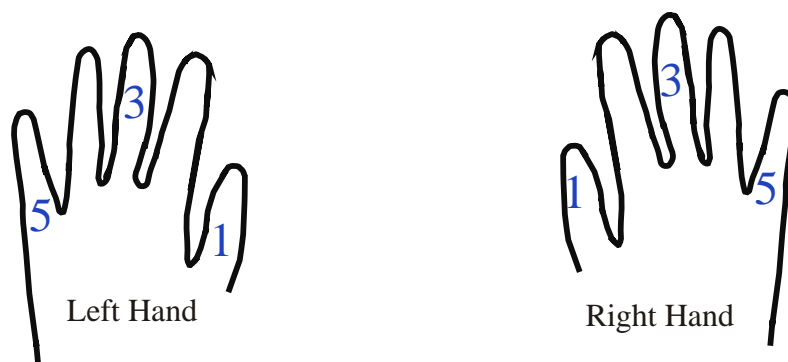


Rhythm Lessons

Lets have fun with rhythms. A “chord” in music terms means a group of notes that are played together. We will learn more about the theory of chords in later classes, but for now we are going to learn how to play C chord, F chord and G chords. Playing chords is fun and easy, plus it helps strengthen and forming the hand to the keyboard.

In the next exercise, use your right hand. Use the little finger, the middle finger and the thumb. In the picture below, the fingers you will use are numbered. Remember your orientation lesson on fingering.

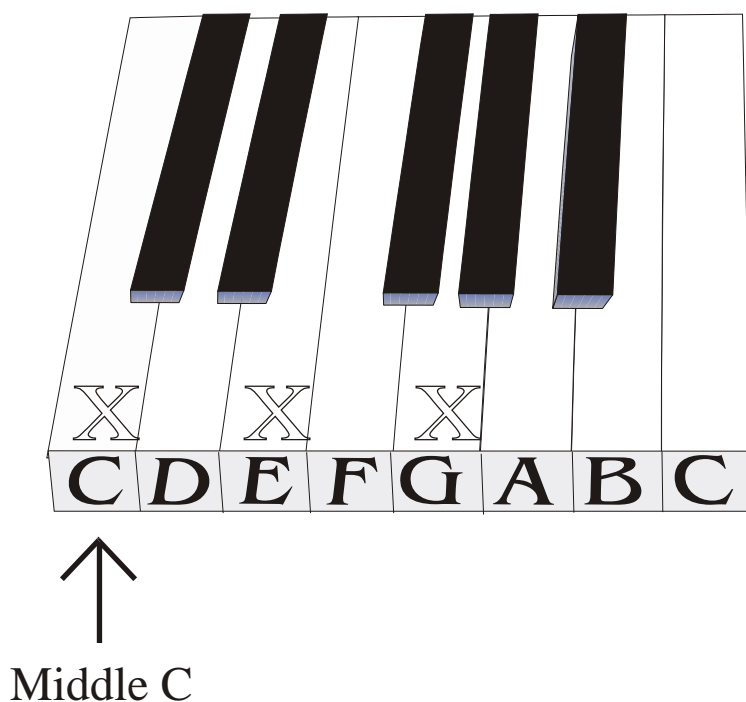


In the next exercises you will be using the thumb, the 3 finger and the 5 finger. When playing every other note use every other finger. Use this fingering unless the music specifies different fingering.

Rhythm Lessons

With your right hand play C, E and G together.

When playing notes together (or at the same time) it is important that all notes sound at the same time. This has to be practiced, for some of our fingers are so weak that they play after the beat. This sounds like a note is played singly.



Exercise

At the Piano

1. With the right hand play C, E, and G together. Practice this several times so the fingers play all three notes at the same time.
2. With the left hand play C, E and G together, until it becomes easy and the notes are sounded at the same time.

Learning Chords

A musical staff in 4/4 time showing a C major chord (C, E, G) in the first measure. The notes are circled and labeled with fingerings: 1 for C, 3 for E, and 5 for G. The following three measures show the chord being played vertically in pairs: (C, E) in the first measure, (E, G) in the second, and (C, G) in the third.

See how the notes are lined up vertically? When notes are layered vertically they are to be played together.

A musical staff showing a C major chord (C, E, G) held for 4 beats.

1 2 3 4

Whole notes are held for 4 beats

A musical staff showing a C major chord (C, E, G) held for 2 beats, then a G major chord (G, B, D) held for 2 beats.

1 2 3 4

Half notes are held for 2 beats

Rhythm Lessons

C Chord Right Hand

The notes C, E and G form C Chord

A musical staff in 4/4 time showing the C chord fingering. The notes C, E, and G are placed on the first, second, and third lines of the staff. The first measure shows the notes with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4 below them. The second measure shows the notes with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4 below them. The third measure shows the notes with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4 below them. The fourth measure shows the notes with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4 below them. The fifth measure shows the notes with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4 below them.

A musical staff in 4/4 time showing a rhythm exercise for the C chord. The notes C, E, and G are placed on the first, second, and third lines of the staff. The first measure shows the notes with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4 below them. The second measure shows the notes with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4 below them. The third measure shows the notes with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4 below them. The fourth measure shows the notes with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4 below them. The fifth measure shows the notes with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4 below them. The sixth measure shows the notes with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4 below them. The seventh measure shows the notes with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4 below them. The eighth measure shows the notes with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4 below them.

Exercise

At the Piano

1. Play each measure without stopping from start to finish.
2. Count the beats out loud while playing.
3. Fingering: Use thumb, 3 and 5 fingers only.

Beginning Compositions

Fun on C Chord

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with four measures. The notes and fingerings are as follows:

- Staff 1:**
 - Measure 1: C4 (1), E4 (3), G4 (5)
 - Measure 2: C4 (1), A4 (2), G4 (3), F4 (4)
 - Measure 3: E4 (3), G4 (5), A4 (2), C5 (1)
 - Measure 4: C5 (1), B4 (2), A4 (3), G4 (4)
- Staff 2:**
 - Measure 5: C5 (1), B4 (2), A4 (3), G4 (4)
 - Measure 6: F4 (4), E4 (3), D4 (2), C4 (1)
 - Measure 7: C4 (1), E4 (3), G4 (5), A4 (2)
 - Measure 8: C4 (1), B4 (2), A4 (3), G4 (4)
- Staff 3:**
 - Measure 9: C4 (1), E4 (3), G4 (5), A4 (2)
 - Measure 10: C4 (1), B4 (2), A4 (3), G4 (4)
 - Measure 11: E4 (3), G4 (5), A4 (2), C5 (1)
 - Measure 12: C5 (1), B4 (2), A4 (3), G4 (4)
- Staff 4:**
 - Measure 13: E4 (3), G4 (5), A4 (2), C5 (1)
 - Measure 14: C5 (1), B4 (2), A4 (3), G4 (4)
 - Measure 15: C5 (1), B4 (2), A4 (3), G4 (4)
 - Measure 16: E4 (3), G4 (5), A4 (2), C5 (1)

Learn measure 1 and 2 and you have learned measures, 1, 3, 12 and 14. Measures 9 and 16 are the same.

1. Place the right hand thumb on middle C, 3 on E and the 5 on G.
2. A is our new note. To play A, leave your thumb on C and play A with the 5 finger. If G follows A in your music, play G with the 4 finger. Use the correct fingering as marked on your music.