



TAKE TEN

A Tutor for Beginner Pianists



by
**Elaine
Hugh-Jones**

Illustrated by Dennis Wolseley-Charles

Elaine Hugh-Jones

Elaine Hugh-Jones has dedicated her life to music with a particular interest in the piano. She learnt to play at the age of four and took part in her first public performance at five.

During her distinguished career she studied with Dr. F.W. Wadley, Harold Craxton, Julius Isserlis and Sir Lennox Berkeley.

Elaine Hugh-Jones has worked as a B.B.C. accompanist for nearly forty years. During this period she accompanied many great artists including Jack Brymer, Philip Jones and James Galway.

As well as teaching the piano at Malvern Girl's College and her broadcasting she is also one of the few successful women composers. Most of her compositions have been published by the Oxford University Press and have been broadcast by the B.B.C.

“TAKE TEN”

A Tutor for Beginner Pianists

by

Elaine Hugh-Jones

This book is designed to help the young beginner pianist (or indeed beginners of any age) to develop keyboard technique quickly and easily. The first piano lessons are extremely important and the aim is to encourage the pupil to feel that something new is achieved in each session.

The chapters include Rhythm Clapping, Note Reading, Information and Pieces. Well known tunes as well as original material are used and in many of the pieces the pupil plays in duet with the teacher so that fuller harmonies can be heard from the start. Sharps and flats are introduced early so that from the first they are accepted as a normal part of piano playing and do not become associated with ‘Difficulty’. In every chapter there are a few Theory exercises to be worked. In Chapter Nine a first lesson in Pedalling is included.

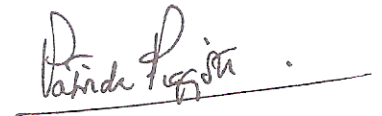
INDEPENDENT REVIEWS OF "TAKE TEN"

This tutor, I find, is unlike any other in the fact that it is so clearly, comprehensively and attractively laid out that not only teachers and pupils will enjoy it and benefit from it, but it will also encourage many mothers (and perhaps some fathers) to teach and help their own children. It will fill gaps in their own musical knowledge while capturing the interest and gently shaping the musical abilities of their offspring.



Mantle Childe, F.G.S.M.

A strikingly original approach to the problems facing both pupil and teacher in the initial stage of learning to play the piano. Great emphasis has been laid on maintaining the pupil's interest and sense of progress by the teacher's discreet harmonic enrichments of even the simplest exercises and pieces. Miss Hugh-Jones's fine musicianship and wide pedagogic experience are here combined in a very valuable publication which will be widely used by the teaching profession. The amusing pictorial illustrations will play their part in promoting the fullest possible understanding of the text.



Patrick Piggott, F.R.A.M.

Miss Elaine Hugh-Jones piano tutor "Take Ten" is produced as a result of her considerable experience as a teacher.

She emphasises the importance of rhythm at the outset with many patterns to clap and to play. Children are encouraged to read staff notation from the first, and to locate the notes on the piano at each stage.

There are copious original music illustrations as well as familiar tunes in a new guise. Included too, are several duets which, with the additional sounds of the lower sonorities of the piano give a further sense of achievement to the young.

The book is attractively illustrated throughout.

Miss Hugh-Jones' tutor has been thoughtfully prepared, and each new topic presented with the encouragement to those pupils unknown that would be given to those in her music room, which will make learning to play the piano a joy.

Its commonsense approach will immediately recommend it as a unique teaching book, not merely "another tutor."



Margaret Elgar, A.R.M.C.M.

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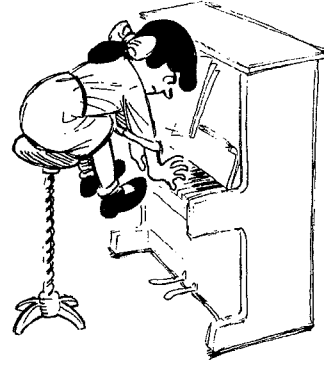
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CHAPTER ONE

How to Sit at the Piano

Make sure that your elbow is level with the keys,

not too high



and not too low

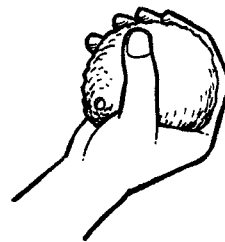


but just right.

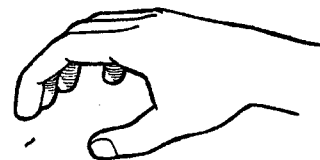
Keep your feet just in front of the pedals.
Remember not to tuck your feet under the piano stool.



Hold out your right hand, palm up.
Curl your fingers and pretend that you are holding an orange.

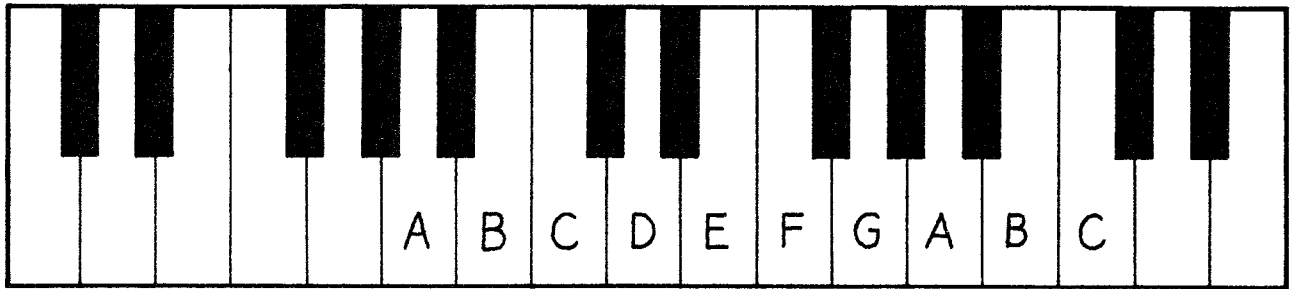


Keep your fingers curled and turn your hand over.



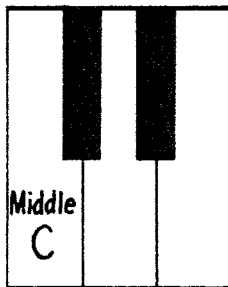
NOW YOUR HAND IS READY TO PLAY THE PIANO.

Piano keys are named after the first seven letters of the alphabet, A to G.



IN THE MIDDLE OF THE KEYBOARD IS A KEY CALLED MIDDLE C

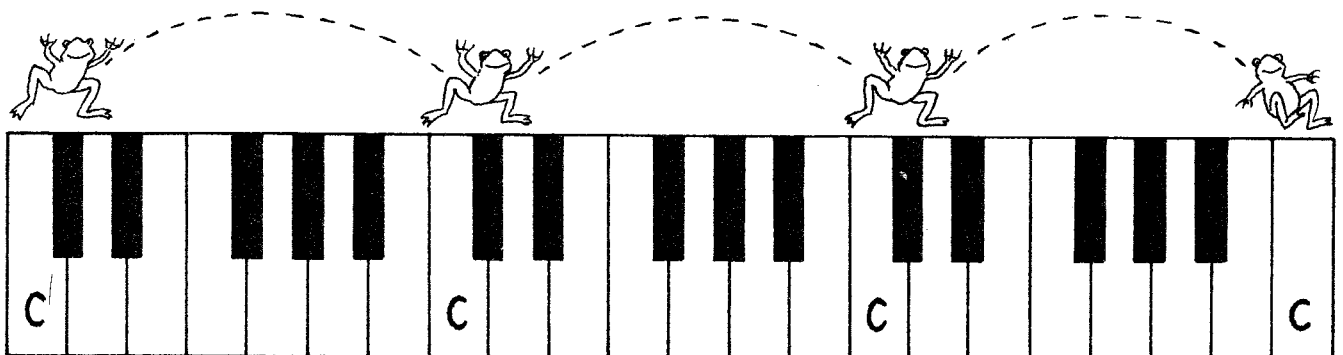
Look at this picture



and then find Middle C on your piano keyboard.

Middle C is to the left of two black keys. There are lots of other C's on the keyboard, each one next to a set of two black keys.

Notice in the picture below how the frog is jumping from one C to the next.



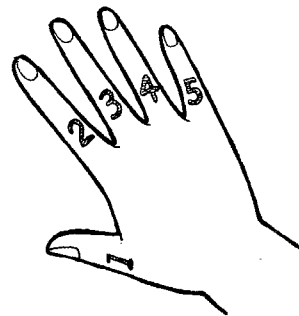
Use any fingers you like and play in turn every C on the keyboard, starting with the lowest.

In the above picture of the keyboard every C has been named. See if you can fill in the names of the other white keys. Remember that when you reach G you start again with A.

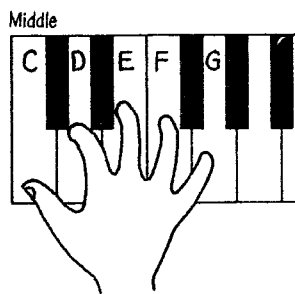
HERE IS A PICTURE OF YOUR RIGHT HAND.

Notice that the thumb is Number 1, the index finger Number 2, etc. . . .

If you like take a coloured chalk and write those figures, 1 to 5 on your own hand.



Put your right thumb on Middle C and arrange your fingers over the next 4 white keys.



Play the following numbered fingers:

1 2 3 1 1 2 3 1 3 4 5

and you will find that you have played the beginning of a well known tune, "Frère Jaques".

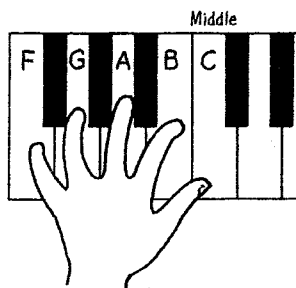
Play it again, this time with your teacher's accompaniment.

Pianist	1 2 3 1 1 2 3 1 3 4 5
Teacher	

NOW THE LEFT HAND.

Again the thumb is Number 1 and the index finger is Number 2 etc. . . .

Put your left thumb on Middle C and arrange your fingers over the next 4 white keys.



Play the following numbered fingers:


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

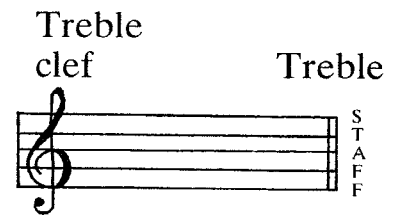
Play it again with your teacher, noticing that this time *you* are playing the accompaniment whilst your teacher is playing the tune.

	Country Gardens	FOLK TUNE
Teacher		
Pianist	1 1 5 5 4 2 1 1 2 3 5 3 4 2 1	

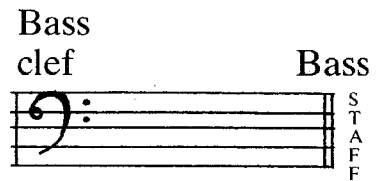


Music is written on sets of FIVE lines and FOUR spaces called STAFFS (or STAVES).

When this sign  which is called a TREBLE CLEF (or G clef) is written at the beginning of a staff the notes on that staff are the higher sounds to the Right of Middle C. They are usually played with the Right hand.






This is a BASS Clef (or F clef). 




When it is written at the beginning of a staff the notes on that staff are the lower sounds to the Left of Middle C. They are usually played with the Left hand.

Practise writing Treble and Bass clefs.




NOTES		
SEMIBREVE		(whole note) COUNT FOUR
MINIM		(half note) COUNT TWO
CROTCHET		(quarter note) COUNT ONE

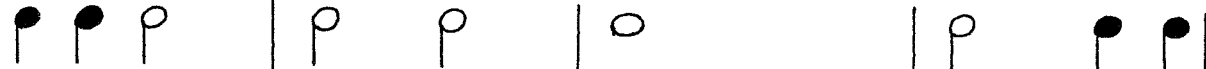
Clap the following Rhythms counting aloud as you clap.

1  Notice that Number ONE has the strong accent.

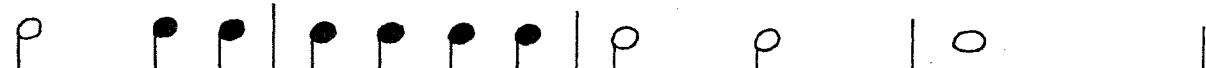
Count: one two | one two | one two | one two ||

2 

Count: one two three | one two three | one two three | one two three ||

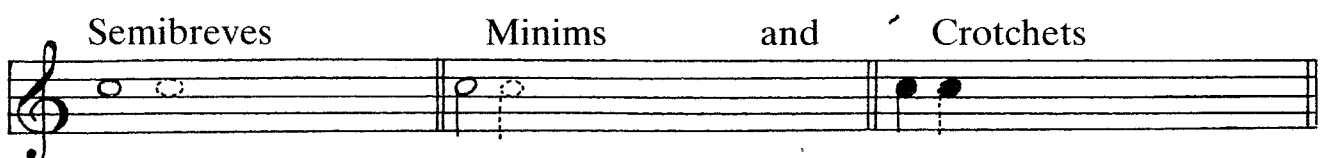
3 

Count: one two three four | one two three four | one two three four | one two three four ||

4 

Count: one two three four | one two three four | one two three four | one two three four ||

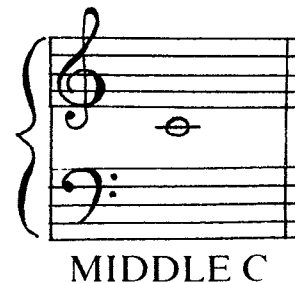
Practise writing



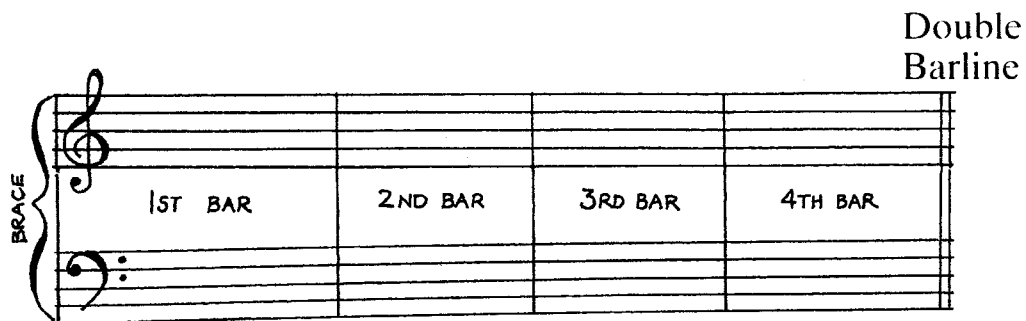
CHAPTER TWO

HERE IS A PICTURE OF MIDDLE C (a Semibreve)

It is written on a little line called a 'leger line' BELOW the Treble staff and ABOVE the Bass staff.



Music is divided into BARS (or Measures) separated by Bar-Lines.



At the end of a piece of music a Double Bar-line is used.

Now let's put two crotchet MIDDLE C's into each bar.

Sing or say aloud 'Right hand, left hand', as you play. Use your thumbs.

Pianist

Right hand

Right hand

Left hand

Left hand

Teacher

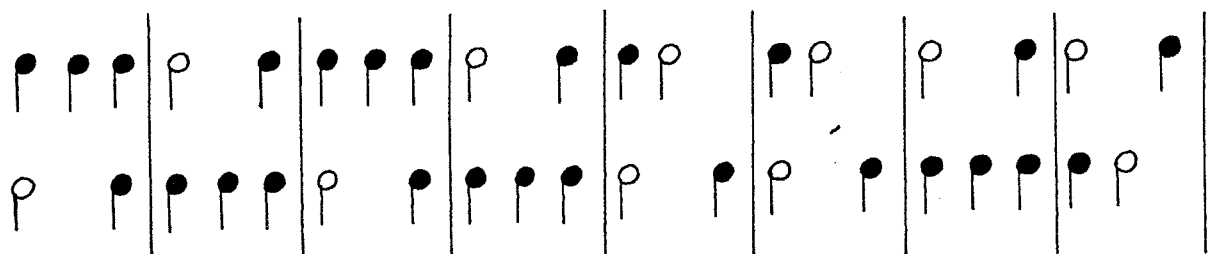
The sign > over the last two notes mean play more firmly. (Accent)

Play this three times, first loudly, then softly and then loudly again.

RHYTHMS TO CLAP

Try clapping Rhythm A whilst your teacher claps Rhythm B.

Then switch over and clap Rhythm B whilst your teacher claps Rhythm A.



TWO MORE MIDDLE C TUNES TO PLAY

Use your 2nd finger.
Clap your part before you play it.

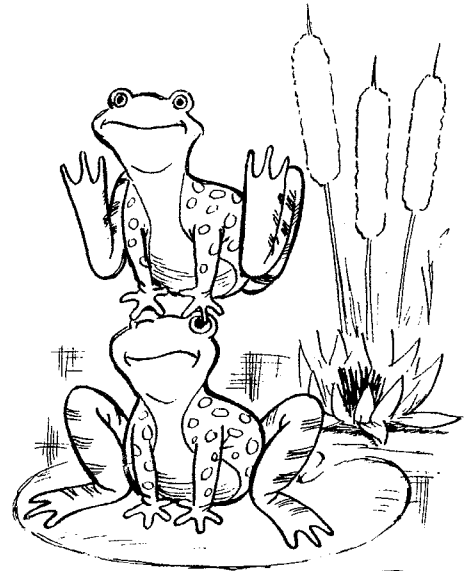
FROG-HOP

Lively

Teacher

f (loud)

Pianist
Right hand



Quiet and gentle RIPPLING WATER

Con. ped.

Teacher

Ripp — ling wa — ter flow — ing a — long.

Pianist

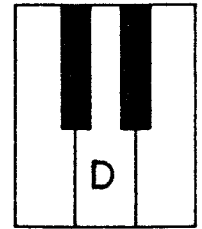
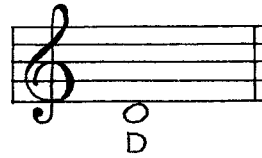
R.H.
p (softly)

L.H.

Birds in the green trees sing their sweet Song.

HERE IS A PICTURE OF THE D NEXT TO MIDDLE C.

It is between a set of two black keys.



Find and play every D on the keyboard starting with the lowest.

Using your Right thumb for Middle C and your 2nd finger for D, play this tune.

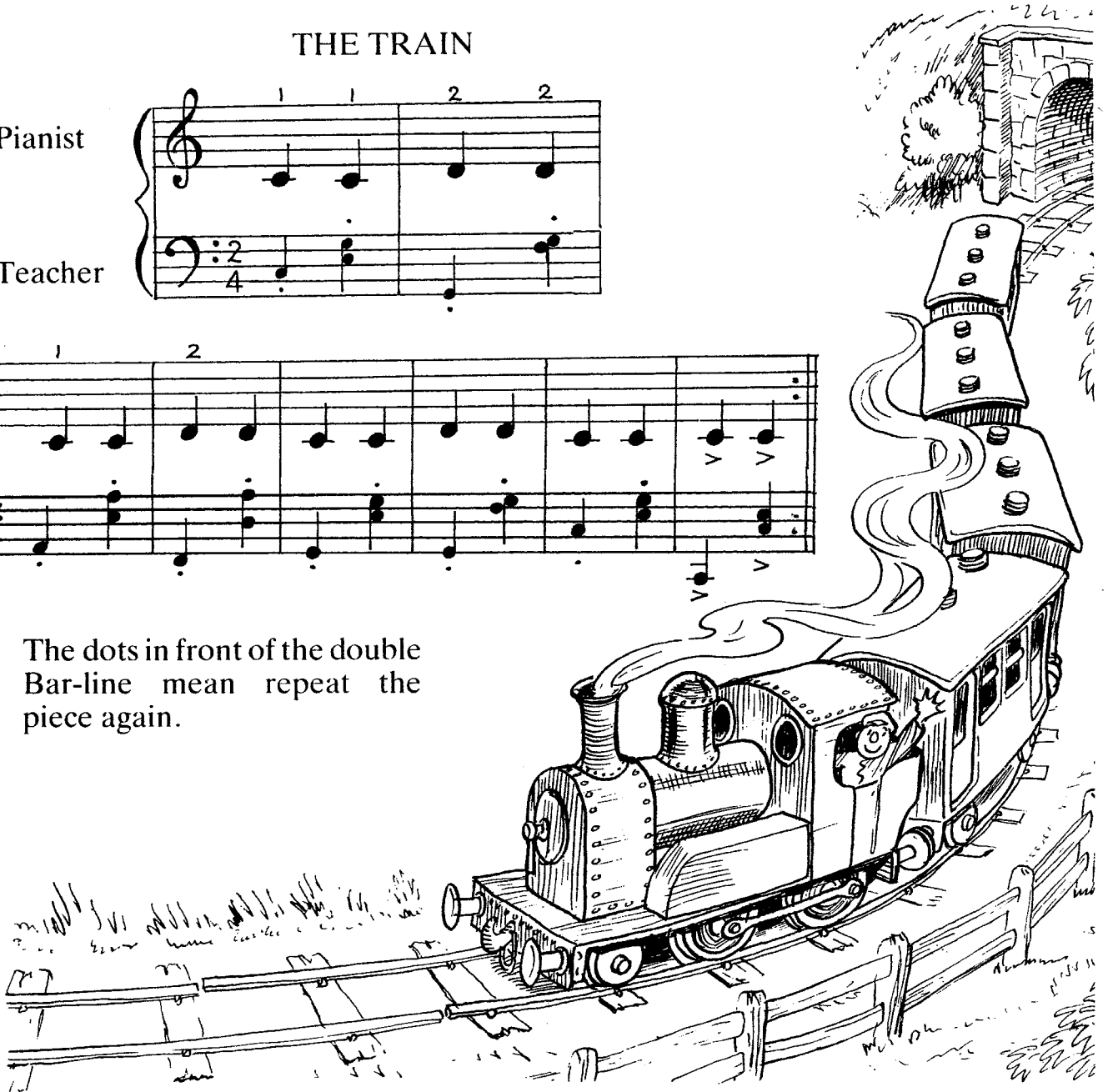
Begin slowly and get gradually faster as the train gathers speed.

THE TRAIN

Pianist

Teacher

The dots in front of the double Bar-line mean repeat the piece again.



Have you remembered to CURL your fingers?

Make sure that your 2nd finger looks like this



and not like this

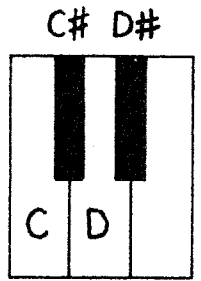


Now move to the two black keys directly to the right of Middle C and D.

THESE KEYS ARE CALLED C SHARP AND D SHARP.

A Sharp moves a note up one step (semitone).

THE SIGN FOR SHARP IS #



Put your Right thumb on C sharp and your 2nd finger on D sharp.

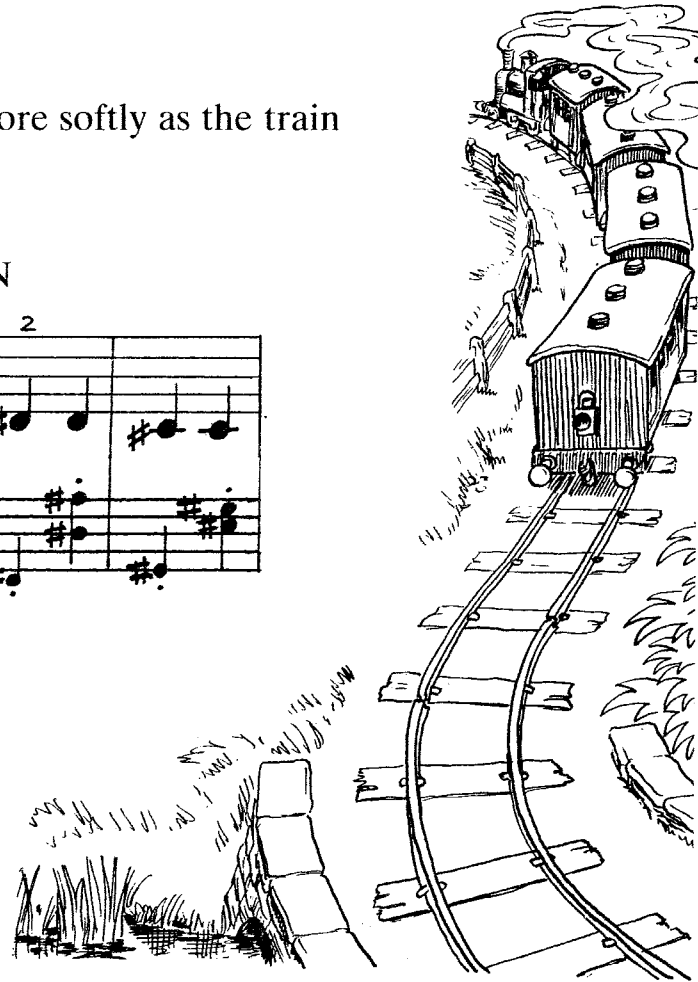
Using these keys play THE TRAIN again.

This time start loudly and play more and more softly as the train disappears into the distance.

THE TRAIN

Pianist

Teacher



Words used in music

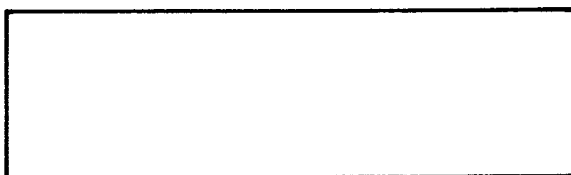
Most directions in music are written in Italian, so here are some Italian words which you will often meet:

Piano (p)	Soft	Crescendo (cresc.)	Getting Louder
Pianissimo (pp)	Very Soft		
Forte (f)	Loud	Decrescendo (decresc.)	Getting Softer
Fortissimo (ff)	Very Loud	Diminuendo (dim.)	
Accelerando (accel.)	Getting Faster		
Ritardando (rit.)	Getting Slower		

Did you know that the full name of the instrument you are playing is the **PIANOFORTE** (soft-loud).

In this tune we use C #
and D (without a sharp).

Notice the CRESCENDO and DECRESCENDO marks.



Slowly and gently

Pianist

Teacher

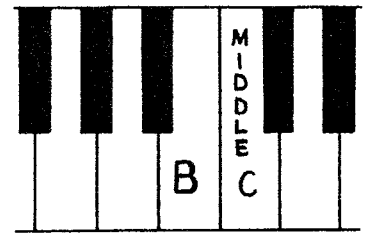
Con. ped.

If you like, think of a name for this tune and write it in the box above.

CHAPTER THREE

Some More Lines and Spaces

HERE IS A PICTURE OF THE B BELOW MIDDLE C:



It is the white key directly to the right of three black keys.

Find and play every B on the keyboard starting with the lowest.

Use your left thumb for Middle C and your 2nd finger for B to play this tune:

Pianist L.H.

Teacher

The exercise is in 2/4 time. The piano part (L.H.) consists of five notes: B, C, B, C, B, C, B, C. Fingerings are indicated above the notes: 2, 1, 2, 1, 1. The teacher part shows the notes on a staff with a 2/4 time signature and a piano (p) dynamic marking. The notes are B, C, B, C, B, C, B, C. The teacher part includes a count: 'one two one two one two one two'.

Clap this tune, then put BOTH your thumbs on Middle C and play:

HOP-SCOTCH

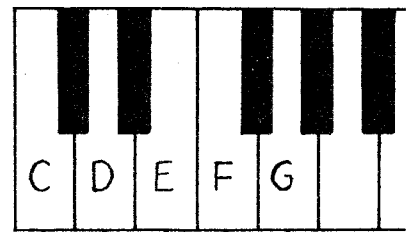
Teacher

Pianist

The 'Hop-Scotch' exercise is in 2/4 time. The teacher part is a single melodic line on a treble clef staff, starting with a forte (f) dynamic. The piano part is split between the right and left hands. The right hand plays notes on the treble clef staff, and the left hand plays notes on the bass clef staff. Fingerings are indicated: 2, 1, 2 for the right hand and 2, 1 for the left hand. The exercise is labeled 'Right hand plays' and 'Left hand plays'.

Here you will see that E is a line note, F is a space note, and G is a line note.

Put your Right thumb on Middle C and play each note in turn, saying ALOUD the names of the notes.



Join the sounds smoothly together so that there are no gaps in between the sounds.

This is called LEGATO playing.

A musical staff showing the notes C, D, E, F, G written as quarter notes. The notes are connected by a slur, indicating legato playing. The notes are numbered 1 through 5 below them, and the text 'START HERE' is written below the first note (C).

LEGATO is an Italian word which means 'smooth and joined'.

Rhythms to clap and play

Say aloud the names of the notes as you play them.

Then try clapping one rhythm whilst your teacher claps another.

1

2

3

4

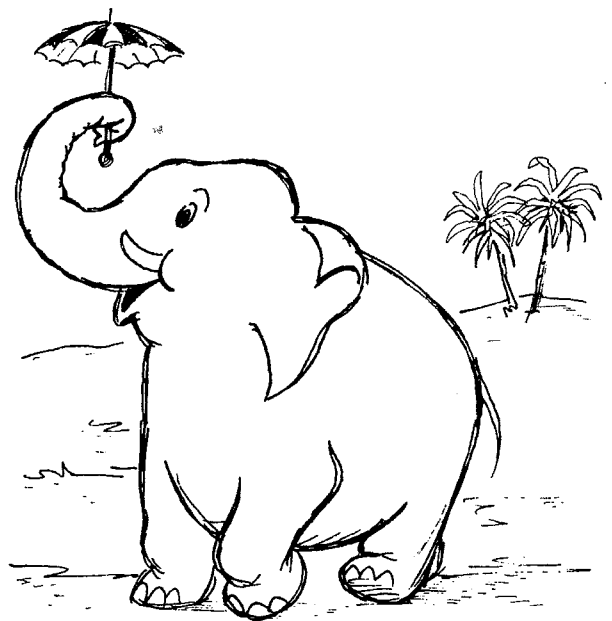
The next tune needs to be played firmly and strongly. Remember that 'f' means LOUD. Count the beats as you play.

ELEPHANT WALK

SLOW and STATELY

Pianist

Teacher



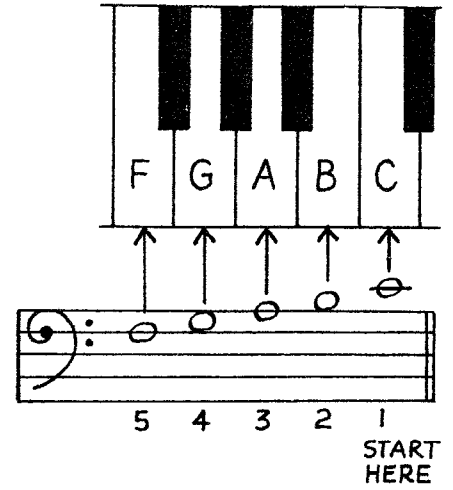
if you try El e phant so high, Like a mountain mo-ving by.

MORE BASS STAFF LINES AND SPACES

Introducing A (a line note),
 G (a space note)
 and F (another line note).

Put your Left thumb over Middle C and play each of these notes in turn saying their letter-names as you play.

Then play them again, this time saying the names from memory.



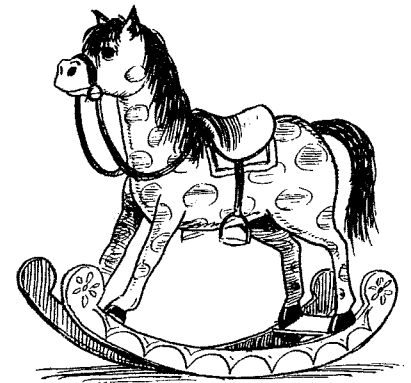
Left hand tunes to clap and play.
 NAME THE NOTES ALOUD.

ROCKING HORSE BLUES

Slow and Sad

Teacher

Pianist



TWO MORE ITALIAN TERMS

Mezzo-Piano (mp) Fairly soft
Mezzo-Forte (mf) Fairly loud

DOTTED NOTES

A dot after a note makes it half as long again.



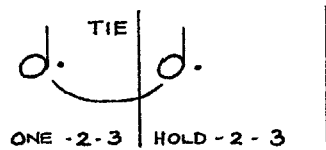
RHYTHMS TO CLAP AND COUNT

Remember to count THREE for a dotted minim.



Try clapping one of these rhythms whilst your teacher claps another one.

Look at the first two bars of the next piece and you will see that the two dotted minims are joined by a curved line. This is called a TIE. It means that the 2nd note is not struck but is held on for its full value.

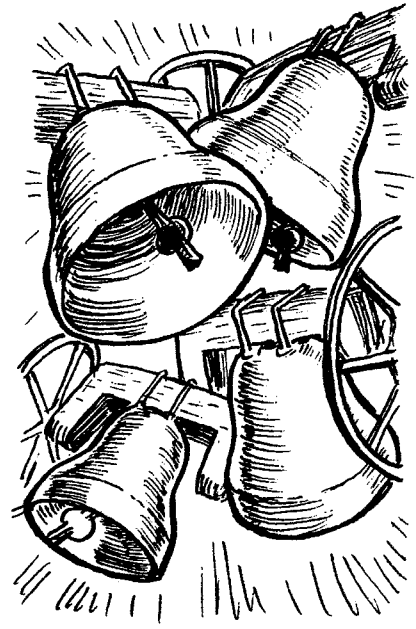


Start with both thumbs over Middle C.

Cheerfully **BELL RINGERS**

Teacher *mf*

Pianist *f*



NOTE READING

Write the names under these notes.

Now play them on the piano and you will find that they form a well known tune.

In the marked space write the name of the tune:

Name of Tune

(Repeat)

Did you guess correctly?

Here is the name of the tune (upside down!)

“WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE”




CHAPTER FOUR

Did you notice the two figures $\frac{3}{4}$ at the beginning of BELLRINGERS?

They are called a TIME SIGNATURE.

The top figure tells the number of beats in a bar and the lower figure shows the kind of beat.

The lower figure 4 stands for quarter notes.

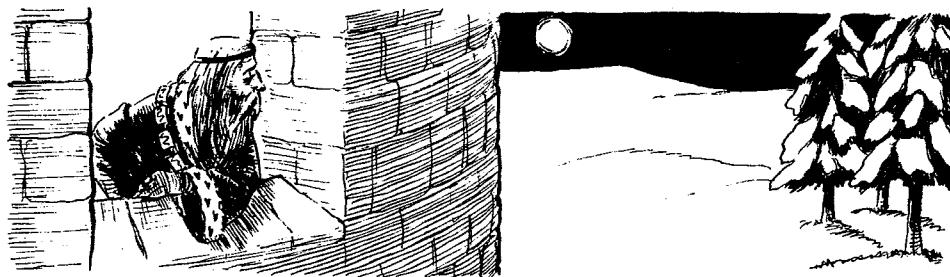
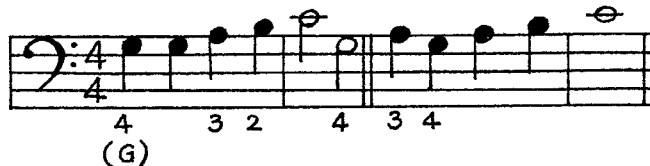
$\frac{2}{4}$	= Two	Quarter notes (crotchets)		in a bar
$\frac{3}{4}$	= Three	Quarter notes		in a bar
$\frac{4}{4}$	= Four	Quarter notes		in a bar

Read (play) the following Note Patterns before playing the next tune.

Right Hand



Left Hand



GOOD KING WENCESLAS

Count four

Repeat

