

John Thompson's
Easiest Piano Course

PART ONE

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FOREWORD

PURPOSE

This Course is designed to present the easiest possible approach to Piano Playing.

Part One is devoted to developing fluency in reading by note, solving a problem that still seems to rate as "Musical Enemy, Number One" with most young students.

The Work Sheets together with the Reading Aloud Exercises, appearing frequently, afford plenty of drill even for the backward student.

SCOPE

The range covered in Part One is purposely limited. Only five notes up and five notes down from Middle C are presented and Time Values do not go beyond Crotchets. This makes it possible to include many examples in the form of Review Work and obviates the necessity of using supplementary material. In short, each book of the Course is complete in itself and contains its own Writing Exercises, Sight Reading Drills, Review Work and (in later books) Technical Studies.

ACCOMPANIMENTS

Accompaniments for teacher or parent are supplied with most of the examples. They have been carefully composed to make the little pieces sound as much as possible like fragments from larger compositions. Valuable in several ways, they not only make it possible to play in various keys, avoiding the deadly monotony of C major, but their use imposes strict Time and sharp Rhythm, especially when they are played with somewhat vigorous accents, thus helping the pupil to "feel" the rhythm from the very beginning.

GRADING

The Books in this Course do not represent any certain grade. They simply follow in proper sequence as Part One, Part Two, Part Three, etc. Nor are the Lessons measured page by page. Some pupils will master several pages per lesson—others only one. The Course progresses "Point by Point" rather than "Lesson by Lesson," and it is left to the teacher (who, after all, is the only one qualified) to decide how much or how little each pupil can absorb in one lesson.

PART TWO

Part Two proceeds from the exact point reached at the end of Part One. New Notes, Time-Values and Rudiments are presented. Technique also begins in Part Two—first in the form of simple Finger Drills and later, more extended technical figures. Part Two remains in what is generally classified as Preparatory Grade.

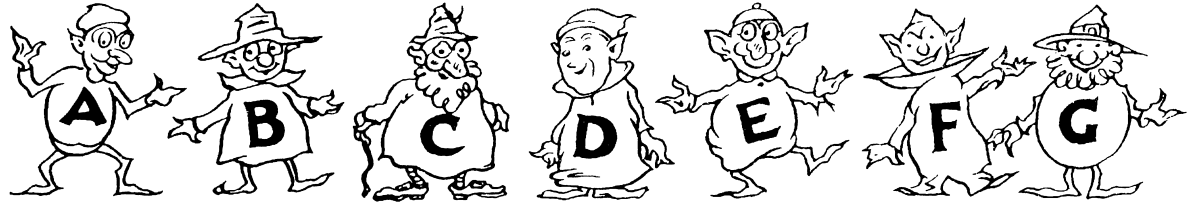
The prime objective of the entire Course is to show *how easily, thoroughly, entertainingly and musically*—rather than *how fast*—each pupil can progress.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Thompson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom right of the page.

THE PIANO KEYBOARD

There are WHITE KEYS and BLACK KEYS on the Piano Keyboard.

The WHITE KEYS are named



Recite the letters of the Musical Alphabet several times.

The BLACK KEYS are grouped in TWOS and THREES.

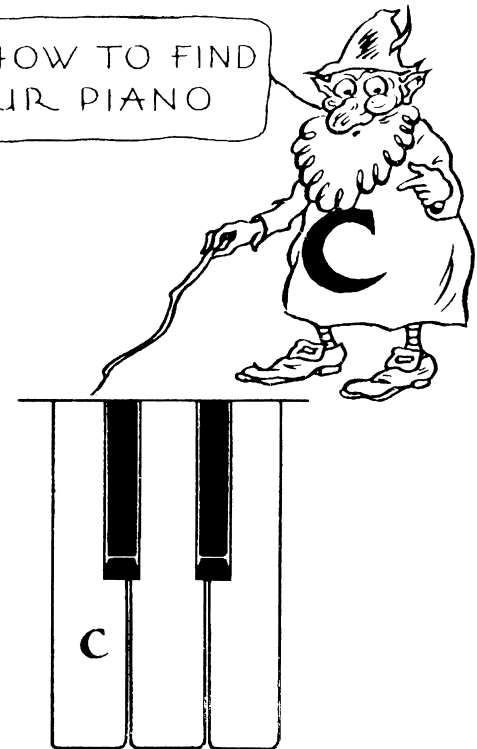
Touch all the groups of TWO BLACK KEYS on your piano.

C is found to the left of the TWO BLACK KEYS.

Letter all the C's you can find on the Keyboard Chart, next page.

Now, on your piano, PLAY all the C's you can find—using the thumb.

THIS IS HOW TO FIND
C ON YOUR PIANO



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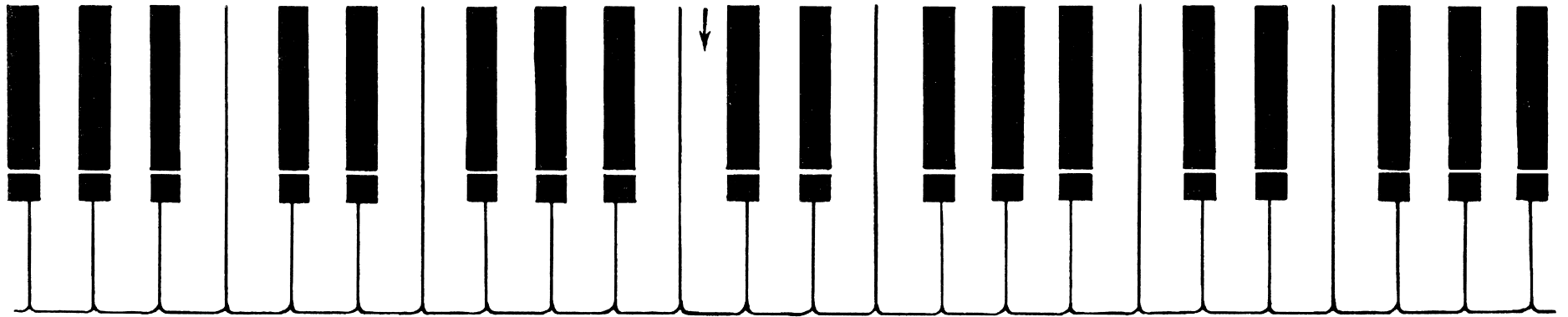
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KEYBOARD CHART

(A section of the Keyboard)

MIDDLE

C

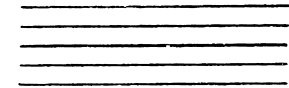


THIS IS A PICTURE OF PART OF YOUR KEYBOARD ~ AS YOU LEARN THE NAME OF EACH NEW KEY, TURN BACK TO THIS PAGE AND MARK **ALL** THE KEYS HAVING THE SAME NAME.

MIDDLE C ON THE MUSIC

Music is written on the LINES and SPACES of the STAFF.

The Staff



The NOTES on the Music tell us which KEYS to play.

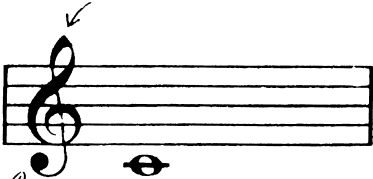
There are different kinds of Notes, but first we shall learn the SEMIBREVE.

A SEMIBREVE looks like this, 

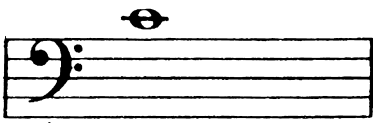
It is held for FOUR COUNTS.

Clef Signs

Treble Clef sign

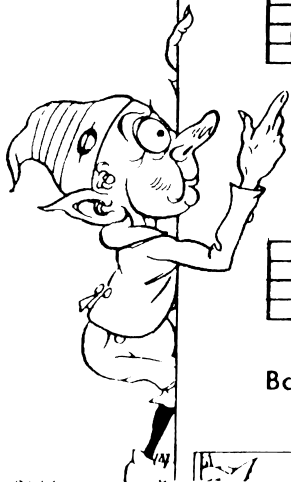



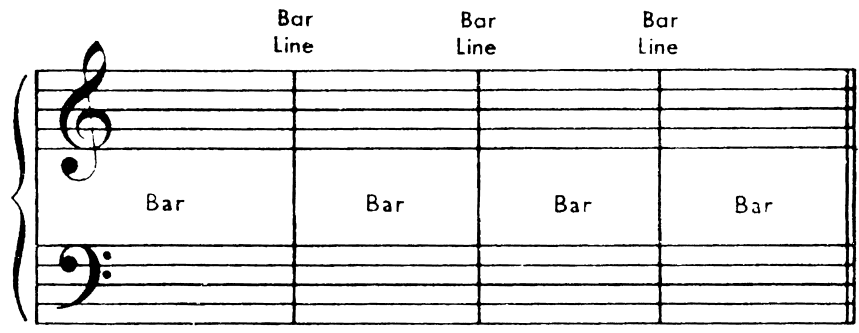
Bass Clef sign



This is how MIDDLE C looks in the Treble.
It is written as a SEMIBREVE, and gets *four counts*.
It is played by the RIGHT HAND thumb.
Play it and count FOUR.

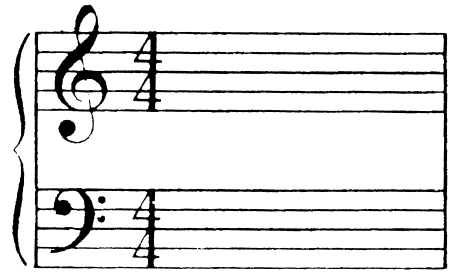
This is how MIDDLE C looks in the Bass.
Written as a SEMIBREVE, it gets *four counts*.
It is played by the LEFT HAND thumb.
Play it and count FOUR.



The figures after the Clef Signs tell us how to count.
 In this book we need only read the top figure.
 It shows how many counts to each bar.

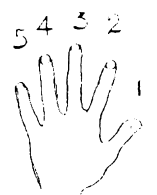
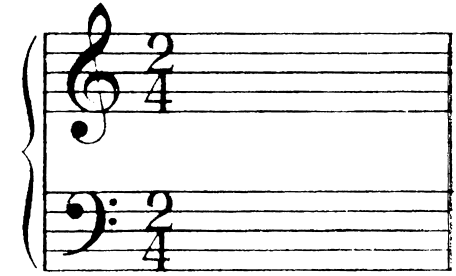
Count 4 to each bar



Count 3 to each bar



Count 2 to each bar



Left Hand

Each finger has a number. The thumbs are number 1.

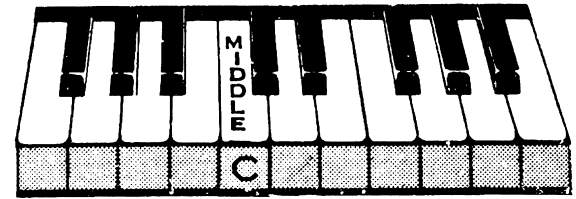
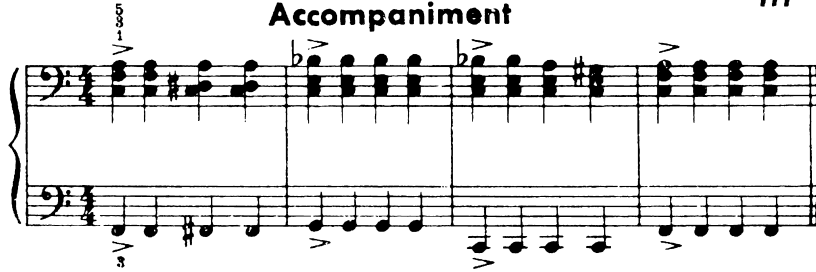


Right Hand

Middle C as a Semibreve

In the Treble

Accompaniment

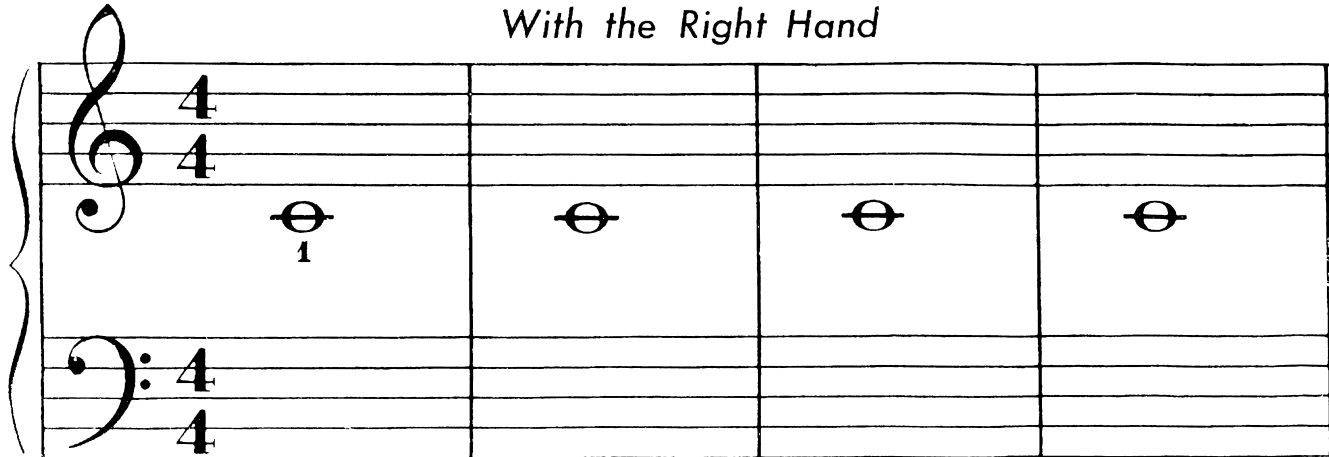


PLAY WITH RIGHT HAND THUMB
COUNT FOUR TO EACH NOTE



Let's Play

With the Right Hand

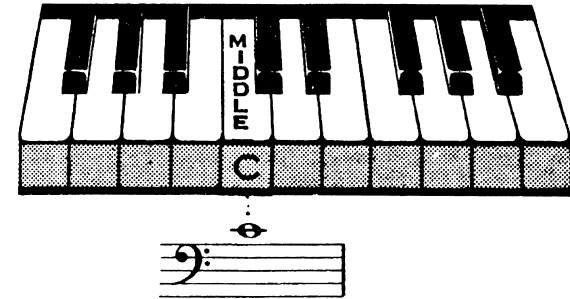


Middle C as a Semibreve

In the Bass

Accompaniment

Musical notation for accompaniment in 4/4 time. The right hand (R.H.) part is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four measures of music, each containing a half note chord. The left hand (L.H.) part is written on a bass clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four measures of music, each containing a half note chord. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes.





Let's Play
With the Left Hand

Musical staff for left hand practice in 4/4 time. The staff is divided into four measures. The first measure has a semibreve note on the second line of the bass clef. The other three measures are empty. The time signature is 4/4.



PLAY WITH
LEFT HAND THUMB,
COUNT FOUR
TO EACH NOTE

Middle C in Minims

When a Note has an open head and a stem, like this, ( or ) it is called a MINIM and gets two counts.

Play the following, counting TWO to each note—"ONE, TWO" to the first note and "THREE, FOUR" to the second note of each bar.



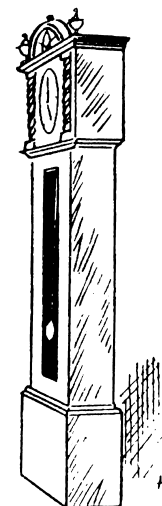
COUNT FOUR TO EACH BAR.

Grandfather's Clock



Count: One-Two Three-Four

Accompaniment

stacc.



Middle C in Crotchets

A CROTCHET looks like this ( or ) and gets one count.



Moccasin Dance

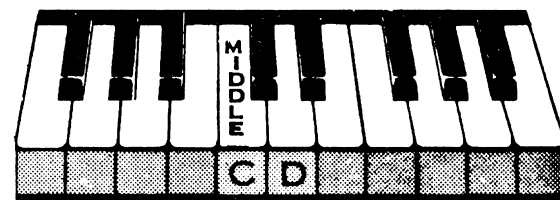
Count: One Two Three Four

Accompaniment



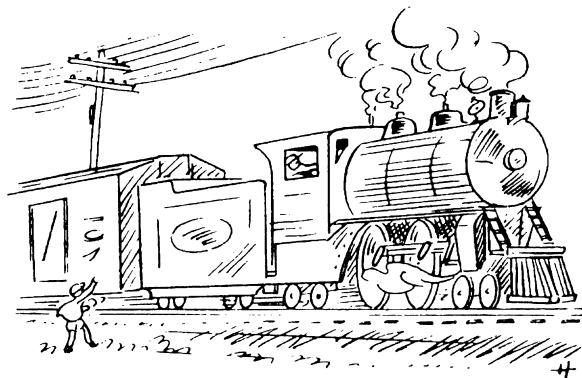
Accompaniment

Musical score for accompaniment in 4/4 time. The right hand plays a melody with dynamics *sf*, *sf sf sf sf sf sf sf*, and *mp*. The left hand plays a bass line with eighth notes and rests.



R. H. New Note

The Train



Musical score for "The Train" in 4/4 time. The right hand has a melody with notes on the first and second lines of the treble clef. The left hand has a bass line with notes on the first and second lines of the bass clef. A small figure is drawn on the second line of the bass clef.

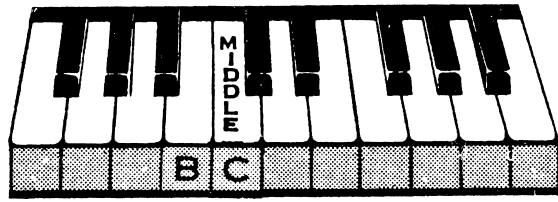
Empty musical staves for practice, consisting of a grand staff with treble and bass clefs.



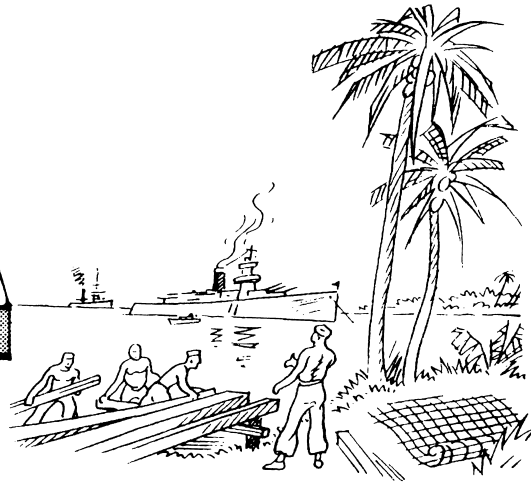
TURN TO THE WORK SHEET ON PAGE 15 AND DO EXERCISES 1 AND 2

Note to Teacher

From this point on, be sure to stress the importance of accenting the first count of each bar.



L. H. New Note



Accompaniment

The Seabées



DO WRITING EXERCISES
3, 4 AND 5
ON PAGE 15 ✓

SEABÉES: A descriptive word-play on the U.S. Navy's CONSTRUCTION BATTALION who are busy as bees when tackling a difficult task.



Write the letter names under the notes.

1

C

Write the new note (D) as indicated.

2

Semibreve Two Minims Four Crotchets

Write the letter names under the notes.

3

C

Write the new note (B) as indicated.

4

Semibreve Two Minims Four Crotchets

In the following exercise, first draw the Bar Lines where they belong. (note Time Signature).

Next write the letter names of the notes.

Finally, mark the Time Values—using 1 for a Crotchet, 2 for a Minim and 4 for a Semibreve.

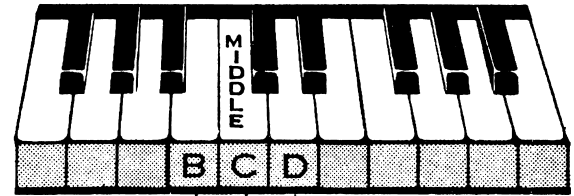
5

Letter Names C

Time Values 2

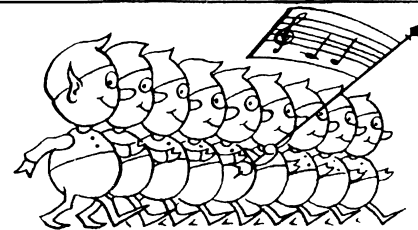
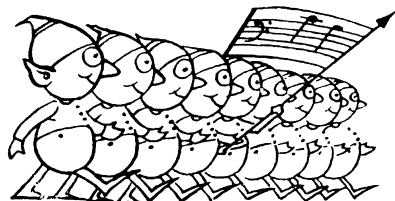
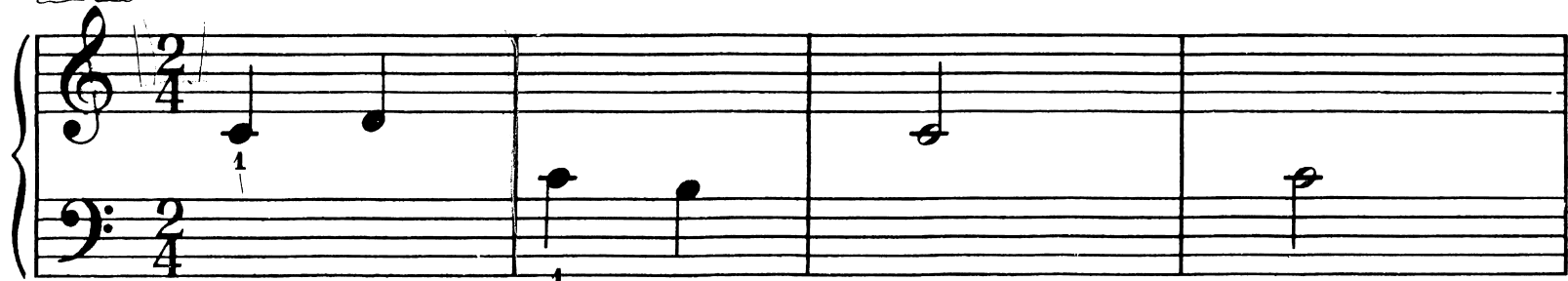
Accompaniment

TWO-FOUR



COUNT TWO
TO EACH
BAR.

March of the Gnomes



THREE-FOUR and The Dotted Minim

The dotted minim.
looks like this (♩· or ♩·)
and is held for 3 counts.



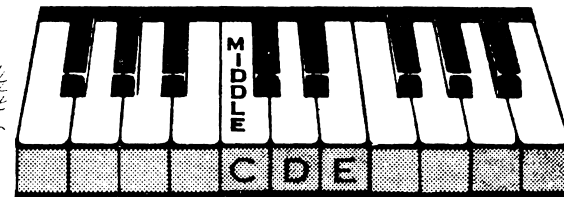
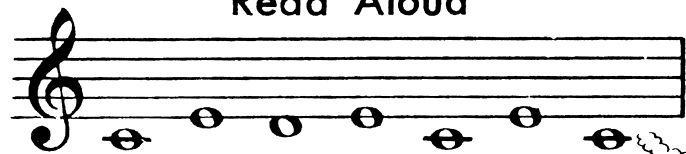

COUNT 3 TO
EACH BAR.

Dance of the Gnomes

DOTTED MINIM/
HOLD FOR 3 COUNTS

See the importance of correct counting? These are the same notes you played in "March of the Gnomes" but they make a new piece when you count 3 to each bar.

Read Aloud

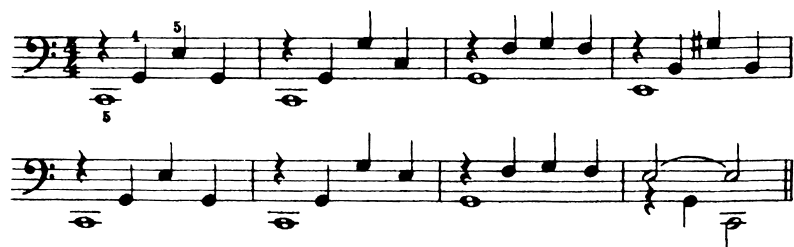


Mary Had a Little Lamb



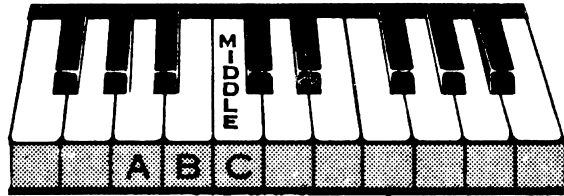
Write the new note (E) below.

Accompaniment



	Semibreve	Minim	Dotted Minim	Crotchet

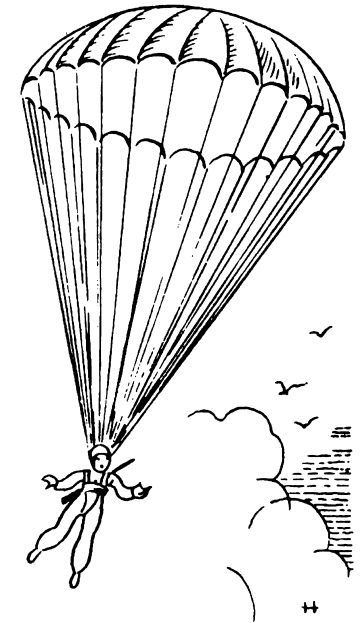
Accompaniment



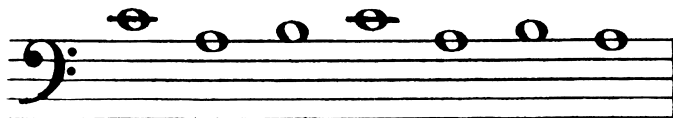
New Note



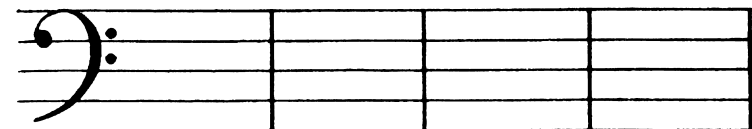
The Paratrooper



Read Aloud



Write the new note (A) below.



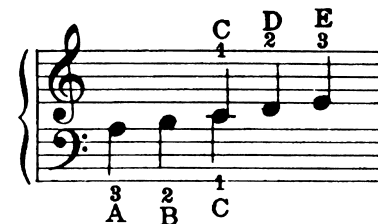
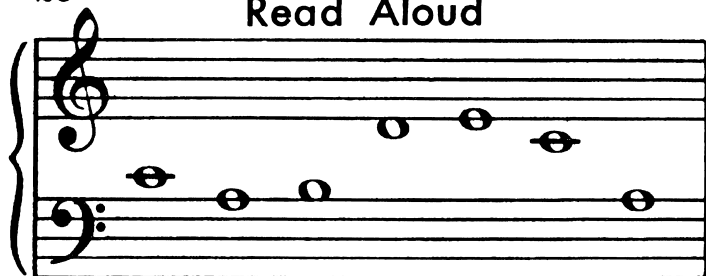
Semibreve

Minim

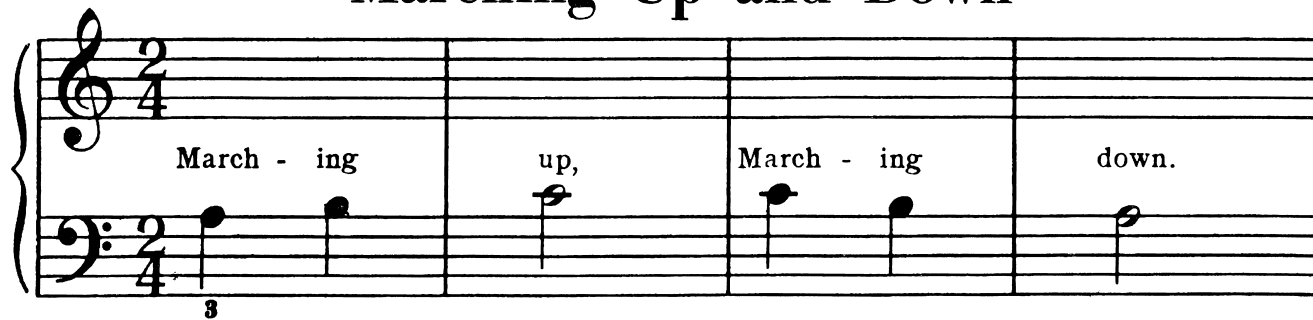
Dotted Minim

Crotchet

Read Aloud



Marching Up and Down



Accompaniment



Rag-Time Raggles



The first system of musical notation, consisting of a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The time signature is 4/4. The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. The bass clef is empty.

The second system of musical notation, consisting of a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The time signature is 4/4. The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes D5, E5, F5, and G5. The bass clef contains a sequence of notes: quarter notes G3, A3, B3, and C4, followed by two half notes D4 and E4.

The third system of musical notation, consisting of a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The time signature is 4/4. The melody in the treble clef continues with quarter notes F5, E5, D5, C5, B4, A4, and G4. The bass clef contains a sequence of notes: quarter notes G3, A3, B3, and C4, followed by two half notes D4 and E4.

Accompaniment

The accompaniment section, consisting of two staves in 4/4 time. The upper staff is a bass clef with a sequence of notes: quarter notes G3, A3, B3, and C4, followed by two half notes D4 and E4. The lower staff is a bass clef with a sequence of notes: quarter notes G3, A3, B3, and C4, followed by two half notes D4 and E4. There are some fingerings and dynamics markings, including a '5' above the first note and a '2' below the second note in the upper staff, and a '5' below the first note and a '2' below the second note in the lower staff.

Work Sheet

FIRST, LOOK AT THE TIME SIGNATURES
NEXT, DRAW BAR LINES IN THEIR
PROPER PLACES - THEN, WRITE THE
LETTER-NAMES UNDER THE NOTES



Musical staff 1: Treble clef, 2/4 time signature. Notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.

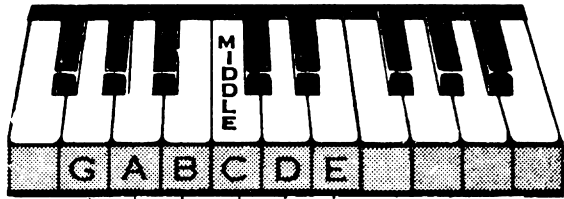
Musical staff 2: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. Notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.

Musical staff 3: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.

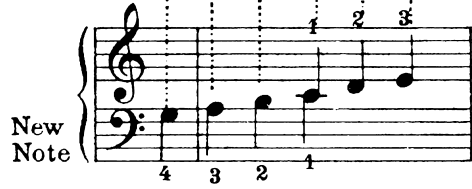
Musical staff 4: Bass clef, 2/4 time signature. Notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3.

Musical staff 5: Bass clef, 3/4 time signature. Notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3.

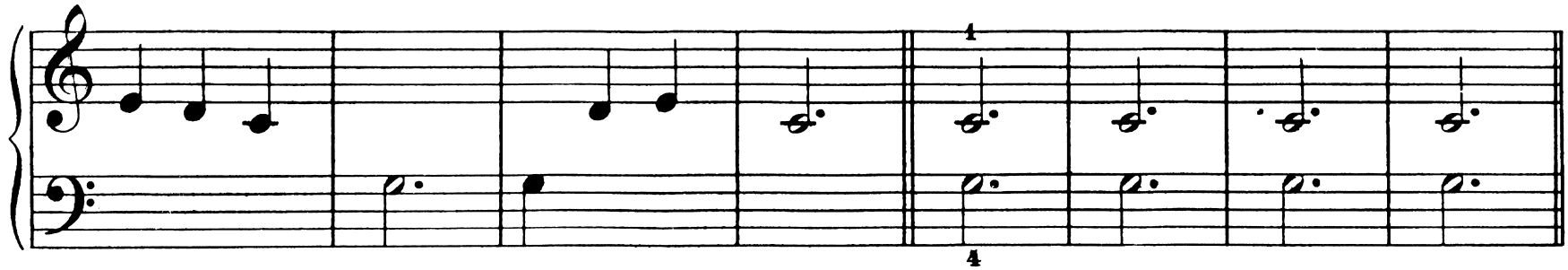
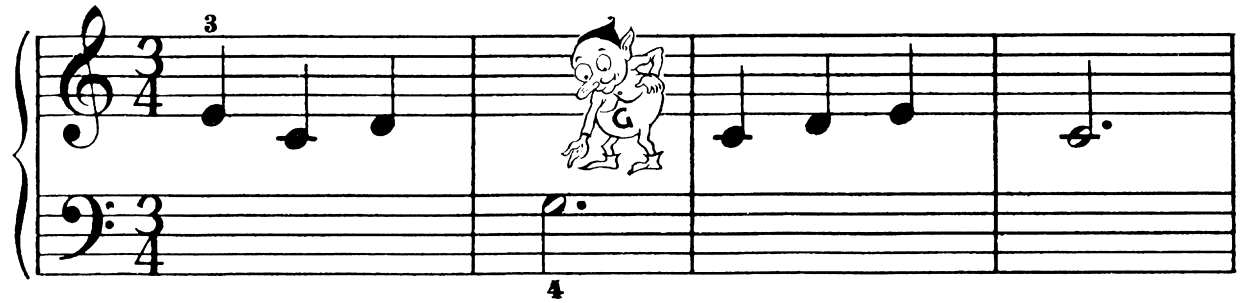
Musical staff 6: Bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3.



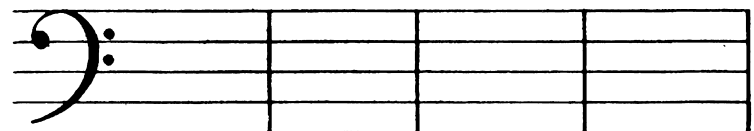
Read Aloud



The Chimes



Write the new note (G) below.



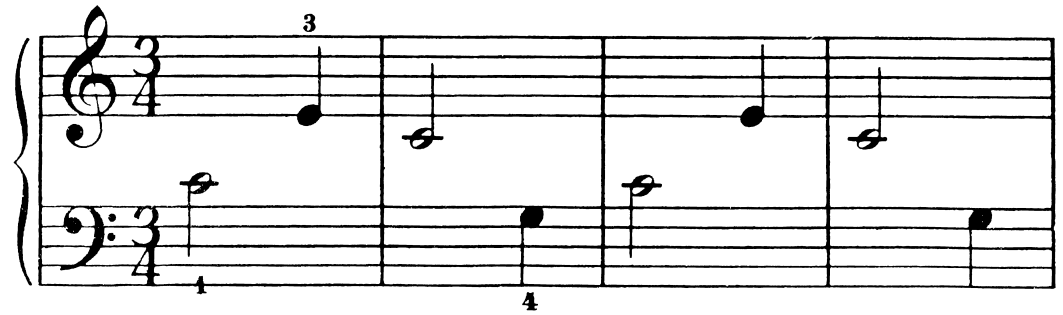
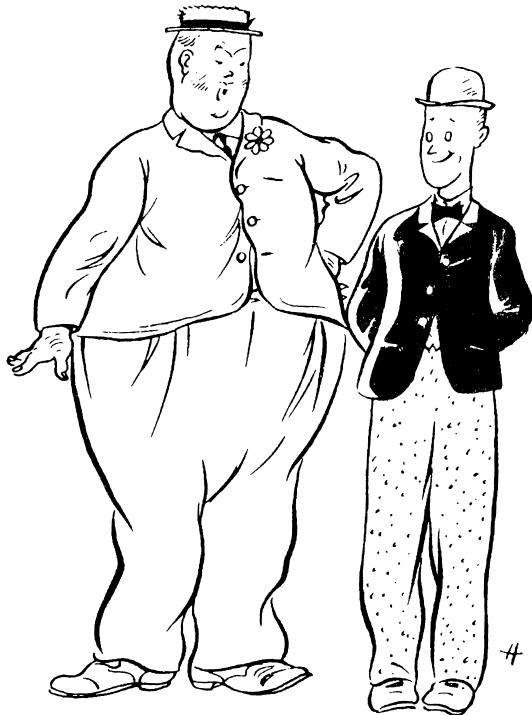
Semibreve

Minim

Dotted Minim

Crotchet

Funny Faces



Read Aloud

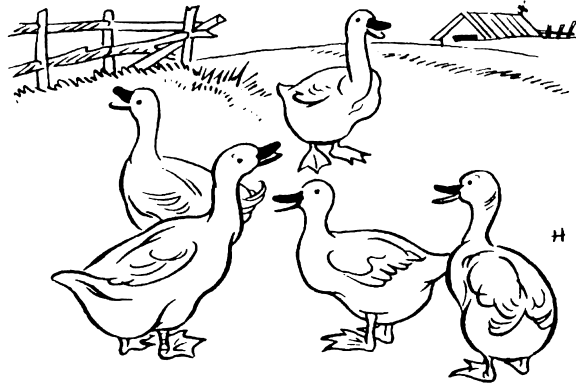


Read Aloud

25



Old MacDonald



Old Mac-Don-ald had a farm, Ee-eye, Ee-eye, oh! And

on this farm he had some ducks Ee-eye, Ee-eye, oh! Quack,Quack,here Quack,Quack,there

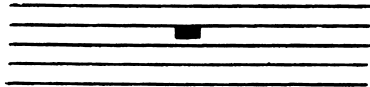
Ev - 'ry - where a Quack,Quack,Quack, Old Mac-Don-ald had a farm Ee-eye, Ee-eye, oh!

RESTS

RESTS are signs of silence. Each kind of Note has a Rest Sign of equal value.



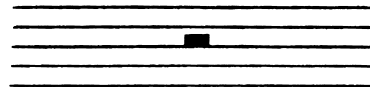
SEMIBREVE



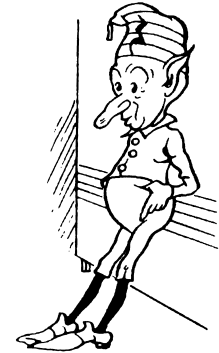
A whole bar's rest



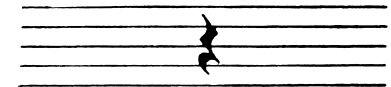
MINIM



Gets 2 counts



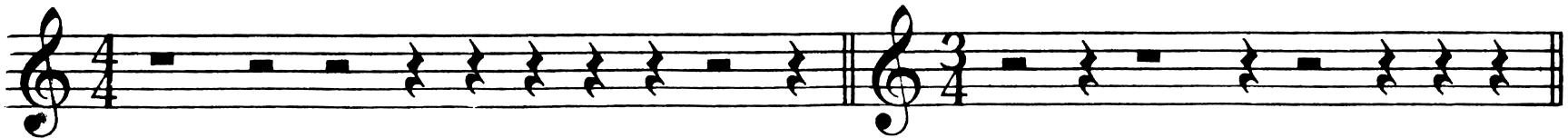
CROTCHET



Gets 1 count



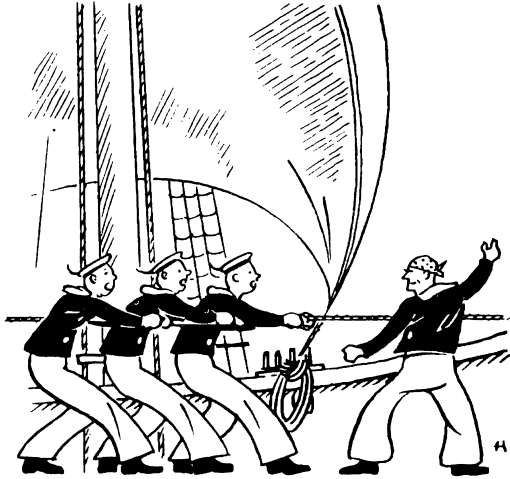
DRAW THE BAR LINES IN THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLE, SO THAT EACH BAR WILL HAVE THE NUMBER OF SILENT COUNTS SHOWN IN THE TIME SIGNATURE.



Accompaniment to

"BLOW THE MAN DOWN" (next page)





Blow the Man Down

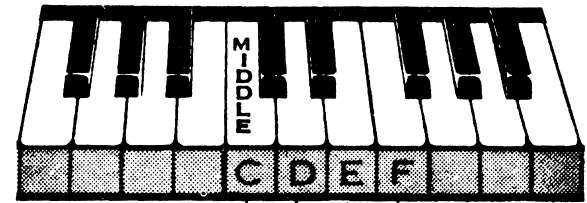
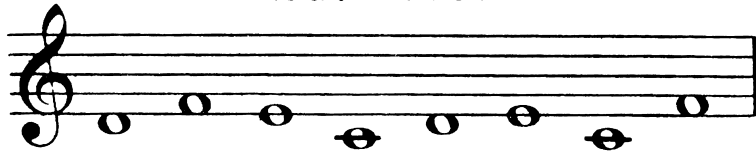
The first system of musical notation for the song. It consists of a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The time signature is 3/4. The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass line starts with a quarter note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, and C3. There are fermatas over the final notes of both staves. A finger number '2' is written above the first measure of the treble staff.

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody from the first system. The treble staff has a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass staff has a quarter note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, and C3. There are fermatas over the final notes of both staves. Finger numbers '1' and '3' are written below the first and third measures of the bass staff, respectively.

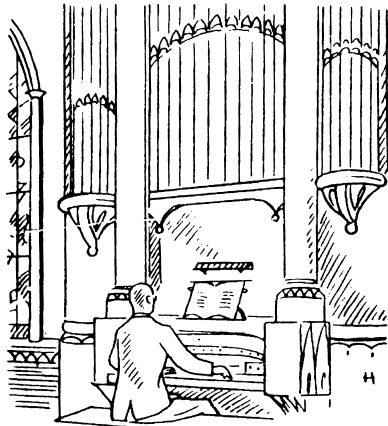
The third system of musical notation. It continues the melody from the second system. The treble staff has a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass staff has a quarter note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, and C3. There are fermatas over the final notes of both staves. A finger number '3' is written above the first measure of the treble staff.

See Accompaniment on opposite page.

Read Aloud



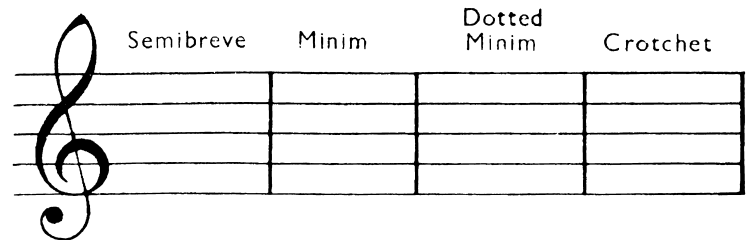
The Church Organ



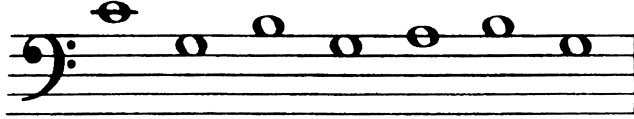
Accompaniment



Write the new note (F) below.



Read Aloud



Read Aloud



Yankee Doodle

Yan - kee Doo - dle came to town a - rid - ing on a po - ny, They

stuck a feath - er in his hat and called him Mac - a - ro - ni.

Carry Me Back to Old Virginy

James A. Bland



3

Car - ry me back to old Vir - gin - ny.

3

There's where the cot - ton and the corn and 'ta - toes grow, There's where the birds war - ble

sweet in the spring-time, There's where the old dar - key's heart am longed to go.


Accompaniment

3 4 5 3 2 1. 2.

1 5 2 3 5




THE TIE



When two notes are tied together, the second note is not struck but held for its full value.

The Old Cotton Picker

Tie



Pick - in' cot-ton, I've not for - got-ten, The hours I've spent in the sun.



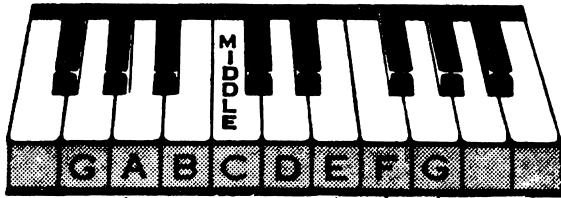
Bend - in' o - ver, you're not in clo-ver, The work is no - bod-y's fun.

Accompaniment



R. H. 5 5 4 3 4 5 2 4 1

L. H. 2 1 2 3 2 5 2



New Note

Write the two G's you have learned

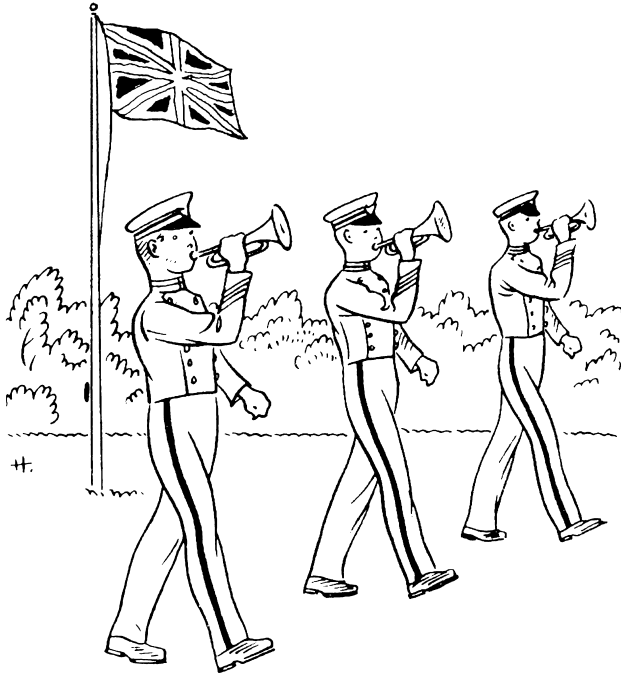


Theme from "New World" Symphony

Anton Dvořák

Accompaniment

Bugles!



The first system of musical notation for 'Bugles!'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is 4/4. The treble staff begins with a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first measure contains a quarter note G5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note C5. The second measure contains a quarter note G5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note C5. The third measure contains a quarter note G5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note C5. The fourth measure contains a quarter note G5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note C5. The bass staff contains a series of quarter notes: G2, E2, C2, G2, E2, C2, G2, E2, C2, G2, E2, C2. Above the first measure of the treble staff are the numbers 5, 3, and 1, indicating fingerings for the notes G5, E5, and C5 respectively.

The second system of musical notation for 'Bugles!'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is 4/4. The treble staff begins with a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first measure contains a quarter note G5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note C5. The second measure contains a quarter note G5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note C5. The third measure contains a quarter note G5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note C5. The fourth measure contains a quarter note G5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note C5. The bass staff contains a series of quarter notes: G2, E2, C2, G2, E2, C2, G2, E2, C2, G2, E2, C2. Below the fourth measure of the bass staff is the number 4, indicating a fingering for the note G2.

The third system of musical notation for 'Bugles!'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is 4/4. The treble staff begins with a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first measure contains a quarter note G5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note C5. The second measure contains a quarter note G5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note C5. The third measure contains a quarter note G5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note C5. The fourth measure contains a quarter note G5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note C5. The fifth measure contains a quarter note G5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note C5. The sixth measure contains a quarter note G5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note C5. The seventh measure contains a quarter note G5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note C5. The eighth measure contains a quarter note G5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note C5. The bass staff contains a series of quarter notes: G2, E2, C2, G2, E2, C2, G2, E2, C2, G2, E2, C2, G2, E2, C2, G2, E2, C2.



Row, Row

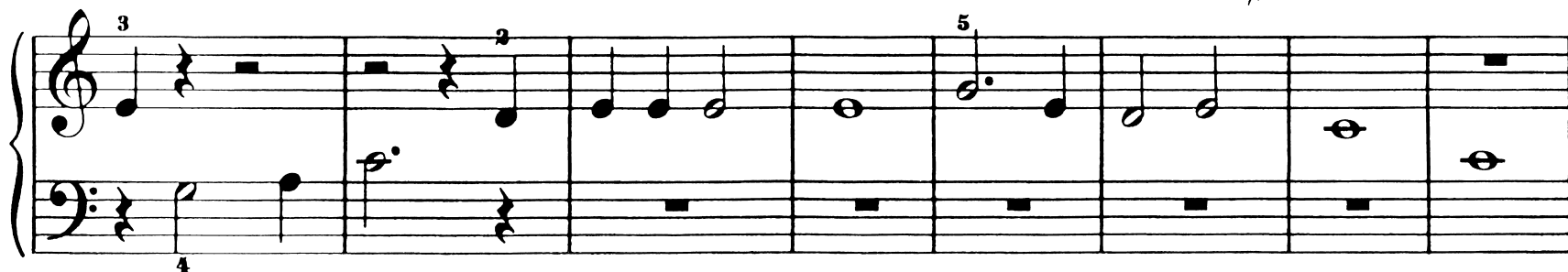
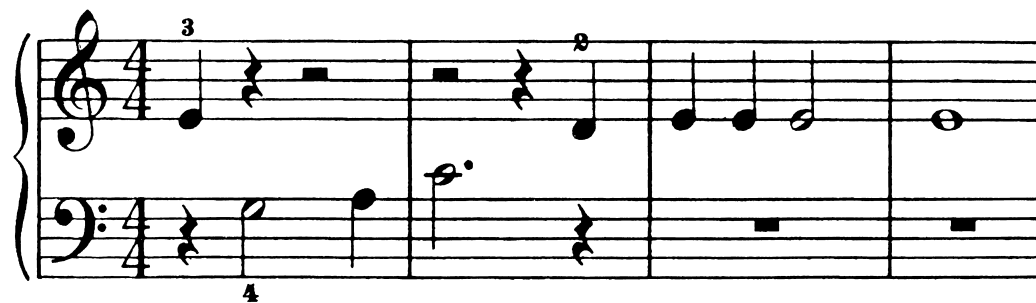
Row, row, row your boat,

Gen - tly down the stream,

Mer - ri - ly, mer - ri - ly, mer - ri - ly oh! Life is but a dream.

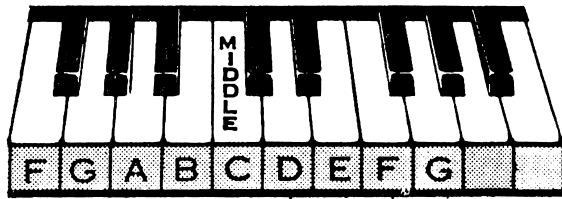
Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen

Spiritual



Accompaniment

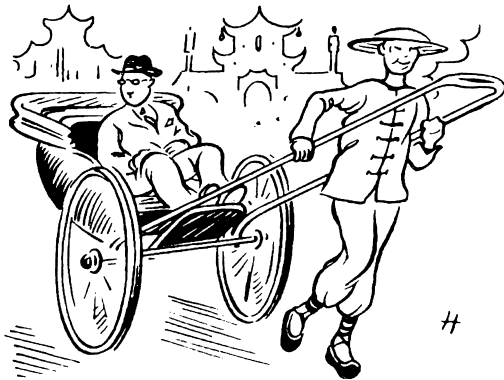




New Note

Write the two **F**'s you have learned

In a Rickshaw





The Banjo Picker

Adapted from
Stephen Foster

The first system of musical notation for 'The Banjo Picker'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is 4/4. The treble staff contains a melody with a whole note in the first measure, followed by quarter notes in the second and third measures, and eighth notes in the fourth and fifth measures. The bass staff contains a bass line with quarter notes in the first two measures and rests in the third, fourth, and fifth measures. Fingerings '5', '3', and '1' are indicated under the first three notes of the bass line. A '4' is written above the second measure of the treble staff.

The second system of musical notation. The treble staff continues the melody with a whole note in the first measure, followed by quarter notes in the second and third measures, and eighth notes in the fourth and fifth measures. The bass staff continues the bass line with quarter notes in the first two measures and rests in the third, fourth, and fifth measures. A '3' is written below the first measure of the bass staff.

The third system of musical notation. The treble staff continues the melody with quarter notes in the first two measures and eighth notes in the third and fourth measures. The bass staff continues the bass line with quarter notes in the first two measures and rests in the third and fourth measures.

Accompaniment

The accompaniment section, consisting of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and shows a rhythmic accompaniment with chords and eighth notes. The bottom staff is in treble clef and shows a melodic accompaniment with eighth notes. There are two first endings marked '1.' and '2.' at the end of the section. Fingerings '4 2' and '5 8' are indicated above the first two measures of the top staff.

Princess Waltz

The first system of musical notation for 'Princess Waltz' consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. It contains six measures of music, with fingerings 3, 5, and 4 indicated above the notes. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains six measures of music, with fingerings 1, 4, and 2 indicated below the notes.

The second system of musical notation for 'Princess Waltz' consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. It contains six measures of music, with fingerings 4 and 2 indicated above the notes. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains six measures of music, with fingerings 4 and 2 indicated below the notes.

The third system of musical notation for 'Princess Waltz' consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. It contains four measures of music, with a fingering of 4 indicated above the notes. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains four measures of music, with fingerings 4 and 2 indicated below the notes.

Accompaniment

The accompaniment section consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. It contains six measures of music, with a fingering of 3 indicated below the notes. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains six measures of music, with fingerings 1, 3, 1, 2, 1, and 2 indicated below the notes.



(Write letter names)

Clap the time (one clap to each count) while reciting the letter-names of the notes.

Afterwards, play the example on your piano, first marking the fingering for each note.



Clap the time and recite the notes as above.

Mark the fingering, then play on the piano.



Certificate of Merit

This certifies that

.....

has successfully completed

PART ONE

OF

**John Thompson's
EASIEST PIANO COURSE**

and is eligible for promotion to

PART TWO

.....

Teacher

Date.....