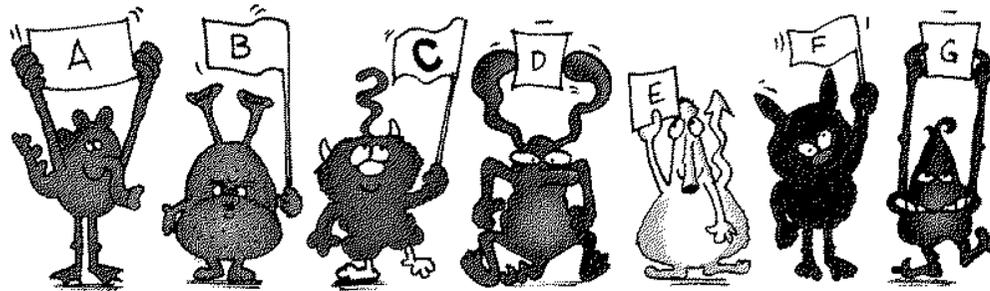


# JOHN THOMPSON'S

## 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.



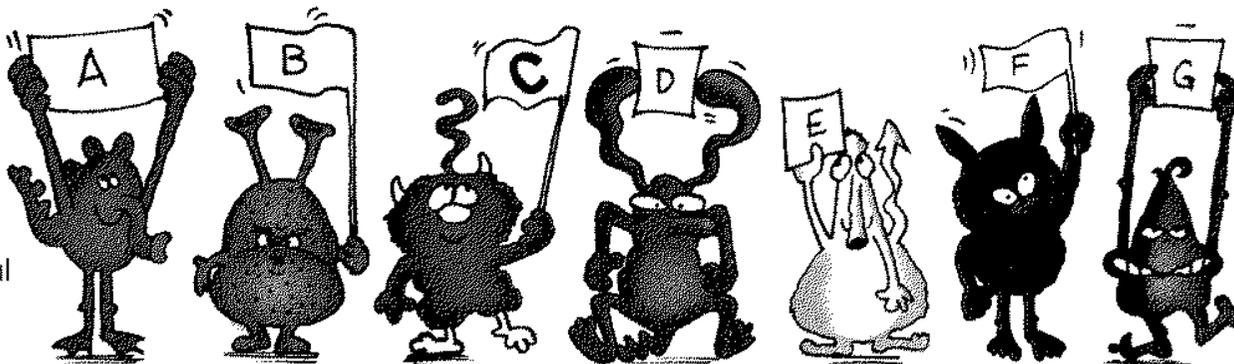
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# The Piano Keyboard

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.

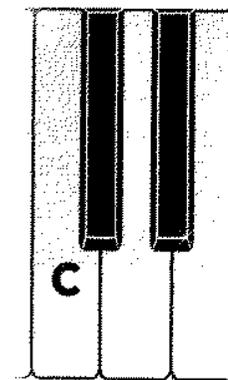
This is how to find  
**C** on your Piano.

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



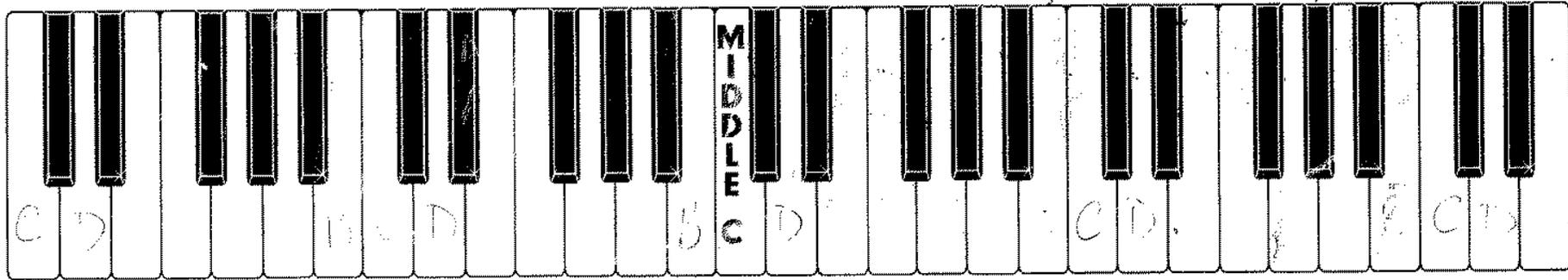
**C** is found to the **left** of the TWO BLACK KEYS.

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.

# 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.

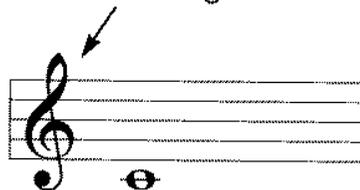
There are different kinds of notes, but first we shall learn the SEMIBREVE.

A SEMIBREVE looks like this, 

It is held for FOUR COUNTS.

## Clef Signs

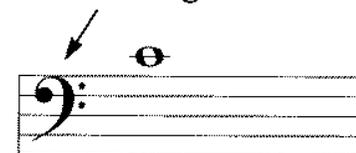
Treble Clef sign



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.

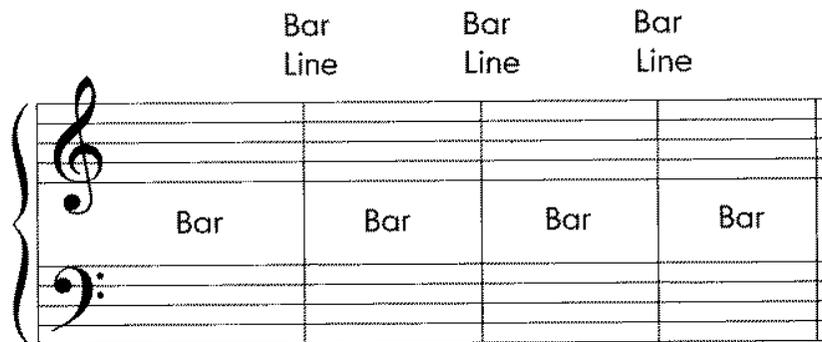


Bass Clef sign



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.

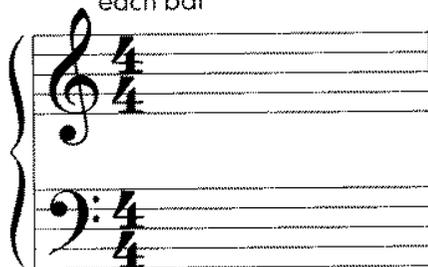


The numbers after the Clef Signs tell us how to count.

In this book we need only read the TOP number.

It shows how many counts to each bar.

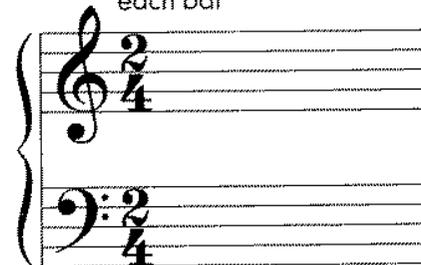
Count 4 to  
each bar



Count 3 to  
each bar



Count 2 to  
each bar



Each finger has a number.

Left Hand

The thumbs are both numbered 1.



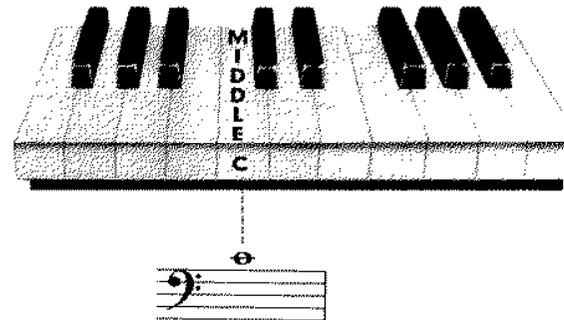
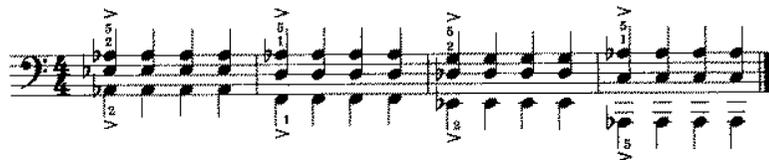
Right Hand



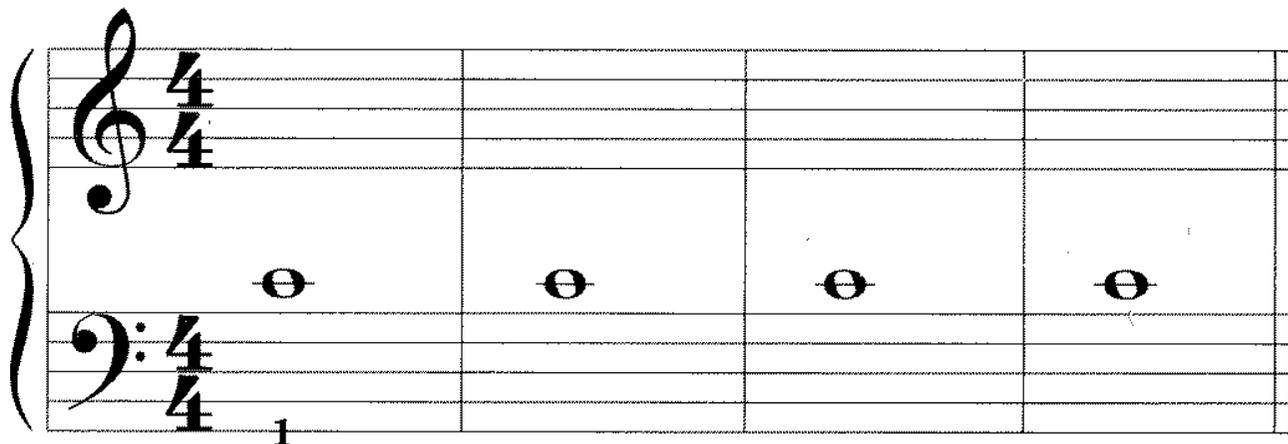
# Middle C as a Semibreve

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.

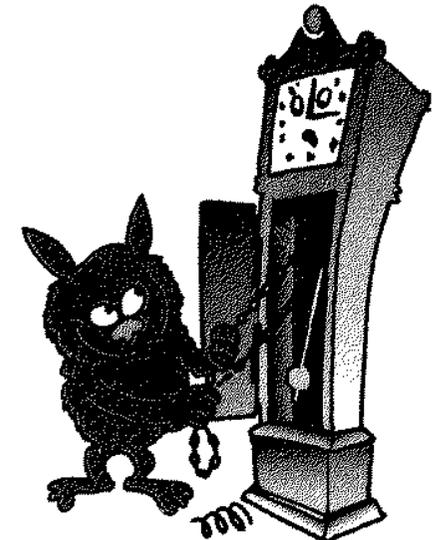
Count four to each bar.



## 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

## 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

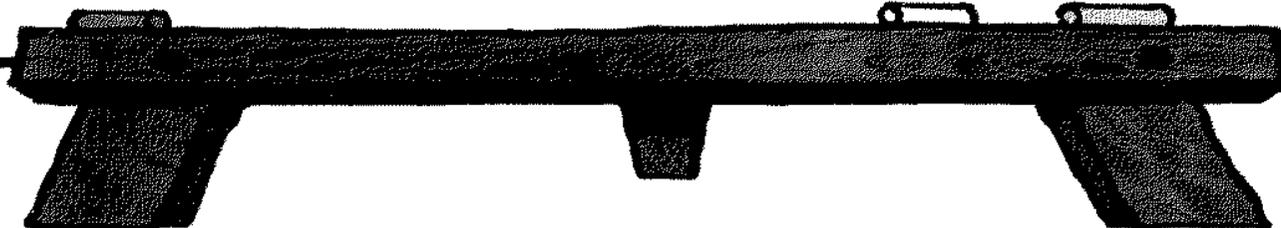
Change the following into Crotchets by filling in the heads and adding stems when necessary.

3

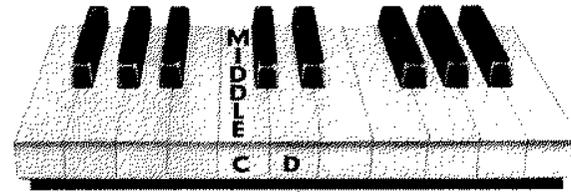
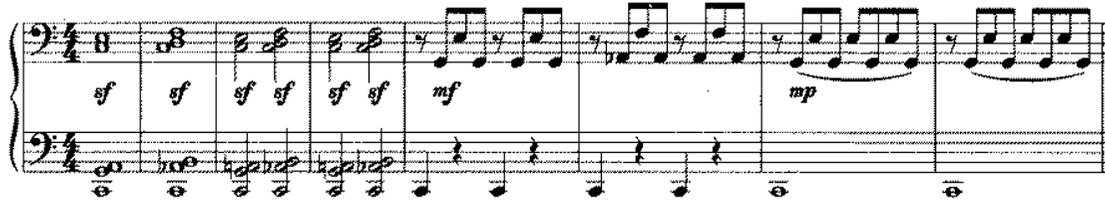
Write Middle C in each Clef.

4

Semibreve	Two Minims	Four Crotchets	Two Minims	Four Crotchets	Semibreve



### Accompaniment

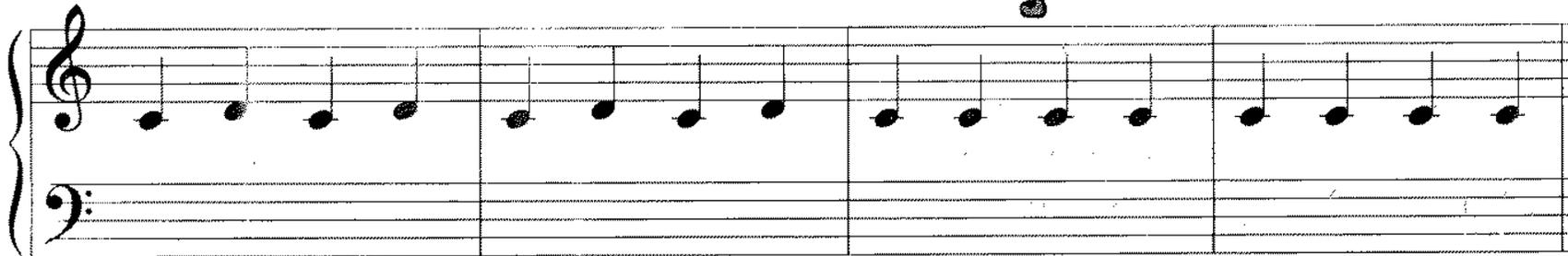
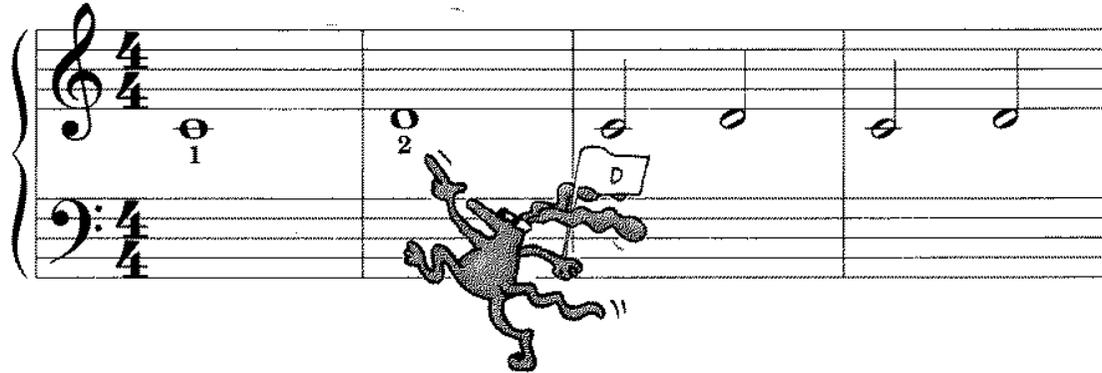
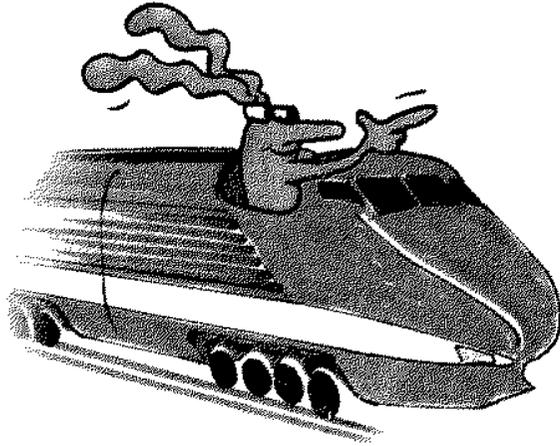


Right Hand



New Note

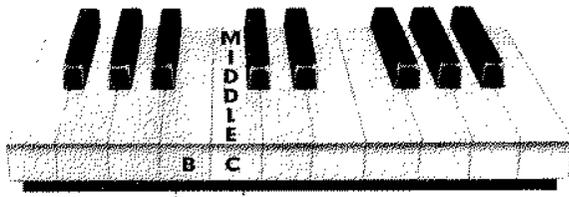
### The Train



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.

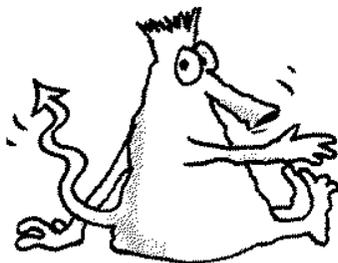


New Note  
 Note  
 Left Hand

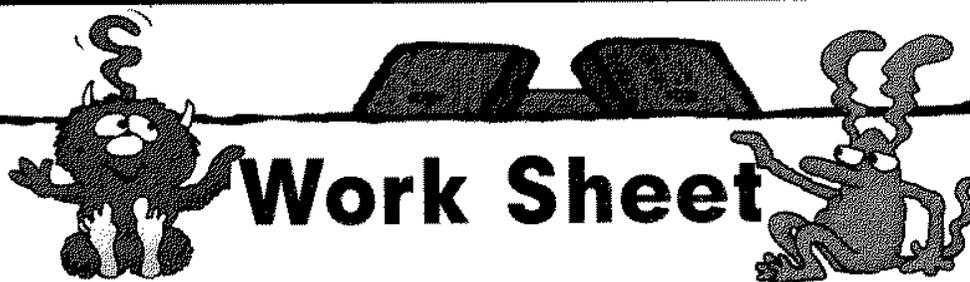


### Accompaniment

### 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.

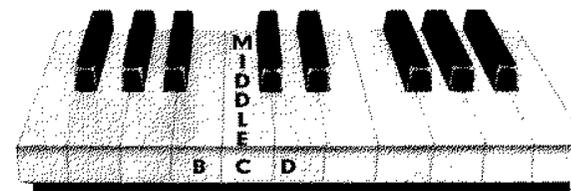
5

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

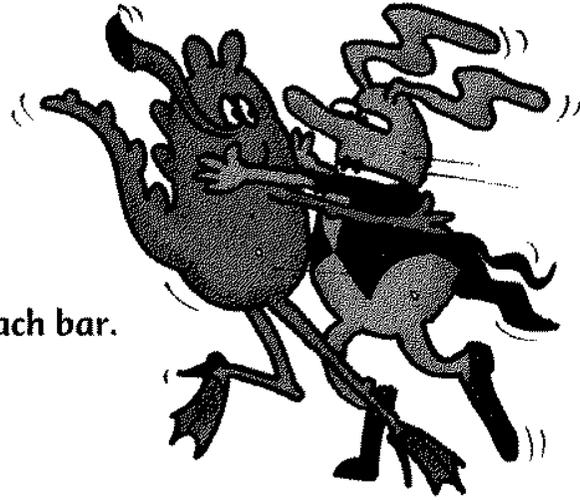
The dotted minim

looks like this (  'or'  )

and is held for 3 counts.



Count 3 to each bar.



Dance of the Gnomes

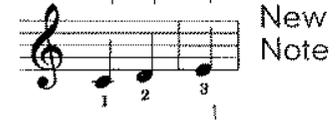
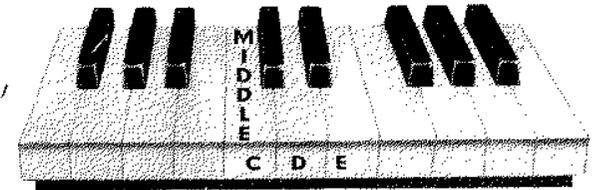
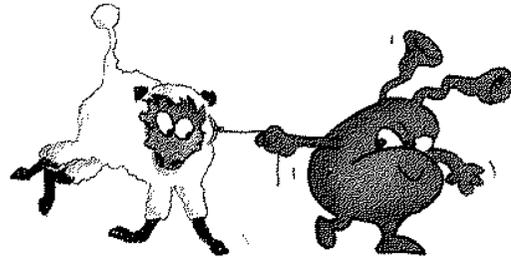
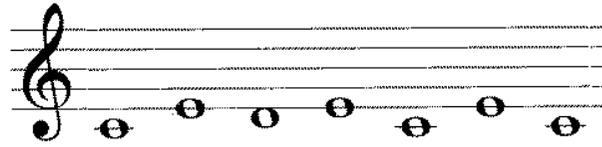
Accompaniment



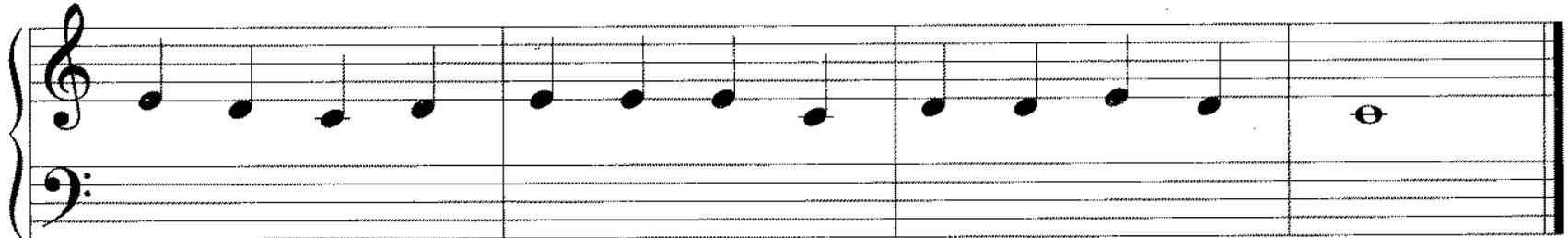
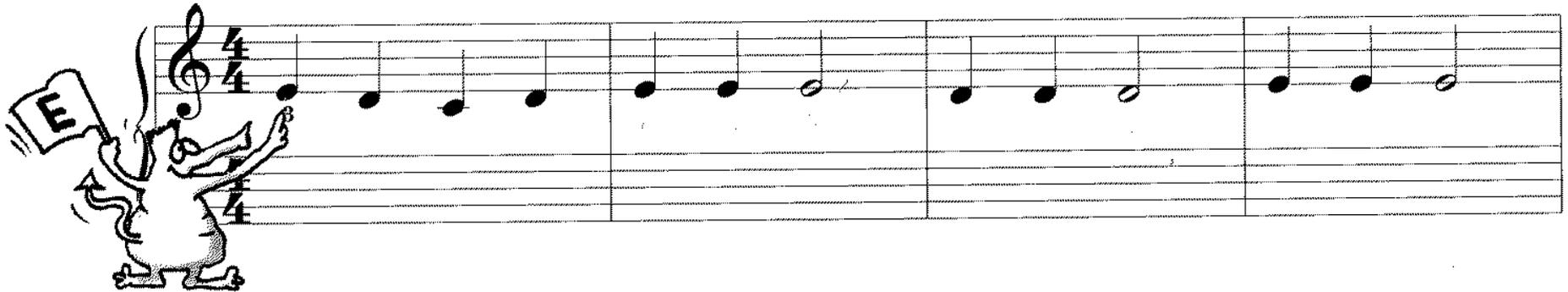
Dotted minim, hold for 3 counts.

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.

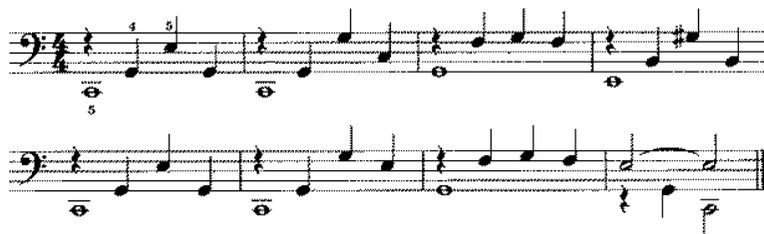
### Read Aloud



### Mary Had a Little Lamb

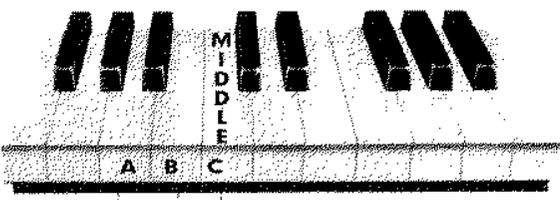


### Accompaniment



Write the new note **E** below. *COMPLETED*

Semibreve    Minim    Dotted Minim    Crotchet



New Note

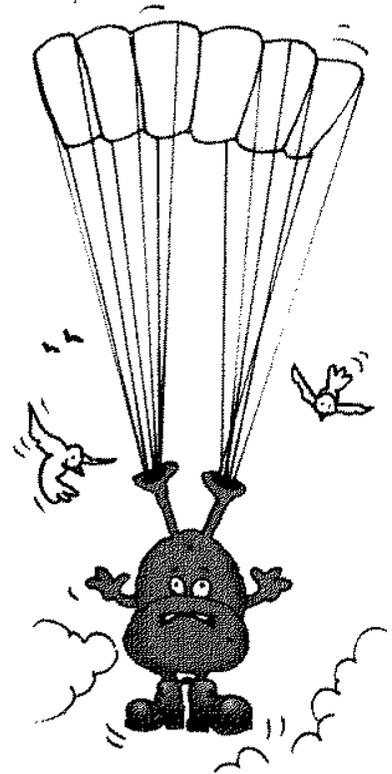


### The Paratrooper

3/4

3 1 2

### Accompaniment

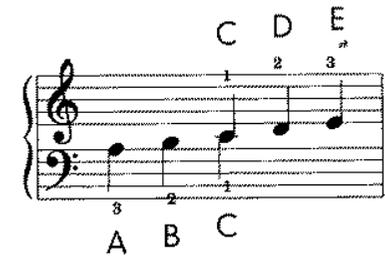
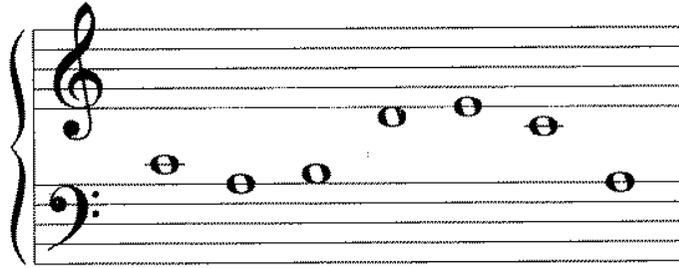


### Read Aloud

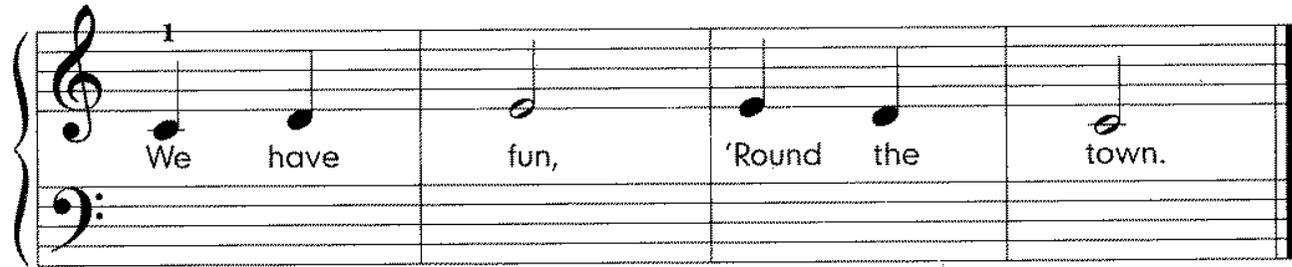
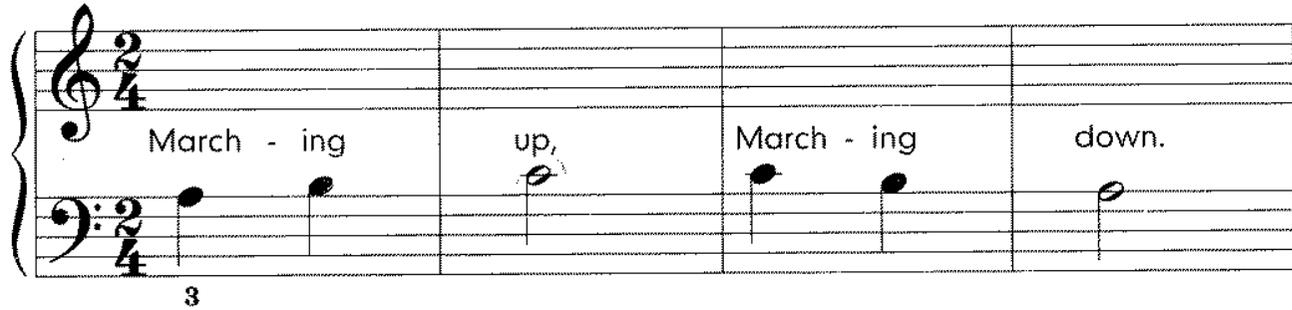
Write the new note **A** below.

Semibreve    Minim    Dotted Minim    Crotchet

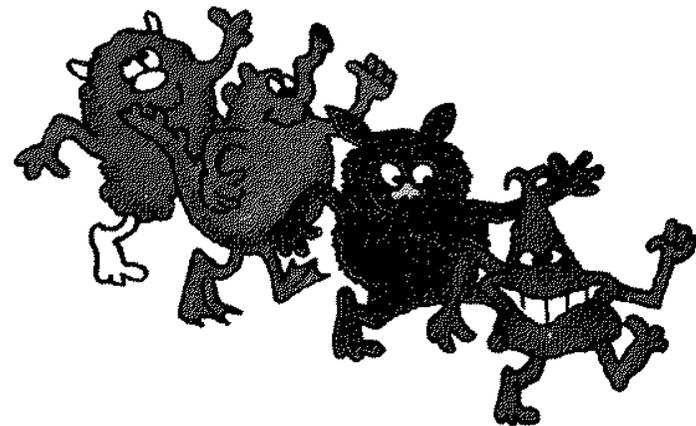
### Read Aloud



### Marching Up and Down



### Accompaniment



# Rag-Time Raggles



The first system of musical notation for 'Rag-Time Raggles'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is 4/4. The treble staff begins with a first finger fingering (1) above the first note. The melody in the treble staff consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The bass staff is empty.

The second system of musical notation. The treble staff continues the melody with quarter notes: F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3. The bass staff begins with a first finger fingering (1) below the first note. The bass line consists of quarter notes: G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1.

The third system of musical notation. The treble staff continues the melody with quarter notes: G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2. The bass staff is empty. The system ends with a double bar line.

## Accompaniment

The accompaniment for 'Rag-Time Raggles', consisting of two bass clef staves. The first staff shows a sequence of chords: G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1. The second staff shows a sequence of chords: G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G2. The chords are indicated by numbers 1 through 5 below the notes. The second staff ends with a double bar line.

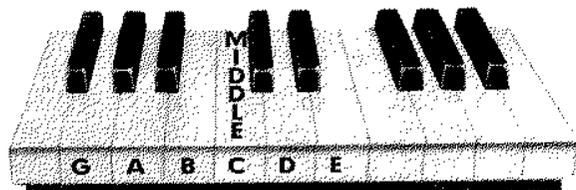
# Work Sheet



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 a time signature. The time signatures are: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4. The notes are placed on the lines of the staves, and the student is instructed to draw bar lines and write letter names under the notes.





New Note

### Read Aloud

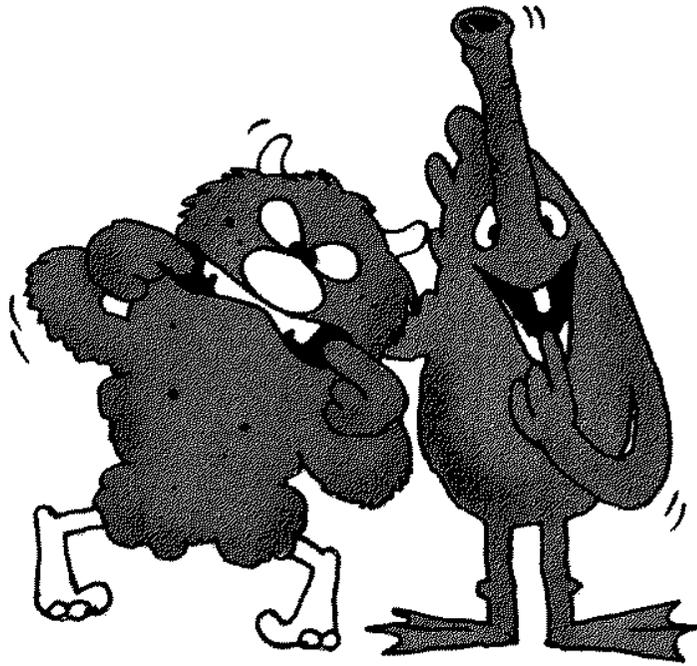


### The Chimes

Write the new note **G** below.

Semibreve    Minim    Dotted Minim    Crotchet

# Funny Faces



Musical notation for the first system, measures 1-4. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 1 contains a bass clef and a single note. Measure 2 contains a treble clef and a triplet of three notes. Measure 3 contains a treble clef and a single note. Measure 4 contains a bass clef and a single note.

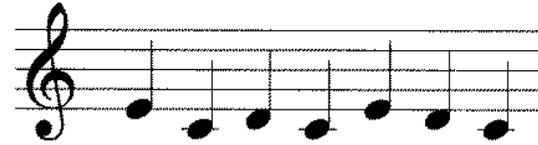
Musical notation for the second system, measures 5-8. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 5 contains a treble clef and a single note. Measure 6 contains a treble clef and a single note. Measure 7 contains a treble clef and a single note. Measure 8 contains a bass clef and a single note.

Musical notation for the third system, measures 9-12. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 9 contains a treble clef and a triplet of three notes. Measure 10 contains a treble clef and a single note. Measure 11 contains a treble clef and a single note. Measure 12 contains a bass clef and a single note.

Read Aloud



Read Aloud



Old MacDonald

3

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

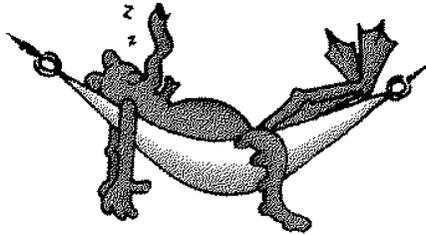
1

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

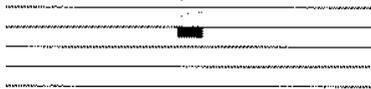
Ev - 'ry - where a Quack, Quack, Quack, Old Mac-Don-ald had a farm, Ee - eye, Ee eye, oh!

# 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



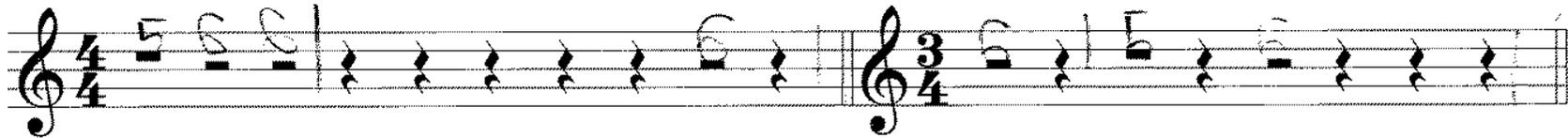
Crotchet



Gets 1 count



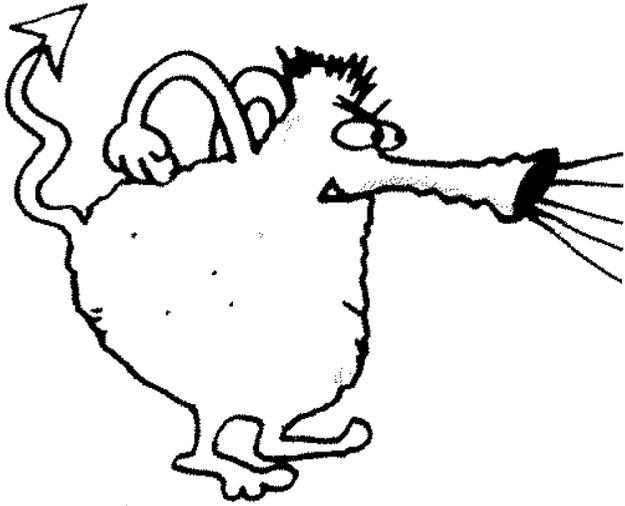
Draw the bar lines in the following example, so that each bar will have the number of silent counts shown in the time signature.



Accompaniment to  
**Blow The Man Down**  
(next page)



# Blow the Man Down



2

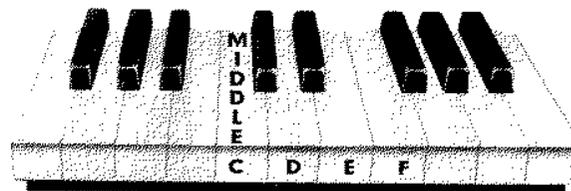
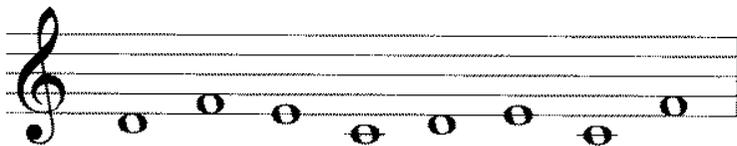
2

1 3

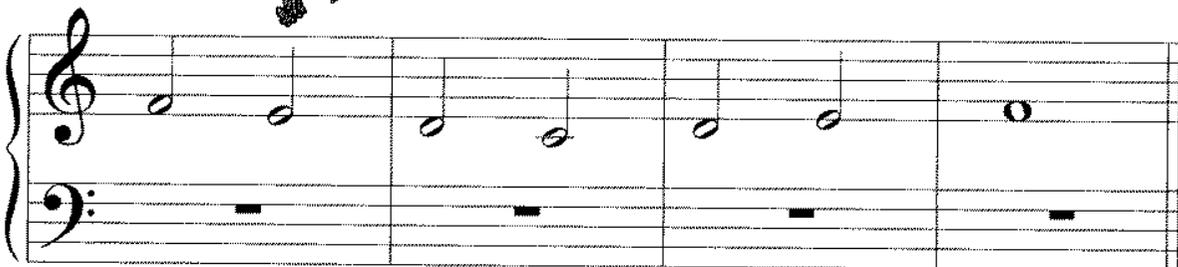
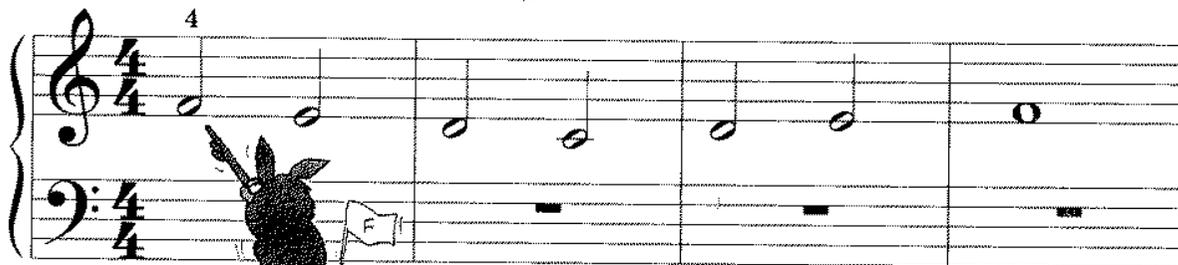
3

See Accompaniment on opposite page.

### Read Aloud



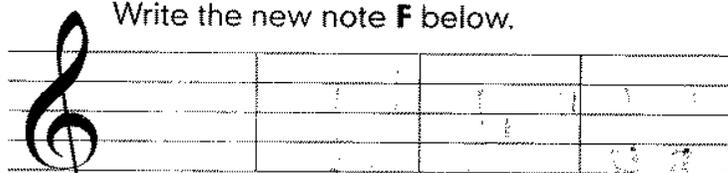
### The Church Organ



### Accompaniment



Write the new note **F** below.

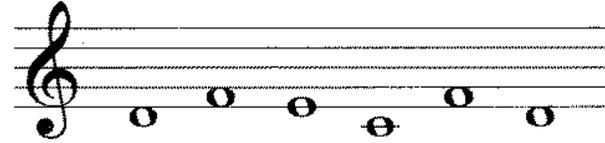


-  Semibreve
-  Minim
-  Dotted Minim
-  Crotchet

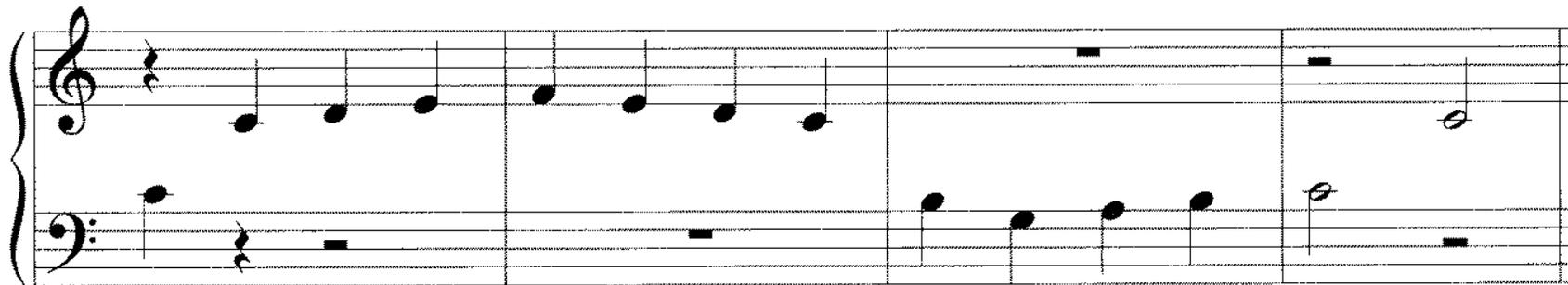
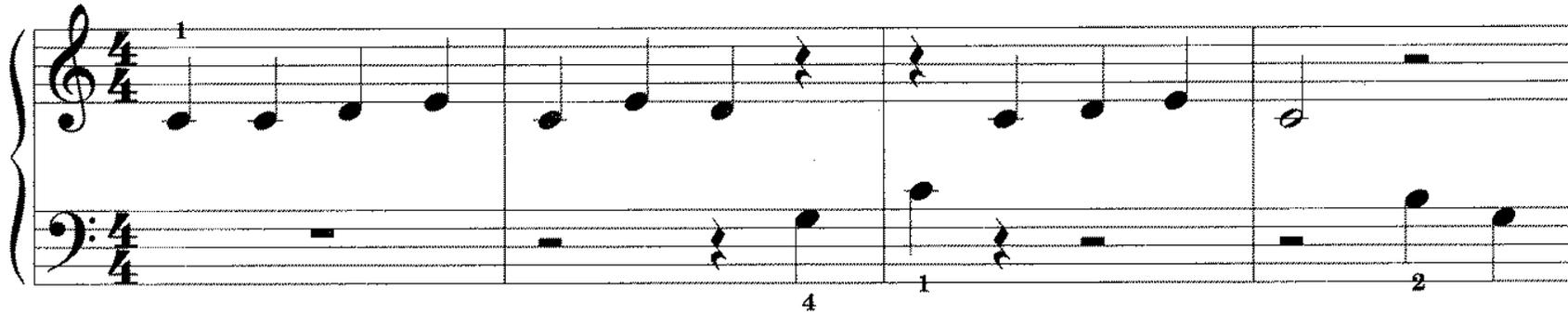
Read Aloud



Read Aloud



### Yankee Doodle



# Carry Me Back to Old Virginny

James A. Bland

3

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

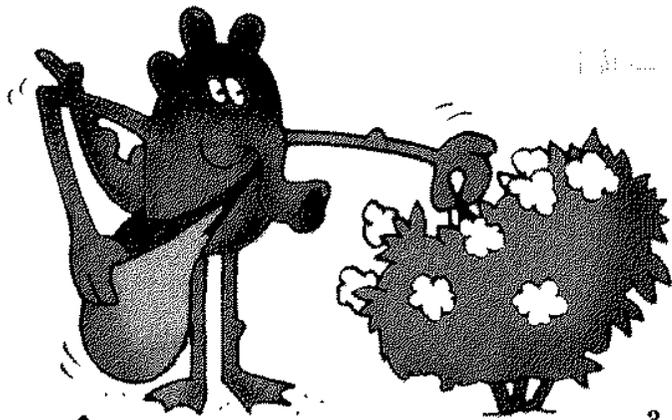
3



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



THE TIE

**THE TIE**

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

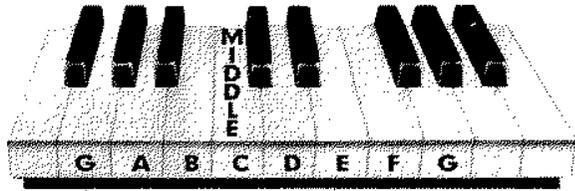
Pick - in' cot-ton, I've not for - got - ten, The hours I've spent in the sun.

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

**Accompaniment**

R.H.

L.H.



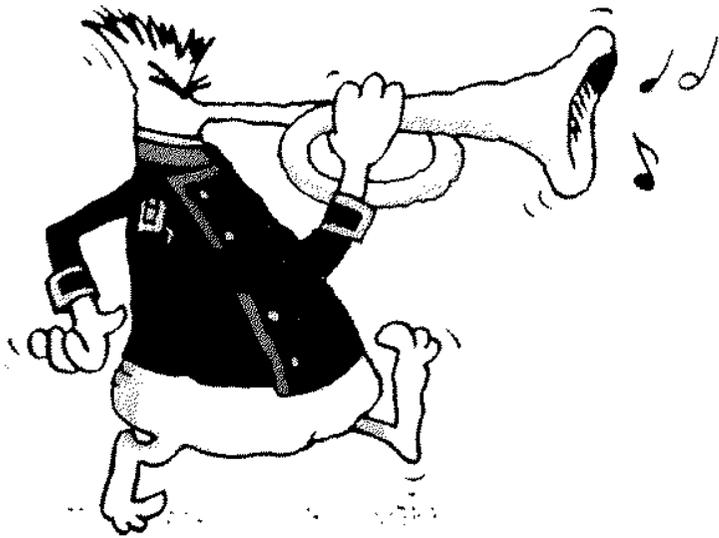
New Note

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

Theme from  
'New World' Symphony

Accompaniment

# Bugles!



5 3 1

Musical notation for the first system of the piece. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is 4/4. The treble staff contains a sequence of notes: a quarter note G4 (labeled '5'), a quarter note E4 (labeled '3'), a quarter note C4 (labeled '1'), a half note G4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note C4, and a half note G4. The bass staff contains a whole note G3 in the first measure, followed by rests in the remaining three measures.

Musical notation for the second system. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is 4/4. The treble staff contains a sequence of notes: a quarter note G4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note C4, a half note G4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note C4, and a half note G4. The bass staff contains a whole note G3 in the first measure, followed by rests in the remaining three measures.

Musical notation for the third system. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is 4/4. The treble staff contains a sequence of notes: a quarter note G4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note C4, a half note G4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note C4, a half note G4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note C4, and a half note G4. The bass staff contains a whole note G3 in the first measure, followed by rests in the remaining three measures.

## Row, Row



Musical notation for the first system, measures 1-4. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: Row, row, row, your boat,

Musical notation for the second system, measures 5-8. The lyrics are: Gen - tly down the stream,

Musical notation for the third system, measures 9-16. The lyrics are: Mer - ri - ly, mer - ri - ly, mer - ri - ly, oh! Life is but a dream.



MIDDLE

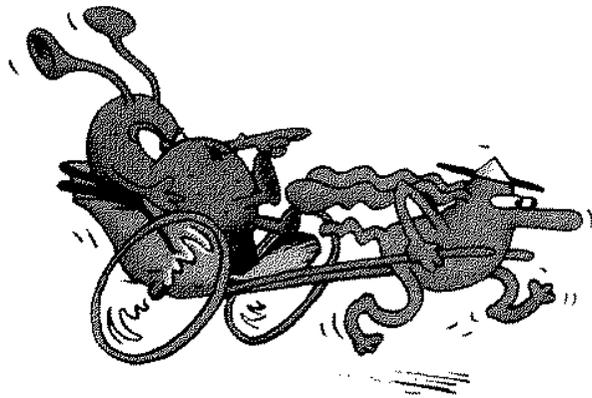
F G A B C D E F G

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

## Accompaniment

# Princess Waltz

The first system of musical notation for 'Princess Waltz' consists of two staves. The upper 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 lower 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 upper 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 lower staff is in bass clef with a 3/4 time signature. It contains six measures of music.

The third system of musical notation for 'Princess Waltz' consists of two staves. The upper 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 lower 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

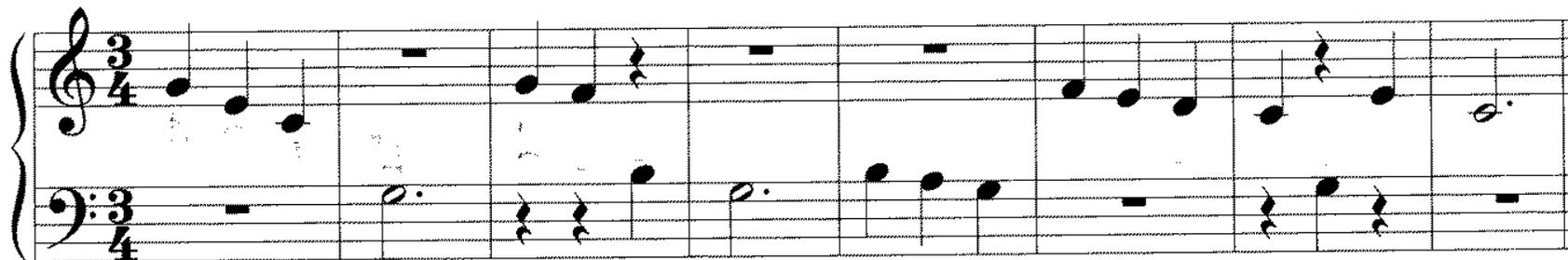
The 'Accompaniment' section consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. It contains eight measures of music, with a fingering of 3 indicated below the notes. The lower staff is in bass clef with a 3/4 time signature. It contains eight measures of music, with fingerings 3, 1, 5, 2, and 2 indicated below the notes.

# Work Sheet

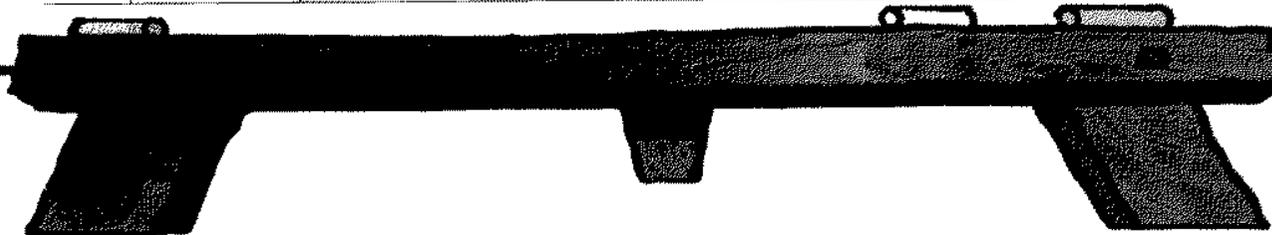


(Write letter names)

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.



# 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.....