

BOOK 1 PERFECT FOR BEGINNERS

Designed for the absolute beginner to the piano, featuring six original pieces that are fun to play and practice. You'll learn how to read music, improvise and create your own music. Each unit improves your piano skills with graded quizzes.

UNIT 1



Technique: The grab technique, learning how to properly curl your fingers. C minor 5-finger scale.



Rhythm: Quarter notes, quarter rests and half-note vocalizations.



Reading/Song: Dynamics *piano*, *mezzo-forte* and *forte*. Legato vs. Staccato articulation. Slurs vs. ties. Guideposts C, F and G.



Improvisation: What is improvisation? Licks and motifs. 3 licks based off of known rhythms and notes C and Eb.



Bonus: F major 5-finger scale, complete F major scale. F major and minor triads.

UNIT 2



Technique: C 5-finger major and minor scales hands together. Continuous 5-finger scale (crossing between the hands). Controlling dynamics.



Rhythm: Dotted notes explanation. Dotted half-note. Half rest.



Reading/Song: Stepping on the staff. Finding notes around your guideposts. *Mezzo-piano* dynamic. Crescendo. Longer song form and more interaction between the hands. Preparing your fingers to be ready to play, incomplete measures.



Improvisation: Creating melody vs. chords. Using chords in your improvisation. Writing music without a staff. Improvising using notes C, D and Eb.



Bonus: Focus on accompaniment. Introducing the steady bassline with simple licks in the right hand.

UNIT 3



Technique: 5-finger C minor scale with left hand accompaniment.



Rhythm: Introducing eighth notes (dee-ba's).



Reading/Song: Whole note rhythm. Introducing ties. Root-5 (R5) left-hand chord pattern. Staccato articulation. F-clef G note "the ground" and G-clef F note "fly away."



Improvisation: Preparing the C minor pentatonic scale. Incorporating eighth notes into our improvisation. Improvising using notes C, Eb, F and G.



Bonus: The full C minor pentatonic scale and scale blocks.

UNIT 4



Technique: 5-finger C blues scale with drums hands together, in contrary motion and with a bassline.



Rhythm: Introducing the eighth note rest vocalization "uh."



Reading/Song: Steady bassline accompaniment. Term *similie*.



Improvisation: Creating licks with the partial C minor pentatonic scale and C 5-finger blues scale.



Bonus: Improvising over the steady bassline. 3 improvisation exercises.

UNIT 5



Technique: C major scale hands together. C blues scale with bassline.



Rhythm: Syncopated rhythm, *dee ba- ba*.



Reading/Song: New bass accompaniment pattern in C major.



Improvisation: Licks from rhythmic blocks.



Bonus: C major pentatonic scale and lick. C major scale with bassline accompaniment.

UNIT 6



Technique: A minor 5-finger scale. A major triad and 5-finger scale.



Rhythm: Using the breath for an eighth rest.



Reading/Song: New accompaniment bassline in A minor. Moving to a new key, A minor.



Improvisation: Play licks along with bassline. Vocalize rhythm, then play lick.



Bonus: Minor flowing piano pattern.

BOOK 2 BUILDING A FOUNDATION

Continuing where Book 1 left off, you will continue working through rhythm, technique, music reading, songs and improvisation. If you are coming to HomeSchoolPiano with some piano training under your belt, Book 2 is a great place to start.

UNIT 1

Technique: Focus on the left-hand bassline and left hand exercise. Building left hand finger independence.



Rhythm: Finding upbeat within the measure.



Reading/Song: New C major bassline accompaniment pattern. First and second endings.



Improvisation: Melodic and rhythmic embellishment over new bassline pattern.



Bonus: Improvisation over major and minor bassline pattern using pentatonic fragments, notes from the melody. C major and minor triads. Sliding between notes to create a bluesy sound.

UNIT 2

Technique: Left hand oom-pah accompaniment pattern. Broken chords.



Rhythm: Three different ways to write out a syncopated dee ba- ba rhythm.



Reading/Song: Oom-pah accompaniment pattern. C two-octaves below middle C.



Improvisation: Breaking up chords C, F and G for improvisation.



Bonus: Mixing together songs *Little Willie's Strut* and *Blues For You*. Mash-ups.

UNIT 3

Technique: Full C major scale. Blocking technique for the major scale.



Rhythm: Mixed syncopated rhythms.



Reading/Song: Mixed accompaniment patterns: triads, bassline and omm-pahs. New chords Dmin, A and G7 (dominant 7th chords).



Improvisation: Improvisation over triads. Introduction of *form*.



Bonus: Creating a contemporary arrangement using chords in the right hand and octaves in the left.

UNIT 4



Technique: 5-finger scale A minor and blues scales.



Rhythm: Alternating between left and right hand syncopated rhythms.



Reading/Song: New minor bassline accompaniment. Chord symbols Amin7, F7 and E7.



Improvisation: Introduction of A harmonic minor scale. Complete A blues scale. Concept of *vamp* and *improvisation springboards*. Harmonic minor and blues scale blocks.



Bonus: Call-and-response improvisation. *Head-solo-head* soloing.

UNIT 5



Technique: Different methods to create a triad. Inversions of triads. Arpeggiating triads.



Rhythm: Alternating between left and right hand syncopated rhythms.



Reading/Song: Triads and melody in the right hand. Active left hand bassline.



Improvisation: *Comping chords* along with a steady bassline.



Bonus: Improvising over the improvisation section bassline using licks and *lines*.

UNIT 6



Technique: R-5-R left hand patterns.



Rhythm: Two-hand rhythms. Introducing *style markings*.



Reading/Song: R-5-R accompaniment pattern. Moving between a minor and major key. Staccato left hand. *D.C. al Coda*.



Improvisation: D harmonic minor scale improvisation over R-5-R bassline.



Bonus: Playing triads in inversions along with R-5-R bassline.

BOOK 3 UNLOCKING THE PIANIST WITHIN

You'll learn how to create rich piano arrangements using the techniques in book 3. By incorporating original pieces in a variety of musical styles, book 3 helps you to become a well-rounded pianist, ready for the next challenge.

UNIT 1



Technique: All major and minor 5-finger scales in all 12 keys.



Rhythm: Introducing triplets and their vocalization.



Reading/Song: Finding chord symbols. Determine the root. Creating 5-finger scales and R5 diads.



Improvisation: G blues scale broken into scale blocks. 2 new licks.



Bonus: Changes to the accompaniment: R5 bassline, R7 chord shells. Improvisation over the created bassline.

UNIT 2



Technique: R5, R6, R7 chord arpeggios. R, 3, 5, 6 bassline.



Rhythm: Style markings, triplets and syncopated rhythms.



Reading/Song: R6 chords, R-3-5-6 bass pattern. 12-bar blues in G with bassline and chords.



Improvisation: Blues notes, sliding and crushing. Creating blues licks over bass pattern.



Bonus: More advanced bassline pattern. Play new pattern with melody and chords.

UNIT 3



Technique: R7 chord pattern with the octave in all 12 keys.



Rhythm: Vocalizing rhythms that tie into other rhythms.



Reading/Song: R7 chord shells. Creating a bassline from R7 shells.



Improvisation: Complete F blues scale licks over R7 bassline. Breakdown of techniques used to create a 12-bar blues improvisation.



Bonus: *Comping* 7th (block) chords in the right hand along with bassline.

UNIT 4



Technique: Broken triads C, F and G with rhythm in all inversions.



Rhythm: Introducing *subdivision method* of rhythmic vocalization.



Reading/Song: *Montuno* rhythmic pattern with quarter note and half note pulse; broken chords and melodic phrases.



Improvisation: 3 montuno patterns with half note bassline.



Bonus: How to create your own montuno patterns.

UNIT 5



Technique: R-5-R patterns in the left hand. How to create a chord progression. Apply this new bass pattern to a chord progression that you create.



Rhythm: Subdivision of rhythms practice.



Reading/Song: R-5-R bass pattern in a ballad style. How to use the pedal to create a *legato* sound.



Improvisation: Introducing *diatonic* chords and how to create an improvisation using only the F major scale. Roman numeral chord analysis.



Bonus: Creating an active left and right hand pattern using R-5-R bass accompaniment and chords in the right hand.

UNIT 6



Technique: Full triad arpeggios on D, A, Bmin and G. How to move the pinky with the rest of the hands for better technique.



Rhythm: Subdivision of syncopated rhythms.



Reading/Song: Introducing *voice leading* and moving between triads in inversions.



Improvisation: Diatonic in the key of D. Analysis of the chords and creating an improvisation using chord tones and the D major scale.



Bonus: Congratulations, you've finished! Where to go from here using the material that you've already learned and resources to check out next!