



Art Sphere Inc.
Transforming Lives Through Art

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITIES SINCE 1998

LEARN TO PLAY THE PIANO

for ages: 10-14



Lessons by Sabine Moufarrej
Illustrations by Blair Nakamoto

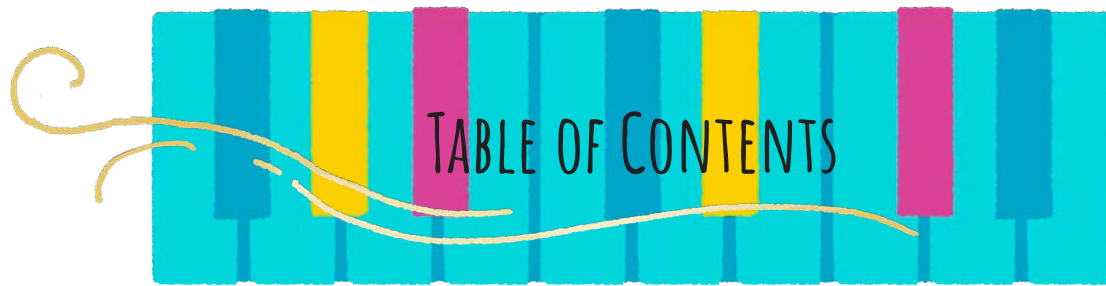
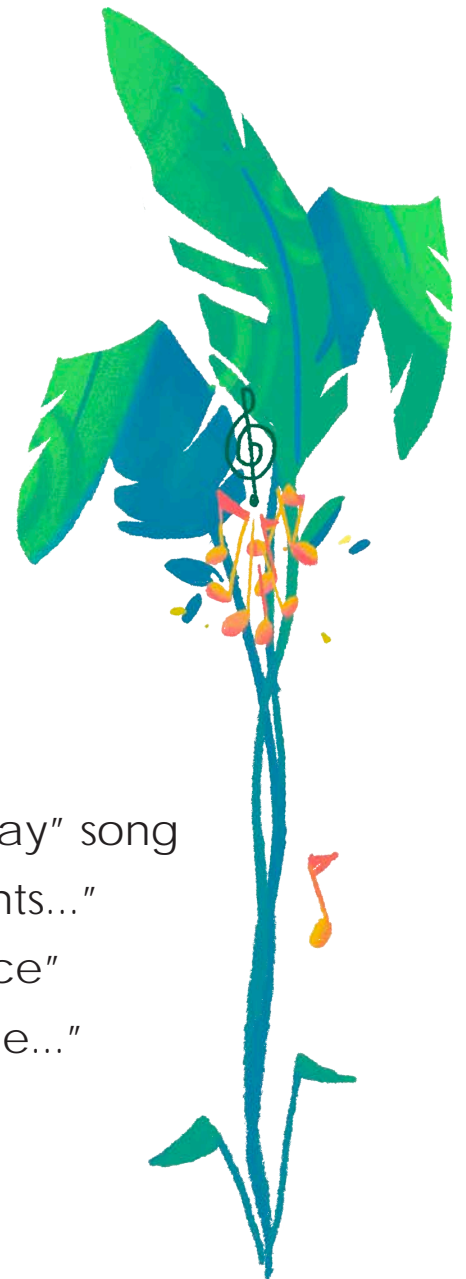


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CREATING JOURNEYS THROUGH THE ARTS

Follow your creativity and go beyond where the path leads so you can leave a trail to inspire others to express themselves, too!

Preface

We are pleased to present *Learn to Play the Piano* to take you on a path to transform everyday materials into art, to explore the intersections of art with nature, literacy, technology, theater, music, mindfulness and STEAM and to learn how to use the arts to express your core values. Throughout this journey, we invite you to reflect on the legacy that can be created through the arts.

How to Use Our Online Materials and This Book

Not everyone learns the same way. Some people are more visual, some more musical, some more mathematical¹. Our lessons include symbols at the top of each page that indicate the different learning styles to be found in each project. By pointing out the different ways that a project can be approached, parents and teachers can guide their children to their individual paths to artistic success and ways to express their unique creative voices. The different learning styles and the symbols used to represent them in this book include:



Literacy and Verbal-Linguistic
(using words effectively)



Recycling and Naturalistic
(responding to nature)



Technology and Logical-Mathematical
(reasoning, calculating)



Health and Intra-personal
(understanding one's own interests, goals)



Theatre and Bodily-Kinesthetic
(using the body effectively and creatively)



Musical-Rhythmic
(sensitivity to rhythm and sound)



Multicultural and Interpersonal
(understanding, interacting with others)

¹ These learning styles are based on Howard Gardner's discussion of types of intelligences. For more detail, see: Howard Gardner, *Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences* (New York: Basic Books, 1983).



The lesson plans are more than just making art objects. They incorporate ideas such as compassion, mindfulness, respect for nature, healthy eating, cooperation, and other ideas for living in a way that contributes to a civil society. The pages are laid out as if you and the class are taking a journey:

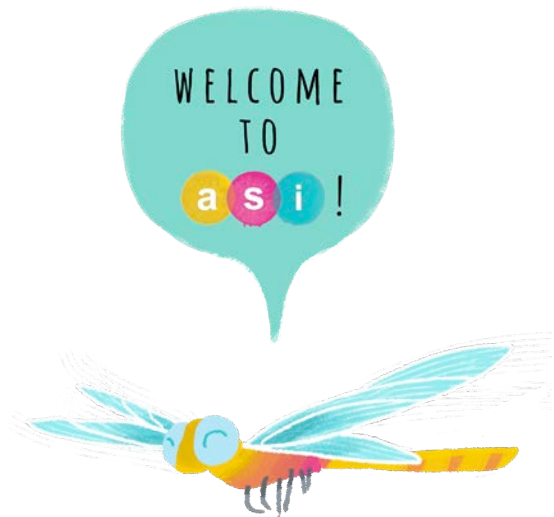
- **Your Destination:** summarizes the outcome of the project
- **Travel Kit:** list of materials you will need for the project
- **On the Path:** ideas and directions for each child to make an art object, and ideas to explore
- **Group Tour:** how to transform the individual process into an interactive and collaborative group experience
- **Extend your Journey:** vocabulary, helpful references, and links to explore additional ideas

Find ways to express yourself - it's okay to think outside the box!

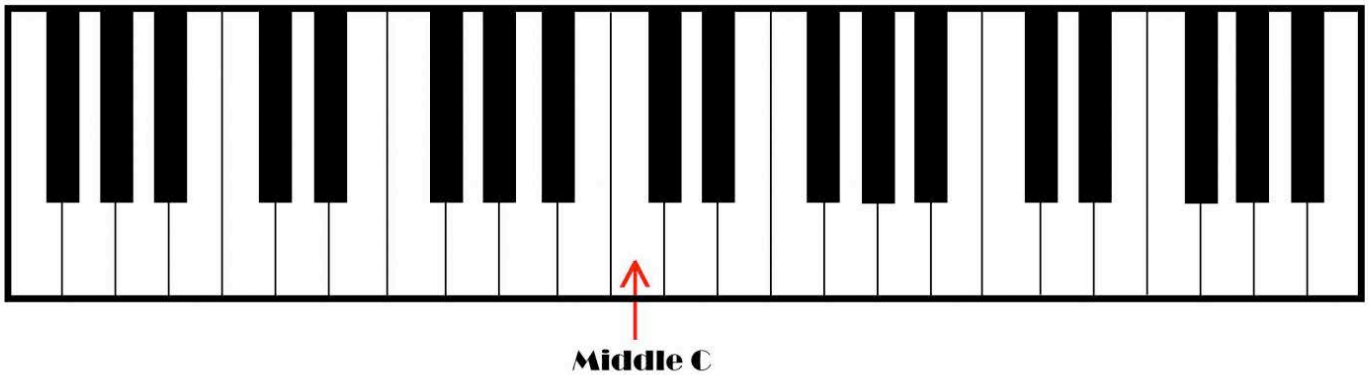
Images: The images, music, and diagrams in this workbook were designed by the illustrator, sourced from images online under a Creative Commons license, used with permission, or in the Public Domain. Their use in this workbook does not indicate endorsement by the authors of the content of this workbook. Links to all image licenses are found on page 29.

Please note: These lessons are supplemented by (but do not all require) materials accessible through a computer or phone, a printer, and the Internet. A parent or guardian's permission is advised for lessons requiring Internet usage, especially for social media lessons.

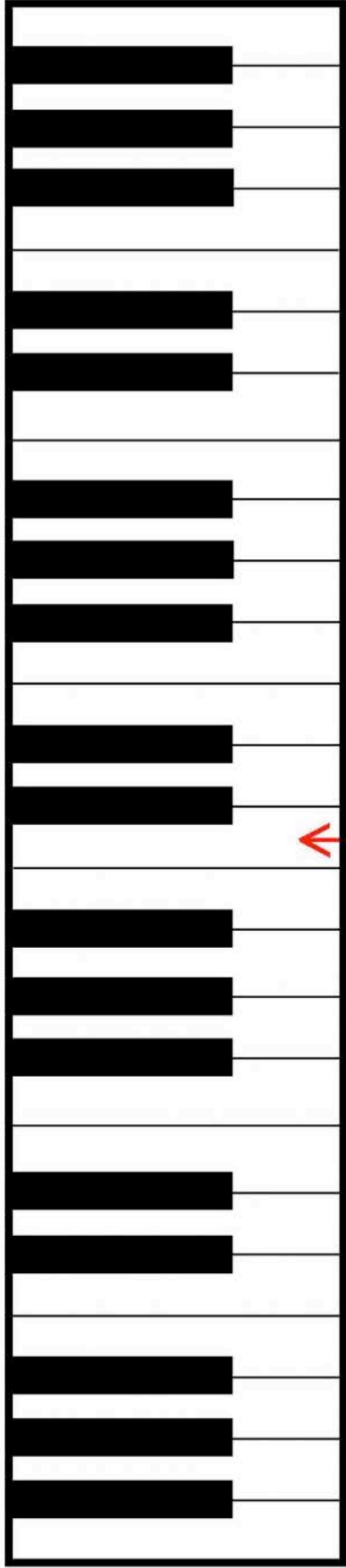
Knowing that links sometimes become inactive or are changed is beyond our control, and we apologize for the inconvenience. Please check our blog and Instagram: <https://artsphere.org/free-resources/curriculum/> <https://instagram.com/artsphereinc/> for more suggestions on creative art projects. All the referenced links in this book have been checked for accuracy.



Piano Handout



Piano Handout



Middle C



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GLOSSARY

Bass clef Used for low parts, a clef placing F below middle C on the second highest line of the staff.

Brace Used to join multiple staves, such as the treble staff and bass staff.

Dotted half note Adds half of the notes value back to itself

Dynamics How loud or soft to play; the variation in loudness between notes or phrases.

Eighth note A shorter note; a note having the time value of an eighth of a whole note, or half a quarter note.

Forte (f) Loud.

Four quarter or 4/4 Time Also known as "common time," four beats to each measure where the quarter note gets one beat.

Half note A long note; a note having the time value of two quarter notes or half of a whole note.

Harmonic interval The pitch relation between simultaneous musical tones

Interval A difference in pitch between two sounds or notes.

Ledger lines A line slightly longer than the note is drawn parallel to the staff, either above or below, spaced at the same distance as the lines within the staff.

Legato Smoothly connected.

Melodic interval When two notes are played in sequence, one after the other

Mezzo forte Moderately loud; softer than forte but louder than piano.

Piano (p) Soft.

Quarter note A short note; a note having the time value of a quarter of a whole note or half a half note.

Slur Play legato.

Three quarter or 3/4 Time Three beats to each measure where the quarter note gets one beat.

Tied notes A curved line between the two notes of the same pitch.

Time signature Indicates how many beats are in a measure and which note value will receive one beat.

Treble clef Used, for high parts, clef placing G above middle C on the second-lowest line of the staff.

Value the length of time that a musician sounds a particular pitch.

Whole note A very long note; a note that has the time value of two half notes or four quarter notes.



Your Destination:

There is more to learning the piano than simply sitting and starting to play. It takes an understanding of musical theory to fully understand how to properly play the piano. Learning how to play in a relaxed learning environment helps foster creativity, further develop your listening skills and memory, all while having fun! In this lesson, you will learn the proper way to sit at the piano, the different kinds of pianos you can choose from, and finger numbers.

On the Path:

Step 1 Before you learn how to play the piano, let's go over the proper way to sit at the piano. First, make sure to sit tall and lean slightly forward in your seat. Relax your arms and let them hang loosely from your shoulders. Your elbows should be slightly in front of you. Make sure your elbows don't pass your body and don't extend them too far out. Make sure your bench/seat is facing the piano squarely and that your knees are slightly under your piano/keyboard. Lastly, set your feet flat on the floor. If your feet don't reach, you may place a stool or a few books underneath them.



Piano Handout



Piano handout



Virtual piano

Step 2 Learn the differences between the different kinds of pianos. As a beginner, it's best to research to find a piano that works best for you. The following article provides detailed descriptions about each type of piano to aid you in making that decision. See link in "Resources and Visual Aids" on the next page to learn.



Digital piano



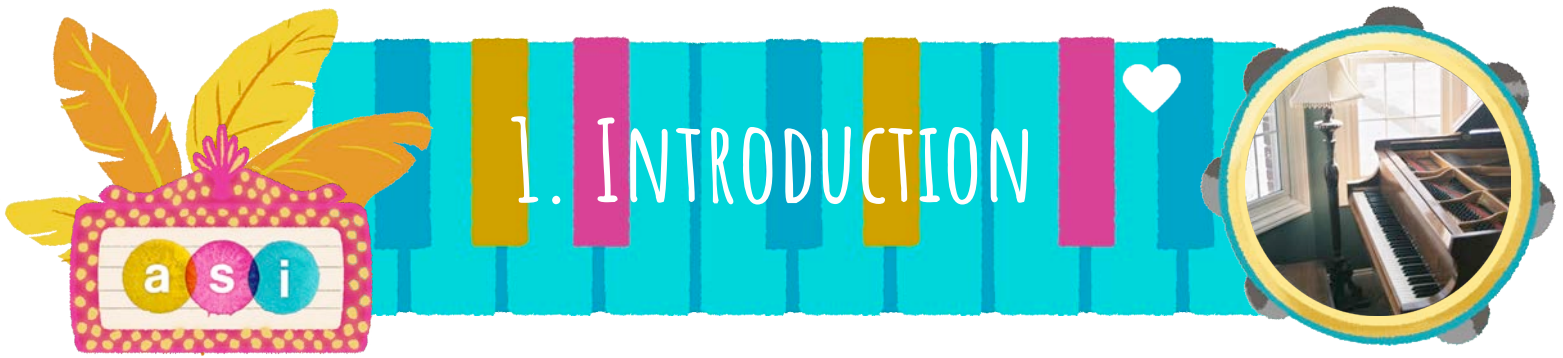
Upright piano

Step 3 Let's learn finger numbers. Finger numbers are really important when it comes to reading and playing the piano. Finger numbers are the same on both hands. Your thumbs are the first finger of each hand meaning they are finger #1, your index fingers are finger #2, middle fingers are #3, ring fingers are #4, and your pinkies are #5.



Grand piano

[Continued on next page]



Group Tour:

Keep practicing and show your parents, siblings, or friends what you learned in this lesson.

Extend the Journey:

You can practice different tones even if you don't have a piano. Find a table and place your hands as you would on a piano. Then practice your tones. If you need to look at the computer window with the online piano and another window (with music or the lesson) at one time, resize the windows so one is on one side, and the piano is on another.

Resources and Visual Aids:

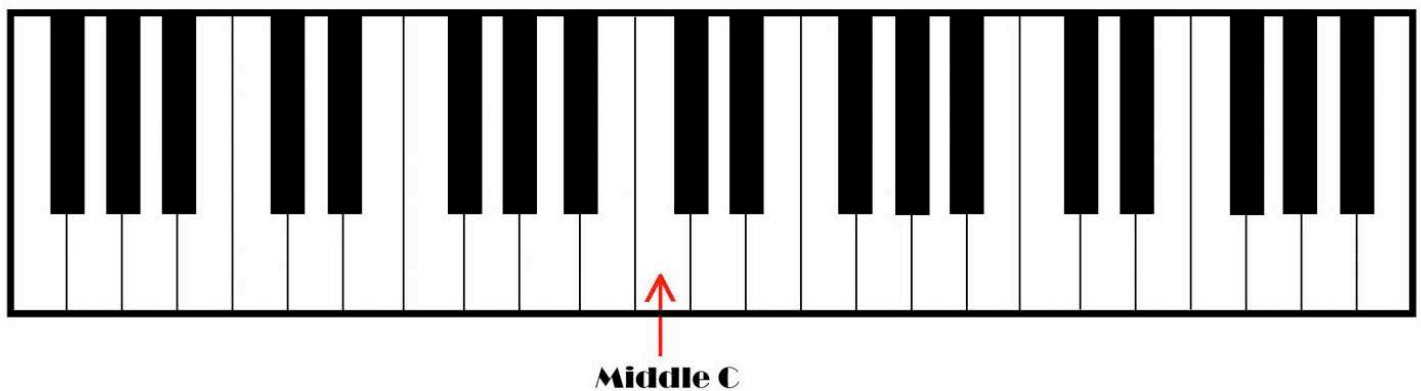
Online piano: <https://www.onlinepianist.com/virtual-piano>

Piano handout: <https://artsphere.org/blog/piano-keyboard-handout/>

Choosing a piano: <https://www.libertyparkmusic.com/how-to-choose-the-right-piano/>

Access Our Instructional Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WrpMsiDZEK>

Piano Handout





Your Destination:

There are a few more things you need to earn the proper hand positions, piano tones, and all about the keyboard.

On the Path:

Step 1 First, before we start playing the piano, we have to go over correct hand positions. Control and using the correct amount of pressure while playing the piano will increase your accuracy.

Step 2 Practice playing the keys with different tones using both hands, one finger at a time. Doing so will help you understand how hard or soft you need to press while playing.

Step 3 The keyboard consists of black keys and white keys. The black keys come in groups of two and three keys side-by-side. Starting with your left hand, we're going to start at the bottom of the piano/keyboard and play the first group of two black keys you find.

Group Tour:

Keep practicing and show your parents, siblings, or friends what you learned in this lesson.

Extend the Journey:

You can practice different tones even if you don't have a piano. Find a table and place your hands as you would on a piano. Then practice your tones.

Resources and Visual Aids:

Online piano: <https://www.onlinepianist.com/virtual-piano>

Piano handout: <https://artsphere.org/blog/piano-keyboard-handout/>

Access Our Instructional Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WrpMsiDZEK>



Your Destination:

Without learning the musical alphabet, you won't be able to read music. This lesson will help you learn to recite the musical alphabet and learn how to find any white key.

On the Path:

Step 1 First, let's go over the musical alphabet. The musical alphabet is made up of 7 letters: A, B, C, D, E, F, G. You begin on A and end on G. A, B, C, D, E, F, G. Once you reach the seventh letter, which is G, you go back to A and repeat that all the way up the piano. Now do the same thing on the way down, but we're going to do the alphabet in the opposite direction this time. Once again we're going to start on A, then go down to G, F, E, D, C, B.

Names of the White Keys



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design by Ana Bim 2023

Selection from handout linked on next page

Step 2 Use the handout linked in Resources and Visual Aids to practice locating and writing the note names on the right keys without looking.

Step 3 Keep going over the musical alphabet and keep practicing locating and naming the white keys.

[Continued on next page]



3. THE MUSICAL ALPHABET



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Cropped from original

Group Tour:

Keep practicing and show your parents, siblings, or friends what you learned in this lesson.

Extend the Journey:

Print out a new piano handout, or use the one below and write down the letters on all of the white keys without looking at the labeled white keys above.

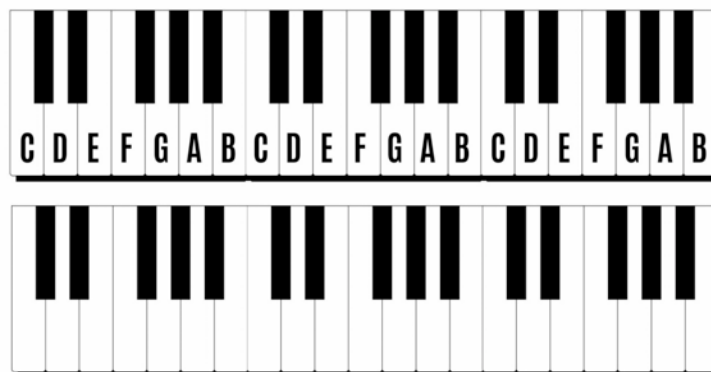
Resources and Visual Aids:

Online piano: <https://www.onlinepianist.com/virtual-piano>

White Keys handout: <https://artsphere.org/blog/white-keys-on-a-piano/>

Access Our Instructional Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSMmdGUK9oY>

Names of the White Keys



Directions: Study the keys then fold the paper in half and fill it in by memory. All you have to remember is that the white keys on the piano are named after the first seven letters of the alphabet: A, B, C, D, E, F, and G. The musical alphabet starts with the letter C, not A because C is the most basic note in music. Repeat the alphabet for remaining keys so the last key will end on a B.



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Handout linked above



Your Destination:

There are many different notes in music that all have different values. Also, the amount of pressure you exude on your piano can determine the dynamic. In this lesson, you will be learning the different note values in music and two dynamic signs.

On the Path:

Step 1 Music is made up of short tones and long tones and these tones in music are measured by counting. When we clap or tap once for each note, it's called clapping or tapping the rhythm.

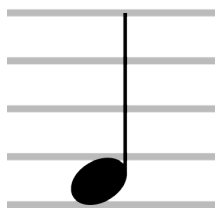
Step 2 Let's go over a few note values you often see in music: quarter note, half note, and whole note.

Step 3 Here is what each of these notes mean and what value each note holds. The quarter note is a short note and when we count while playing, this note receives one beat. The quarter note is a black note with a stem. Clap and count, (clap) one, etc. The half note is a long note and when we count while playing, this note receives 2 beats. The clap is the same as playing the first note, or the "one." The half note is white on the inside and has a stem. [Clap], two/ [clap], two, etc. A whole note is a very long note and when we count while playing, this note receives 4 beats. The whole note is a round note and is white in the inside and has no stem. [Clap], two, 3, 4/ [clap], two, 3, 4, etc.

Eighth note
1/2 beat



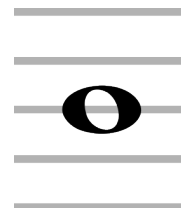
Quarter note
1 beat



Half note
2 beats



Whole note
4 beats



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Public Domain

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4. NOTES AND DYNAMICS



Public Domain
Sheet Music Online

symbol	full term (Italian)	definition	symbol	full term (Italian)	definition
<i>mp</i>	<i>mezzo-piano</i>	moderately quiet	<i>mf</i>	<i>mezzo-forte</i>	moderately loud
<i>p</i>	<i>piano</i>	quiet	<i>f</i>	<i>forte</i>	loud
<i>pp</i>	<i>pianissimo</i>	very quiet	<i>ff</i>	<i>fortissimo</i>	very loud
<i>ppp</i>	<i>pianississimo</i>	very, very quiet	<i>fff</i>	<i>fortississimo</i>	very, very loud

source: Blair Nakamoto

Step 5 Now, let's go over some dynamic signs; piano and forte. Piano or the letter p means soft. In order to get a soft sound, drop your finger on the key with not too much pressure. Forte or the letter f means loud. In order to get a forte or loud sound, drop your finger on the key with more weight. Practice a few times playing piano and forte on your piano or keyboard.

Step 6 Practice until you memorize and can clap and count the correct values of each note type. Also practice playing *piano* (quiet) and *forte* (loud) on your piano or keyboard.

Group Tour:

Keep practicing and show your parents, siblings, or friends what you learned in this lesson.

Extend the Journey:

You can practice different tones even if you don't have a piano. Find a table and place your hands as you would on a piano. Then practice your tones.

Learn New Vocabulary: forte, half note, piano, quarter note, whole note, value

Resources and Visual Aids: **Online piano:** <https://www.onlinepianist.com/virtual-piano>

Piano handout: <https://artsphere.org/blog/piano-keyboard-handout/>



Your Destination:

The numbers you often see in the beginning of music are called the time signatures. The most commonly used time signature is 4/4 time. Let's learn what the numbers represent and how measures in 4/4 time may look like.

On the Path:

Step 1 When looking at piano music, you'll notice numbers at the beginning. These numbers represent the time signature. The time signature consists of 2 numbers. The top number is how many beats are going to be in each measure and the bottom number tells us which note gets one beat. The time signature 4/4 is the most commonly used time signature in music. Here is what the numbers 4/4 represent.

Step 2 The top number, 4, means that there are 4 beats to each measure. The bottom number, 4, shows that the quarter note gets one beat. These can either be 4 quarter notes, 2 half notes, or 1 whole note. Can you guess what other combination of notes we may have in a measure of 4/4? The answer is one half note and 2 quarter notes.

Step 3 Take a look at the examples below. For the full version, follow the link. Clap and count along to each measure. Practice as many times as you need.

Music for Music Teachers

Link to full sheet music:

<https://www.music-for-music-teachers.com/mary-had-a-little-lamb.html>

Group Tour:

Keep practicing and show your parents, siblings, or friends what you learned in this lesson.

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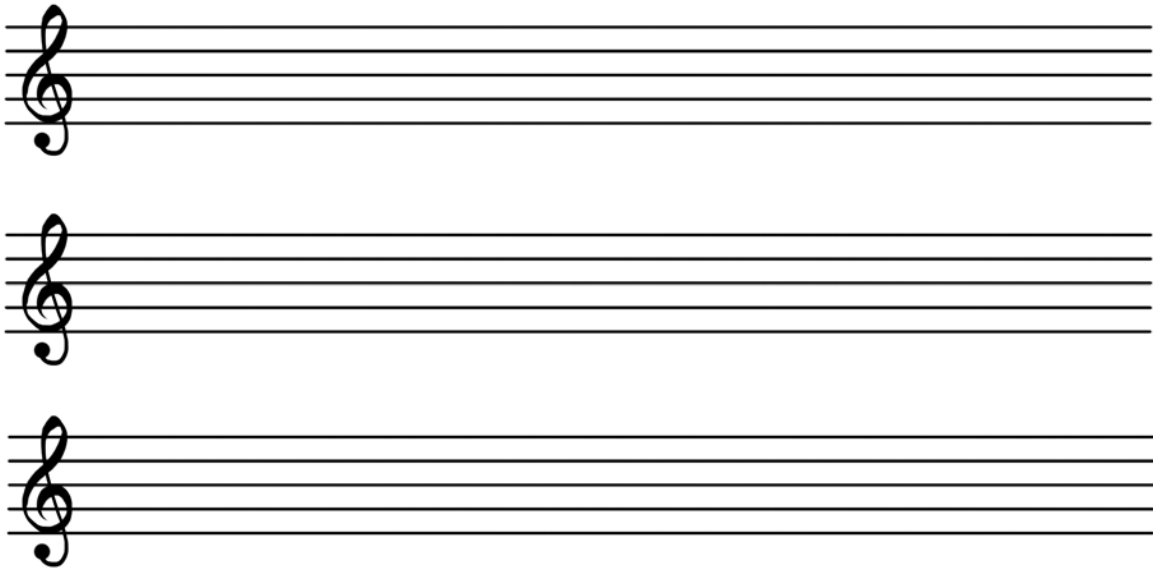


Extend the Journey:

There are many ways to write out what a measure of 4/4 looks like. Without looking at the handout, try to draw all of the notes out on a blank sheet of paper. Underneath each note, write what it's note value is. Then clap and count to practice.

Learn New Vocabulary: time signature, 4/4 time

Resources and Visual Aids: Use staffs below or go to the homepage, <https://www.flutetunes.com/>, and click on the "Staff Paper" menu item.



source: Blair Nakamoto





Your Destination:

The numbers you often see in a sheet of music are called the time signature. In the last lesson we went over 4/4 time which is the most commonly used time signature. This week you're going to learn about the second most commonly used time signature: 3/4 time. Let's learn what the numbers represent and how measures in 3/4 time may look like.

On the Path:

Step 1 As you learned in the previous lesson, when looking at a sheet of music, you'll notice numbers at the beginning. These numbers represent the time signature. Today, we're going to go over the three quarter time signature, the second most commonly used time signature in music.

Step 2 What do the numbers represent? The top number 3 means that there is 3 beats to each measure. The bottom number shows that the quarter notes will each get one beat in each measure.

Step 3 We are going to learn about the dotted half note because it can represent another beat. As we went over in a previous lesson, a half note, which looks similar to the dotted half note, receives 2 beats. As you may see, there is a dot placed after the note indicating that it is a dotted half note. Dotted half notes receive 3 beats. Clap and count with me. 1,2,3.

Step 4 Let's go over the different ways a measure can look with 3/4 time. A measure can include just one dotted half note since it equals 3 beats. It can also have 3 quarter notes where each quarter receives one beat. Lastly, it can be one half note and 1 quarter note where 2 beats plus one 1 equals 3 beats.



dotted quarter note $\text{♩.} = \text{♩} + \text{♩} = 1 \text{ and } 1/2 \text{ beats}$

dotted half note $\text{♩.} = \text{♩} + \text{♩} = 3 \text{ beats}$

source: Blair Nakamoto

[Continued on next page]



source: Blair Nakamoto

Step 5 Take a look at the examples above. Clap and count along to each measure. The notes with beams at the top, or a bar connecting the tops, are the eighth notes which are half the beat length of a quarter note. Counting “one, and, two, and” quickly makes 4 eighth notes, as opposed to “one...two...” for two quarter notes or a half note.

Group Tour:

Keep practicing and show your parents, siblings, or friends what you learned in this lesson.

Extend the Journey:

There are many ways to write out what a measure in three quarter time looks like. Without looking at the handout, try to draw all of the notes on a blank sheet of paper. Underneath each note, write what it's note value is. Then clap and count to practice.

Learn New Vocabulary: dotted half note, 3/4 time

Resources and Visual Aids: Practice writing your own staff in 3/4 time by going to the homepage, <https://www.flutetunes.com/>, and click on the “Staff Paper” menu item and print the page.



Your Destination:

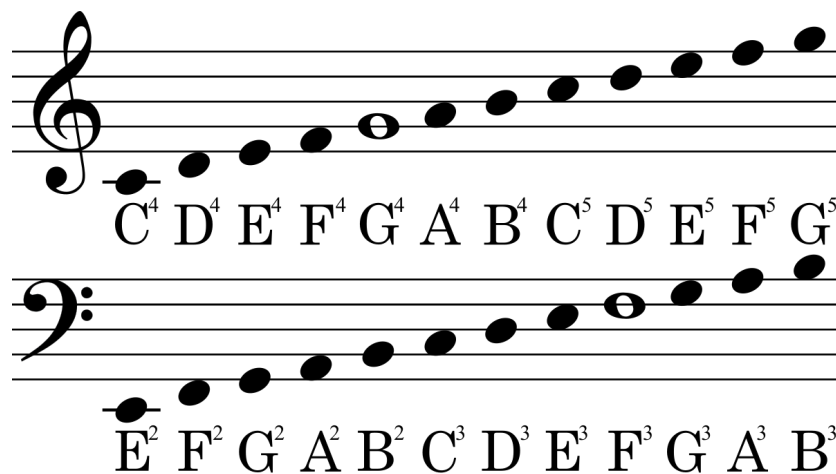
In music, notes are written on a staff, but in order to read the notes, we need clef signs. Today, let's learn about the staff and bass clef.

On the Path:

Step 1 Let's go over how music is written. Music is written on a staff consisting of 5 lines and 4 spaces. The notes are written on the lines and in the spaces.

Step 2 Take the worksheet provided with this lesson and on the lines underneath each note, write L for each line note, and S for each space note.

Step 3 Now since you know what a staff looks like, in order to read the notes on the staff, we need clef signs. The 2 most common clef signs used for the piano are the bass clef and the treble clef. The bass clef, on the piano, is mainly played with the left hand and the treble clef is mainly played with the right hand. In this lesson, we're only going to learn the bass clef. The bass clef sign comes from the letter F. It locates the F below the middle of the piano. On the staff, the F is written on the 4th line (we read the lines bottom to top).



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[Continued on next page]



Step 4 The F line passes between the two dots of the F clef sign. Once you locate the F, you can name all the other notes on the staff by going up or down on the bass staff.

Step 5 Let's practice reading the bass clef notes with a music piece that may be familiar to you. Go to [8notes.com](https://www.8notes.com) and search "Home on the Range" in the search bar at the top, then click on the piano version of sheet music.

Step 6 First, read and clap all the notes of the song 5 times. Then, play with your left hand and say the notes. Practice this piece as many times as you need until you play it without mistakes 3 times in a row.

Group Tour:

Keep practicing and show your parents, siblings, or friends what you learned in this lesson.

Extend the Journey:

Practice writing your own bass clef on the staff by going to the homepage, <https://www.flutetunes.com/>, and click on the "Staff Paper" menu item and printing the page. Otherwise, draw lines using the straight edge of a book or other straight, flat object to draw a long bar of five lines and draw the bass clef directly on them at the beginning.

Learn New Vocabulary: bass clef, treble clef

Online piano: <https://www.onlinepianist.com/virtual-piano>

Piano handout: <https://artsphere.org/blog/piano-keyboard-handout/>





Your Destination:

In order to be able to figure out which hand to use to play the keys that you see in future pieces, we need to learn about clefs. In the last lesson you learned about the bass clef. Today, let's go over the Treble Clef.

On the Path:

Step 1 In the previous lesson, you learned that music is written on a staff and in order to read the staff, we need clef signs. We went over the bass clef last time, so in this lesson you will be learning the treble clef.

Step 2 The treble clef sign comes from the letter G. It locates the G on the piano above middle C. On the staff, the G is written on the second line. Since there are many notes on the piano, the staff cannot fit all of them. In this case, we add short lines, called ledger lines above and below the staff to write these notes. For example, Middle C is written using a ledger line below the staff.

Step 3 Let's practice reading the treble clef notes with a music piece shared with you on the ASI website. First, read and clap the notes 5 times. Then, play the notes with your left hand and say the notes.



Group Tour:

Keep practicing and show your parents, siblings, or friends what you learned in this lesson.

Extend the Journey:

Just like you did in the previous lesson, click to open the provided link, download the blank staff to your computer and print it out. On the staff, practice drawing the treble clef all the way down. <https://madisonpaper.com/blank-staff-paper/>

Learn New Vocabulary: bass clef, treble clef

Online piano: <https://www.onlinepianist.com/virtual-piano>
Piano handout: <https://artsphere.org/blog/piano-keyboard-handout/>



Your Destination:

The bass clef helps with the reading of the low notes and the treble clef helps with the reading of the high notes. Together the bass staff and the treble staff make the Grand Staff.

On the Path:

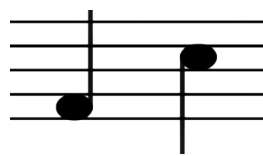
Step 1 In the previous two lessons, you learned that the bass clef helps with the reading of the low notes and the treble clef helps with the reading of the high notes. Together the bass staff and the treble staff make the Grand Staff. Middle C is written on the ledger line below the staff in the treble staff and it's written on the first ledger line above the staff in the bass staff. The treble and bass staves are joined together with a brace.

Step 2 When you're first learning to play the piano, the notes in the treble staff are played with the right hand, and the notes in the bass staff are played with the left hand.

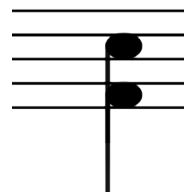
Step 3 Let's practice reading the notes on the grand staff. Go to 8notes.com and search "Aura Lea" and click the first result. See the YouTube link on the next page to hear a rendition of the song. The notes with flags are the eighth notes which are half the beat length of a quarter note. Counting "one, and, two, and" quickly makes 4 eighth notes, as opposed to "one...two..." for two quarter notes. Read and clap the notes.

Step 4 Familiarize yourself with the notes of the song and where they are on the keyboard, play and count until you know the Grand Staff well. Refer to page 4 for a visual reminder of the note letters on the keys.

Melodic interval



Harmonic interval



[Continued on next page]



Group Tour:

Keep practicing and show your parents, siblings, or friends what you learned in this lesson.

Extend the Journey:

Continue practicing the handout provided with this lesson and try to memorize the notes.

Learn New Vocabulary: brace, eighth notes

Resources and Visual Aids:

Online piano: <https://www.onlinepianist.com/virtual-piano>

Piano handout: <https://artsphere.org/blog/piano-keyboard-handout/>

“Aura Lea Aura Lee” by Charles Szabo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEiByIzFhQM>





Your Destination:

Not all notes are played the same way. Musical phrases provide guides to interpretation of the music. In today's lesson, you will get the opportunity to learn about slurs and tied notes.

On the Path:

Step 1 Let's learn music phrases. Similar to speech, a piece of music is divided into phrases. Each phrase is connected together using slurs, somewhat similar to the period at the end of a sentence. In music, the slur means to connect the notes of different pitches in legato, or smoothly connected. The slur is the line that connects the notes in one musical phrase.

Step 2 Take a look below for this lesson.

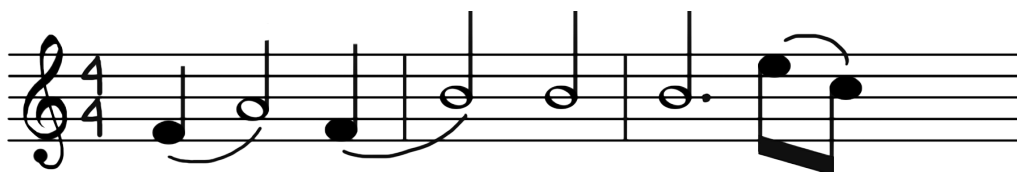


Wikimedia Commons - Public Domain

Step 3 First, let's read and clap the notes 5 times.

Step 4 Play and count the example. Practice as many times as you need to play them without making any mistakes.

Step 5 Now let's go over tied notes. When notes on the same line or space are joined by a curved line, you don't play the second note. Instead, you keep holding the first note for the value (length of time) of the combined notes. The curved line is called a tie, and the notes are called tied notes.



[Continued on next page]



Step 6 Read and clap the notes 5 times. Practice as many times as you need to play them without making any mistakes.

Group Tour:

Keep practicing and show your parents, siblings, or friends what you learned in this lesson.

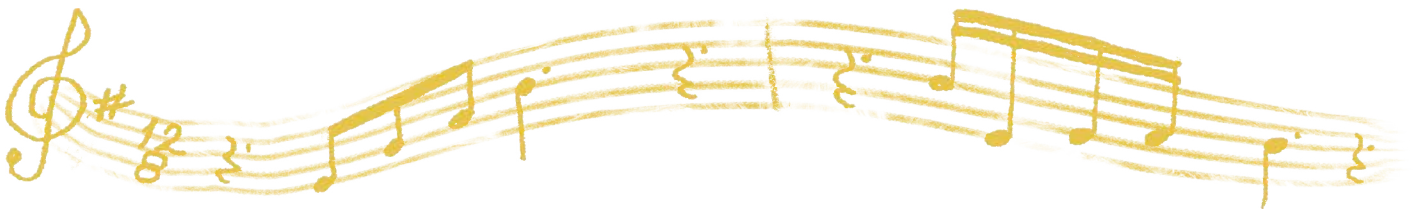
Extend the Journey:

Continue to practice playing and counting the examples. Try making your own piece using slurs and tied notes. Then, try to play it on the piano.

Learn New Vocabulary: slur, tied notes

Online piano: <https://www.onlinepianist.com/virtual-piano>

Piano handout: <https://artsphere.org/blog/piano-keyboard-handout/>



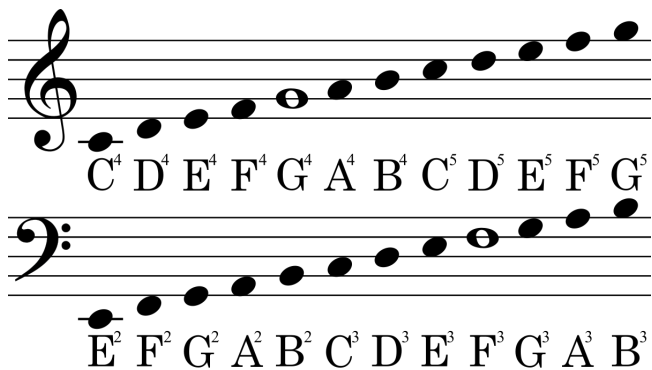


Your Destination:

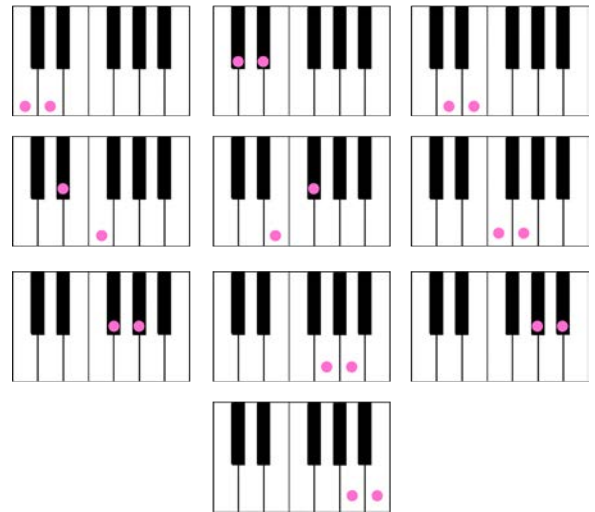
Music intervals are the distance in pitch between and including any 2 notes. In today's lesson, you're going to learn about the music interval 2nds. Intervals are called by the amount of notes they include; 2nds, 3rds, 4ths, etc. Remember, not all intervals are united--as in, they include being played one after another, not just the same time.

On the Path:

Step 1 Today, we are going to learn about 2nds. The 2nd interval is the distance between any white key to the next white key, up or down, and any black key to the next black key, up or down. On the staff, the 2nds are written on a line, then the next space, or in a space, then on the next line, like below.



Music scale in 2nd intervals
Wikimedia Commons CC BY 3.0



Locations of 2nd intervals on keyboard
source: Blair Nakamoto

Step 3 Above you only have intervals of 2nds. The notes move next to each other up and down. Let's practice playing intervals of 2nds.

Step 4 Try the "Happy Birthday" song which includes major seconds by following the link on the next page. Just play the treble clef staff on top. See if you can spot where the major seconds are. Play and count the beats of the piece. Practice as many times as you need to play them without making any mistakes. See video on following page for the song.

[Continued on next page]



Words and Music by
Midred J. Hill
and Patty S. Hill

Happy Birthday

For Easy Piano

Traditional
Arranged by Ben Dunnnett

Music Theory Academy
Link to full sheet music:

<https://www.musictheoryacademy.com/piano-sheet-music/easy-piano-music/happy-birthday/>

Group Tour:

Keep practicing and show your parents, siblings, or friends what you learned in this lesson.

Extend the Journey:

Once you've practiced the examples above, try to come up with your own intervals of 2nds.

Learn New Vocabulary: intervals

Resources and Visual Aids:

Online piano: <https://www.onlinepianist.com/virtual-piano>
Piano handout: <https://artsphere.org/blog/piano-keyboard-handout/>

"Happy Birthday" song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ykHAWUhjjGE>



Your Destination:

Music intervals are the distance in pitch between any two notes. In today's lesson, you're going to learn about the music interval 3rds.

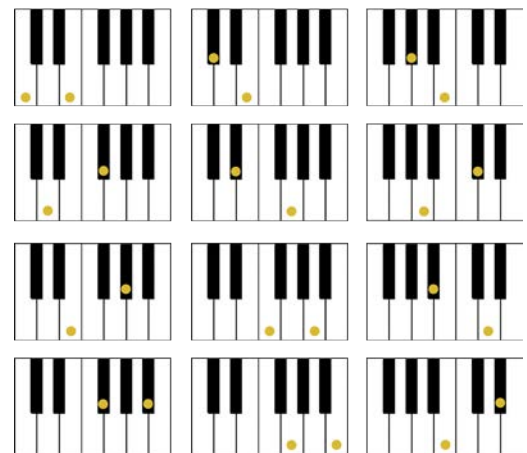
On the Path:

Step 1 In the previous lesson, you learned the musical interval, 2nds. In today's lesson, we're going to learn about the interval called a 3rd. The 3rds are played skipping one note. For now (as beginners), play 3rds by skipping one finger. On the staff, 3rds are written line-line or space-space.

Step 2 Go to the link in Resources and Visual Aids on the next page to see third intervals using solfege and watch the video about learning solfege through the Do, Re, Mi song if you need to. The notes move up a third interval, return to the skipped note, which then goes up a third as well. Let's practice playing intervals of 3rds.

Step 3 Practice playing the solfege notes as often as you need until you don't make any mistakes.

Step 4 See the next page for a link to the sheet music of "When the Saints Go Marching In," a song that contains 3rd intervals. Just play the treble clef staff on top. Note the squiggly line is a quarter rest, a pause that lasts as long as one beat, or one quarter note. See if you can spot where there are 3rd (and also 2nd) intervals. Practice playing it as many times as you need. See video in Resources and Visual Aids for the song.



Locations of 3rd intervals on keyboard
source: Blair Nakamoto

[Continued on next page]



When the Saints Go Marching In

Piano { Oh when the saints go marching in oh, when the

Music for Music Teachers
Link to full sheet music:

<https://www.music-for-music-teachers.com/when-the-saints.html>

Group Tour:

Keep practicing and show your parents, siblings, or friends what you learned in this lesson.

Extend the Journey:

Once you've practiced the examples above, try to come up with your own intervals of 3rds.

Resources and Visual Aids:

Online piano: <https://www.onlinepianist.com/virtual-piano>

Piano handout: <https://artsphere.org/blog/piano-keyboard-handout/>

Solfege in third intervals: <http://erbandscales.weebly.com/majors-in-3rds.html>

Solfege / "Do, Re, Mi" song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mruj0IYhDNO&t=1s>

"When the Saints Go Marching In" performed by Louis Armstrong:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyljbMBpGDA> (vocals start at 1:08)



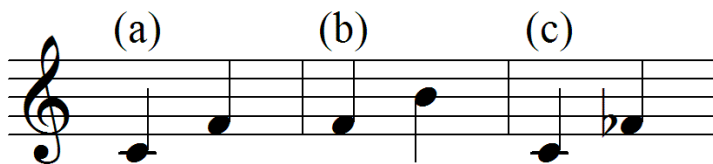
Your Destination:

Learning how to play the piano in a relaxed learning environment helps foster creativity, further develop your listening skills, and memory all while having fun! Today, let's continue learning about musical intervals. In the last lesson, you learned the musical interval called 3rds. In today's lesson, we're going to learn about the interval called 4ths. Fourth intervals are one of the intervals called "perfect." The others are unison (the same note), fifth, and eighth (or octave).

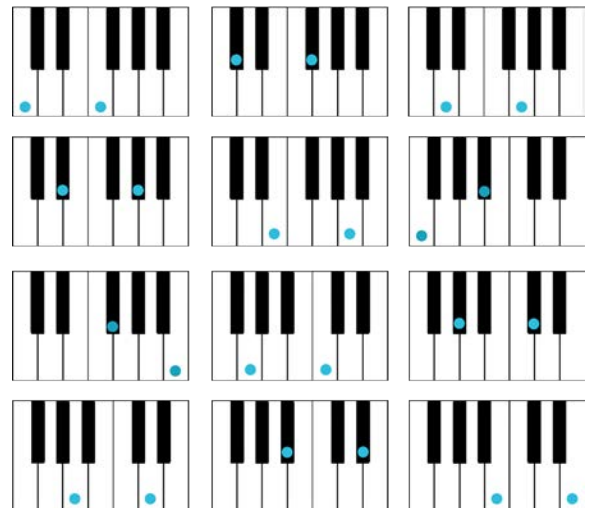
On the Path:

Step 1 The 4ths are played skipping two notes. For now (as beginners), play 4ths by skipping two notes. On the staff, 4ths are written line-space (with one line in between) or space-line (with one space in between).

Step 2 Below, you have 4th intervals in the paired notes. Practice playing the intervals as many times as you need until you don't make any mistakes.



*Wikimedia Commons
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Locations of 4th intervals on keyboard
source: Blair Nakamoto

Step 3 See the song on the next page that contains 4ths. See if you can spot where the 4th intervals are. Just play the treble clef staff on top. Practice playing as many times as you need until you don't make any mistakes. See video on following page for the song.

[Continued on next page]



Amazing Grace

words by
John Newton, 1725-1807

C	F
A	we've
- maz	- ing
grace	that
ma	ny
we've	been
grace,	how
taught	my
dan	gers,
there	ten
sweet	the
heart	to
toils,	and
thou	- sand

Music for Music Teachers
Link to full sheet music:

<https://www.music-for-music-teachers.com/support-files/amazing-grace-piano-primo.pdf>

Group Tour:

Keep practicing and show your parents, siblings, or friends what you learned in this lesson.

Extend the Journey:

Once you've practiced the examples above, try to come up with your own intervals of 4ths.

Resources and Visual Aids:

Online piano: <https://www.onlinepianist.com/virtual-piano>

Piano handout: <https://artsphere.org/blog/piano-keyboard-handout/>

"Amazing Grace" performed by Judy Collins:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3G-suuZgK4>



Your Destination:

Music intervals are the distance in pitch between any 2 notes. In today's lesson, you're going to learn about the music interval 5ths. The 5ths are played by skipping three notes. For now (as beginners), play 5ths by skipping three fingers. On the staff, 5ths are written line-line (with two lines in between) or space-space (with two spaces in between.)

On the Path:

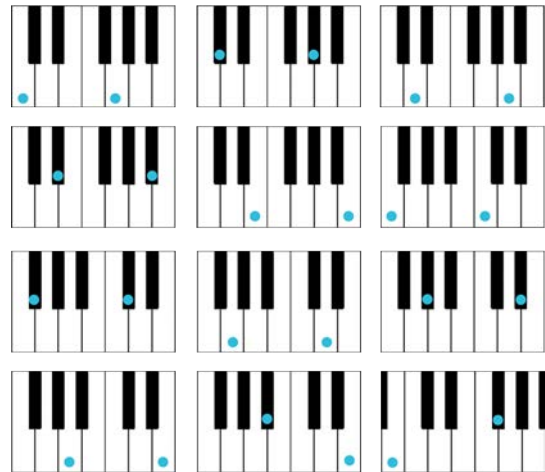
Step 1 Before we look at the references for this lesson, let's review the last few lessons. Can you give an example of a 2nd? Of a 3rd? Of a 4th?

Step 2 Now can you find a 5th above C? What's a 5th above E? What's a 5th below F?

Step 3 Below, you have 5th intervals in the paired notes. Practice playing the intervals as many times as you need until you don't make any mistakes.



source: Blair Nakamoto



Locations of 5th intervals on keyboard
source: Blair Nakamoto

Step 4 See the sheet music on the next page that contains 5ths. See if you can spot where the 5th intervals are. Practice playing as many times as you need until you don't make any mistakes. See video in Resources and Visual Aids to hear the song.

[Continued on next page]



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Link on page 29

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star



Twin-kle, twin-kle, lit - tle star, how I won-der what you are!



Up a - bove the sky so high, like a dia-mond in the sky.



Twin-kle, twin-kle, lit - tle star, how I won - der what you are!

Wikimedia Commons - Public Domain

Group Tour:

Keep practicing and show your parents, siblings, or friends what you learned in this lesson.

Extend the Journey:

Once you've practiced the examples on the handout provided, try to come up with your own intervals of 5ths.

Resources and Visual Aids:

Online piano: <https://www.onlinepianist.com/virtual-piano>

Piano handout: <https://artsphere.org/blog/piano-keyboard-handout/>

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star (traditional):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKOJ5OoeS_k



Your Destination:

Music intervals are the distance in pitch between any 2 notes. In today's lesson, you're going to learn about harmonic and melodic intervals.

On the Path:

Step 1 In piano music, intervals can be played one at a time or together. When the notes are played separately, they are called melodic intervals. For example, C D and D E are melodic intervals.

Step 2 When notes are played at the same time, they are called harmonic intervals. See the song "Aura Lee" on this page of a beginner lesson on Dummies.com for an example to play the harmonic intervals. <https://bit.ly/3Ehfxpk>

Just play the treble clef staff on top. First, read and clap the notes, then, play and count all the way through. Play the paired notes on the piano at the same time.

Step 3 Melodic intervals are simply any notes played one after another, not at once. For the song linked below, just play the treble clef staff on top. This is a traditional New Year's song. The notes with flags at the top, or a bar connecting the tops are eighth notes which are half the beat length of a quarter note. Counting "one, and, two, and" makes 4 eighth notes, as opposed to "one...two..." for two quarter notes. Practice playing as many times as you need until you don't make any mistakes. See video on following page for the song.

Auld Lang Syne

Robert Burns, lyrics

Scottish traditional



Should old ac-quain-tance be for-got, and ne-ver brought to mind? Should

Music for Music Teachers

Link to full sheet music:

<https://www.music-for-music-teachers.com/auld-lang-syne-sheet-music.html>

[Continued on next page]



Step 4 Practice both examples as many times as you need to play them without making any mistakes.

Group Tour:

Keep practicing and show your parents, siblings, or friends what you learned in this lesson.

Extend the Journey:

After getting good at playing the treble clef staff, try playing it at the same time as the bass clef staff with your left hand on the other side of the piano.

Resources and Visual Aids:

Online piano: <https://www.onlinepianist.com/virtual-piano>

Piano handout: <https://artsphere.org/blog/piano-keyboard-handout/>

Auld Lang Syne easy piano tutorial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAsLRIKMheM>



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Altered intervals 3rd and 5th -

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Altered-Intervals-3rd-%26-5th.tif>

Sheet Music Online copyright information -

<http://www.sheetmusic1.com/NEW.GREAT.MUSIC.HTML>



Art Sphere Inc. (ASI), founded in 1998, provides meaningful free arts programs for underserved populations in an effort to engage the creativity in communities, empower neighborhoods, explore the positives in peoples’ lives, and heal the mind, body, and spirit through the arts.

Working with hundreds of volunteers every year and partnering with numerous civic, academic and governmental organizations, our grassroots events help support inner-city neighborhoods. ASI’s in-school, after-school, in-person and online workshops lay the framework for the arts to nourish the character and development of youth, open up a new world of social engagement and reinforce the school curriculum.

We appreciate the generous support of Penn Treaty Special Services District and other foundations and institutions who among our other supporters have paved the way for Art Sphere Inc. to continue to serve the public through on-site and online education programs.



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