

ALFRED'S  
BASIC ADULT  
PIANO  
COURSE

LESSON BOOK

LEVEL ONE

*Cesar Bernabe Perez*

WILLARD A. PALMER MORTON MANUS AMANDA VICK LETHCO

Correlated materials to be used with Adult Lesson Book, Level 1:

Title	Start on page	Title	Start on page
Adult ALL-TIME FAVORITES 1 (3079)	49	Adult NOTESPELLER BOOK 1 (18116)	7
Adult CHRISTMAS BOOK 1 (2466)	29	Adult POP SONG BOOK 1 (2463)	45
Adult COUNTRY BOOK 1 (2506)	54	Adult SACRED BOOK 1 (2468)	27
Adult DUET BOOK 1 (2227)	13	Adult SIGHT READING BOOK 1 (14539)	9
Adult EAR TRAINING BOOK 1 (5732)	6	Adult THEORY BOOK 1 (2462)	7
Adult FINGER AEROBICS 1 (3088)	12	CHRISTMAS HITS, Level 1 (17108)	33
Adult FLASHCARDS (1900)	7	GREATEST HITS, Level 1 (16505)	33
Adult JAZZ/ROCK Course (3134)	73		

A CD (14039) and a General Midi disk (6490) are available, each including a full piano recording and background accompaniment.

Alfred's Basic Adult Piano Course is designed for the adult beginner who wishes to learn the piano by playing chords quickly. The course has a number of features that make it particularly successful in achieving this goal. It progresses very smoothly, with no gaps that cause the skipping of hard sections. In addition, it teaches chords for both hands. Because of this, the pieces in Alfred's Basic are more musical and make playing a richer, more rewarding experience.

Also taught is the understanding of how chords are formed. Instead of memorizing chords, students learn how to derive them regardless of what key they are playing in. Finally, the choice of song material is outstanding, with some popular and familiar favorites mixed with tuneful originals, all adding to the fun and enjoyment of making music.

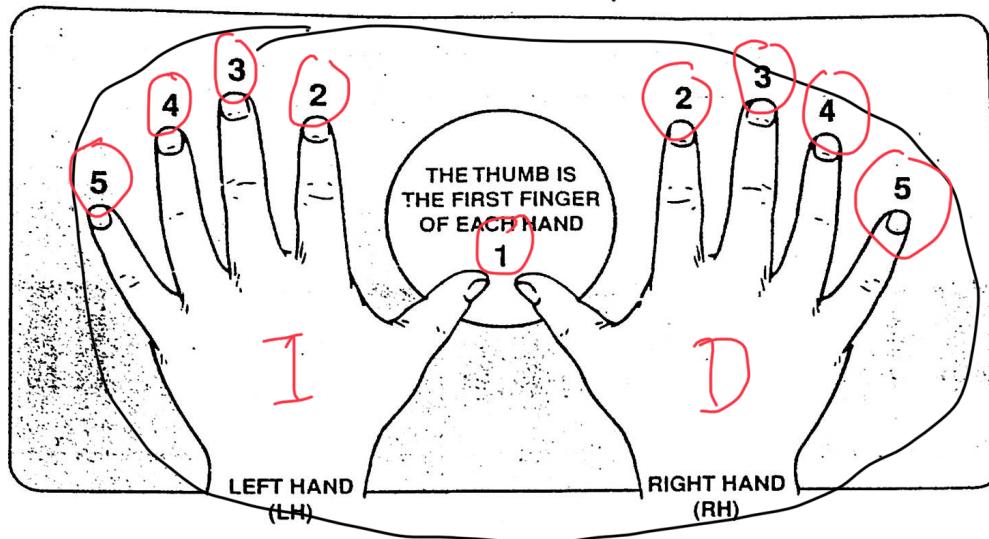
The student is encouraged to use the compact disc recording or the General MIDI disk. Playing along with these recordings is not only enjoyable, but is invaluable for reinforcing musical concepts such as rhythm, dynamics and phrasing.



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*Silvia Alba Lee*

## Finger Numbers



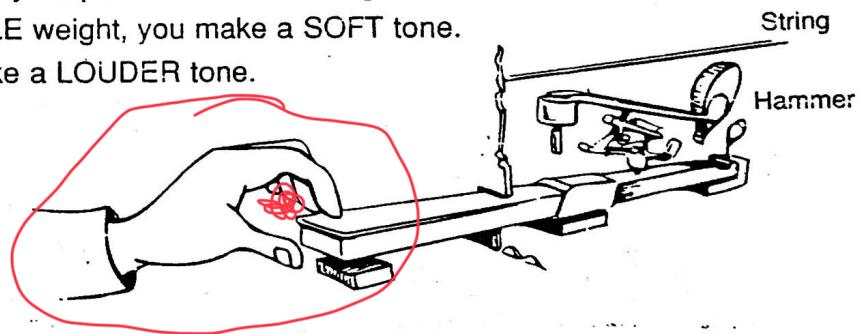
Response to reading finger numbers should be automatic. Before you begin to play, practice moving each finger as you say its number aloud.

## Piano Tones

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

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

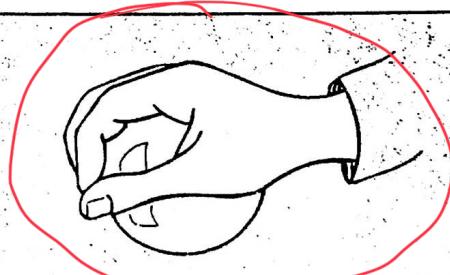
When you use MORE weight, you make a LOUDER tone.



Curve your fingers when you play!

Pretend you have a bubble in your hand:

Hold the bubble gently, so it doesn't break!



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 each tone a little louder.

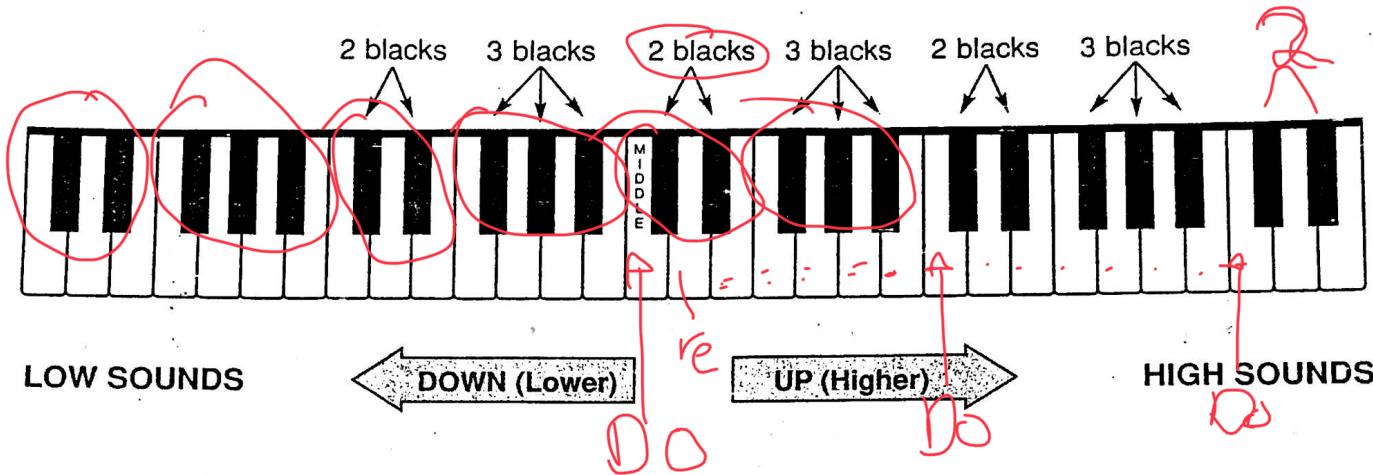
Before you play any key, you should always decide how soft or loud you want it to sound.

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.

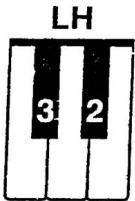
The black keys are in groups of twos and threes.



On the keyboard, DOWN is to the LEFT, and UP is to the RIGHT.

As you move LEFT, the tones sound LOWER. As you move RIGHT, the tones sound HIGHER.

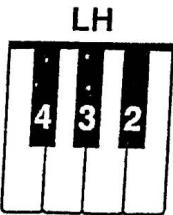
## Play the 2-BLACK-KEY groups!



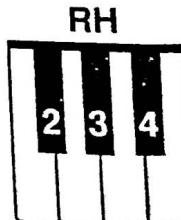
- Using LH 2 3, begin at the middle and play all the 2-black-key groups going the keyboard (both keys at once).
- Using RH 2 3, begin at the middle and play all the 2-black-key groups going the keyboard (both keys at once).



## Play the 3-BLACK-KEY groups!



- Using LH 2 3 4, begin at the middle and play all the 3-black-key groups going the keyboard (all three keys at once).
- Using RH 2 3 4, begin at the middle and play all the 3-black-key groups going the keyboard (all three keys at once).



# Name That Key!

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

A B C D E F G

la Si Do Re Mi Fa Sol

Each white key is recognized by its position in or next to a black-key group!

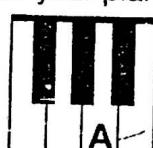
For example: A's are found between the TOP TWO KEYS of each 3-BLACK-KEY GROUP.

Play the following. Use LH 3 for keys below the middle of the keyboard.

Use RH 3 for keys above the middle of the keyboard.

Say the name of each key aloud as you play!

Play all the A's  
on your piano.



la

Play all the B's.



Si

Play all the C's.



Do

Play all the D's.



Re

Play all the E's.



Mi

Play all the F's.



Fa

Play all the G's.



Sol

You can now name every white key on your piano!

The key names are A B C D E F G, used over and over!

The lowest key on your piano is A.

The C nearest the middle of the piano is called MIDDLE C.

Going UP the keyboard, the notes sound HIGHER and HIGHER!

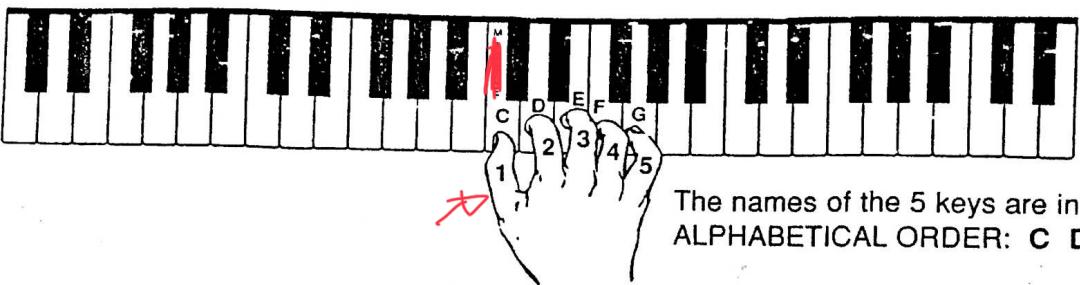
Play and name every white key beginning with bottom A.

Use LH 3 for keys below middle C, and RH 3 for keys above middle C.

You are now ready to begin ADULT THEORY BOOK 1 and ADULT FLASHCARDS.

# Right Hand C Position

Place the RH on the keyboard so that the **1st FINGER** falls on **MIDDLE C**.  
Let the remaining 4 fingers fall naturally on the next 4 white keys.  
Keep the fingers curved and relaxed.



The names of the 5 keys are in  
**ALPHABETICAL ORDER: C D E F G.**

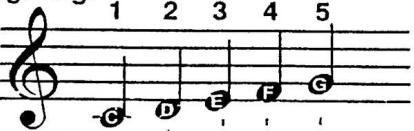
Notes for this position are written on the **TREBLE STAFF**.

The TREBLE STAFF has 5 lines and 4 spaces.

Middle C is written on a short line  
below the staff, called a *leger* line.

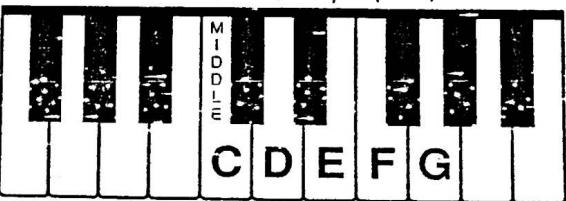
**TREBLE CLEF SIGN:**  
used for RH notes.

Fingering:



D is written in the space below the staff.

Each next higher note is written  
on the next higher line or space.



## RIGHT HAND WARM-UP \*

Play the following **WARM-UP**. Say the name of each note aloud as you play.

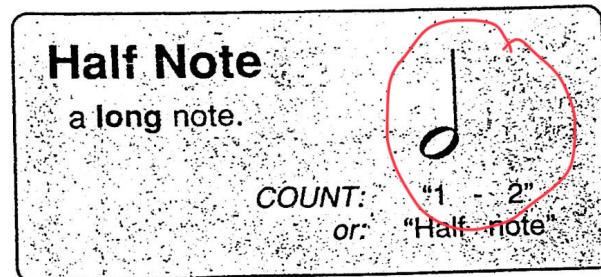
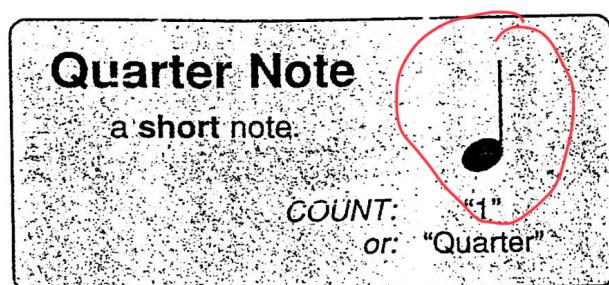
Repeat until you can play smoothly and evenly. As the notes go higher on the keyboard,  
they are written higher on the staff!

Fingers:

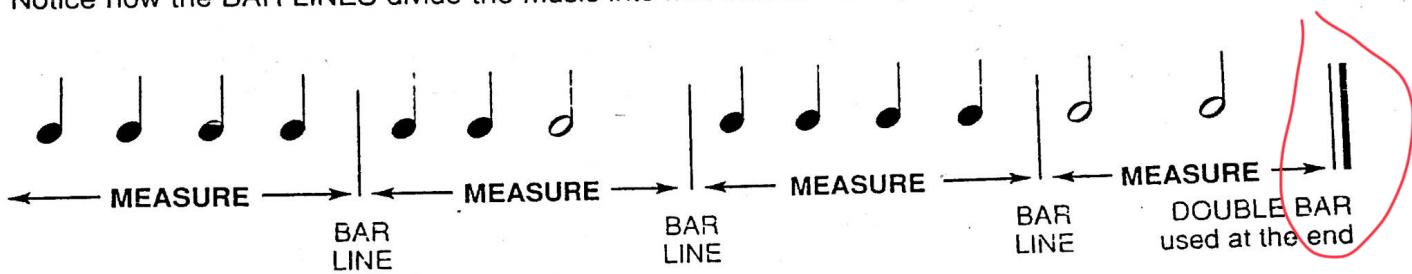
\* This symbol indicates the track number of the selection on the CD and cassette tape. See the General MIDI (GM) disk sleeve for the GM track numbers.

# Quarter Notes & Half Notes

Music is made up of short tones and long tones. We write these tones in notes, and we measure their lengths by counting. The combining of notes into patterns is called RHYTHM.



Clap (or tap) the following rhythm. Clap ONCE for each note, counting aloud.  
Notice how the BAR LINES divide the music into MEASURES of equal duration.



## ODE TO JOY (Theme from Beethoven's 9th Symphony)



1. Clap (or tap) the rhythm evenly, counting aloud.
2. Play & sing (or say) the finger numbers.
3. Play & count.
4. Play & sing (or say) the note names.

Fingers:

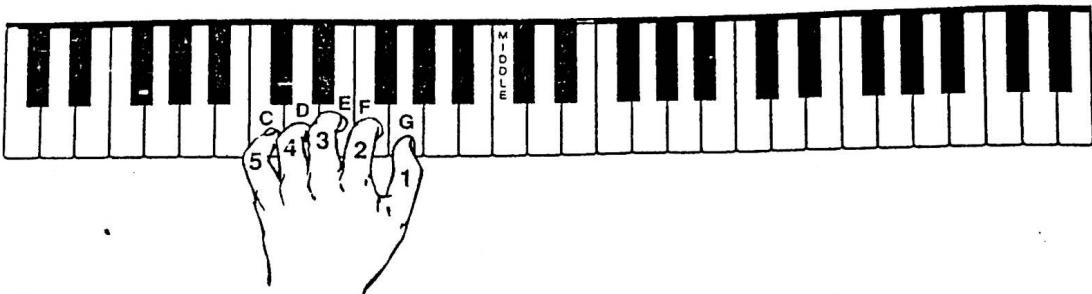
3 3 4 5 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 3 2 2

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

You are now ready to begin ADULT SIGHT READING BOOK 1.

## Left Hand C Position

Place the LH on the keyboard so that the **5th FINGER** falls on the **C BELOW** (to the left of) **MIDDLE C**.  
 Let the remaining fingers fall naturally on the next 4 white keys.  
 Keep the fingers curved and relaxed.



Notes for this position are written on the **BASS STAFF**.

The BASS STAFF also has  
5 lines and 4 spaces.

The C, played by 5,  
is written on the  
second space of the staff.

Each next higher note is written  
on the next higher line or space.

**BASS CLEF SIGN**  
used for LH notes

Fingering: 5 4 3 2 1



## LEFT HAND WARM-UP

Play the following **WARM-UP**. Say the name of each note aloud as you play.  
 Repeat until you can play smoothly and evenly.

**Bass Staff Notes:** G, F, E, D, C, G, F, E, D, C

**Fingers:** 1 2 3 4 5 1 2 3 4 5

**Bass Staff Notes:** C, D, E, F, G, C, D, E, F, G

**Fingers:** 5 4 3 2 1 5 4 3 2 1

**Bass Staff Notes:** G, F, E, D, C, G, F, E, D, G

**Fingers:** 1 2 3 4 5 1 2 3 4 1

When notes are **BELOW** the **MIDDLE LINE** of the staff, the stems usually point **UP**.  
 When notes are **ON** or **ABOVE** the **MIDDLE LINE**, the stems usually point **DOWN**.

# The Whole Note

## Whole Note

a very long note.



COUNT: "1 - 2 - 3 - 4"

or: "Whole note hold down"

Clap (or tap) the following rhythm. Clap ONCE for each note, counting aloud.



## AURA LEE

This melody was made into a popular song, "LOVE ME TENDER," sung by Elvis Presley.

1. Clap (or tap) the rhythm, counting aloud.
2. Play & sing (or say) the finger numbers.
3. Play & count.
4. Play & sing (or say) the note names.

As the black-bird in the Spring, 'neath the wil-low tree

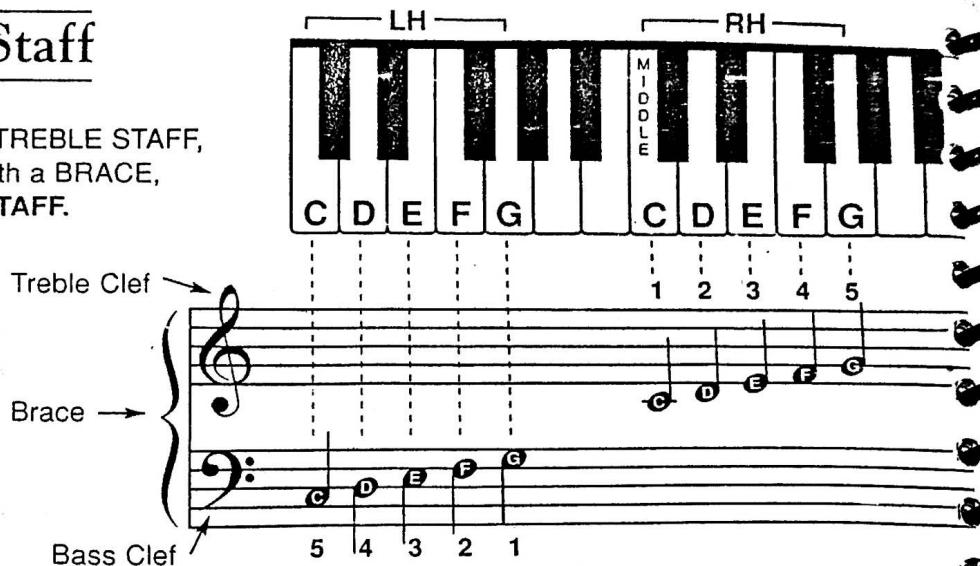
Fingers: 5 2 3 2 1 4 1 2 3 4 3 2

sat and piped, I heard him sing, sing-ing "Au-ra Lee."

Fingers: 5 2 3 2 1 4 1 2 3 4 3 2

## The Grand Staff

The BASS STAFF and TREBLE STAFF, when joined together with a BRACE, make up the GRAND STAFF.



### TIME SIGNATURE

Music has numbers at the beginning called the **TIME SIGNATURE**.

**4** means 4 beats to each measure.  
**4** means a QUARTER NOTE gets one beat.

## PLAYING ON THE GRAND STAFF

Only the starting finger number for each hand is given.

The following practice procedure is recommended for the rest of the pieces in this book:

1. Clap (or tap) & count.
2. Play & count.
3. Play & sing the words, if any.

RH silent a whole measure.

You are now ready to begin ADULT FINGER AEROBICS.

## ROCK-ALONG

1    1    3    5

5    5    3    1

## MEXICAN HAT DANCE

1. Play it!  
2. Dance it!

Play it!  
Dance it!

Play the fa - mous  
Dance the fa - mous

hat hat dance!  
dance!

This sign is a QUARTER REST.  
Rest for one count!

Play it!  
Dance it!

Play it!  
Dance it!

Play it now for  
It's such fun to

me! see!

You are now ready to begin ADULT DUET BOOK 1.

## Melodic Intervals

Distances between tones are measured in **INTERVALS**, called 2nds, 3rds, 4ths, 5ths, etc.

Notes played *separately* make a *melody*.

We call the intervals between these notes **MELODIC INTERVALS**.

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

Musical notation for the first measure of the C major scale. The treble clef is on the G-line, and the bass clef is on the F-line. The time signature is common time (4/4). The notes are: C (1), D (2), C (1), E (3). Below the notes, the intervals are labeled: 2nd, 3rd, 2nd, 3rd. The bass staff shows the notes G, F, G, E. The numbers 1, 2, 1, 3 are placed below the bass staff.

The following excerpts contain only repeated notes and MELODIC 2nds & 3rds.

# AU CLAIRE DE LA LUNE



tell how loud or  
soft to play.



**p** (piano) = soft

A musical score page featuring two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and common time, with a dynamic marking 'p' below the first measure. It contains four measures of music. The bottom staff is in bass clef and common time, containing three measures of rests. Measure 1 of the top staff consists of eighth notes. Measures 2 and 3 consist of quarter notes. Measure 4 consists of eighth notes. Measure 1 of the bottom staff has a single eighth note rest. Measures 2 and 3 have two eighth note rests each.

# TISKET, A TASKET



(mezzo forte) = moderately loud

Musical score for two staves. The top staff is treble clef, 4/4 time, with a single note on the first beat. The bottom staff is bass clef, 4/4 time, with a dynamic marking *mf* and a measure number 1. The bass staff has a G-clef above it. The music consists of a series of eighth-note pairs followed by quarter notes.

A musical score page featuring two staves. The top staff uses a treble clef and has four empty measures. The bottom staff uses a bass clef and contains a melodic line with the following notes: measure 1 (B), (A), (G), (F#); measure 2 (E), (D), (C), (B); measure 3 (E), (D), (C), (B); measure 4 (E). Measure numbers 1 through 4 are written below the staff.

## Harmonic Intervals

Notes played *together* make *harmony*.

We call the intervals between these notes **HARMONIC INTERVALS**.

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

A musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. It features two groups of four measures each. The first group shows a 2nd interval between notes C and D, and a 3rd interval between notes C and E. The second group shows a 2nd interval between notes F and G, and a 3rd interval between notes F and A. Measure numbers 1 and 3 are above the staff, and dynamic markings 'mf' are present.

## ROCKIN' INTERVALS

**f** (forte) = loud

Brightly

Rest for one count!

A musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. It consists of three parts. The first part starts with a forte dynamic 'f' and includes lyrics: "1. Rock is mel-o dic! 2. Rock with the right hand!" The second part continues with "Rock is har-mon left hand!". The third part concludes with "Rock is mel-o dic!". Measure numbers 1, 2, and 3 are above the staff, and dynamic markings 'f' and 'mf' are present.

**DUET PART:** (Student plays 1 octave higher.)

RH

A musical staff in 4/4 time with a bass clef. It shows a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The dynamic marking 'f' is at the beginning. The staff is divided into measures by vertical bar lines.

## Melodic 4ths & 5ths

Play these MELODIC 4ths & 5ths.  
Listen to the sound of each interval.

A musical staff in G clef and common time. It shows two measures of music with various notes. Above the staff, the numbers 1, 4, 1, 5 are written above the notes F and G respectively. Below the staff, the intervals are labeled as '4th' and '5th'. The first measure starts on C, goes up to F (labeled 4th), down to C (labeled 5th), up to E (labeled 4th), and down to D (labeled 5th). The second measure starts on G, goes down to D (labeled 4th), up to G (labeled 5th), down to F (labeled 4th), up to G (labeled 5th), and down to E (labeled 4th).

### GOOD KING WENCESLAS



Find the 4ths before you play!

Moderately fast

A musical staff in G clef and common time. It shows two measures of music. The first measure starts with a forte dynamic (f) on C, followed by eighth notes on D, E, and F. The lyrics are "Good King Wen-ces". The second measure starts with a piano dynamic (p) on G, followed by eighth notes on A and B. The lyrics continue "las look'd out, On the feast of Ste - phen,". Measure numbers 4 and 2 are written above the staves.

A continuation of the musical staff. The first measure starts with a piano dynamic (p) on C, followed by eighth notes on D, E, and F. The lyrics are "When the snow lay round a - bout, Deep and crisp and e - ven.". The second measure starts with a forte dynamic (f) on G, followed by eighth notes on A and B. Measure number 2 is written below the staff.

### MY FIFTH



Find the 5ths before you play!

Seriously

A musical staff in G clef and common time. It shows three measures of music. The first measure starts with a piano dynamic (p) on C, followed by eighth notes on D, E, and F. The lyrics are "This is my fifth, and may - be you've heard;". The second measure starts with a piano dynamic (p) on G, followed by eighth notes on A and B. The third measure starts with a forte dynamic (f) on C, followed by eighth notes on D, E, and F. Measure numbers 1, 3, and 2 are written above the staves.

A continuation of the musical staff. The first measure starts with a piano dynamic (p) on C, followed by eighth notes on D, E, and F. The lyrics are "Beet - hov - en's fifth is on - ly a third!". The second measure starts with a forte dynamic (f) on G, followed by eighth notes on A and B. The third measure starts with a forte dynamic (f) on C, followed by eighth notes on D, E, and F. Hand-drawn red circles highlight specific notes: the first note of the first measure, the notes D and E in the first measure, the note G in the second measure, the notes A and B in the second measure, and the note C in the third measure. Below the staff, the lyrics are written again with red annotations: "Do re mi fa sol la si do".

## Harmonic 4ths & 5ths

Play these HARMONIC 4ths & 5ths.  
Listen to the sound of each interval.

Musical staff showing harmonic intervals. The top line shows 4ths and 5ths between notes on the 4th and 5th strings. The bottom line shows 4ths and 5ths between notes on the 1st and 2nd strings. Dynamics: *mf*

## JINGLE BELLS



Before you play: 1. Find all the MELODIC 4ths & 5ths in the RH.  
2. Find all the HARMONIC 4ths & 5ths in the LH.

Merrily

Measures 3: Treble clef, 4/4 time, dynamic *f*. The lyrics are 'Jin - gle, bells!' repeated three times, followed by 'Jin - gle ali the way!'

Measures 4: Treble clef, 4/4 time, dynamic 4. The lyrics are 'Oh, what fun it is to ride a one-horse o - pen sleigh!'

Measures 5: Treble clef, 4/4 time, dynamic 3. The lyrics are 'Jin - gle, bells!' repeated three times, followed by 'Jin - gle all the way!'

Measures 6: Treble clef, 4/4 time, dynamics 5, 4, 2. The lyrics are 'Oh, what fun it is to ride a one-horse o - pen sleigh!'