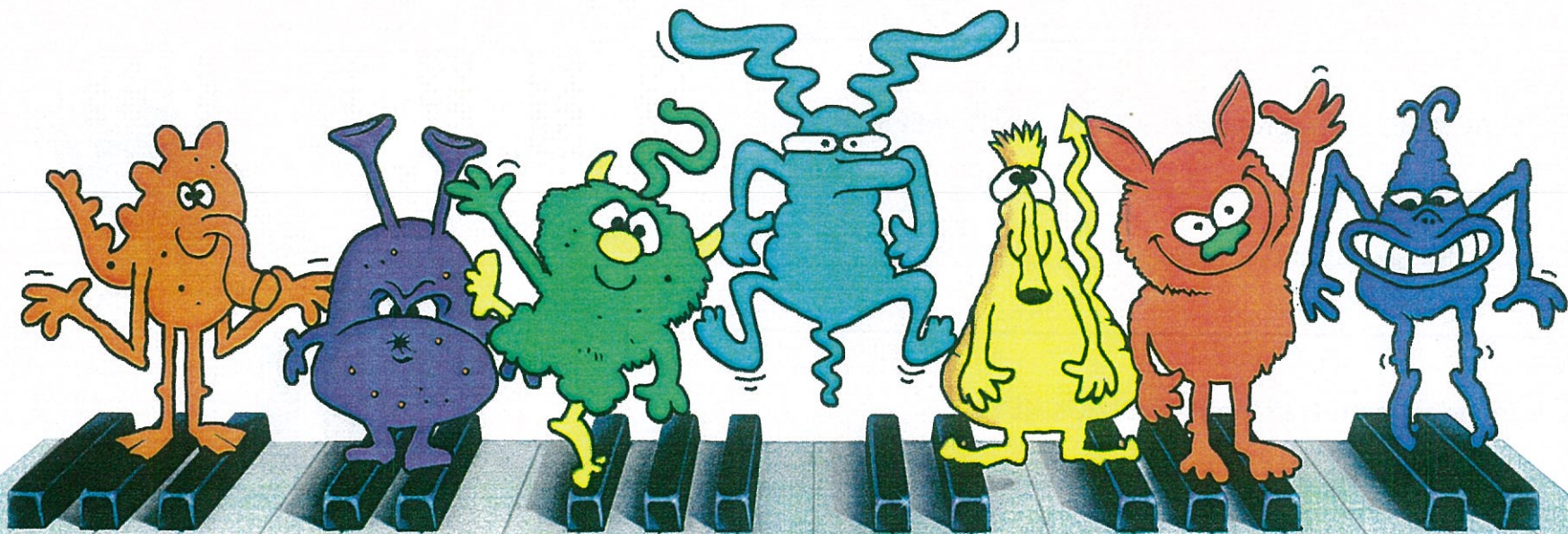


JOHN THOMPSON'S EASIEST PIANO COURSE

PART ONE



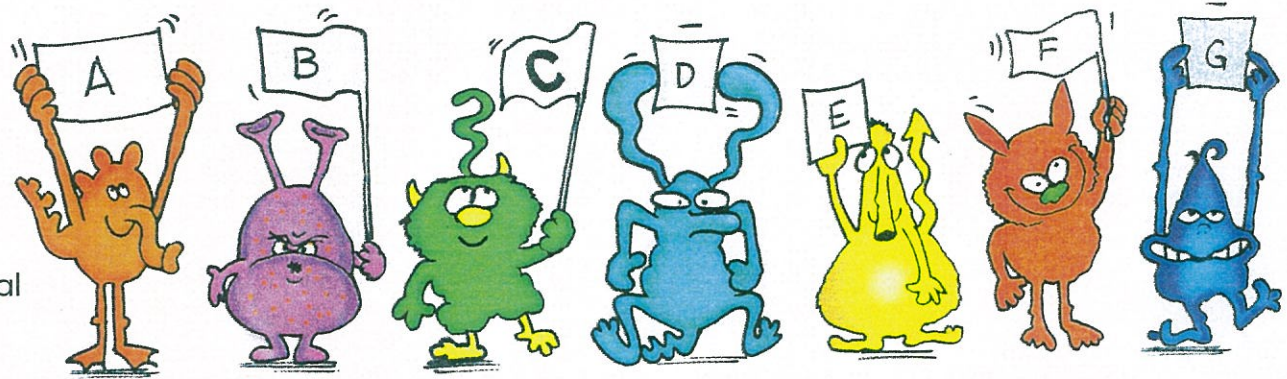
An easy and fun approach to learning the piano

The Piano Keyboard

There are WHITE KEYS and BLACK KEYS on the Piano Keyboard.

The WHITE KEYS are named

Recite the letters of the Musical Alphabet several times.



The BLACK KEYS are grouped in TWOS and THREES.

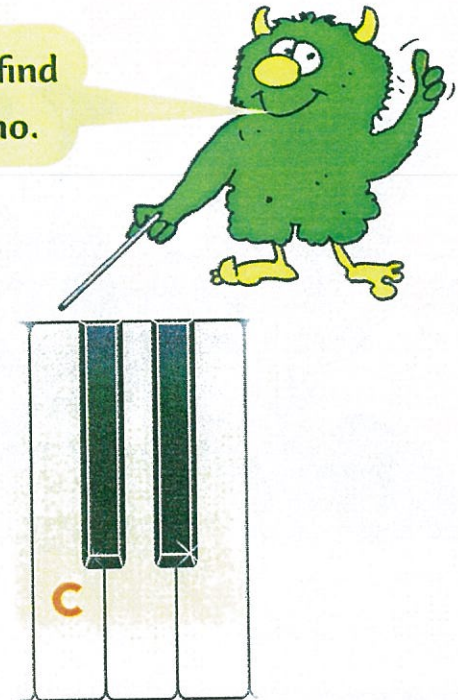
Touch all the groups of TWO BLACK KEYS on your Piano.

C is found to the **left** of the TWO BLACK KEYS.

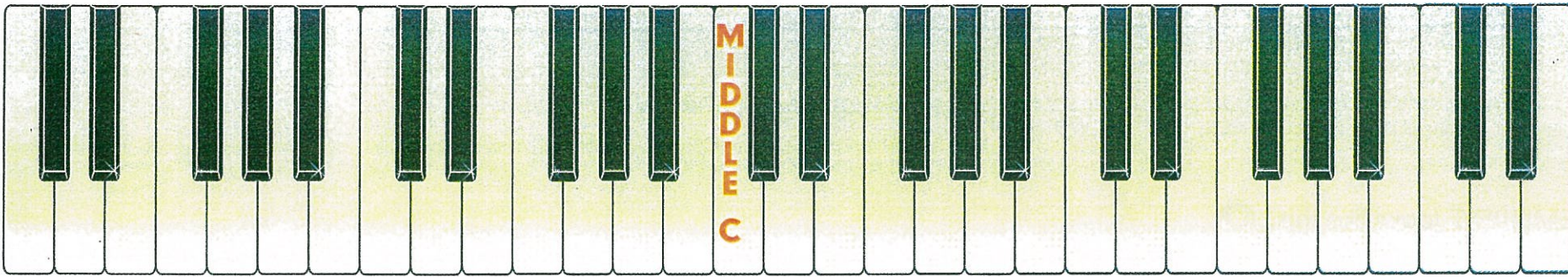
Letter all the C's you can find on the Keyboard Chart, next page.

Now, on your piano, PLAY all the C's you can find – using the thumb.

This is how to find
C on your Piano.



Keyboard Chart

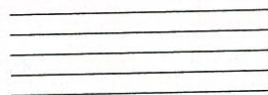


This is a picture of your keyboard
– as you learn the name of each new key,
turn back to this page and mark ALL the
keys having the same name.

Middle C on the Music

Music is written on the LINES and SPACES of the STAVE.

The Stave



The NOTES on the music tell us which KEYS to play.

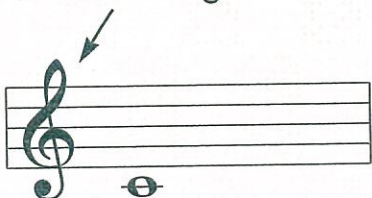
There are different kinds of notes, but first we shall learn the SEMIBREVE.

A SEMIBREVE looks like this, 

It is held for FOUR COUNTS.

Clef Signs

Treble Clef sign

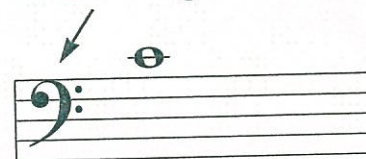


This is how MIDDLE C looks in the Treble.
It is written as a SEMIBREVE, and gets FOUR counts.

It is played by the RIGHT HAND thumb.

Play it and count FOUR.

Bass Clef sign



This is how MIDDLE C looks in the Bass.

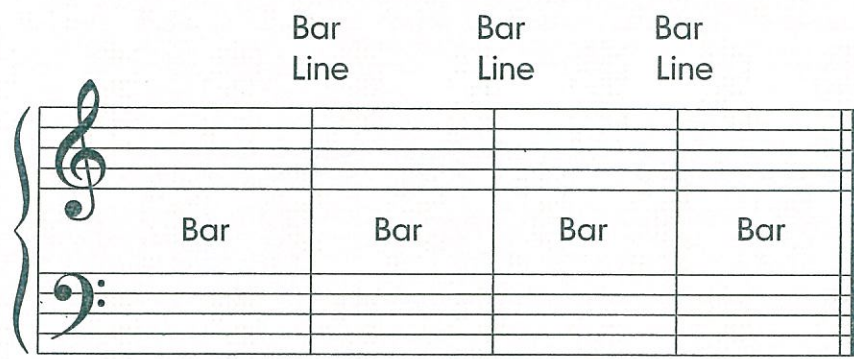
Written as a semibreve, it gets FOUR counts.

It is played by the LEFT HAND thumb.

Play it and count FOUR.



Music is divided by bar lines into bars.

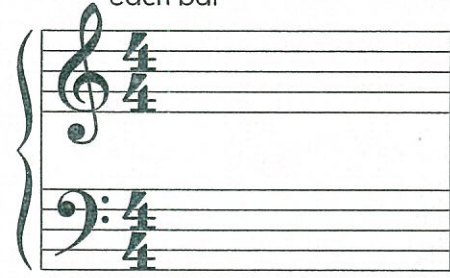


The numbers after the Clef Signs tell us how to count.

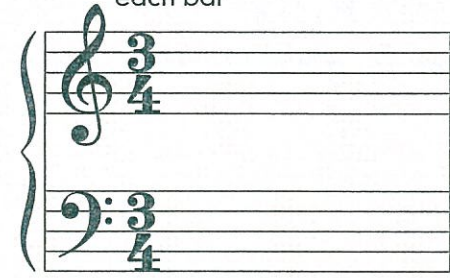
In this book we need only read the TOP number.

It shows how many counts to each bar.

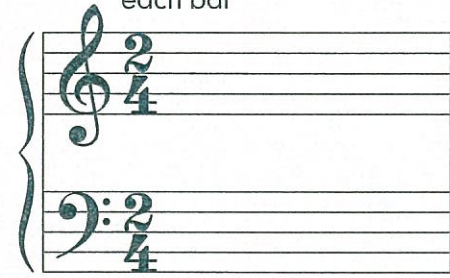
Count 4 to each bar



Count 3 to each bar



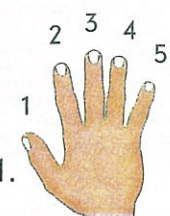
Count 2 to each bar



Left Hand

Each finger has a number.

The thumbs are both numbered 1.

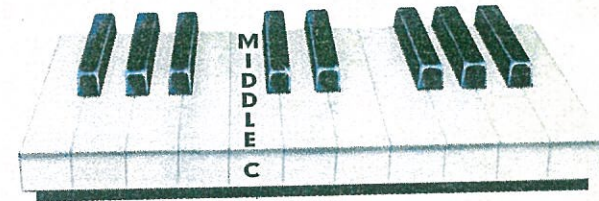


Right Hand

Middle C as a Semibreve

In the Treble

Accompaniment



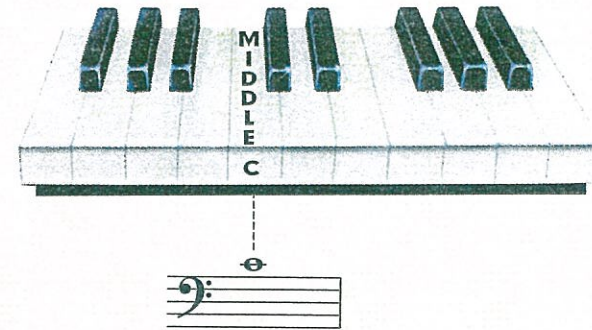
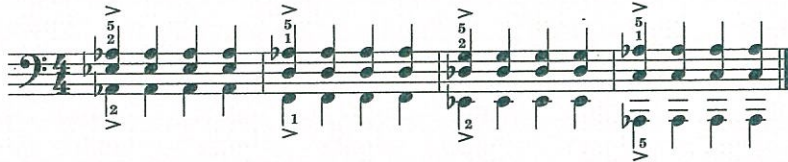
Play with right hand thumb
and count four to each note.

Let's Play
With the Right Hand

Middle C as a Semibreve

In the Bass

Accompaniment





Let's Play With the Left Hand

Musical notation for playing Middle C as a semibreve in the bass clef. The notation shows a 4/4 time signature and a bass clef. The first note is a semibreve (whole note) on Middle C, with a finger number '1' below it. The treble clef staff is empty.



Play with left hand thumb
count four to each note.

Middle C in Minims

When a note has an open head and a stem, like this, ( or ) it is called a MINIM and gets TWO COUNTS.

Play the following, counting TWO to each note –

'ONE, TWO' to the first note and 'THREE, FOUR' to the second note of each bar.

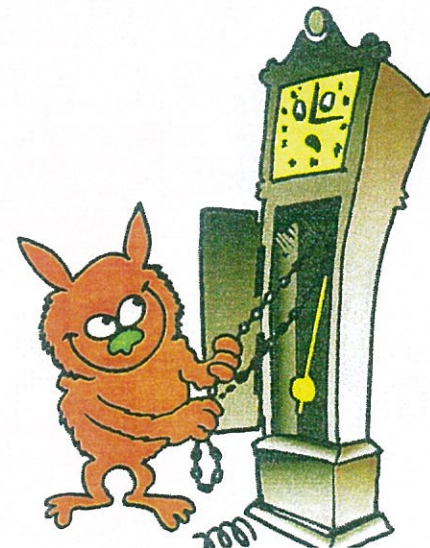


Count four to each bar.

Grandfather's Clock

Count: one-two three-four



Accompaniment



Middle C in Crotchets

Four counts to each bar.



A CROTCHET looks like this ( or ) and gets one count.

Moccasin Dance

Count: One Two Three Four

Accompaniment



Work Sheet



Mark the Time Values of the following notes, using 1 for Crotchets, 2 for Minims and 4 for Semibreves.

1

Make Minims of the following by adding stems.

Stems Up

2

Change the following into Crotchets by filling in the heads and adding stems when necessary.

3

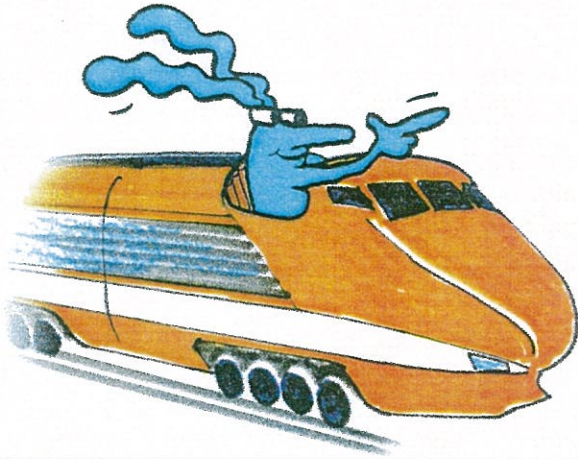
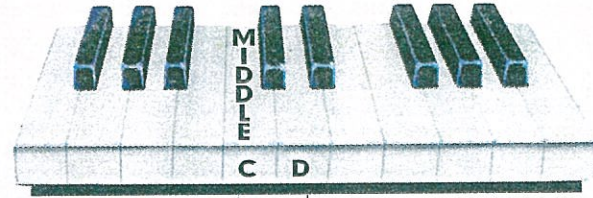
Write Middle C in each Clef.

4

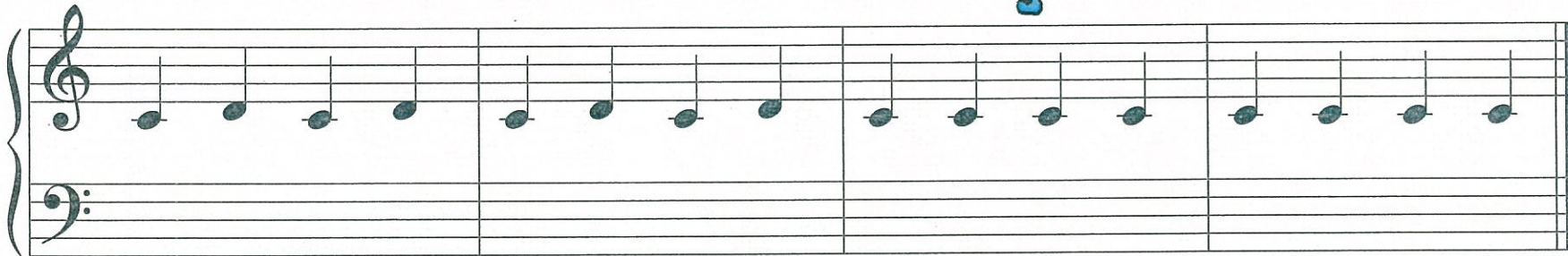
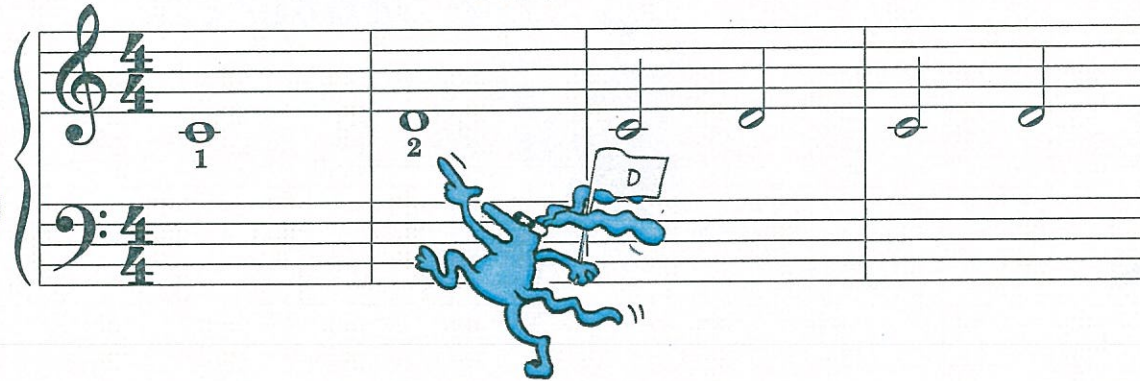
Semibreve	Two Minims	Four Crotchets	Two Minims	Four Crotchets	Semibreve



Accompaniment



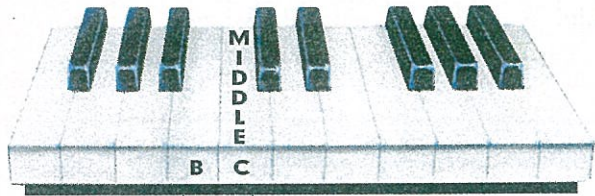
The Train



Turn to the work sheet on page 15 and do exercises 1 and 2.

Note to teacher

From this point on, be sure to stress the importance of accenting the first count of each bar.



New Note
Left Hand



Accompaniment

The Seabées



Do writing exercises
3, 4 and 5 on page 15.



Work Sheet



Write letter names under the notes.

1

C _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Write the new note **D** as indicated.

2

Semibreve Two Minims Four Crotchets

Write letter names under the notes.

3

C _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Write the new note **B** as indicated.

4

Semibreve Two Minims Four Crotchets

In the following exercise, first draw the Bar Lines where they belong. (Note Time Signature).

Next write the letter names of the notes.

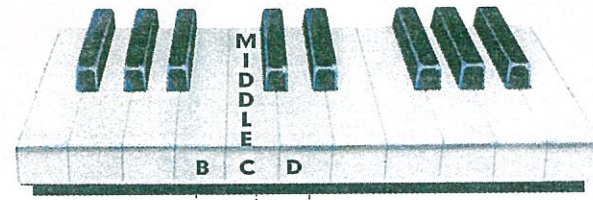
Finally, mark the Time Values - using 1 for a Crotchet, 2 for a Minim and 4 for a Semibreve.

5

Letter Names C
Time Values 2



Two-Four

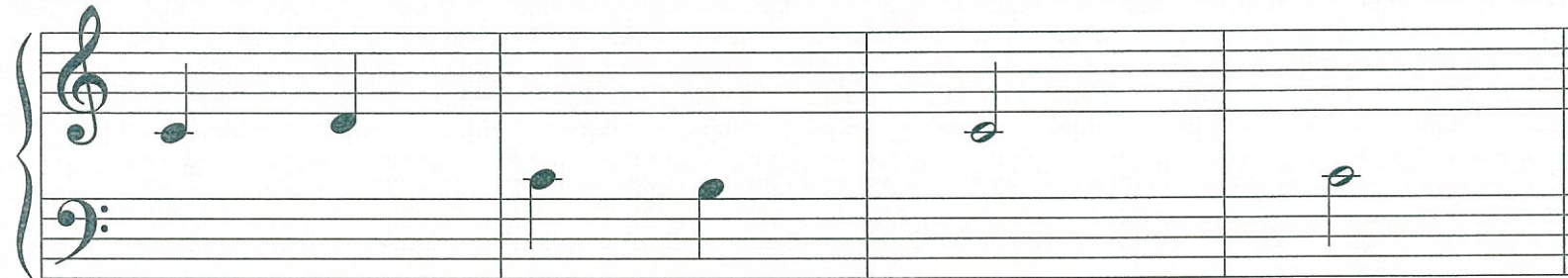
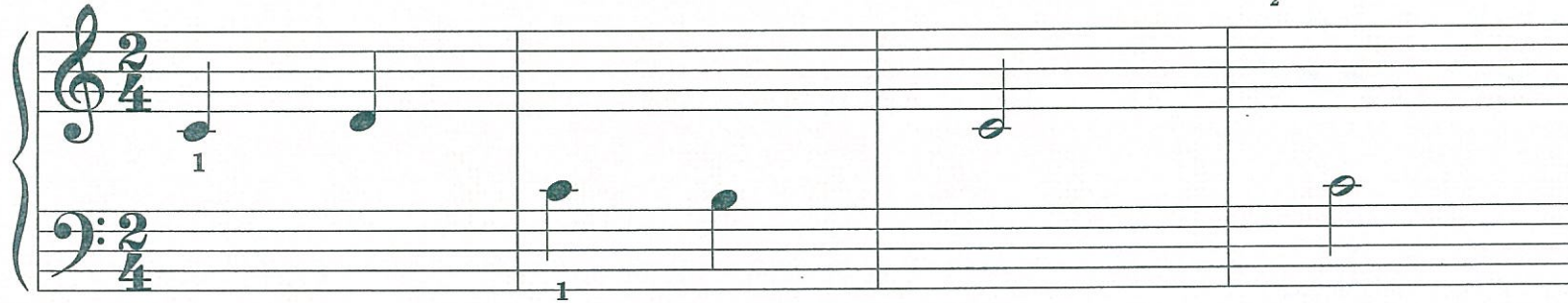
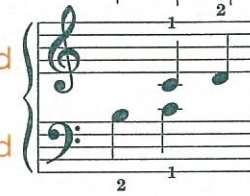


Count two to each bar.

March of the Gnomes

Right Hand

Left Hand



Accompaniment



Three-Four and The Dotted Minim

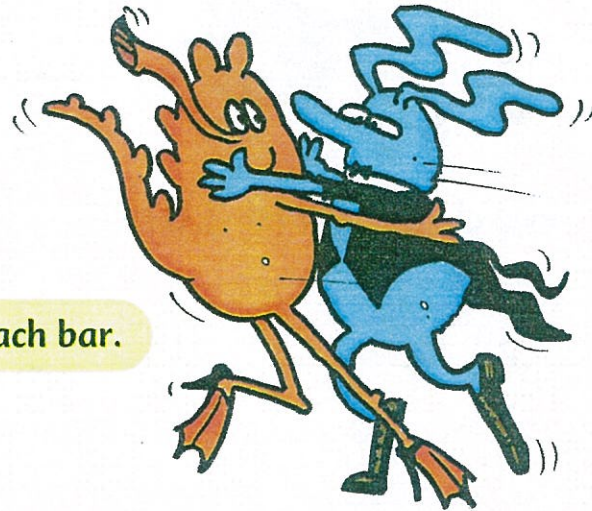
The dotted minim

looks like this ( or )

and is held for 3 counts.



Count 3 to each bar.

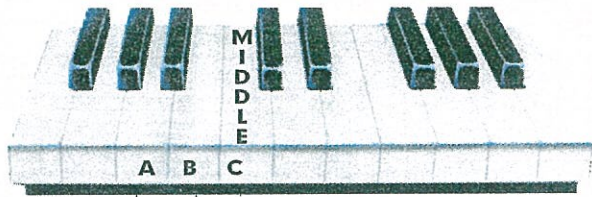


Dance of the Gnomes

Accompaniment

Dotted minim, hold for 3 counts.

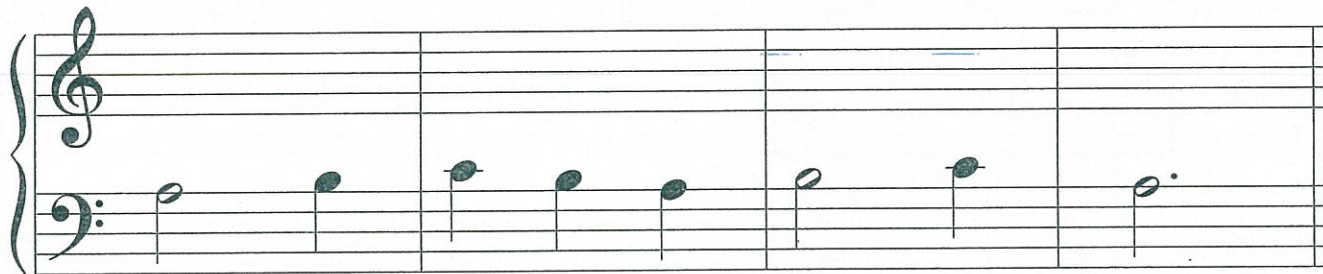
Do you see the importance of correct counting? These are the same notes you played in 'March of the Gnomes' but they make a new piece when you count 3 to each bar.



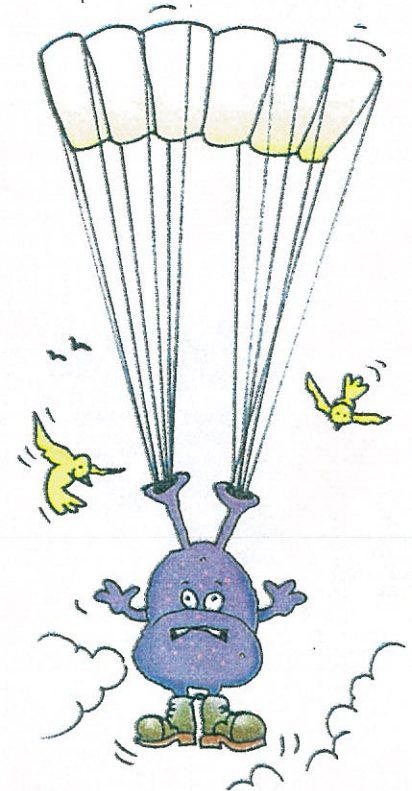
New Note



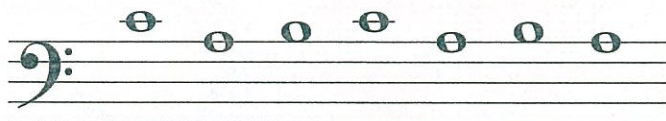
The Paratrooper



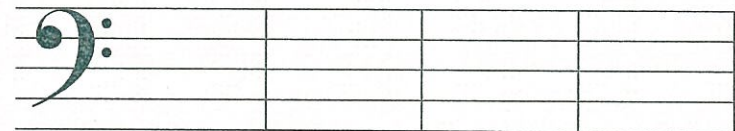
Accompaniment



Read Aloud

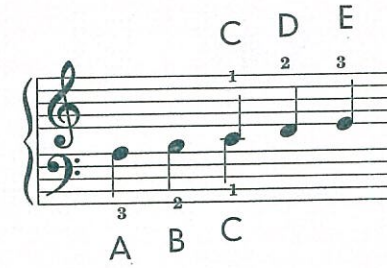
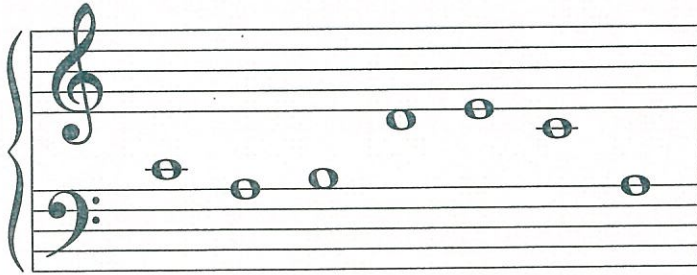


Write the new note **A** below.

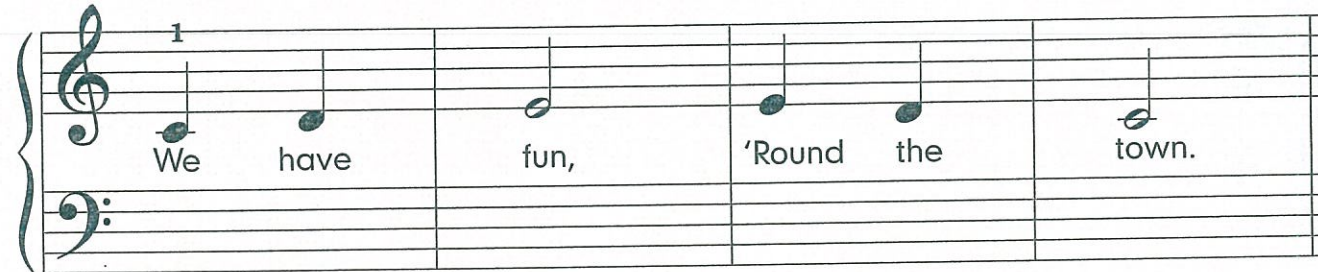
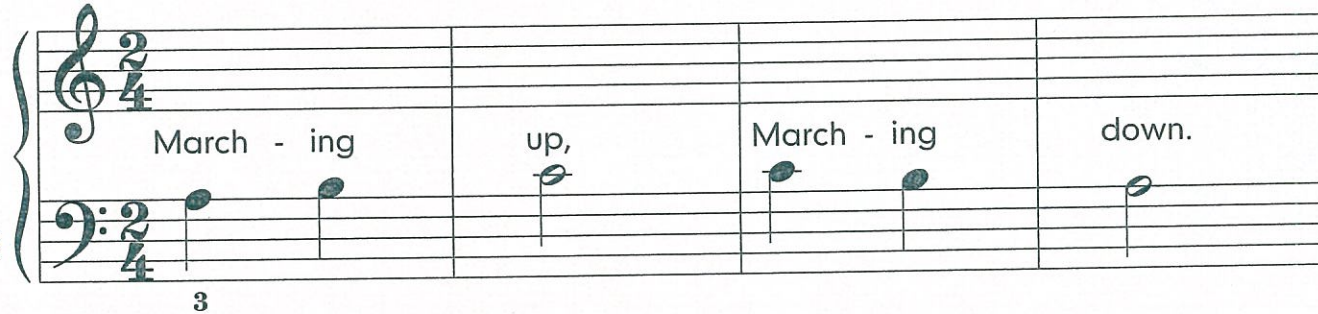
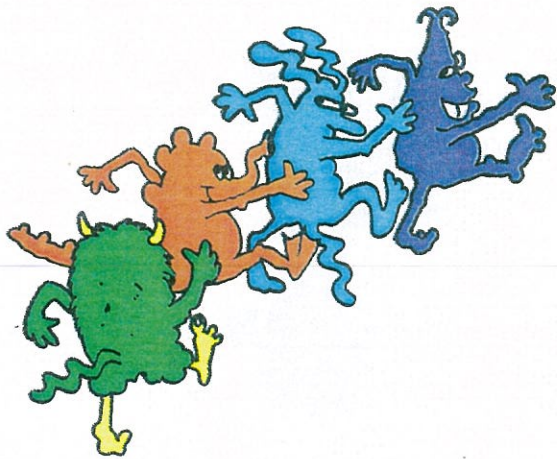


Semibreve Minim Dotted Minim Crotchet

Read Aloud



Marching Up and Down



Accompaniment



Rag-Time Raggles



The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains a melody starting with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, and F5. The bass clef staff is empty. A finger number '1' is written above the first note.

The second system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains a melody starting with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, and F5. The bass clef staff contains a bass line starting with a quarter note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, and F3. A finger number '1' is written below the first note.

The third system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains a melody starting with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, and C6. The bass clef staff is empty.

Accompaniment

The accompaniment is written in 4/4 time. The top staff is a bass line with notes G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, and C4. The bottom staff is a bass line with notes G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, and C4. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

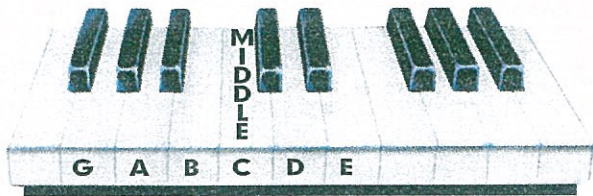
Work Sheet

First, look at the time signatures. Next, draw bar lines in their proper places – then, write the letter-names under the notes.

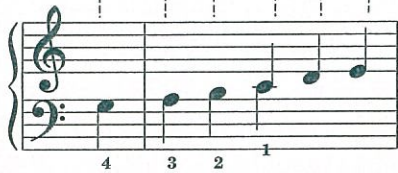


Handwriting practice sheet with six musical staves. Each staff contains a sequence of notes and rests. The time signatures are: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4. The notes are placed on the lines and spaces of the staves, and rests are indicated by horizontal dashes above the staves.





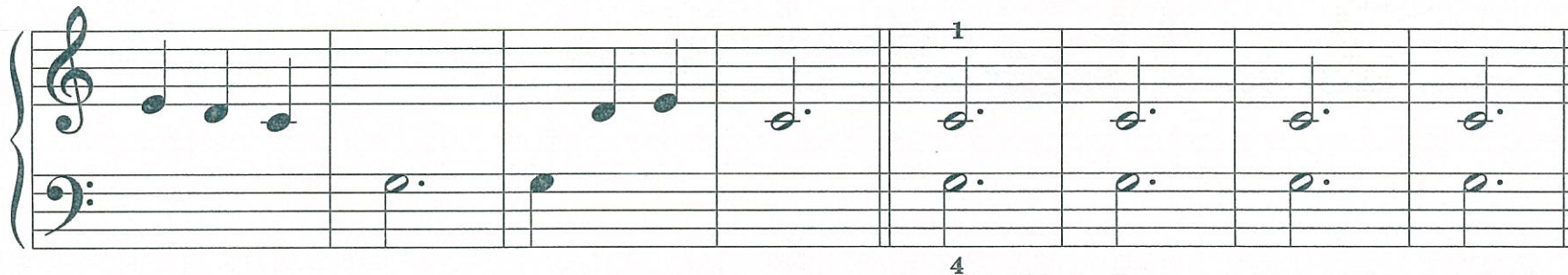
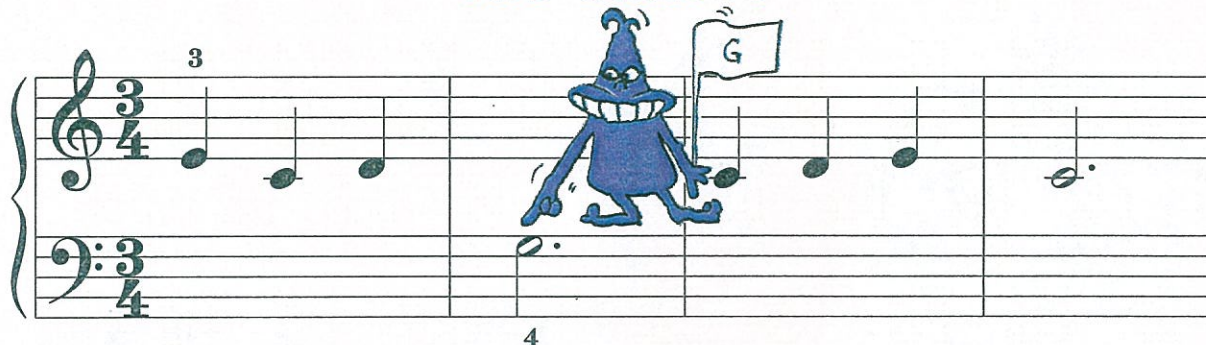
New Note



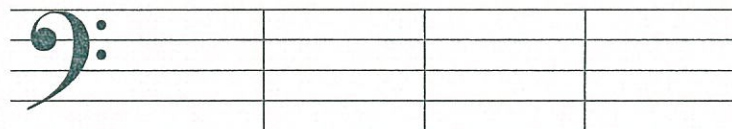
Read Aloud



The Chimes

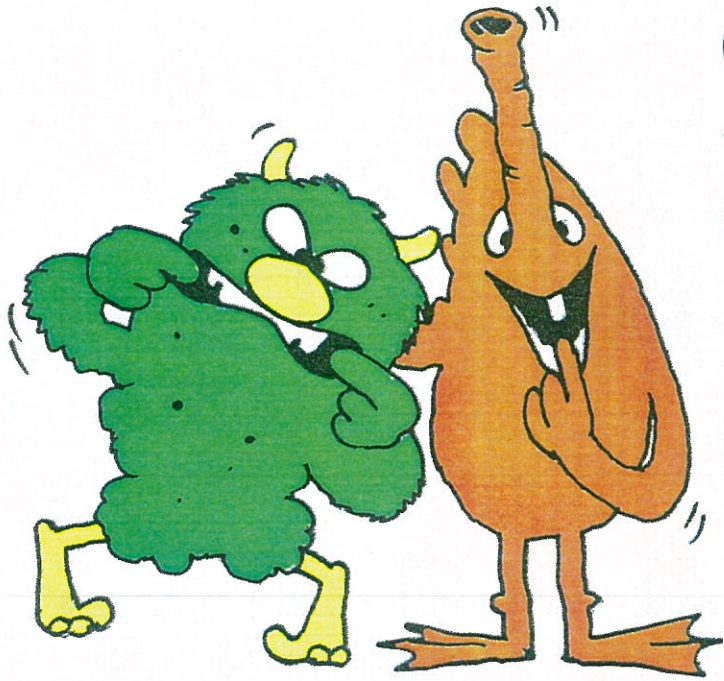


Write the new note **G** below.



Semibreve Minim Dotted Minim Crotchet

Funny Faces



Musical notation for the first system, measures 1-4. Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. Measure 1: Bass clef, quarter note G2. Measure 2: Treble clef, quarter note G4. Measure 3: Treble clef, quarter note A4. Measure 4: Treble clef, quarter note B4. A '3' is written above the second measure.

Musical notation for the second system, measures 5-8. Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. Measure 5: Bass clef, quarter note G2. Measure 6: Treble clef, quarter note C5. Measure 7: Treble clef, quarter note D5. Measure 8: Treble clef, quarter note E5. A '2' is written below the eighth measure.

Musical notation for the third system, measures 9-16. Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. Measure 9: Bass clef, quarter note G2. Measure 10: Treble clef, quarter note F5. Measure 11: Treble clef, quarter note E5. Measure 12: Treble clef, quarter note D5. Measure 13: Treble clef, quarter note C5. Measure 14: Treble clef, quarter note B4. Measure 15: Treble clef, quarter note A4. Measure 16: Treble clef, quarter note G4. A '3' is written above the ninth measure.

Read Aloud



Read Aloud



Old MacDonald

3

Old Mac-Don-ald had a farm, Ee-eye, Ee-eye, oh! And

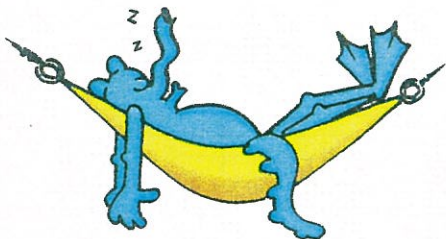
1

on this farm he had some ducks Ee - eye, Ee - eye, oh! Quack, Quack, here Quack, Quack, there

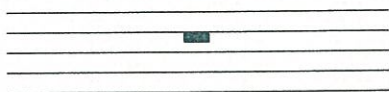
Ev - 'ry - where a Quack, Quack, Quack, Old Mac-Don-ald had a farm, Ee - eye, Ee eye, oh!

Rests

RESTS are signs of silence. Each kind of note has a rest sign of equal value.



Semibreve



A whole bar's rest



Minim



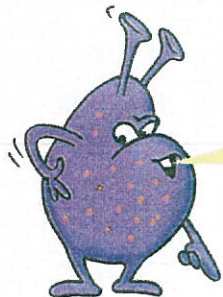
Gets 2 counts



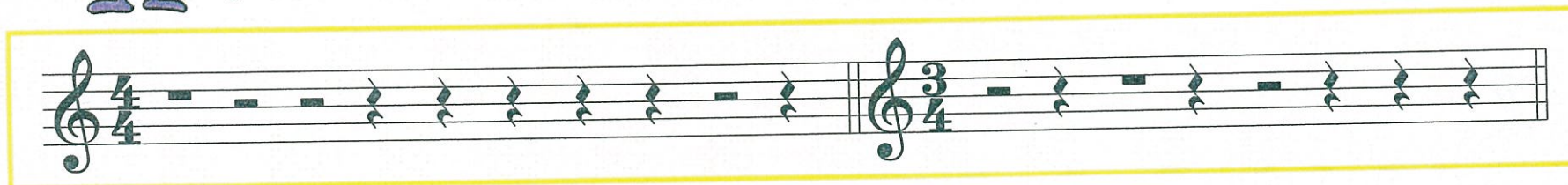
Crotchet



Gets 1 count



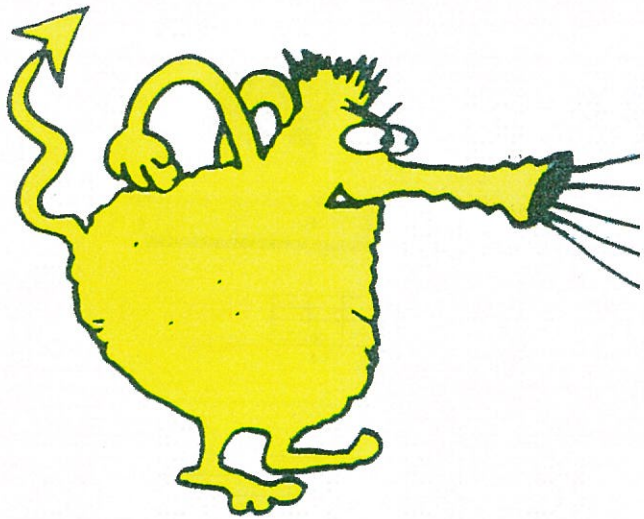
Draw the bar lines in the following example, so that each bar will have the number of silent counts shown in the time signature.



Accompaniment to Blow The Man Down (next page)



Blow the Man Down



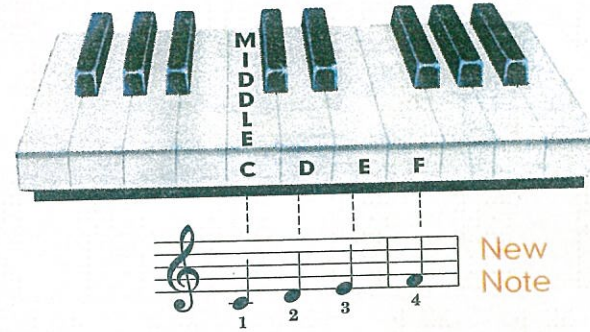
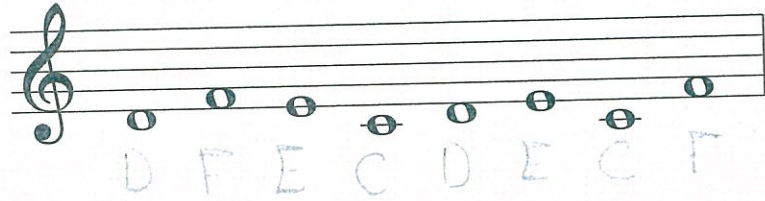
Musical notation for the first system of the song. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is 3/4. The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4 and B4. The bass clef part has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by quarter notes G3, A3, and B3. A finger number '2' is written above the first measure of the treble staff and below the second measure of the bass staff.

Musical notation for the second system of the song. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble clef part has a dotted quarter note G4 in the first measure, followed by a dotted quarter note A4 in the second measure, and then whole rests for the next two measures. The bass clef part has whole rests in the first two measures, followed by quarter notes G3, A3, and B3 in the third measure, and then quarter notes G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4 in the fourth measure. Finger numbers '1' and '3' are written below the first and third measures of the bass staff, respectively.

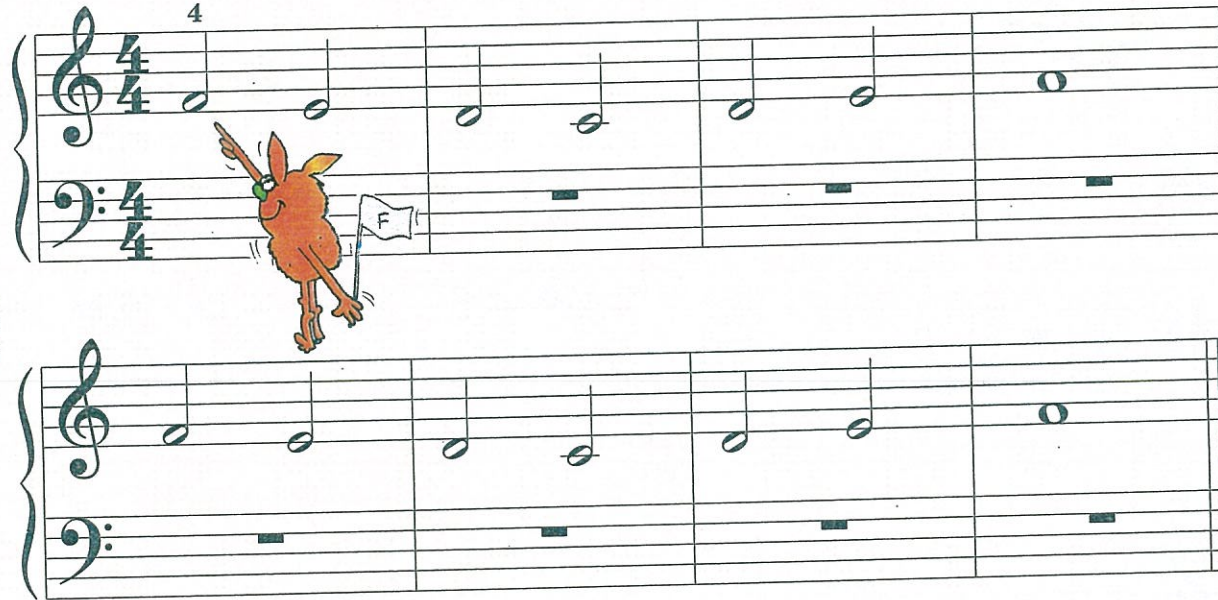
Musical notation for the third system of the song. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble clef part has whole rests in the first two measures, followed by a dotted quarter note G4 in the third measure, and then quarter notes A4, B4, C5 in the fourth measure. The bass clef part has quarter notes G3, A3, and B3 in the first measure, followed by whole rests in the next two measures, and then quarter notes G3, A3, and B3 in the fifth measure. A finger number '3' is written above the third measure of the treble staff.

See **Accompaniment** on opposite page.

Read Aloud



The Church Organ



Accompaniment



Write the new note **F** below.

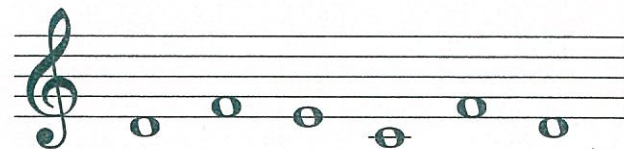
A musical staff with a treble clef. Below the staff are four note types: a semibreve, a minim, a dotted minim, and a crotchet. The note F is written below each of these note types.

Semibreve Minim Dotted Minim Crotchet

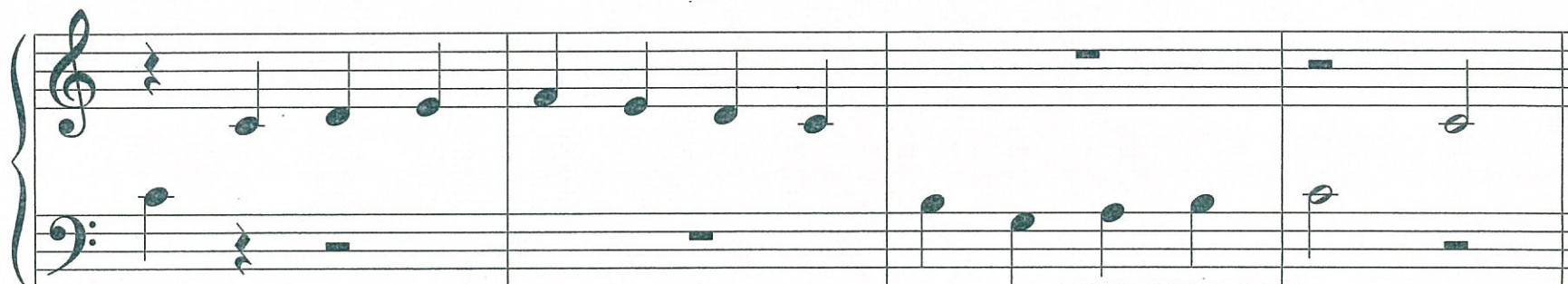
Read Aloud



Read Aloud



Yankee Doodle



Carry Me Back to Old Virginy

James A. Bland



3

Car - ry me back to old Vir - gin - ny.

3

There's where the cot - ton and the corn and 'ta - toes grow, There's where the birds war - ble

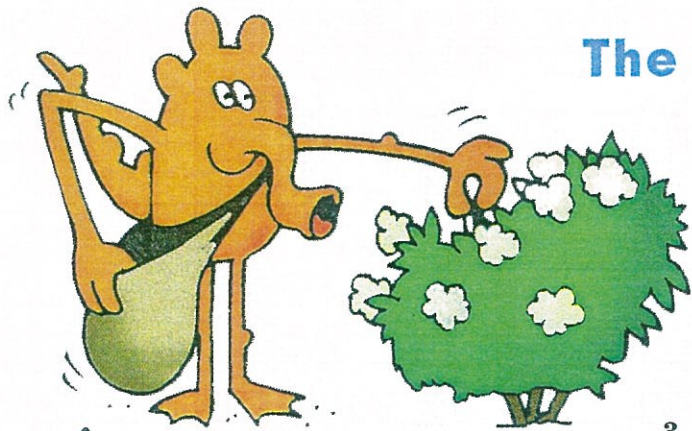
Sweet in the spring-time, There's where the old wea - ry heart am longed to go.

Accompaniment

3 4 5 3 2

1. 2. 3

1 5



The Old Cotton Picker

THE TIE



When two notes are tied together, the second note is not struck but held for its full value.

Tie

Musical notation for the first system of the song. It consists of a treble and bass clef staff in 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "Pick - in' cot-ton, I've not for - got - ten, The hours I've spent in the sun." The final note "sun." is tied to the next system. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 2, 3, and 4 above the notes.

Musical notation for the second system of the song. It consists of a treble and bass clef staff in 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "Bend - in' o - ver, you're not in clo - ver, The work is no-bod-y's fun." The final note "fun." is tied to the next system. A triplet of three eighth notes is shown above the first three notes of the first measure.

Accompaniment

Accompaniment notation for the right hand (R.H.) and left hand (L.H.) in 4/4 time. The R.H. part is written on a treble clef staff with fingerings 1-5. The L.H. part is written on a bass clef staff with fingerings 1-5. The accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line and chords.

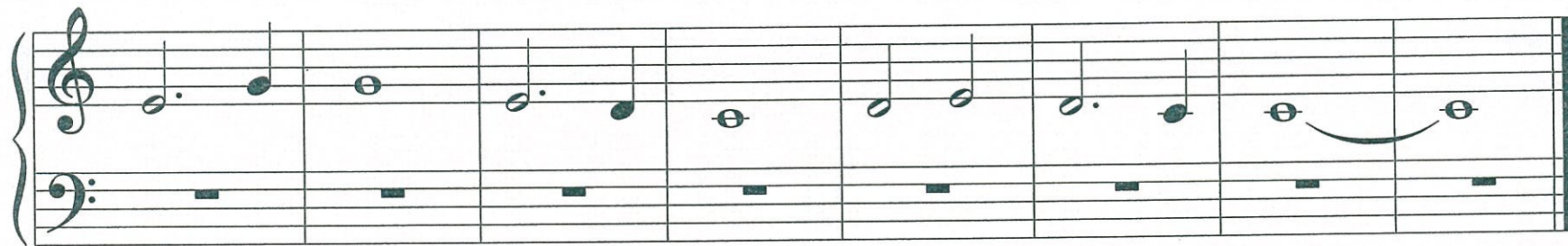
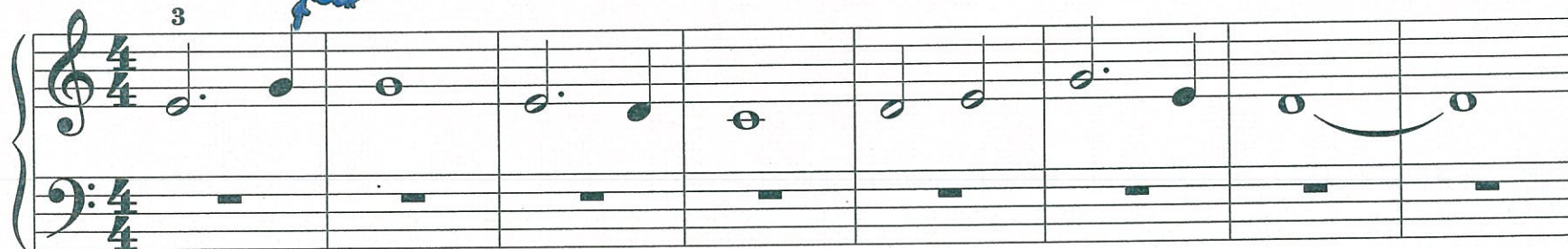


New Note

Write the two **G**'s you have learned

A blank musical staff with a treble clef on the top line and a bass clef on the bottom line. The staff is divided into four measures, intended for the student to write the two G notes learned in the previous section.

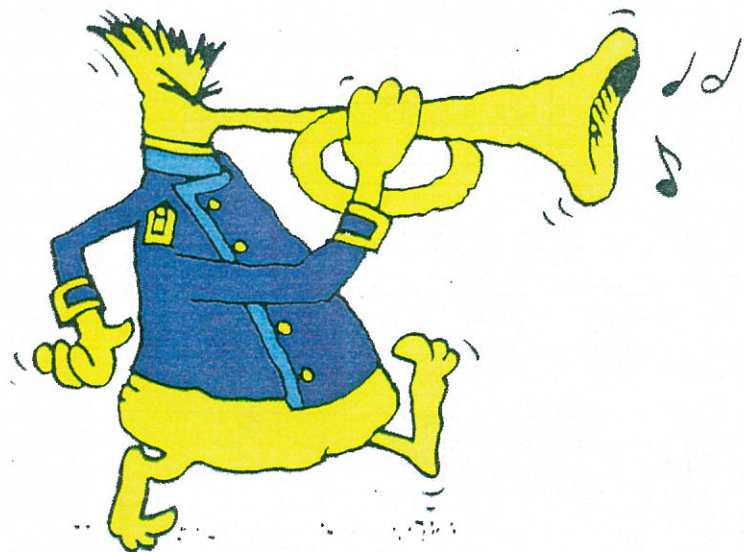
Theme from 'New World' Symphony



Accompaniment



Bugles!



5 3 1

Musical notation for the first system of 'Bugles!'. It consists of a grand staff with a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The time signature is 4/4. The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter note G4 (labeled '5'), followed by a quarter note F4 (labeled '3'), and a quarter note E4 (labeled '1'). The rest of the melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The bass clef part contains whole rests for the first four measures.

Musical notation for the second system of 'Bugles!'. It continues the melody from the first system. The treble clef part has a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note B3. The bass clef part has a whole rest, a quarter note B3, a quarter note A3, and a quarter note G3.

4

Musical notation for the third system of 'Bugles!'. The treble clef part continues with a quarter note F3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note D3, a quarter note C3, a quarter note B2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note F2. The bass clef part has a whole rest, a quarter note F2, a quarter note E2, a quarter note D2, a quarter note C2, a quarter note B1, a quarter note A1, a quarter note G1, and a quarter note F1.

Row, Row



Musical notation for the first system, 3/4 time signature. The treble clef staff contains rests. The bass clef staff contains the melody with lyrics: "Row, row, row, your boat,". A finger number "4" is written below the first note.

Musical notation for the second system. The treble clef staff contains rests. The bass clef staff contains the melody with lyrics: "Gen - tly down the stream,". A finger number "2" is written above the second measure.

Musical notation for the third system. The treble clef staff contains the melody with lyrics: "Mer - ri - ly, mer - ri - ly, mer - ri - ly, oh! Life is but a dream." Finger numbers "5", "2", and "2" are written above the first, second, and fifth measures respectively. The bass clef staff contains accompaniment. A finger number "2" is written below the first measure.

Nobody knows the trouble I've seen

Spiritual

First system of musical notation for the spiritual. It consists of a grand staff with a treble clef on the top line and a bass clef on the bottom line. The time signature is 4/4. The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter rest, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, and a half note D5. The bass line starts with a quarter note G3, followed by a quarter note F3, a quarter note E3, and a half note D3. Fingerings are indicated: '3' above the first treble note and '4' below the first bass note.

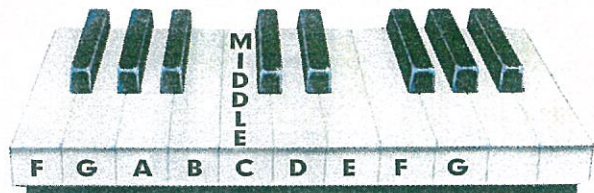
Second system of musical notation for the spiritual. It continues the grand staff from the first system. The treble clef melody continues with a quarter note D5, a quarter rest, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F5, and a half note G5. The bass line continues with a quarter note C4, a quarter note B3, a quarter note A3, and a half note G3. A fingering of '5' is shown above the second treble note, and '4' is shown below the second bass note.

Third system of musical notation for the spiritual. It continues the grand staff. The treble clef melody continues with a quarter note F5, a quarter rest, a quarter note G5, a quarter note A5, a quarter note B5, and a half note C6. The bass line continues with a quarter note F3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note D3, and a half note C3. Fingerings are indicated: '3' above the first treble note, '2' above the second treble note, and '5' above the first treble note of the second half.

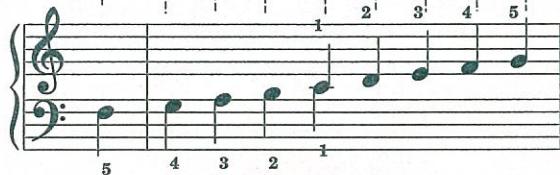


Accompaniment



Musical notation for the accompaniment, written in a single bass clef staff. The time signature is 4/4. The piece begins with a 3/4 measure containing a quarter note G3, a quarter note F3, and a quarter note E3. This is followed by a 1/4 rest, then a 3/4 measure with a quarter note D3, a quarter note C3, and a quarter note B2. The piece continues with a 2/4 measure (quarter note A2, quarter note G2), a 3/4 measure (quarter note F2, quarter note E2, quarter note D2), and a 1/4 rest. The final section consists of a 3/4 measure (quarter note C2, quarter note B1, quarter note A1), a 1/4 rest, a 3/4 measure (quarter note G1, quarter note F1, quarter note E1), a 1/4 rest, and a final 3/4 measure (quarter note D1, quarter note C1, quarter note B0). Fingerings are indicated throughout the piece.



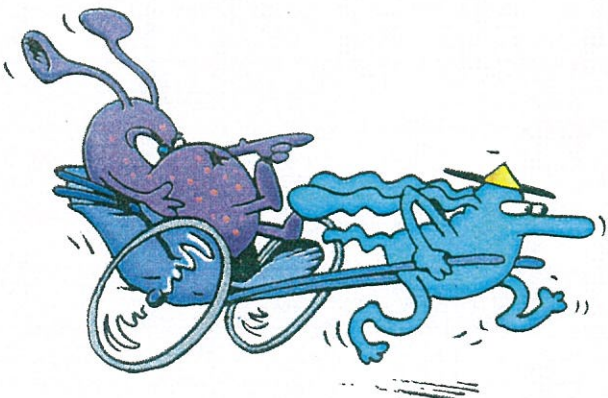
New Note



Write the two F's you have learned.

			
Semibreve	Minim	Dotted Minim	Crotchet
			

In a Rickshaw





The Banjo Picker

Adapted from
Stephen Foster

Musical notation for the first system of 'The Banjo Picker'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time. The treble staff has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a half note G4 in the second measure, and quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and B4 in the third measure. The bass staff has quarter notes G2, F2, E2, and D2 in the first measure, followed by whole rests in the second, third, fourth, and fifth measures. Fingerings are indicated: 5, 3, 1 for the first measure of the bass staff; 4 for the second measure of the treble staff; and 2 for the third measure of the treble staff.

Musical notation for the second system of 'The Banjo Picker'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time. The treble staff has whole rests in the first, second, and third measures, followed by a half note G4 in the fourth measure, and quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and B4 in the fifth measure. The bass staff has quarter notes G2, F2, E2, and D2 in the first measure, followed by a half note G2 in the second measure, and quarter notes F2, E2, D2, and C2 in the third measure. A whole rest is in the fourth measure, and quarter notes G2, F2, E2, and D2 are in the fifth measure. A fingering of 3 is shown for the first measure of the bass staff.

Accompaniment

Musical notation for the first system of the accompaniment. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time. The treble staff has quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5 in the first measure, quarter notes B4, A4, G4, and F4 in the second measure, and whole rests in the third and fourth measures. The bass staff has whole rests in the first and second measures, and quarter notes G2, F2, E2, and D2 in the third measure, followed by a whole note G2 in the fourth measure.

Musical notation for the second system of the accompaniment. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time. The treble staff has quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5 in the first measure, quarter notes B4, A4, G4, and F4 in the second measure, and quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5 in the third measure. The bass staff has quarter notes G2, F2, E2, and D2 in the first measure, quarter notes B2, A2, G2, and F2 in the second measure, and quarter notes G2, A2, B2, and C3 in the third measure. Fingerings are indicated: 4, 2 for the first measure of the treble staff; 5, 3, 2 for the second measure of the treble staff; and 1, 2 for the first and second measures of the bass staff.

Princess Waltz

The first system of musical notation for 'Princess Waltz' consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. It contains six measures of music, with fingerings 3, 5, and 4 indicated above the notes. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a 3/4 time signature. It contains six measures of music, with fingerings 1, 4, and 2 indicated below the notes.

The second system of musical notation for 'Princess Waltz' consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. It contains six measures of music, with fingerings 4 and 2 indicated above the notes. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a 3/4 time signature. It contains six measures of music, with fingerings 4 and 2 indicated below the notes.

The third system of musical notation for 'Princess Waltz' consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. It contains four measures of music, with a fingering of 4 indicated above the notes. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a 3/4 time signature. It contains four measures of music, with fingerings 4 and 2 indicated below the notes.

Accompaniment

The accompaniment consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. It contains six measures of music, with a fingering of 1 indicated above the notes. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a 3/4 time signature. It contains six measures of music, with fingerings 3, 1, and 2 indicated below the notes.

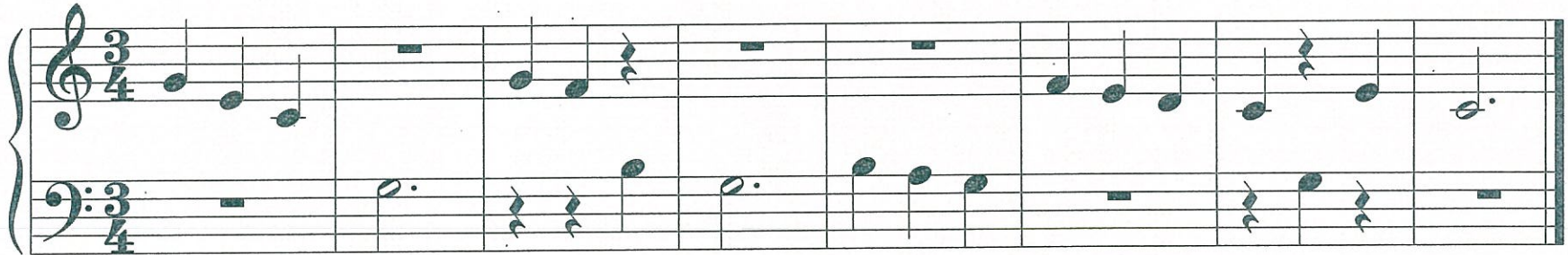


Work Sheet



(Write letter names)

Clap the time (one clap to each count) while reciting the letter names of the notes.
Afterwards, play the example on your piano, first marking the fingering for each note.



Clap the time and recite the notes as above.
Mark the fingering, then play on the piano.

