

FOREWORD

This course is for the older student of ANY age. It includes the ten year old who is too far advanced mentally to play pieces with childish titles; the ADULT of any age from ten on who never had lessons; and the person who studied in childhood and now needs a refresher course.

The method is designed for those who want to do more than fit a melody to a few chords learned by rote. It teaches the student to READ music so that he will be able to play "on his own".

Good sight reading habits are developed throughout the book. Following the psychological and pedagogical principle of proceeding from the "KNOWN to the UNKNOWN" the pupil plays many chords and intervals before analyzing them.

While the older student is capable of greater comprehension than the younger, he often lacks coordination and manual dexterity. To overcome this, it is advisable to use the additional technical material found in "Keyboard Technic," a book he will be capable of beginning when he reaches page ten of this book. "Keyboard Technic" also qualifies itself as a *second* technic book for the younger beginner, and with any piano course.


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NOTE VALUES

We know, in the songs we sing, that some tones are held longer than others. To show exactly how long each tone is to be held, we use different kinds of notes.

Here are three of them:

Whole note 

Half note 

Quarter note 

Four quarters = a whole.



Two quarters = a half.



Two halves = a whole.



TIME SIGNATURE

The numbers that appear on the staff at the beginning of a piece of music ($\frac{4}{4}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{2}{4}$ etc.) are called the TIME SIGNATURE.



The top number gives the number of beats in a measure - (four beats).

The bottom number tells what kind of note gets one beat - (a quarter).

PLAY AND COUNT

Four beats in a measure

one measure

Count: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

$\text{♩} = 1 \text{ beat}$
 $\text{♪} = 2 \text{ beats}$
 $\text{♩} = 4 \text{ beats}$

Three beats in a measure

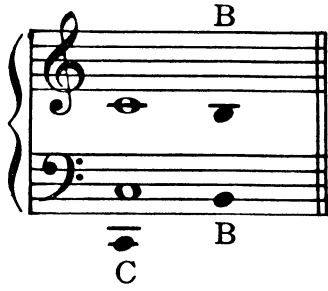
1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3

Two beats in a measure

1 2 1 2

THREE NEW NOTES

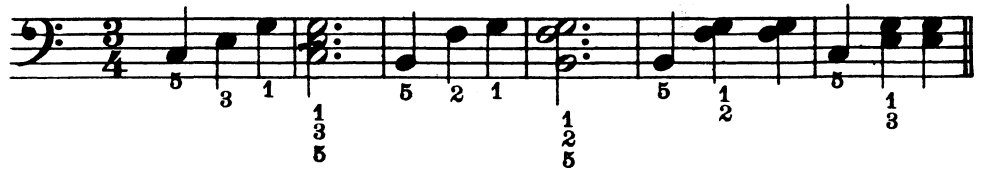
Locate them on the keyboard.



Once the right hand is in position, play this without looking at the keys. Observe the fingering.



Chord exercise for the left hand



A GERMAN FOLK SONG

A musical score for a German folk song in 3/4 time. The score is written for piano and consists of four systems of music. The first system starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The second system ends with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and fingering numbers. The piece concludes with a final cadence.