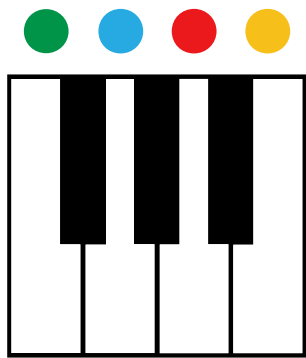


BEGINNER



6



**play**  
METHOD

LESSON BOOK

1

5

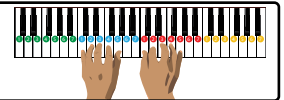
4

### Follow the Music

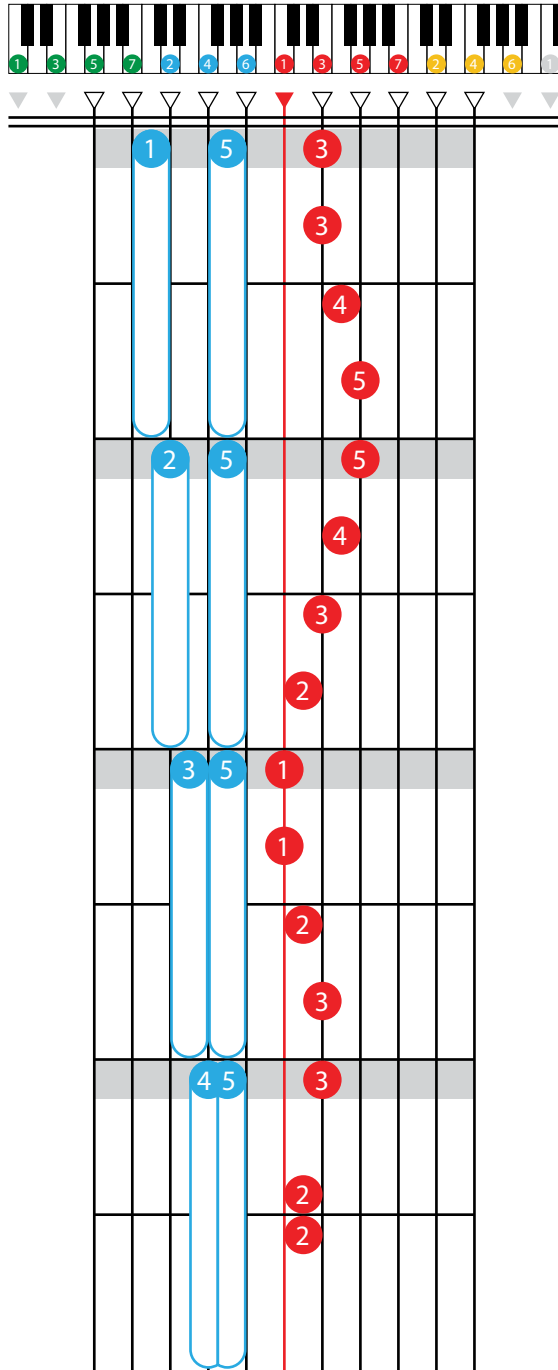
"Start Here," read downward,  
then continue on top right

### Hand Placement

Play all blue notes with Left hand  
and all red notes with Right hand

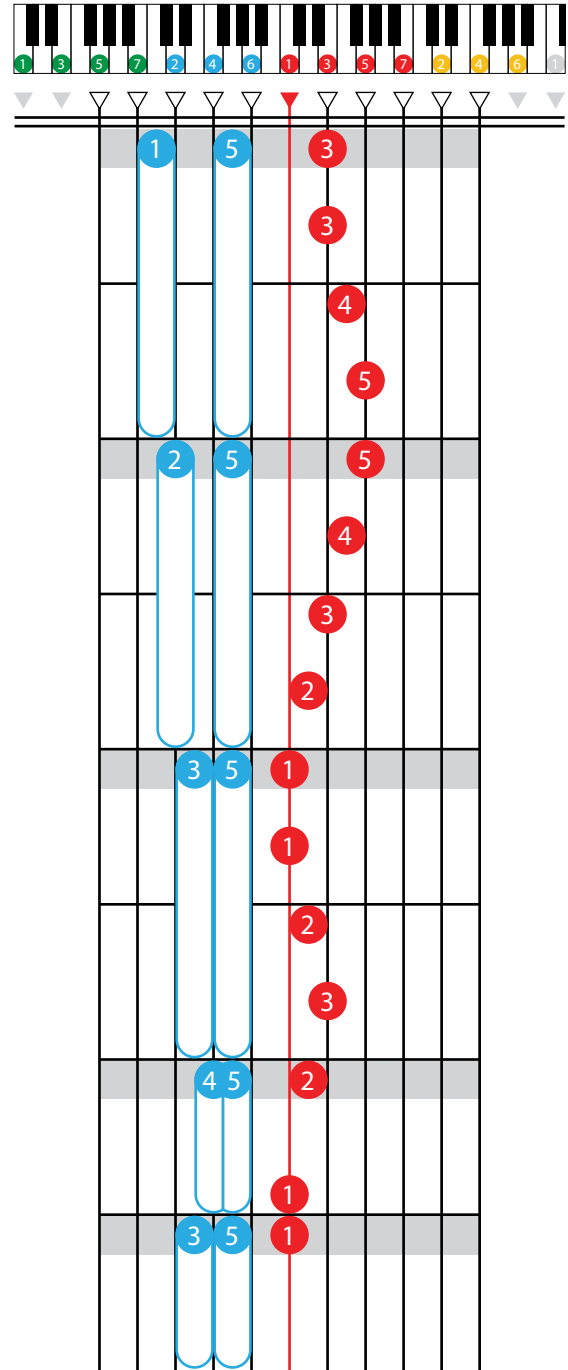


### START HERE



### CONTINUE

### CONTINUE



### END HERE

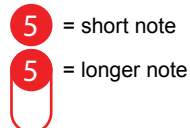
### White & Black Keys

Play the white key when you see  
a white number and the black key  
directly to the right of the white key  
when you see a black number



### Note Values

Circles within ovals  
are held down  
longer than  
circle notes alone



### Multiple Notes

A gray bar is used  
to indicate when multiple  
notes are to be played  
at the same time

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# EVERYONE PLAYS

Play Method™ is a piano playing technique designed to meet everyone's needs. Whether you're five or eighty-five, Play Method™ can bring the joy of playing the piano to your fingertips in a matter of minutes. It's fun, easy to understand and gratifying to be able to play actual songs the first time you sit down at the piano. It speaks to kids, teens, parents, seniors and educators alike.

*Kids:* Easy to understand, even for young children and fun at the same time. Engages children into learning music in a new exciting way.

*Teens:* Much like Karaoke, PlayMethod™ can be used for social events where they can emulate their favorite artists. Play Method™ can also help those aspiring to be musicians themselves.

*Parents:* Play Method™ is a learning experience that parents can share with their children or undertake on their own. It's an activity that can enrich family time, without any difficulty.

*Seniors:* It's never too late to learn how to play the piano. Play Method™ is easy for all ages to understand as well as fun.

*Educators:* Play Method™ gives teachers a new way to engage students into playing music. Teaching students in a way that will eventually bring them to reading standard music notation.

# LESSON 1:

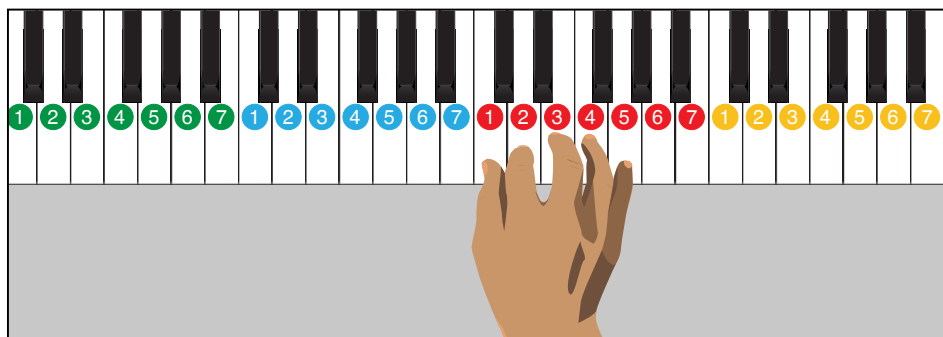
## Begin Playing

## BEGINNER



## Right Hand

Once you've set up the color-coded keyboard guide on the keys, place your right hand on the piano with your thumb on **1** and your pinky on **5**. This is called Basic Hand Position: Right Hand.





### Basic Hand Position: Right Hand

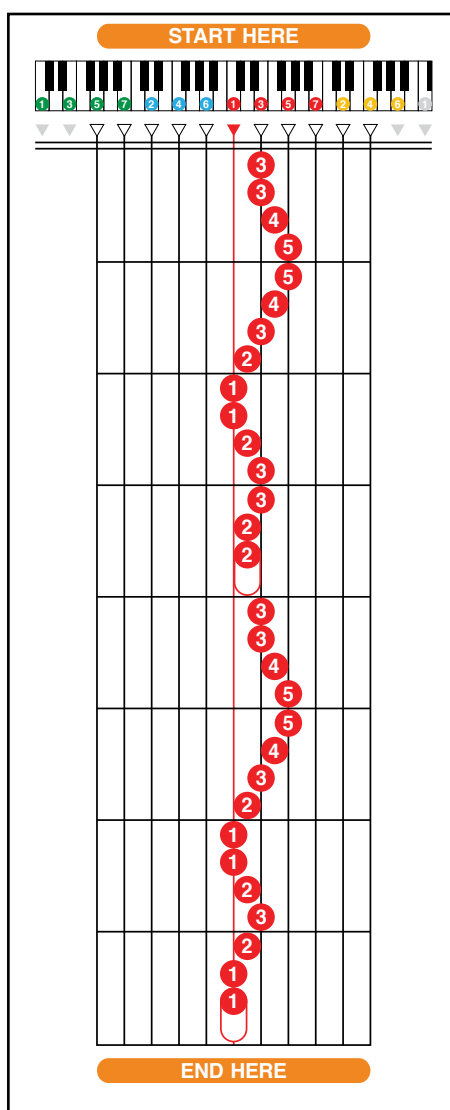
Thumb ..... 1  
Index finger..... 2  
Middle finger..... 3  
Ring finger..... 4  
Pinky finger..... 5

Your hand should be curved as though you were lightly holding a tennis ball. When you play a note, you'll use the tips of your fingers and the side of your thumb to strike the keys.

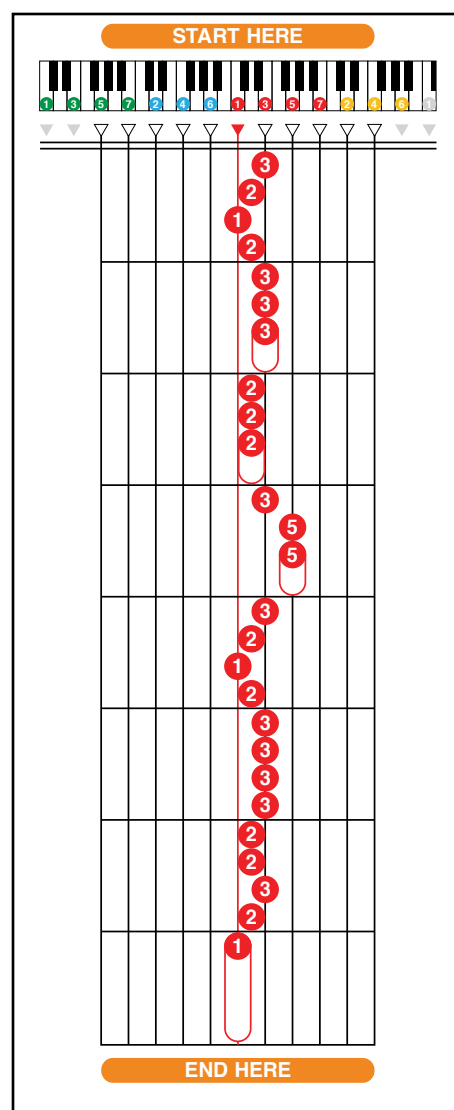
Play Method™ music is read vertically from top to bottom. So the first note to be played in “Ode to Joy” will be a **3**.

As you follow the notes on the music, match them to the notes on the keyboard guide. You'll notice that some notes are circles  while other notes are circles with ovals . The circles represent shorter notes, while the circles with ovals represent longer notes. We'll go into this with more detail in Lesson 3.

## Ode to Joy



## Mary Had a Little Lamb



## L.V. Beethoven

The diagram illustrates a piano exercise. At the top, a keyboard shows the notes from C4 to C5. Below it, a grid of 10 staves (5 lines each) is used to track the exercise. A red line indicates the sequence of notes and fingerings:

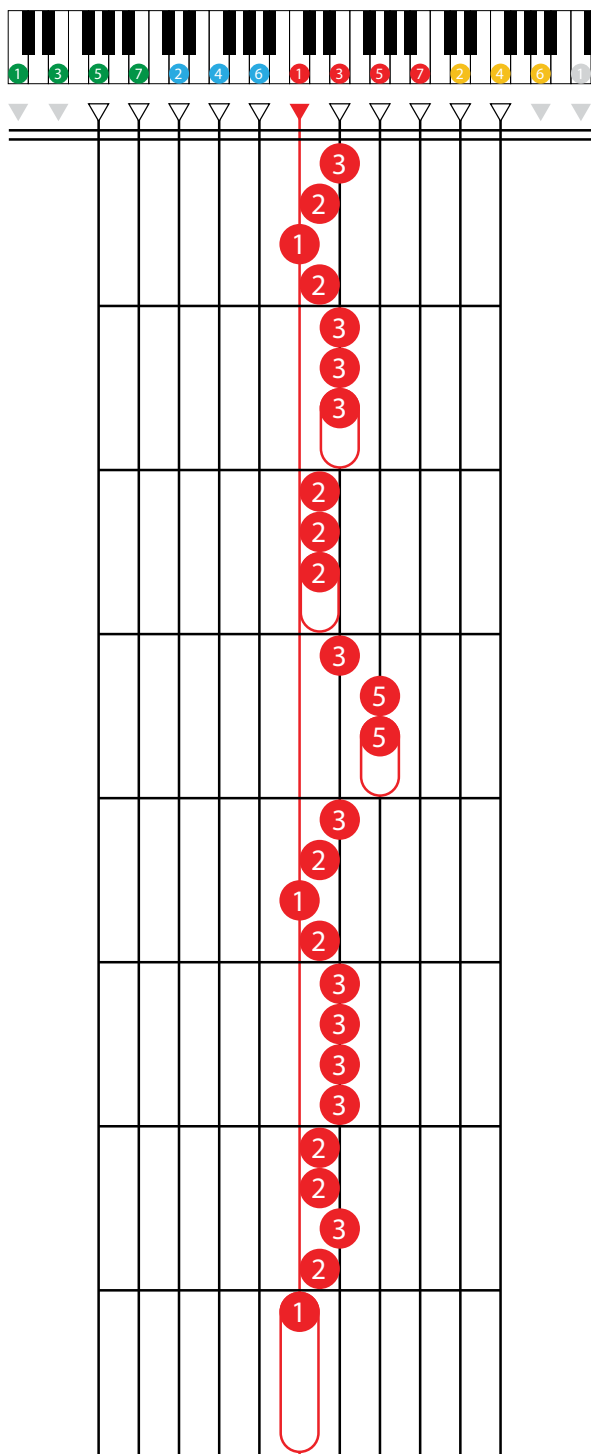
- Staff 1: C4 (1), D4 (2), E4 (3), F4 (4), G4 (5), A4 (2), B4 (4), C5 (6).
- Staff 2: C5 (1), B4 (2), A4 (3), G4 (4), F4 (5), E4 (2), D4 (4), C4 (6).
- Staff 3: C4 (1), D4 (2), E4 (3), F4 (4), G4 (5), A4 (2), B4 (4), C5 (6).
- Staff 4: C5 (1), B4 (2), A4 (3), G4 (4), F4 (5), E4 (2), D4 (4), C4 (6).
- Staff 5: C4 (1), D4 (2), E4 (3), F4 (4), G4 (5), A4 (2), B4 (4), C5 (6).
- Staff 6: C5 (1), B4 (2), A4 (3), G4 (4), F4 (5), E4 (2), D4 (4), C4 (6).
- Staff 7: C4 (1), D4 (2), E4 (3), F4 (4), G4 (5), A4 (2), B4 (4), C5 (6).
- Staff 8: C5 (1), B4 (2), A4 (3), G4 (4), F4 (5), E4 (2), D4 (4), C4 (6).
- Staff 9: C4 (1), D4 (2), E4 (3), F4 (4), G4 (5), A4 (2), B4 (4), C5 (6).
- Staff 10: C5 (1), B4 (2), A4 (3), G4 (4), F4 (5), E4 (2), D4 (4), C4 (6).

The exercise starts at C4 and ends at C5, with a red line indicating the sequence of notes and fingerings. The keyboard at the top shows the notes from C4 to C5, and the grid below shows the sequence of notes and fingerings for each staff.

# Mary Had a Little Lamb

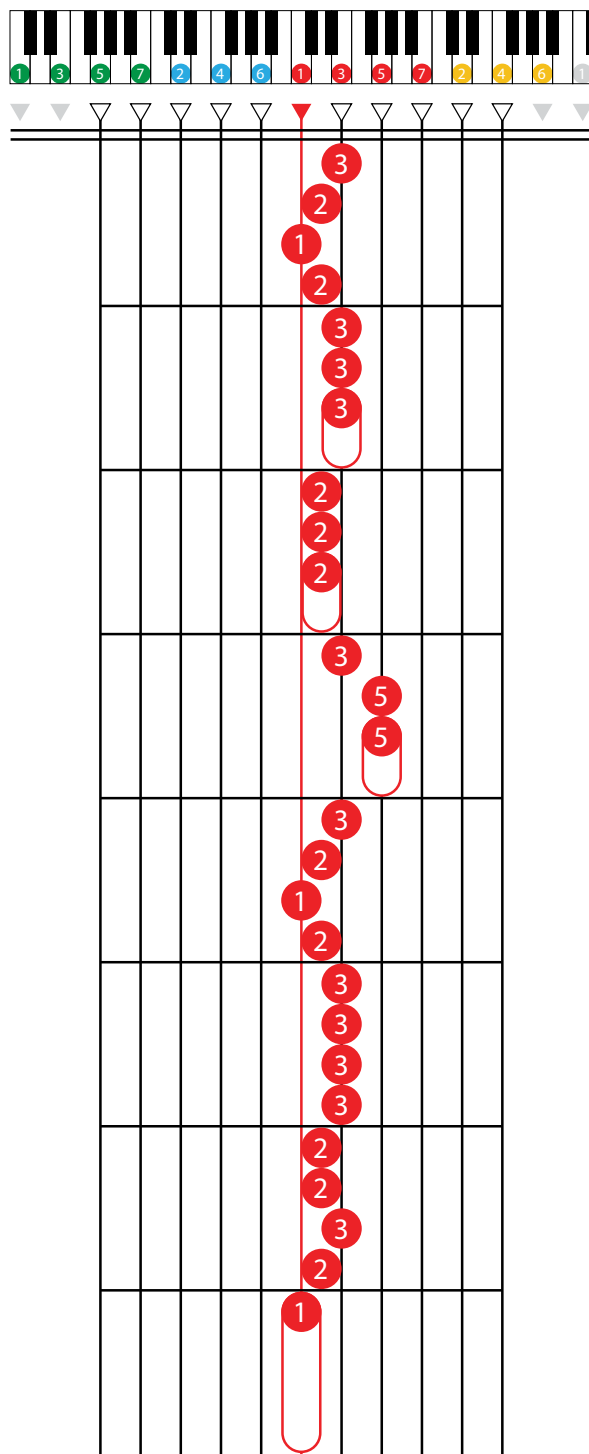
Children's

START HERE



CONTINUE

CONTINUE



END HERE

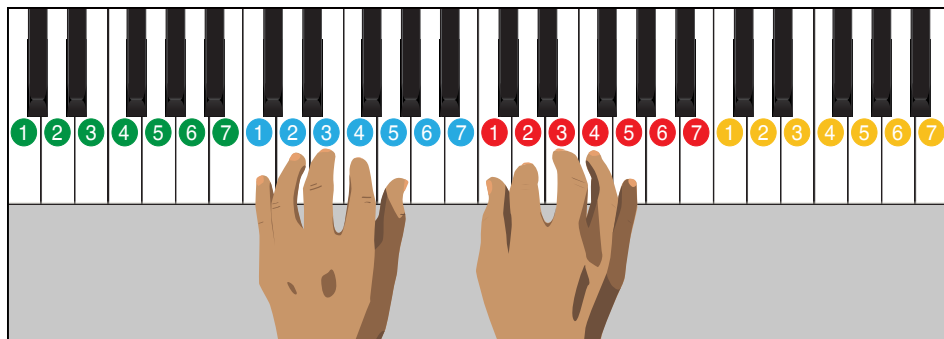
# LESSON 2:

BEGINNER



## Playing with Both Hands

Playing with both hands can create rich and beautiful music. However, mastering coordination between two hands is one of the most difficult things to achieve. In the Play Method™ system, a gray bar has been added to the music to simplify two-handed playing.

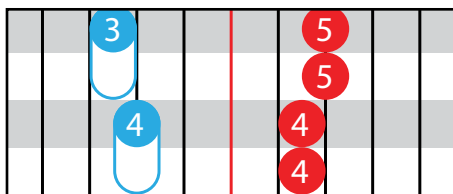


Basic Hand Position: Right Hand

- Thumb..... 1
- Index finger..... 2
- Middle finger... 3
- Ring finger..... 4
- Pinky finger..... 5

Basic Hand Position: Left Hand

- Pinky finger..... 1
- Ring finger..... 2
- Middle finger... 3
- Index finger..... 4
- Thumb..... 5



The gray bar illustrates when notes are being played at the same time for both hands.

In this lesson, you'll learn to play songs with both hands. These songs are fairly easy to play and once you get the hang of it, you'll be able to play any song from our song library.

### Ode to Joy

START HERE

END HERE

### Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

START HERE

END HERE

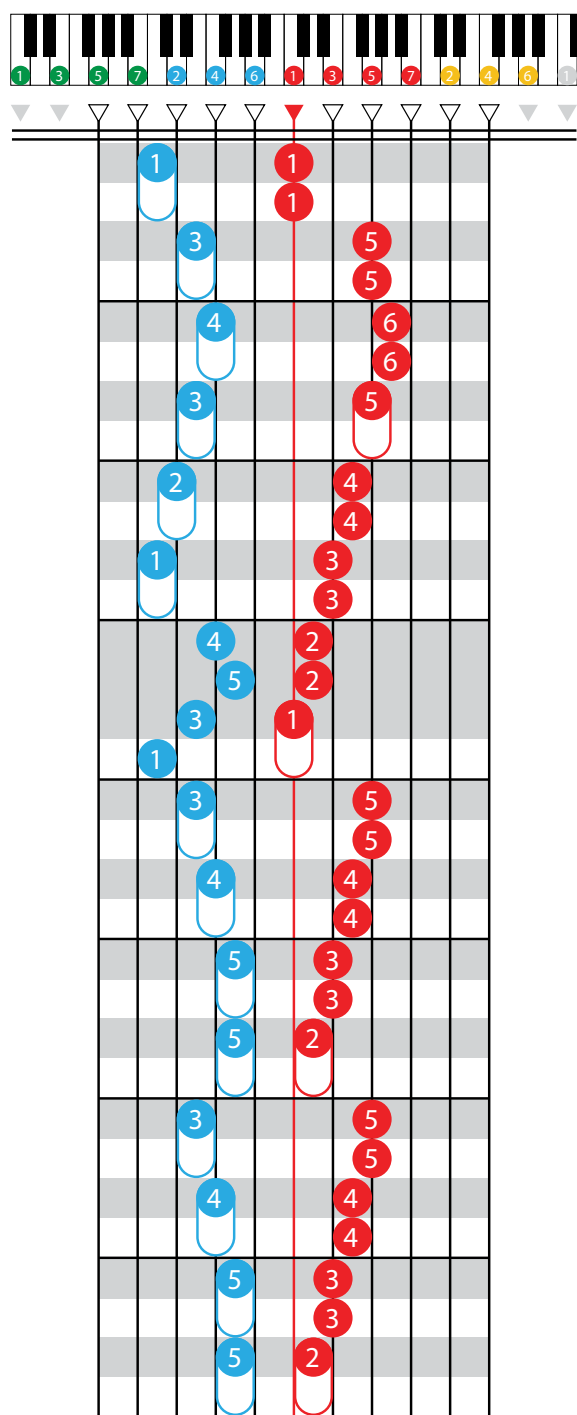


## L.V. Beethoven

# Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

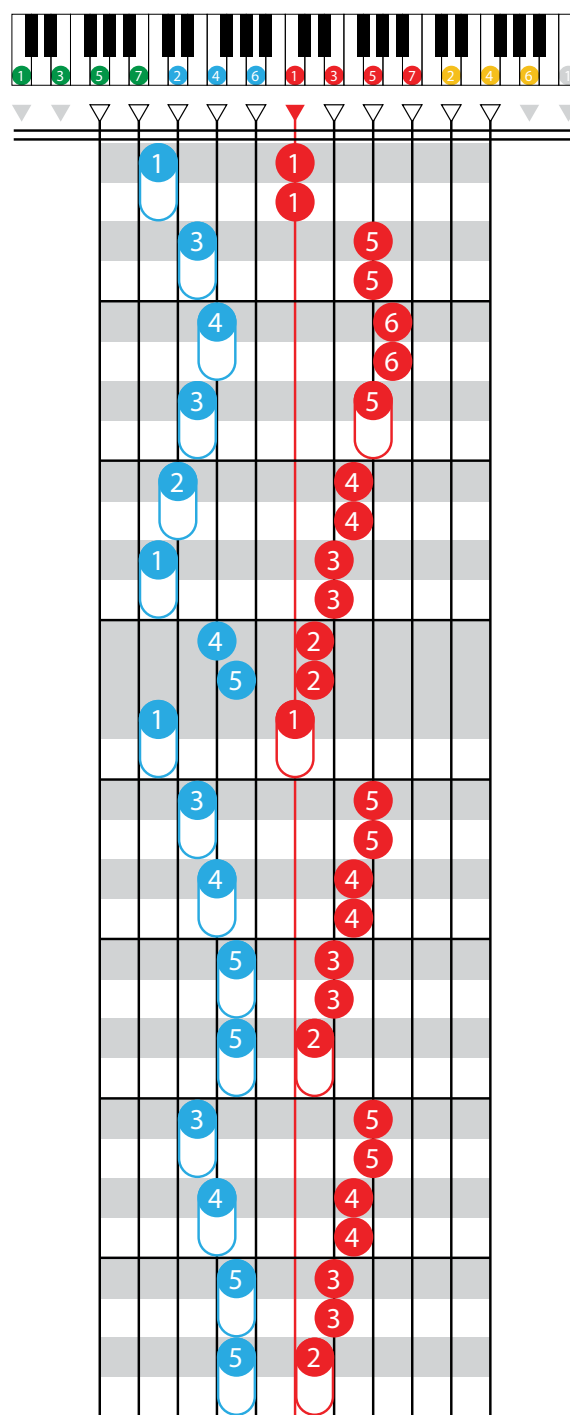
Children's

**START HERE**



**CONTINUE**

**CONTINUE**



**END HERE**

# LESSON 3:

## Note Values

BEGINNER

There are two main aspects to music: pitch and rhythm. Up to this point, we have been only focusing on pitch. Pitch is the frequency of a note determining how high or low it sounds.

### Pitch

In standard music notation, pitch is represented by the location of the note found on the staff (fig.3.1).

In the Play Method™ system, colors and numbers are used to represent these tones (fig.3.2).

The lower tones are labeled 1 through 7 in the Green and then 1 through 7 in the Blue. The lighter tones are labeled 1 through 7 in the Red and then 1 through 7 in the Yellow.

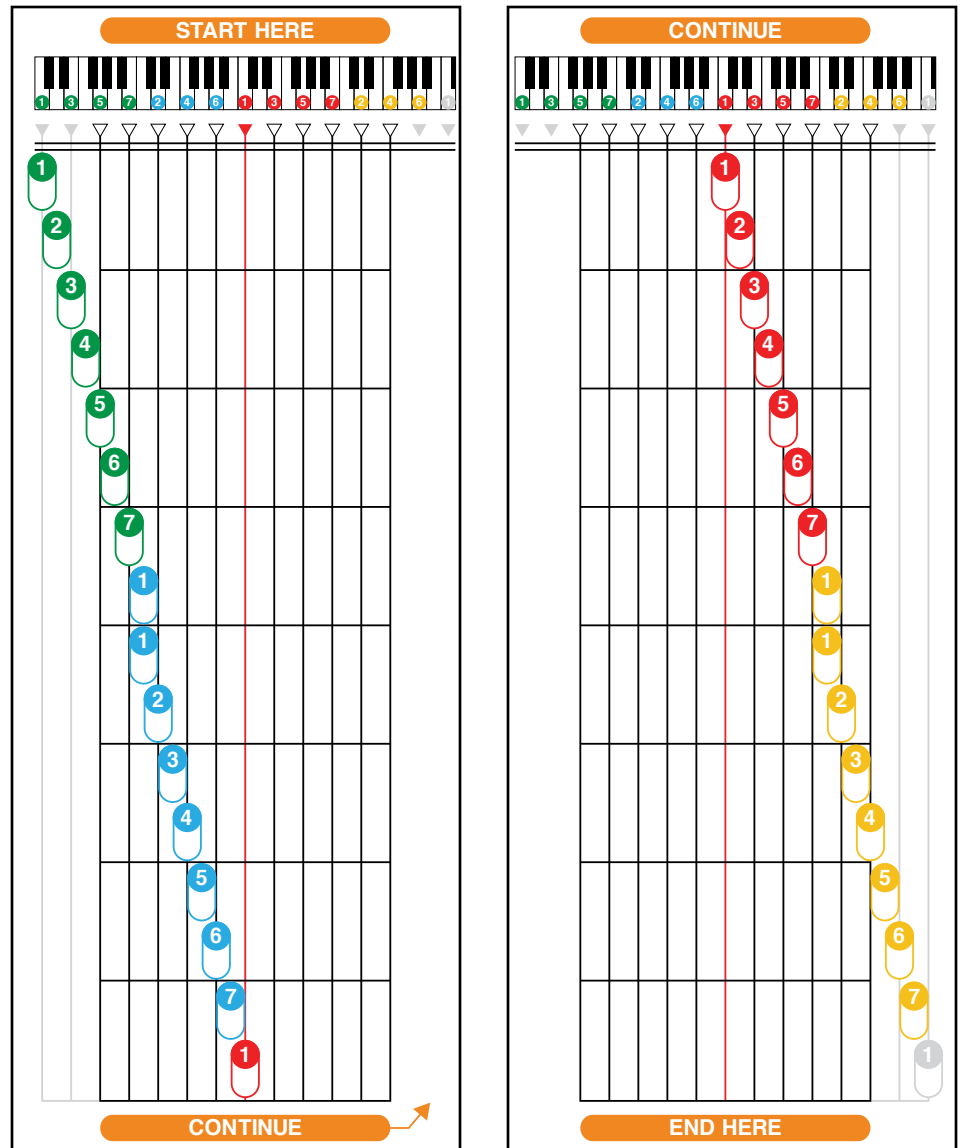
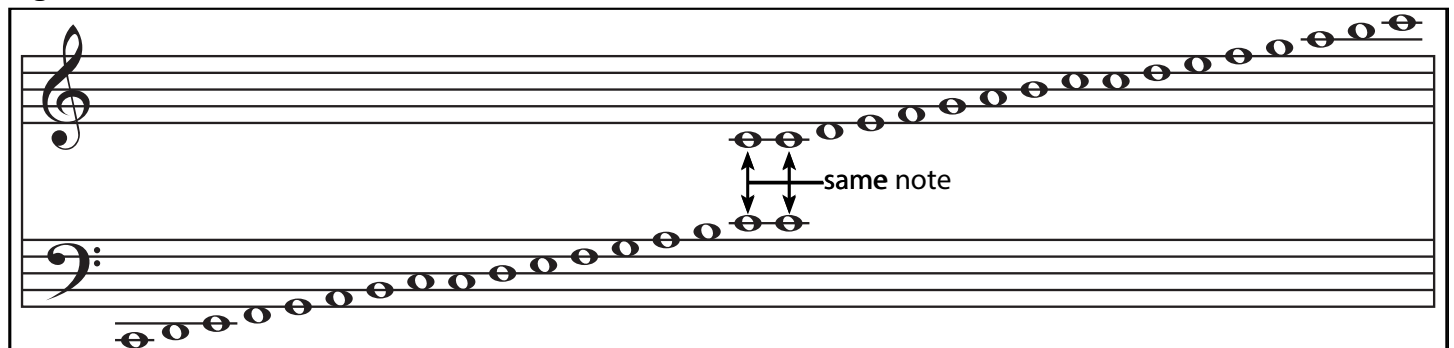


fig. 3.2

fig. 3.1

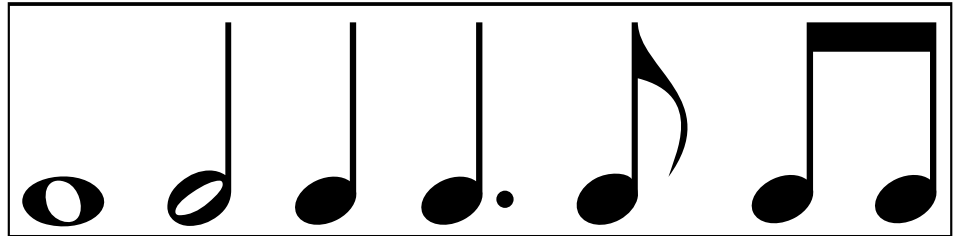


The second major aspect has to do with note values, also known as duration. Duration refers to the time allotted for each note.

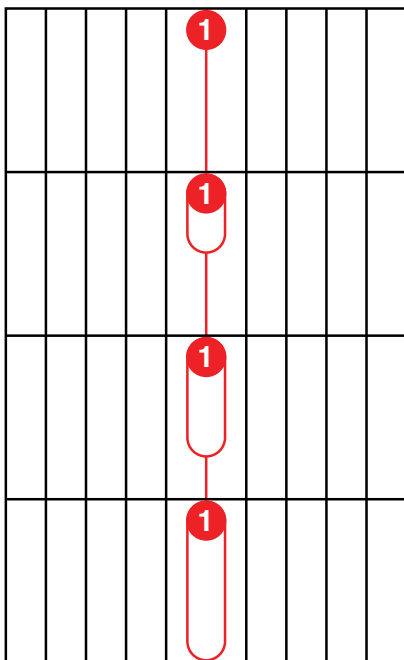
In standard music notation, duration is represented by a note's appearance: solid, hollow, stems, flags, beams, dots and more (**fig. 3.3**). In the Play Method™ system, circles and ovals are used to indicate duration (**fig. 3.4**). Circles are used to illustrate notes that are played for a shorter duration while ovals are used to represent notes that are played and held for a longer duration.

## Note Values

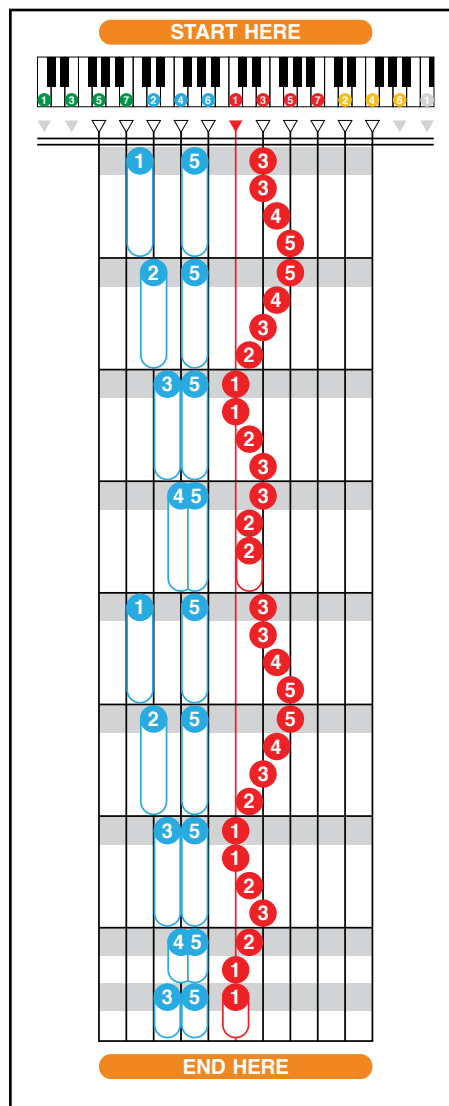
**fig. 3.3**



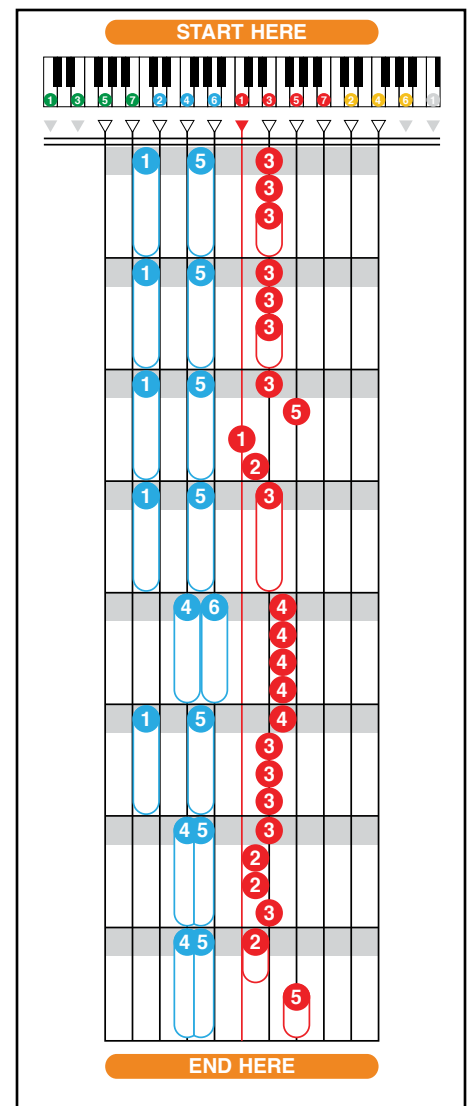
**fig. 3.4**



# Ode to Joy



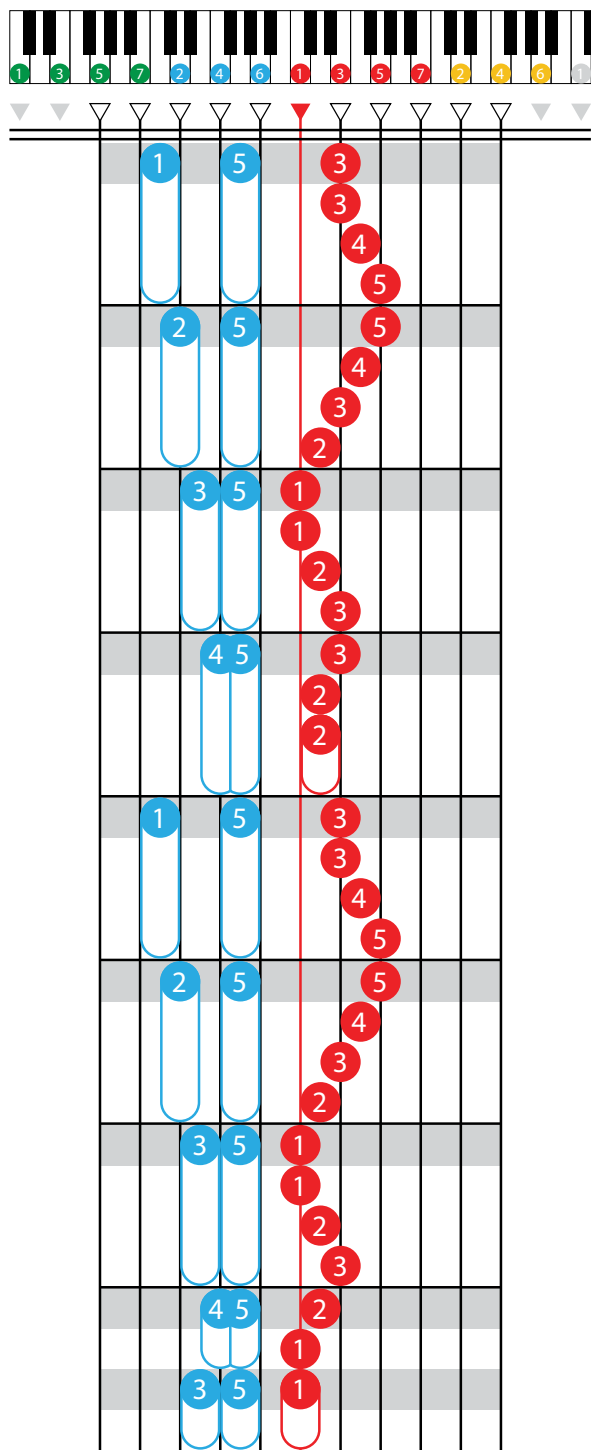
## Jingle Bells



# Ode to Joy

L.V. Beethoven

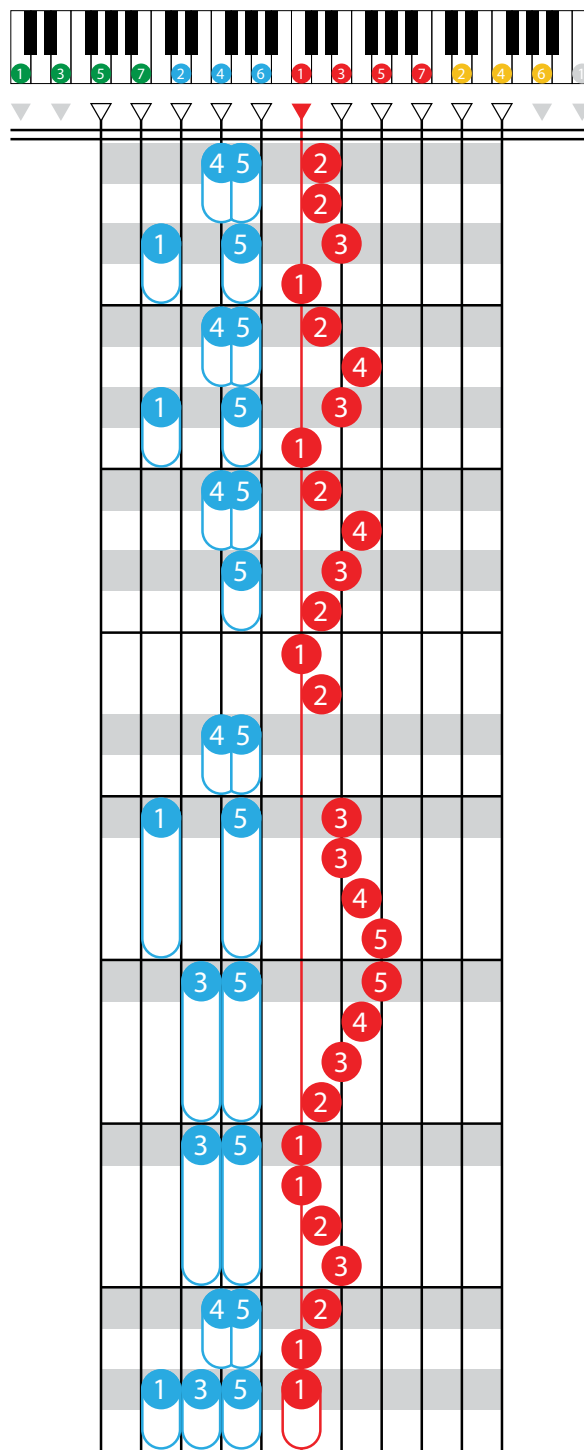
START HERE



Piano roll for 'Ode to Joy' starting from the beginning. The roll shows 8 measures. Fingerings are indicated by blue circles (1-5) and red circles (1-5). A red vertical line marks the start of the second system.

CONTINUE

CONTINUE



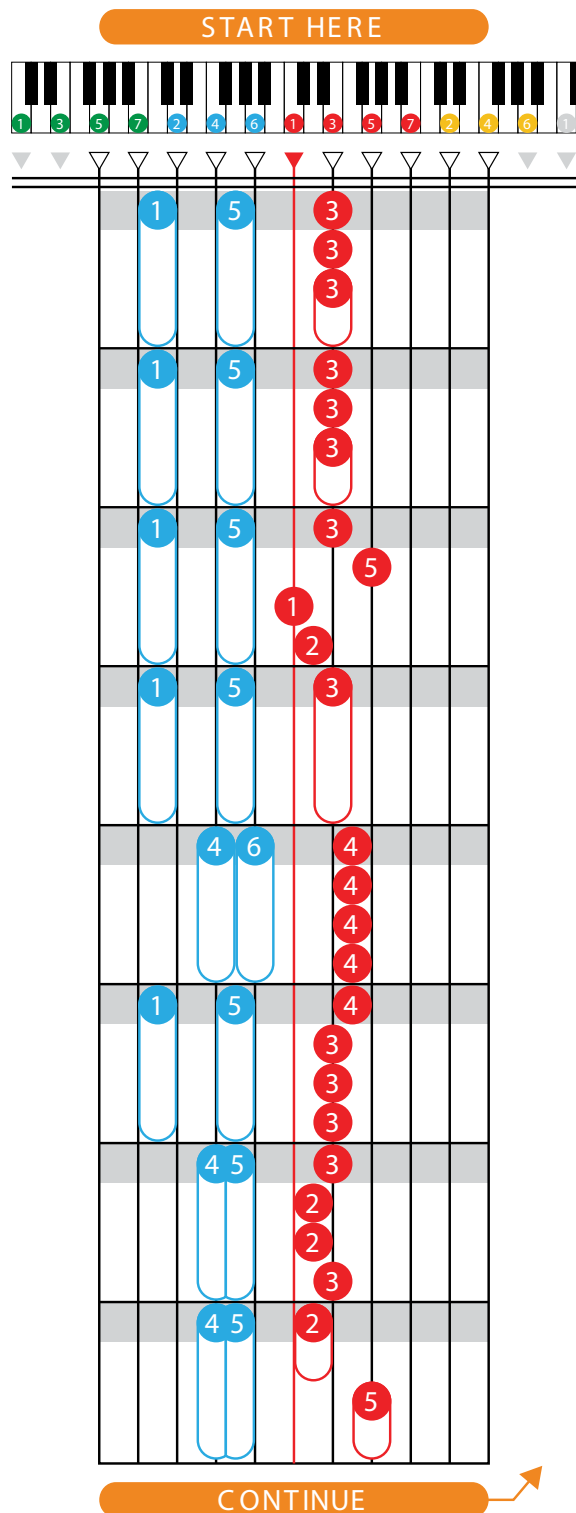
Piano roll for 'Ode to Joy' continuing from the second system. The roll shows 8 measures. Fingerings are indicated by blue circles (1-5) and red circles (1-5). A red vertical line marks the end of the second system.

END HERE

# Jingle Bells

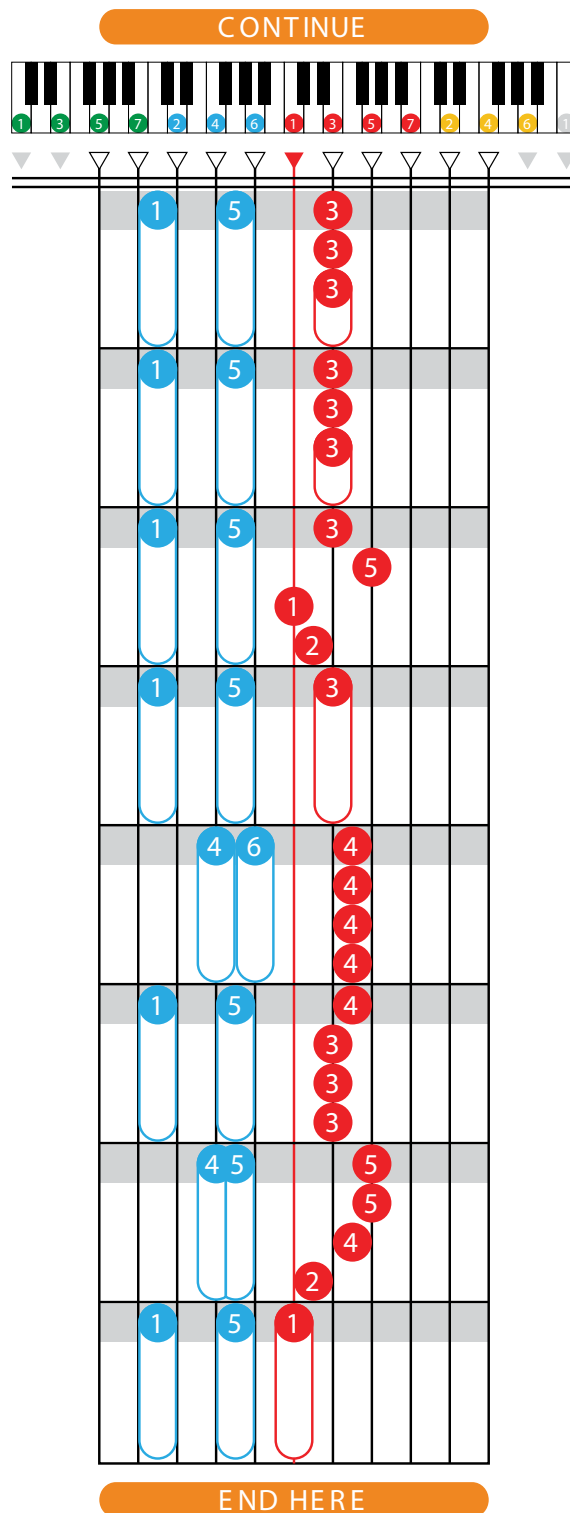
James L. Pierpont

**START HERE**



**CONTINUE**

**CONTINUE**



**END HERE**

# LESSON 4:

## Playing the Black Keys

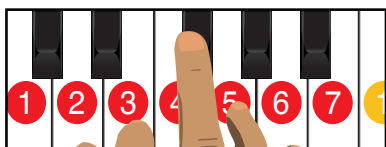
BEGINNER



In the first three lessons, you've played only the white keys. The white keys represent the seven tones of the musical alphabet:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
C D E F G A B

The black keys represent the tones in between some of these notes. The black keys of course combine with the white keys to make beautiful music. In standard sheet music, the black keys are indicated by additional symbols called sharps (#) and flats (b). In Play Method™, rather than using potentially confusing symbols, we simply use black numbers for black notes. When you see a black number, you play the black key to the upper right of the corresponding white note.

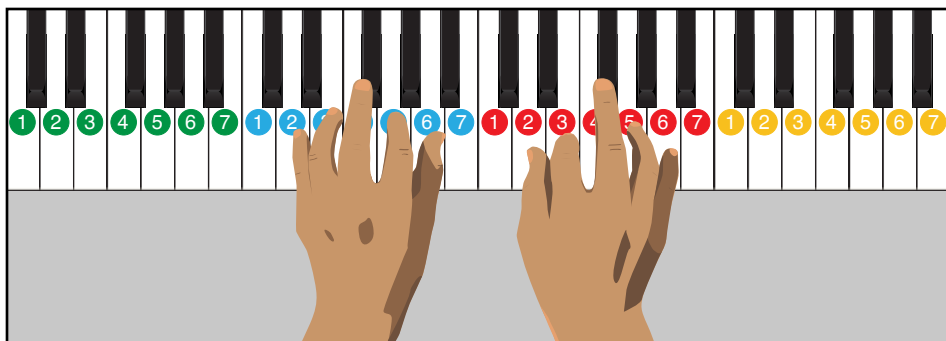


New Hand Position: Right Hand

Thumb..... 2  
Index finger..... 3  
Middle finger.... 4  
Ring finger..... 5  
Pinky finger..... 6

New Hand Position: Left Hand

Pinky finger..... 2  
Ring finger..... 3  
Middle finger.... 4  
Index finger..... 5  
Thumb..... 6



### Ode to Joy

START HERE

END HERE

### Oh, When the Saints

START HERE

END HERE

## L.V. Beethoven



# When the Saints Go Marching In

## Traditional

# LESSON 5:

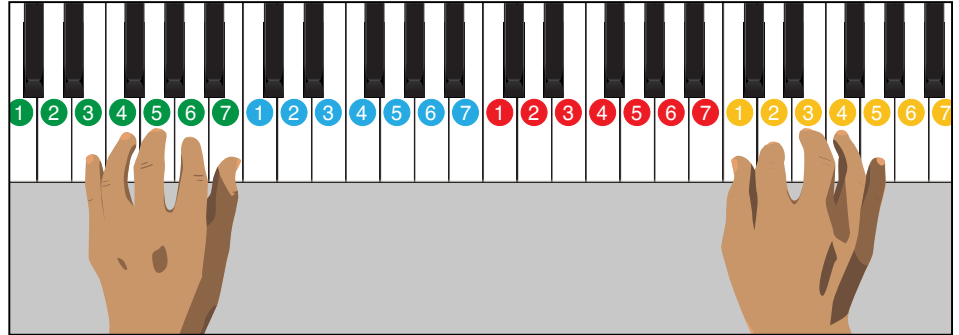
## Venturing Out

BEGINNER



### Green & Yellow

Today's pianos, whether acoustic or digital, have eighty-eight keys while portable electronic keyboards have sixty-one. Up to this point, we've only dealt with music that's played within the blue and red sections of the keyboard. In this lesson, you'll be moving outward into the green and yellow sections of the keyboard.



Some songs will require you to play in three of the four colors and others will require you to play in all four. Some of these songs are a bit more advanced and you'll need to move your hands around a little more.

As you practice each song, you'll find what works best for hand and finger placement.

### Ode to Joy

START HERE

END HERE

### Minuet

START HERE

END HERE

## 12 Tones

Looking at the keyboard, you will notice that the numbers repeat 1 through 7 in each color. Take the time to play 1 through 7 in any color plus the next 1; sing along, by singing “do-re-mi-fa-so-la-ti-do.” This is known as the *C scale*. Playing from one number in one color to the same number in the next color consists of eight notes in total. This is called an octave.

Play any labeled key found on the keyboard. Now play that same labeled key in another color. Now play them together. You'll notice that they share a similar tone. The reason that these notes share a similar tone is because they share a mathematical characteristic in the way they vibrate.

Within an octave there are only twelve notes to be found. Seven white keys and five black keys. That means that every song to have ever been written or played consisted of only these twelve notes placed in a variety of places on the keyboard.

# Note Values

## Happy Birthday

**START HERE**

**END HERE**

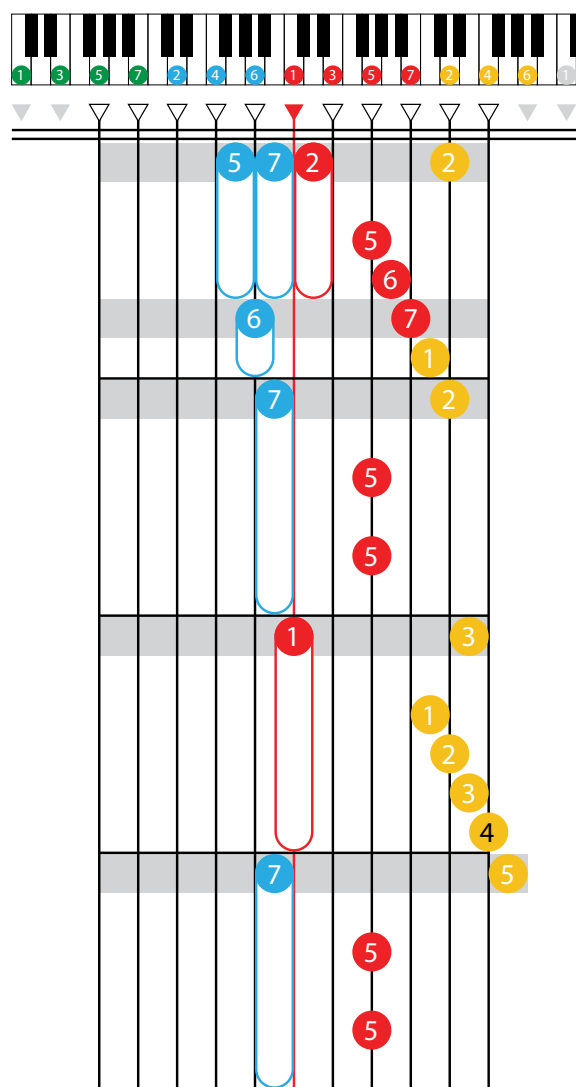
# Ode to Joy

## L.V. Beethoven

# Minuet

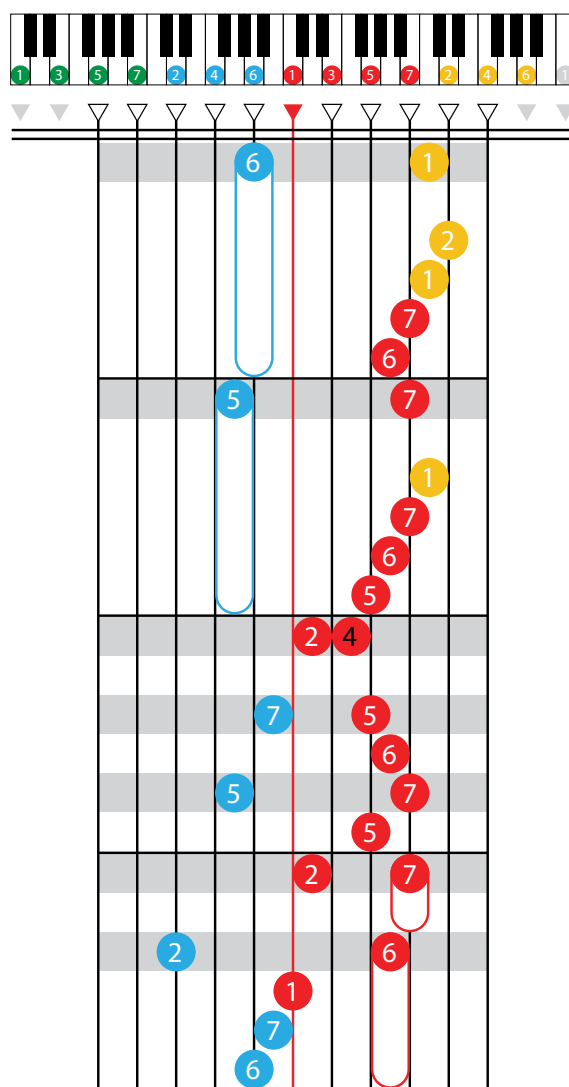
J.S. Bach

START HERE



CONTINUE

CONTINUE

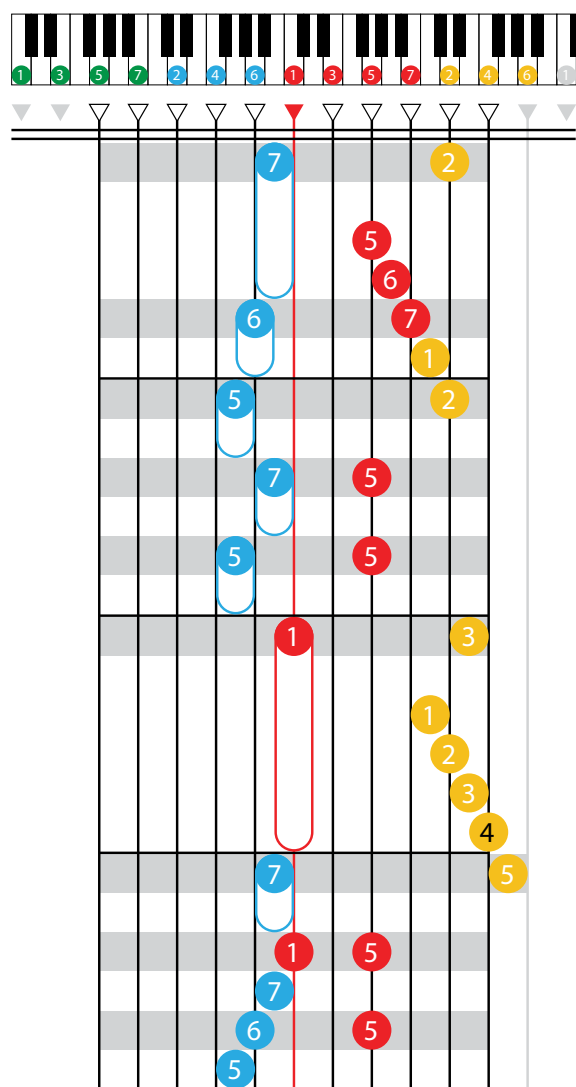


NEXT PAGE

# Minuet

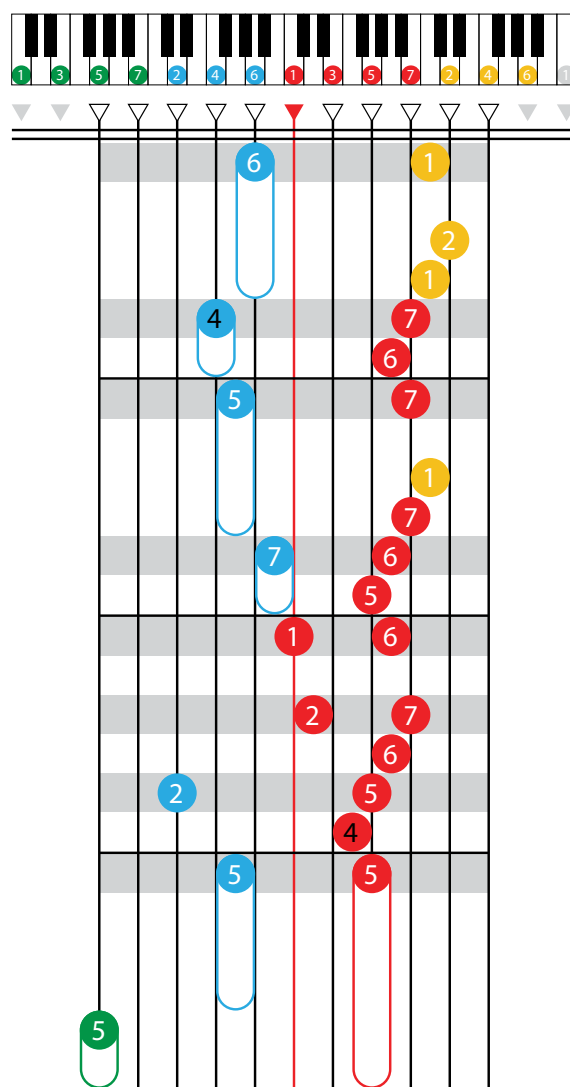
J.S. Bach

**START HERE**



**CONTINUE**

**CONTINUE**



**END HERE**

# WHAT'S NEXT?

Congratulations on completing the Beginner Level. You have jumped your first hurdle and are on your way to reading and playing standard sheet music. Before moving on to the Intermediate Level, I suggest that you play a variety of songs in the Beginner Level, which you can find at [www.playmethod.com](http://www.playmethod.com).

This way, not only will you be better prepared for the next level, but you will be playing lots of songs in different genres and styles. After all, that's what the method is about — having fun playing music.

We are still a young company, and are always looking for ways to improve the method, so feel free to send us feedback at [info@playmethod.com](mailto:info@playmethod.com). Best of luck in the Intermediate Level!