POCO PIANO for Young Children





SECOND EDITION

POCO PIANO for Young Children









YING YING NG MARGARET O'SULLIVAN FARRELL

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Foreword

Poco Piano by Ying Ying Ng and Margaret O'Sullivan Farrell has finally arrived! Students and teachers all over the world can now experience a refreshing approach to learning to play piano. This wonderful series will stimulate the imagination of young students everywhere and provide their teachers with a welcome programme of study which embraces all of the important elements in elementary piano education.

Within the covers of this highly attractive publication, teachers and students will find a meticulously researched approach to piano teaching. While maintaining a fun approach at all times, the 'serious' business of learning the piano is cleverly hidden among the colourful pages with their clear illustrations and explanations. The student is constantly challenged to learn through discovery, and the simple, progressive materials gently lead every child through a magical world of music-making. Poco Piano does not just teach us to read and play music: it gives us clear, sound advice on preliminary technique, sound production, an understanding of the instrument and our relationship with it. The authors have woven basic rudiments of music theory into the fabric of the book in an effortless and natural manner which should ensure that every student benefits from a well-rounded, musical experience at every lesson.

Poco Piano will delight the twenty-first century beginner, and its authors, Ying Ying Ng and Margaret O'Sullivan Farrell, are to be congratulated.

Dr David Mooney

Head of Keyboard Studies DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama Dublin, Ireland

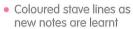
About Poco Piano

With its attractive, full-colour, age-appropriate layout, Poco Piano encourages young children to take the first steps on a difficult, but thoroughly rewarding journey. Together with the Music Theory for Young Children books, the Poco Piano series leads the child from the very beginning to Grade 1 level.

Presentation

Interesting and easy to read, Poco Piano has an attractive format of double-page spreads, imaginatively and humorously illustrated according to the themes of the tunes. The material is presented in a concise form that makes it easy to understand and remember. Music reading is emphasised and facilitated by the use of big coloured staves and notation. Each book contains a series of planned and progressive lessons that build up cumulatively. Each lesson begins with preparation activities on technique, rhythm and reading (on the left of the first double-page spread), followed by tunes for practice. On the preparation pages, new concepts are broken down into their component parts and shown progressively. Playing techniques and rhythmic skills are acquired through finger and clapping exercises, and reading and writing skills through hands-on activities and games. The practice pages include timeless nursery rhymes, folksongs and tunes, with imaginative titles chosen to retain the interest of the child. Many tunes have appealing lyrics to encourage singing, thereby assisting the child's aural development. There are duets and trios to encourage ensemble participation, making the series very suitable for group teaching as well as for individual instruction. Poco Piano uses several conventions designed to make it easy to follow.







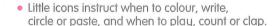
 New concepts are in colour.













 New notes are in colour



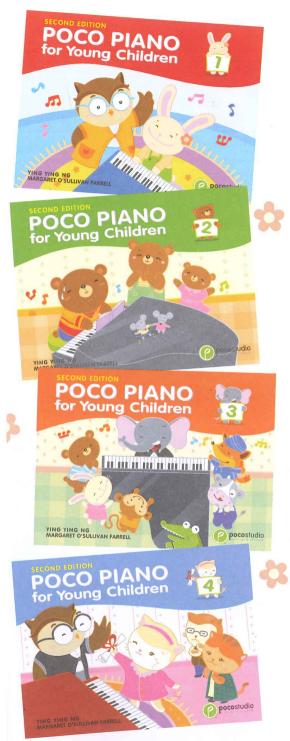
 Notes with a pin introduce musical forms and information about music and composers.



 Speech bubbles explain musical concepts.



 Filled circular dots (below the page number) show the location within the lesson.



Progression

Book 1 introduces the child to the keyboard, staves, clefs, simple time signatures, note values and rests. Reading encompasses notes to a 5th above and a 5th below Middle C. The notes A and E are introduced first, played by a braced 3rd finger of each hand. This encourages free movement of the whole arm from the shoulder, and develops a natural, balanced hand position, before the 5-finger position is gradually mastered. The first line of the treble stave and the fifth line of the bass stave are highlighted, and further lines are similarly treated as the child learns more notes. Staccato, slurs, ties, upbeats and repeat signs are all experienced in Book 1. Tempo and dynamic markings encourage musical playing, and are in English, in order to avoid "knowledge overload".

In **Book 2** three new notes in each hand are mastered (up to "High C" and down to "Low C") and the child experiences changes of hand position within a tune. Quavers are introduced in all the time signatures covered in Book 1. Sharps and flats are included, but no mention is made yet of keys, key signatures, scales or triads. Dynamic markings are now in Italian, while tempo indications are still in English.

Book 3 introduces the concepts of key, key signature, scales, triads, tones and semitones in a novel and exciting way: each key is a group of characters or objects with note-names (i.e. a band, a birthday party, a clothes-line with garments). Certain notes belong, while all other notes (accidentals) are outsiders. Transposition is a natural outcome of this concept, with a tune moving from one group to another. The child masters eight new notes (up to Treble High G and down to Bass Low F), which facilitates the playing of more adventurous repertoire. The semiquaver, semiquaver rest, dotted crotchet and dotted quaver are introduced, and tempo markings are now in Italian. As in the previous two books, ensemble-playing is encouraged.

Book 4 reinforces and revises all concepts learned in Books 1-3. It contains attractive repertoire in various styles and from different periods. Each piece has a comprehensive preparation section covering the musical, technical and structural matters which will be encountered. The aim is to cultivate critical thinking and musical awareness in the student. As in previous books, the child is actively involved through the use of writing, colouring, tracing and pasting, thereby making the preparation an enjoyable activity. The standard of the repertoire approaches that of Grade 1.

Ying Ying Ng Margaret O'Sullivan Farrell





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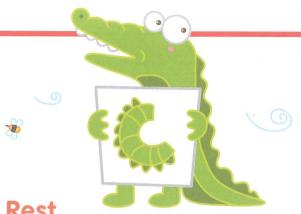
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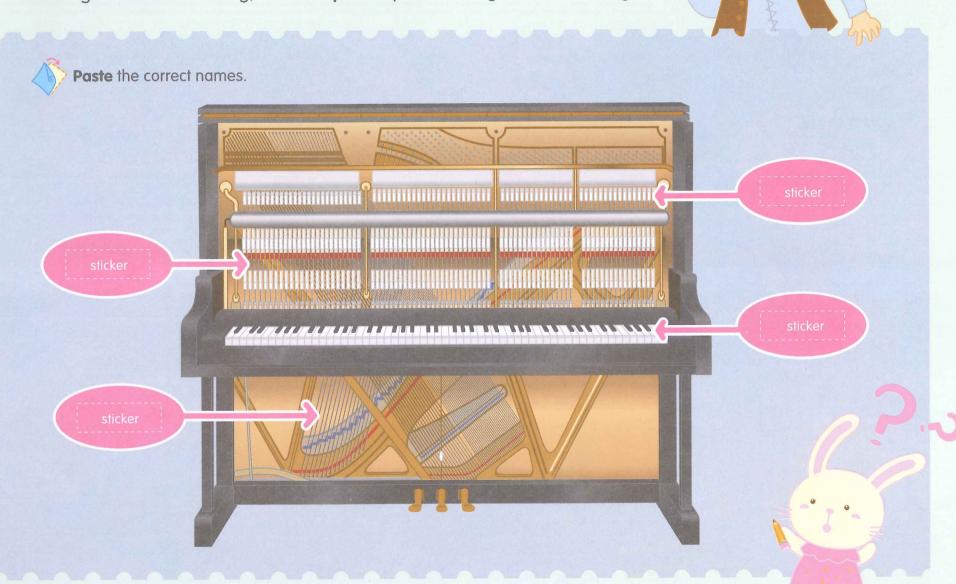






A piano has 88 black and white **keys**.

When you press a key, the **hammer** strikes the **strings** to make the sound. When you release the key, the **damper** stops the strings from vibrating.







Good posture and hand position

- a Sit comfortably on your stool, not too near, not too far, not too low and not too high. Adjust the stool to the right height, so that you can reach the keys easily.
- b Stretch upwards.
- c Your forearms are almost level with the keyboard.
- d Rest your feet flat on the floor or on a footstool.



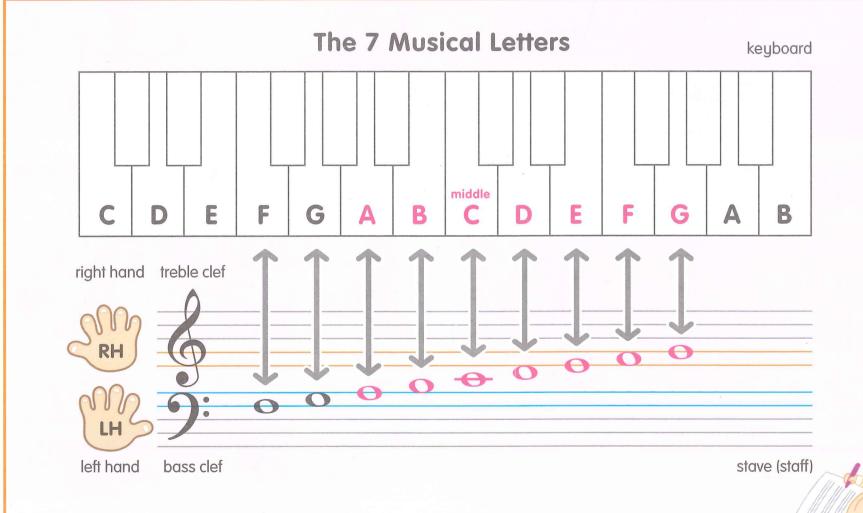




f Play with your fingertips, and with the side of your thumb.



Colour each group of 3 black keys. Play gently with your right hand fist on all the groups of 2 black keys.







Paste the correct hand stickers.

bass sticker clef

treble sticker clef

sticker







Circle the correct hand. Colour the correct finger.



















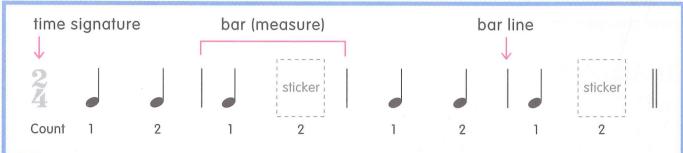






Trace the time signature. Paste the missing crotchets (quarter notes). Count and clap.



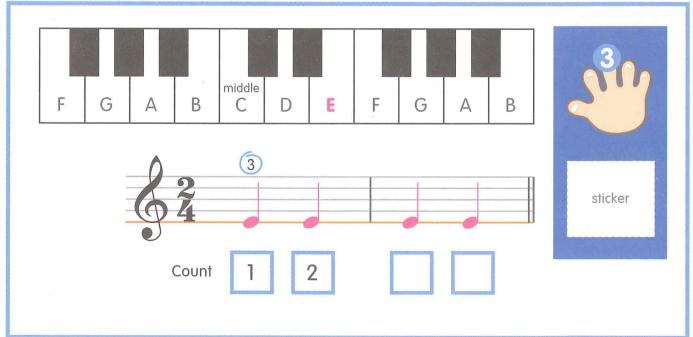








Paste the name of the clef. No Write the counts. Play with the 3rd finger of your right hand.







Elephants

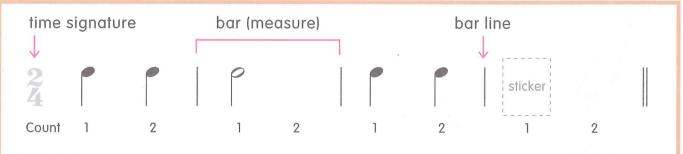






Trace the time signature. Paste the missing minim (half note). Count and clap.

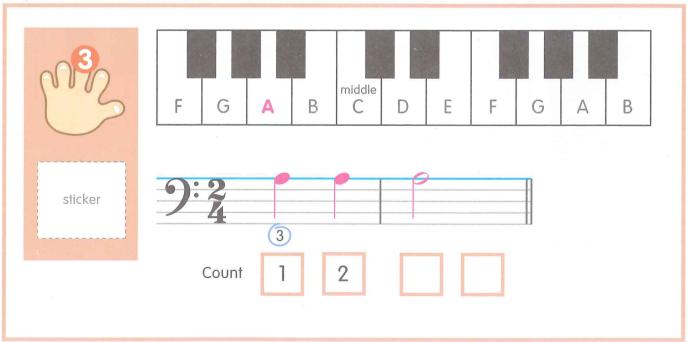


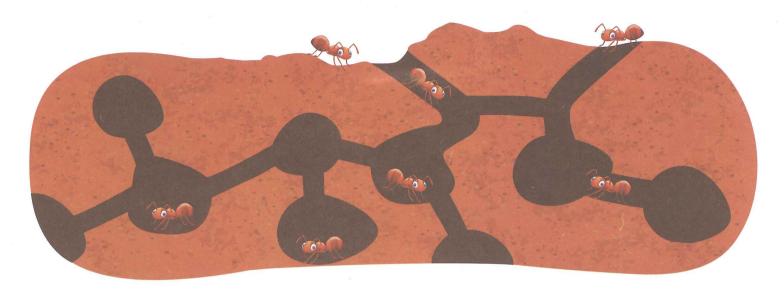


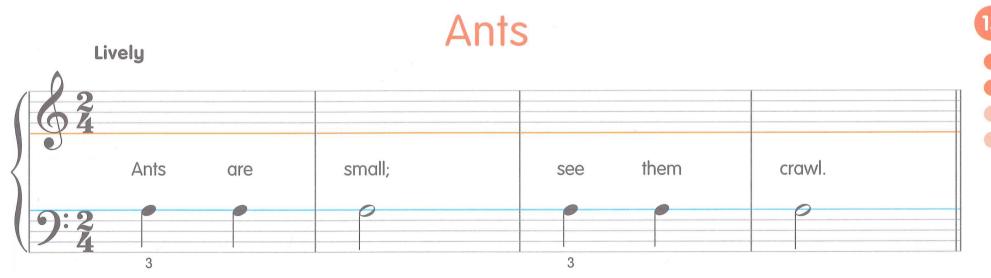


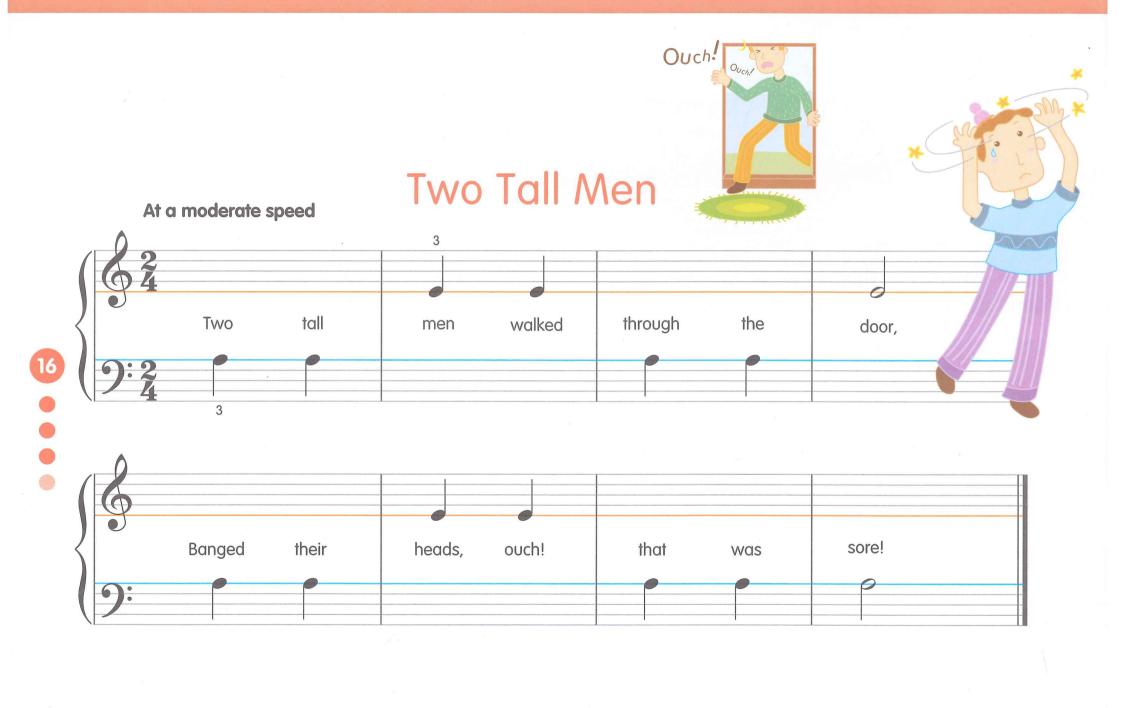


Paste the name of the clef. 🦠 Write the counts. 🧩 Play with the 3rd finger of your left hand.



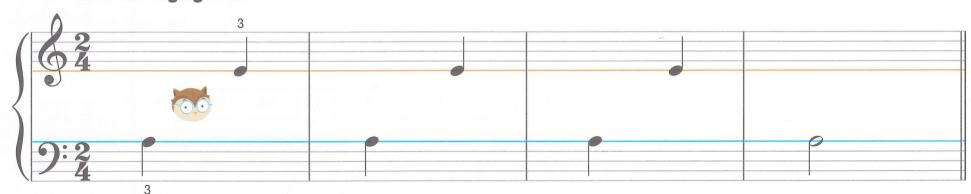










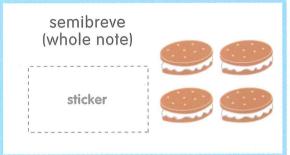


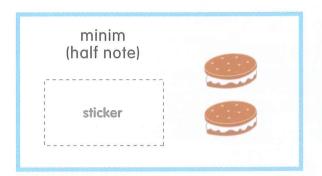
Play smoothly.

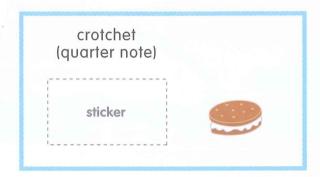
Swing your arms from your shoulders.



Paste the correct notes.

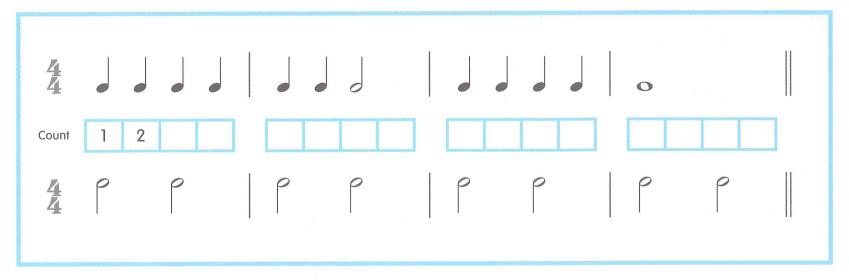


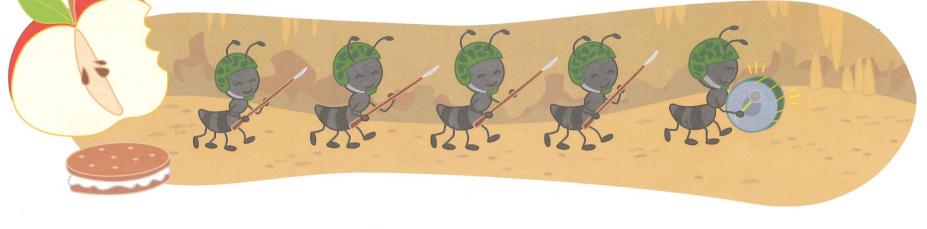






- 1. Trace the time signature and write the counts. Clap and count each part in turn.
- 2. Clap as a duet with your teacher/friend. Exchange parts.
- 3. Tap the lower part with LH and the upper part with RH.





Soldiers Marching



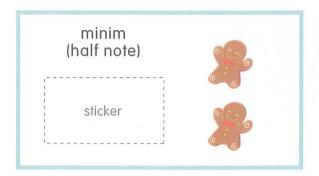
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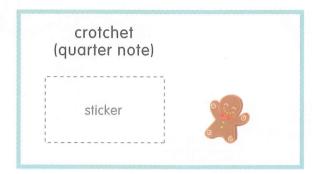
Dotted Minim and $\frac{3}{4}$ time



Paste the correct notes.

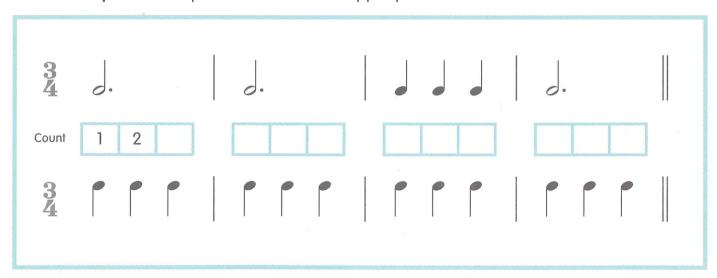








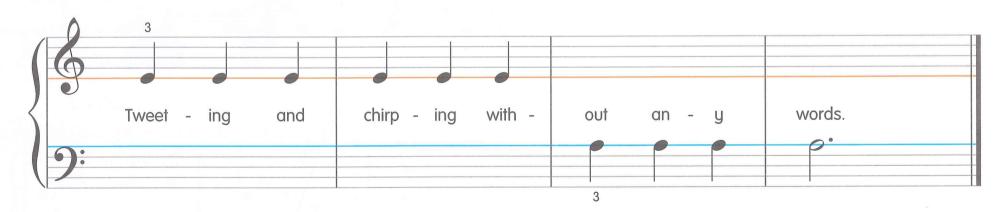
- 1. **Trace** the time signature and **write** the counts. **Clap** and **count** each part in turn.
- 2. Clap as a duet with your teacher/friend. Exchange parts.
- 3. Tap the lower part with LH and the upper part with RH.









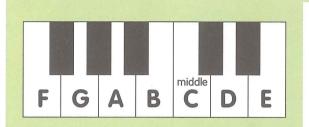


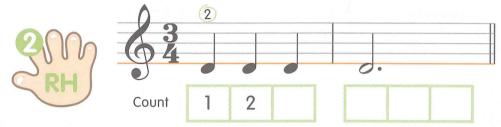


Colour D on the keyboard. Write the counts. Play and count.















Colour the correct hand. 🦠 Circle all the D's. Play the "seesaws" smoothly.

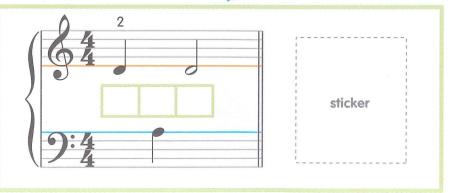


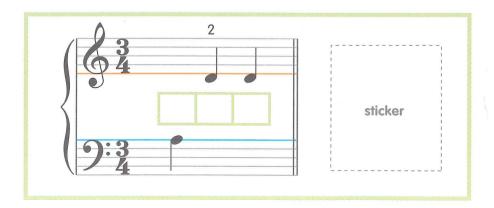


Write the letter names. Paste. Play.



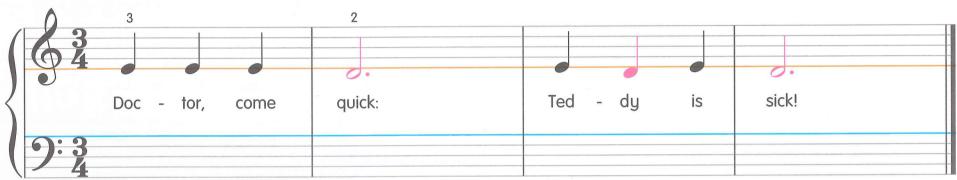








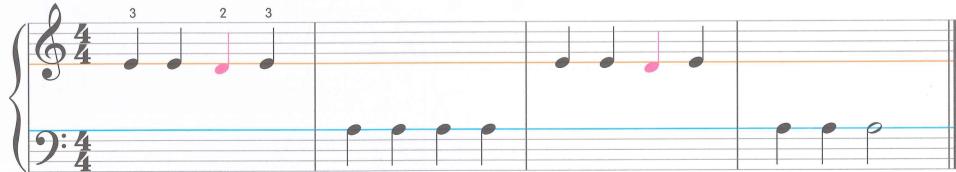
Teddy is Sick





Anxiously

French Traditional

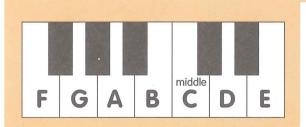


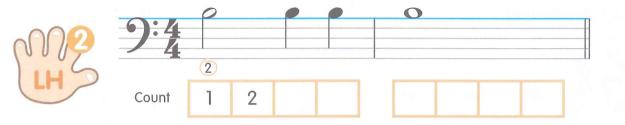


Colour B on the keyboard. Write the counts. Play and count.





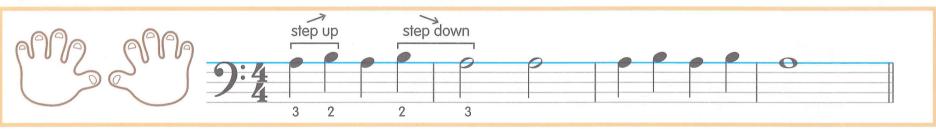










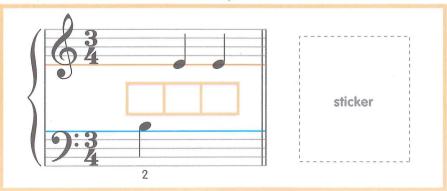


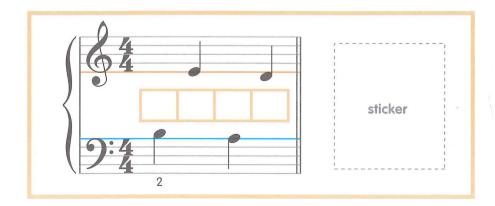


Write the letter names. Paste. Play.



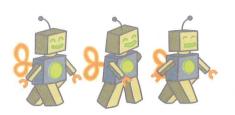






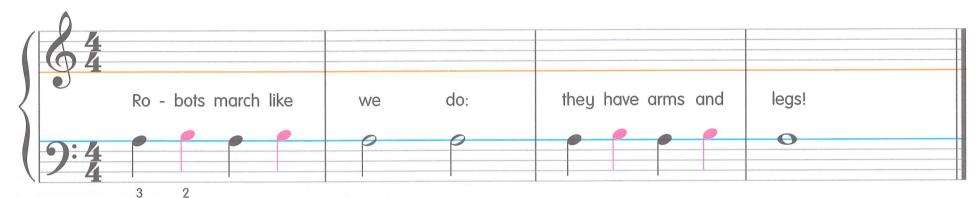








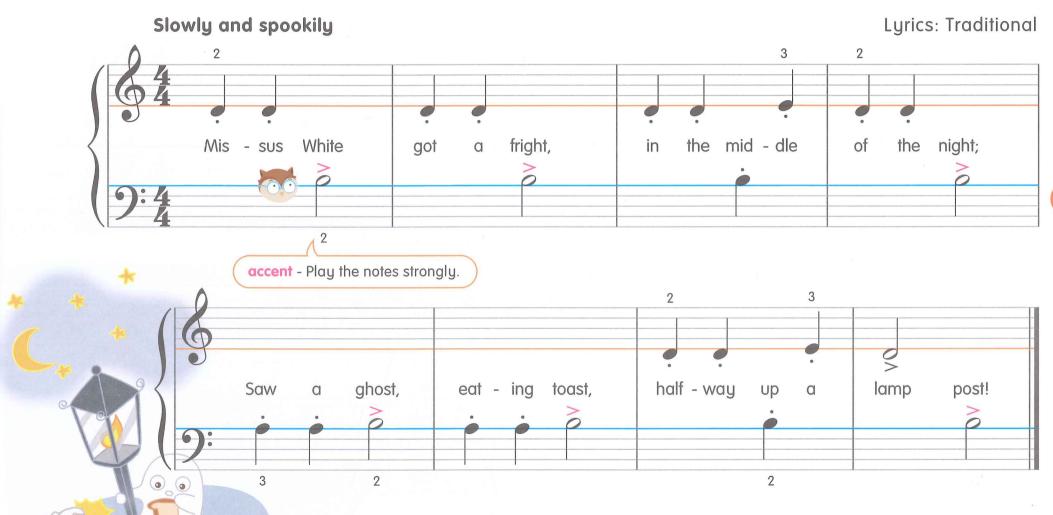
Like a march









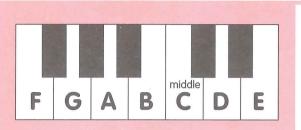


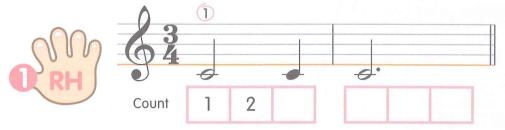


Colour middle C on the keyboard. Write the counts. Play and count.





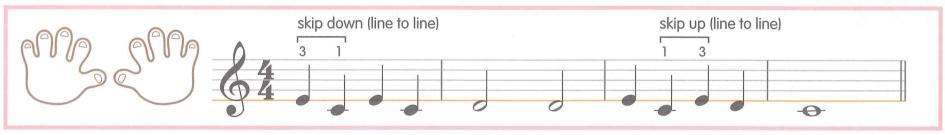










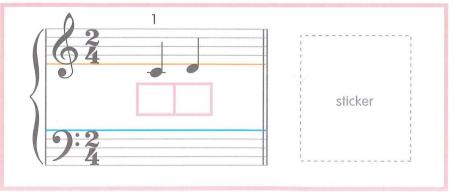


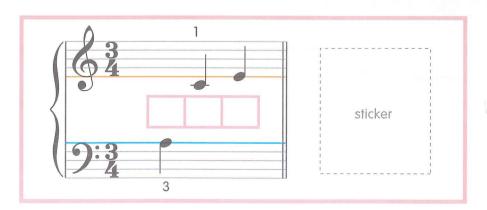


Write the letter names. Paste. Play.

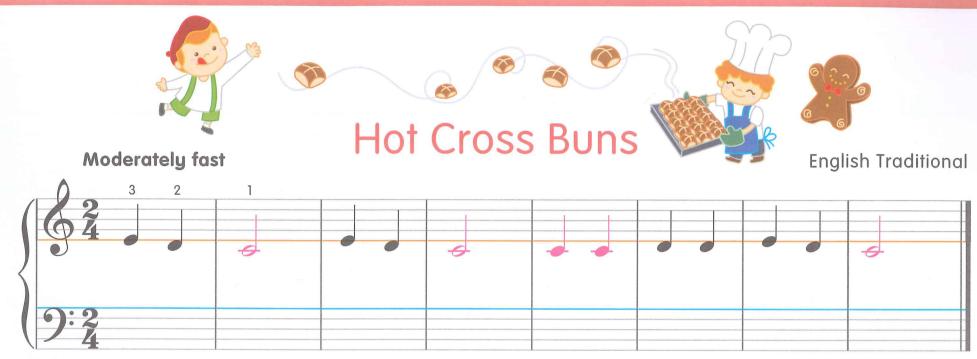




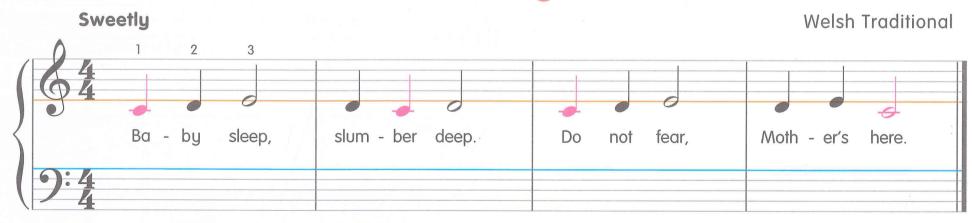








Lullaby

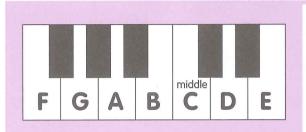


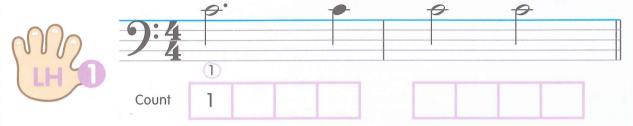


Colour middle C on the keyboard. Write the counts. Play and count.







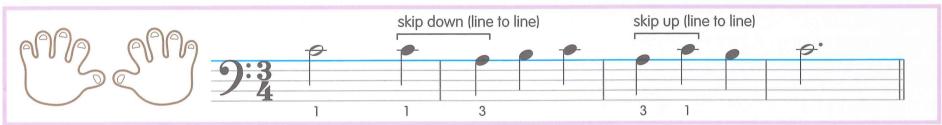






Colour the correct hand. Circle all the middle C's. Play evenly.



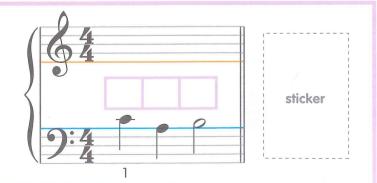


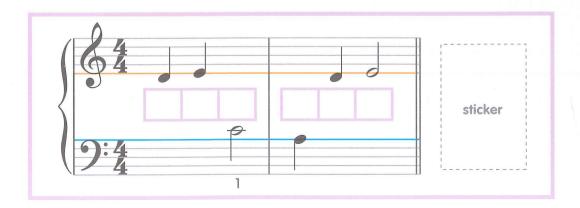


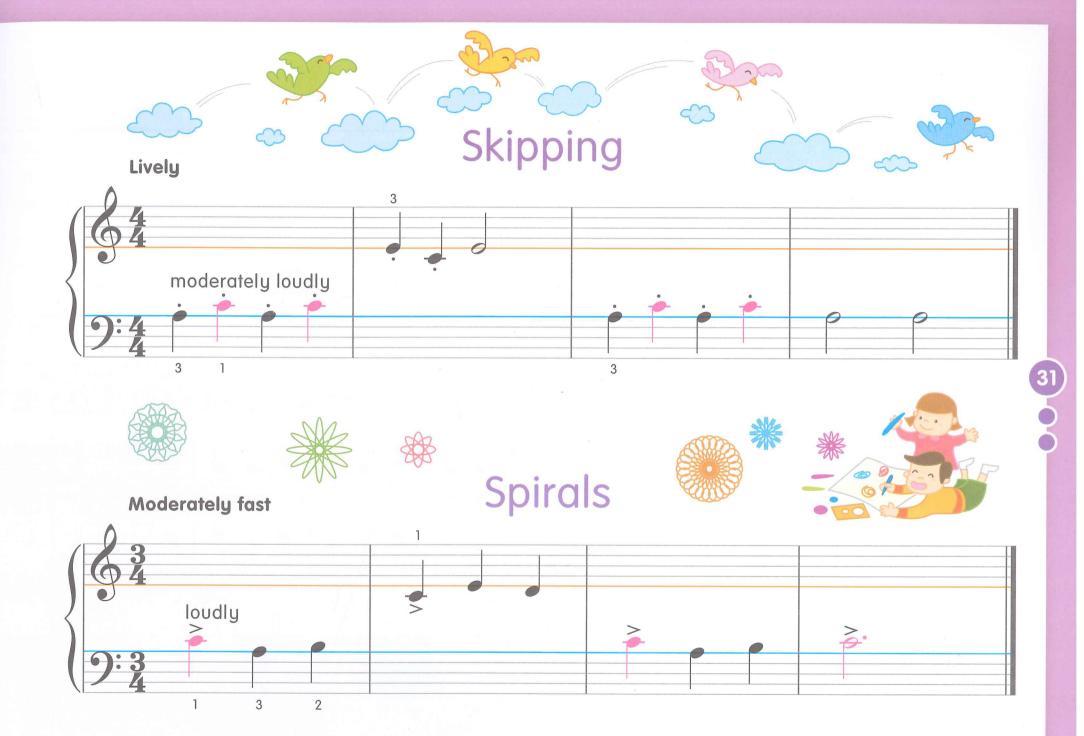
Write the letter names. Paste. Play.

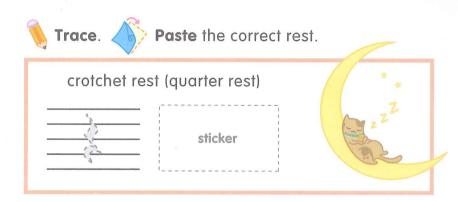








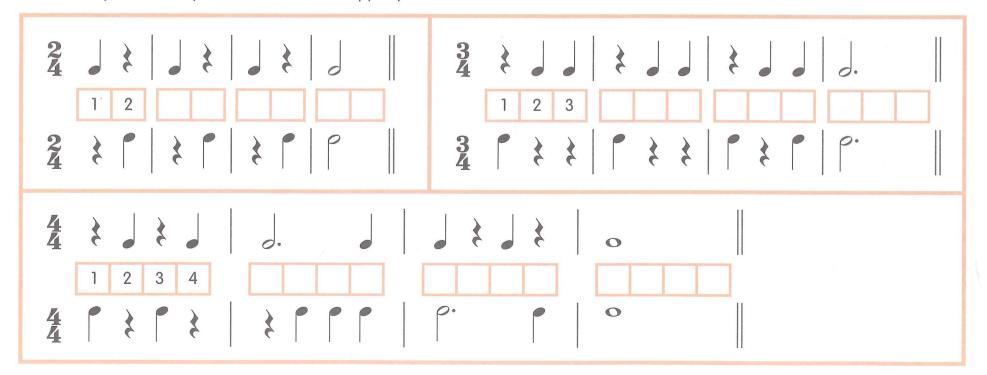




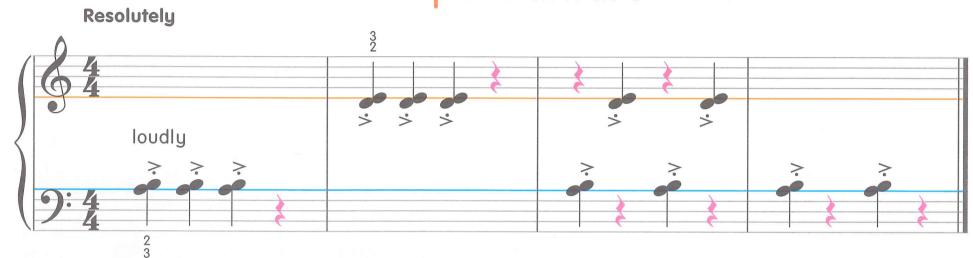




- 1. Write the counts. Clap and count each part in turn.
- 2. Clap as a duet with your teacher/friend. Exchange parts.
- 3. Tap the lower part with LH and the upper part with RH.



Trumpet Fanfare



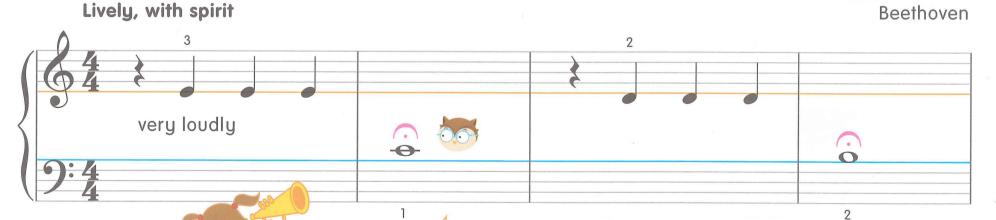




Beethoven - Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) was a German composer, who spent his adult life in Vienna, Austria. He was an excellent pianist, and composed 32 piano sonatas, including the "Moonlight", the "Pathétique", the "Waldstein" and the "Appassionata". He also composed 5 piano concertos, 9 symphonies, chamber music and an opera, "Fidelio". Beethoven went gradually deaf, but this did not stop him composing wonderful music.

Beethoven is Calling

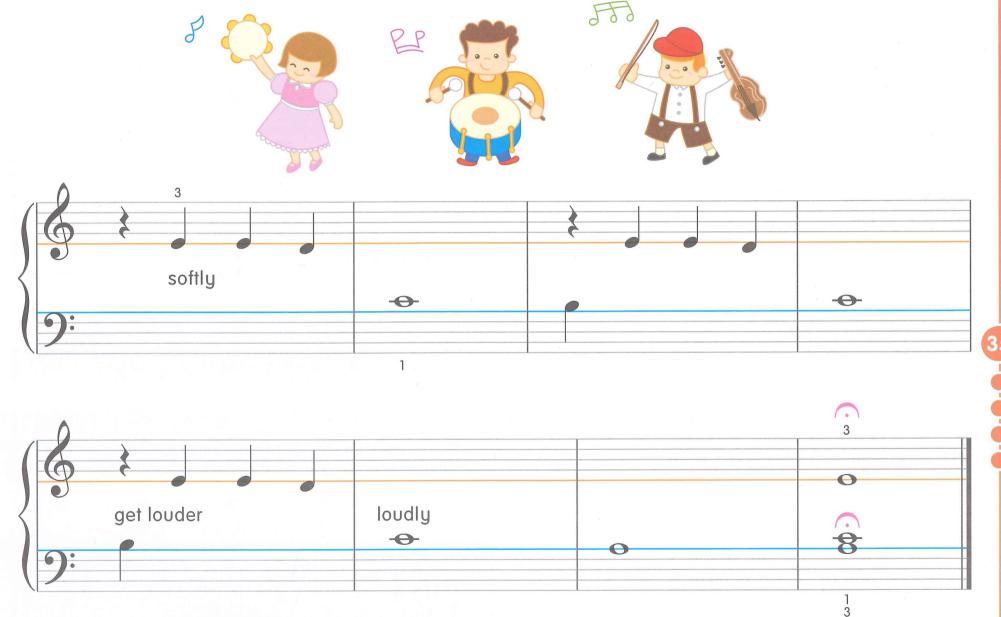
(Theme from the 5th symphony)



pause (fermata) - Hold the note longer.

When the sign is over a rest, make the silence longer.





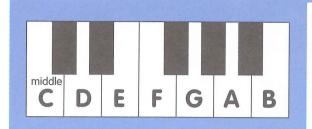


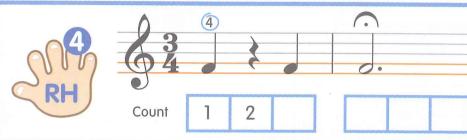


Colour F on the keyboard. Write the counts. Play and count.





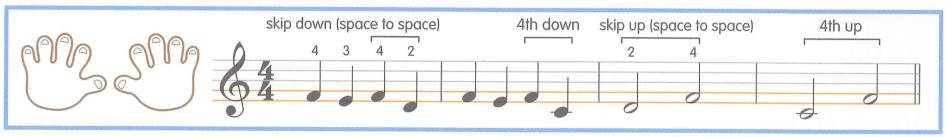










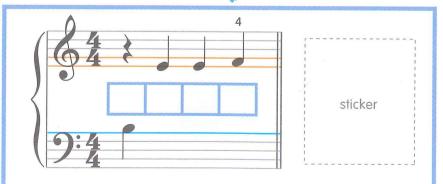


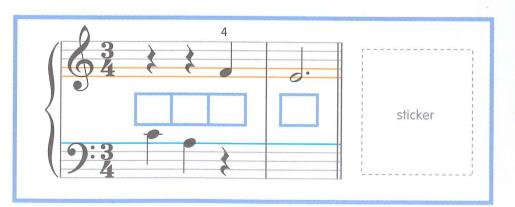


Write the letter names. Paste. Play.

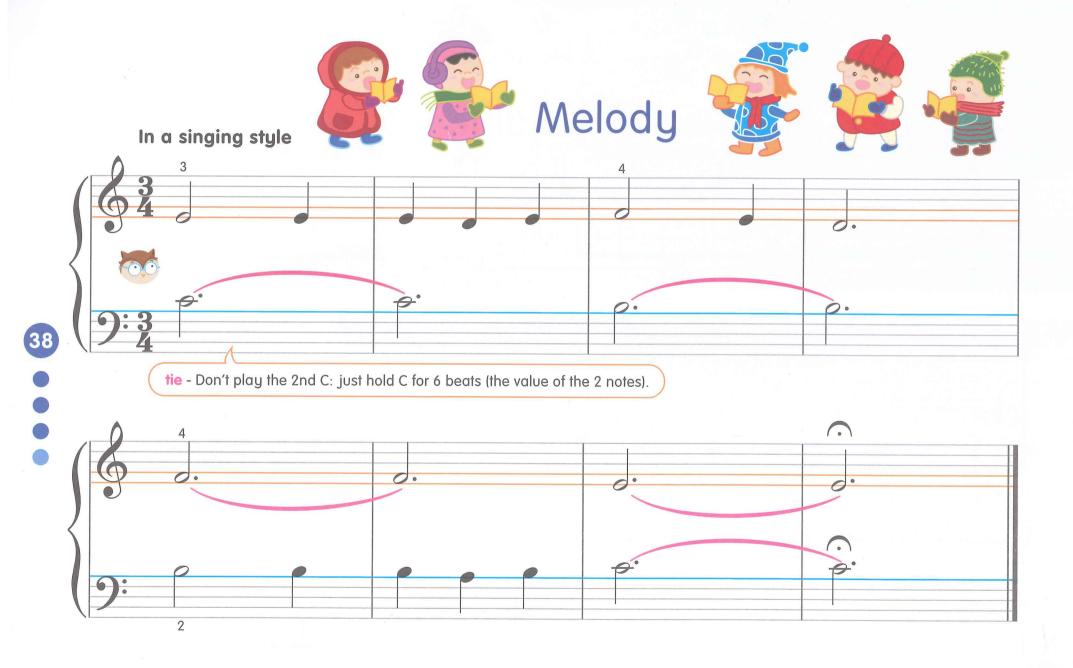






















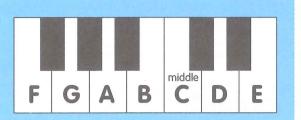
There are only 3 crotchet beats in this bar, because the 4th beat is at the beginning.

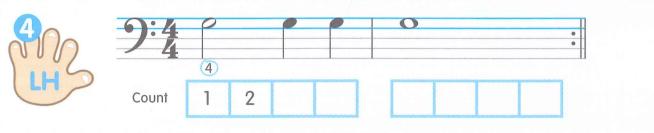


Colour G on the keyboard. Write the counts. Play and count.





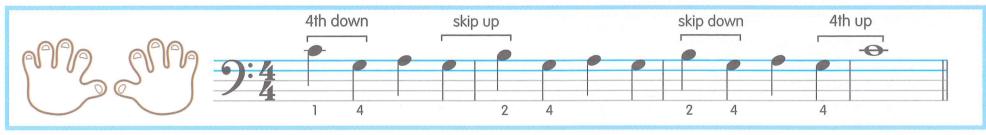










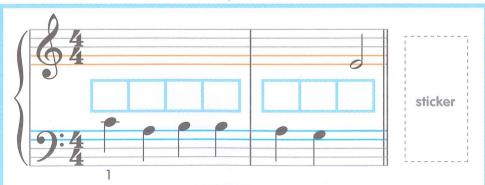


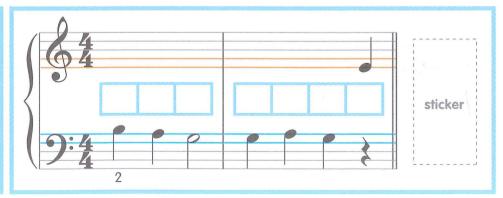


Write the letter names. Paste. Play.

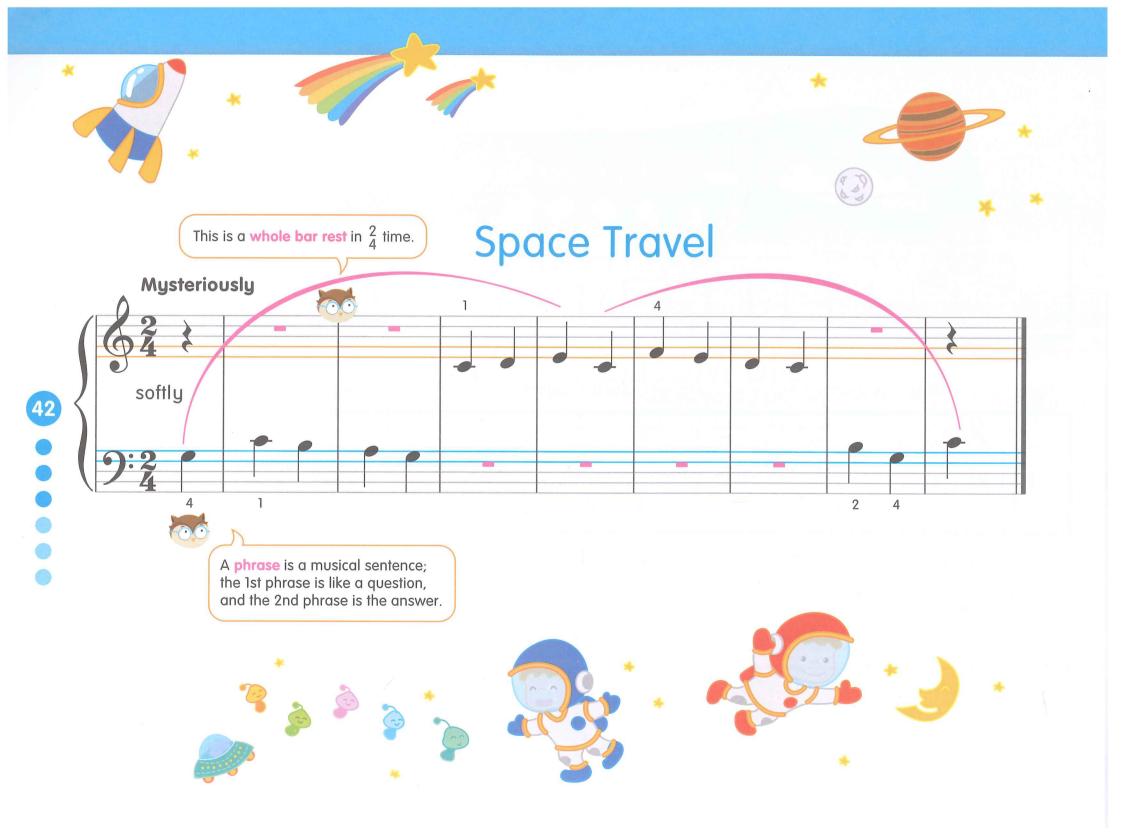












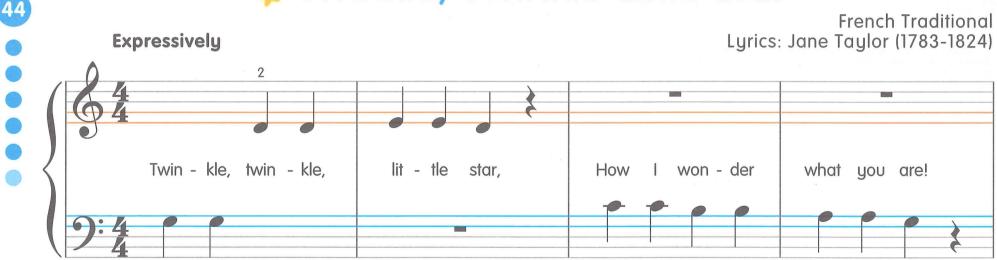




Mozart - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) was born in Salzburg, Austria. He was a child prodigy, and composed music from the age of 5. He composed operas, symphonies, piano sonatas and concertos, chamber music and choral music. His most famous operas are "The Magic Flute", "The Marriage of Figaro", "Don Giovanni" and "Così Fan Tutte".

Origin of the tune: This melody is a French folksong called "Ah, vous dirai-je Maman". Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart wrote variations on this melody for piano. You can also hear the melody in "Fossils" from "Carnival of the Animals" by Camille Saint-Saëns.

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star *





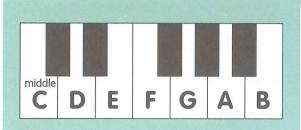




Colour G on the keyboard. Write the counts. Play and count.





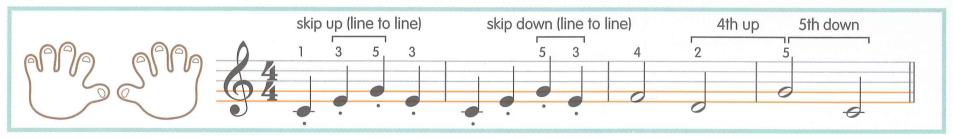








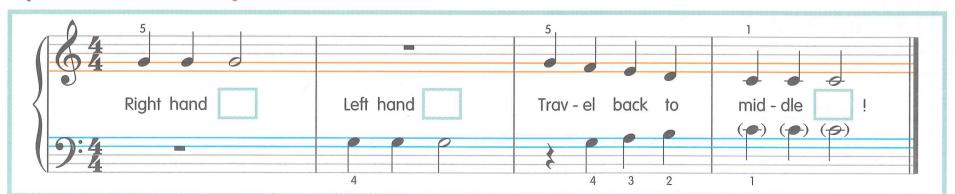




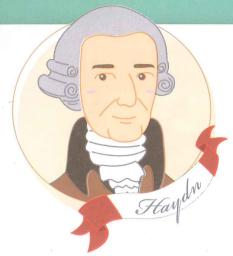


Write the letter names. Play.



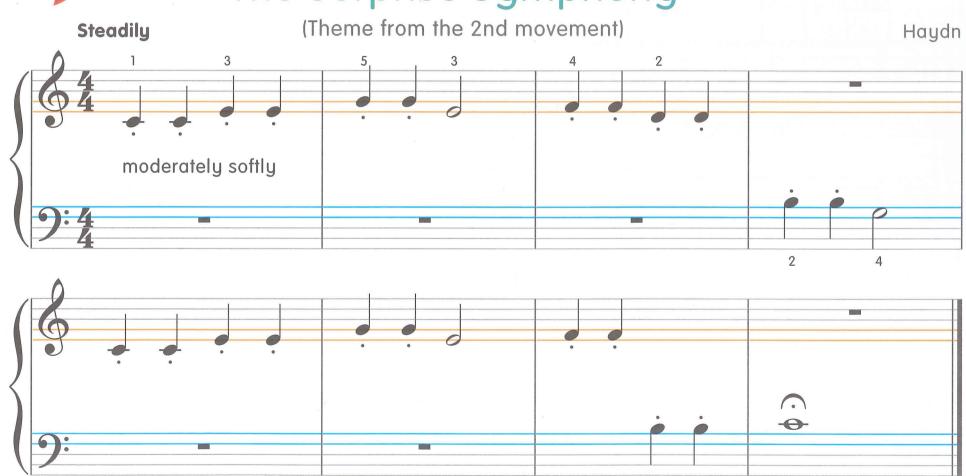






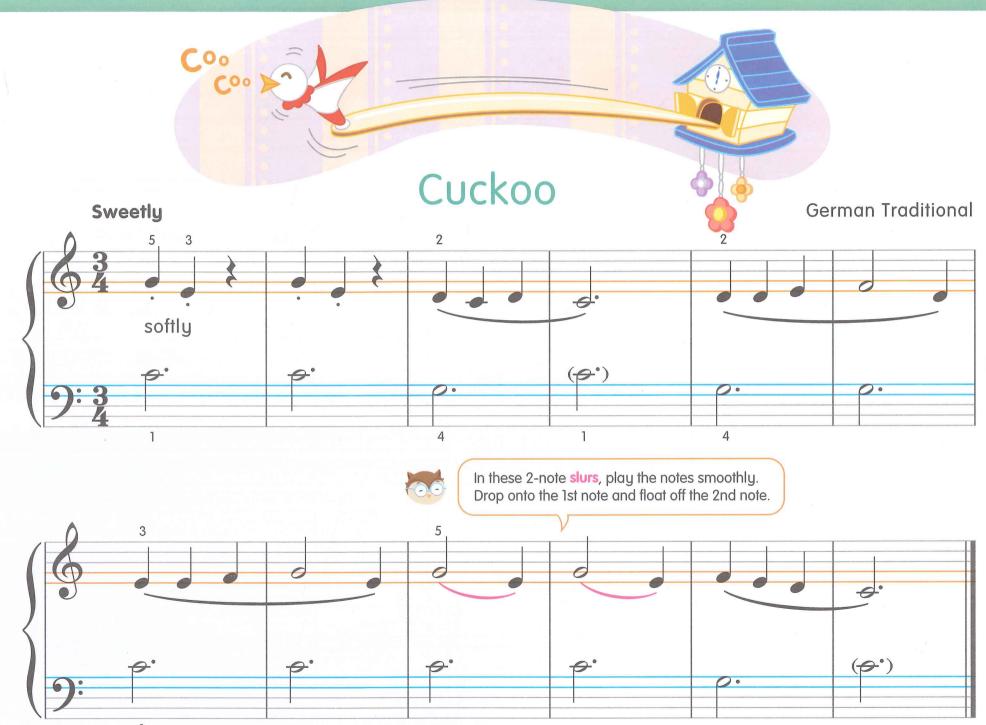
Haydn - The Austrian composer Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) was affectionately known as "Papa Haydn". He had an orchestra of about 20 musicians, and he composed many symphonies for them, such as the "Surprise" and the "Clock". When he lived in Vienna, Mozart was his friend, and Beethoven his student.

The Surprise Symphony









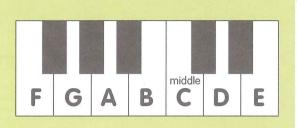


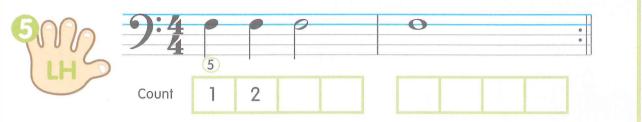


Colour F on the keyboard. 🦠 Write the counts. 🧬 Play and count.







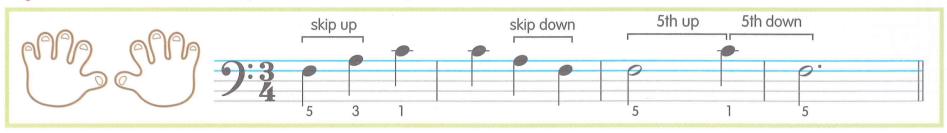








Colour the correct hand. 🦠 Circle all the F's. 🧬 Play with a warm tone.

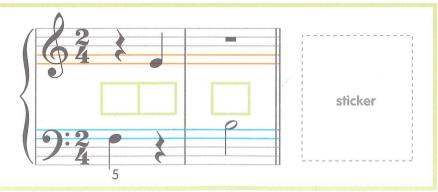


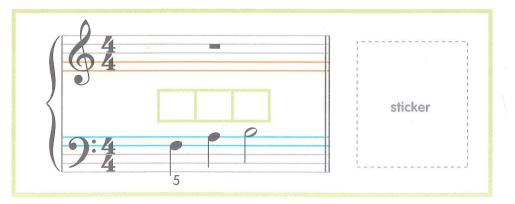


Write the letter names. Paste. Play.

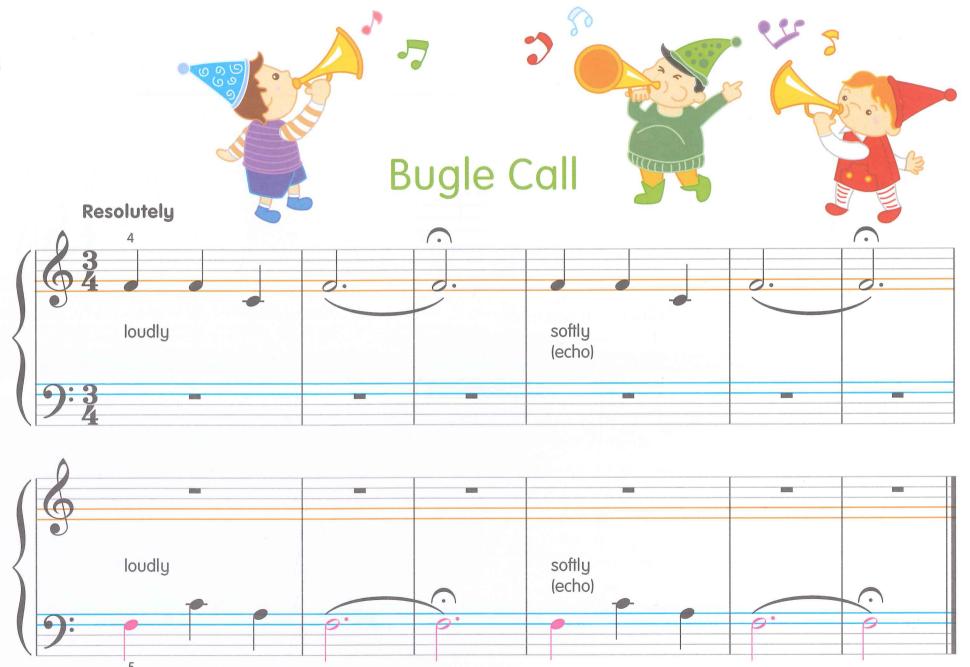












Paste the correct rests.

semibreve rest (whole rest)

105

sticker



minim rest (half rest)

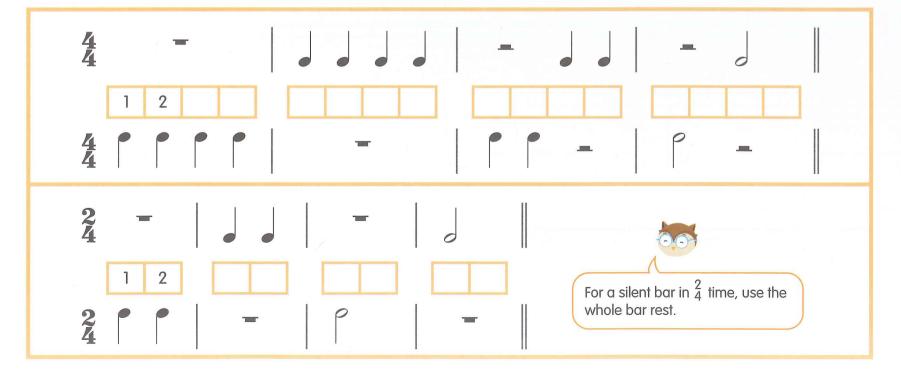
-

sticker



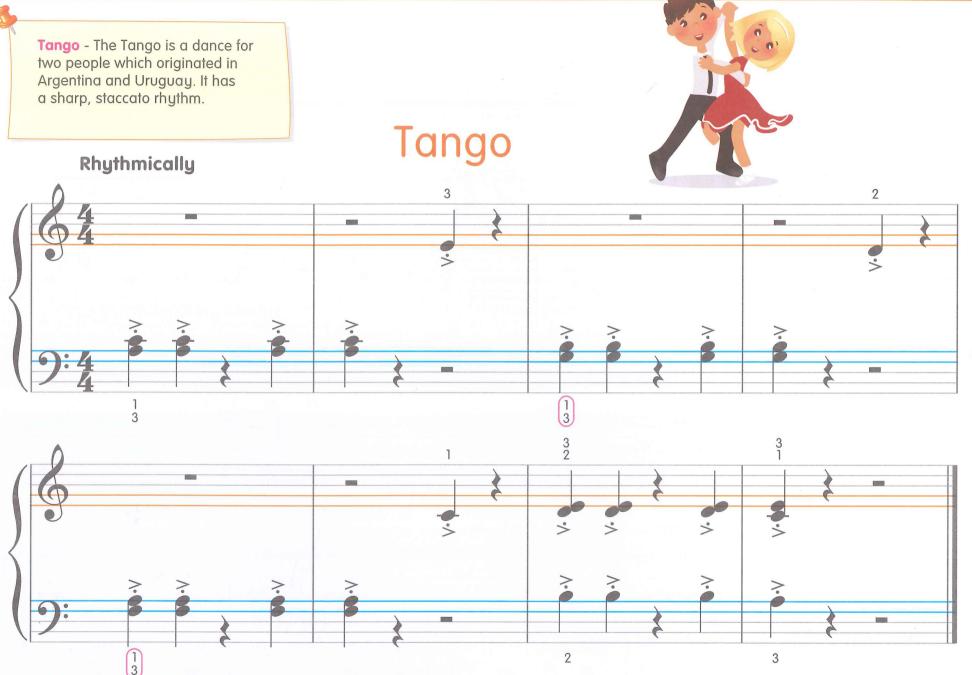


- 1. Write the counts. Clap and count each part in turn.
- 2. Clap as a duet with your teacher/friend. Exchange parts.
- 3. Tap the lower part with LH and the upper part with RH.







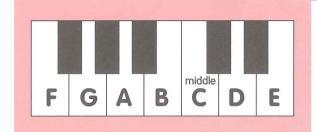


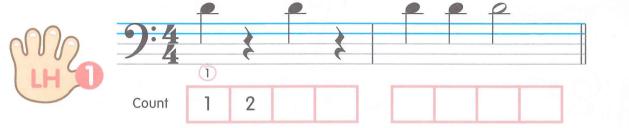


Colour middle D on the keyboard. Nrite the counts. Play and count.







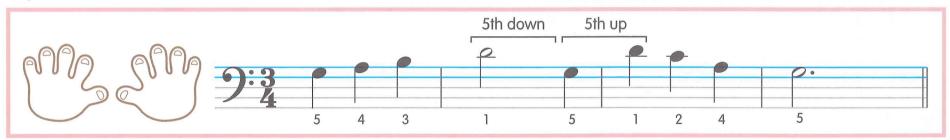




Colour the correct hand. Circle all the middle D's. Play expressively.



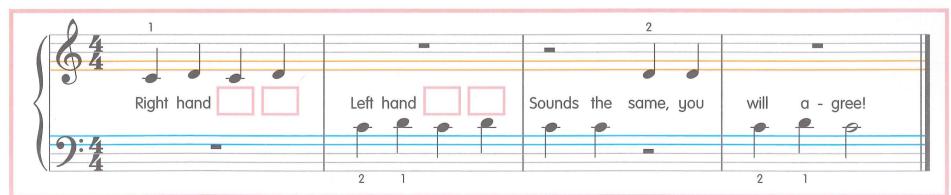


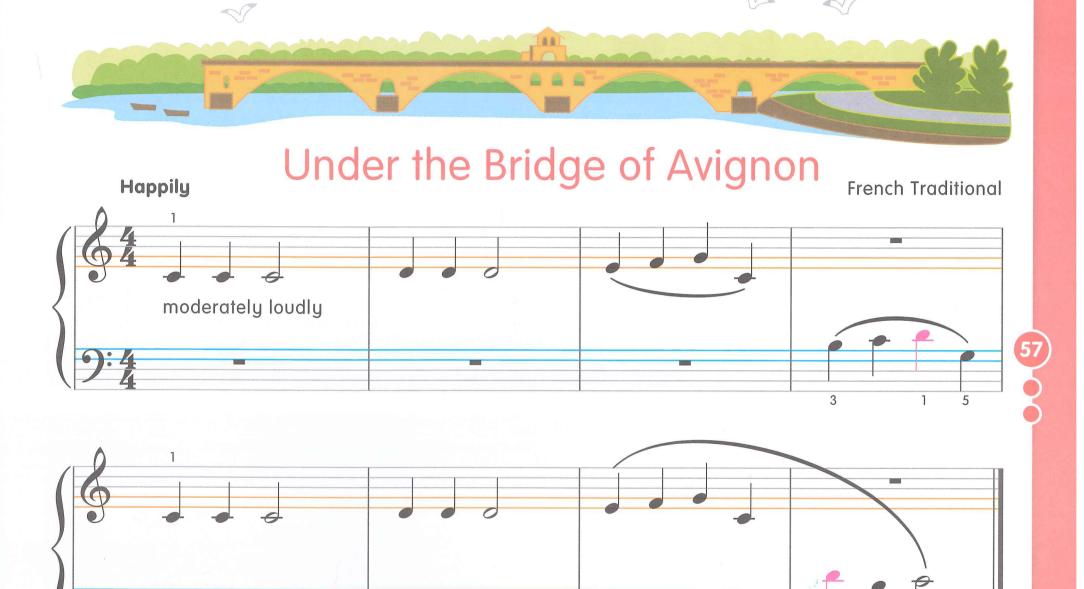


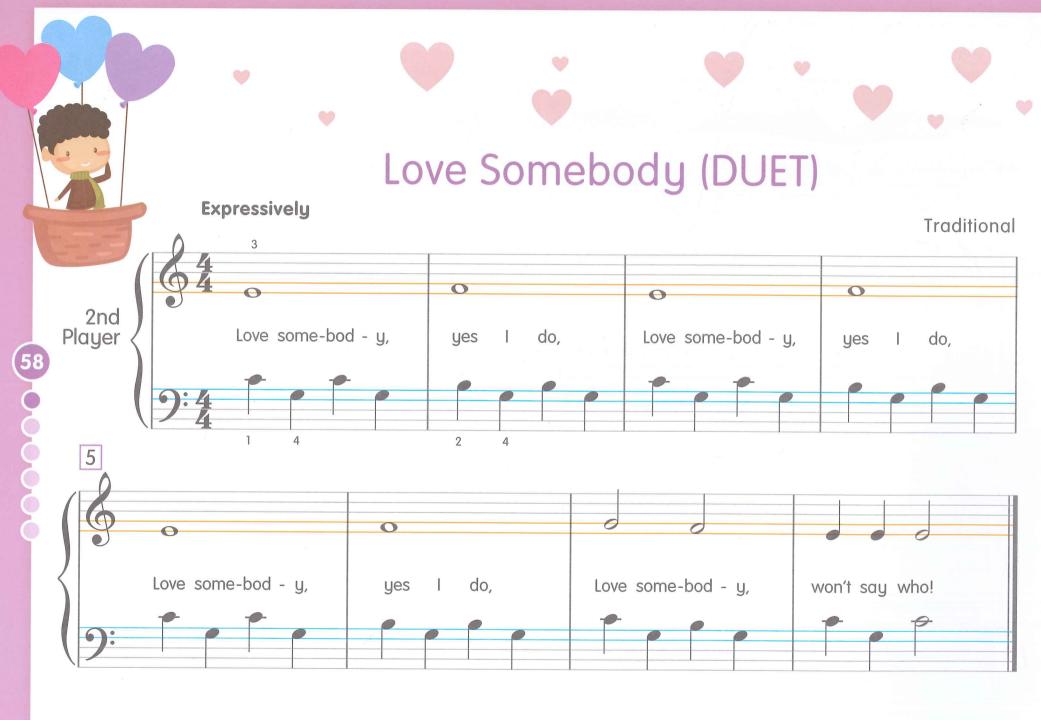


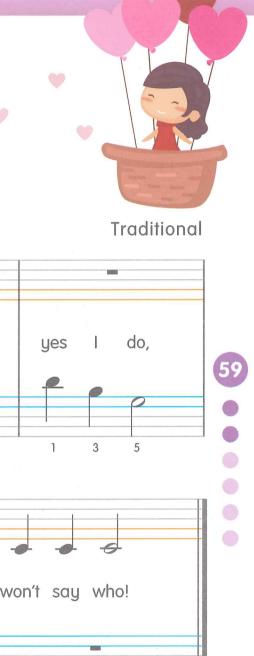
Write the letter names. Play.



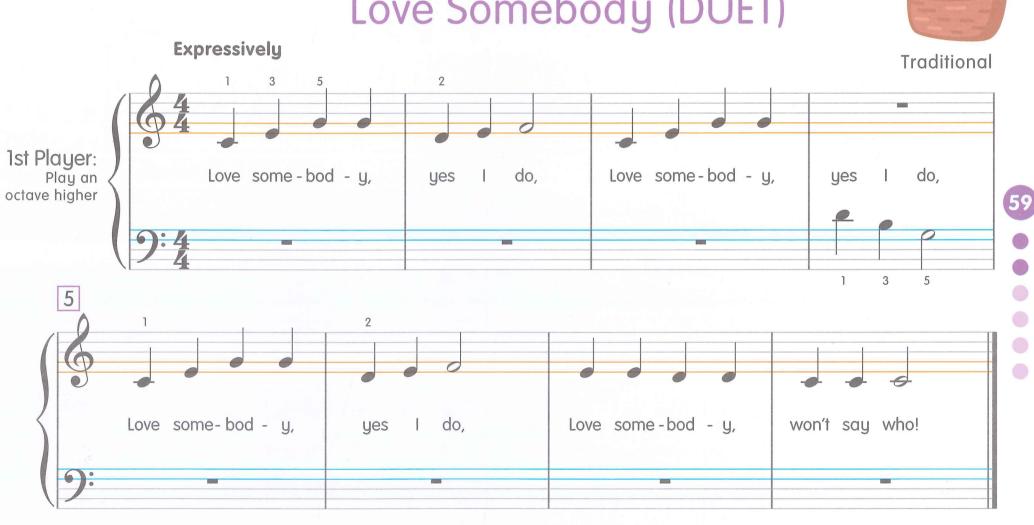


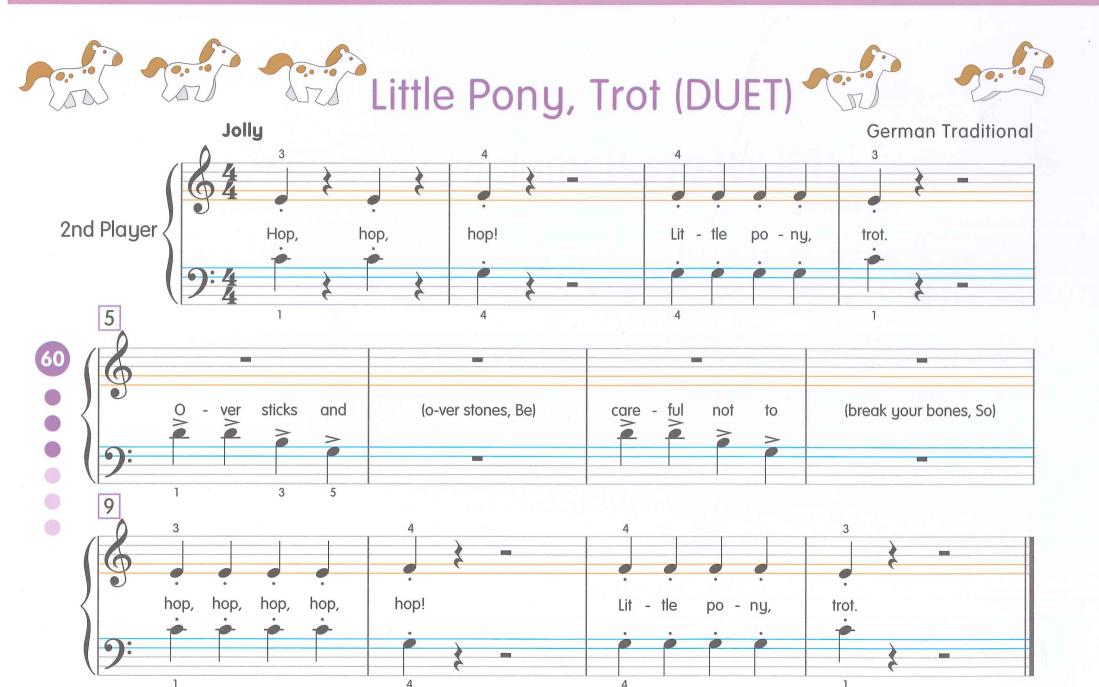






Love Somebody (DUET)







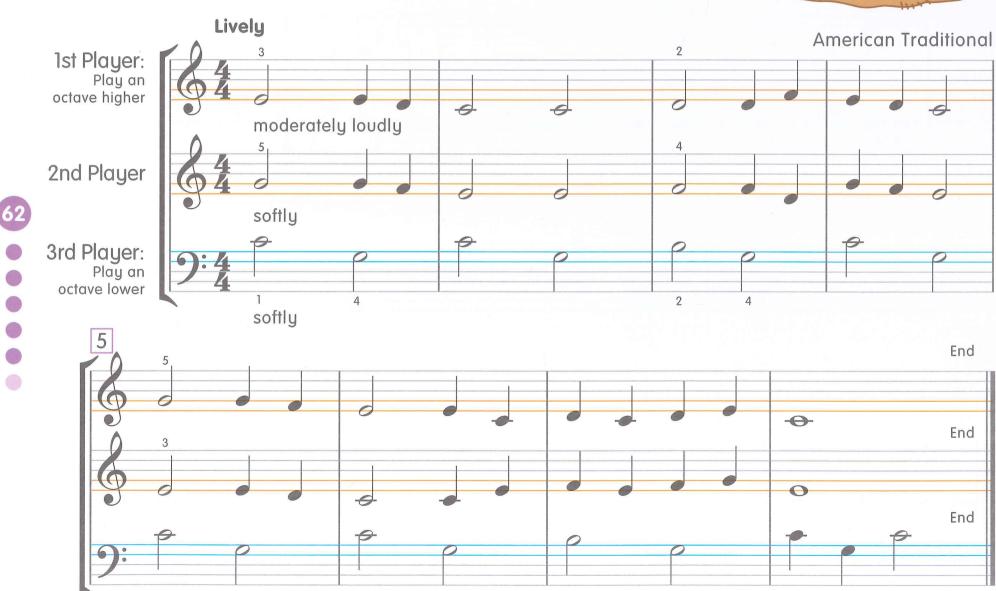




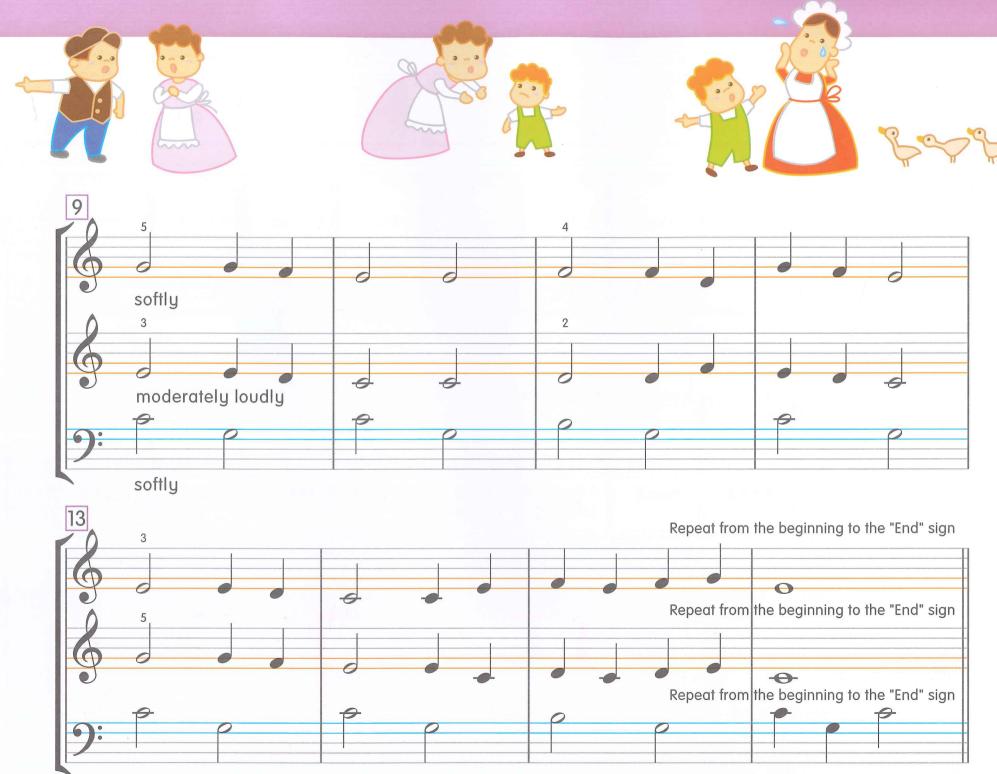


Go Tell Aunt Rhody (TRIO)











Paste the correct stickers.





Music Signs

| sticker | sticker | sticker | sticker | sticker | sticker | sticker | sticker | sticker | sticker |
|---------|---------|----------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|---------|----------|---------|---------|
| stave | bar | bar line | time signatures | treble clef | bass clef | slur | staccato | accent | tie |

Letter Names

| sticker | sticker | sticker | sticker | sticker | sticker | sticker | sticker | sticker | sticker |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| bass F | bass G | bass A | bass B | bass middle C | treble middle C | treble D | treble E | treble F | treble G |

Time Names (Notes and Rests)

| 1 | sticker | sticker | sticker | sticker | sticker | sticker | sticker |
|---|--------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| | semibreve | semibreve rest | dotted minim | minim | minim rest | crotchet | crotchet rest |
| | (whole note) | (whole rest) | (dotted half note) | (half note) | (half rest) | (quarter note) | (quarter rest) |