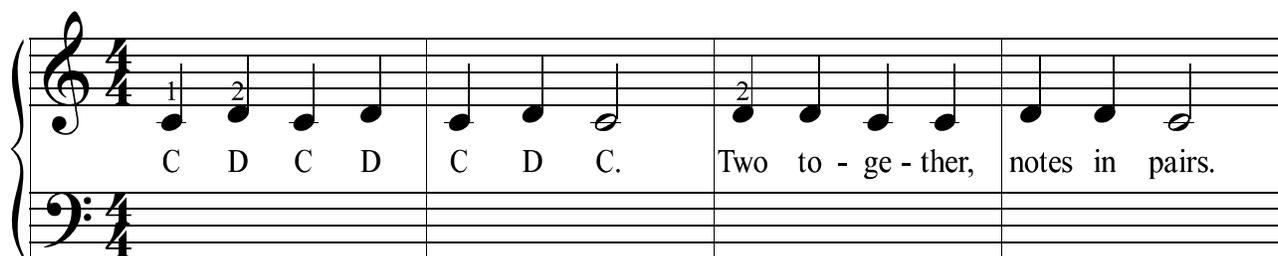
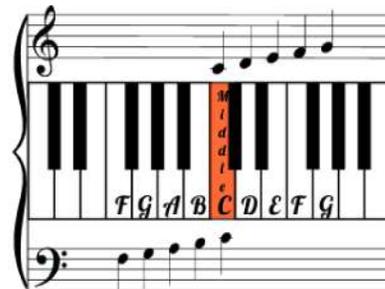
Stave (or staff)
The stave is 5 horizontal lines onto which music notes are placed.

Double bar line
The double bar line tells you this is the end of the piece.

1. Pairs



 = 1 Beat
 = 2 Beats

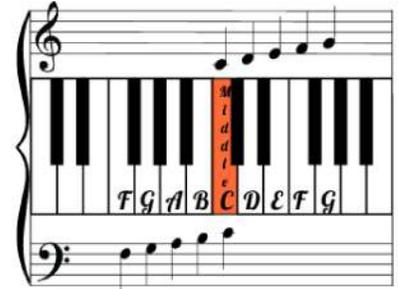


Place both hands on the piano, with your thumbs sharing middle C before you start.

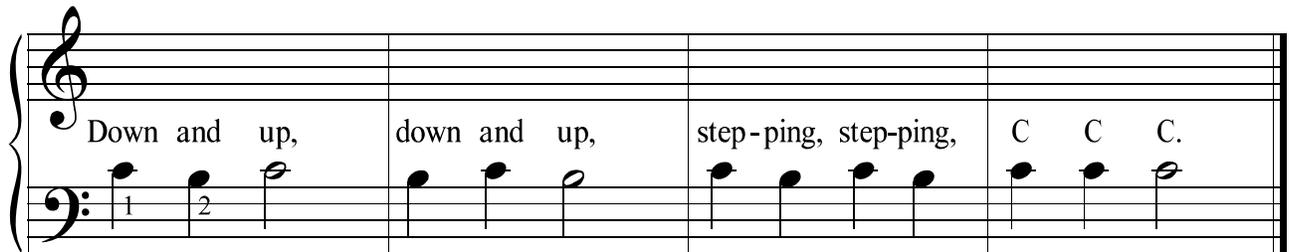


Compare bars 1 to 4 with bars 5 to 8. What do you notice? How many times does Middle C appear?

2. Steps



Up and down, up and down, step-ping, step-ping, C C C.



Down and up, down and up, step-ping, step-ping, C C C.



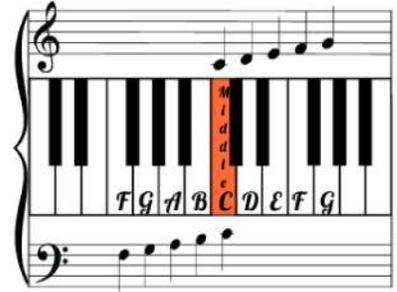
How many notes are worth 1 beat in this piece? How many are worth 2 beats?

3. Climbing

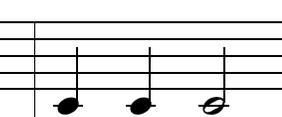


 = 1 Beat

 = 2 Beats



1	2	3	
			
This is C.	This is D.	This is E then	back to D.

1	2	3	
			
Then you climb back	up to E.	Three next door then	C C C.

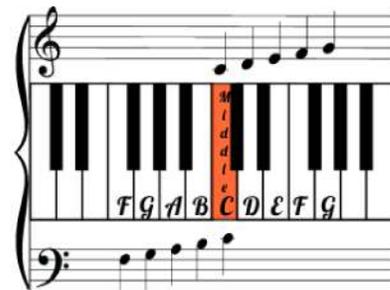


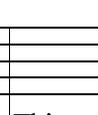
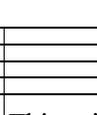
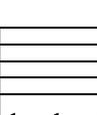
Compare pieces 3 and 4. What happens in bar 5 in each piece?

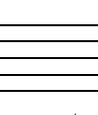
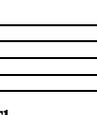
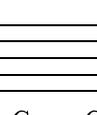
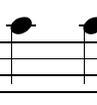
4. Walking



 = 1 Beat
 = 2 Beats



 This is C.	 This is B.	 This is A then	 back to B.
 1	 2	 3	

 Then you walk back	 down to A.	 Three next door then	 C C C.
 1		 3	



Notice that pieces 3 and 4 are symmetrically opposite to each other.

5. Time To Fly



= 1 Beat
 = 2 Beats
 = 4 Beats

1	3	1 3 1	2
Check - ing in,	take your seats	on the aer - o -	plane.

1	3		
Say good - bye,	time to fly	to the coast of	Spain.

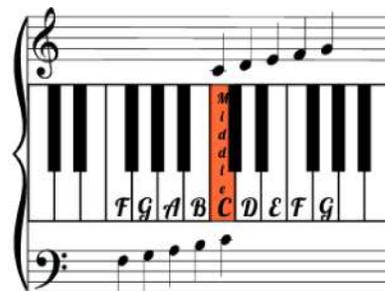


In which bar does the right hand miss a note, playing E then C? This pattern uses just odd fingers.

6. Red Tail Lights



 = 1 Beat
 = 2 Beats



Red tail lights go flash-ing by. dri - ving home, all a lone.

Eve - ning sun and cloud - y sky. dri - ving on my way home.



Notice that the right hand starts on E, and the left hand ends on A.

7. The Snake



= 1 Beat
 = 2 Beats
 = 4 Beats

Snake crawls through the grass, watch him as he goes.

Twis-ting, tur-ning on the ground just like a gar-den hose.

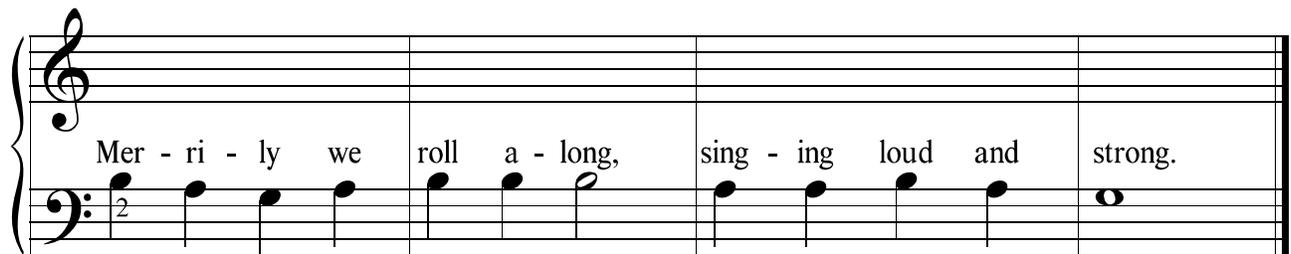
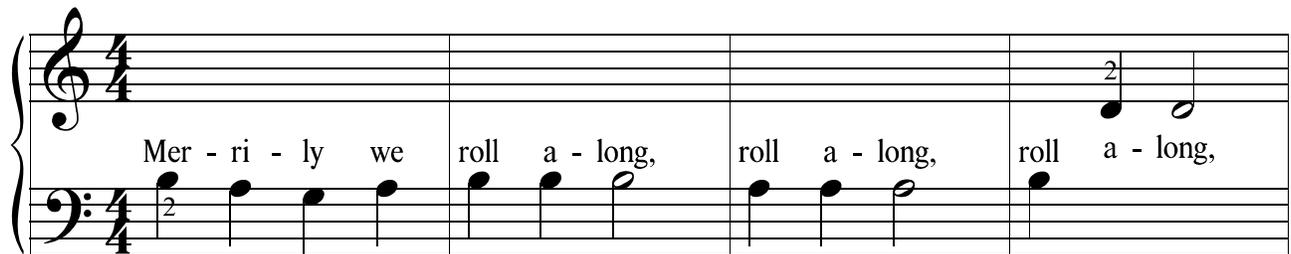
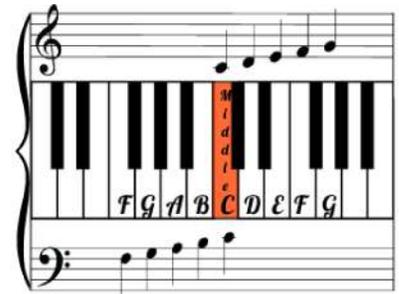


How many "snake shapes" (notes that are consecutive) can you see in the piece?

8. *Merrily We Roll*



 = 1 Beat
 = 2 Beats
 = 4 Beats

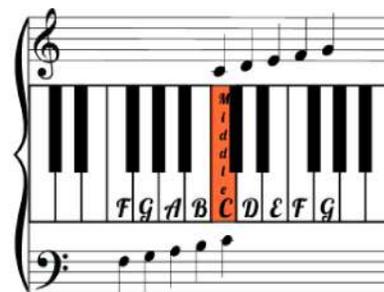


Look for repeated bars in this piece. Find 2 pairs of bars that are the same.

9. Yankee Doodle



 = 1 Beat
 = 2 Beats



Yan - kee Dood - le came to town, a - ri - ding on a po - ny;

Stuck a feath - er in his cap and called it mac - ar - o - ni.

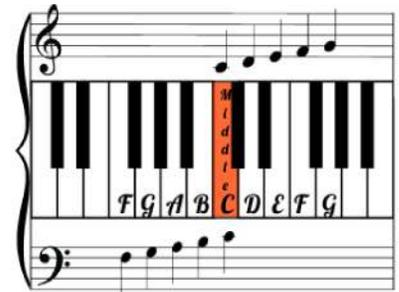


The first note played in the left hand is G. How many times is this note G played in Yankee Doodle?

10. Johnny Go Home



 = 1 Beat
 = 2 Beats



John - ny go home now it's near - ly past your sup - per time.



John - ny go home now be - fore I tell your mas - ter.

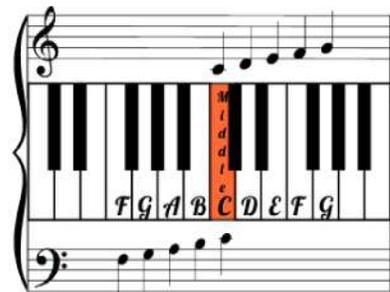


In bar 7 use only your even fingers in both hands. Get this hand shape ready at the start of bar 7.

11. Patterns



 = 1 Beat
 = 2 Beats




In Patterns you use either your even fingers or your odd fingers in each bar. Prepare the shape!

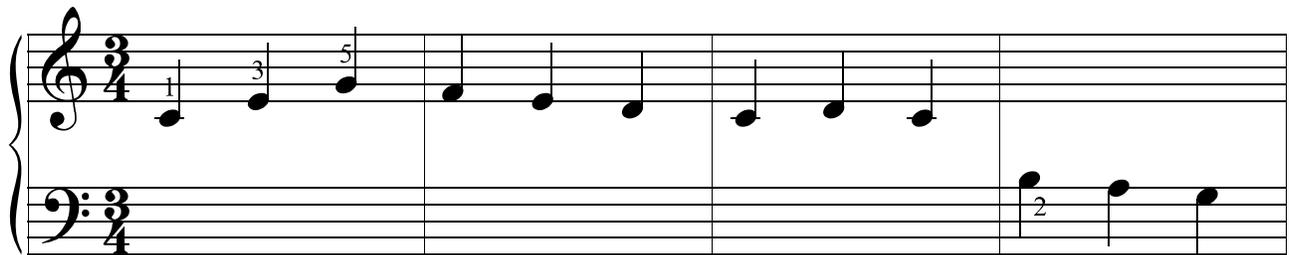
Playing with 3 Beats in a Bar



The time signature has changed to 3 beats in a bar.
This is waltz time.

3/4 Time Signature

The top number tells you how many beats in a bar. There are 3 beats in a bar.



Musical notation for 3/4 time signature. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The time signature is 3/4. The top staff contains a sequence of notes: a quarter note (finger 1), a quarter note (finger 3), a quarter note (finger 5), followed by a sequence of quarter notes. The bottom staff contains a sequence of notes: a quarter note (finger 2), a quarter note, and a quarter note.



Musical notation showing a dotted half note. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The time signature is 3/4. The top staff contains a sequence of notes: a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. The bottom staff contains a sequence of notes: a quarter note (finger 2), a quarter note, and a dotted half note.

New Rhythm

The dotted minim (dotted half note) is worth 3 beats.

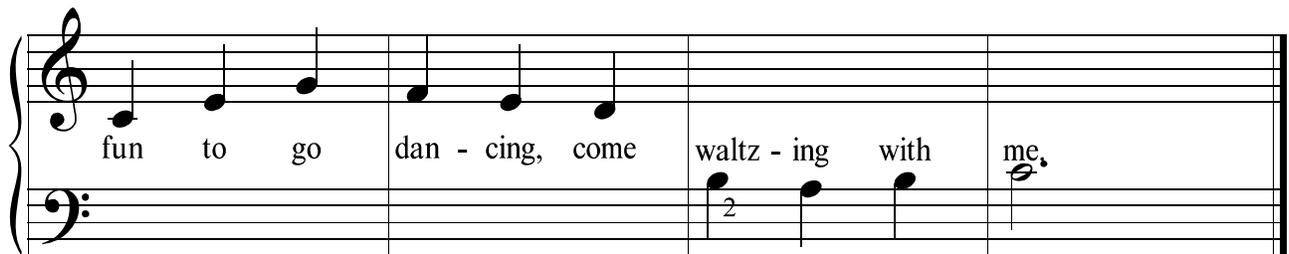
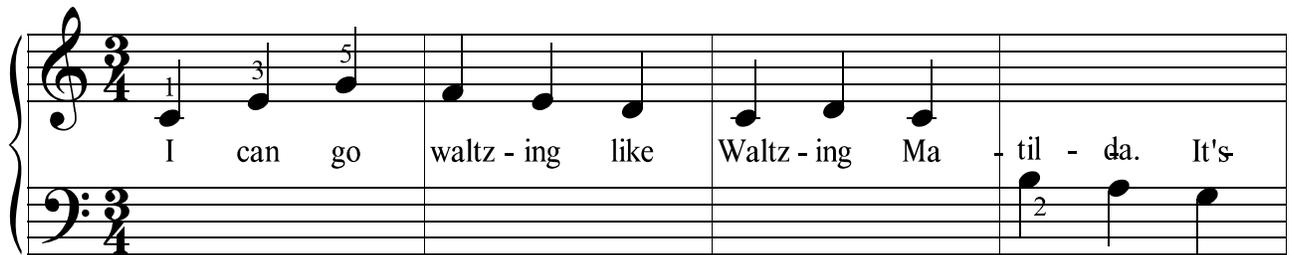
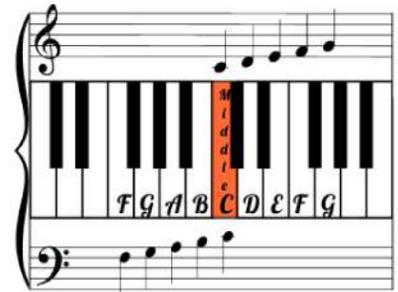
-  = 1 Beat
-  = 2 Beats
-  = 3 Beats
-  = 4 Beats

12. Waltzing



 = 1 Beat

 = 3 Beats



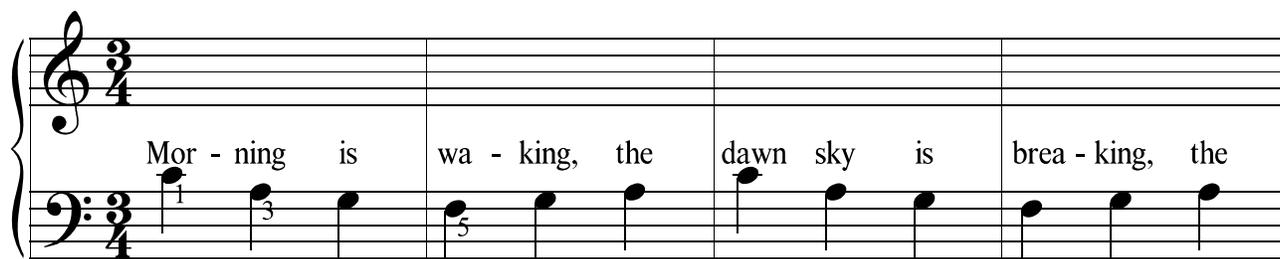
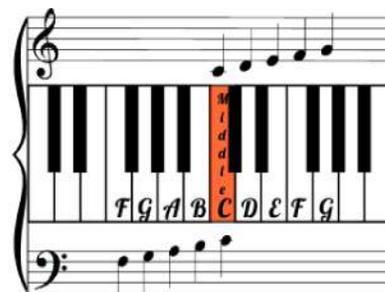
Accent (emphasise) the first note of every bar, to give a waltz feel. Keep your eyes forward.

13. Morning

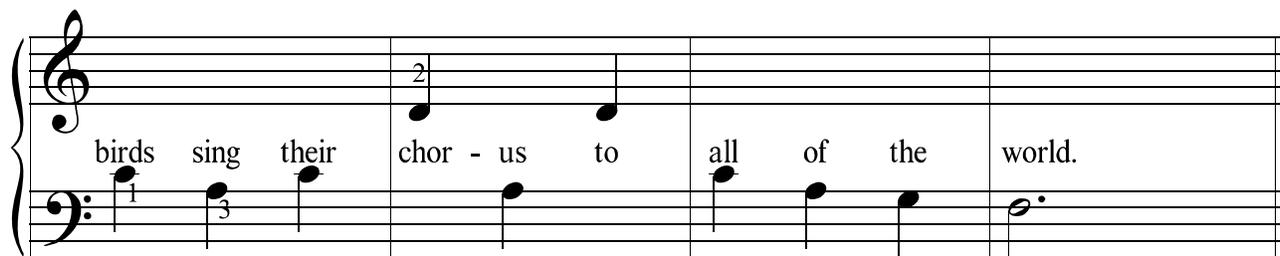


 = 1 Beat

 = 3 Beats



Mor - ning is wa - king, the dawn sky is brea - king, the



birds sing their chor - us to all of the world.



This piece also uses 3 beats in a bar. Accent the first beat of the bar. Look for any repeated bars

Sharps (#) and Flats (b)



= sharp

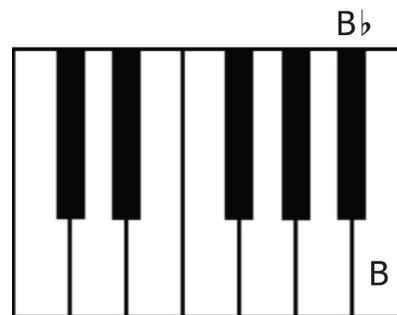
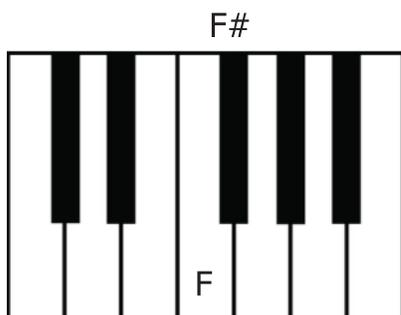
b = flat

makes a note go up by one step

b makes a note go down by one step.

eg. F is a white note.
F# is the very next black note up.

eg. B is a white note
Bb is the very next black note down.

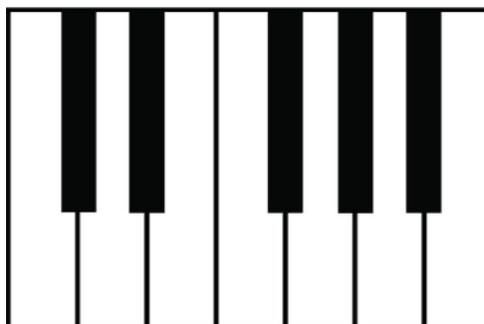


Every black note on the piano has 2 names eg C# = Db

Find and play these black notes: G#, Eb, F#, Ab, C#, D#, Bb, Db, Gb, A#

Now write both the names of each black note in the picture below.

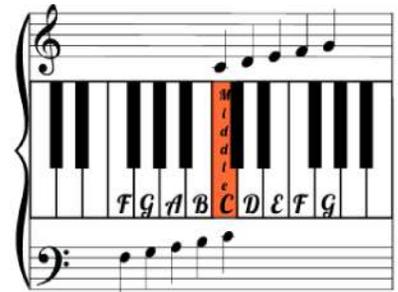
#	→	C#			
b	→	Db			



14. Jennifer



= 1 Beat
 = 2 Beats
 = 3 Beats



Jen - ni - fer drives to her count - ry home.

Si - lent and peace - ful, she stays there a - lone.

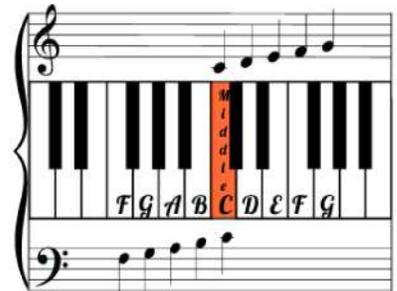
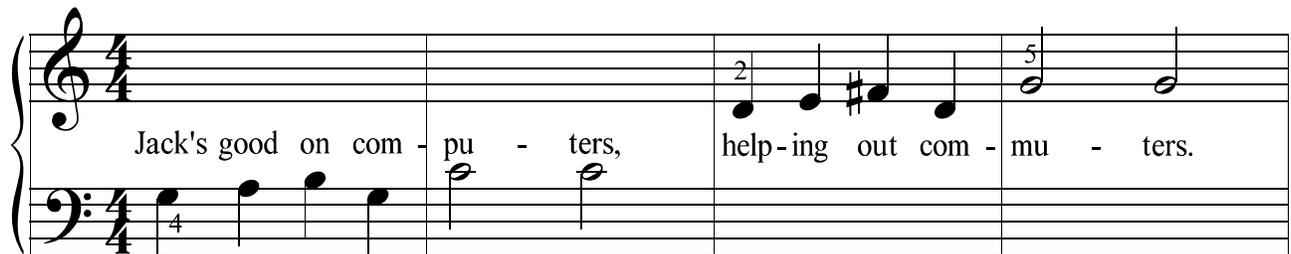


The black note F# (sharp) is played in which bars?

15. Jack 1



 = 1 Beat
 = 2 Beats
 = 4 Beats


Compare 15. Jack 1 with 16. Jack 2. Flick your eyes between each piece. What do you notice?

16. Jack 2



 = 1 Beat
 = 2 Beats
 = 4 Beats

Jack works on til sun - down on the train from Lon - don.

Fix - ing their hard drives on his way home.

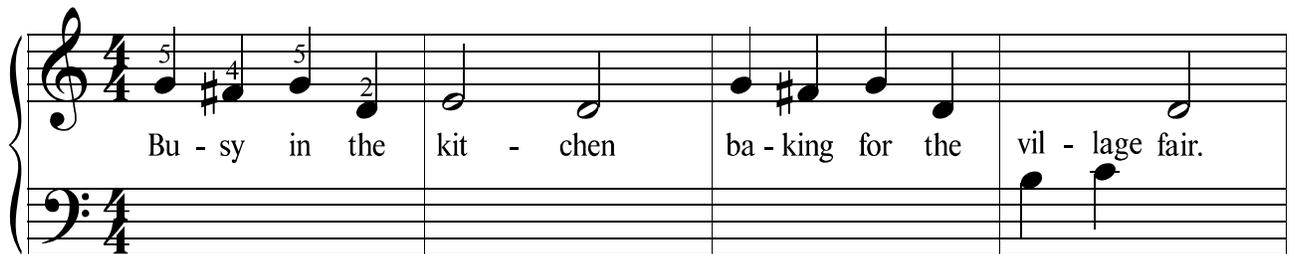
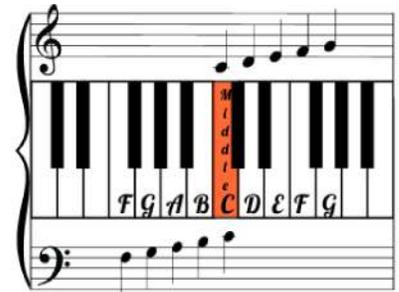


In bar 2 B is played as the black note B (flat). The flat symbol lasts for the whole bar. So both B's are played as B flat in bar 2.

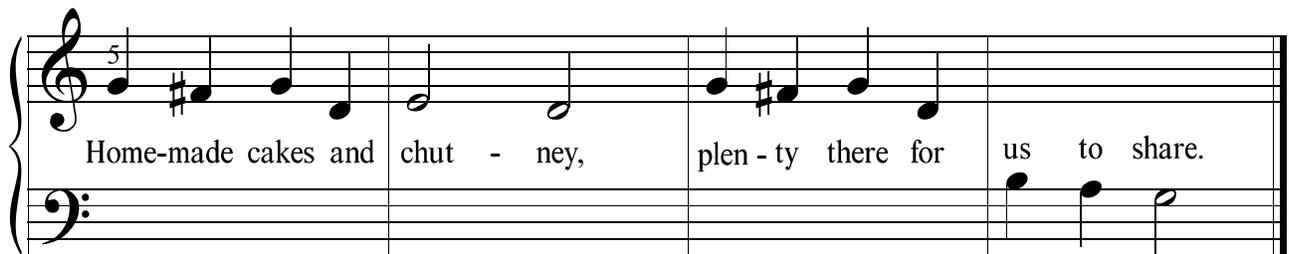
17. The Village Fair



 = 1 Beat
 = 2 Beats



Bu - sy in the kit - chen ba - king for the vil - lage fair.



Home-made cakes and chut - ney, plen - ty there for us to share.



Some of the bars are repeated in 17. The Village Fair. Find all the matching bars.

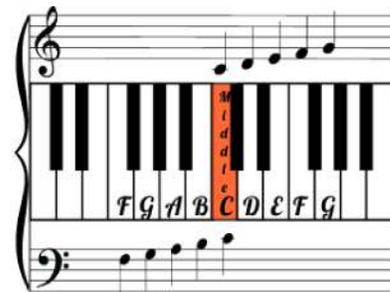
18. Ragtime Bonanza



= 1 Beat

= 2 Beats

= 4 Beats



Dan-cing to the beat of the Rag-time Bon-an-za. I

tap my feet and move to the rhy-thm of the song.



Find all the bars that use the new rhythm combination



Say "walk hold walk"

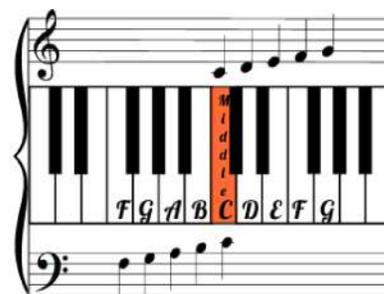


Listen to Audio Track 18 to get the feel for this new rhythm combination. Played fast it creates an effect called "syncopation" which means off beat or jazzy.

19. Mississippi Rag



= 1 Beat
 = 2 Beats
 = 4 Beats



Find all the bars that use the new rhythm combination



Say "walk hold walk"

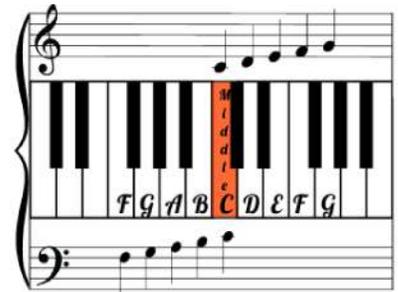


Listen to Audio Track 19 to get the feel for this new rhythm combination.

20. The Street Song



 = 1 Beat
 = 2 Beats
 = 4 Beats



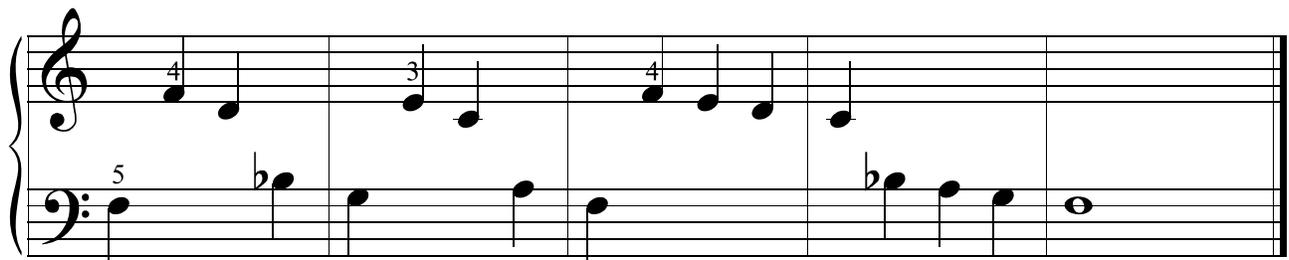
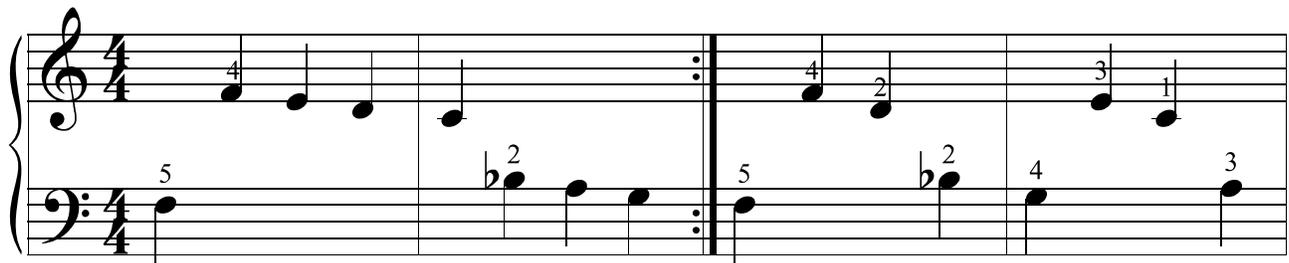
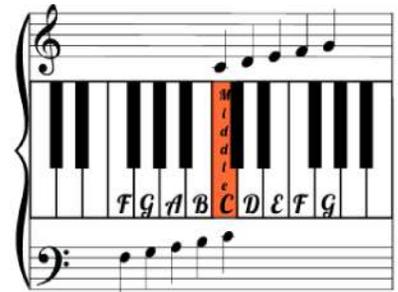
Which bars are the same? How many times is B flat played?

21. Evening Chimes



 = 1 Beat

 = 4 Beats



Notice the backwards repeat mark at the end of bar 2. This means play the first 2 bars again.



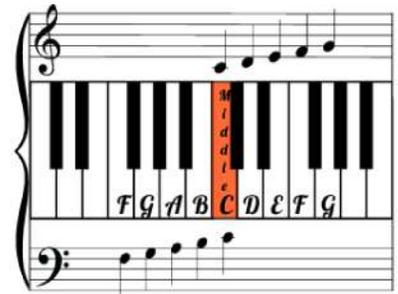
The first 2 notes in the piece are both F, but they are played 8 notes apart. This is called an octave. How many octaves F to F can you find in this piece?

22. Sailing Away

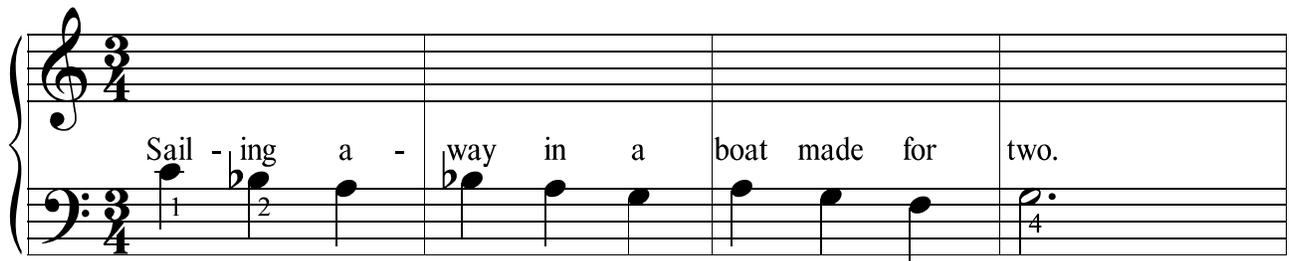


 = 1 Beat

 = 3 Beats



Sail - ing a - way in a boat made for two.



Sail - ing a - way to the ocean.



In bars 7 and 8 the notes in the right and left are lined up vertically. This means play them together.

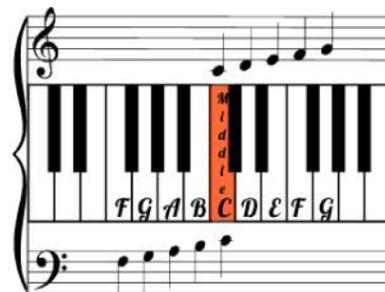
23. Watch The Tide



= 1 Beat

= 2 Beats

= 4 Beats



Sum-mer sun is here at last; day trips to the sea - side.

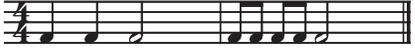
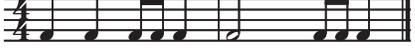
Sit - ting on the beach we can watch the tide.



In which 2 bars do the hands play together?

Quavers or Eighth Notes

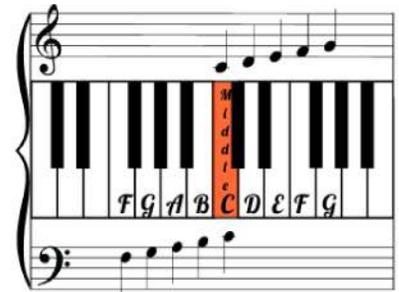


<p>1</p>  = 1 beat = crotchet  = 2 beats = minim  = 3 beats = dotted minim  = 4 beats = semibreve	<p>3 <u>Quavers</u></p>  say "Tea"  say "Cof-fee"	<p>5</p>  say "Soup"
<p>2</p> <p>A pair of quavers</p>  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1$ beat = pair of quavers	<p>4</p> <p>Clap and Count</p>  <p>1 2 3 4 1 + 2 + 3 4 Tea Tea Tea Tea Cof-fee Cof-fee Tea Tea</p>  <p>1 2 3 + 4 1 2 + 3 4 + Tea Tea Cof-feeTea Tea Cof-fee Tea Cof-fee</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Clap and Count</p>  <p>1 2 3 (4) 1 + 2 + 3 (4) Tea Tea Soup Cof-fee Cof-fee Soup</p>  <p>1 2 3 + 4 1 (2) 3 + 4 Tea Tea Cof-fee Tea Soup Cof-fee Tea</p>

24. Frere Jacques



 = 1 Beat
 = 2 Beats
 = $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1$ Beat




Fre - re Jacqu - es. Fre - re Jacqu - es. Dor - mez vous? Dor - mez vous?



Son-nez les matin-es. Son-nez les matin-es. Din, dan, don! Din, dan, don!



Quavers (eighth notes) appear in which 2 bars? Look for all the bars that are the same in this piece.

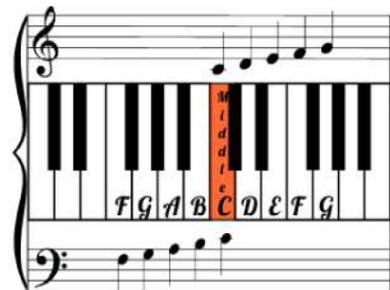
25. Lavender's Blue



= 1 Beat

= 3 Beats

= $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1$ Beat



Lav - en - der's blue dil - ly, dil - ly. Lav - en - der's green.

When you are king dil - ly, dil - ly I shall be queen.



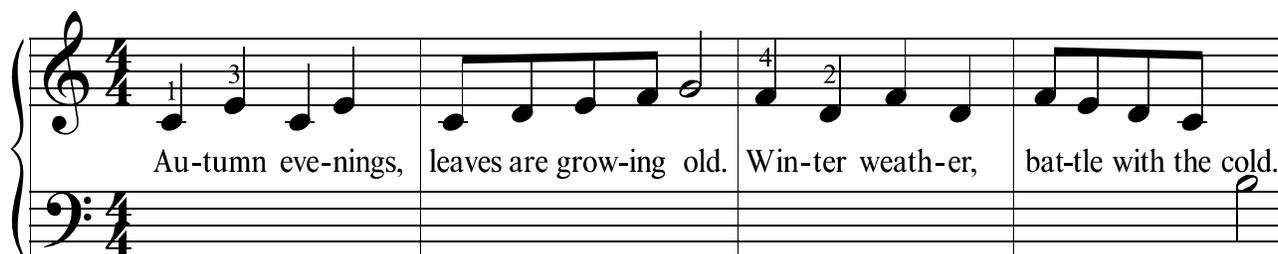
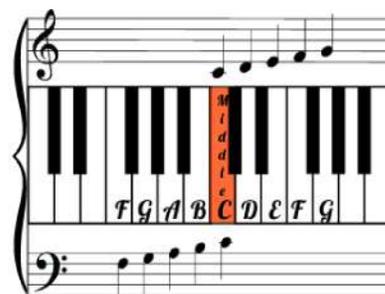
In which bars do you play quavers? What is the value of the note in bars 4 and 8?

26. Seasons

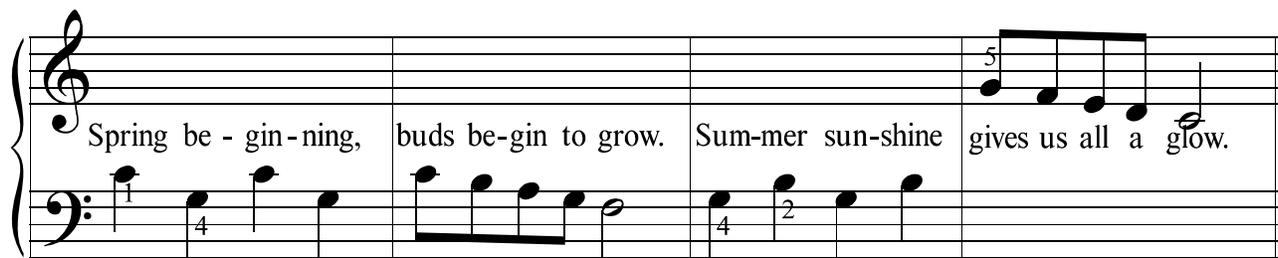


 = 1 Beat
 = 2 Beats

 = $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 2$ Beats



Au-tumn eve-nings, leaves are grow-ing old. Win-ter weath-er, bat-tle with the cold.



Spring be - gin - ning, buds be-gin to grow. Sum-mer sun-shine gives us all a glow.



The quavers (eighth notes) are grouped in fours in this piece. Play them smoothly and evenly.

27. This Old Man



= 1 Beat
 = 2 Beats
 = $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1$ Beat
 = $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 2$ Beats

This old man he played one. He played nick nack on my drum. With a

nick nack pad-dy whack. Give a dog a bone. This old man came rol - ling home.



Make sure you keep the music flowing at the end of bar 4. Look forward

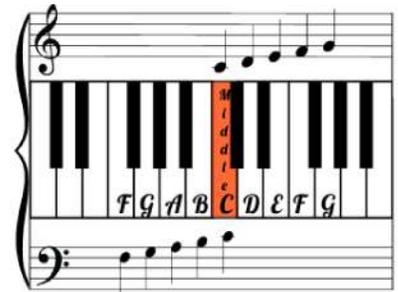
28. Hot Cross Buns



= 1 Beat

= 2 Beats

= $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 2$ Beats



Hot cross buns. Hot cross buns. 1-a-pen-ny, 2-a-pen-ny Hot cross buns.

If you have no daugh-ters give them to your sons. 1-a-pen-ny, 2-a-pen-ny Hot cross buns.



*Look at the first two notes in bar 1. They are both G. These two G's form an octave.
How many octaves can you find in this piece?*

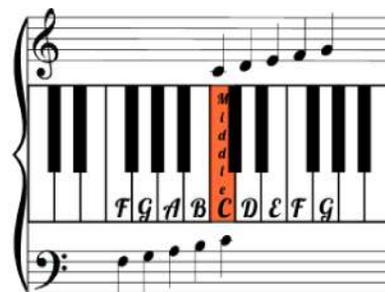
29. Czech Folk Tune



= 1 Beat

= $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1$ Beat

= $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 2$ Beats




There are different repeat marks used in this piece. The backwards repeat at the end of bar 4 means play the first 4 bars again. Then there is a forwards repeat mark (beginning of bar 5) and a backwards repeat at the end of bar 8. This means repeat bars 5 to 8.

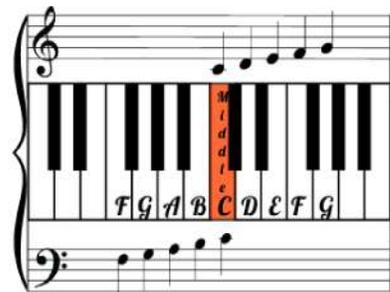


Listen to Audio Track 29. It is an unusual melody. Make sure you have understood the repeat marks.

30. Cuckoo



 = 1 Beat
 = 2 Beats
 = 3 Beats



Cuc - koo, cuc - koo. That's what they sing.

Cuc - koo, cuc - koo. Hear the bells ring.



Both hands play together in every bar. Make sure you hold each left hand note for 3 beats.

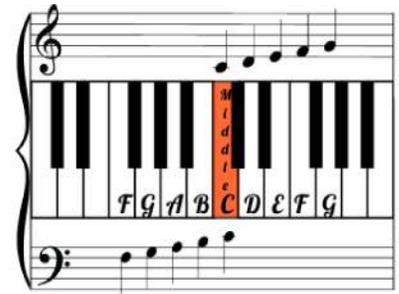
31. Running Away



 = 1 Beat

 = 3 Beats

 = $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1$ Beat



Run - ning a - way all through the day.



Ri - vers keep run - ning, keep run - ning a - way.



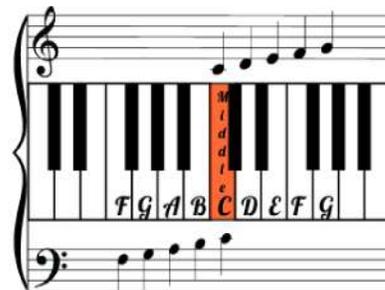
Both hands either walk for 3 beats or hold for 3 beats. Practice this piece until it is smooth.

32. Happy Birthday



 = 1 Beat
 = 2 Beats

 = $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1$ Beat



Hap - py birth-day to you. Hap-py birth-day to you. Hap-py

birth - day dear mo - ther. Hap-py birth - day to you.



This piece starts with a pick up bar. This is an incomplete bar of music. In any style of music, the emphasis is placed on the first beat of every bar. This stresses the **first syllable** of every bar. This creates the sound "Happy **birth**day to **you**"

Congratulations!



You have reached the end of Book One.

To test your knowledge, why not try the interactive quizzes for Piano Level 1. Play the various piano exercises and have fun playing along with the drum tracks at various speeds. Other useful documents to enhance your learning are available here:

Resources

There are various arrangements at Level One available from the Sheet Music Shop.

If you would like to advance straight on to level 2, Tutor Book 2 is also available from the Sheet Music Shop:

Sheet Music Shop

Happy piano playing!
Andrea Monk

