

# Learning to Play Piano

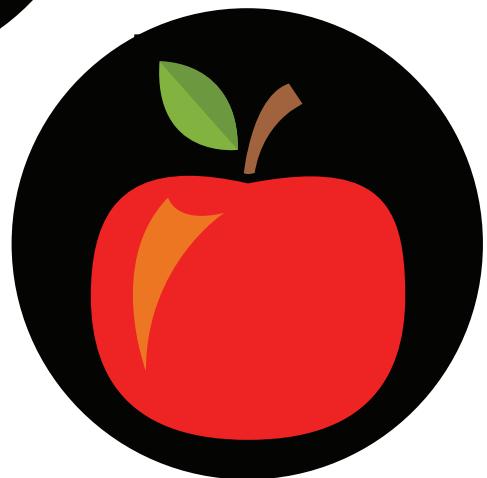
## for the Very Young

with



**Debbie**  
and Friends

By Marty Gold and Debbie Cavalier



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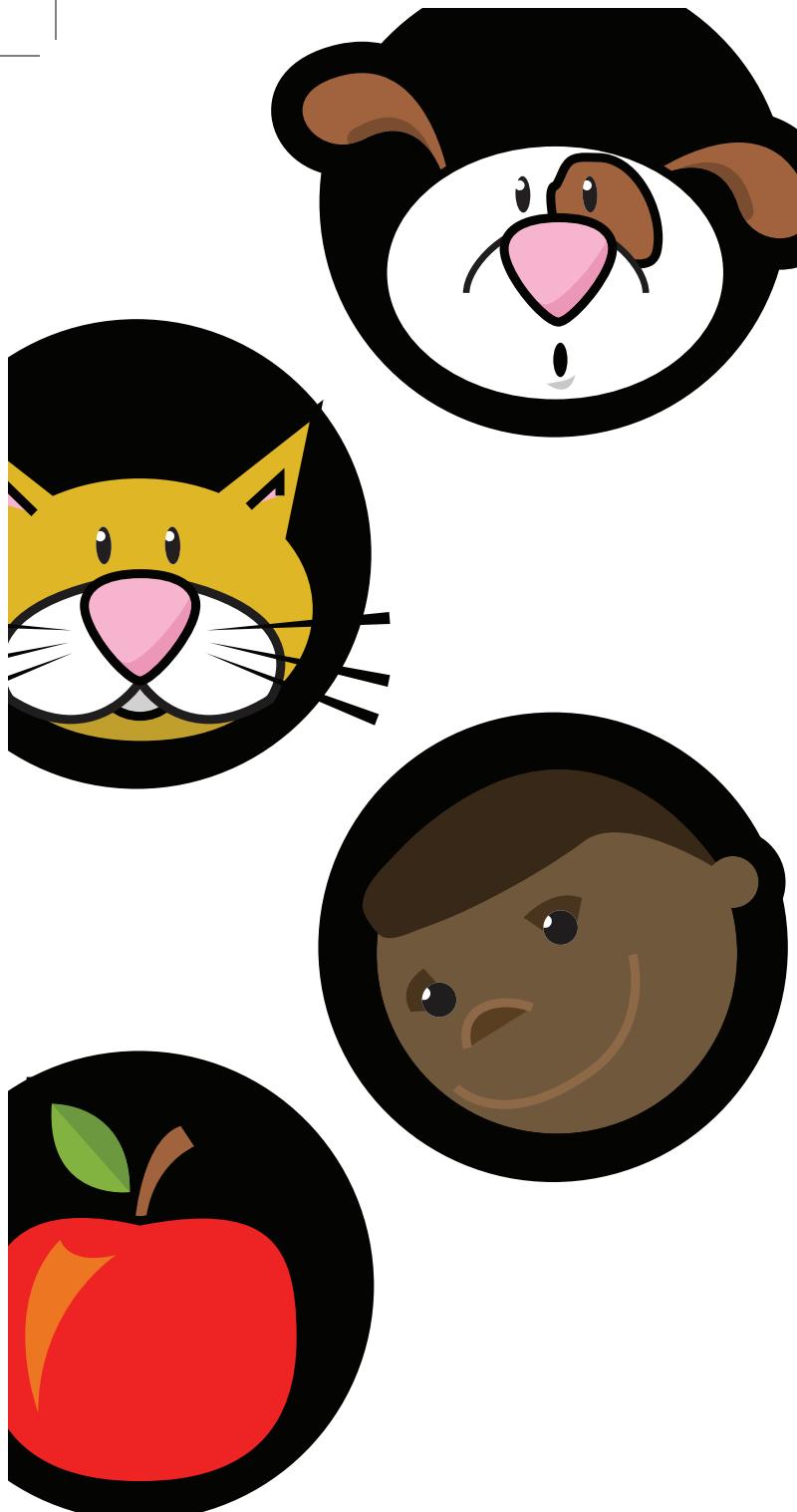
**MARTY GOLD** has enjoyed a diverse career in music. He toured with an 18-piece swing band called the Korn Kobblers as an arranger/pianist in the 1940s. Their best-selling records played on 175 radio stations daily in their heyday. Marty left life on the road and soon became an A&R man for RCA Records in NYC. He arranged and produced such artists as Sarah Vaughn, Peter Nero, Lena Horne, and Marian McPartland. He also led The Marty Gold Orchestra and arranged, conducted, and recorded dozens of records for RCA, Decca, and others. Marty Gold is also Debbie's Grandpa!

**DEBBIE CAVALIER** is the Dean of Continuing Education at Berklee College of Music. A prolific author, she has penned more than 100 music method books and arrangements. Her favorite projects are the ones she gets to do with her grandfather! Debbie is also an award-winning kids/family musician with "Debbie and Friends." For more information, please visit [www.debbieandfriends.net](http://www.debbieandfriends.net)



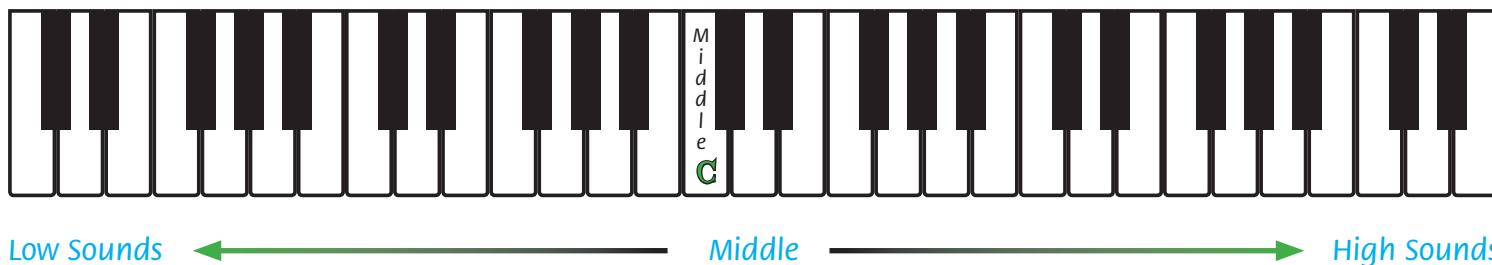
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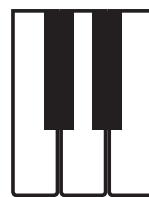


# The Piano Keyboard

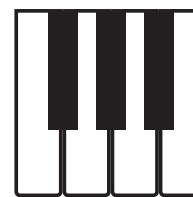
The piano keyboard makes low, middle and high sounds. Play a few keys in the middle of the keyboard, then on each end. Do you hear the low, middle, and high sounds?



The piano keyboard has black keys and white keys. The black keys are divided into groups of two and three.



Two black keys



Three black keys

Draw a circle around all of the groups of two black keys. Put an X over the groups of three black keys.



# Musical Alphabet

Music notes have letter names, just like the alphabet. The musical alphabet goes from A to G.

A B C D E F G

Here are some pictures to go with each letter of the musical alphabet.



A B C D E F G

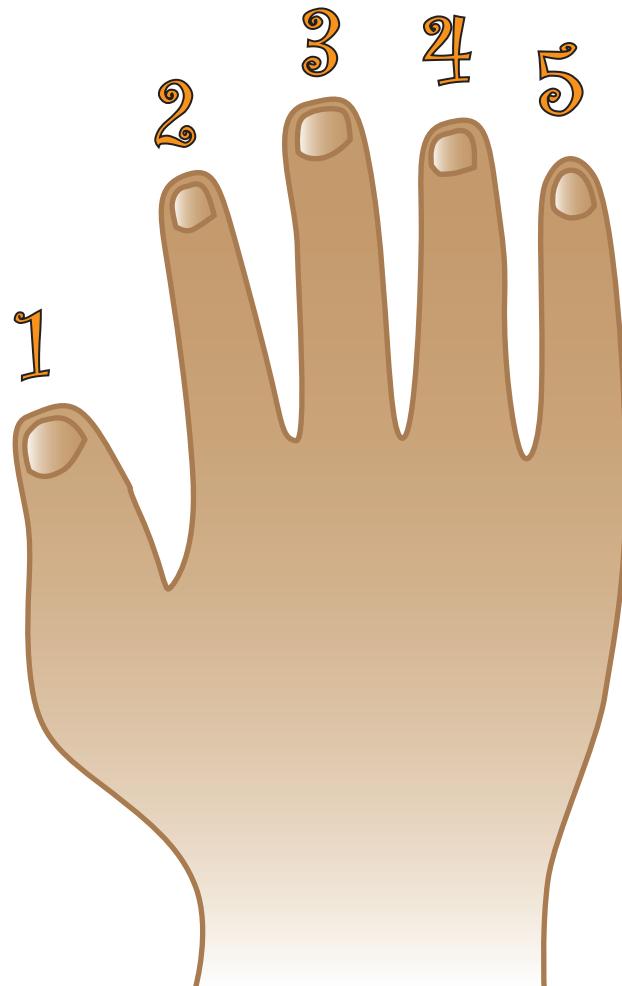
Can you fill in the letter under each picture?



A — — — — — —

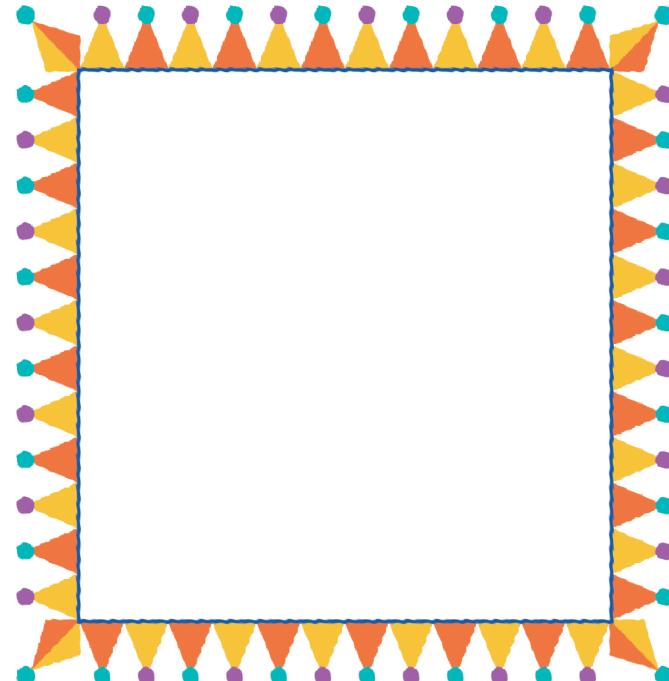
# Right Hand Numbers

All of the music you play in this book will be with your right hand.



## My Right Hand

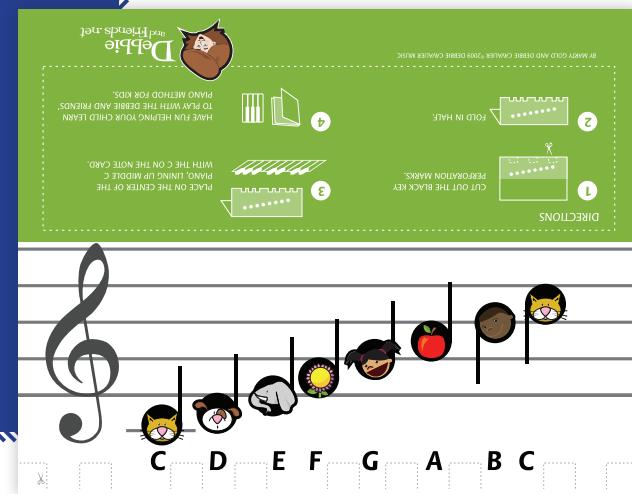
Draw a picture of your right hand and write in your finger numbers as shown at right.



### PARENT'S NOTE The Keyboard Tent

The *Learning to Play the Piano for the Very Young* book comes with a Keyboard Tent to help your child remember the names of the notes. Directions are on the back of the tent card. Please prepare the keyboard tent and place on the piano.

Note, the keyboard tent is designed for full-size piano keys. It is not compatible with smaller-sized piano keyboards.



# Rhythm and Beats

## Quarter Notes

Some music notes move along with a steady beat. Each note gets one count or beat.

**Count:**

1                    2                    3                    4

**Clap and count:**



1                    2                    3                    4

These steady beats are called QUARTER NOTES and they look like this:



## Half Notes

You will also play music notes that move more slowly. They hold their notes for two counts or beats each.

**Clap and count:**



1                    2                    3                    4

These slower notes are called HALF NOTES and they look like this:

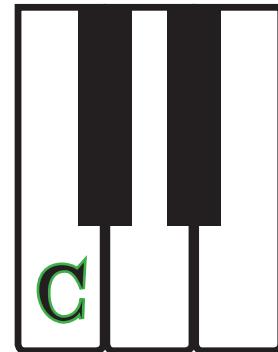


## C is for Cat

Let's learn some music notes so we can begin to play songs!

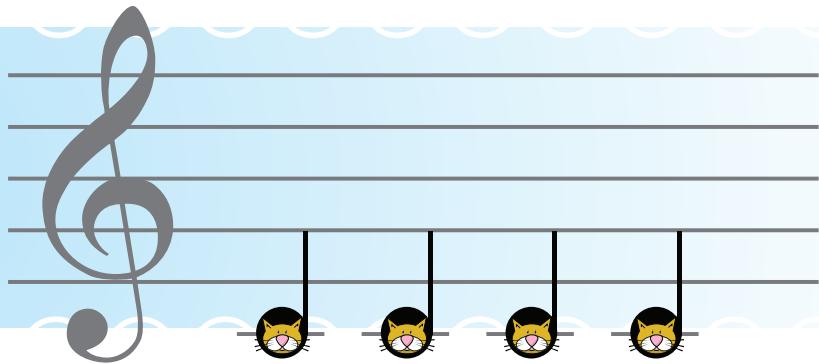


C is the white key just before the group of two black keys on your piano keyboard.



### Practice

1. Find the C key on your piano and play it with your thumb (1).
2. Play it four times with a steady beat.



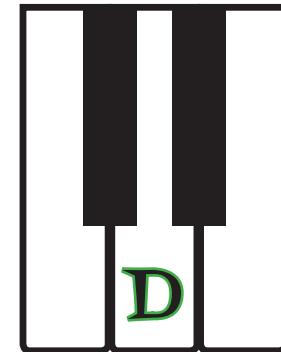
Great Job!



**D** is for  
Dog

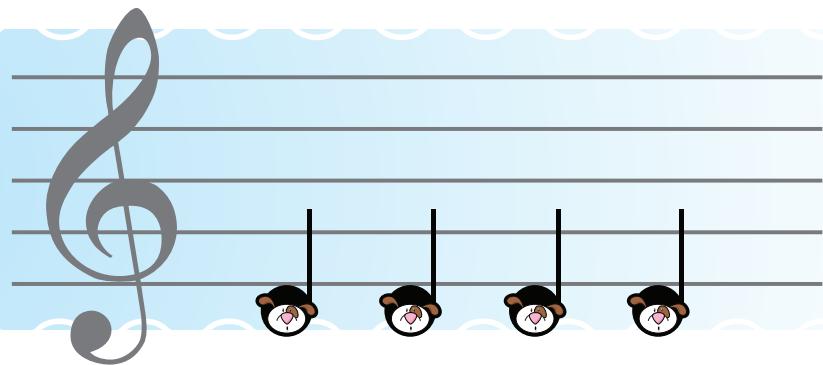


**D** is the white key between the group of two black keys on your piano keyboard.

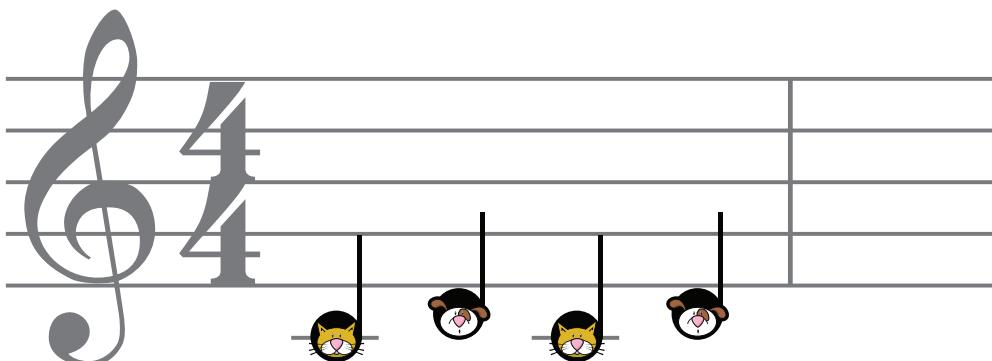


### Practice

1. Find the D key on your piano and play it with your pointer finger (2).
2. Play it four times with a steady beat.



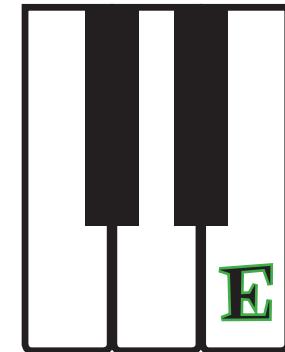
### Put it all together



**E** is for  
Elephant

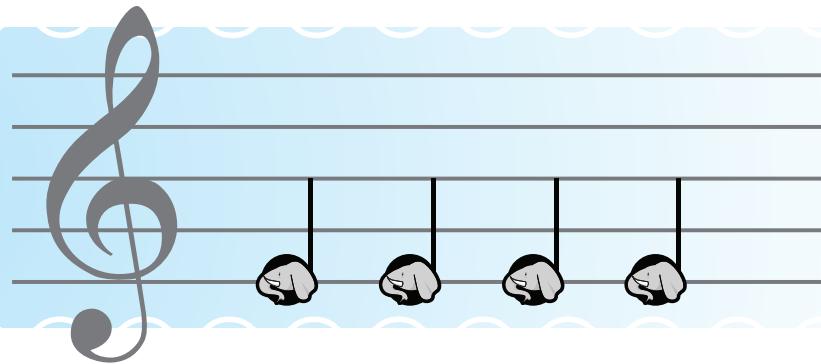


**E** is the white key after the group of two black keys on your piano keyboard.

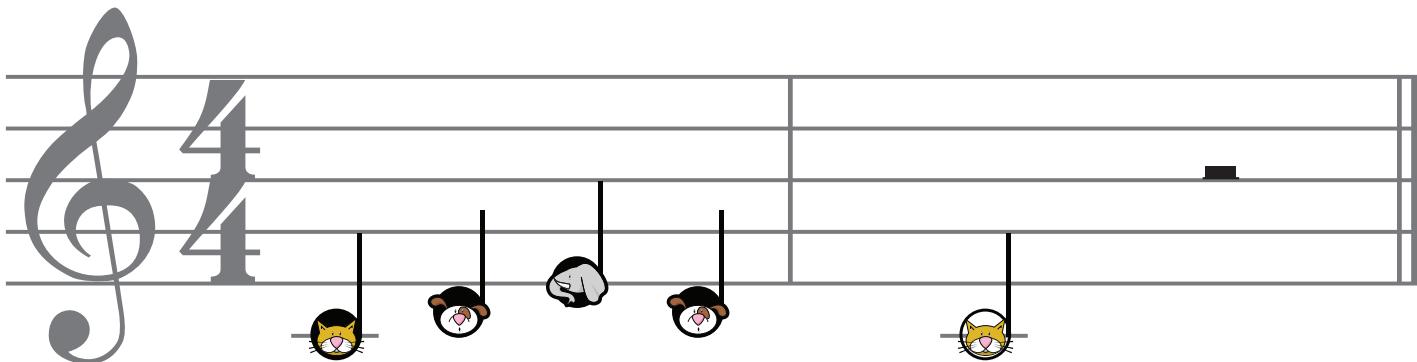


### Practice

1. Find the E key on your piano and play it with your middle finger (3).
2. Play it four times with a steady beat.



### Put it all together

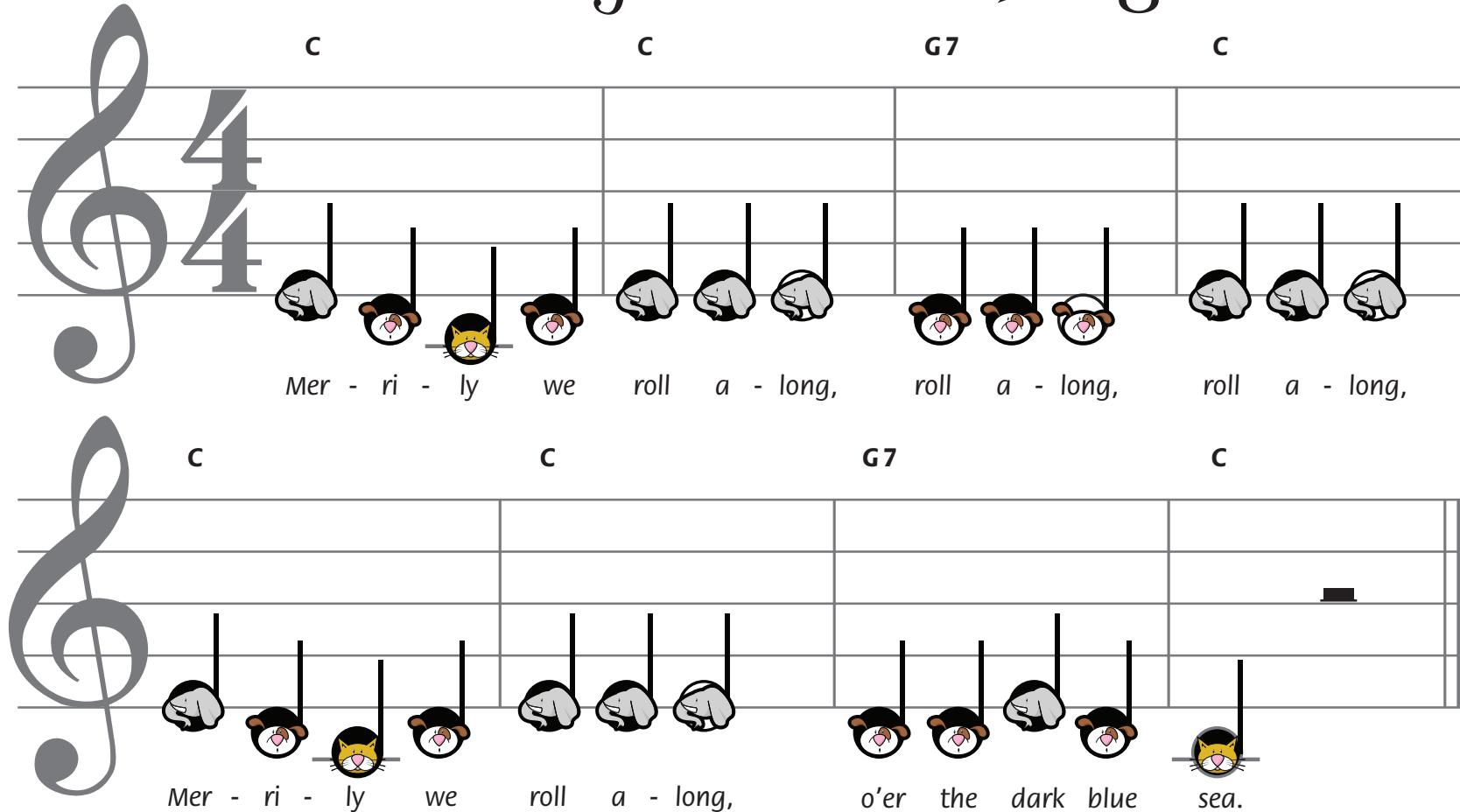




Guess what! With just three notes, you can sing and play lots of songs. Let's start with "Merrily We Roll Along."

## Merrily We Roll Along

 = rest for two beats



**PARENT'S NOTE** **Chord Symbols** Chord symbols are provided for every song for play-along fun. A guitar chord chart is provided on page 22.

# Hot Cross Buns

Hot Cross Buns, Hot Cross Buns,  
One a pen - ny, two a pen - ny, hot cross buns.

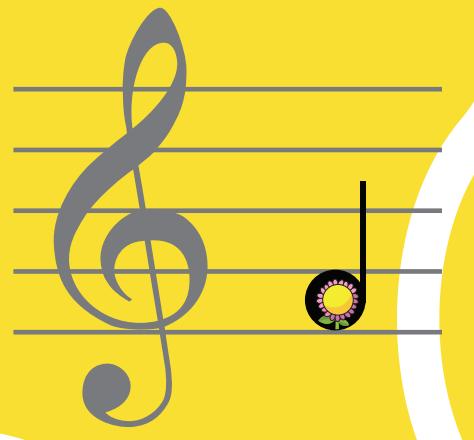
The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in G major (C, G7, C, C, G7, C) and the bottom staff is in C major (C, G7, C, G7, C). The notes are represented by small animal illustrations: a rabbit, a bear, a cat, and an elephant. The lyrics are written below the notes, corresponding to the notes and animals.

# Au Clair de la Lune

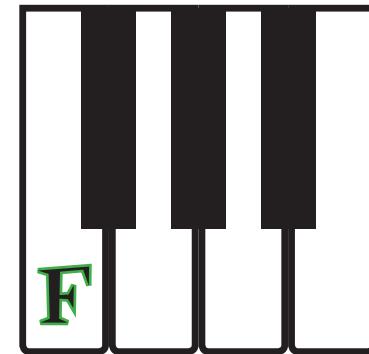
c

The image shows two staves of musical notation in common time (indicated by a '4' in the top right of the first staff). The top staff begins with a treble clef and a '4' (common time). The bottom staff begins with a treble clef. Both staves feature illustrations of animals as note heads: yellow cats on the top staff and brown dogs on the bottom staff. The notes are primarily quarter notes and eighth notes, with occasional rests. The music consists of two measures followed by a repeat sign and a second ending, which is identical to the first. The notes are placed on the first and second lines of the staff, with stems pointing upwards. The repeat sign is located in the middle of the first measure, and the second ending begins immediately after it.

**F** is for  
Flower

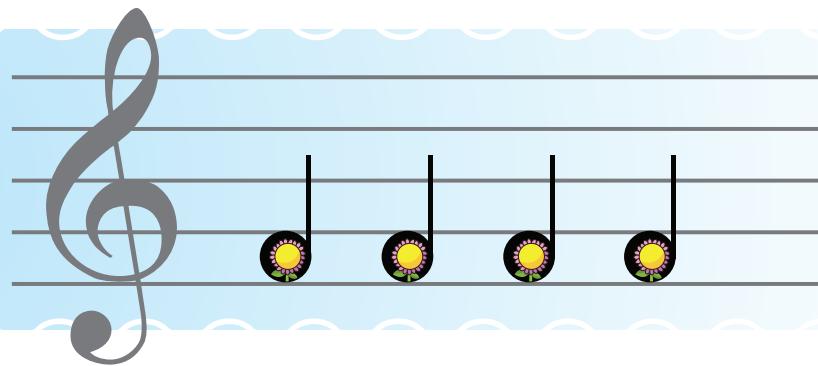


**F** is the white key located before the three black keys on your piano keyboard.

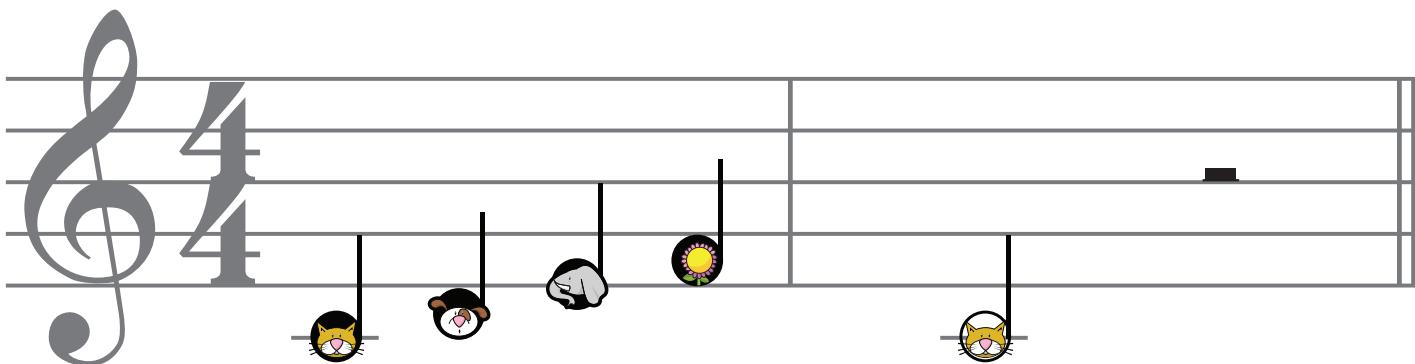


### Practice

1. Find the F key on your piano and play it with your ring finger (4).
2. Play it four times with a steady beat.



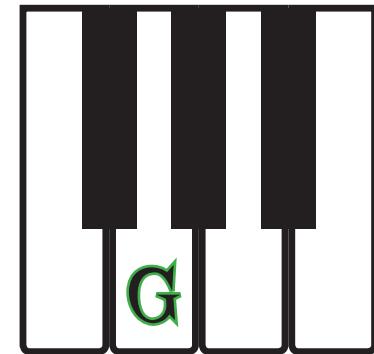
### Put it all together



**G** is for  
Girl

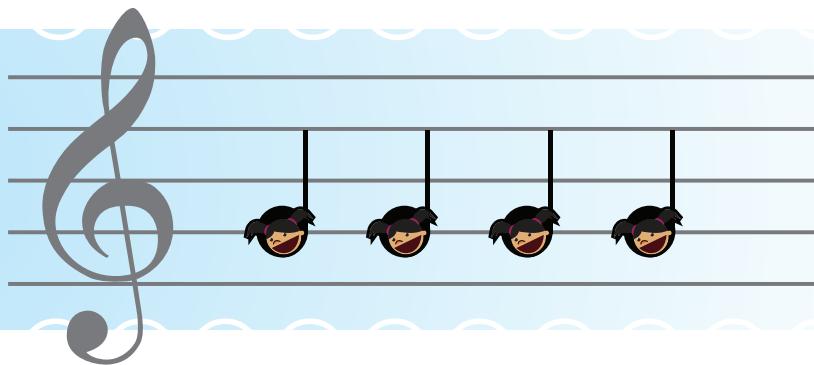


**G** is the white key next to F on your piano keyboard.

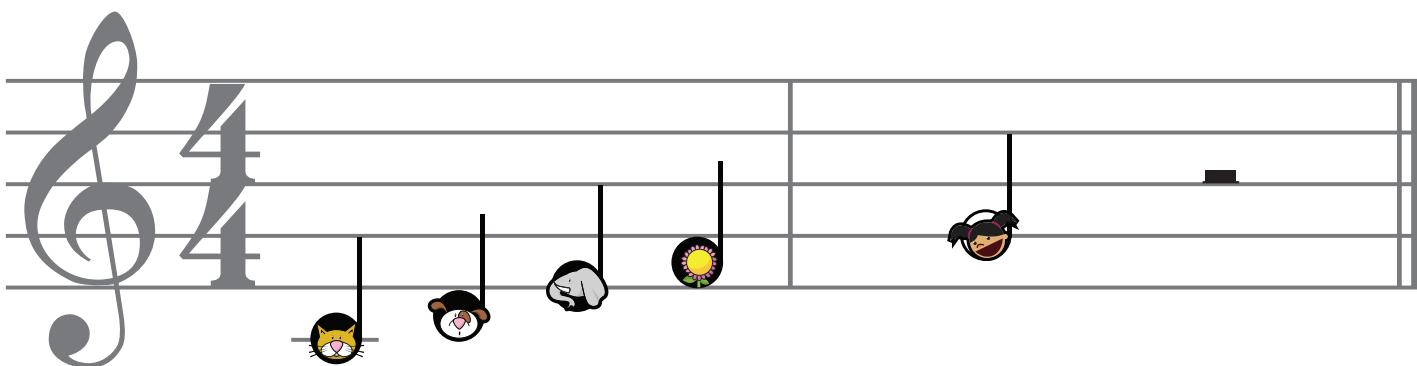


### Practice

1. Find the G key on your piano and play it with your pinky (5).
2. Play it four times with a steady beat.



### Put it all together





## Jingle Bells

C C C C Traditional

The musical notation for 'Jingle Bells' is shown in four measures. The first measure starts with a treble clef and a 'C' above it, followed by a '4' indicating a common time signature. The notes are quarter notes. The lyrics are 'Jin - gle bells'. The second measure starts with a 'C' above the staff. The lyrics are 'jin - gle bells,'. The third measure starts with a 'C' above the staff. The lyrics are 'jin - gle all'. The fourth measure starts with a 'C' above the staff. The lyrics are 'the way!'. There are small cartoon animal illustrations (a monkey, a cat, a dog, and a bear) placed above the notes in the third and fourth measures.

G7 C G7 G7

The musical notation for 'Jingle Bells' is shown in four measures. The first measure starts with a treble clef and a 'G7' above it. The notes are quarter notes. The lyrics are 'Oh what fun it is to ride a'. The second measure starts with a 'C' above the staff. The lyrics are 'one horse open'. The third measure starts with a 'G7' above the staff. The lyrics are 'sleigh!'. The fourth measure starts with a 'G7' above the staff. There are small cartoon animal illustrations (a flower, a cat, a dog, and a bear) placed above the notes in the first and second measures.

Two staves of musical notation for a single melody. The top staff is in G major (C) and the bottom staff is in C major (G7). The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, with various characters (children, a cat, a horse) illustrated above the notes. The lyrics are as follows:

Top Staff: jin - gle bells, jin - gle bells, jin - gle all the way!

Bottom Staff: G7 C G7 C

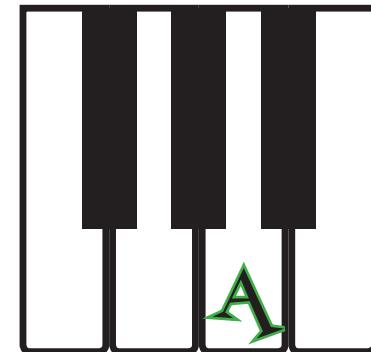
Oh what fun it is to ride a one horse open sleigh!

A is for Apple



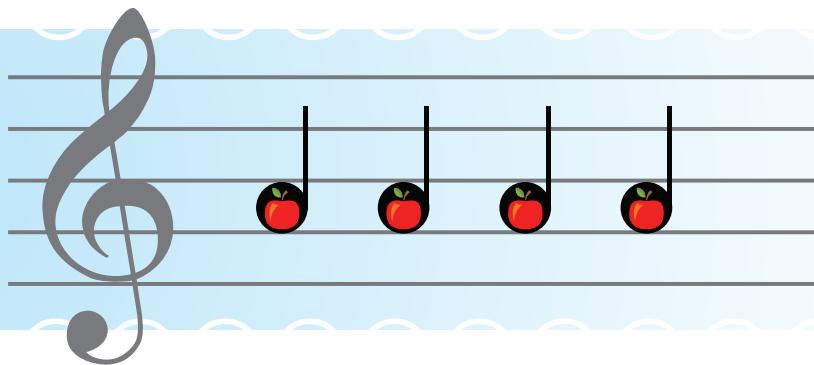
A

is the white key next to G on your piano keyboard.  
You'll need to **s-t-r-e-t-c-h** your pinky to play it.

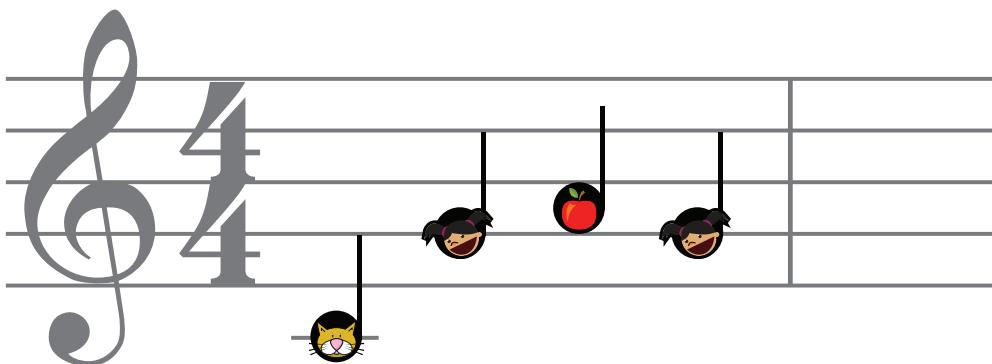


### Practice

1. Find the A key on your piano and play it with your pinky (5).
2. Play it four times with a steady beat.



### Put it all together



Pinky **s-t-r-e-t-c-h**

# Twinkle, Twinkle

19

A musical score for the song "Twinkle, Twinkle" arranged in three staves. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a '4' indicating common time. The lyrics are written below the notes, and each note is accompanied by a small cartoon character (two girls, two apples, two flowers, two dogs, and a cat) positioned above the note head. The chords are indicated above the staff.

**Staff 1:** C, C/E, F, C/E, Dm, C, G/B, C

**Staff 2:** C, F, C, G/B, C, F, C, G/B

**Staff 3:** C, C/E, F, C/E, Dm, C, G/B, C

**Lyrics:**

Twin - kle, twin - kle lit - tle star, How I won - der what you are.

Up a - bove the world so high, Like a dia - mond in the sky,

Twin - kle, twin - kle lit - tle star, How I won - der what you are.

{ = rest for one beat

# London Bridge

The musical notation for "London Bridge" is presented in two staves, each in common time (indicated by a '4'). The top staff begins with a treble clef and a 'C' chord. The lyrics are: "Lon - don bridge is fall - ing down, fall - ing down, fall - ing down,". The bottom staff begins with a treble clef and a 'C' chord. The lyrics are: "Lon - don bridge is fall - ing down, my fair la - dy." The music includes several rests marked with curly braces, and various cartoon characters are illustrated on the notes: a girl with a red apple, a girl with a yellow flower, a bear, a monkey, a mouse, and a cat.

Lon - don bridge is fall - ing down, fall - ing down, fall - ing down,

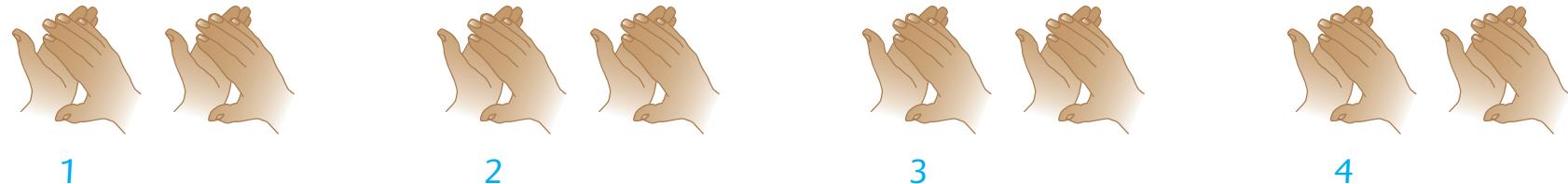
Lon - don bridge is fall - ing down, my fair la - dy.

# Rhythm and Beats

## EIGHTH NOTES

There is another kind of music note that moves along pretty quickly. It's so fast, in fact, that you have to play two of them for each count or beat.

**Clap and count:**

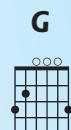


These fast beats are called EIGHTH NOTES and they look like this



## Guitar Chord Chart

Here are all of the guitar chords used in this book.



# Are You Sleeping?

A musical score for the song 'Brother John'. The score is in treble clef, common time (4/4), and has a key signature of 'C'. The lyrics 'Are you sleeping, Brother John?' are written below the notes. The notes are represented by cartoon animal illustrations: a yellow cat, a brown dog, a grey elephant, and a black bear. The first two notes are on the first line, the next two on the second line, and so on. The 'Brother John' part uses a different illustration of a black bear with a yellow sun-like circle on its back.

A musical staff with a treble clef and a 'C' key signature. It features a repeating pattern of notes with various illustrations: two girls, an apple, a sun, a flower, an elephant, and a cat. The lyrics "Morning bells are ringing, ding, ding, dong, ding, ding, dong." are written below the staff.

This certifies that

---

has successfully completed the  
Learn to Play Piano  
*Debbie and Friends*  
Method!



Date



