Lesson Book · Level 1A



Willard A. Palmer • Morton Manus • Amanda Vick Lethco



Lesson Book • Level 1A

Alfred's Basic Piano Library

Piano

Lesson Book • Level 1A

Correlated materials to be used with Lesson Book, Level 1A:	
Title Start on page	Title Start on page
COMPOSITION BOOK, Level 1A	SHEET MUSIC SOLOS, Level 1A
EAR TRAINING BOOK, Level 1A	Andy, the Android
ENSEMBLE BOOK, Level 1A	Drum and Bugle Band Parade, The
FLASH CARDS, Level 1A	Happy Secret, A54
FUN SOLO BOOK, Level 1A	Indian Celebration
HYMN BOOK, Level 1A	Itsy Bitsy Bird 54 Mumbo Jumbo 59
MERRY CHRISTMAS! Level 1A	Seascape
MERRY CHRISTMAS! Ensemble Book, Level 1A	Walk in Space, A
NOTESPELLER BOOK, Level 1A	*Teacher's discretion
RECITAL BOOK, Level 1A	FOR TEACHERS ONLY: Teacher's Guide to Lesson Book 1A
SIGHT READING BOOK, Level 1A9	A General MIDI disk 🗐 (8589) and a Compact Disc 📎 (14541)
TECHNIC BOOK, Level 1A	are available, which include a full piano recording and
THEORY BOOK, Level 1A11	background accompaniment.
THEORY THROUGH THE YEAR, Level 1A	
TOP HITS! Solo Book 1A	Theory Games Software correlating to Levels 1A–5 is available
TOP HITS! Christmas Book 1A	for Macintosh and IBM/Windows-compatible computers.

In this edition, the titles of four pieces (pages 20, 38, 45, 59) have been altered. When using the supplementary materials for Level 1A, the references to these titles will not be correct. Refer *only* to the page numbers.

Willard A. Palmer • Morton Manus • Amanda Vick Lethco



A NOTE TO PARENTS

Dear Parents:

You have a right to be proud!

Giving your child music training shows foresight as well as the appreciation of a fine art.

Music is a language understood by people of all nations. It is one of the most basic mediums of expression. Improved coordination, a broadening of interests, a discovery of the importance of self-discipline, and a world of pleasure are only a few of the rewards pupils receive.

Parents must play an important role in guiding their children's musical training. One question asked by almost all parents is, "How long should my child practise?" Later it will be important that your child practise a specified amount. For now, the length of time is not so important, as long as they practise the assignment **several times** each day.

Regularity in practice is important! Let your child select a regular time for practice to begin. With your help, good practising habits will be easily established. Your child's teacher can give you valuable suggestions. As parents, you have the responsibility of showing an interest in your child's progress. Patience, sincere praise, a show of enthusiasm as your child learns new material, and your occasional participation in music-making sessions at home will be very beneficial.

As publishers, it is our pleasure to offer an outstanding course of instruction, prepared for you by three of the nation's leading music educators.

We offer our best wishes to you and your child in your new adventure. It is certain to be exciting and richly rewarding!

THE PUBLISHERS

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A NOTE TO TEACHERS



Dear Teachers,

Welcome to Alfred's Basic Piano Library!

This is a new, easy, step-by-step method. It emphasizes correct playing habits and note reading through interval recognition. It gives a solid foundation in music theory. It is a *true multi-key approach*. Although key signatures are not introduced in Level 1A, the student actually plays in *seven different keys!* The student plays satisfying and entertaining pieces from the very first lesson. Each new challenge brings enjoyment to the student and the teacher, and because the material progresses so carefully, it is problem-free. For reinforcement of each principle as it is introduced, supplementary material is carefully coordinated, page for page, at each level of instruction.

Here is an outline of the basic contents of this book:

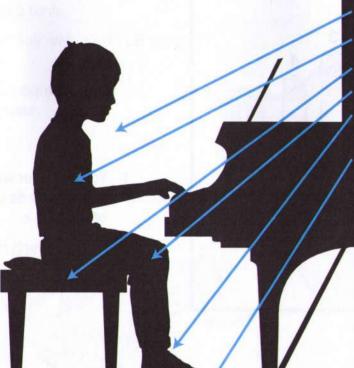
of the basic contents of this book.
Introduction to playing.
Keyboard orientation and finger number recognition. Tunes on the black keys for rhythmic reading and development of finger skills. Elementary dynamics.
The use of this section avoids the association of any
finger numbers with any key, black or white.
Fluent recognition of key-names through letter-notes.
Tunes in MIDDLE C POSITION for more skill
development and rhythmic reading.
Introduction to the GRAND STAVE.
Intervallic reading in C POSITION.
Melodic & harmonic intervals. Legato.
Intervallic reading in G POSITION. Sharps & flats.
More dynamics. Staccato.
Review pieces. Test & certificate.

As you leaf through this book you will notice the clean and uncluttered pages, the clear music engraving, and the attractive art work, designed to complement the music and to appeal to all.

The authors hope that these pages will help you to open the door of the WONDERFUL WORLD OF MUSIC to many students.

Willard A. Palmer, Morton Manus & Amanda Vick Lethco

How to Sit at the Piano



SIT TALL!

Lean slightly forward.

Let arms hang loosely from shoulders.

Bench must face piano squarely.

Knees slightly under keyboard.

Feet flat on floor.

Right foot may be slightly forward.

You may place a book or stool under your feet if they do not reach the floor!

Pianos come in several different sizes and styles. Which kind of piano do you have?



DIGITAL PIANO



SPINET PIANO

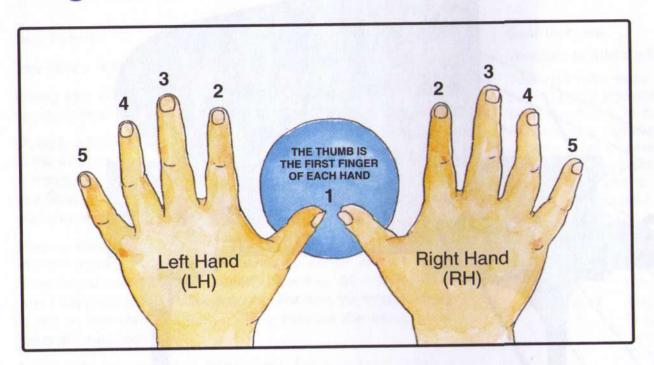


UPRIGHT PIANO



GRAND PIANO

Fingers Have Numbers



- Your teacher will draw an outline of your hands on the inside cover of this book.
- 2. Number each finger of the outline.

- 3. Hold up both hands with wrists floppy.
 - · Wiggle both 1's.
 - · Wiggle both 2's.
 - Wiggle both 3's.
 - Wiggle both 4's.
 - Wiggle both 5's.



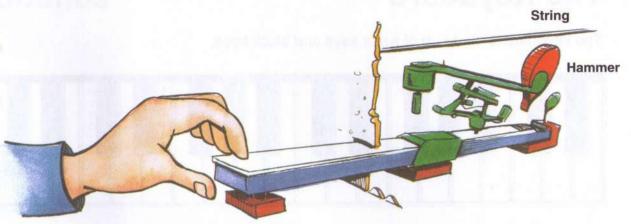
Your teacher will call out some fingers for you to wiggle.

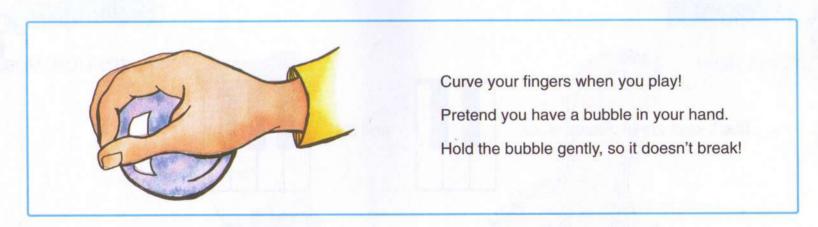
Piano Tones

When you play a key, a hammer inside your piano strikes a string to make a tone.

When you drop into the key with a LITTLE weight, you make a SOFT tone.

When you use MORE weight, you make a LOUDER tone.





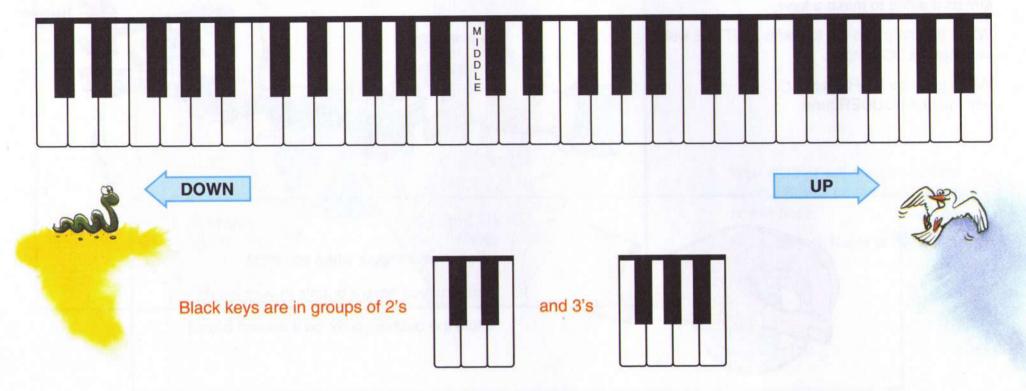
- 1. Play any white key with the 3rd finger of either hand, softly.
- 2. See how many times you can repeat the same key, making the tone a little louder each time you play.

Before you play any key you should always decide how soft or loud you want it to sound.

For the first pieces in this book, play with a MODERATELY LOUD tone.

The Keyboard

The keyboard is made up of white keys and black keys.





- Using LH 2 3, begin at the middle and play all the 2 black key groups going Down the keyboard (both keys at once).
- 2. Play them again, one key at a time.

PLAY: LH 2 3.

SAY: "Step down" as you play each pair.

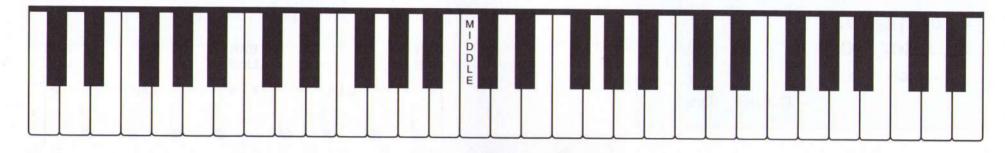
- 3. Using RH 2 3, begin at the middle and play all the 2 black key groups going up the keyboard (both keys at once). UP
- 4. Play them again, one key at a time.

PLAY: RH 2 3.

SAY: "Step up" as you play each pair.



Low Sounds and High Sounds



DOWN (Lower)

LOW SOUNDS



UP (Higher)

HIGH SOUNDS



- Using LH 2 3 4, begin at the middle and play all the 3 black key groups going
 DOWN the keyboard (all 3 keys at once).
- Play them again, one key at a time. PLAY: LH 2 3 4.

SAY: "Step - ping down."

- 3. Using RH 2 3 4, begin at the middle and play all the 3 black key groups going up the keyboard (all 3 keys at once).
- 4. Play them again, one key at a time. PLAY: RH 2 3 4.

SAY: "Step - ping up."



Music is made up of **short** tones and **long** tones. We write these tones in **notes**, and we measure their lengths by **counting**.

Crotchet or Quarter Note a short note.

COUNT: "One"

When we clap or tap **ONCE** for each note, we call it clapping or tapping the **RHYTHM**.

Clap or tap the following rhythm, counting aloud.

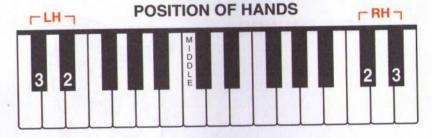
BAR LINES divide the music into equal BARS.



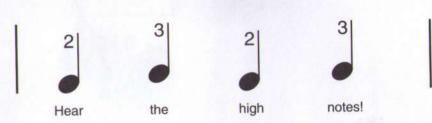
Right & Left

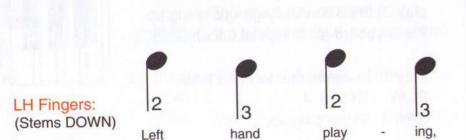
- 1. Play & say the finger numbers.
- 2. Play & sing the words.

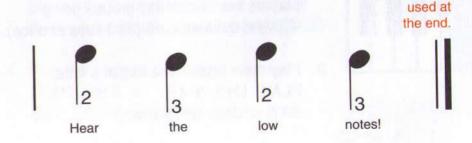




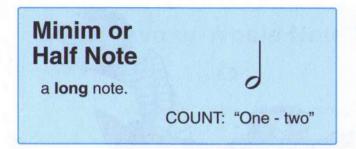








DOUBLE BAR



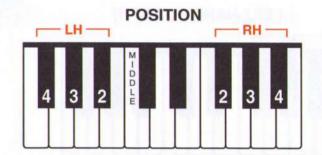
- 1. Clap (or tap) the following rhythm.
- 2. Clap ONCE for each note, counting aloud as you clap.

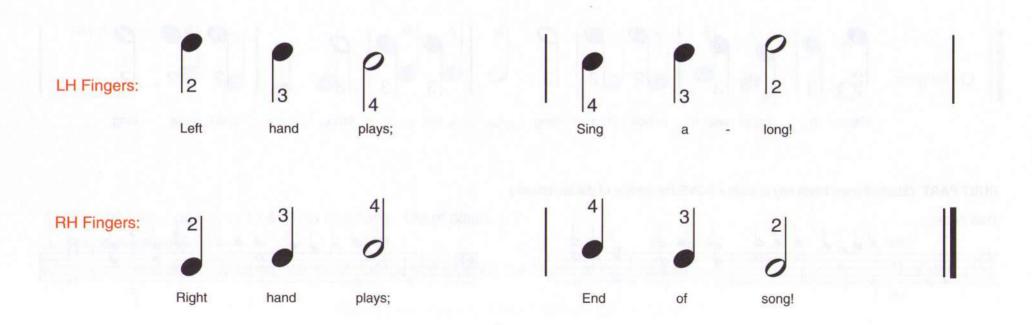


Left & Right

- 1. Clap (or tap) the rhythm, counting aloud.
- 2. Play & say the finger numbers.
- 3. Play & sing the words.



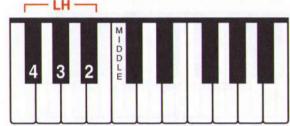




- 1. Clap (or tap) & count.
- 2. Play & count.
- 3. Play & sing the words.

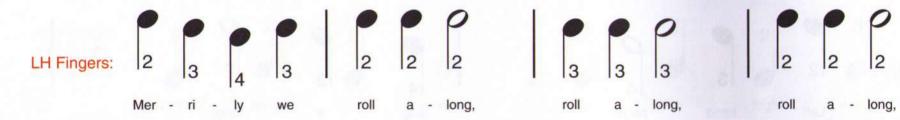


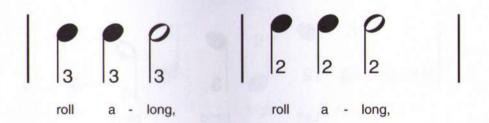
LEFT HAND POSITION



Merrily We Roll Along

(FOR LEFT HAND)





DUET PART (Student uses black key groups ABOVE the middle of the keyboard.)





Semibreve or Whole Note

a very long note.



COUNT: "One - two - three - four"

1. Clap (or tap) the following rhythm.

2. Clap ONCE for each note, counting aloud as you clap.

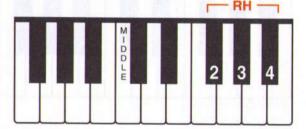


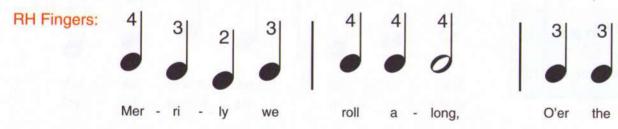
1. Follow 1-3 at the top of page 10.

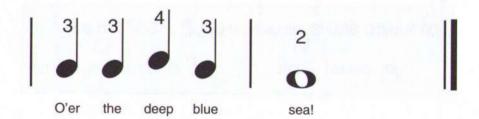
RIGHT HAND POSITION

O'er the Deep Blue Sea

(FOR RIGHT HAND)





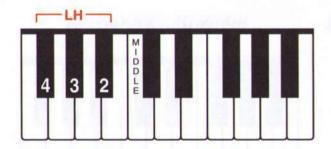


- 2. Play the music on pages 10 & 11 as one song. Count aloud.
- 3. Play & sing the words.
- 4. Play a duet with your teacher. Use black key groups ABOVE the middle of the keyboard.

Hand-Bells

PART 1 (FOR LEFT HAND)

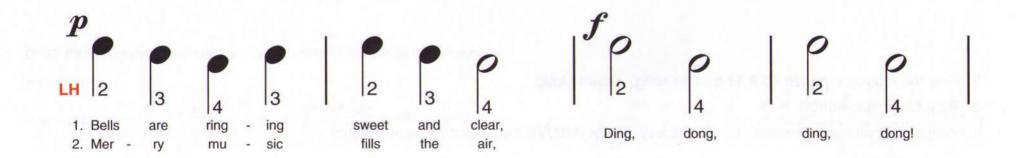
- 1. Clap (or tap) & count.
- 2. Play & count.
- 3. Play & sing the words.
- 4. Play a duet with your teacher.





DYNAMIC SIGNS tell us how LOUD or SOFT to play.

$$f$$
 (forte) = loud

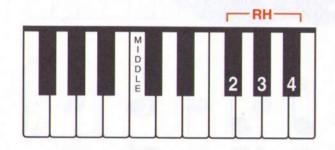


Hand-Bells

PART 2 (FOR RIGHT HAND)

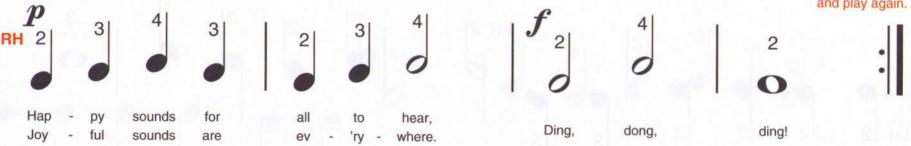
Follow 1–4 at the top of page 12.

Use these steps for each new piece.

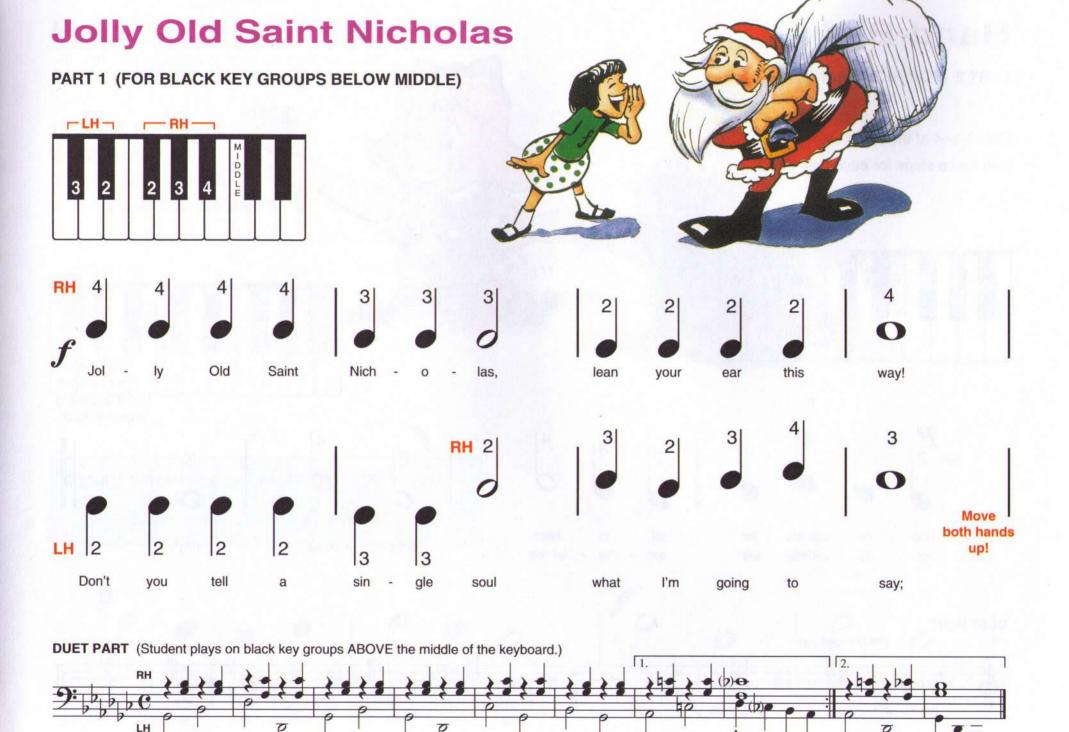




TWO DOTS mean go back to the beginning and play again.

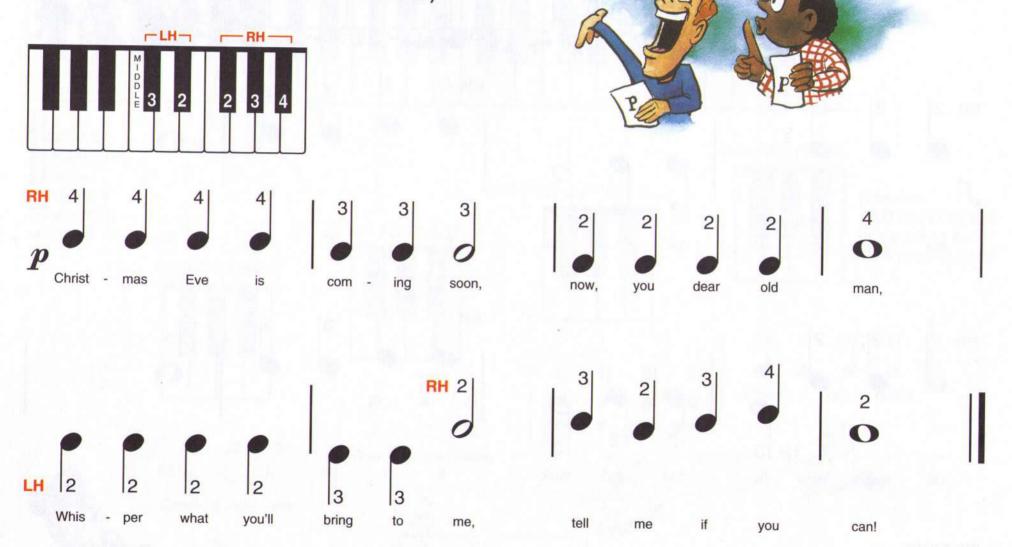






Jolly Old Saint Nicholas

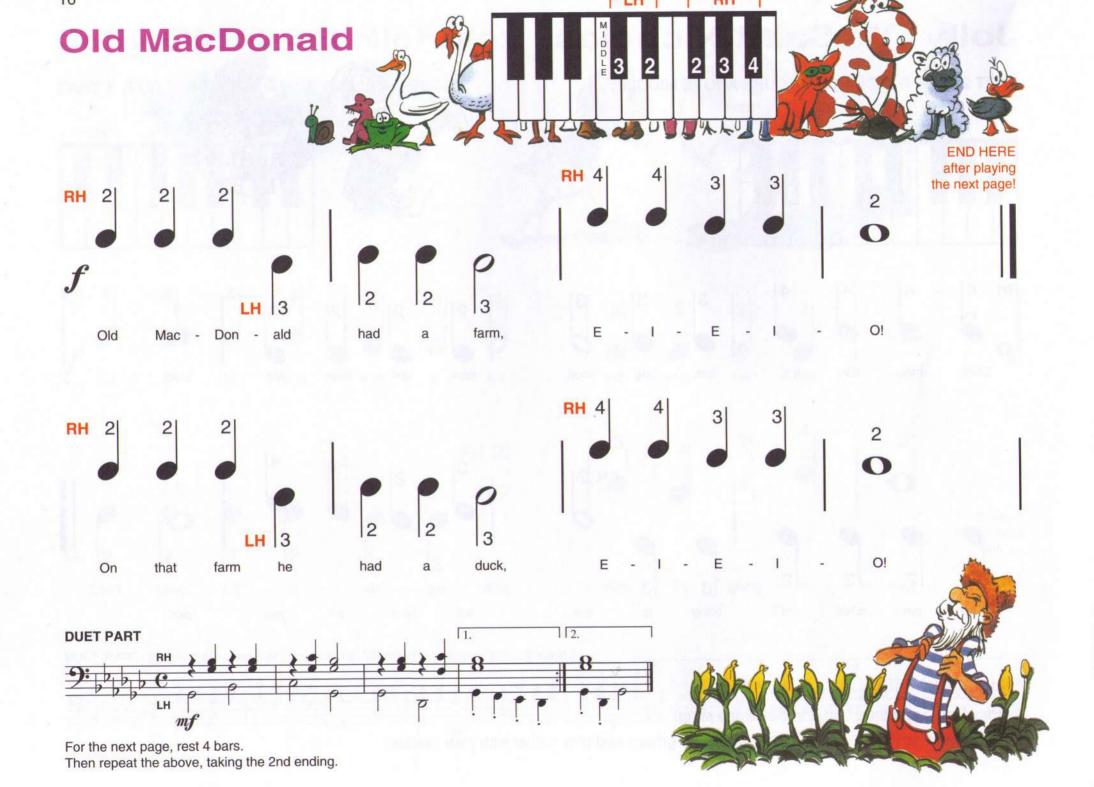
PART 2 (FOR BLACK KEY GROUPS ABOVE MIDDLE)



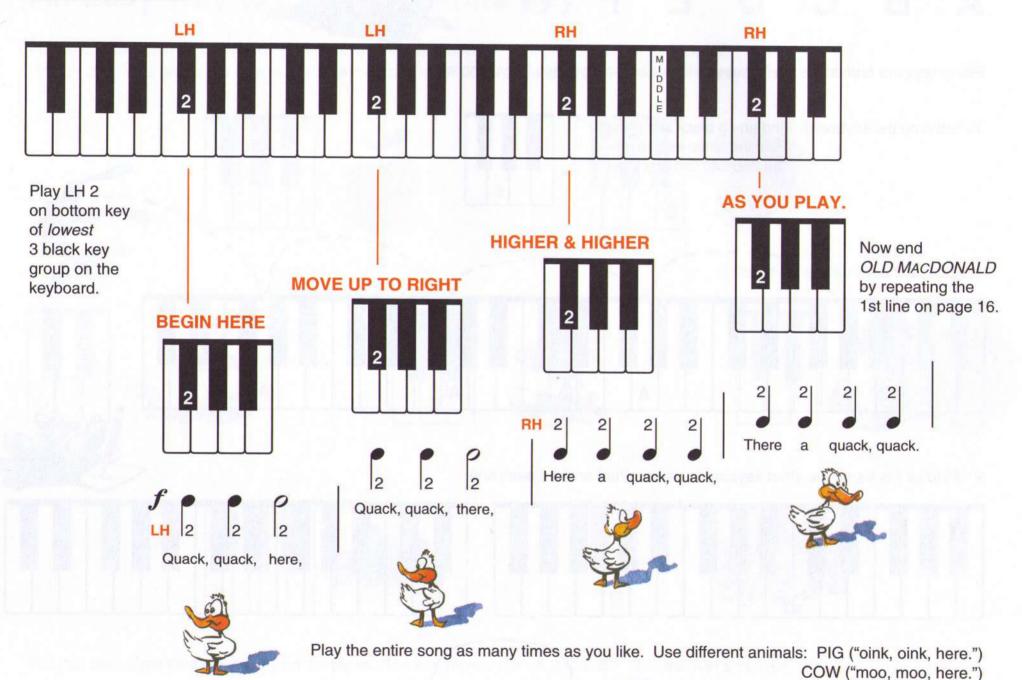
After you learn PART 2:

- 1. Play Part 1 and then Part 2 to make one song!
- 2. Move both hands to the next higher black key groups and play a duet with your teacher.

. .



Sound Effects



Add as many animals as you wish to MacDonald's farm.

A B C D E F G



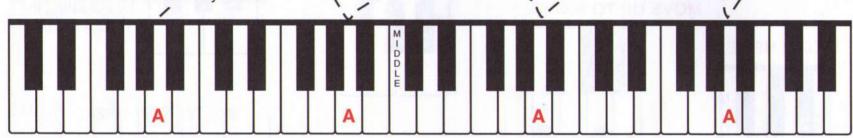
Piano keys are named for the first seven letters of the alphabet, beginning with A.

To find A on the keyboard: find any 3 black key group.

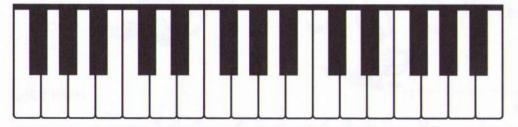
Play the white key between the 2nd and 3rd black keys.

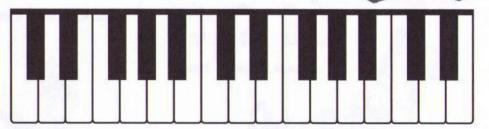


1. Look at the A's on this keyboard:



2. Find all the A's on the short keyboards below. Print an A on each one:





The lowest key on your piano is A.



An Easy Way to Find Any White Key

Play and name each of the following white keys. Play all the A's on your piano, then all the B's, etc. Use LH 3 for keys *below* the middle of the keyboard. Use RH 3 for keys *above* the middle of the keyboard.







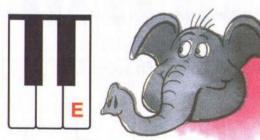
















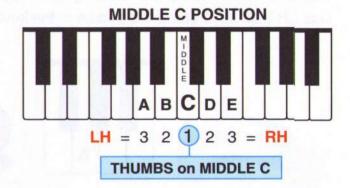




You can now name every white key on the piano. The key names are: ABCDEFG used over and over! Play and name every white key going up the keyboard, beginning with bottom key A.

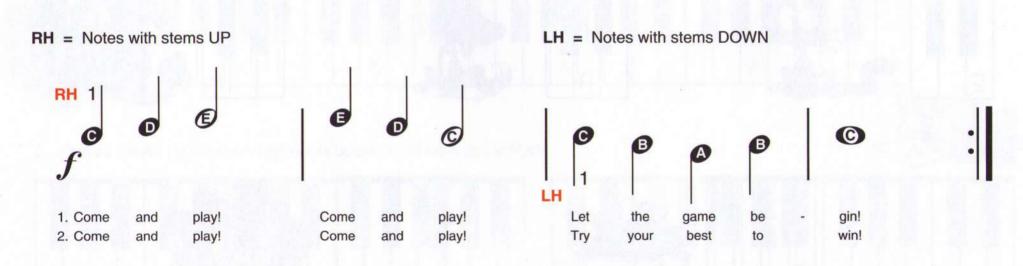
Come and Play!

The C nearest the middle of the keyboard (under the brand name of the piano) is called "Middle C."

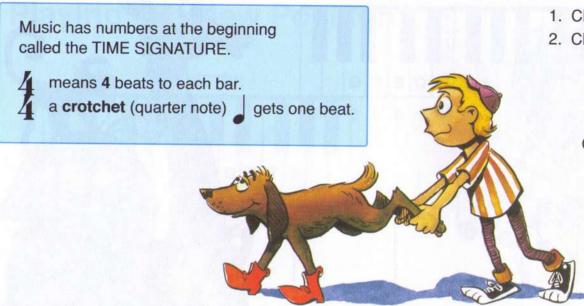


- 1. Clap (or tap) & count.
- 2. Play & count.
- 3. Play & say note names.
- 4. Play & sing the words.

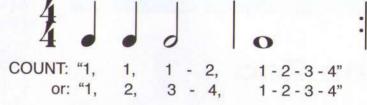
Follow these steps for each new piece.





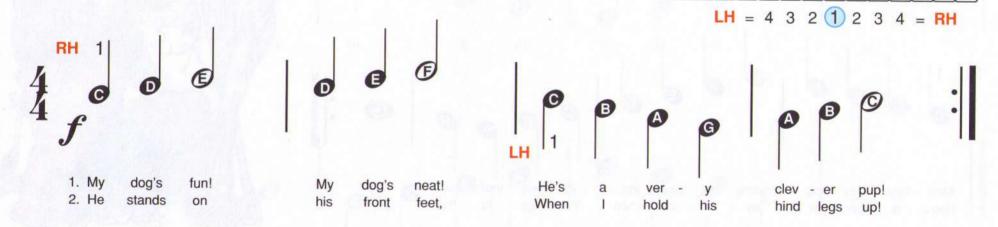


- 1. Clap (or tap) the following rhythm.
- 2. Clap ONCE for each note, counting aloud as you clap.



MIDDLE C POSITION

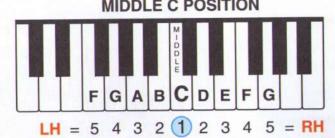
My Clever Pup



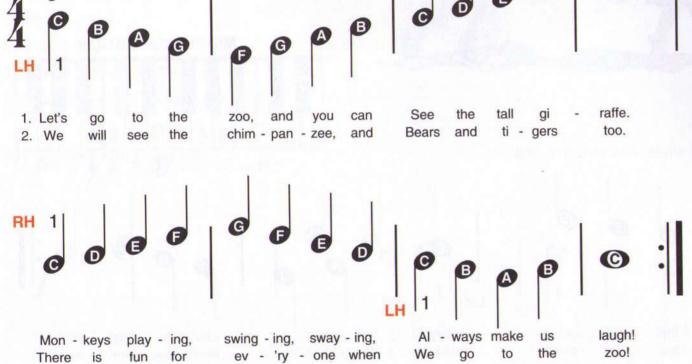


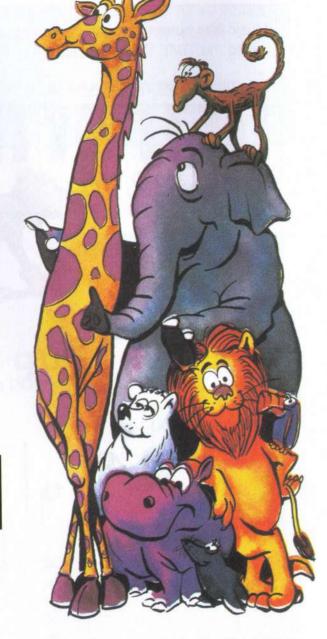


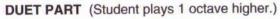
mf (mezzo forte) = moderately loud



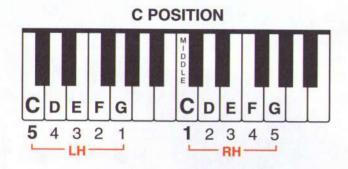
The Zoo



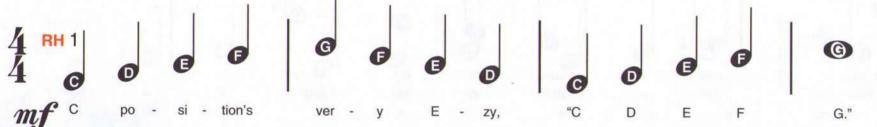


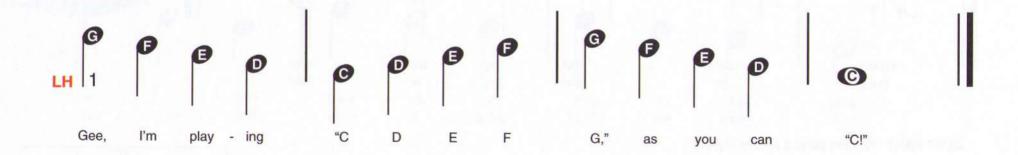


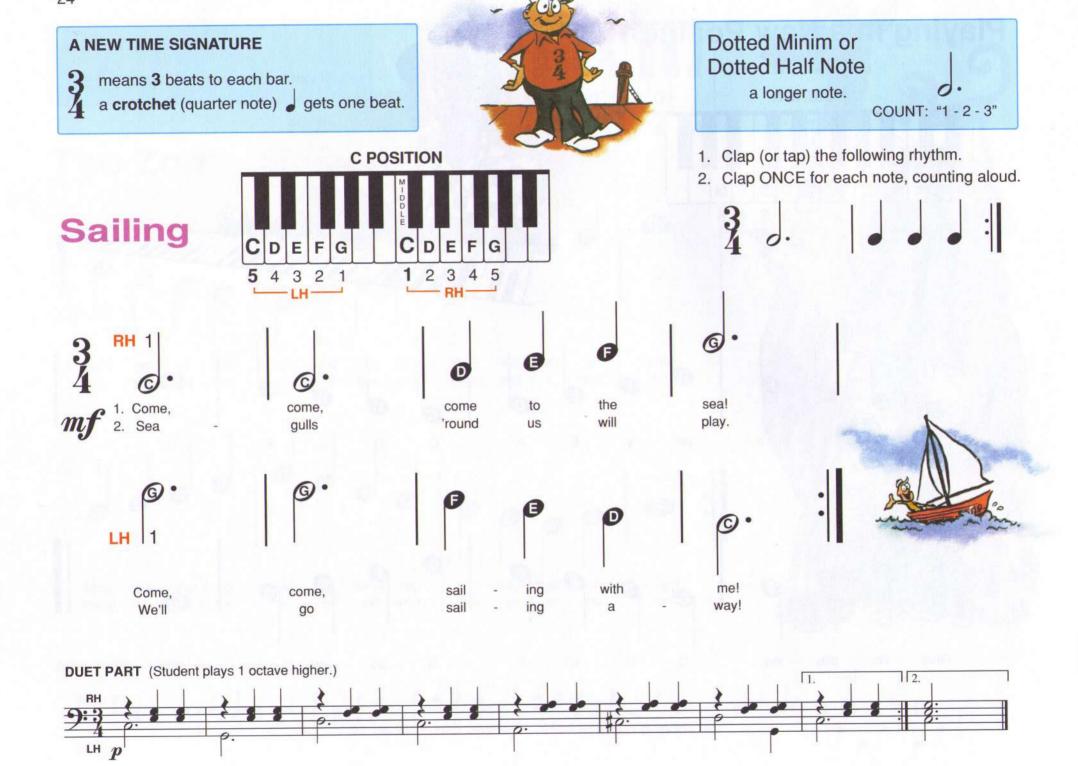


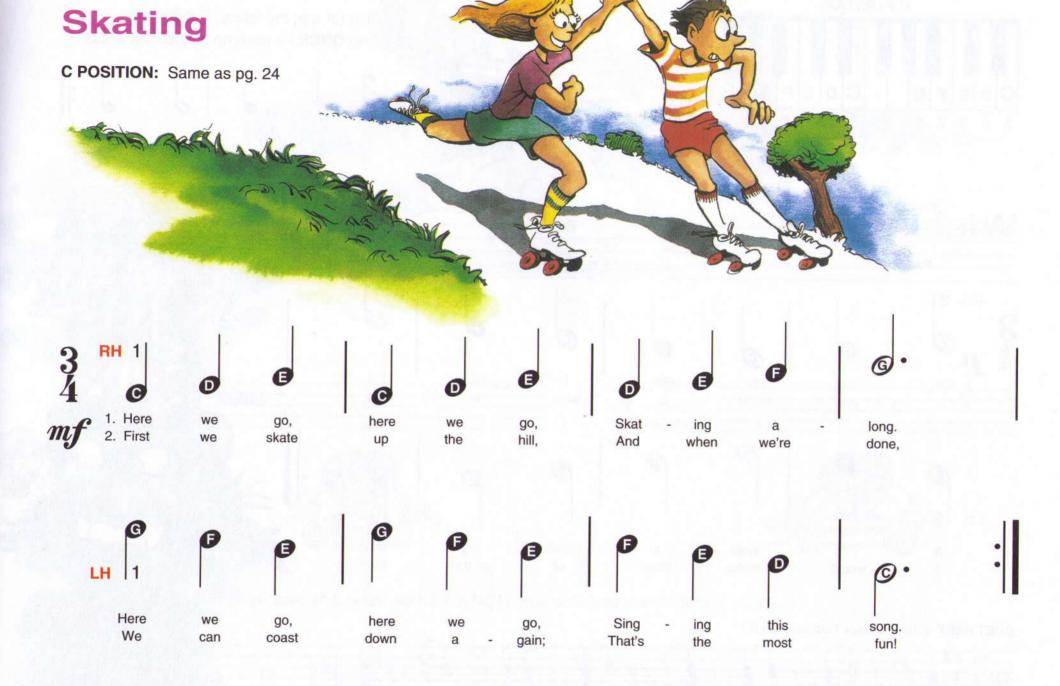






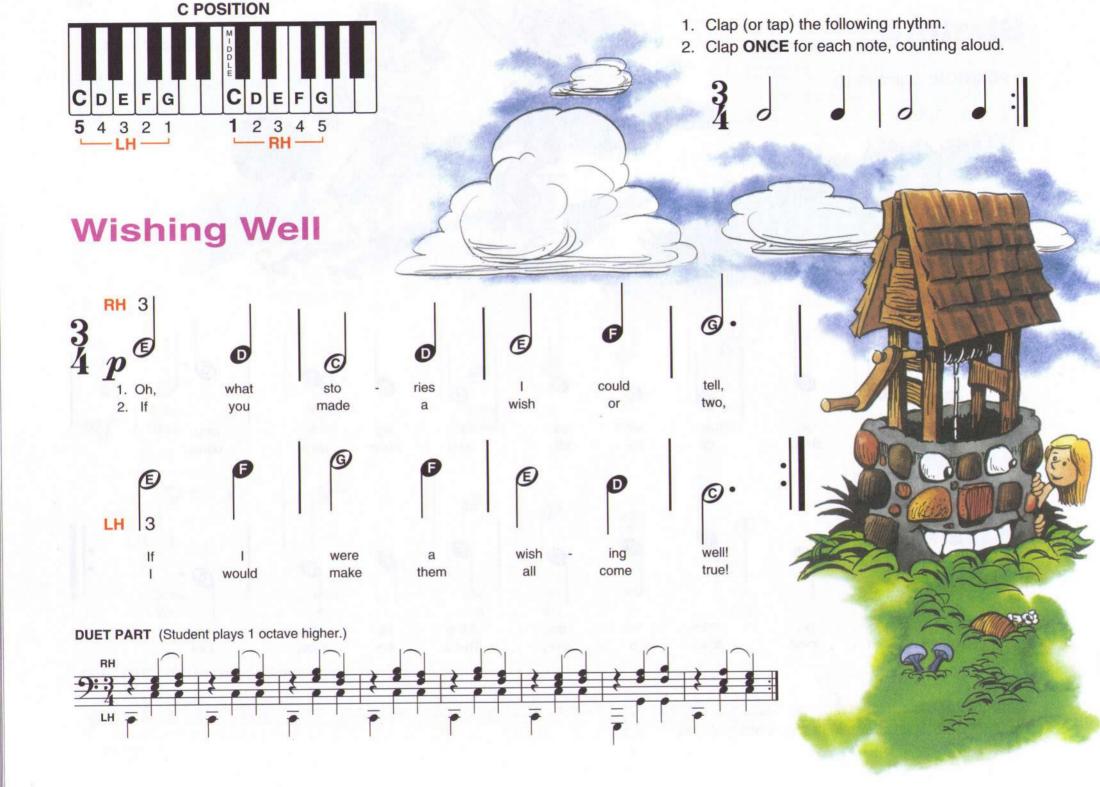


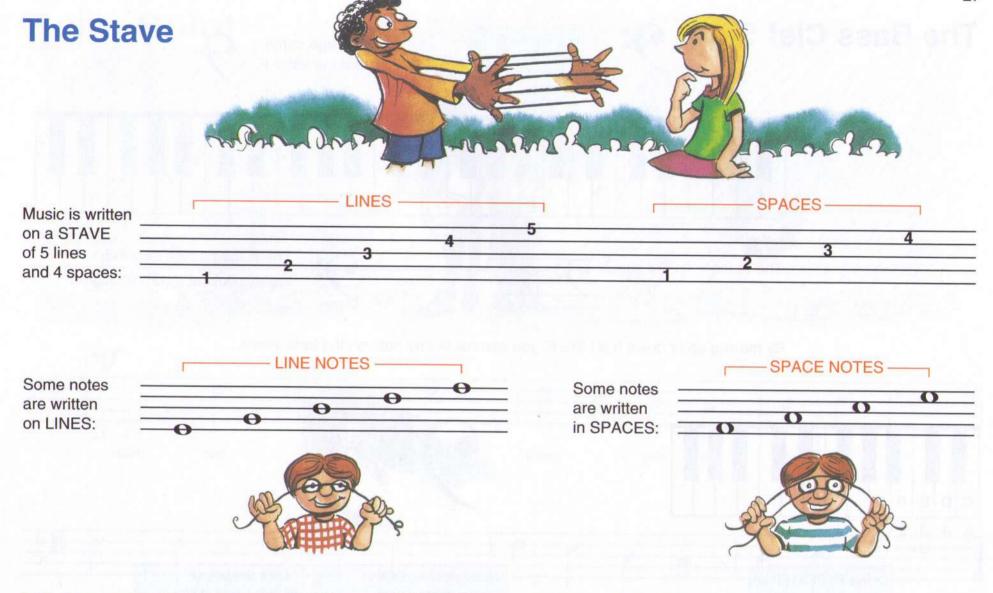




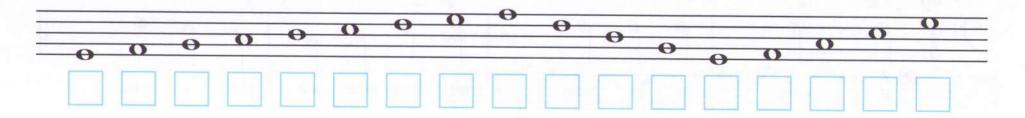
TEACHER'S NOTE:

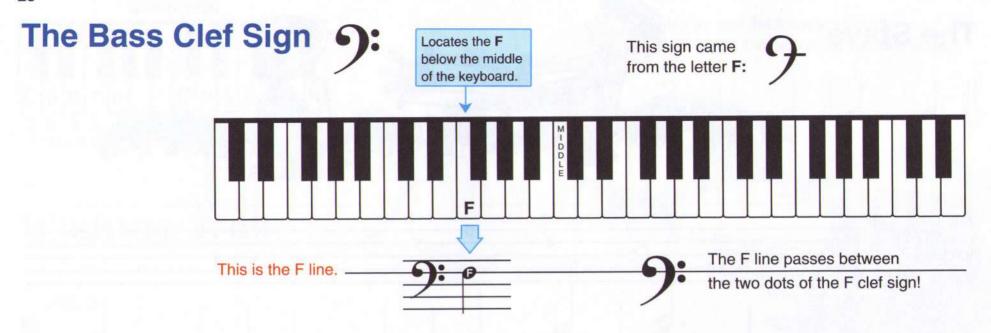
The DUET PART of SAILING may be played with SKATING.



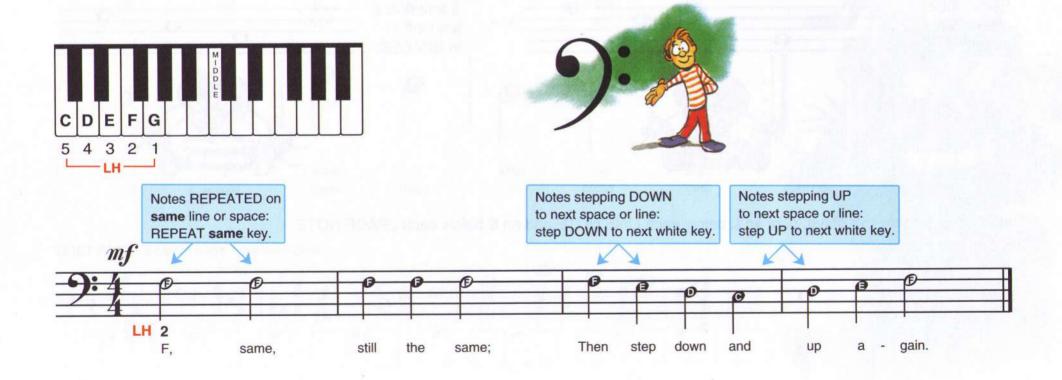


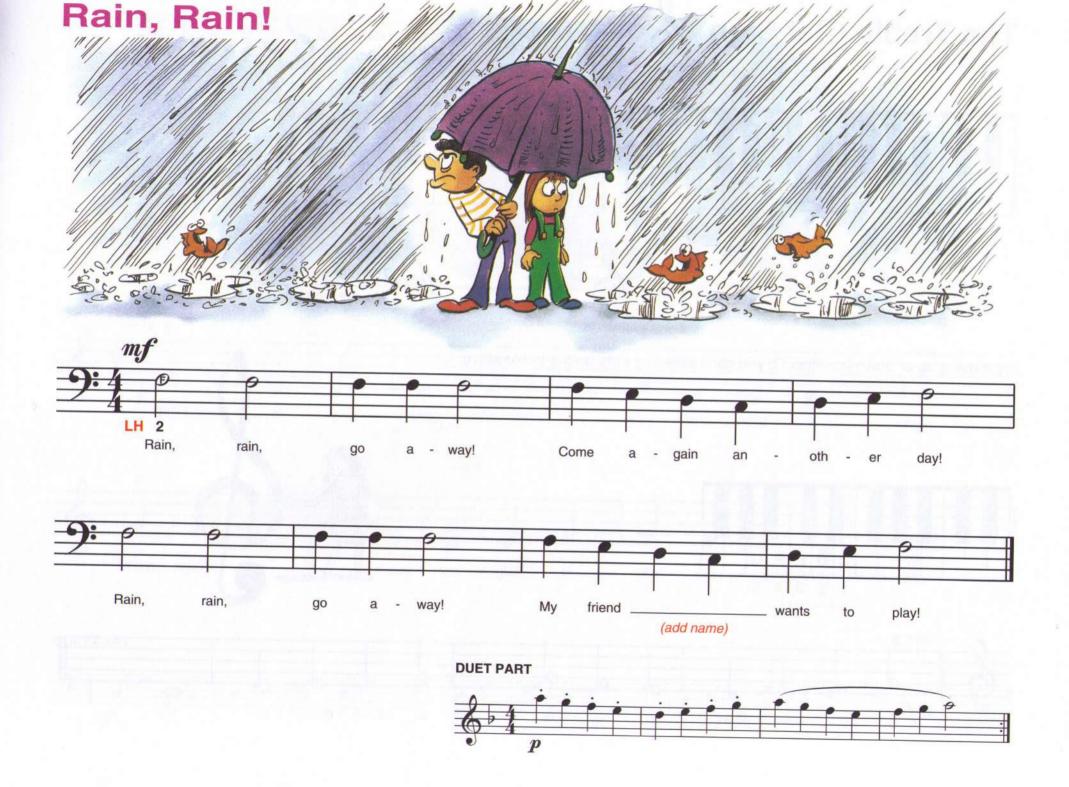
In the boxes below this stave, print an L below each LINE NOTE and an S below each SPACE NOTE.



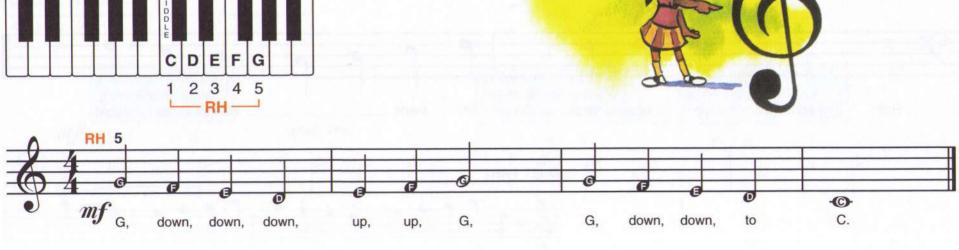


By moving up or down from this F, you can name any note on the bass stave.



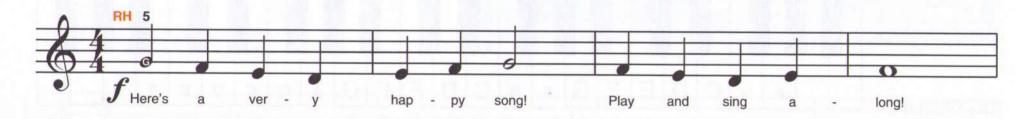


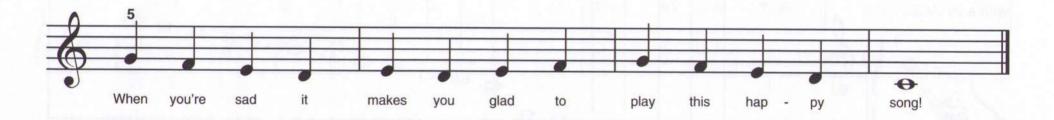




A Happy Song







DUET PART

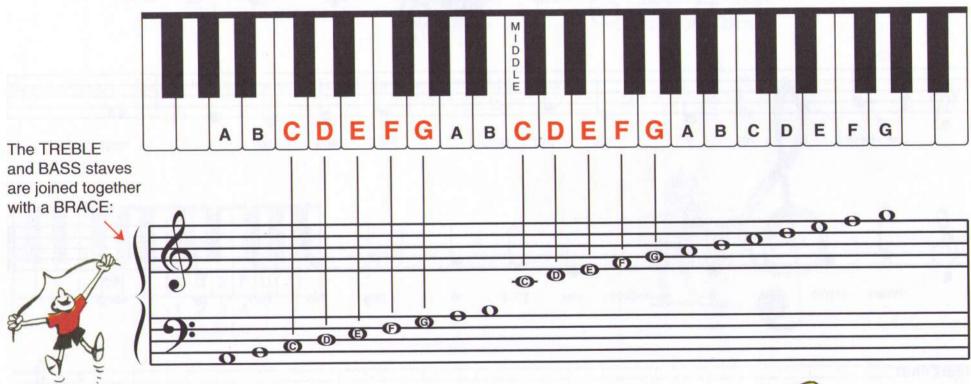


The Grand Stave

The BASS STAVE and TREBLE STAVE together make the GRAND STAVE.

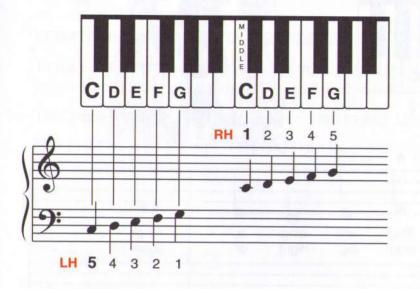
A short line is used between them for MIDDLE C.



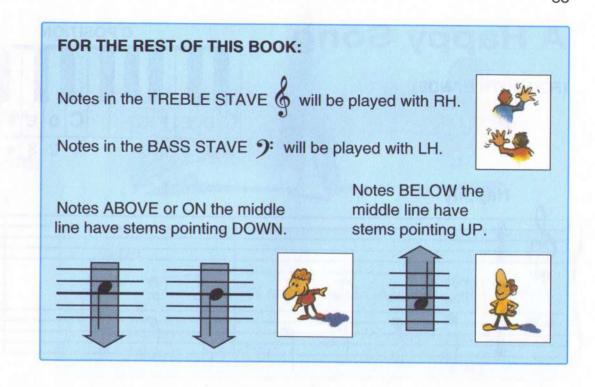




C Position on the Grand Stave





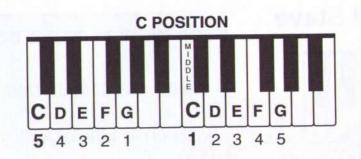




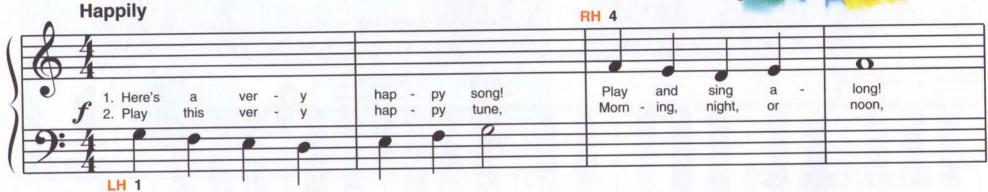


A Happy Song

(FOR BOTH HANDS)











Legato Playing

LEGATO means SMOOTHLY CONNECTED.

To play LEGATO correctly, one finger must come up just as another goes down, like the ENDS OF A SEE-SAW.

This piece will make it easy for you to learn to play LEGATO.

PLAY SLOWLY! CONNECT SMOOTHLY! LISTEN CAREFULLY!



See-Saws

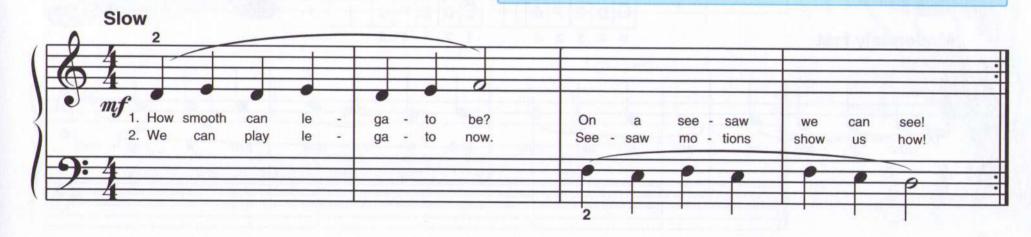
C POSITION (See pg. 34)



SLURS mean play LEGATO.

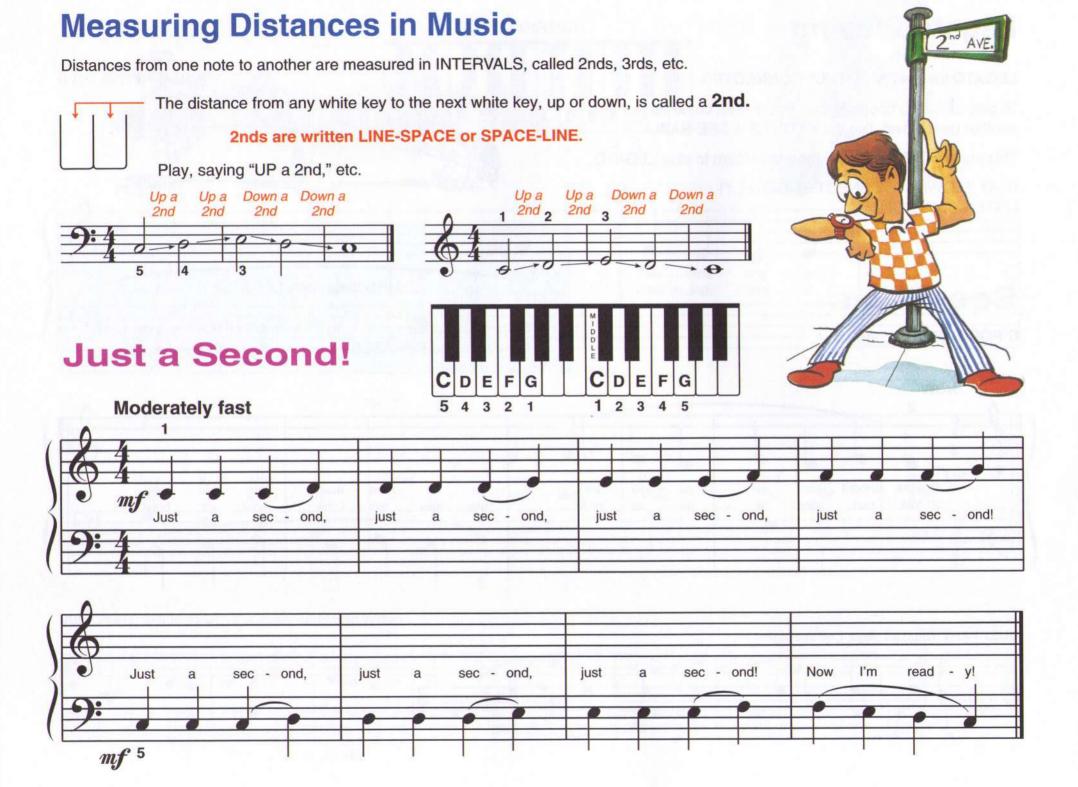
Slurs often divide the music into PHRASES.

A PHRASE is a musical thought or sentence.



DUET PART (Student plays 1 octave higher.)



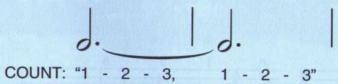


Balloons

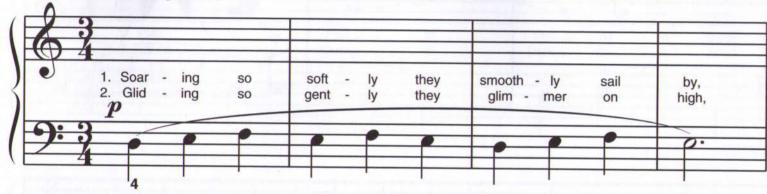
TIED NOTES

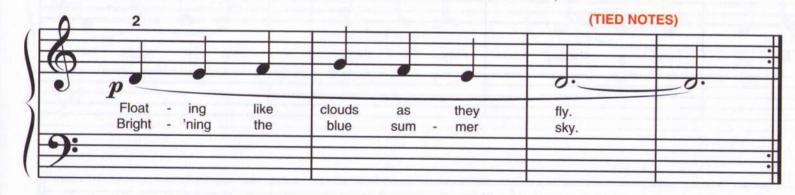
When notes on the SAME LINE or SPACE are joined by a curved line, we call them TIED NOTES.

The key is held down for the COMBINED VALUES OF BOTH NOTES.



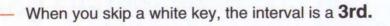
Moderately slow











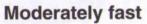
3rds are written LINE-LINE or SPACE-SPACE.

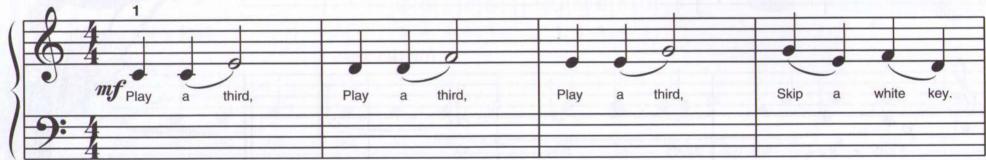
Play, saying "UP a 3rd," etc.



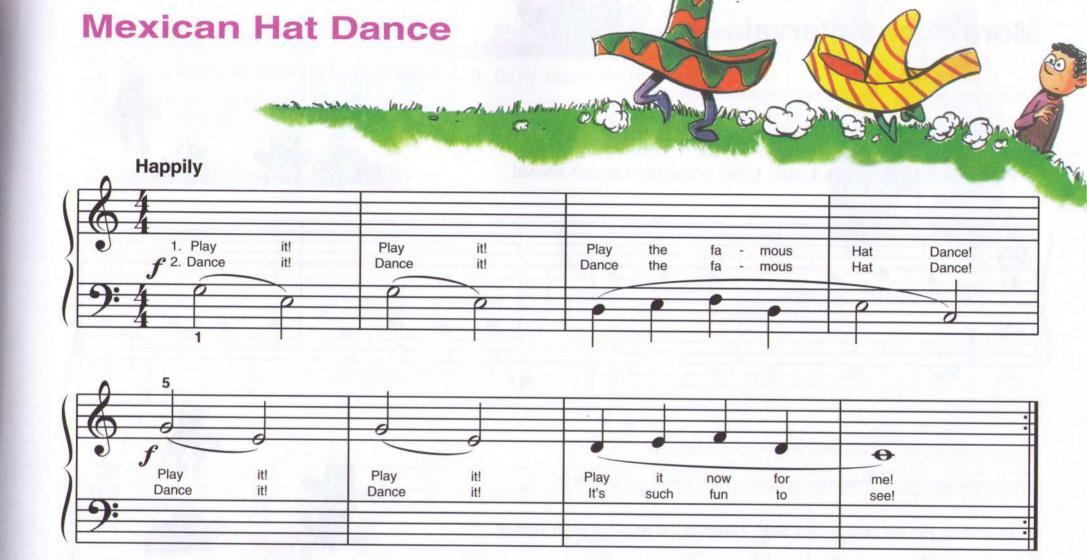


Play a Third











More about Intervals

When notes are played separately they make a MELODY.

We call the intervals between melody notes MELODIC INTERVALS.

1. Play these MELODIC 2nds & 3rds. Listen to the sound of each interval.

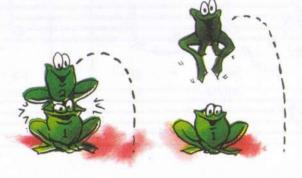


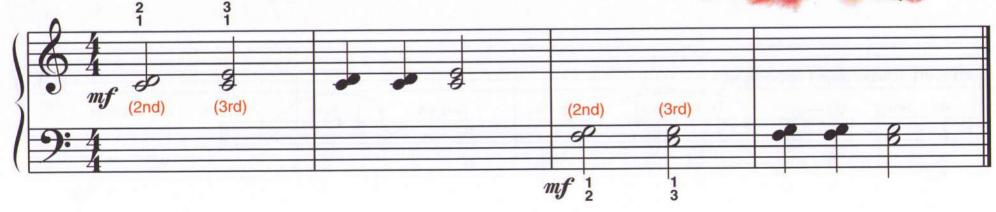


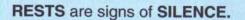
When notes are played together they make HARMONY.

We call the intervals between these notes HARMONIC INTERVALS.

2. Play these HARMONIC 2nds & 3rds. Listen to the sound of each interval.







*

This is a CROTCHET OR QUARTER REST.

It means REST FOR THE VALUE of a CROTCHET.

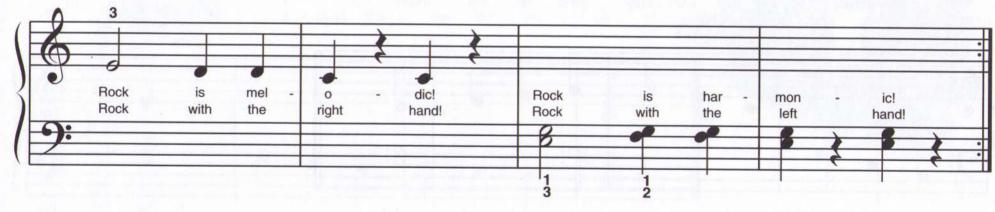
- 1. Clap (or tap) the following rhythm.
- 2. Clap ONCE for each note, counting aloud.
- 3. Do not clap for the REST!





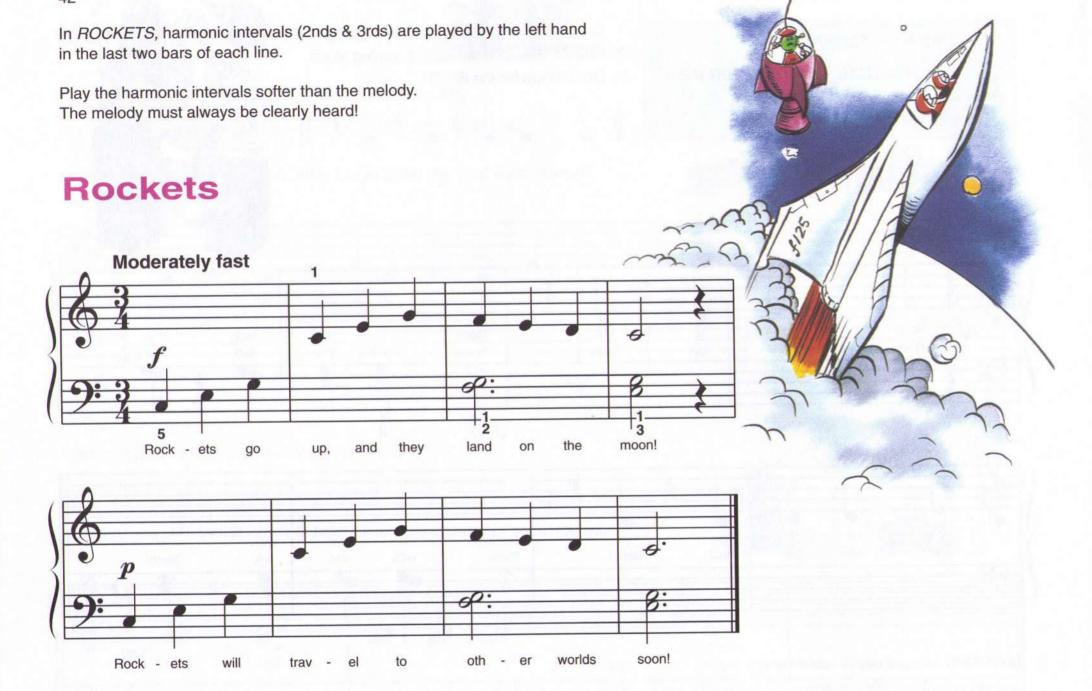
Rock Song





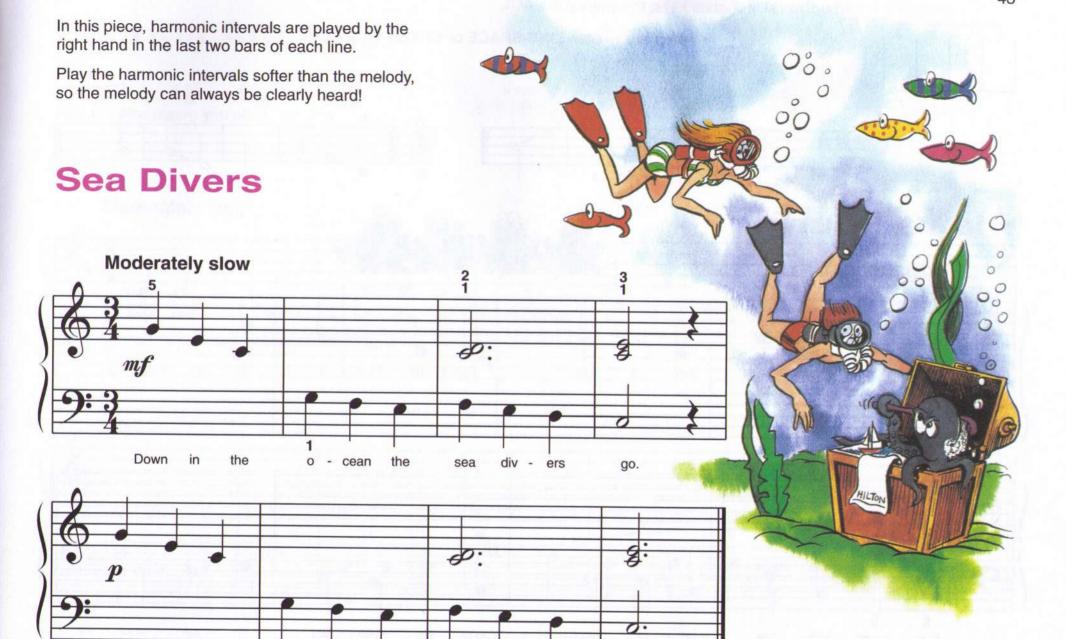
DUET PART (Student plays 1 octave higher.)





IMPORTANT! Play ROCKETS again, playing the 2nd line one octave (8 notes) higher.

The rests at the end of the 1st line give you time to move your hands to the new position!



treas - ures

low!

man

find

May - be

they'll



Fourths Are Fun!

Find the 4ths before you play!

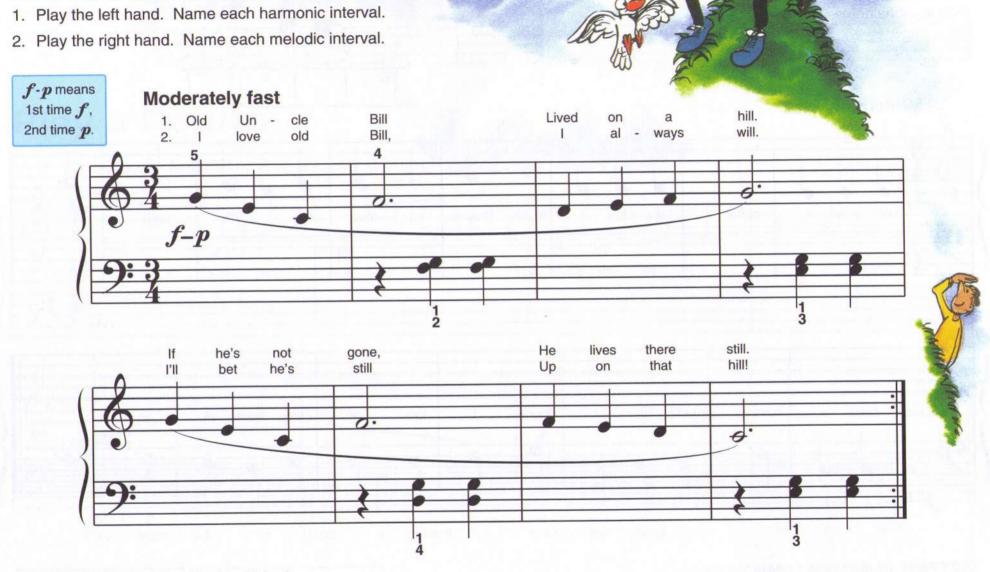






Old Uncle Bill

Before playing hands together:



DUET PART (Student plays 1 octave higher.)



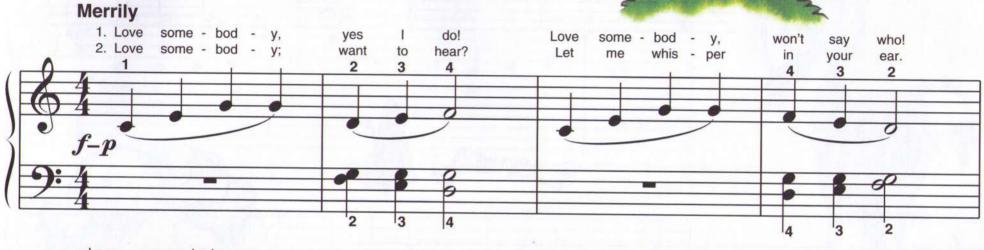
Before playing hands together:

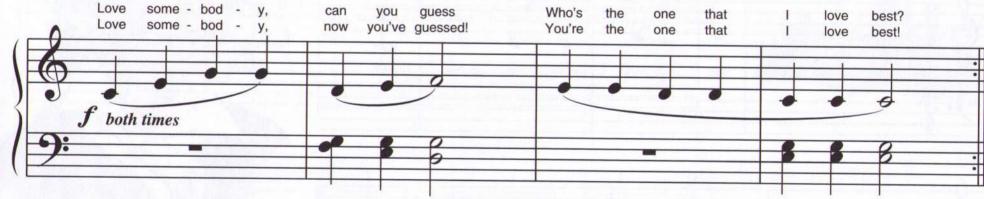
- 1. Play the left hand. Name each harmonic interval.
- 2. Play the right hand. Name each melodic interval.

This is a **SEMIBREVE OR WHOLE REST.**

It means REST FOR THE VALUE of a SEMIBREVE or any WHOLE BAR.

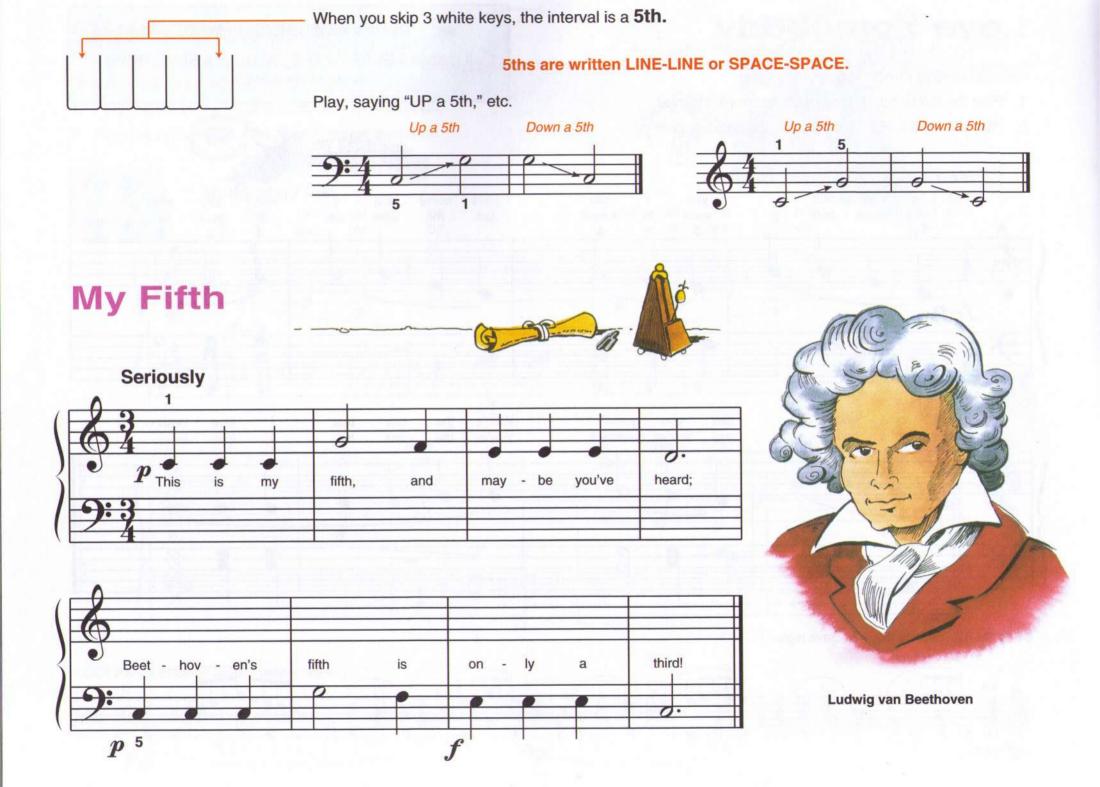






DUET PART (Student plays 1 octave higher.)





The Donkey

Before playing hands together, play LH alone, naming each harmonic interval.





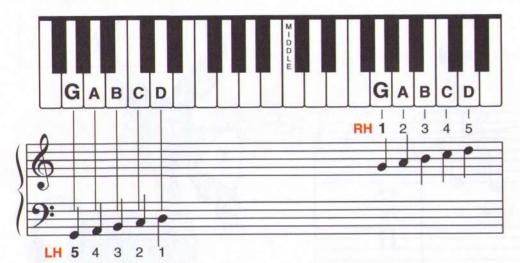




TEACHER'S NOTE: THE DONKEY may be played as a ROUND for 2 or 3 pianos. The 2nd piano begins after the 1st has played 4 bars. The 3rd piano begins after the 2nd has played 4 bars. Play 4 times.

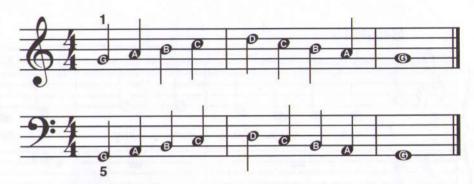
-

Playing in G Position

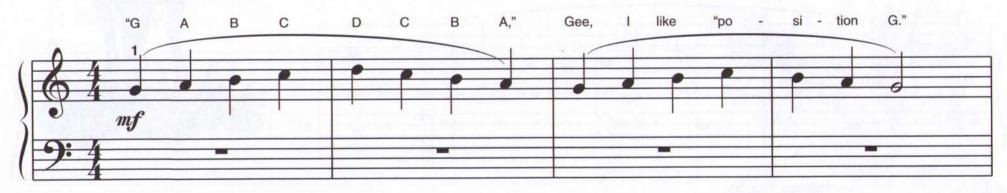


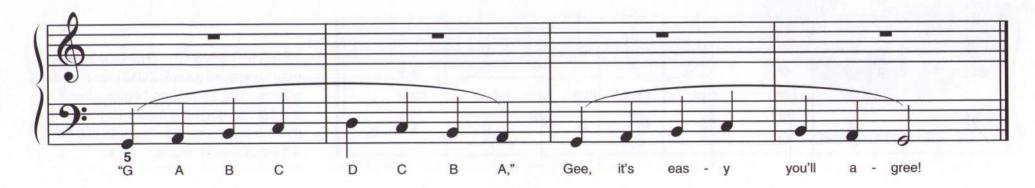


Play & say the note names.



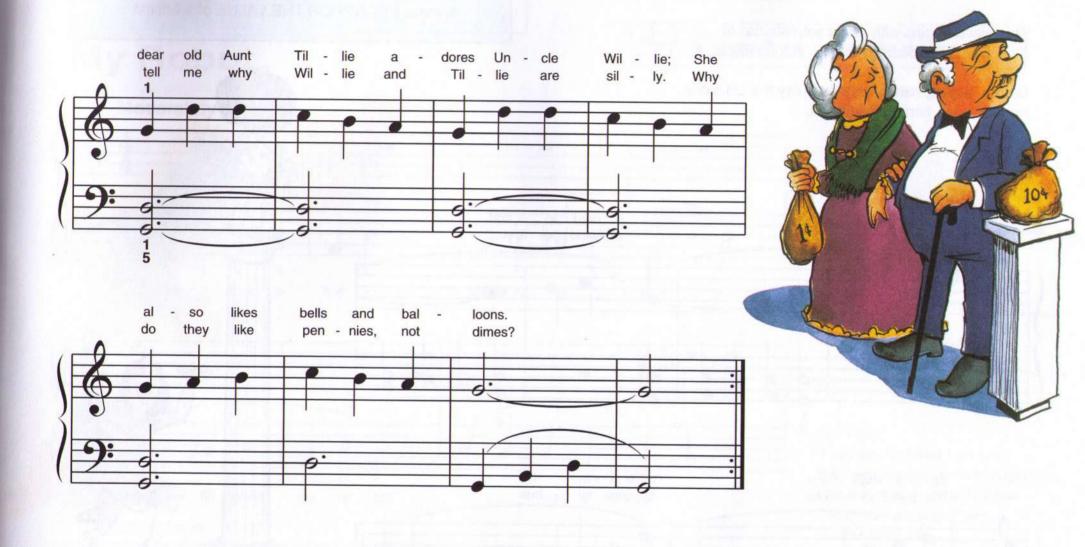
"Position G"







Willie & Tillie **INCOMPLETE BAR** Some pieces begin with an INCOMPLETE BAR. The first (A RIDDLE) bar in this piece has only 1 count. The 2 missing counts are found in the last bar! When you repeat the whole song, you will have one whole bar of 3 counts when you play the last bar plus the first bar. **G POSITION** Cheerfully mf Til - lie; Wil dear old Aunt He My old Un cle loves But rid - dles, 2. They're both puz - zles and fond fid - dles and And Now mf ble dou bas soons. likes bass es and rhymes. for for nev er cared much games



For the answer, turn the book upside down.

A Friend Like You

This piece begins with an incomplete bar of 3 counts. The missing count is in the last bar.

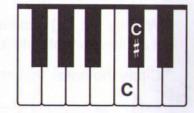
Before playing hands together, play the LH alone,

This is a MINIM OR HALF REST. It means REST FOR THE VALUE of a MINIM.





The SHARP SIGN before a note means play the next key to the RIGHT, whether BLACK or WHITE.

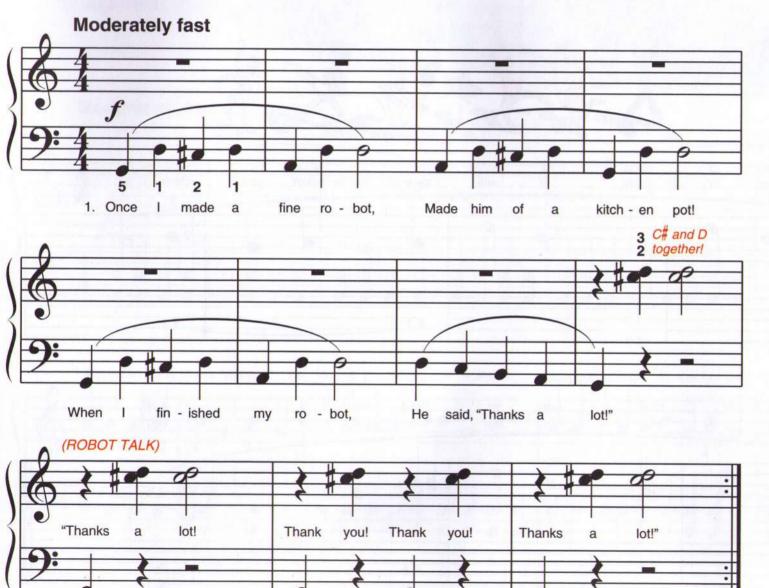


When a sharp () appears before a note, it applies to that note for the rest of the bar.

Circle the notes that are SHARP:



My Robot





"Hope you don't think I am rude, But please bring me something good. Pots are programmed to hold food. Bring me all you've got!" "Thanks a lot!" etc.

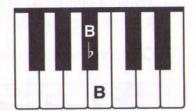
3rd Verse

If you make a new robot,
Please don't use a kitchen pot.
He'll eat all the food you've got,
And say, "Thanks a lot!"
"Thanks a lot!" etc.

3rd time gradually dying away -----

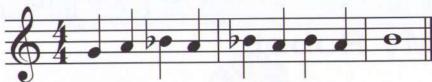
00

The FLAT SIGN before a note means play the next key to the LEFT, whether BLACK or WHITE.



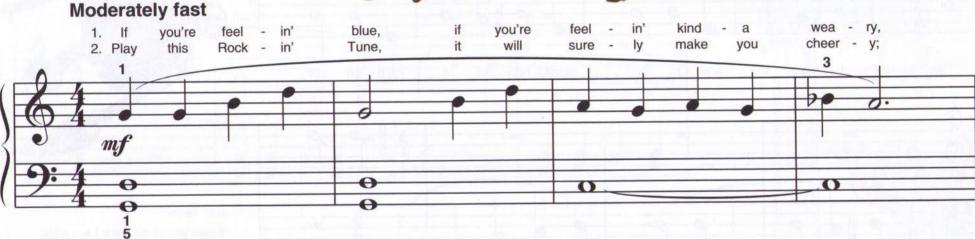
When a flat () appears before a note, it applies to that note for the rest of the bar.

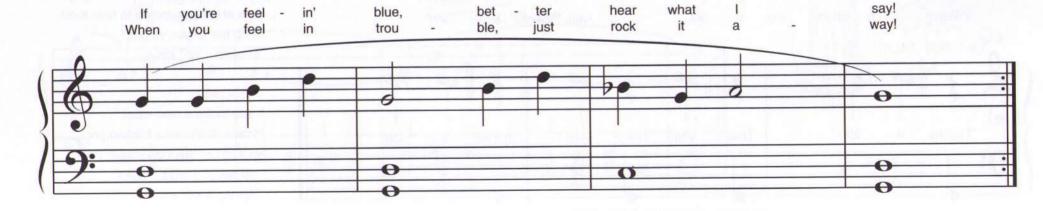
Circle the notes that are FLAT:



Rockin' Tune









Staccato Playing

STACCATO means SEPARATED or DETACHED.

STACCATO is the opposite of LEGATO.

To play STACCATO, release the key the instant you play it.

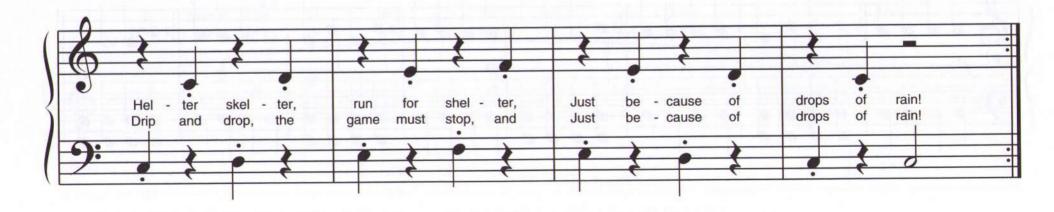
STACCATO is indicated by a DOT over or under the note.

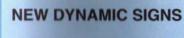
Raindrops

C POSITION REVIEW









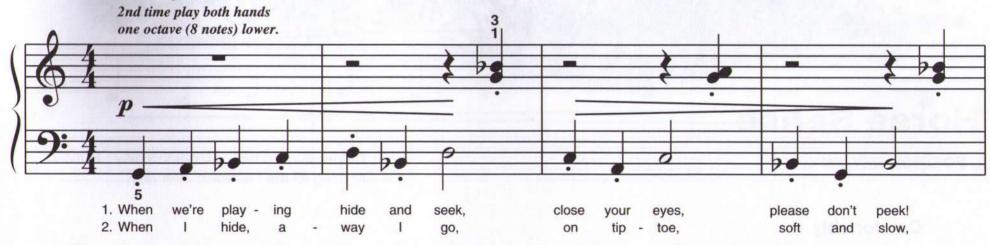
CRESCENDO (gradually louder)

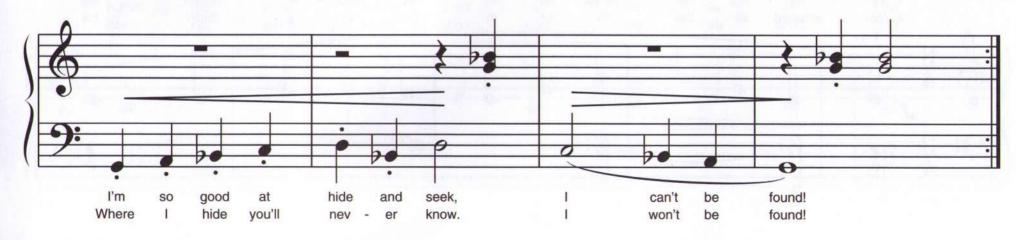
DIMINUENDO (gradually softer)

Hide and Seek

G POSITION

Moderately slow



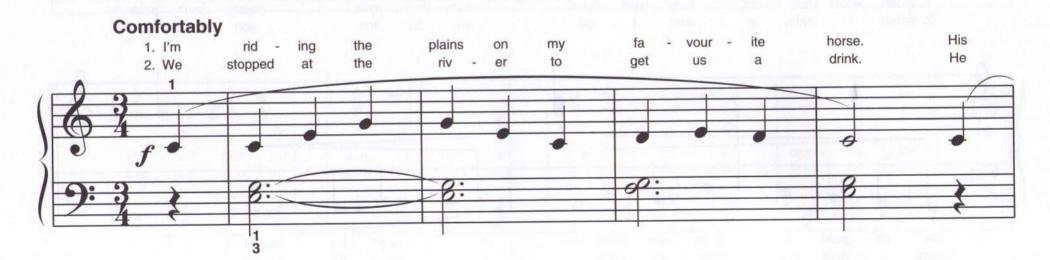


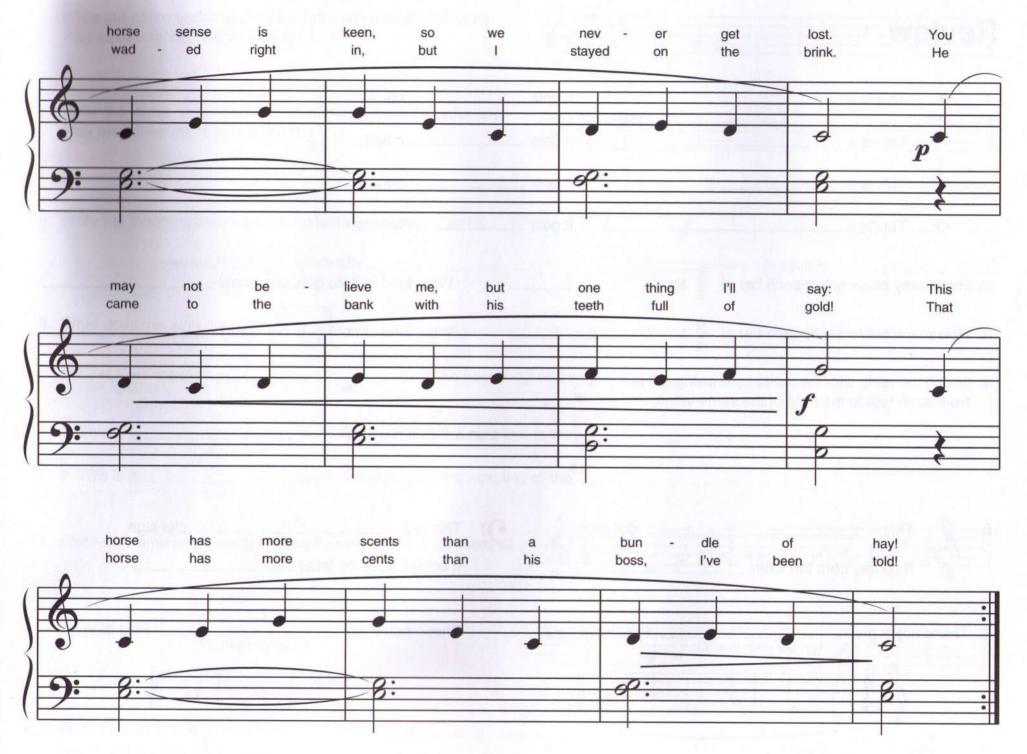


Horse Sense

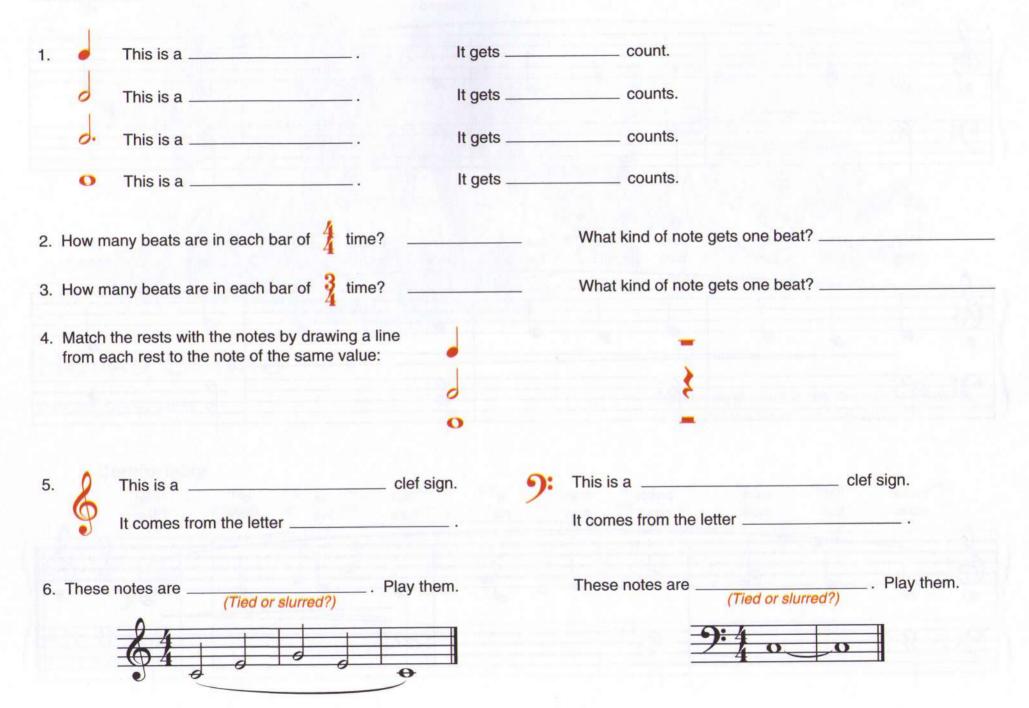
C POSITION REVIEW

Before playing hands together, play LH alone, naming all the harmonic intervals!





Review



staccato

legato

7.	Write the name under each of the following melodic intervals. Play each interval. Begin with RH 1.
	Write the name under each of the following harmonic intervals. Play each interval. Begin with LH 1 2
8.	Write the meaning after each of the following dynamic signs: gradually gradually gradually
9.	What does this sign mean?
	D.C. al Fine means from the beginning and stop at the
10.	This is a sign. It means play the next key to the
	This is a sign. It means play the next key to the
11.	Write the name under each of the following notes. Play them all.
	9:4
12.	Which of the following means smoothly connected?

Which means separated or detached?

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Willard A. Palmer · Morton Manus · Amanda Vick Lethco

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