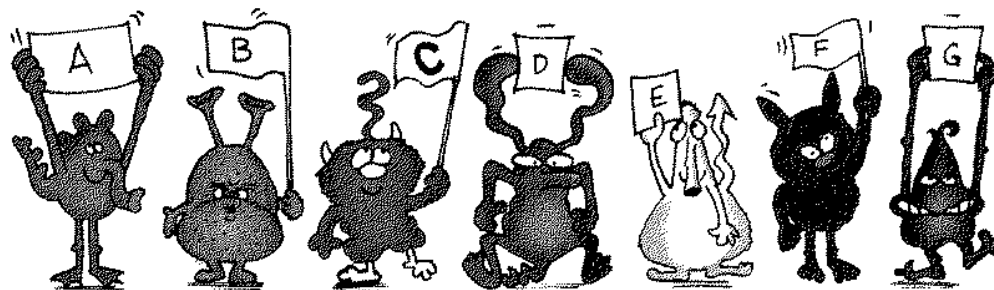


JOHN THOMPSON'S

EASIEST PIANO COURSE

Part One



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Teachers and Parents

PURPOSE

This course is designed to present the easiest possible approach to piano playing. Part One is devoted to developing fluency in **reading by note**, solving a problem that still seems to rate as 'musical enemy, number one' with most young students. The Work Sheets together with the Reading Aloud Exercises, appearing frequently, afford plenty of drill for all students.

SCOPE

The range covered in Part One is purposely limited. Only five notes up and five notes down from middle C are presented and time values do not go beyond crotchets. This makes it possible to include many examples in the form of review work and obviates the necessity of using supplementary material. In short, each book of the course is complete in itself and contains its own Writing Exercises, Sight Reading Drills, Review Work and (in later books) Technical Studies.

ACCOMPANIMENTS

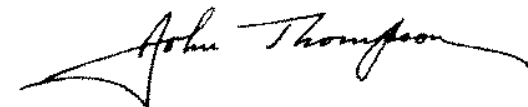
Accompaniments for teacher or parent are supplied with most of the examples. They have been carefully composed to make the little pieces sound as much as possible like fragments from larger compositions. Valuable in several ways, they not only make it possible to play in various keys, avoiding the deadly monotony of C major, but their use imposes strict time and sharp rhythm, especially when they are played with somewhat vigorous accents, thus helping the pupil to 'feel' the rhythm from the very beginning.

GRADING

The books in this course do not represent any certain grade. They simply follow in proper sequence as Part One, Part Two, Part Three, etc. Nor are the lessons measured page by page. Some pupils will master several pages per lesson others only one. The course progresses 'Point by Point' rather than 'Lesson by Lesson,' and it is left to the teacher, (who, after all, is the only one qualified), to decide how much or how little each pupil can absorb in one lesson.

PART TWO

Part Two proceeds from the exact point reached at the end of Part One. New notes, time-values and rudiments are presented. Technique also begins in Part Two – first in the form of simple finger drills and later, more extended technical figures. Part Two remains in what is generally classified as Preparatory Grade. The prime objective of the entire course is to show how early, thoroughly, entertainingly and musically – rather than how fast – each pupil can progress.



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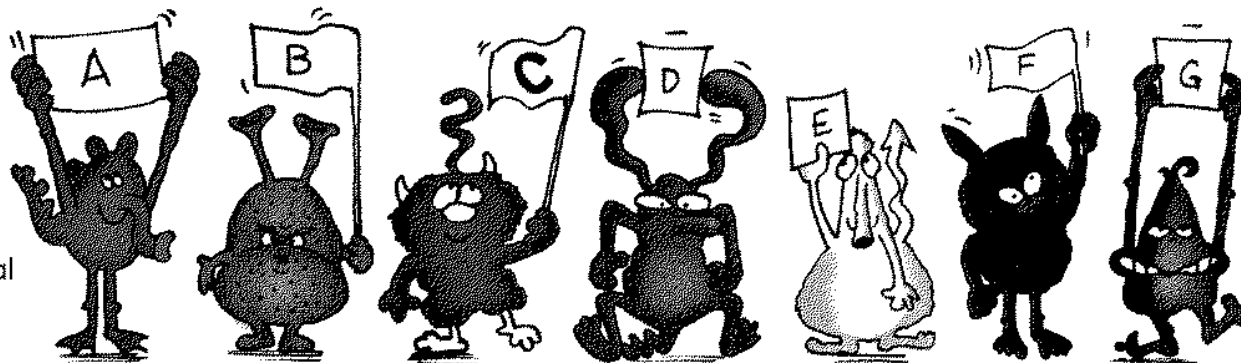
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The Piano Keyboard

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.

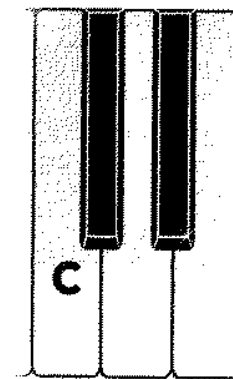
This is how to find
C on your Piano.



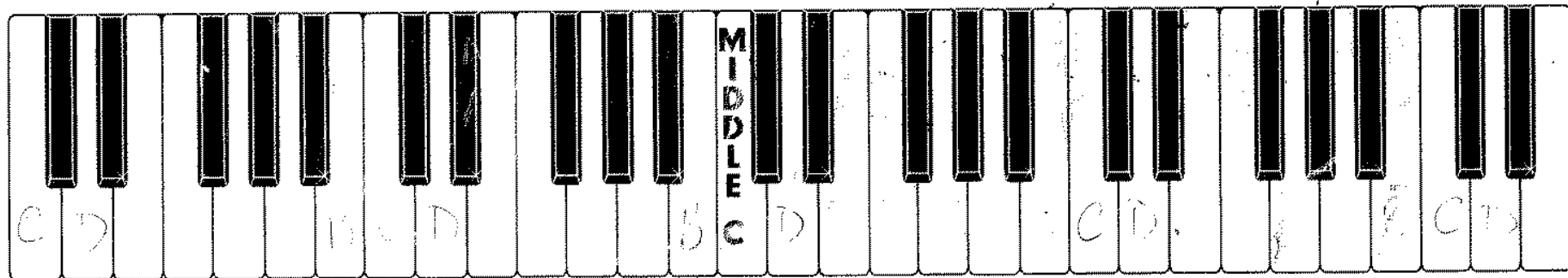
C is found to the **left** of the TWO BLACK KEYS.

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.



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 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, 

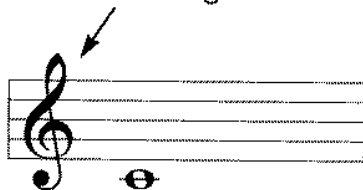
It is held for FOUR COUNTS.

The Stave



Clef Signs

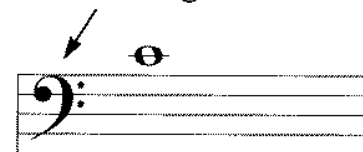
Treble Clef sign



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.



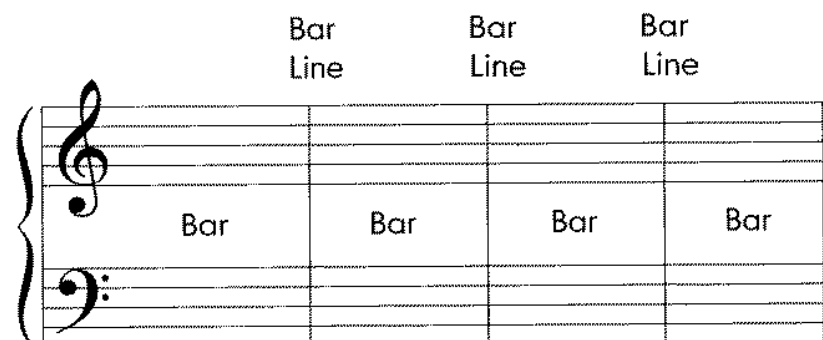
Bass Clef sign



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.



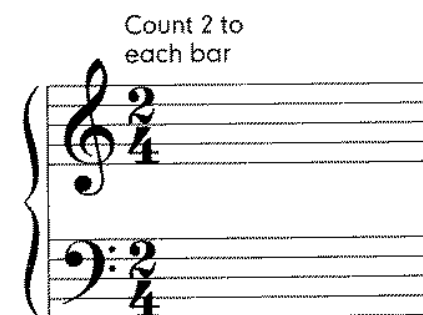
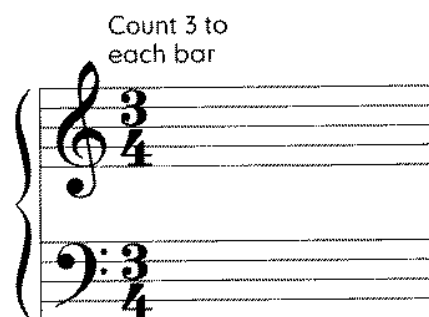
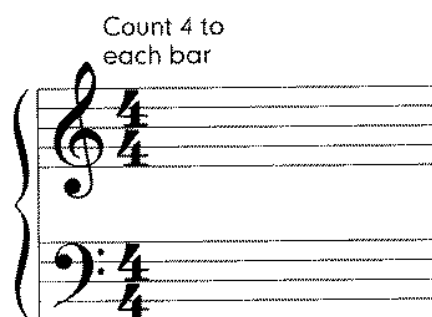
Music is divided
by bar lines
into bars.



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.



Left Hand

Each finger has a number.

The thumbs are both numbered 1.

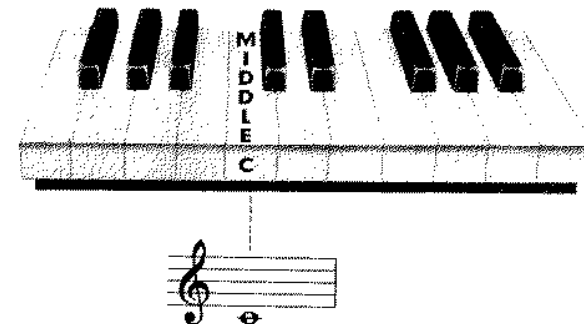


Right Hand

Middle C as a Semibreve

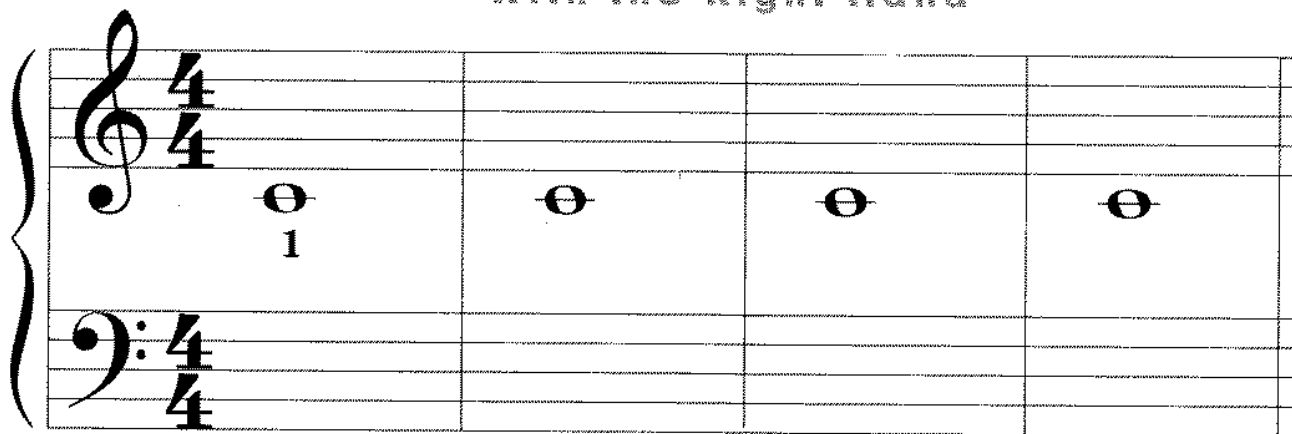
In the Treble

Accompaniment



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

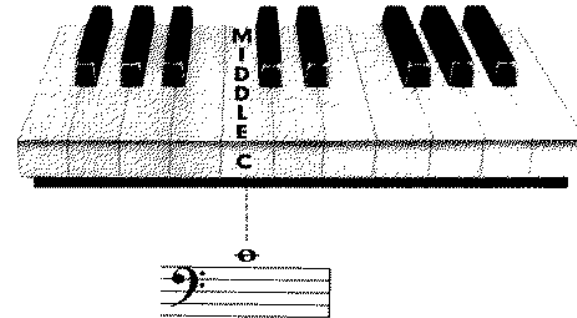
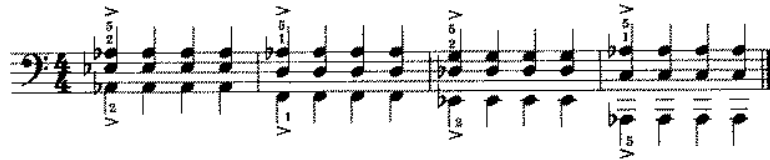
Let's Play
With the Right Hand



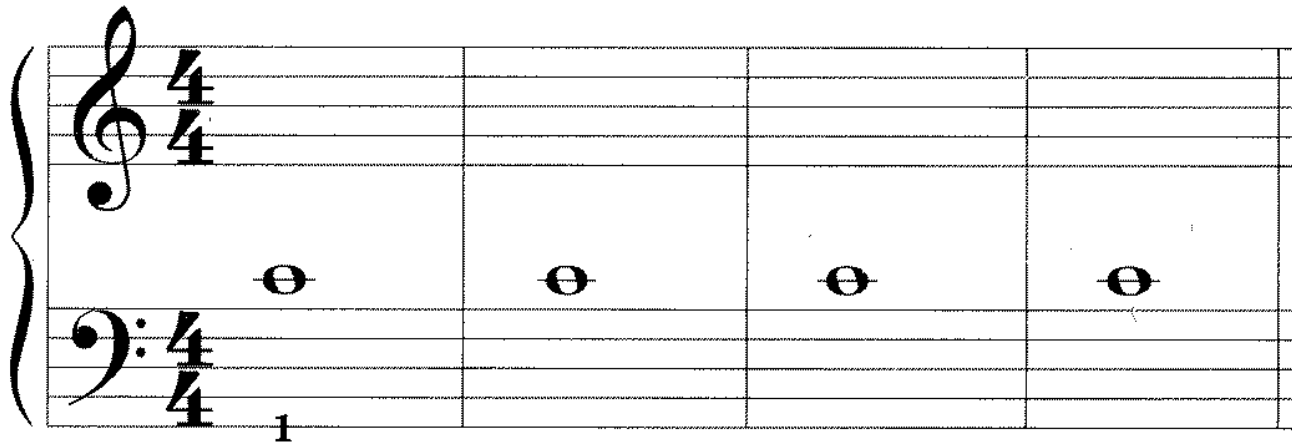
Middle C as a Semibreve

In the Bass

Accompaniment





Let's Play
With the Left Hand



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.



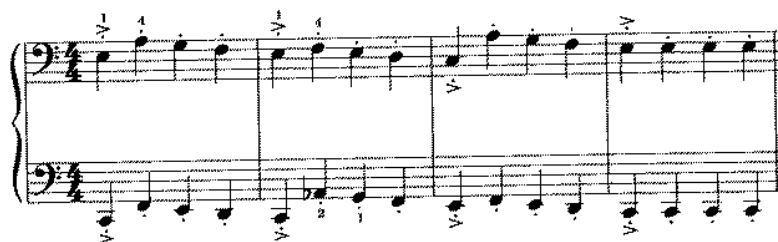
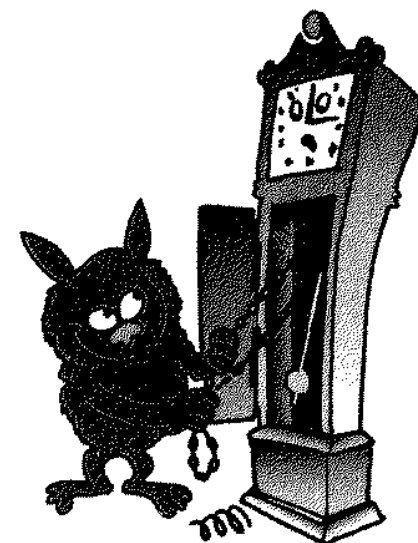
Count four to each bar.

Grandfather's Clock



Count: one-two three-four



Accompaniment

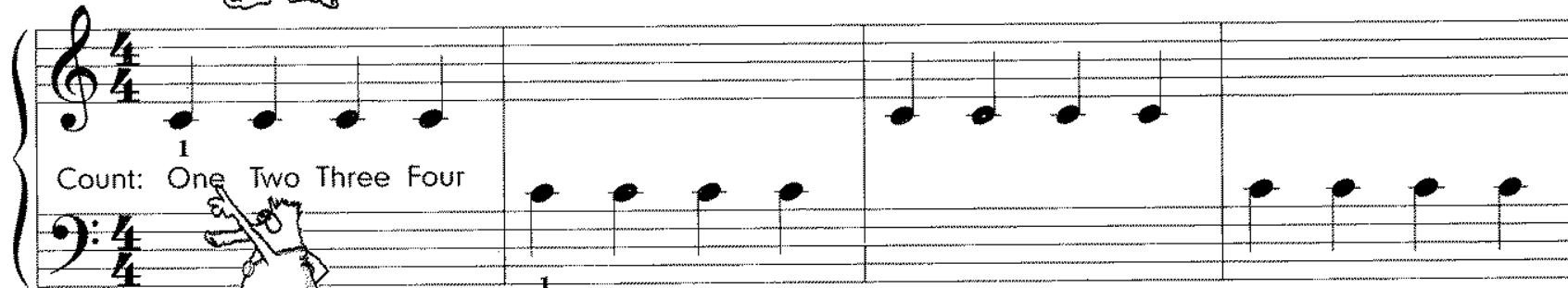
Middle C in Crotchets

Four counts to
each bar.

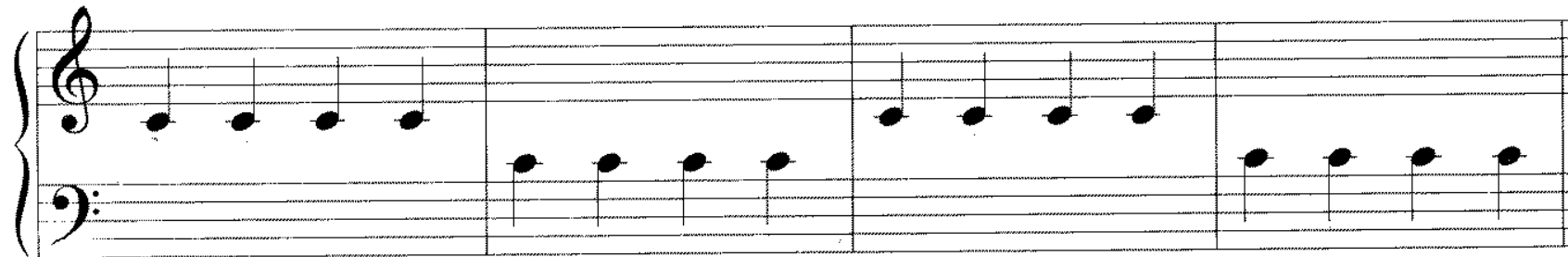


A CROTCHET looks like this ( or ) and gets one count.

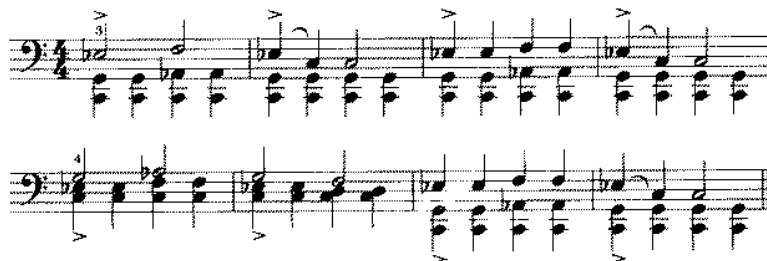
Moccasin Dance



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

1 2

Make Minims of the following by adding stems.
Stems Up

2

Stems Down

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

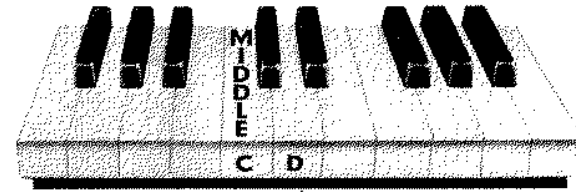
3

Write Middle C in each Clef.

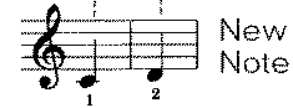
4

Semibreve	Two Minims	Four Crotchets	Two Minims	Four Crotchets	Semibreve

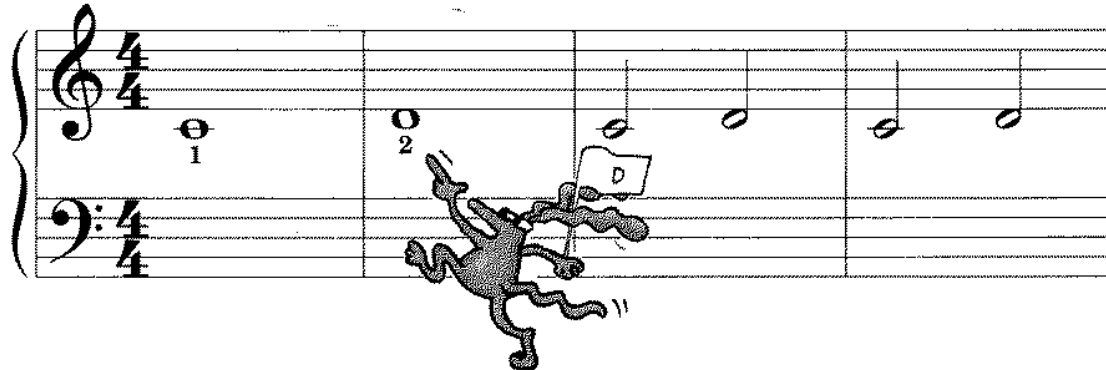
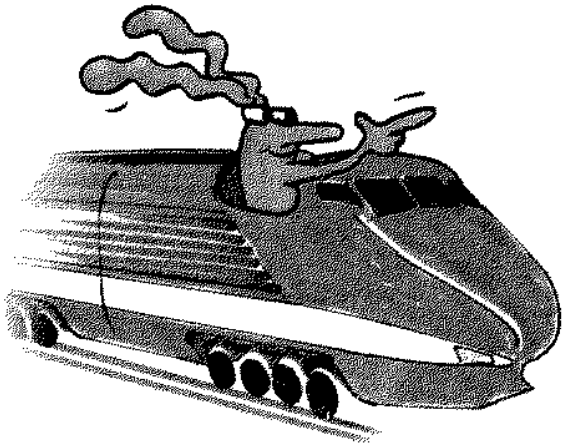
Accompaniment



Right Hand



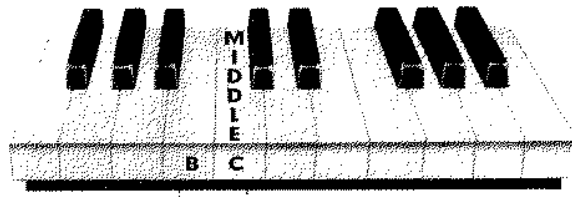
The Train



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

Note to teacher

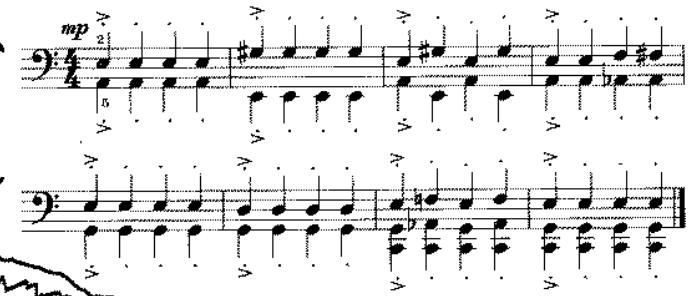
From this point on, be sure to stress
the importance of accenting the
first count of each bar.



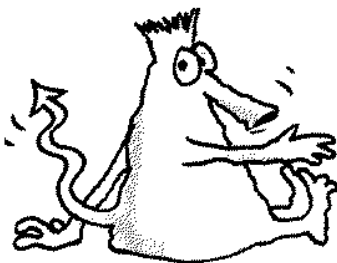
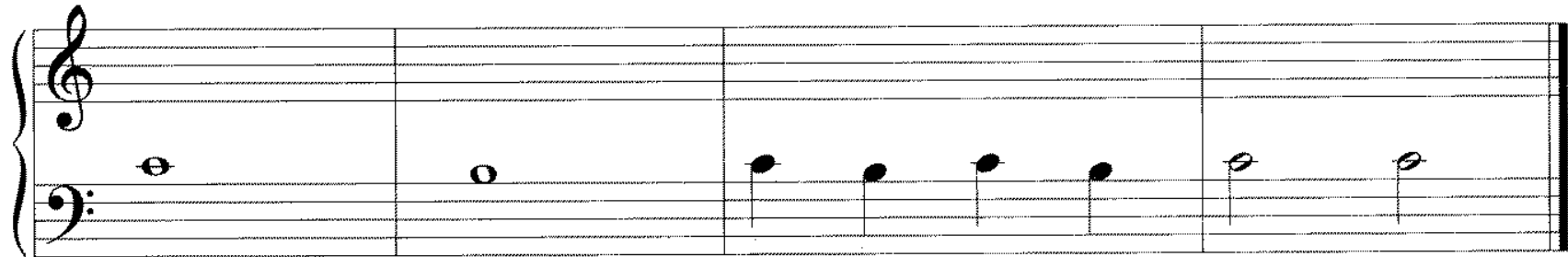
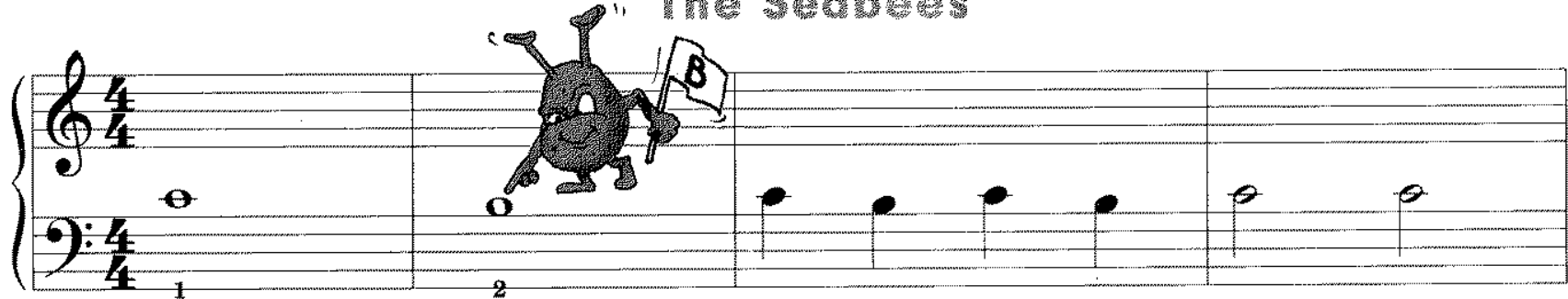
New
Note
Left Hand



Accompaniment



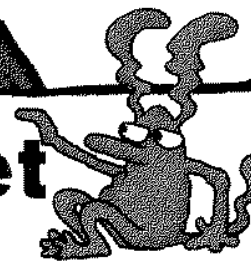
The Seabées



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



Work Sheet



Write letter names under the notes.

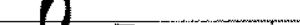
1

Exercise 1

Part 1

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

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).

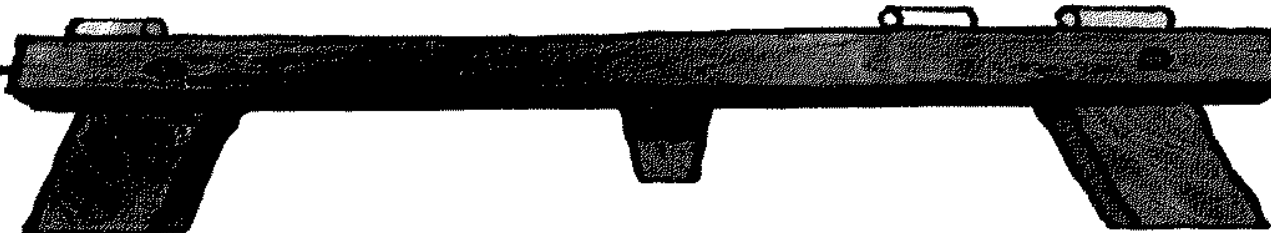
Next write the letter names of the notes.

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

[illegible]

Letter Names C

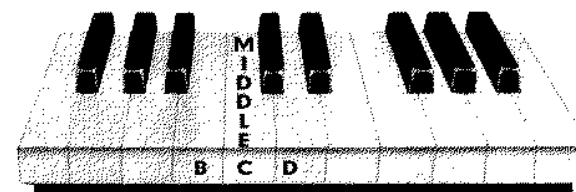
Time Values 2



Two-Four



Count two to each bar.

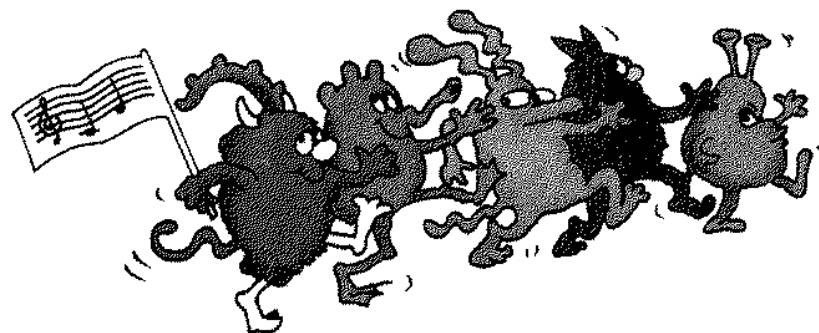


Right Hand

Left Hand



March of the Gnomes

Accompaniment



Three-Four and The Dotted Minim

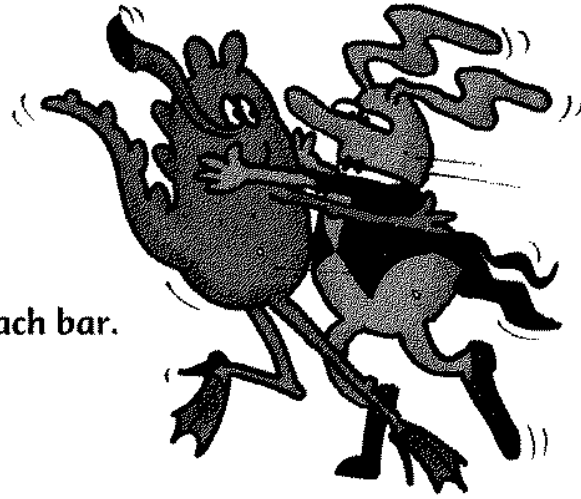
The dotted minim

looks like this ( 'or' )

and is held for 3 counts.



Count 3 to each bar.

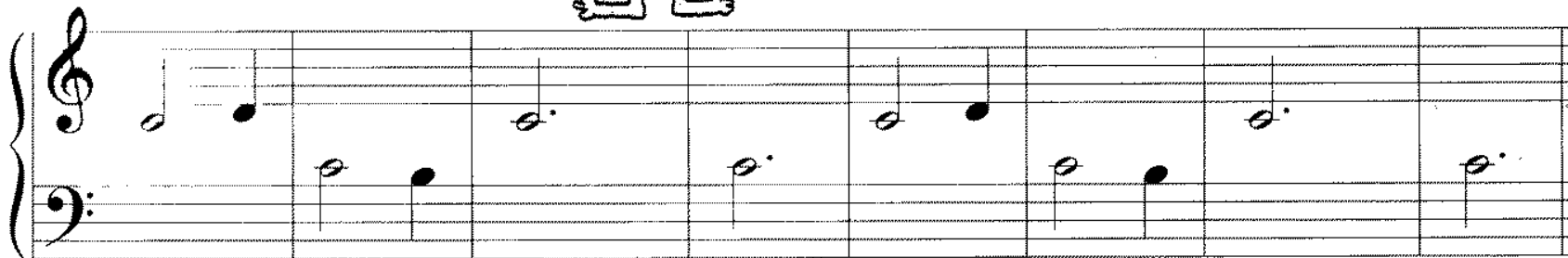


Dance of the Gnomes

Accompaniment

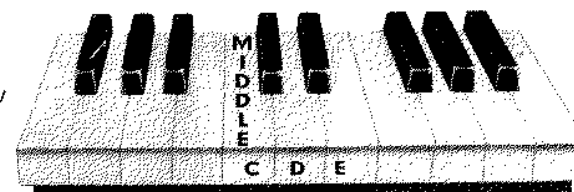
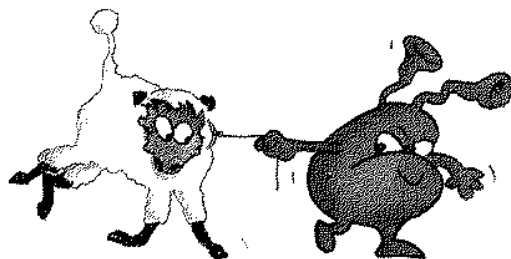
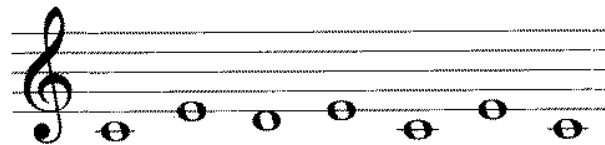


Dotted minim, hold for 3 counts.

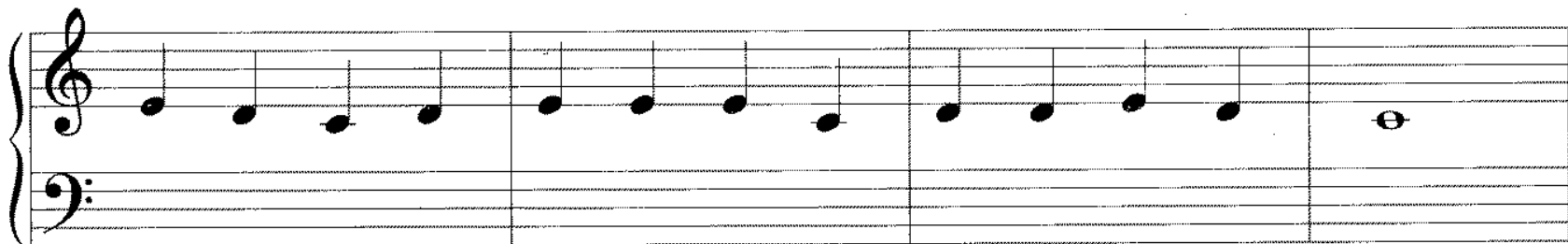
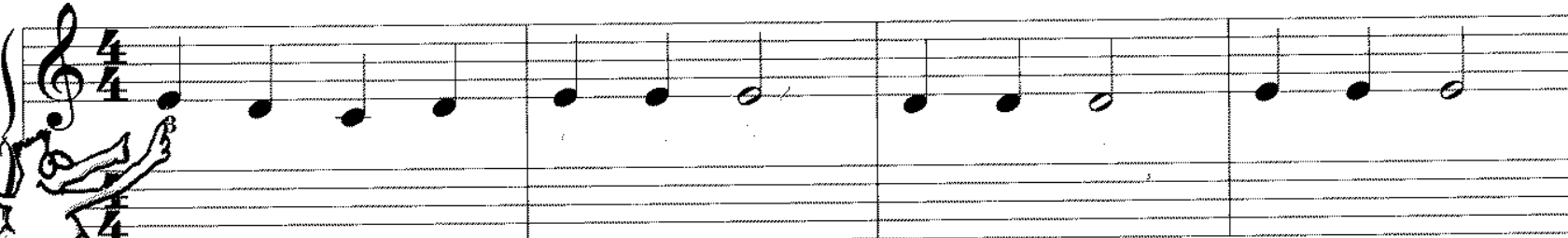


Do you see the importance of correct counting? These are the same notes you played in 'March of the Gnomes' but they make a new piece when you count 3 to each bar.

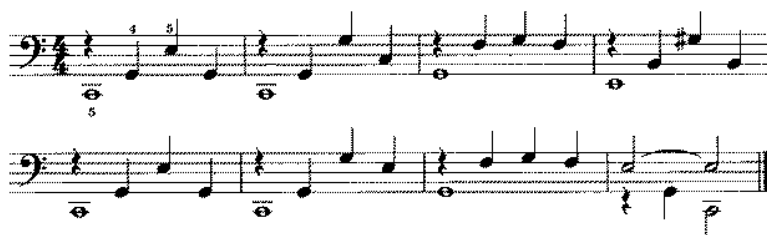
Read Aloud



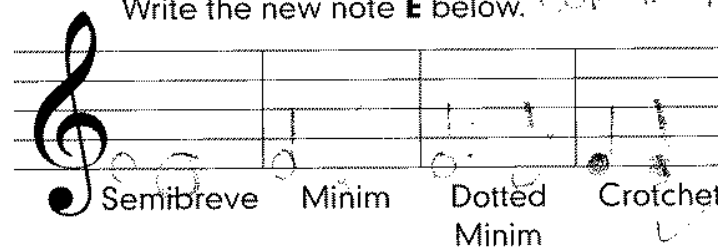
Mary Had a Little Lamb

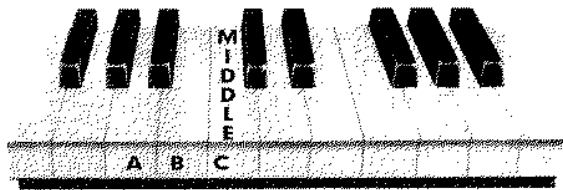


Accompaniment



Write the new note **E** below. *Copy note 1 into 2*





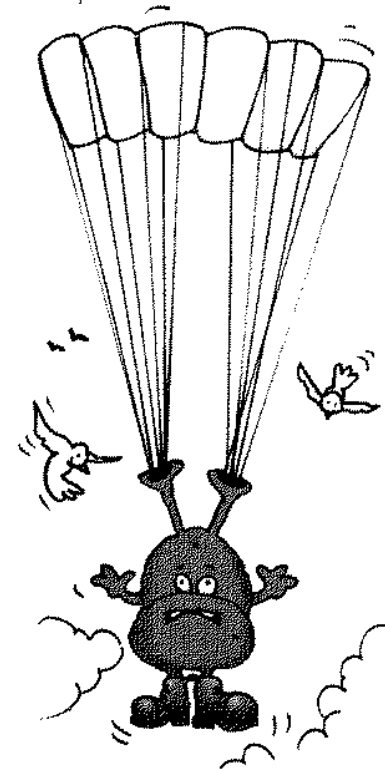
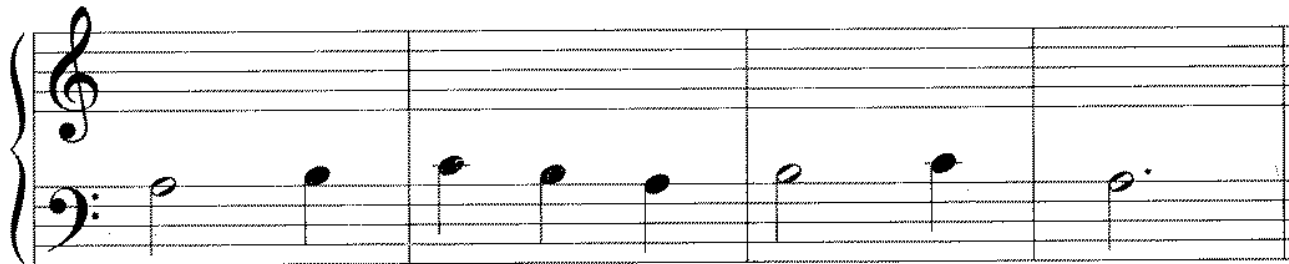
Accompaniment



New Note



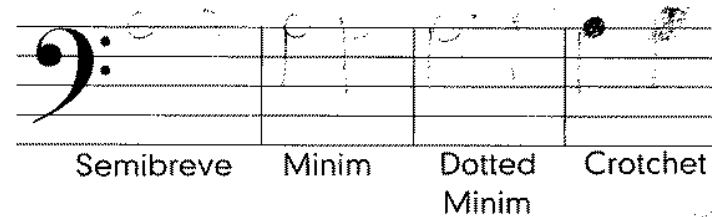
The Paratrooper



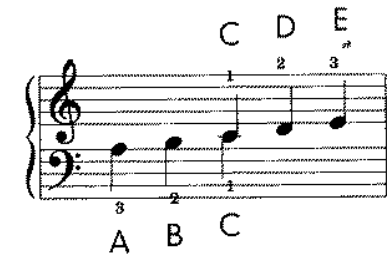
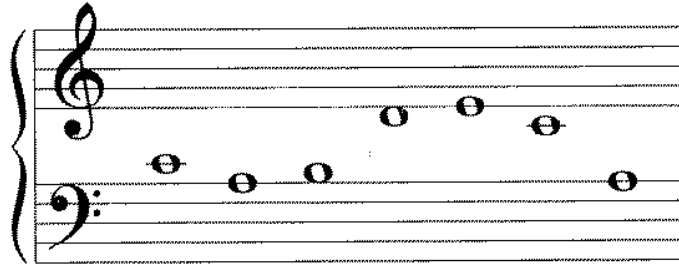
Read Aloud



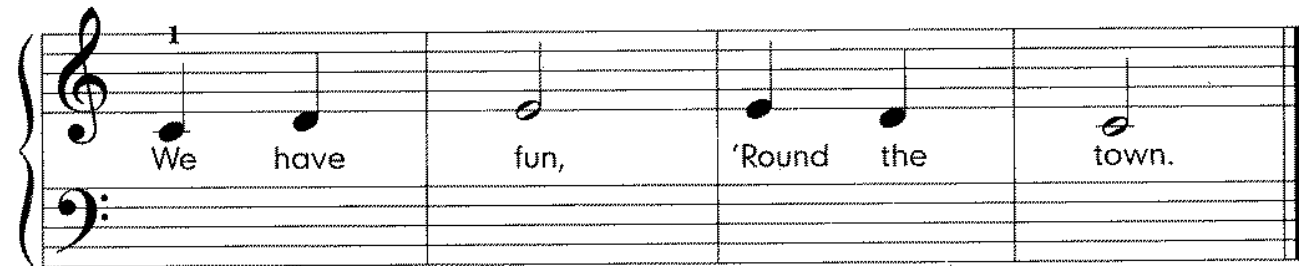
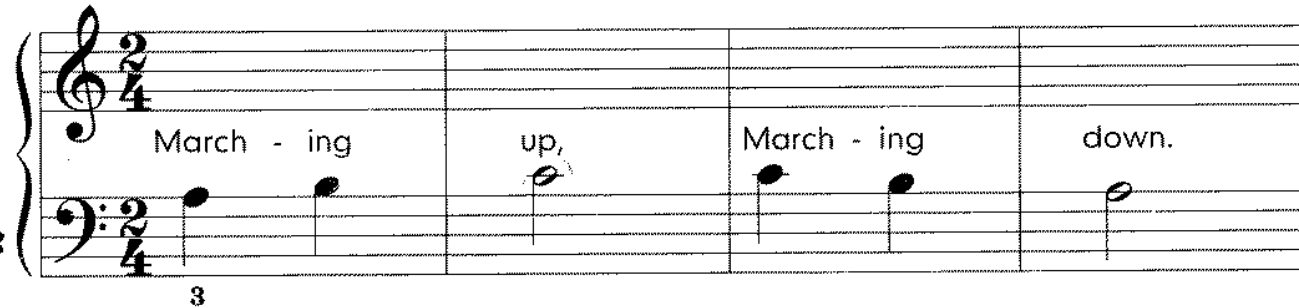
Write the new note **A** below.



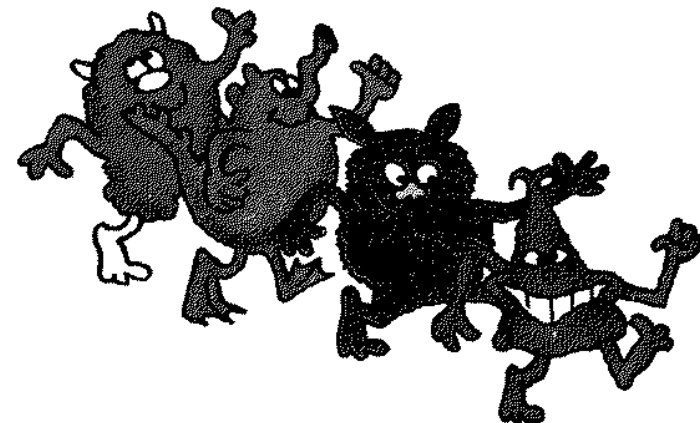
Read Aloud



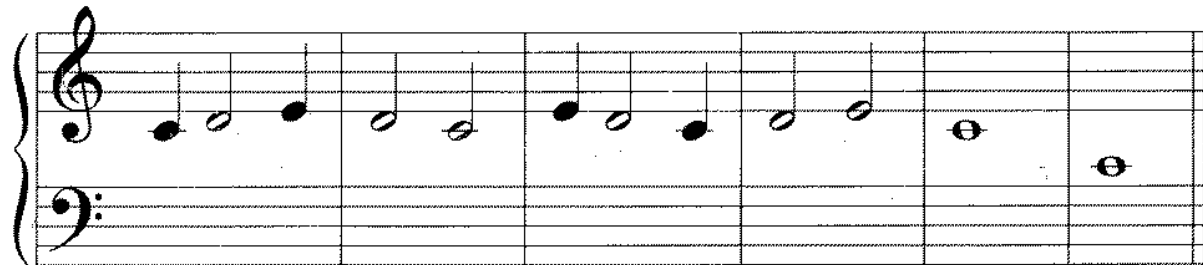
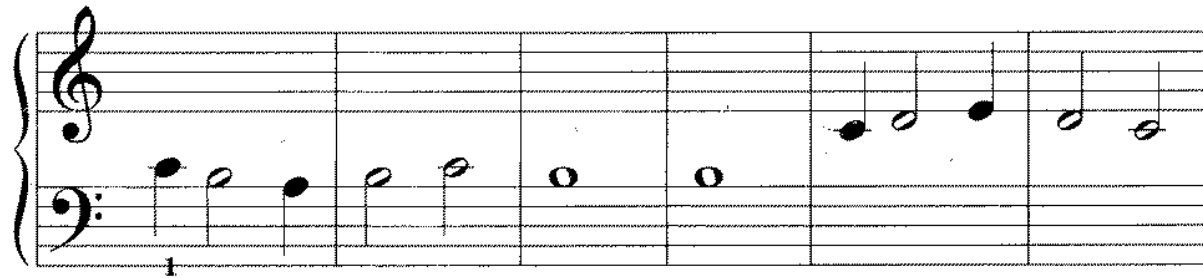
Marching Up and Down



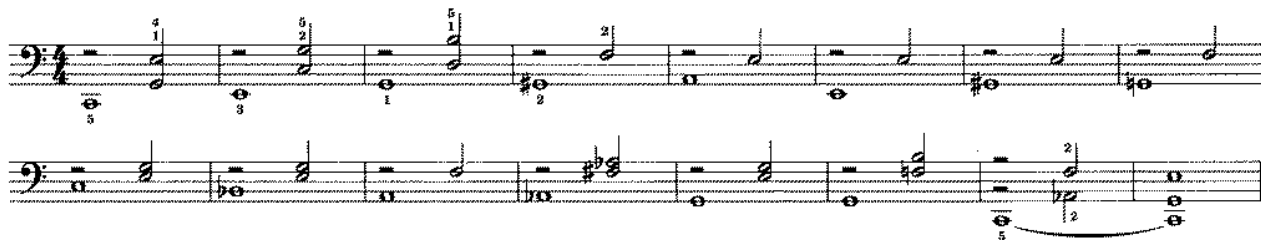
Accompaniment



Rag-Time Raggles

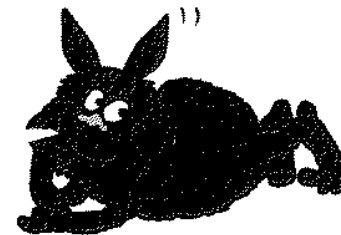


Accompaniment

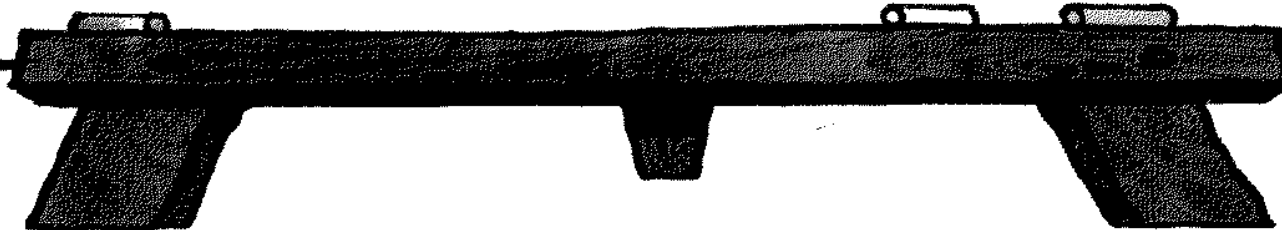


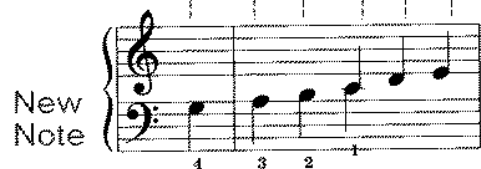
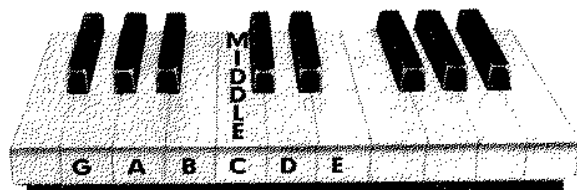
Work Sheet

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 featuring six musical staves with various time signatures and notes. The staves are arranged in three pairs, each with a treble and bass clef. The time signatures are 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4. Each staff contains a sequence of notes (half notes, quarter notes, and eighth notes) for tracing and letter identification.

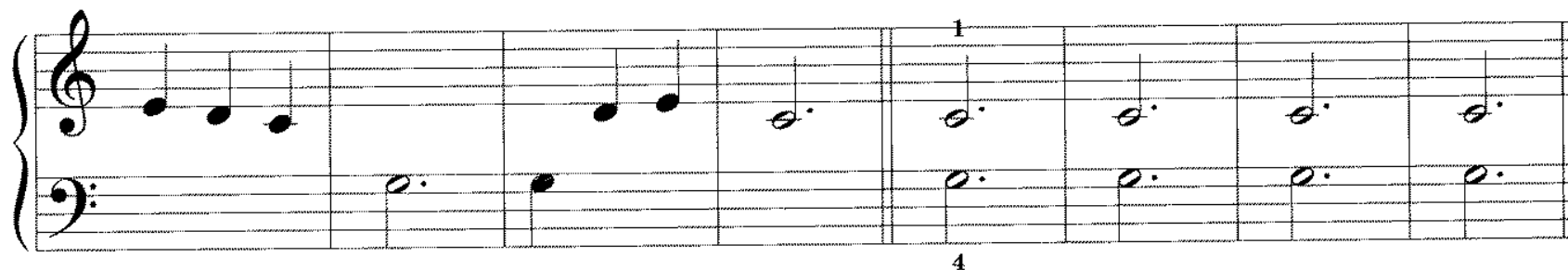




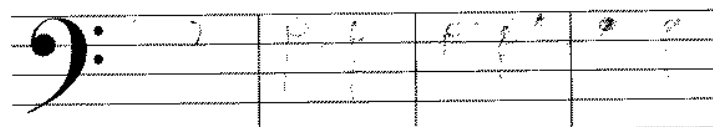
Read Aloud



The Chimes



Write the new note **G** below.



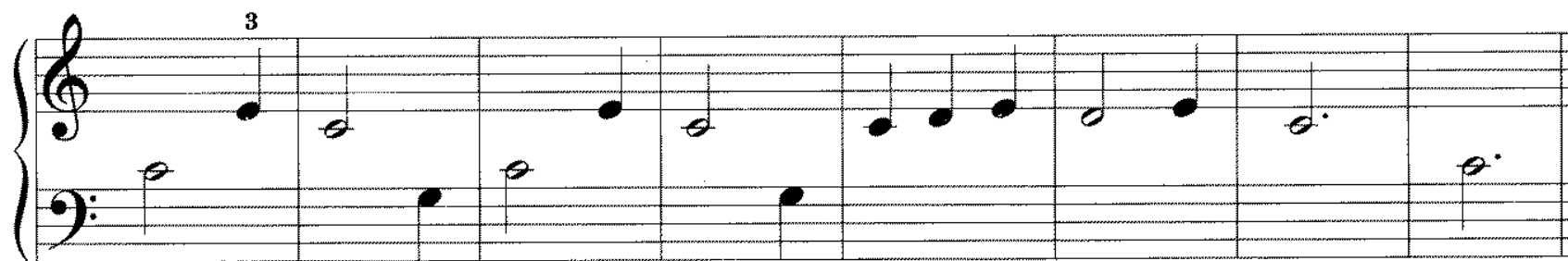
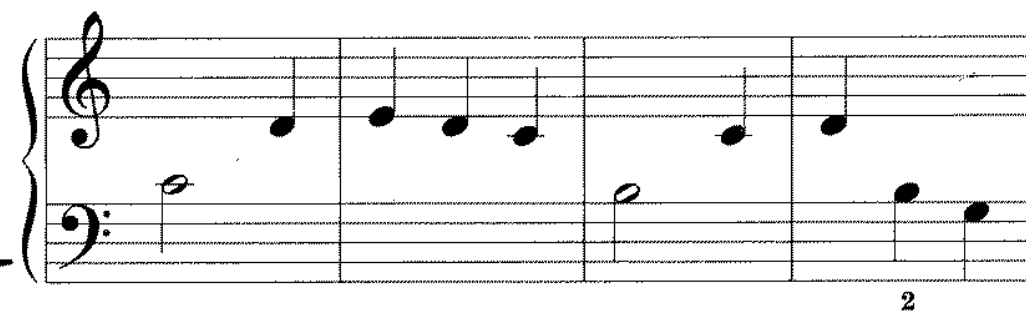
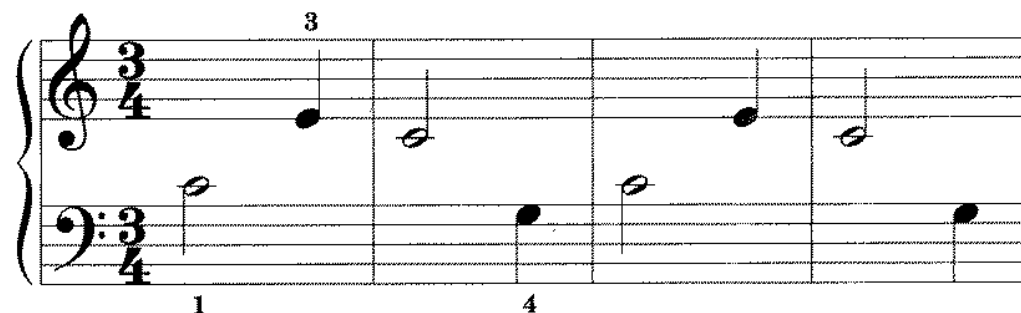
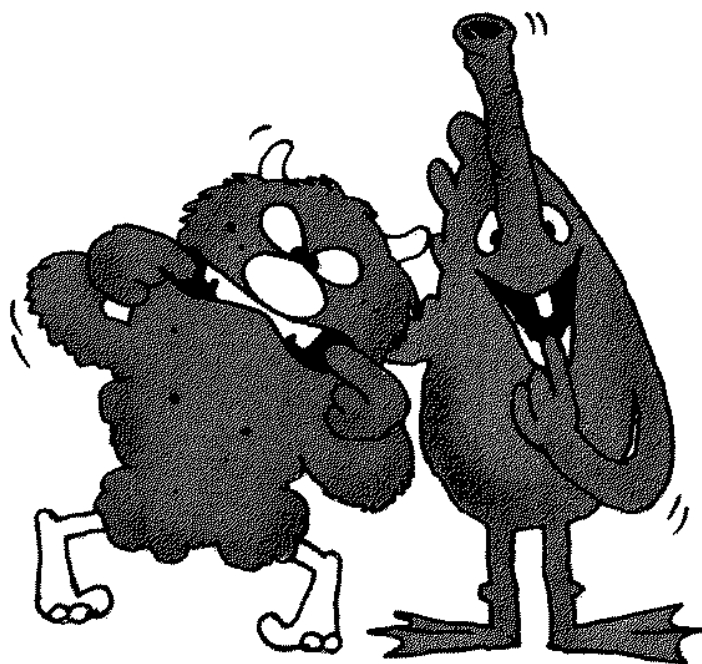
Semibreve

Minim

Dotted
Minim

Crotchet

Funny Faces



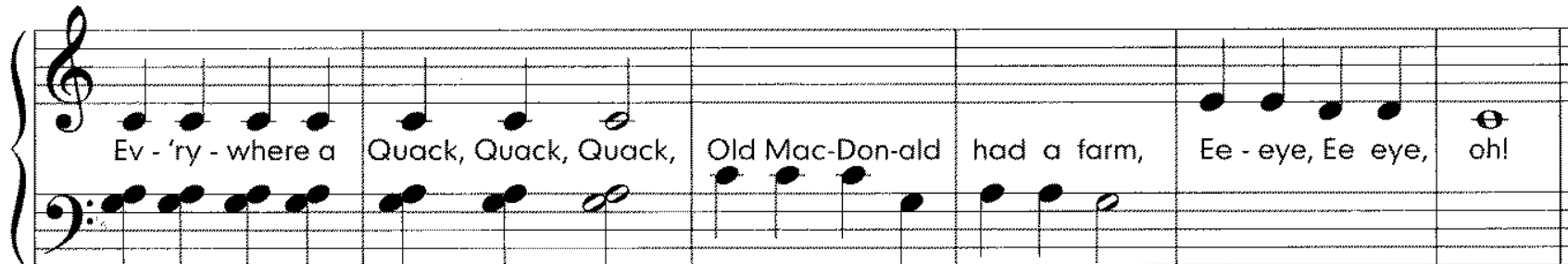
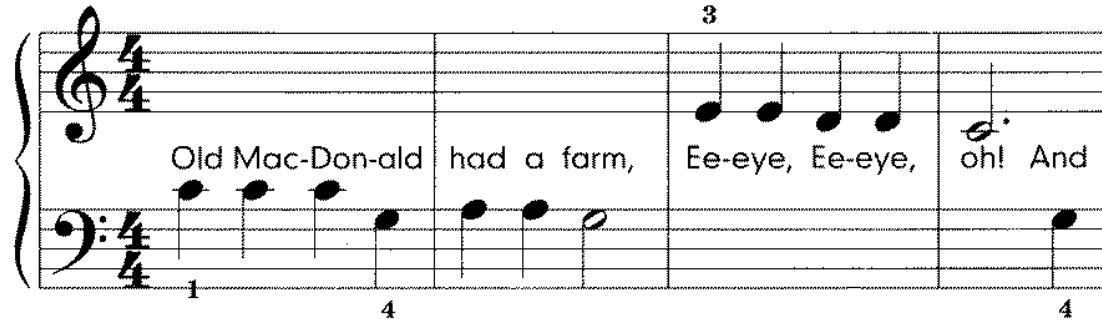
Read Aloud



Read Aloud

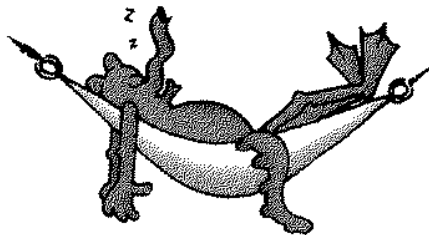


Old MacDonald



Rests

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



Semibreve



A whole bar's rest



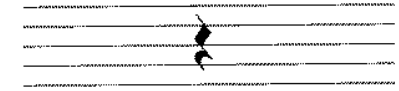
Minim



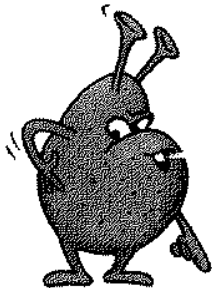
Gets 2 counts



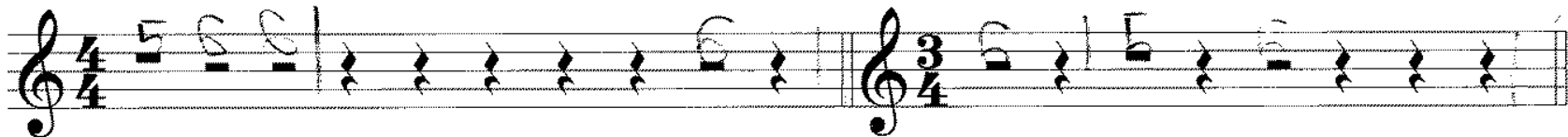
Crotchet



Gets 1 count



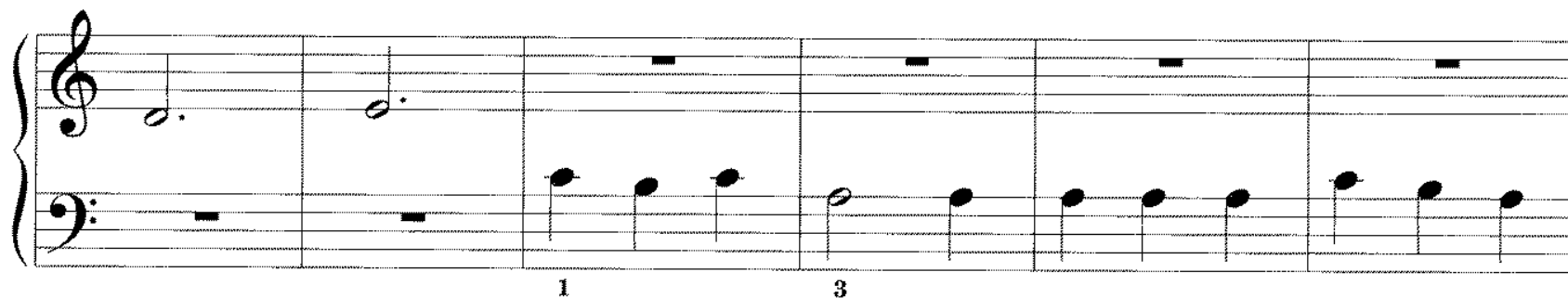
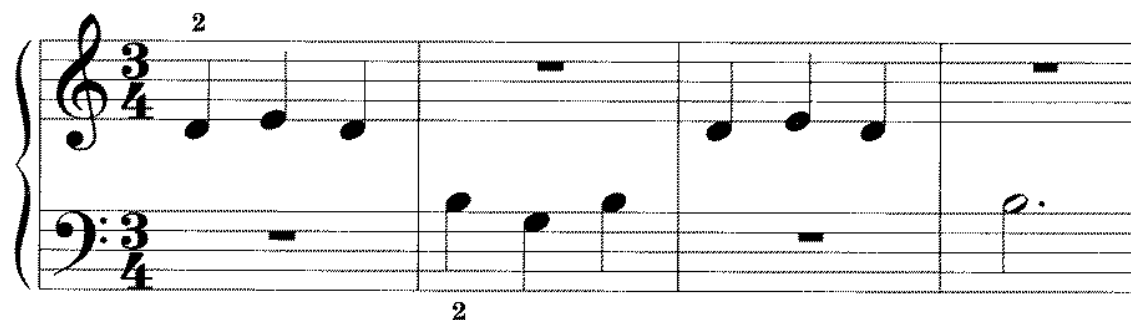
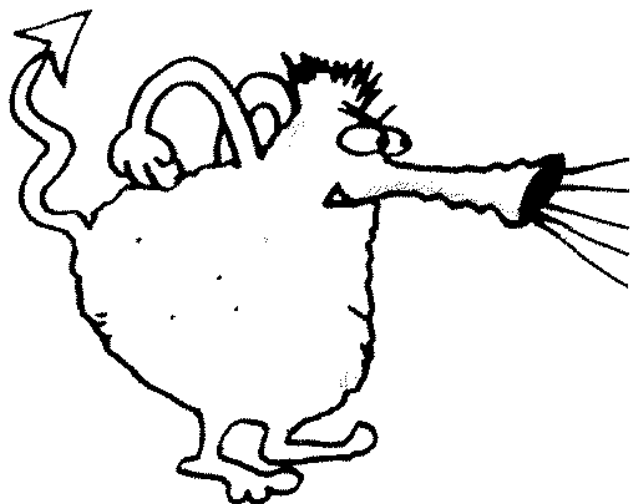
Draw the bar lines in the following example, so that each bar will have the number of silent counts shown in the time signature.



Accompaniment to
Blow The Man Down
(next page)

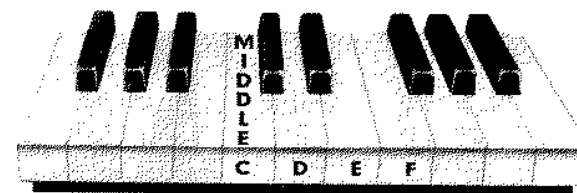


Blow the Man Down

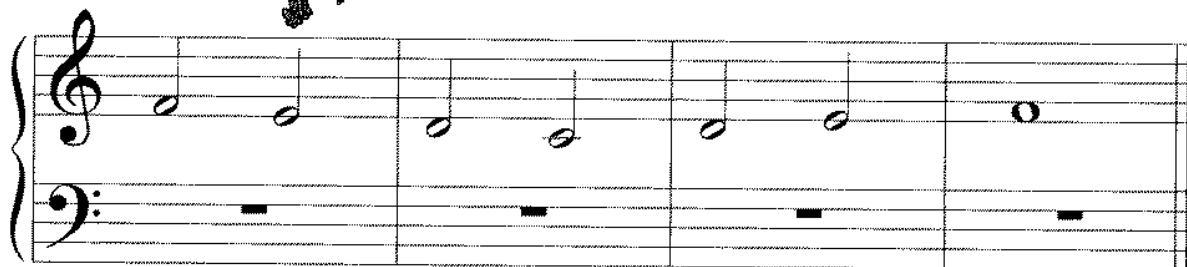
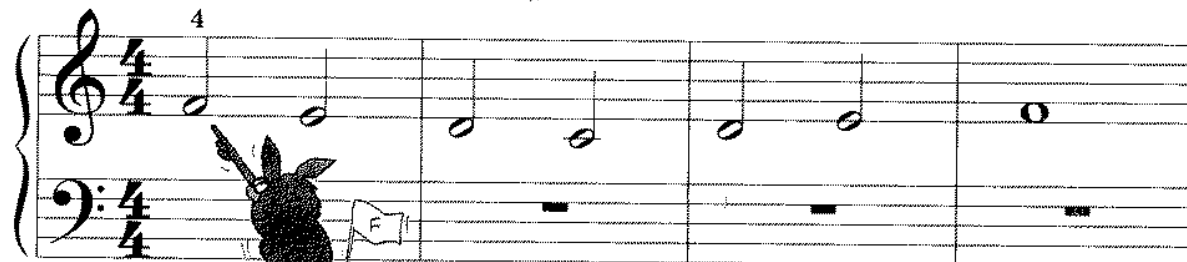


See Accompaniment on opposite page.

Read Aloud




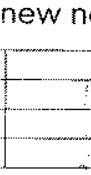
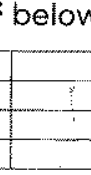

The Church Organ



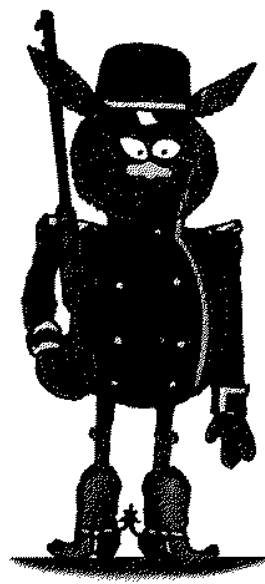
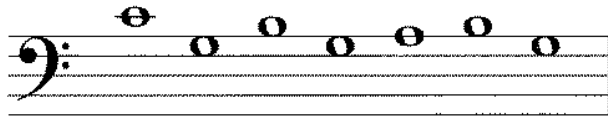
Accompaniment



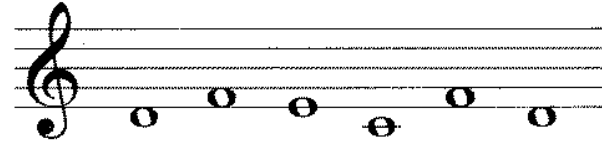
Write the new note **F** below.

			
Semibreve	Minim	Dotted Minim	Crotchet

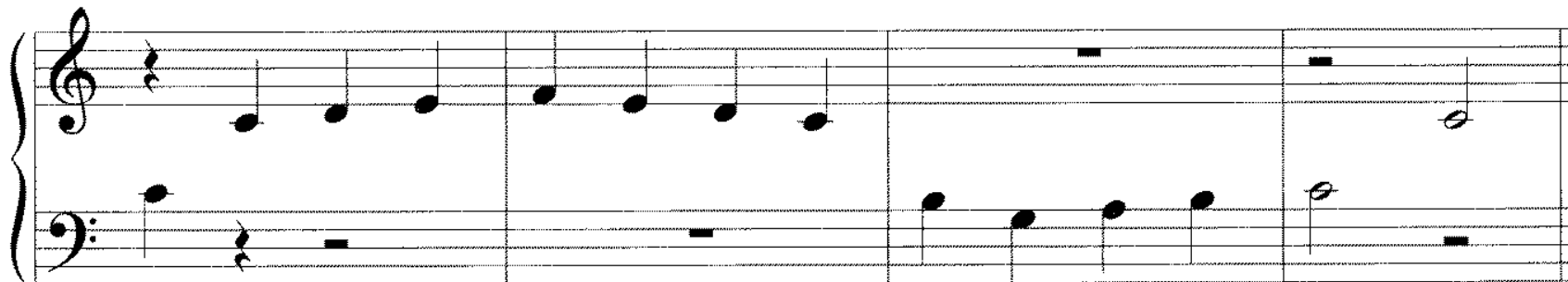
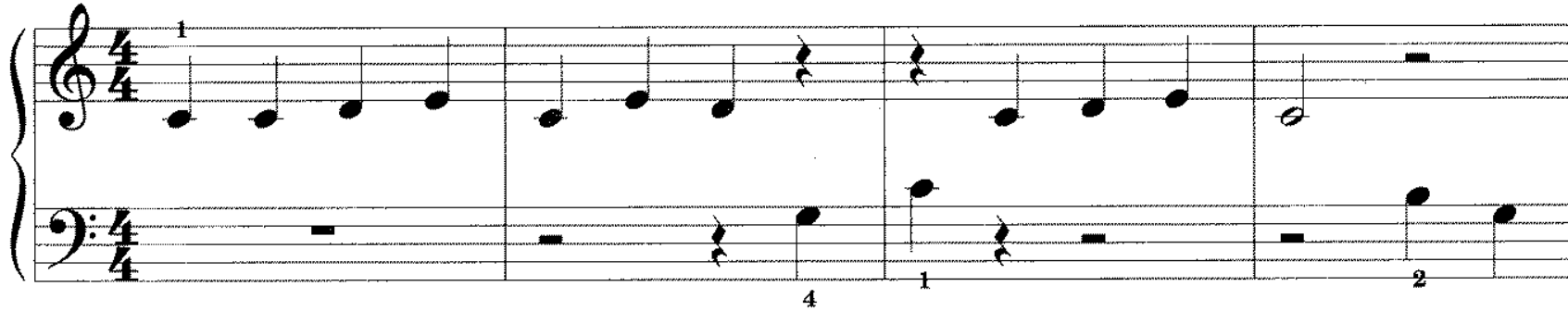
Read Aloud



Read Aloud



Yankee Doodle



Carry Me Back to Old Virginia

James A. Bland

James A. Blanton

3

4/4

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

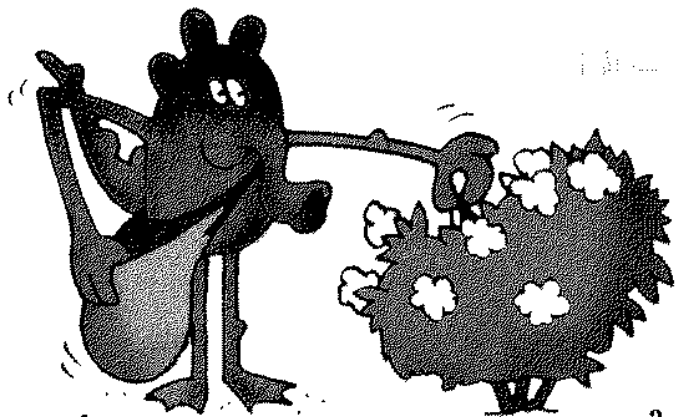
3



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



THE TIE

THE TIE



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

Tie

3 2

Pick - in' cot-ton, I've not for - got - ten, The hours I've spent in the sun.

4 3

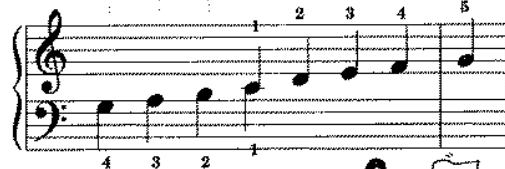
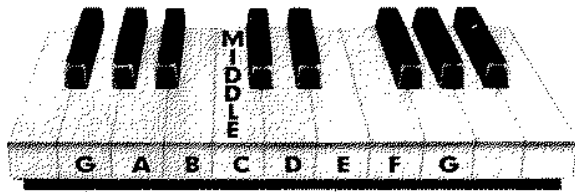
3

Bend - in' o - ver, you're not in clo - ver, The work is no-bod-y's fun.

Accompaniment

R.H.

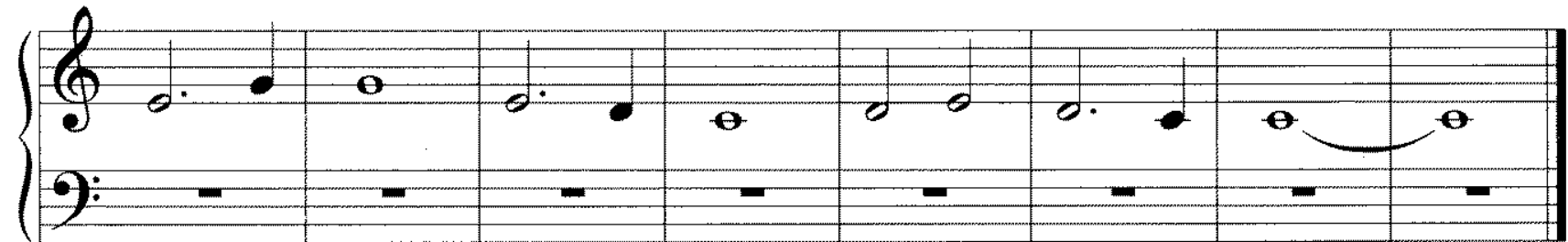
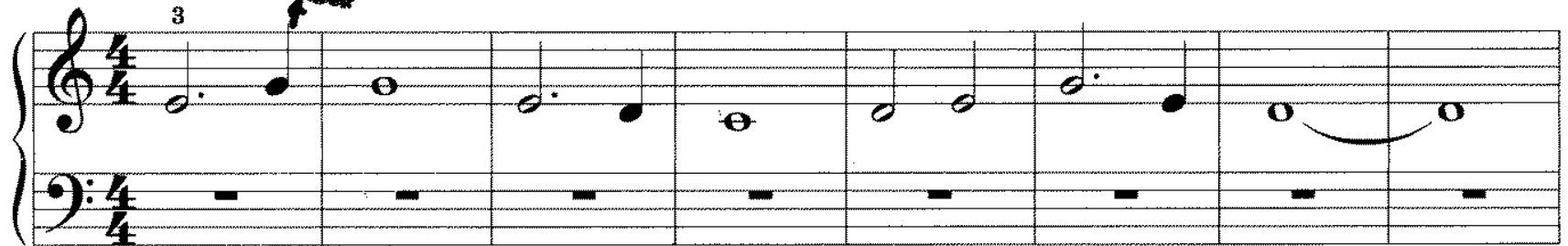
L.H.



New Note



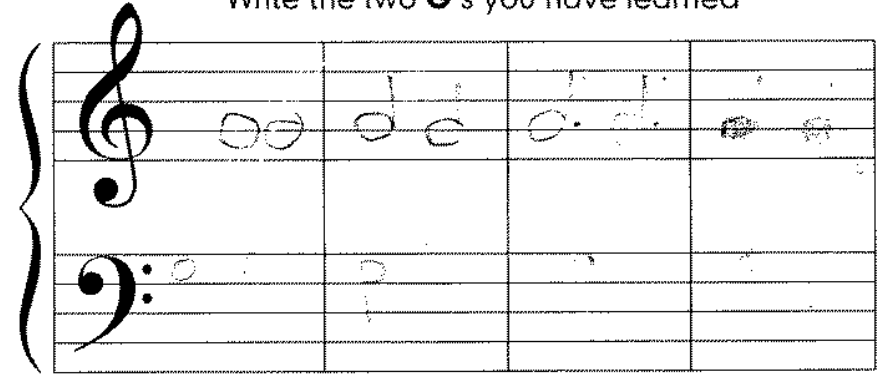
Theme from 'New World' Symphony



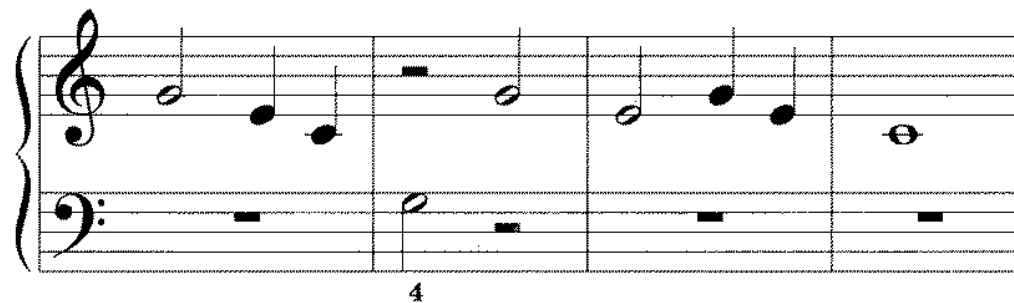
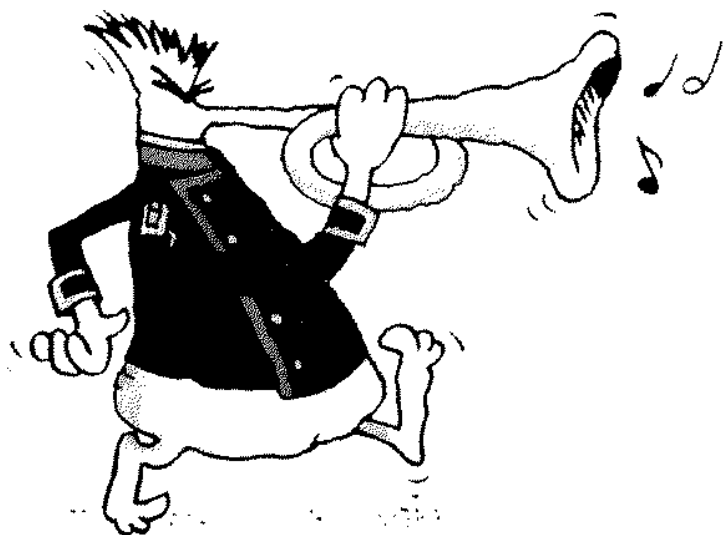
Accompaniment



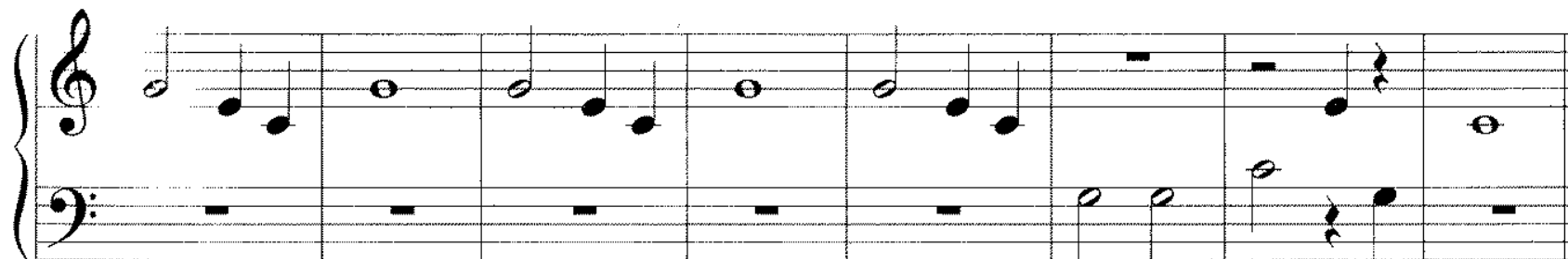
Write the two **G**'s you have learned



Bugles!



4



Row, Row



Row, row, row, your boat,

4

Gen - tly down the stream,

2

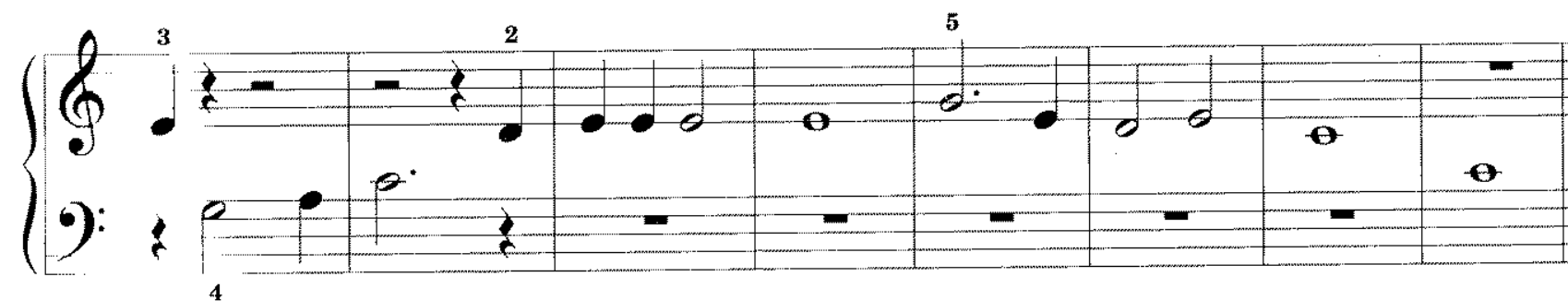
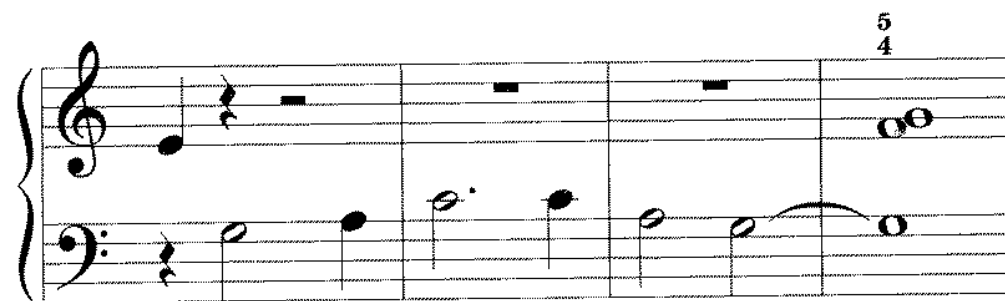
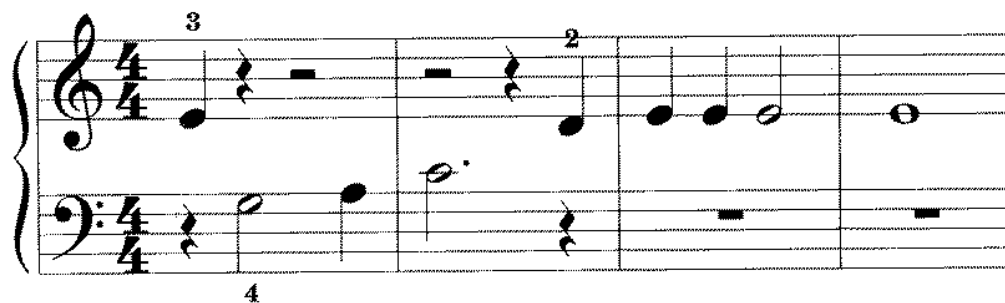
Mer - ri - ly, mer - ri - ly, mer - ri - ly, oh! Life is but a dream.

5 2 2

2

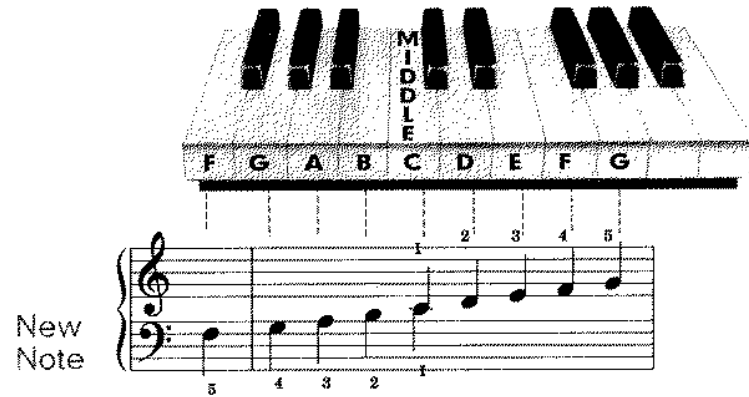
Nobody knows me (trumpet & vocal)

Spiritual



Accompaniment

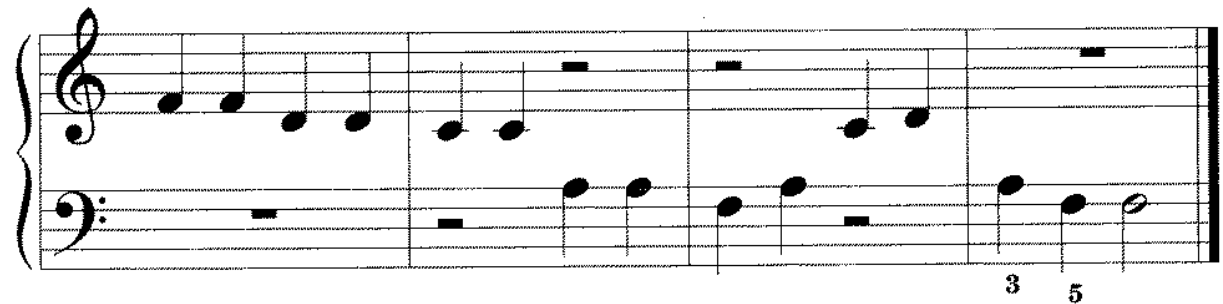
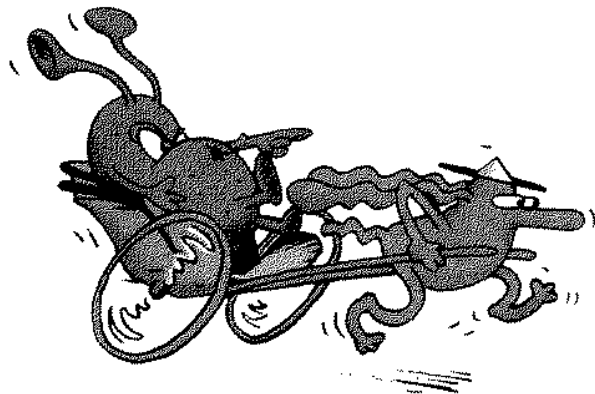
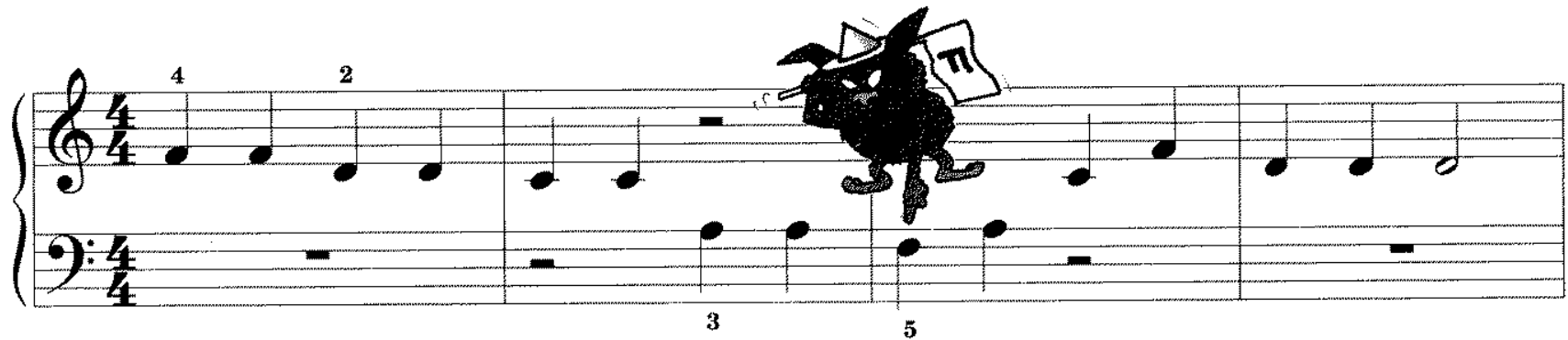




Write the two **F**'s you have learned.

Semibreve	Minim	Dotted Minim	Crotchet

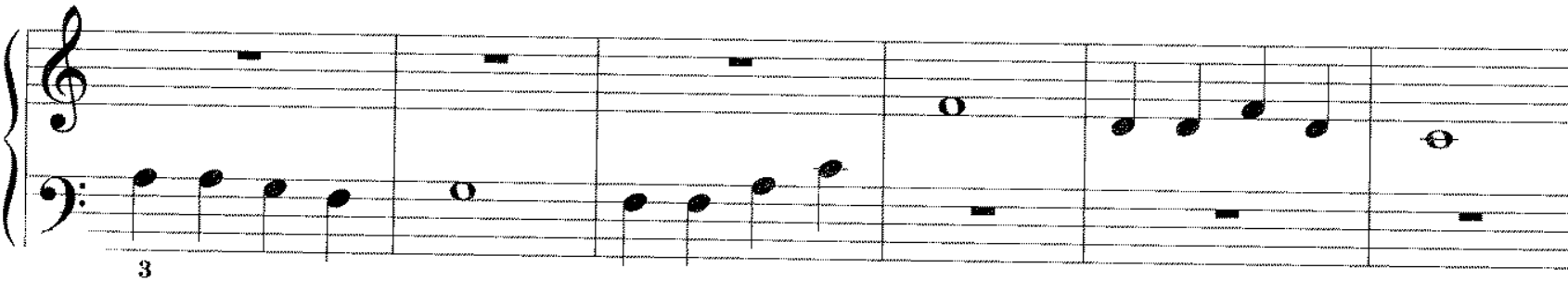
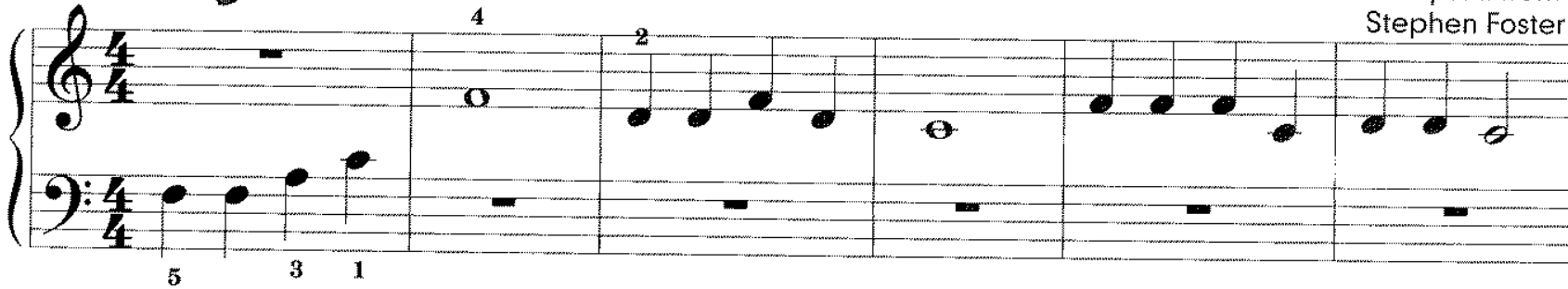
In a Rickshaw



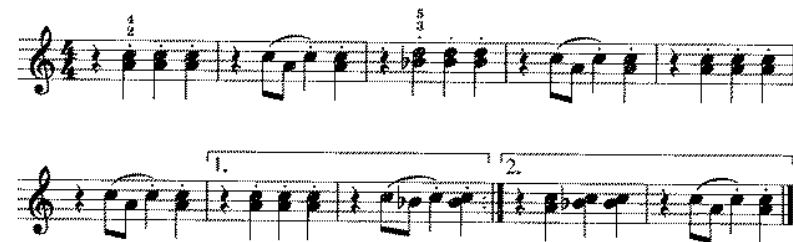
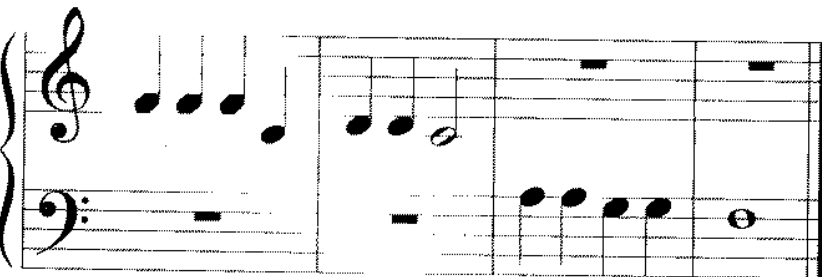


The Banjo Picker

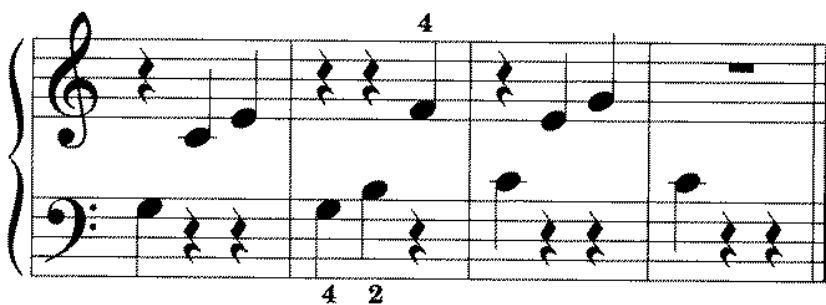
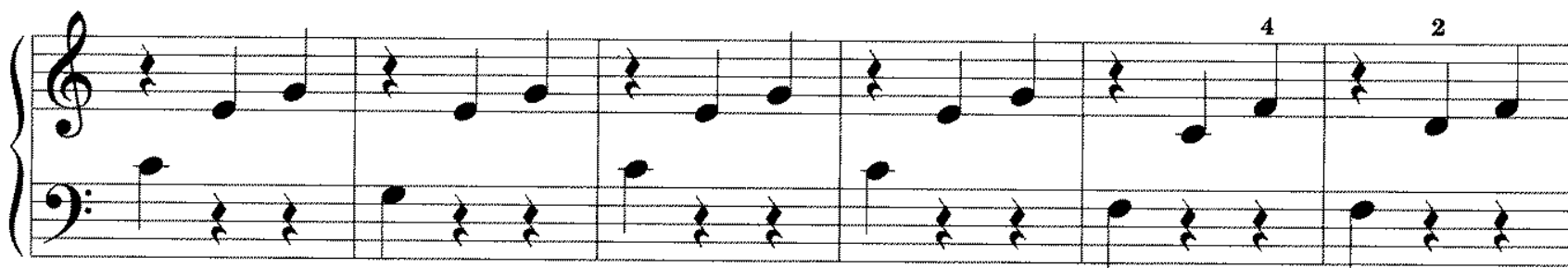
Adapted from
Stephen Foster



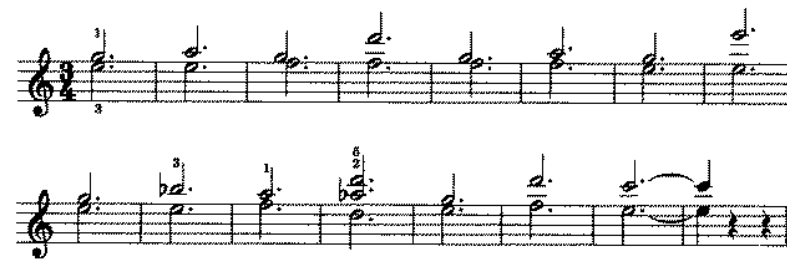
Accompaniment



Princess Waltz



Accompaniment





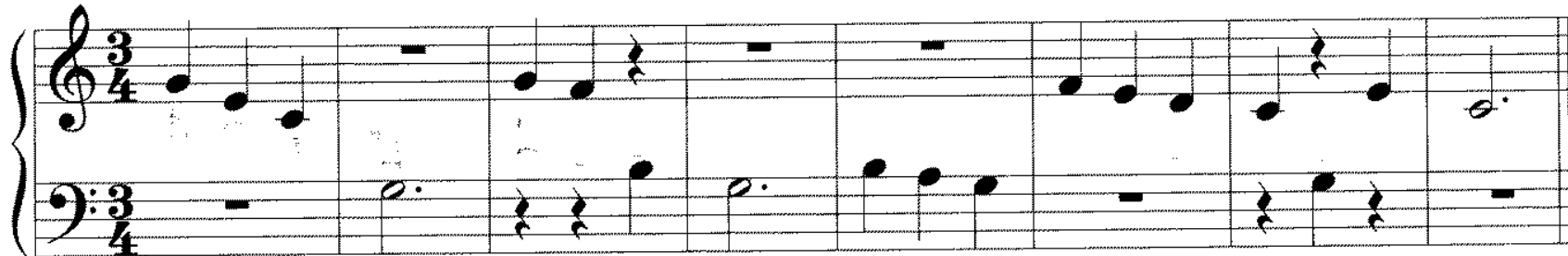
Work Sheet



(Write letter names)

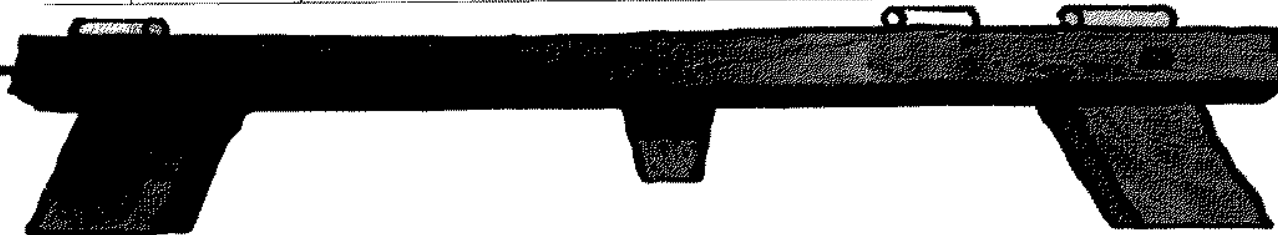
Clap the time (one clap to each count) while reciting the letter names of the notes.

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.



Certificate of Merit

This certifies that

.....
has successfully completed

PART ONE

OF

**John Thompson's
EASIEST PIANO COURSE**

and is eligible for promotion to

PART TWO

.....
Teacher

Date.....