

# **HOW TO PLAY PIANO**



**An easy course for adult beginners**  
**Heather Milnes**

# INTRODUCTION

## **Why learn to play the piano?**

Playing music is fun. Anyone who likes listening to music can increase their enjoyment of it by having a go at learning to play the instrument. The satisfaction of being able to perform a piece of music and the great feeling of self expression that goes with it can be a great reward.

## **How to learn**

Most people (children and adults) learn by taking lessons from an experienced pianist or teacher. But with so much advice now available online it is also very possible to teach themselves. There is lots of advice available on how to play tunes by ear or by rote but in order to make good long-term progress it is vital that you learn to read music at the same time as you play the piano. Piano music is particularly hard to follow, as the notes have to be read simultaneously, so it is really important that you have a good grounding before tackling more difficult pieces. Once you have a good grounding well learning new tunes becomes much easier.

## **One day at a time**

Learning to play the piano is fun but also needs long-term regular practice. Once you start making progress though you will be able to play great music should encourage you to continue.

## **Follow this course for long-term success**

This book aims most of all to teach students how to read music. It is important to believe that it is this ability that will open the door to the world of music. The tunes are very carefully graded so that each one is more demanding than the one before and something new is learned on every page.

**Note for Kindle Viewers:**

Some of the pages in this book contain worksheets that require you to write down your answers. If you wish to print these pages please go to my website, where you can find and download them.

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## Let's get started...

Have a look at the piano keys. You will notice that the black keys are in groups of 2 and groups of 3.

Now:

- \* With your right hand, play every group of 3 black keys
- \* With your left hand, play every group of 2 black keys.
- \* Look at the white keys. They all have names as shown below.



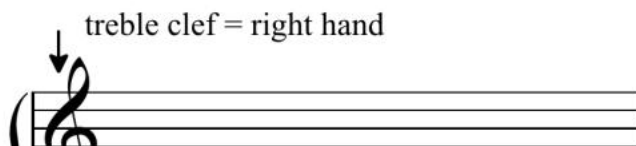
Using one finger, see how quickly you can play these notes:

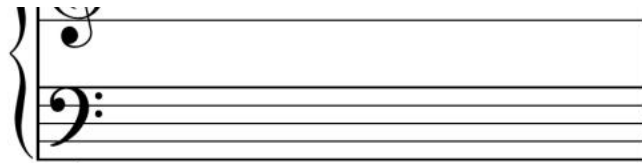
G C B F A D E

## MUSICAL NOTATION

Notes are written on a set of 5 lines called a staff.

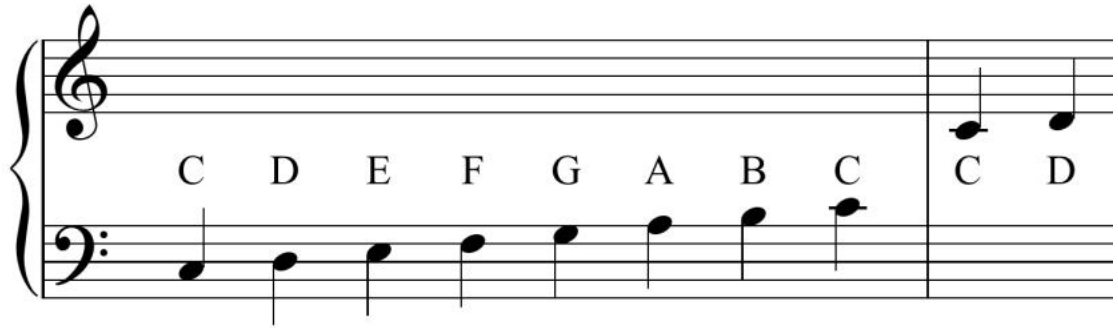
Each staff has a symbol at the start, indicating which hand it is for.





↑ bass clef = left hand

Notes are written on the lines or in the spaces on the s

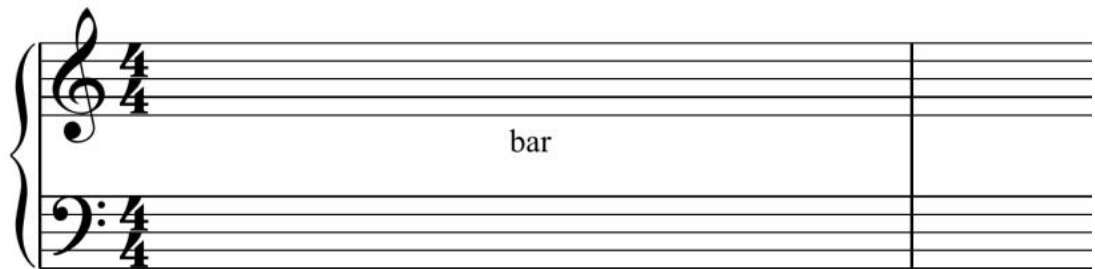


Music is divided into bars (or measures) by barlines with

The two numbers after the clef sign are called the time signature.  
The top number tells us how many beats there are in each bar.

This time signature tells us there are 4 beats in each bar.

bar line



## NOTE LENGTHS

Music has a beat and the way notes are written shows they should be held for:

- ♩ = 4 beats - this is called a **semibreve** or a whole note
- ♪ = 2 beats - this is called a **minim** or a half note
- ♫ = 1 beat - this is called a **crotchet** or a quarter note

## FINGER NUMBERS

Your fingers are numbered 1 to 5



in each hand.



## HOW TO HOLD YOUR HANDS ON THE



When you hold your shape with so that the

4

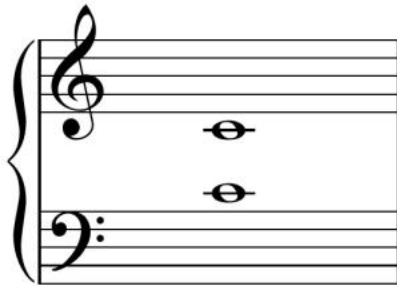
## Middle C

If you look at the piano keys you will find middle C roughly in the middle of the piano, just to the left of a pair of black keys.



**This is how middle C is written:**

↓ a treble clef indicates right hand notes



this is how middle C is written for

this is how middle C is written for

↑ a bass clef indicates left hand notes

## Right hand plays C

Put your right hand on the keys with your index finger on C.  
Remember to count 4 on each note.

**Can U C?**





4/4

count: 1 2 3 4      1 2 3 4      1 2

Accompaniment for *Can U C*

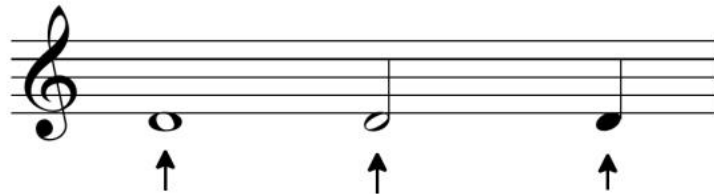
*mp*

# Right hand plays D

D is the note just to the right of C.



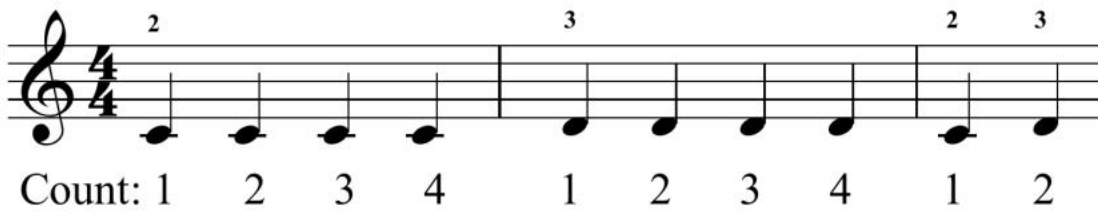
This is how D is written:



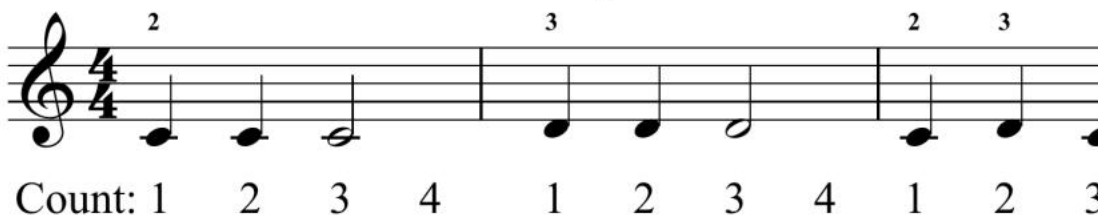
4 beats long (a semibreve)    2 beats long (a minim)    1 beat long (a crotchet)

The next three tunes use the notes C and D. Put your 1 on C and finger 3 on D. Remember to count as shown, one beat, minims for two beats and semibreves for four

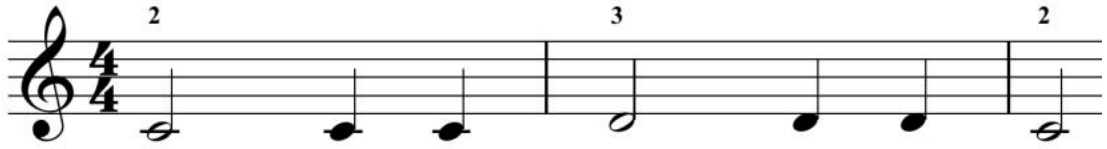
## My New CD - Trac



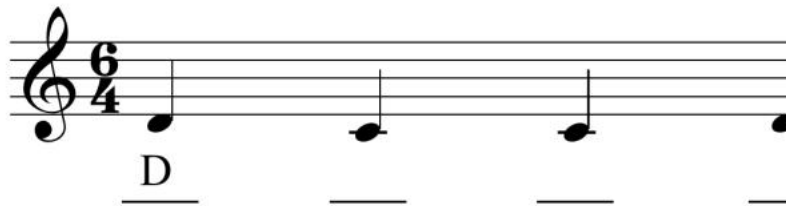
## My New CD - Trac



# My New CD - Track



Write the names of these notes (the first one is



6

# Right hand plays E

E is the note just to the right of D.

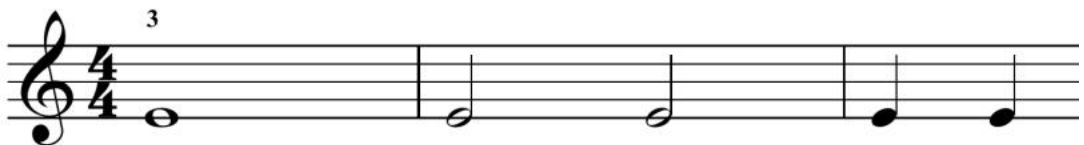


This is how E is written:

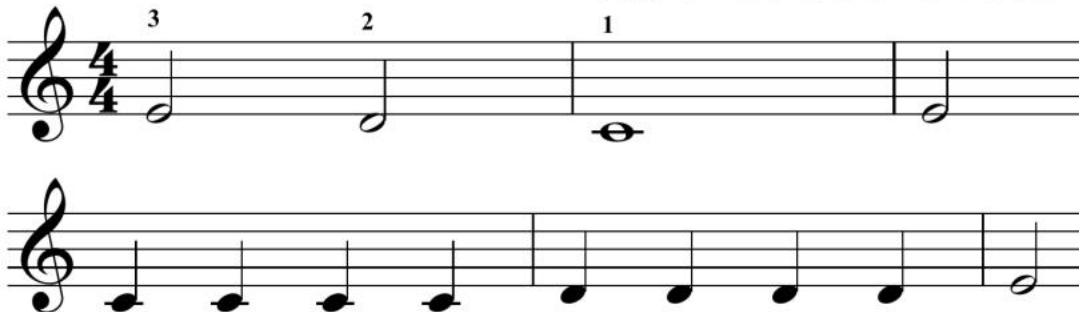


When you pl  
you should h  
on D and fin

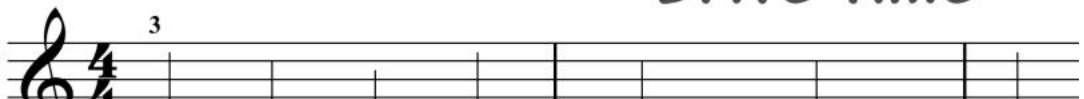
## E is for Excellent

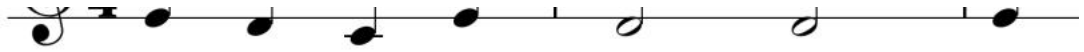


## Hot Cross Buns



## Drive Time

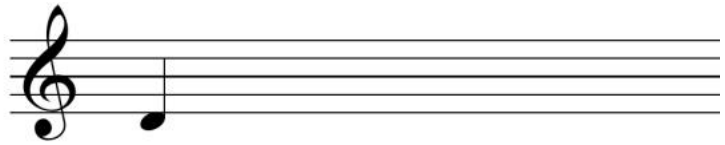




MAKE YOUR MARK



Draw these notes as crotchets (the first one



D C E D C

# Right hand plays F

F is the note just to the right of E. Play it with finger 4 of your right hand.



This is how F is written:



F is for Fantasti



Falling

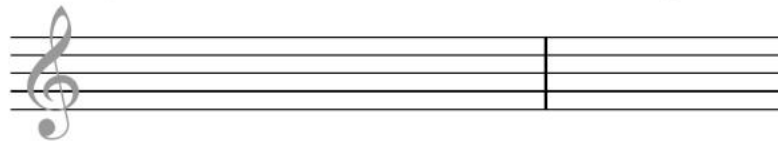


Sit Up Straight!





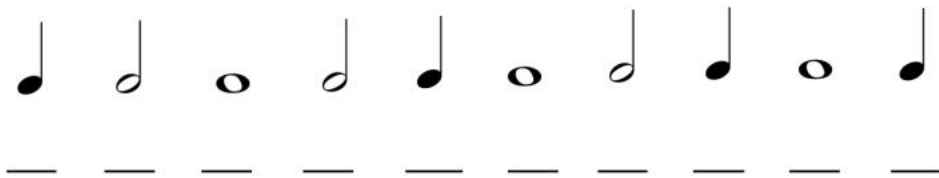
First trace over the treble clef sign. Then draw  
Then fill in the bars with notes. (Use any not  
sure you have a total of 4 beats in every bar.)



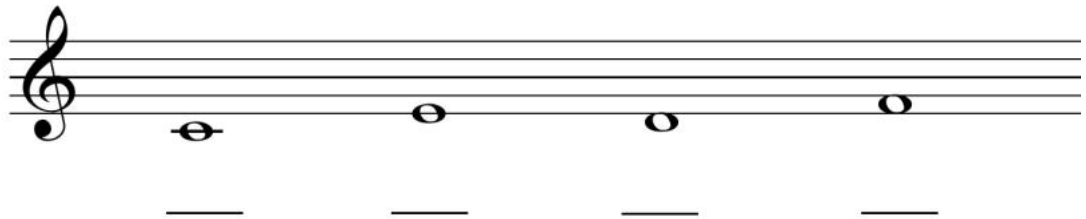
# What can you remember?

Can you remember all you have learnt so far?  
Try this quiz to test yourself.

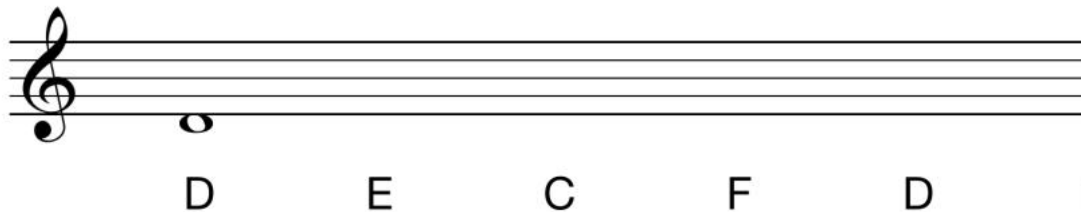
1. Underneath each note write how many beats it should last:



2. Name these notes (ie write the letter name):



3. Draw these notes (the first one has been done for you)



4. Give the name of these symbols:





5. Draw each of these notes:

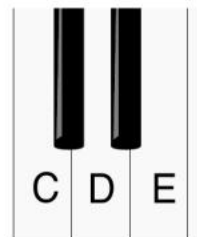
a crotchet (quarter note)

a semibreve (whole note)

a minim (half note)

# Right hand plays G

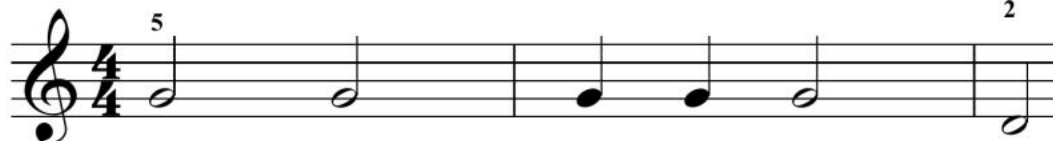
G is the note just to the right of F. Play it with finger 5 of your right hand.



This is how G is written:



G is for Great!



Butterfly

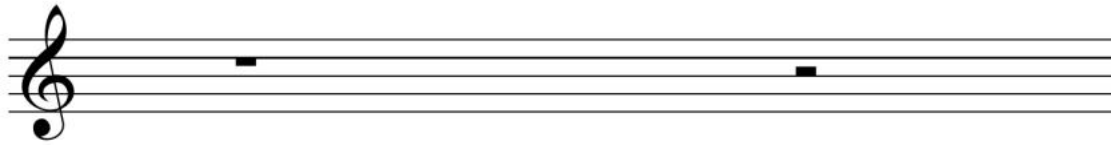


# Good to go



# Rests

A rest is a symbol which indicates one or more beats of

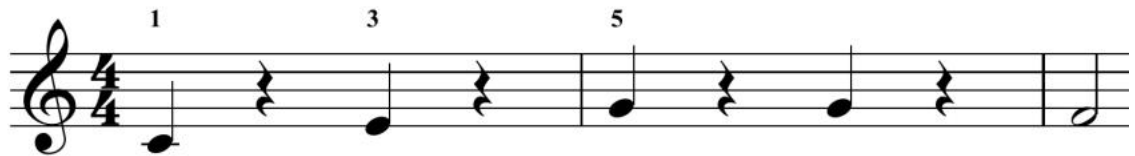


semibreve rest  
4 beats

minim rest  
2 beats

Remember to keep counting the beats during the rests.

## And the Rest



Count: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1



1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2

# The dotted minim

A dotted minim looks just like a minim but has a dot just to the right of the note.

It is **3** beats long.

## Spot On!



# When the Saints Go March

1 3 4 5

O when the saints

O when the saints go march

3

I want to be with - in

3

when the saint go march

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal line of the hymn. It consists of four staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes on G4, A4, and B4, and a half note on C5. The lyrics 'O when the saints' are aligned under these notes. The second staff continues with quarter notes on D5, E5, and F5, and a half note on G5. The lyrics 'O when the saints go march' are aligned under these notes. The third staff starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes on G4, A4, and B4, and a half note on C5. The lyrics 'I want to be with - in' are aligned under these notes. The fourth staff continues with quarter notes on D5, E5, and F5, and a half note on G5. The lyrics 'when the saint go march' are aligned under these notes. Above the first staff, the numbers 1, 3, 4, and 5 are placed above the notes G, A, B, and C respectively. Above the third staff, the number 3 is placed above the first note G. Above the fourth staff, the number 3 is placed above the first note G.

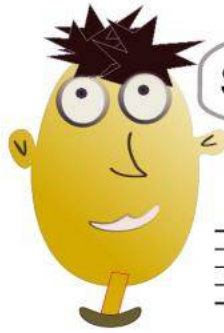
## Accompaniment for *When the Saints Go Marching In!*

*mf*

Detailed description: This block contains the piano accompaniment for the hymn. It consists of two staves of music in 4/4 time. The upper staff is the right hand, and the lower staff is the left hand. The music begins with a 4/4 time signature. The right hand plays a series of chords: a whole rest, followed by chords on G4, A4, B4, and C5. The left hand plays a series of notes: a whole rest, followed by quarter notes on G4, A4, and B4, and a half note on C5. The dynamic marking *mf* is placed above the first chord in the right hand. The second system continues with the right hand playing chords on D5, E5, and F5, and the left hand playing quarter notes on D5, E5, and F5, and a half note on G5.



**When the Saints Go Marching In** originated as a Christian hymn, but was popularized by jazz bands. This song was famously recorded in 1938



Speak up!

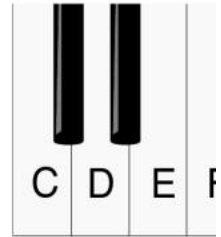
SAY THESE NOTE NAMES:



12

## Left hand plays A

The first note we will play with the left hand is A. This note is two steps to the left of middle C.



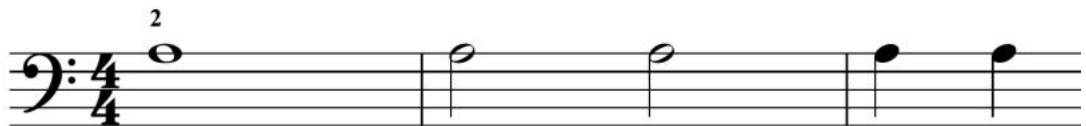
**This is how A is written:**



This bass clef sign tells you that these notes are played

Place your left hand index finger (finger 2) on A and pla

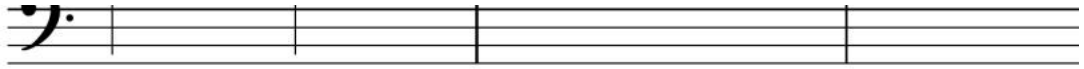
## A is for Awesom



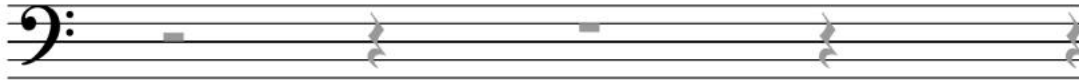
Fill in the blank bars with the note A. Use crotchets, m  
semibreves and make sure there are 4 beats in every k







Can you remember what a rest looks like? Draw over t  
then, underneath each one, write how many beats it la

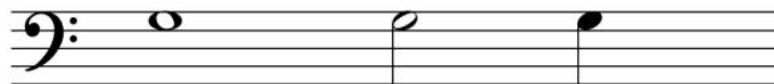


# Left hand plays G

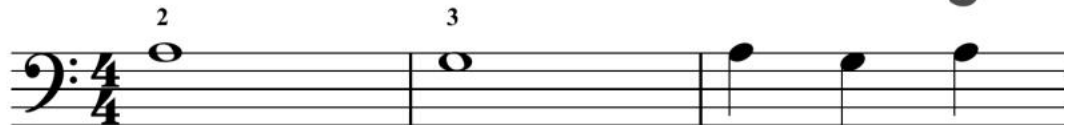
G is just to the left of A. For now you should play it with left hand finger 3 (your middle finger).



This is how G is written:

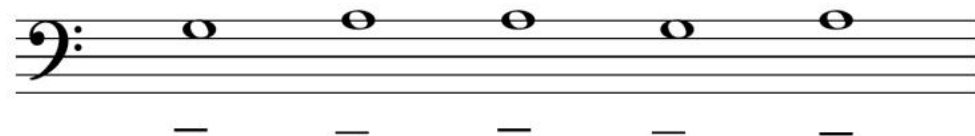


G is for Gorgeou



# What can you remember?

1. Name these notes:



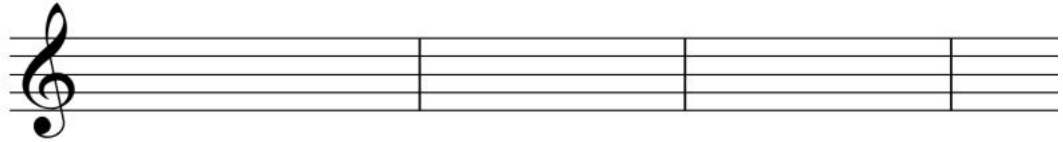
2. Above these notes, write in the finger number you c



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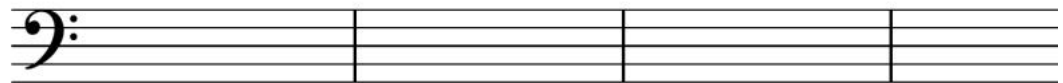
3. Draw these notes in the treble clef:

a crotchet E      a minim C      a semibreve D      a r



4. Draw these notes in the bass clef:

a crotchet A      a semibreve G      a minim A      a croct



14

## Left hand plays B

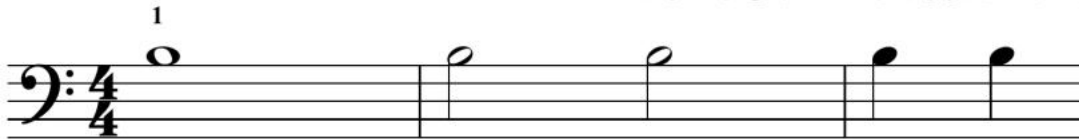
B is just to the right of A. For now you should play it with your left hand thumb.



This is how B is written:



B is for Brilliant!



Bags



## Using both hands

When we are using both left hand and right hand notes on a *grand staff*. This is a right hand stave and a left ha

Happily Up and Down

1 2 3 4 5

The first system of music consists of three measures in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff begins with a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a quarter rest in the second measure, and then a sequence of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5 in the third measure. The bass clef staff starts with a quarter note G3 in the first measure, followed by quarter notes A3 and B3 in the second measure, and a quarter rest in the third measure. Above the treble staff, fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 are indicated with small squares above the notes G, A, B, C, and the final G respectively.

5

The second system of music consists of three measures in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff has a quarter note G4 in the first measure, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5 in the second measure, and a whole note G4 in the third measure. The bass clef staff has a whole rest in the first measure, a quarter rest in the second measure, and a whole note G3 in the third measure. A fingering of 5 is indicated above the first note G4 in the treble staff. A fingering of 2 is indicated below the final note G3 in the bass staff.

# Across the Glen

1

The first system of music for 'Across the Glen' is in 4/4 time. The treble clef part begins with a quarter rest, followed by a half note G4, and then a series of quarter notes: A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5. The bass clef part has a whole rest for the first two measures, followed by a half note G3 in the third measure, and a whole rest for the fourth measure.

2

The second system of music for 'Across the Glen' is in 4/4 time. The treble clef part has a whole rest for the first two measures, followed by a half note G4, and then a series of quarter notes: A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5. The bass clef part has a half note G3 in the first measure, followed by a whole rest for the second measure, and then a whole rest for the third and fourth measures.

3

The third system of music for 'Across the Glen' is in 4/4 time. The treble clef part has a whole rest for the first two measures, followed by a series of quarter notes: A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5. The bass clef part has a half note G3 in the first measure, followed by a whole rest for the second measure, and then a whole rest for the third and fourth measures.



# Frère Jacques

1

The first system of music for 'Frère Jacques' is in 4/4 time. The treble clef part has a whole rest for the first two measures, followed by a quarter note G4 in the third measure. The bass clef part has a whole rest for the first two measures, followed by a quarter note G3 in the third measure. Below the staff, the lyrics 'Frère Jacques, frère Jacques, de...' are written.

rie - te Jacq - ues, rie - te Jacq - es, do yo

3

Bells are ring - ing bells are ring - ing, ding dang

2

1 3

## Common time

The 4/4 time signature is often referred to as *common time* and is used at the start of the music to indicate that the piece

### Yankee Doodle

The first system of musical notation for 'Yankee Doodle' is shown in common time (C). It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff begins with a '1' above the first measure. The bass staff has a '3' below the third measure. The melody in the treble staff is: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The bass staff contains rests for the first two measures, followed by a quarter note G3 in the third measure, and a quarter note F3 in the fourth measure.

## Staccato

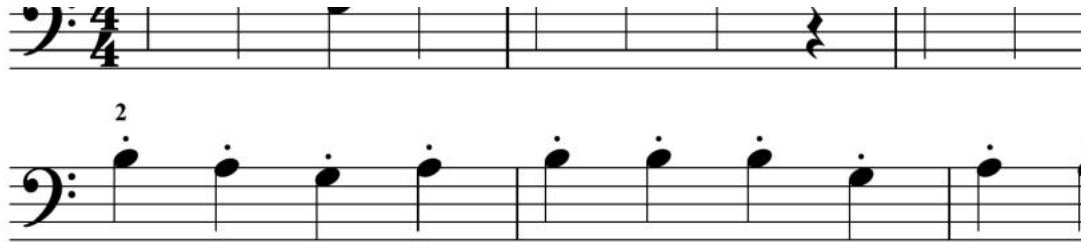
Staccato means *short and jumpy*. If you see a dot just above a note, you should play the note staccato.

Try playing this tune using only your index finger (finger

### Merrily We Jump Al

The first system of musical notation for 'Merrily We Jump Al' shows a single staff with staccato notes. Each note has a dot above it and a '2' above the dot, indicating the second finger. The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.





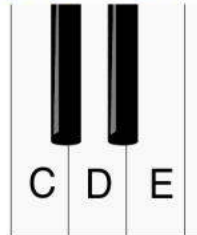
Speak up!

SAY THESE NOTE NAMES:

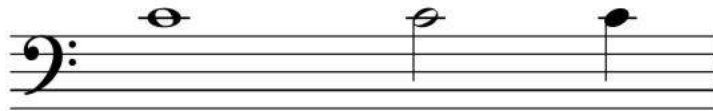


# Left hand plays middle C

Middle C is just to the right of B. You have already been playing it with your right hand. Now put your left hand thumb on it.



This is how middle C is written when it is played by



In the next two tunes you should have your left hand

## Shave and a Hair Cut

Shave and a hair cut

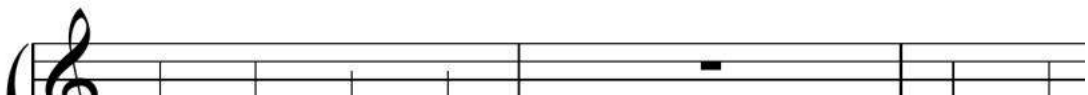
A musical staff in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: C4 (quarter note, finger 1), D4 (quarter note, finger 4), E4 (quarter note, finger 3), and F4 (quarter note, finger 4). There is a whole rest in the final measure.

## Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

How I wonder what you are

A piano score for 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star' in 4/4 time. The right hand (treble clef) has notes: C4 (quarter rest), D4 (quarter note, finger 2), E4 (quarter note), F4 (quarter note), G4 (quarter note), A4 (quarter note), B4 (quarter note), and C5 (quarter note). The left hand (bass clef) has notes: C4 (quarter note, finger 4), D4 (quarter note), E4 (quarter note), F4 (quarter note), G4 (quarter note), A4 (quarter note), B4 (quarter note), and C5 (quarter note). There are whole rests in the final measure of both hands.



Up a - bove the world so high, like a

This system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. It contains the melody for the first three measures: 'Up' (quarter note), 'a - bove' (quarter note), 'the' (quarter note), 'world so high,' (quarter note), and 'like a' (quarter note). The lower staff is a bass clef and provides a simple accompaniment: a whole rest in the first measure, followed by quarter notes in the second and third measures.

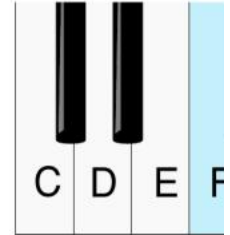
Twin - kle twin - kle li - ttle star How I

This system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. It contains the melody for the next three measures: 'Twin - kle' (quarter note), 'twin - kle' (quarter note), 'li - ttle' (quarter note), 'star' (quarter note), and 'How I' (quarter note). The lower staff is a bass clef and provides a simple accompaniment: quarter notes in the first and second measures, a whole rest in the third measure, and quarter notes in the fourth and fifth measures.

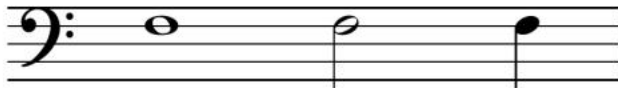
18

## Left hand plays F

F is just to the left of G. Put your left hand pinky (finger 5) on it.



This is how F is written:

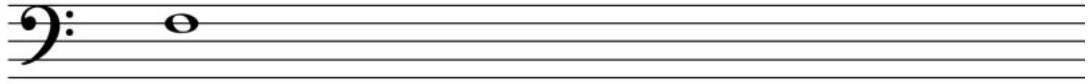


F is for Fabulous



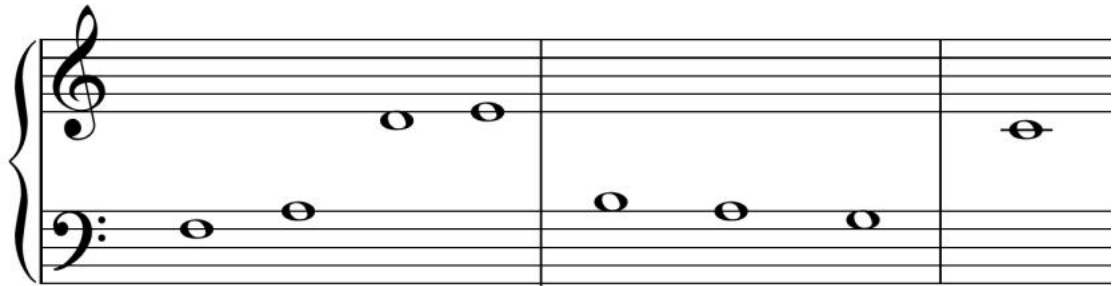
## Do you know the note nar

- 1) Draw these left hand notes as semibreves (the first one has been done for you):



F A B C B F C A G

2) Write the note names - each group spells a word:



— — — — — — — — .

*Fiddle Tune* sounds better if you can play it quite fast!

## Fiddle Tune

The musical score for 'Fiddle Tune' is presented in two systems. Each system consists of a grand staff with a treble clef on the right and a bass clef on the left. The time signature is 4/4. The piano accompaniment in the bass clef starts with a sequence of notes: F4 (5), G4 (3), A4 (1), and B4. The fiddle melody in the treble clef begins with a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a sequence of notes: B4 (2), A4 (3), G4 (4), and F4 (1) in the second measure. The second system continues the piano accompaniment with the same sequence of notes. The fiddle melody continues with a sequence of notes: B4 (2), A4, G4, F4, and E4 (4) in the second measure, followed by D4 (1) in the third measure.

The next tune jumps from left hand F to right hand F  
play it, make sure you know where to find these Fs.

## First Find F

The musical score for 'First Find F' is presented in a single system with a treble clef. The time signature is 4/4. The melody consists of a sequence of notes: F4 (4), G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, and F5 (3).

3

4

3

## A new time signature

The 3/4 time signature means 3 crotchet beats per bar.  
*triple time.*

The next tune is in triple time. Make sure to feel the triplet you play.

### The Magic Number (3 of 4)

The first system of music shows a bass clef with a 3/4 time signature. The first bar contains a triplet of eighth notes, labeled with a '3' below. The second bar contains two eighth notes, labeled with a '2' below. The third bar contains one eighth note, labeled with a '1' above. The second system shows a treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. The first bar contains a dotted quarter note. The second bar contains two eighth notes. The third bar contains one eighth note.

## The Upbeat

Sometimes the first bar of a tune has fewer beats than signature. These initial notes are called an upbeat. Usually in the last bar of the tune is then adjusted so that the beats add up to one full bar.

### For He's a Jolly Good Fellow





For he's a jo - lly good fe -

4 2

jo - lly good fe - llow, for he's

1

fe llow, and so

2

us. And so say

2

and so say all of

he's a jo - lly good fe - llo

jo - lly good fe - llow, for he's

fe llow and so say a

# Right hand plays A

A is the note just to the right of G. For now you should play it with finger 5 of your right hand.

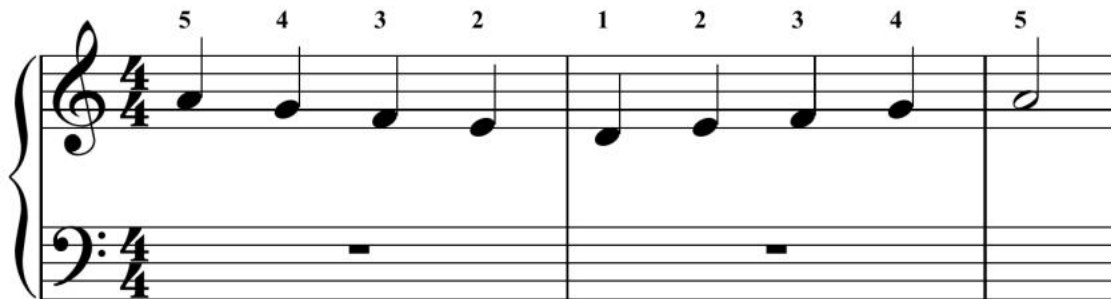



This is how A is written:



Crack the Code:

D - E - F - G - A : 1 - 2



Write the note names then, next to  is one step higher. (The first one has

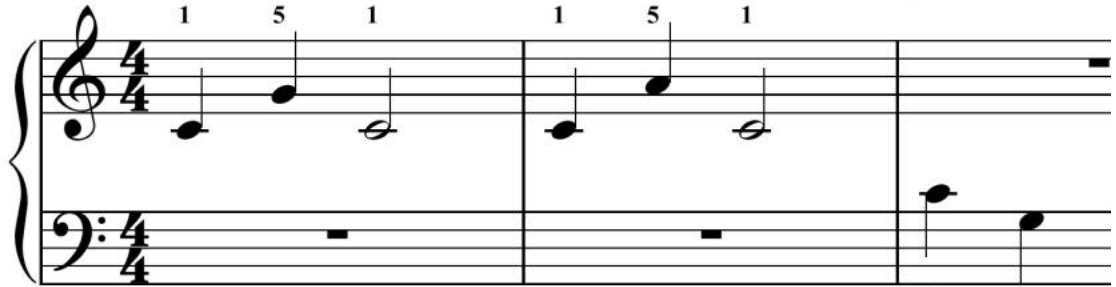
MAKE 10



D

In the next tune you will need to stretch your pinky in c

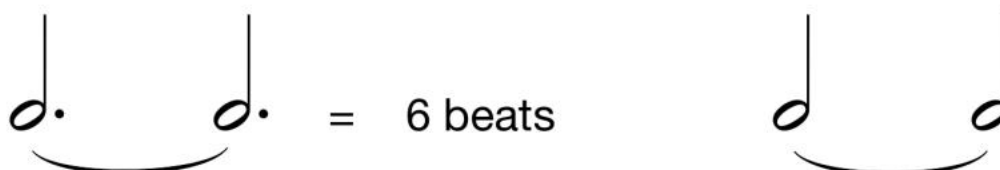
**Stretch Up to A**



1 4

# The tie

A curved line going from one note to another on the same staff is a tie. It means that you hold onto the first note without



In the next tune you will need to move your right hand in a certain order so that your pinky (finger 5) can reach the note A.

## My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean

The first system of musical notation for "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean" is shown in 3/4 time. The right hand (treble clef) plays a melody with fingerings 1, 5, 4, 3, 1. The left hand (bass clef) has rests in the first three measures and then plays a bass line with a tie in the fourth measure, with fingerings 1 and 3.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. The right hand melody has fingerings 1 and 5. The left hand continues with rests and then a bass line with a tie in the fourth measure.

The third system of musical notation shows a single staff with fingerings 1, 4, 1, 4 above the notes.

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains six measures of music. The notes are: G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half), and B3 (quarter). The lower staff is in bass clef and contains six measures of rests.

The second system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains six measures of music. The notes are: G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half), and B3 (quarter). The lower staff is in bass clef and contains six measures of rests. Fingerings are indicated above the notes: 1 above G4, 4 above F4, 2 above E4, and 5 above D4.

# The sharp sign - # and the note F sharp



This is a sharp sign: #

If you see a sharp sign next to a note it means that it is step - so you play the note immediately to the right (this

## Scarborough Fair

Musical notation for the first line of "Scarborough Fair". The music is in 3/4 time. The lyrics are: "Are you going to Scar -". The notes are: C (finger 3), D (finger 2), E (finger 2), F (finger 2).

Musical notation for the second line of "Scarborough Fair". The notes are: G (finger 2), A (finger 4), B (finger 5), C (finger 2), D (finger 3), E (finger 3) with a sharp sign (#) above it. The lyrics are: "Par - sley, sage, rose - ma - ry".

Musical notation for the third line of "Scarborough Fair". The notes are: F (finger 5), G (finger 2), A (finger 3), B (finger 2), C (finger 3). The lyrics are: "mem - ber me to one w".



The image shows a musical score for the first three measures of the song 'Scarborough Fair'. The score is written for a piano and voice. The piano part is in the left hand, and the vocal line is in the right hand. The lyrics are: 'She once was a true lov'. The piano accompaniment consists of a simple harmonic progression. The first measure has a whole note chord (F major), the second measure has a whole note chord (C major), and the third measure has a whole note chord (F major). The vocal line consists of a single note per measure: 'She' (F4), 'once' (C5), 'was' (F4), 'a' (C5), 'true' (F4), and 'lov' (C5). The number '3' is written below the piano part in the first measure.

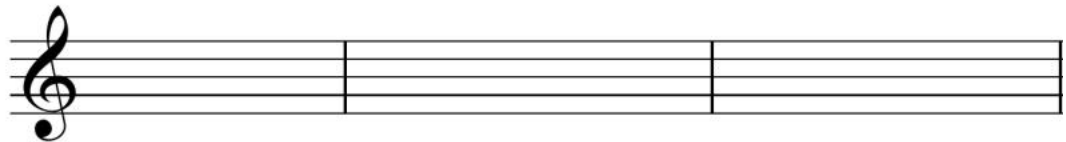
**Scarborough Fair** is a traditional English ballad that is years old. It tells the story of a visitor to the Yorkshire t

Try to play very smoothly, joining up the notes. The mu

# What can you remember?

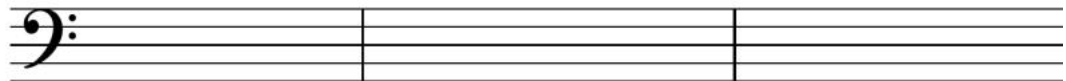
1. Draw these RIGHT HAND notes:

a crotchet D      a minim E      a dotted minim F



2. Draw these LEFT HAND notes:

a crotchet B      a minim A      a dotted minim G



3. Draw these rests:

a crotchet                                      a minim                                      a dotted minim



4. How many beats are in each of these notes:

a crotchet (quarter note) =

a minim (half note) =

a minim (half note) =

a semibreve (whole note) =

a dotted minim (dotted half note) =

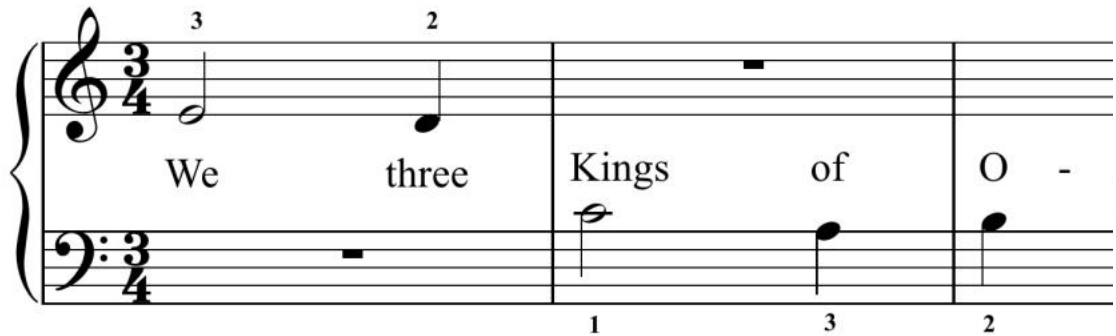
5. Draw a sharp sign just to the left of every F:



# The pause sign

If you see a pause sign above a note it means that you play for longer. In other words, you pause on that note.

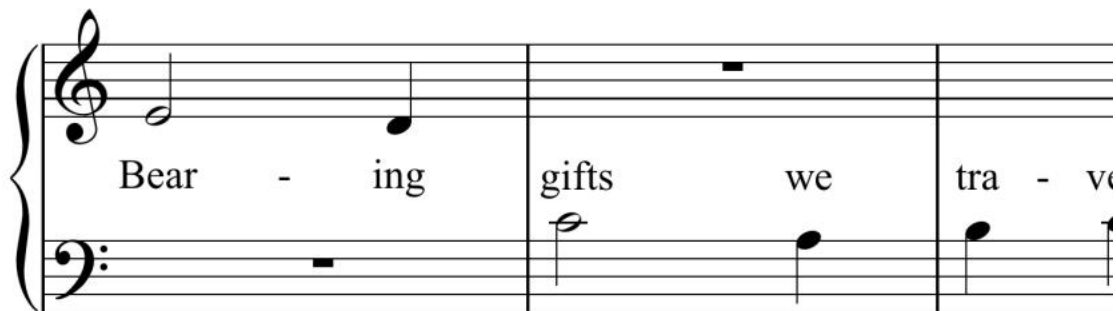
## We Three Kings of Ori



3 2

We three Kings of Ori -

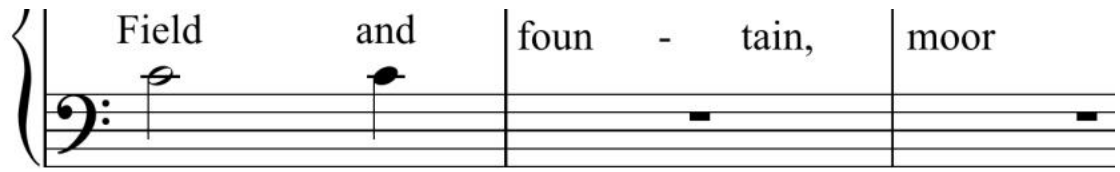
1 3 2



Bear - ing gifts we tra - ve

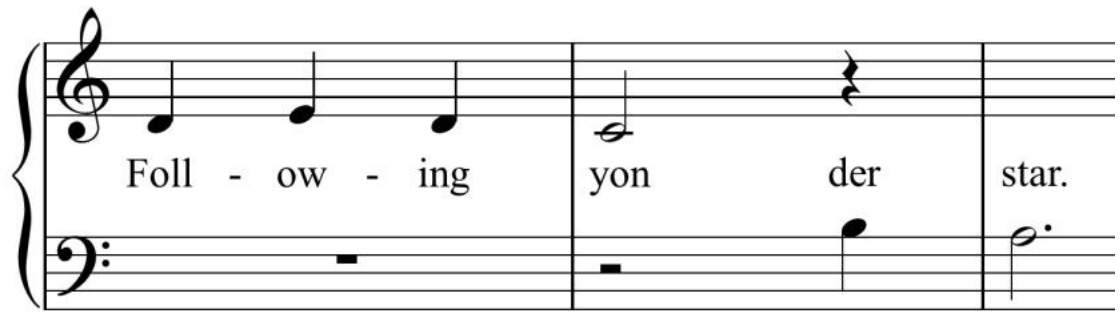


Field and foun - tain, moor



This system of musical notation is written on a bass clef staff. It consists of three measures. The first measure contains a half note on the second line (F4) with the lyric "Field" above it. The second measure contains a half note on the second space (C4) with the lyric "and" above it. The third measure contains a whole rest on the staff with the lyrics "foun - tain," and "moor" positioned above and below the staff respectively.

Foll - ow - ing yon der star.



This system of musical notation is written on a treble clef staff. It consists of three measures. The first measure contains three eighth notes: G4 (lyric "Foll"), A4 (lyric "ow"), and B4 (lyric "ing"). The second measure contains a half note on the second space (C4) with the lyric "yon" below it, and a fermata over the staff with the lyric "der" below it. The third measure contains a dotted half note on the second space (C4) with the lyric "star." below it. The bass clef staff below the treble clef staff contains whole rests in the first and second measures, and a dotted half note on the second space (C4) in the third measure.

Star of wonder, star

This musical system consists of a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The lyrics are placed between the two staves. The notes are: Star (treble), of (bass), won (treble), - (bass), der, (treble), star (bass). There are rests in the treble staff for the first two measures and the second measure of the third measure.

Star with royal beau

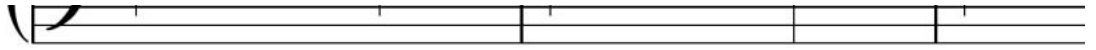
This musical system consists of a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The lyrics are placed between the two staves. The notes are: Star (treble), with (bass), ro (treble), - (bass), yal (treble), beau (bass). There are rests in the treble staff for the first two measures and the second measure of the third measure.

Westward leading still

This musical system consists of a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The lyrics are placed between the two staves. The notes are: West (treble), - (bass), ward (treble), lead (treble), - (bass), ing (treble), still (treble). There are rests in the bass staff for the first two measures and the second measure of the third measure.

Guide us to thy per

This musical system consists of a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The lyrics are placed between the two staves. The notes are: Guide (treble), us (bass), to (treble), thy (bass), per (treble). There are rests in the treble staff for the first two measures and the second measure of the third measure.



## The quaver

A quaver is a note that is half beat long. It looks like a c tail on the end of the stem.

One quaver on its own looks like this:



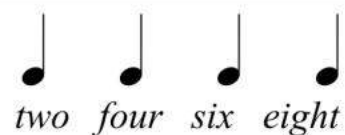
Two quavers together look like this:



A quaver rest looks like this:



To get the feel of how fast quavers are try clapping this rhythm:



## Away In a Manger

1 2 4

A - way in a man - ger no crib

3 1

li - ttle lord Je - sus lay down h



1 2 4

stars in the bright sky look down wh

3 2 1

li - ttle lord Je - sus a sleep on

# Tempo directions

Usually, at the start of a piece of music, you will see a fast or slow to play. Often these words are in Italian. It means the meaning of a few of them.

Here are some of the most common words. You should

*Allegro* - quick

*Presto* - very quick

*Andante* - at a medium speed

*Lento* - quite slow

*Largo* - very slow

*Adagio* - slow

*Vivace* - lively

If playing *Happy Birthday* with accompaniment, play it

**Andante** **Happy Birthday to You**

Ha-ppy birth-day to you, ha-ppy birth

4 3 1 2

birth - day dear Ha - ppy birth - d

This block contains the vocal line of the song 'Happy Birthday'. It is written on a grand staff with a treble clef. The lyrics are: 'birth - day dear Ha - ppy birth - d'. The melody consists of quarter notes in the first two measures and quarter notes with stems in the third measure.

Accompaniment for *Happy Birthday*

This block contains the piano accompaniment for 'Happy Birthday'. It is written on a grand staff with a 3/4 time signature. The right hand plays chords on the first and third beats of each measure, while the left hand plays a steady bass line of quarter notes.

## Playing hands together

How good are you at multi-tasking? Here are a couple of these two exercises you need to play with both hands and probably help if you start by playing just the right hand or left hand part before you try both hands at the same time.

### EXERCISE 1: HANDS TOGETHER - S

When you play hands together you should make sure that the notes above and below each other are played at exactly the same time.

**Lento**

Musical notation for Exercise 1: Hands Together - S. The piece is in 4/4 time and marked Lento. It consists of five measures. The right hand (treble clef) plays quarter notes with fingerings 3, 3, 4, 4, 3. The left hand (bass clef) plays half notes with fingerings 3, 3, 2, 2, 3.

### EXERCISE 2: HANDS TOGETHER - R

**Andante**

Musical notation for Exercise 2: Hands Together - R. The piece is in 3/4 time and marked Andante. It consists of five measures. The right hand (treble clef) plays dotted quarter notes with fingerings 2, 3, 2, 3, 2. The left hand (bass clef) plays eighth notes with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3.

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

## EXERCISE 3: All the notes you know

Adagio

1 2 1 2 3

4 3 2 1 5 4

# Ode to Joy

Andante

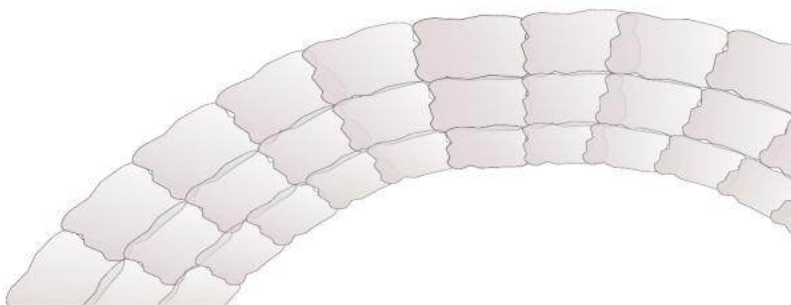
## Write your own music

Here is the first half of a tune. Can you write some more?

Tips:

- 1) Play the right hand only a few times and then copy the first half into the bars that you are writing.
- 2) Once you have decided on the notes for the right hand, think of the notes that go with them.
- 3) It will sound good if the last note in the left hand is a G and the right hand is an E or a G.
- 4) Make sure that you have a total of 4 beats per bar -

3 4 3

**Allegro****Sur le Pont d'Avignon**

1 2 3 4

2

Detailed description: This system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains the melody, and the bass clef staff provides accompaniment. The first measure (labeled '1') has a quarter rest in the bass. The second measure (labeled '2') has a dotted quarter note in the bass. The third measure (labeled '3') has a quarter note in the bass. The fourth measure (labeled '4') has a quarter note in the bass. The treble staff has a dotted quarter note in the first measure, a quarter note in the second, a half note in the third, and a quarter note in the fourth.

1

2

Detailed description: This system continues the melody and accompaniment. The first measure (labeled '1') has a quarter rest in the bass. The second measure (labeled '2') has a dotted quarter note in the bass. The third measure has a quarter note in the bass. The fourth measure has a quarter note in the bass. The treble staff has a dotted quarter note in the first measure, a quarter note in the second, a half note in the third, and a quarter note in the fourth.

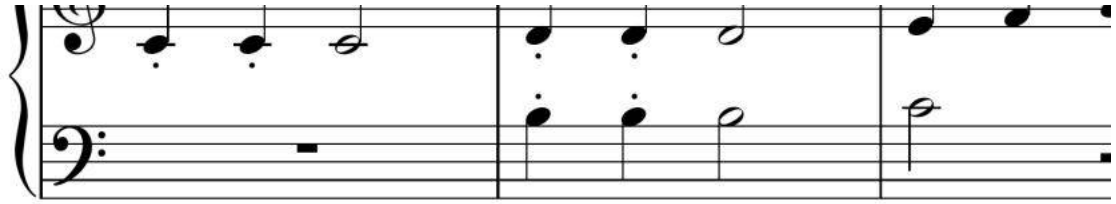
1 2

2 4

Detailed description: This system continues the melody and accompaniment. The first measure (labeled '1') has a quarter rest in the bass. The second measure (labeled '2') has a dotted quarter note in the bass. The third measure has a quarter note in the bass. The fourth measure has a quarter note in the bass. The treble staff has a dotted quarter note in the first measure, a quarter note in the second, a half note in the third, and a quarter note in the fourth.

Detailed description: An empty musical staff with a treble clef, consisting of five lines.





**Sur le Pont d'Avignon** is an old French song about the bridge that dates back to the 15th century. The real name of the bridge is better known as the Pont d'Avignon and it is where

When you play this tune make sure to play the staccato

# Chords

A chord is 2 or more notes played together.

To build a chord you play alternate notes on the keys.

\* the notes C, E and G make the chord of C major



\* the notes F, A and C make the chord of F major



\* the notes G, B and D make the chord of G major



## Strike a Chord

**Vivace**

Musical notation for 'Strike a Chord' in 3/4 time. The piece is marked 'Vivace'. The notation consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff has notes C4, E4, G4, and a chord of C5, E5, G5. The bass staff has notes G3, F3, E3, and a chord of G3, B3, D4. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes. A repeat sign is present at the end of the piece.

## Boogie Woogie

**Lively**

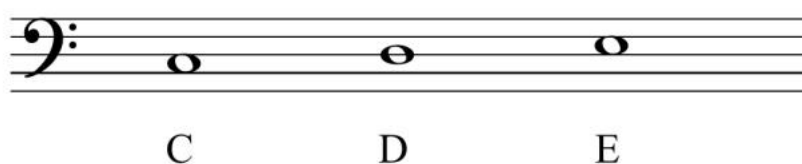
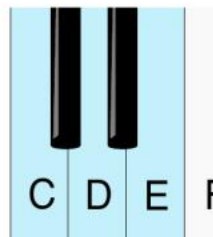
Musical notation for 'Boogie Woogie' in common time (C). The notation is on a single treble clef staff. It shows a sequence of notes with fingerings: C4 (4/2), E4 (5/3), G4 (4/2), and a chord of C5, E5, G5 (3/1).

The first system of music is written on a grand staff. The treble clef staff contains a sequence of chords: a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note, then a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note, then a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note, and finally a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note. The bass clef staff contains a sequence of notes: a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note, then a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note, then a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note, and finally a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note. A finger number '1' is written below the first measure.

The second system of music is written on a grand staff. The treble clef staff contains a sequence of chords: a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note, then a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note, then a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note, and finally a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note. The bass clef staff contains a sequence of notes: a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note, then a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note, then a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note, and finally a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note. Fingerings are indicated above the notes: '4 2' above the first measure, '5 3' above the second measure, '4 2' above the third measure, '3 1' above the fourth measure, and '4 2' above the fifth measure. A finger number '1' is written below the first measure.

## More left hand notes

Move your left hand to the left and you will find the notes C, D and E:



Put your pi  
hand will b  
the next tu

Andante

Mary is Merry!

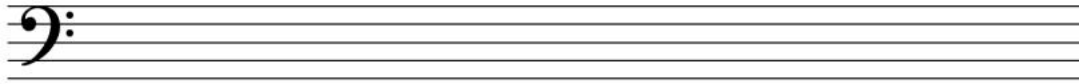


## Recap

You now know 8 left hand notes. Here they are. Using y  
index finger, play them all now.

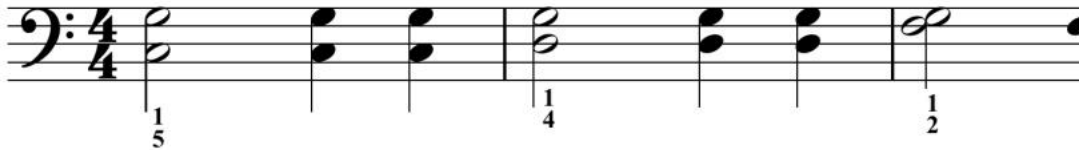


Now write them all. Copy them out on the staff below.



## Left hand chord workout

This exercise is good preparation for *Beautiful Brown Ey*



# Beautiful Brown Ey

Lento

3 1

Beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful

1  
5

Detailed description: This system of musical notation is for the first two measures of the piece. It is written in 3/4 time and marked 'Lento'. The melody is in the treble clef, starting on a G4 note. The first measure contains three quarter notes: G4, A4, and B4, with a '3' above the first note. The second measure contains three quarter notes: G4, A4, and B4, with a '1' above the first note. The lyrics 'Beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful' are written below the notes. The bass clef accompaniment consists of two chords: a G4 chord (G2, B2, D3) in the first measure and an A4 chord (A2, C3, E3) in the second measure, with a '1' and '5' below the first measure's notes.

3

beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful brown

1 1/2

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers the next three measures. The melody continues in the treble clef. The first measure has three quarter notes: G4, A4, and B4, with a '3' above the first note. The second measure has three quarter notes: G4, A4, and B4. The third measure has a single half note: G4. The lyrics 'beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful brown' are written below the notes. The bass clef accompaniment consists of two chords: a G4 chord (G2, B2, D3) in the first measure and an A4 chord (A2, C3, E3) in the second measure, with a '1' and '5' below the first measure's notes. The third measure has a single half note: G4, with a '1/2' below it.

3

beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful brow

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers the final three measures. The melody continues in the treble clef. The first measure has three quarter notes: G4, A4, and B4, with a '3' above the first note. The second measure has three quarter notes: G4, A4, and B4. The third measure has a single half note: G4. The lyrics 'beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful brow' are written below the notes. The bass clef accompaniment consists of two chords: a G4 chord (G2, B2, D3) in the first measure and an A4 chord (A2, C3, E3) in the second measure, with a '1' and '5' below the first measure's notes. The third measure has a single half note: G4.



ne - ver love blue eyes a - gain!

# The flat sign - $\flat$ and the note B flat



This is a flat sign:  $\flat$

If you see a flat sign next to a note it means that the note is a half step - so you play the note immediately to the left.

**Vivace** **Go left at the flat sign**

1

1

this note is a ri

## Musical Geography

Do you know your way around the keys?

Try these challenges:

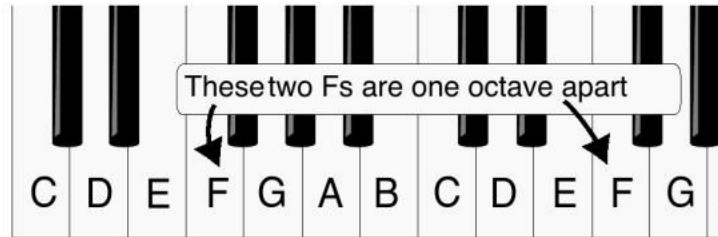
- \* Play every B starting low and moving to the highest.
- \* Play every B $\flat$ , starting high and moving to the lowest.
- \* Play the lowest note on your piano or keyboard. What note is it?



^ Play the highest note on your piano or keyboard. W

**Did you know....**

the distance from one note to the next note of the same name is called an **octave** because they are eight notes apart.



Lento

# Kum Ba Yah

The first system of musical notation for 'Kum Ba Yah' is in 4/4 time and Lento. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff begins with a whole rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The bass staff begins with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. The second measure of the treble staff has a '1' above it, and the second measure of the bass staff has a '5' below it. The third measure of the treble staff has a '2' above it, and the third measure of the bass staff has a '2' below it. The fourth measure of the treble staff has a '1' above it, and the fourth measure of the bass staff has a '2' below it.

The second system of musical notation for 'Kum Ba Yah' continues the piece. The treble staff has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, and B4. The bass staff has a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. The second measure of the treble staff has a '2' above it, and the second measure of the bass staff has a '2' below it. The third measure of the treble staff has a '2' above it, and the third measure of the bass staff has a '3' below it. The fourth measure of the treble staff has a '2' above it, and the fourth measure of the bass staff has a '3' below it.

Andante

# Jazz Ballad

The first system of musical notation for 'Jazz Ballad' is in 3/4 time and Andante. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff begins with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, and B4. The bass staff begins with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. The second measure of the treble staff has a '1' above it, and the second measure of the bass staff has a '5' below it. The third measure of the treble staff has a '4' above it, and the third measure of the bass staff has a '3' below it. The fourth measure of the treble staff has a '1' above it, and the fourth measure of the bass staff has a '2' below it. The fifth measure of the treble staff has a '4' above it, and the fifth measure of the bass staff has a '1' below it. The sixth measure of the treble staff has a '2' above it, and the sixth measure of the bass staff has a '2' below it. The seventh measure of the treble staff has a '4' above it, and the seventh measure of the bass staff has a '1' below it. The eighth measure of the treble staff has a '3' above it, and the eighth measure of the bass staff has a '1' below it. The ninth measure of the treble staff has a '5' above it, and the ninth measure of the bass staff has a '1' below it.

The second system of musical notation for 'Jazz Ballad' continues the piece. The treble staff has a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, and B4. The bass staff has a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. The second measure of the treble staff has a '5' above it, and the second measure of the bass staff has a '3' below it. The third measure of the treble staff has a '3' above it, and the third measure of the bass staff has a '4' below it. The fourth measure of the treble staff has a '4' above it, and the fourth measure of the bass staff has a '3' below it. The fifth measure of the treble staff has a '3' above it, and the fifth measure of the bass staff has a '1' below it.

Musical notation for the first system, featuring a treble and bass clef with a brace on the left. The treble clef has a sequence of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5. The bass clef has a sequence of half notes: G3, F3, E3, D3. A finger number '5' is written below the first measure of the bass line.

Musical notation for the second system, featuring a treble and bass clef with a brace on the left. The treble clef has a sequence of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5. The bass clef has a sequence of half notes: G3, F3, E3, D3. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 3, 1, 4, 3, 2, 3, 1 above the treble line and 3, 5 below the bass line.

## More flats and sharps

Flat and sharp signs change not only the note they are placed on, but also the notes of the same pitch that are in the same bar.

So both of these notes are B flat:

**Exercise 1**

As the sharp or flat sign is cancelled by a barline this note is not affected.

**Exercise 2**

## Sharpen your pencil

Draw a sharp sign just to the left of every F and every C

Draw a flat sign just to the left of every B in the following



Speak up!

Name these notes:



**Tip:** The left hand chords in Aura Lee are quite complex. Practice the left hand and right hand separately before trying to play them together.

**Andante** **Aura Lee**

When the black-bird in the spring, on  
 sat and rocked I heard him sing, sing  
 Au - ra Lee, Au - ra Lee, maid v

Chord symbols:  $\frac{3}{5}$ ,  $\frac{2}{5}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$   $\frac{4}{4}$

5 5 2/5

3 4 2 1 4 3

sun - shine came a - long with thee, swallow - c

1

Detailed description: This is a musical score for the song 'Aura Lee'. It consists of a treble and a bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 2/5 time signature. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 above the notes. The lyrics are 'sun - shine came a - long with thee, swallow - c'. There are rests in the bass staff, and a '1' is written below the first measure.

***Aura Lee*** is an American Civil War song about a maid famous by Elvis Presley in his 1956 hit *Love Me Tender*

## The dotted crotchet

A dotted crotchet is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  beats long.



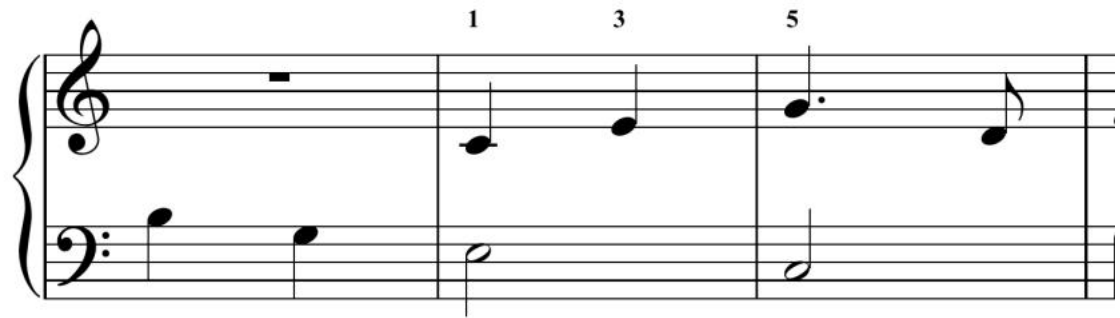
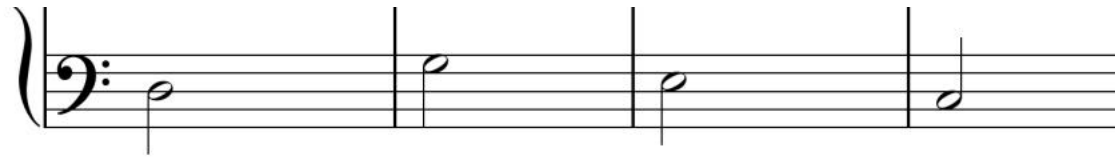
Very often, a dotted crotchet is followed by a quaver, a

COUNT: 1 2 & 3 1 2 3 1 2 &

## Johnny Todd

**Vivace**



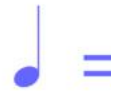


# The triplet

Usually a crotchet is equal to two quavers:



But sometimes this rule is broken and you play three quavers in the time of one crotchet:



These quavers are called a **triplet**.

## Amazing Grace

The first system of musical notation for 'Amazing Grace' in 3/4 time. The treble clef staff contains a quarter note (finger 1), a quarter note (finger 3), a triplet of eighth notes (finger 3), a quarter note, and a quarter note. The bass clef staff contains a quarter rest, a dotted quarter note (finger 3), a dotted quarter note (finger 5), and a dotted quarter note (finger 2). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1, 3, 3, 5, and 2.

The second system of musical notation. The treble clef staff contains a quarter note (finger 1), a triplet of eighth notes (finger 3), a quarter note (finger 3), a quarter note, and a dotted quarter note (finger 5). The bass clef staff contains a dotted quarter note (finger 2) and a dotted quarter note (finger 5). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1, 3, 3, 5, 2, and 5.

The third system of musical notation, showing a single staff with a triplet of eighth notes (finger 3), another triplet of eighth notes (finger 3), a quarter note (finger 1), and a quarter note (finger 4). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 3, 3, 1, and 4.

3

3 2

## C major scale

In order to become really fluent in your playing you will practicing scales.

Here is the scale of C major. It is the simplest of all scales the white notes.

Tips:

- when you learn it, try to memorise the notes AND fingering
- practice with just the right hand then just the left hand
- play with hands together only when you are confident separately.

Here, you should tuck your thumb underneath your 3rd finger then move your hand up to the new position.

The image shows the C major scale in 4/4 time, written for both the right and left hands. The right hand part is in the treble clef and the left hand part is in the bass clef. The scale is written in a single line for each hand, with a brace connecting them. The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5 for the right hand, and C3, B2, A2, G2, F2, E2, D2, C2 for the left hand. Fingering numbers are placed above or below the notes: 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 for the right hand; 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 3, 2, 1 for the left hand. A downward arrow points to the first measure of the right hand, and an upward arrow points to the third measure of the left hand.

Here, you should cross your 3rd finger over your thumb.

Here, you should tuck your thumb underneath your 3rd finger then move your hand up to the new position.

## C major arpeggio

## C major arpeggio

C major arpeggio consists of all of the notes in the chord. Practicing arpeggios you will get to know and memorize.

The image shows the C major arpeggio in 3/4 time, consisting of the notes C, E, G, C, E, G. The notation is presented in two staves: the upper staff in treble clef and the lower staff in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 3/4. The piece is divided into two measures. The first measure contains the ascending sequence of notes, and the second measure contains the descending sequence. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below the notes. Triplet markings (a '3' over or under a group of notes) are placed over the last three notes of each measure to indicate a triplet rhythm. The notes in the first measure are C4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), G5 (quarter). The notes in the second measure are G5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), C5 (quarter), G4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), C4 (quarter).