



# Learn to play Sample Pack

**Beginner Piano: Adult Learners**



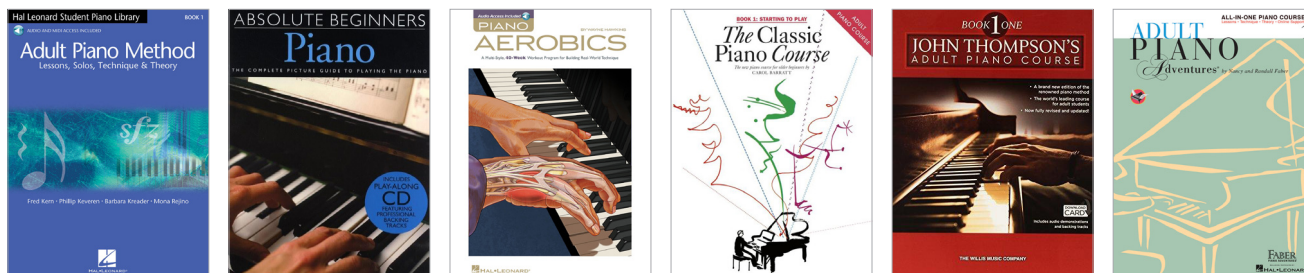
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**EUROPE**



# Learn to play Sample Pack

## Beginner Piano: Adult Learners



One of the few silver linings of these difficult times is a bit more time and inclination to take up a new skill or improve on an old one. Since lock down, there has been a huge uptake in music making in the home and across the internet.

For beginners or those returning to an instrument after some time off, 'Learn To Play Sample Packs' present FREE content from some of the most popular tuition books on the market, distributed by Hal Leonard Europe. From tried-and-tested methods that have sold hundreds of thousands of copies, to fresh new learning approaches, each Sample Pack includes introductory lessons to help you get off to the perfect start.

The Adult Learners sample pack provides players with a selection of our favourite piano methods. Aimed at older beginners or those returning to the piano after a period away, each method is presented with a summary of its contents and context on how to progress through the series. The books included are:

**Hal Leonard Adult Piano Method**  
HL00298079

**Absolute Beginners Piano**  
AM986425

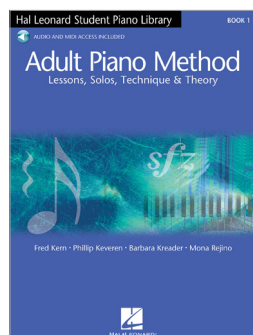
**Piano Aerobics**  
HL00311863

**The Classic Piano Course**  
CH60981

**John Thompson's Adult Piano Course**  
WMR101574

**Adult Piano Adventures All-In-One Book**  
HL00420242

# Adult Piano Method



## Reasons to pick this method

- Hands-on approach, encouraging the beginner to become immediately engaged in playing the instrument
- Very approachable, free from technical jargon and at a gentle pace
- Online support audio through Hal Leonard's *My Library* site, allowing tempo changes to help practice
- Created by an expert team of four of the USA's most respected piano teachers
- Modern presentation and stunning design throughout

## UNIT 4

### RITARD

Ritard or rit. means to slow the tempo gradually.

## Gentle Rain

Phillip Keveren

Slowly and steadily (♩ = 76)  
Both hands 8va throughout.

1 2 3 4 5

*p* delicately

Hold down sustain pedal throughout.

5

1 2 3 4 5

9

*mf*

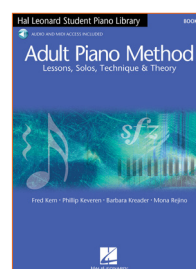
13

*p*

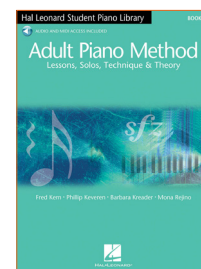
17

*rit.*

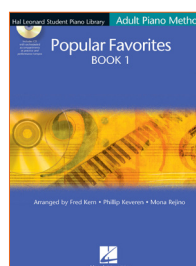
Click below for links to this book and relevant material



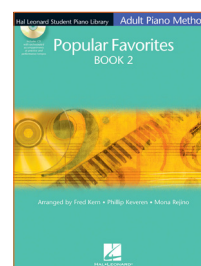
Book 1



Book 2



Popular Favourites Book 1



Popular Favourites Book 2

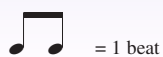
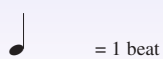


Christmas Favourites Book 1

## QUAVERS



Two **Quavers** fill the time of one crotchet.



Clap and count these patterns:



## Little River Flowing

Folk Melody

Smoothly (♩ = 100)

The musical score for 'Little River Flowing' is written in 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has four measures. The melody is in the right hand, starting with a half note G4, followed by a half note A4, then a half note B4, and ending with a half note C5. The bass line is in the left hand, starting with a half note G3, followed by a half note F3, then a half note E3, and ending with a half note D3. The second system also has four measures. The melody continues with a half note D5, followed by a half note C5, then a half note B4, and ending with a half note A4. The bass line continues with a half note C3, followed by a half note B2, then a half note A2, and ending with a half note G2. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *p* (piano). Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1 through 5.

**Accompaniment** (Student plays one octave higher than written.)

Smoothly (♩ = 100)

The accompaniment is written in 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has four measures. The melody is in the right hand, starting with a half note G4, followed by a half note A4, then a half note B4, and ending with a half note C5. The bass line is in the left hand, starting with a half note G3, followed by a half note F3, then a half note E3, and ending with a half note D3. The second system also has four measures. The melody continues with a half note D5, followed by a half note C5, then a half note B4, and ending with a half note A4. The bass line continues with a half note C3, followed by a half note B2, then a half note A2, and ending with a half note G2. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *p* (piano). Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1 through 5.

## Technique Tip Playing *Legato* from Hand to Hand

When playing *legato* from hand to hand, strive for a smooth follow-through from one hand to the other. Play each phrase *legato*, beginning with a downward motion of the arm and ending with an upward motion of the wrist.

# Watercolours

Delicately (♩ = 60)



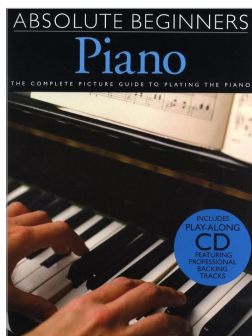
Play both hands 8va throughout.

Phillip Keveren

Hold down sustain pedal throughout.

# ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS

# Piano



## Reasons to pick this method

- Designed to be independent from a music teacher, allowing easy self-learning
- Clear and concise self-contained method
- Play-along CD with self-contained backing tracks
- Takes learners step-by-step from first day exercises to playing full pieces
- Includes a great list of songs, including classical, pop and folk

## 10 Your first note

Let's find your first note: **Middle C**.

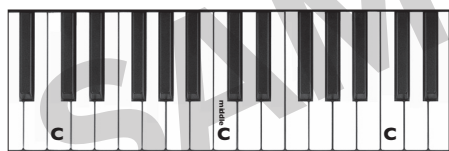
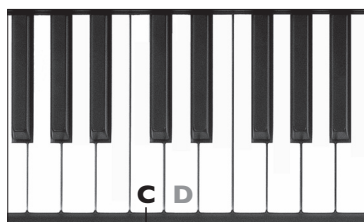
Middle C is a white key, and the easiest way to locate a white key is to see where it fits into the pattern of black keys.

Look for the groups of two black keys, and then find the note right in the middle—you have just found the note D. C is directly to the left of D, or to the left of the group of two black keys.

You'll notice that the groups of black keys are repeated all the way up the piano keyboard, so there are many different Cs. In order to distinguish between them we usually refer to one of them as middle C, which is, just as you would expect, the one closest to the centre of the piano keyboard.

Locate middle C on your piano—on most pianos, it is the closest C to the manufacturer's label.

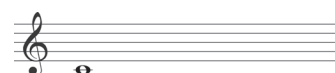
Now try to play a few different Cs. The diagram below shows you how to find the C below middle C and the C above middle C.



### Jargon Buster

A **leger line** is a tiny horizontal line placed just above or below the stave, which allows us to write notes which are higher or lower than the stave. Middle C is an example of a note that is written on a leger line.

This is what middle C looks like on the stave:

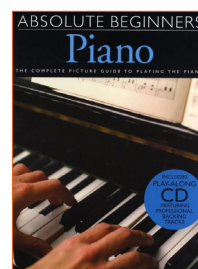


Notice that middle C is written on a small line directly under the main stave. This is called a leger line, and it allows us to write notes that are higher or lower than the stave's five lines and four spaces. It is important that you can tell one C from another, or else you might play the right notes (according to their name) but in the wrong place on the keyboard!

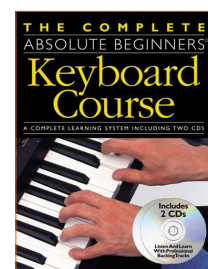
The examples on the next few pages all use middle C and the notes just above it.



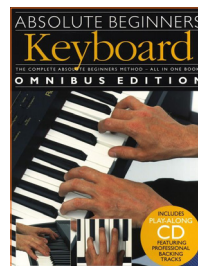
Click below for links to this book and relevant material



Absolute Beginners Piano



Absolute Beginners Keyboard Course



Absolute Beginners Keyboard Omnibus Edition

# Your first piece

11

Now you're ready to play your first piece.


Don't worry about reading music—as long as you can count to four and you can remember where C is, then you can play this piece!

## Using the CD

The CD in the back of this book will help you. On track 1, you will hear the piece below played with a backing track.

On track 2, you will hear just the backing track so you can try it yourself.

After the four-beat intro click, play a C for four beats with the accompanying music, then rest for four beats, then play for four and rest for four, and so on until the end of the piece.

The symbol  is called a rest, and it is there to tell you when not to play. You'll learn more about rests a bit further on in this book.

The piece lasts for eight bars. This means that you'll be counting to four 8 times in a row. This may seem simple, but already you're teaching yourself the important discipline of playing in time.

## Remember!

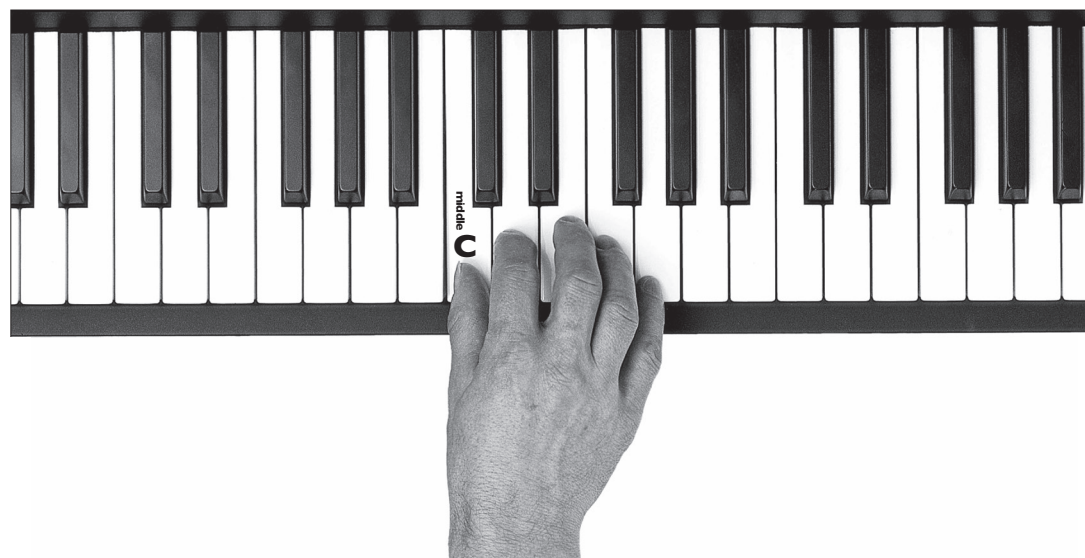
Keep your arms parallel to the keys and your fingers curved when you are playing.



Learning to count regular beats is something that you will eventually do automatically. But for now, it will help to count out loud while you are playing.

**Track 1** on the CD demonstrates how this piece should sound, and **Track 2** gives you a backing track that you can play along with.

Count: 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 etc.



## New notes D and E

Now you're ready to learn two more notes—but first, take a moment to review the pattern of keys on the keyboard, as shown below:



Here is the note D, which you first found in between the groups of 2 black notes. Make sure you are playing the one directly to the right of middle C.

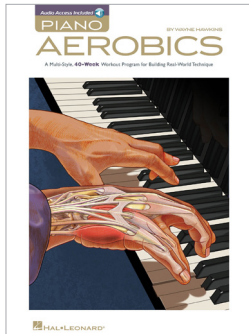
D



Just to the right of D is the note E:

E

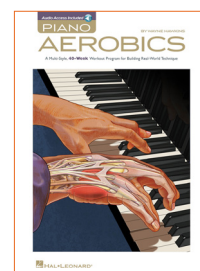




## Reasons to pick this method

- A multi-style, 40-week workout programme for building real-world technique
- Practical exercises introduce students to styles such as jazz, salsa, swing, rock, blues, new age, gospel, stride and bossa nova, helping to deliver more musical flair
- The online audio features professional musicians performing accompaniment tracks in each style
- Suitable for those looking for a well-rounded technique, covering multiple styles

**Click below for links to  
this book and relevant  
material**

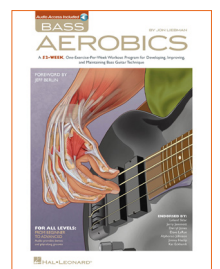


## Piano Aerobics

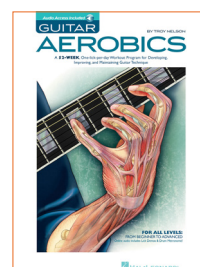
**The Aerobics method is also available for many other instruments:**



## Ukulele Aerobics



## Bass Aerobics



## Guitar Aerobics

# Finger Strengthening Workout #1

TRACK 1

♩ = 80-160+

Wayne Hawkins

1 2 3 1 2 4

5 4 3 5 3 2 1 3 5 3

5 1 2 5 5 1 3 5

2 1 2 4 5 3 1 3

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

1 5 3 1 5 2 1

1 2 3 2

6

## WEEKS 3-4

### WORKING WITH THE LEFT HAND

#### How to Swing Eighth Notes

##### Ostinato

Below is a typical ostinato bass line found in boogie woogie. The quarter notes remain steady. Play the bass line to understand the basic form.



##### What is Swing?

Classically trained musicians often have an initial problem with swing style. The essence of swing, shuffle and boogie woogie is found in the eighth note sub-division. Eighth notes in these styles should not be even.

Below are three different counting schemes to play swing. Play each figure as written. Ultimately, you want to be able to play straight eighth notes with a swing triplet subdivision.

- a) First, the figure is written as a dotted eighth-sixteenth. Note that if the dotted figure is counted accurately, the result is a jerky swing feel.



- b) Now the first eighth note is counted as two thirds of a triplet with the second eighth note on the last third. This is actually closer to a swing feel.



- c) Below is an even eighth note ostinato. Play this figure with the rhythmic feel of example b. If you still have trouble, try saying the words BOOgie WOOgie, to feel the rhythm of the eighth notes.



## WEEKS 7-8

### ARTICULATIONS

#### Interpreting Articulations

Now that we are on the road to a richer overall sound, let's turn our attention to the different ways that notes can speak.

A **slur** is used to connect notes with no space between them.



**Staccatos** create short, detached notes. Generally a quarter note will get an eighth note value.



**Tenuto** (literally means "hold") is held for the full note value.



An **accent** on a note means greater emphasis. In other words when struck, the note is more dynamic.



#### Articulation Exercises

These exercises combine the different articulations.

1. Observe the slur and connect the first two notes and then contrast the last two notes with staccato.



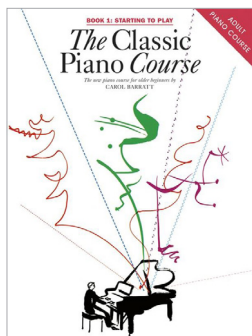
2. Play this slur-staccato pattern combined with tenuto.



3. Play the exercise below that adds an accent to the other articulations.



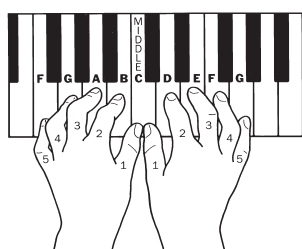
# The Classic Piano Course



## Reasons to pick this method

- Notation-based approach straight from the start, with a rapid pace
- Mixture of familiar classical repertoire with adult-appropriate compositions by the author, Carol Barratt
- Three method books, also available in one Omnibus edition, and supplementary songbooks for jazz, opera, ballet and blues
- Pushes the learner with a fast-pace, making it suitable for those with some previous piano experience

## Alternating hands



Place **both hands** in the position shown.

Play these 9 notes in contrary motion (both hands moving together but in different directions e.g. from fingers 1-5 and back) starting from both thumbs on **Middle C**.

The following pieces will contain notes in both the treble **and** bass staves.

### Reading Hint

When notes move from space to space or line to line, skip out *one* white key.



### Accent

> (♩) = *Accent* (play slightly louder than other notes).

**Hint** Decide how loud or soft you want a key to sound *before* you play it.

## A Surprise!

Theme from *'The Surprise' Symphony*

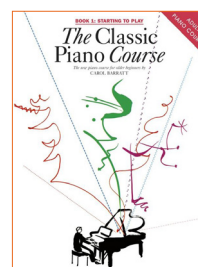
Adapted from  
Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)



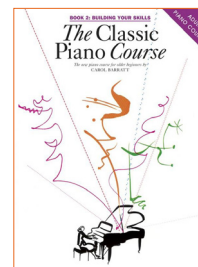
### Fascinating snippet

'The Surprise' Symphony is so-called because of the sudden loud chord that bursts into the slow movement of which Haydn had said, "That will make the ladies jump". In this adaptation you have only one loud note: in the symphony, the chord played by the orchestra is reinforced by a loud drum sound.

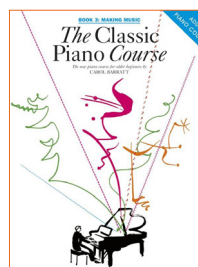
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material



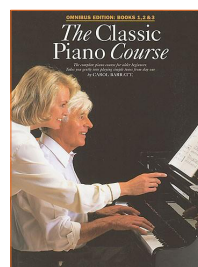
Book 1



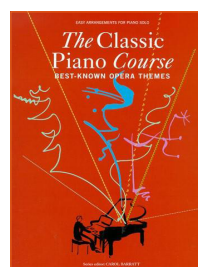
Book 2



Book 3



Omnibus Edition



Best-Known Opera  
Themes

# Canons

A *canon* is a piece of music where two or more parts follow each other with the same tune.

When you reach \*, a teacher/friend can join in, starting from the beginning, to make a proper canon.

If you are in a group lesson, other pupils can join in at other octaves or on other pianos.

## Tallis' Canon

Pieces don't always start with the first beat of the bar. In this piece, the last bar has only 3 counts because the first bar *began* with count 4. (First and last bars must add up to the time signature.)

Count **1 2 3** and then start playing on **4**.

Thomas Tallis (1505-85)

Teachers start on

### Fascinating snippet

*Tallis' Canon* was written during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.  
Later, Benjamin Britten (1913-76) used it in his opera *Noye's Fludde*.


## Barratt's Canon!

C.B.


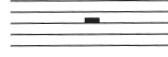

Teachers start on

# Rests

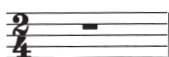
**Rests** represent a period of silence in a piece of music. Each note value has its own rest sign.

For example, a silence lasting as long as a crotchet is shown by a crotchet rest 

**Rest Chart**

<p>Semibreve</p> 	<p>The semibreve rest hangs on the 4th line</p>	<p>Minim</p> 	<p>The minim rest sits on the 3rd line</p>
<p>Crotchet</p> 			

A whole *bar's worth* of silence is shown by a semibreve rest in *every* time signature.\*

For example: 

## Rest Exercise

Lift your hand off the key when you see a rest sign - don't hang on when you should be resting!

(The rest counts are given in brackets in the following exercise.)


From this point on, exercises using one hand will use one staff only.



Count 1 - 2 (3) (1 - 2 - 3) 1 - 2 (3) (1) 2 3 1 (2) 3 1 - 2 - 3

## (Resting!) On the Bridge at Avignon

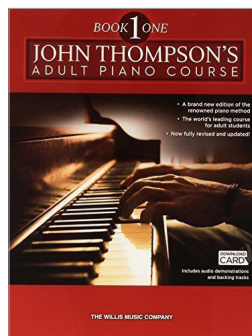
French Folk Song



\* except in  $\frac{4}{2}$

# BOOK 1 ONE

## JOHN THOMPSON'S ADULT PIANO COURSE



### Reasons to pick this method

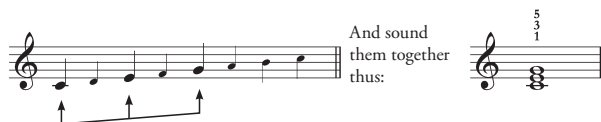
- A name most often associated with younger beginners, the John Thompson Adult Course also has huge success
- Authoritative instructions and clear practical advice, the method explains the essential techniques and musical forms for any beginner
- Vital sight-reading skills are covered from the start
- Features a download card with demonstrations allowing you to hear how exercises should sound

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### CHORD BUILDING

A CHORD is a group of three or more notes.

If we take the 1st, 3rd and 5th notes of the scale of C Major:



And sound them together thus:

We have played the C Major TRIAD of which E is the 3rd.  
C is the root.

Triads can be built upon all degrees of the scale. Every triad is named for its root.

Example:



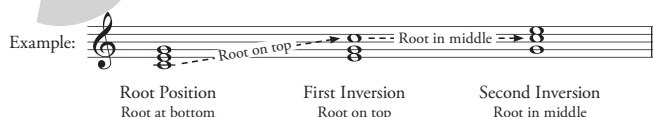
### CHORD INVERSIONS

We have learned that a triad contains a root, a 3rd and a 5th. The order of these notes may change *without changing the name of the chord*.

When the lowest note is the root, the triad is in the ROOT POSITION.

When the lowest note is *not* the root, the triad is said to be INVERTED.

### C MAJOR TRIAD



Root Position  
Root at bottom

First Inversion  
Root on top

Second Inversion  
Root in middle

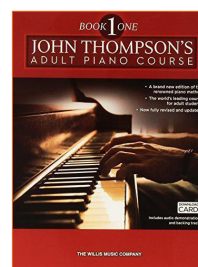
### BROKEN CHORD or ARPEGGIO

When the notes of a chord are separated and played in the following manner, it is known as a **broken chord** or **arpeggio**.

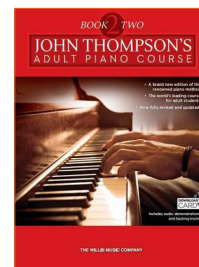
ARPEGGIO is an Italian word meaning *in the style of a harp*.



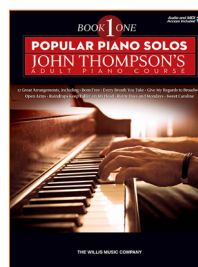
Click below for links to  
this book and relevant  
material



Book 1



Book 2



Popular Piano Solos  
Book 1



Christmas Piano  
Solos

Moderato

mf

8va

8va

2<sup>nd</sup> L.H. over

C

# ETUDE

## Broken Chords

Moderato

1 3 5 4 3 2

*mp*

5 3 1

5

*pp*

9

2 3

*mp*

1

13

## DRILL

### F Major Scale and Arpeggio

**Moderato**

Circle all  
broken chords.

## ETUDE

### Chords and Broken Chords

**Allegretto**

# ADULT PIANO

## Adventures<sup>®</sup> by Nancy and Randall Faber



### Reasons to pick this method

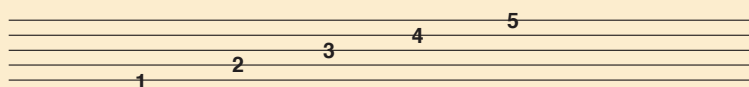
- The teaching method of choice at leading university programmes and music studios around the world
- Learn to read music with an approach that is easy to understand and apply
- Sightreading, ear training, music theory, and technique are integrated into the course
- Includes online access to instructional support videos and background accompaniments at [pianoadventures.com/adult](http://pianoadventures.com/adult)
- Comprehensive and convenient course book that is carefully paced, can be used for self-study or with a teacher

### unit 2

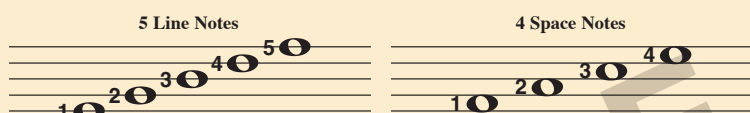
## Orientation to the Staff

### The Staff

Music is written on a five-line staff.



Notes are written on **lines** (line notes) or in **spaces** (space notes).

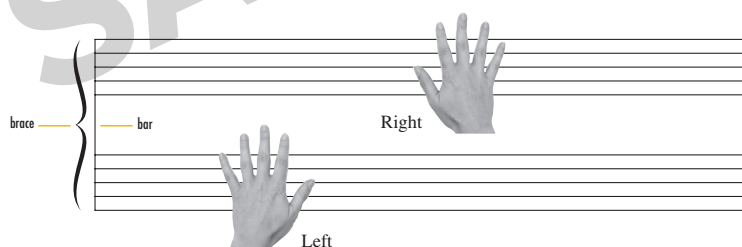


■ Identify each note as a *line note* or *space note* on the following pages: 33 and 38.

### The Grand Staff

Piano music uses two staves (staves) which are connected by a brace and beginning bar line. Together we call them the **GRAND STAFF**.

The R.H. plays the notes in the *upper* staff.



The L.H. plays the notes in the *lower* staff.

Click below for links to this book and relevant material



All-In-One Book 1



All-In-One Book 2



Popular Book 1




Classics Book 1



Christmas For All Time Book 1

## Bass Clef and Treble Clef

 This is a **Bass Clef** sign.  
Bass refers to *low* sounds.

The bass clef shows notes *below* Middle C.

### Bass Clef Orientation

- With L.H. finger 2, play Middle C and all the keys below while naming them aloud. These are in the *bass clef* range.



This is a **Treble Clef** sign.  
Treble refers to *high* sounds.

The treble clef shows notes *above* Middle C.

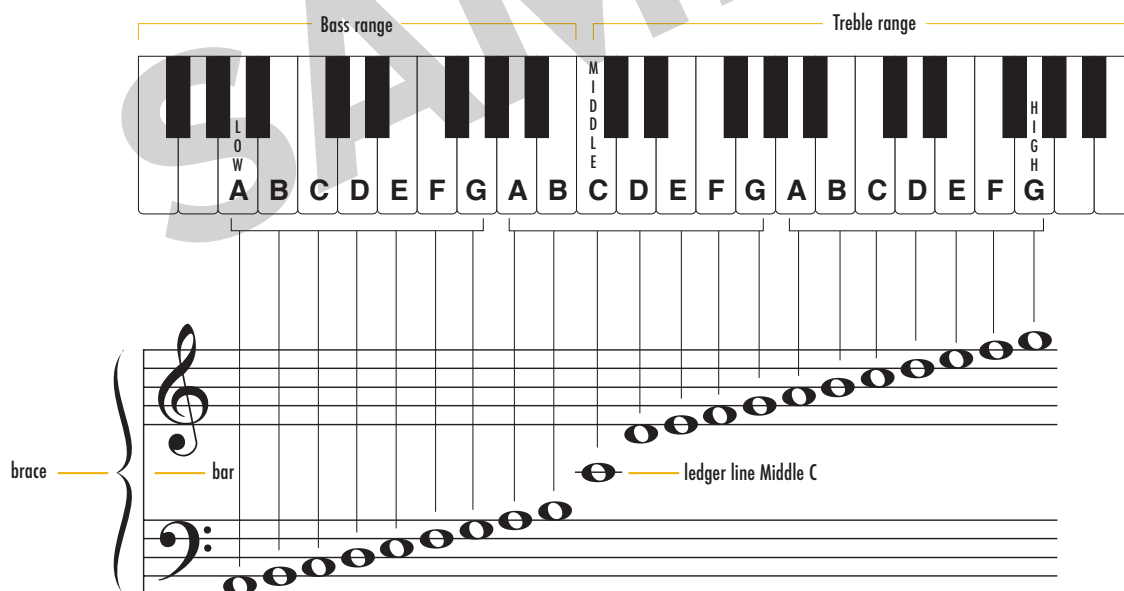
### Treble Clef Orientation

- With R.H. finger 2, play Middle C and all the keys above while naming them aloud. These are in the *treble clef* range.

Note: Middle C is written on a *ledger line* (short line) between the treble and bass staves.

## The Alphabet on the Staff

- As notes on the staff move from a **space** to the next **line** to the next **space**, etc., they move by **2nds** (steps) on the keyboard. (See page 34.)
- How many times can the music alphabet be written on the grand staff? Begin at the bottom and count up. \_\_\_\_\_



## The $\frac{4}{4}$ Time Signature

The **time signature** is written at the beginning of a piece of music.

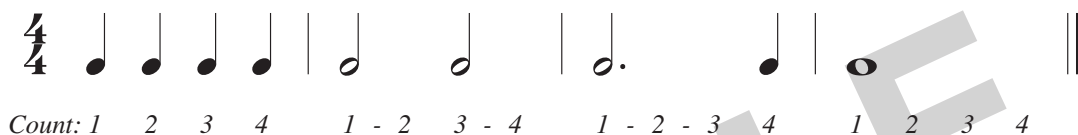
- The *top* number indicates the number of beats per measure.
- The *bottom* number represents the kind of note receiving one beat.

$\frac{4}{4}$  = 4 beats in each measure (“1-2-3-4”)  
 $\frac{4}{4}$  = ♩ The quarter note receives one beat.

### Warm-up

Tap (or clap), counting aloud, “1-2-3-4” in each measure. Notice this is a new way to count.

Then choose any key on the piano and play, counting aloud. Use R.H. finger 3.



4-Beat Alphabet uses only finger 3.

- First play, saying the **letter names**. (Begin two A's *below* Middle C.)
- Then play, counting aloud, “1-2-3-4.” Accent (play louder) beat 1 of each measure.

## 4-Beat Alphabet

Moderately

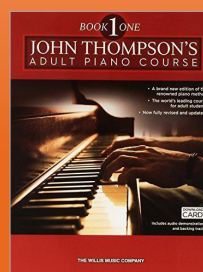
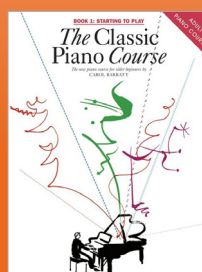
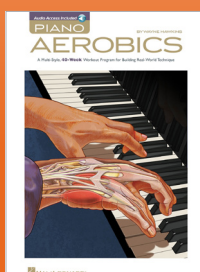
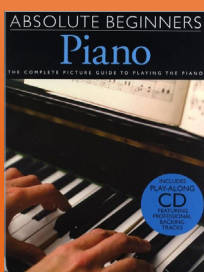
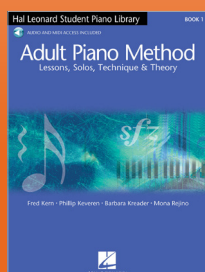
Use R.H. finger 3 for these notes.

Use L.H. finger 3 for these notes.

**Accent Mark**

♩ or ♪ means to emphasize the note by playing it louder than the notes around it.

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