

LEARN KEYS BY BEN

**Student's
Handbook
Level One:
BEGINNER**

GETTING STARTED



Welcome to the Student Handbook for the Level One Sessions. This book is your support documentation to help you progress through your first level on **Learn Keys by Ben.**

LEVEL ONE

I want to share with you three key things for success as you begin The Level One Sessions.

1

Learning Piano Online

Learning to play the piano through online lessons will require you to establish some habits. There needs to be a level of accountability that helps you stay on task. Online lessons are a self-learning environment and it is you that keeps you staying on task. Make an appointment with yourself. Put it in your calendar and make it a recurring meeting, this way your sessions are consistent and at the same time every week. Then respect these appointments, go to the site and do your sessions with regularity. It won't take long before this becomes a habit.

2

Organize Your Program

Being organized is key. I suggest you buy a three-ring binder. This will become an important resource for you. Put some regular lined paper in the binder and keep a journal of your session activity. Write notes to yourself. Download and print your sheet music and place those in the binder. Organize it as you like but, refer to it and use it. It will help you to see your own progress.

3

Print Sheet Music

When you print your sheet music, make notes on the sheet music that will help you in practicing. Write the note names above the Treble Clef or below the Bass Clef notes. Write down the key that the music is being played in at the top of the page. You may not understand this yet, but it will make sense and be very helpful as you progress



Make a promise to yourself to practice.

Try for every day, but, do the best you can and don't quit even if you miss a few days. Pick back up where you left off or even do a quick review. Always play the long game, nothing is won or lost in a day.

HOW IT WORKS

The site has four skill levels, starting with beginner and moving to advanced intermediate. There are specific sessions that teach a concept or skill and some are just songs to learn to play. In most sessions you will find a video session with me (Ben) narrating the lessons to you and also showing you on the keyboard what and how to play. In addition, there will be audio loops to play along with. These are there to help you with timing and rhythm, and the sheet music you can download and print so you will have the whole package in each session.

The Session Title with the order number and description.

The Video Session. This best viewed in full screen mode.

The Video Controls for play, full screen, volume and play speed.

LEARN KEYS BY BEN

[ABOUT](#) [HOW IT WORKS](#) [PLANS AND PRICING](#) [KEY NOTES](#) [SESSIONS](#) [ASK BEN](#) [LOG OUT](#) [Q](#)

Ode To Joy

LEVEL ONE

This arrangement is meant for a beginner skill level. For best results view in full screen mode.

VIDEO SESSION



Ode To Joy is a Beethoven song that also uses the dotted quarter note. This time on beat 1. Again you want to make sure that it receives a full 1 & 1/2 beats. Speed control is in the gear on the lower right of the screen. Start with the video session, when comfortable move to the sheet music and song clip.

SHEET MUSIC



Click on the image to download a printable version.

PLAY-ALONG AUDIO CLIP



[LOGIN](#) [TERMS & CONDITIONS](#) [DATA PRIVACY STATEMENT](#) [DATA ACCESS REQUEST](#) [ACCOUNT](#) [SUPPORT](#)



The Sheet Music. Just click on the image and it will open up the sheet music. Download and print for best use. I recommend placing the music in a binder.

The Audio Clip for playing along to practice timing and rhythm.

LET'S BEGIN

Level One Is Made Up Of Five Session Blocks.

I have organized the sessions so you can easily go through them in the order that they are in. This way you should be able to progress as your skill set allows. However, it is also designed to be explored so you can look ahead and experiment a little. But, the best way to use the site is in the order I have given you.

The main goal for Level One is to get you acquainted with your instrument, what the notes are named and how to read the notes on the music staff. Basically, this is the start of learning how music is put together. I know there is a desire to move through this quickly and I applaud that, however, knowing this stuff, **really knowing this stuff** will make what you do in the next three levels much easier and better. So, take your time and go back over sessions as many times as you need to get confidence and really mastering what the session is teaching you to do.

1

Foundation

2

Chords

3

Sight Reading

4

Song Reading

5

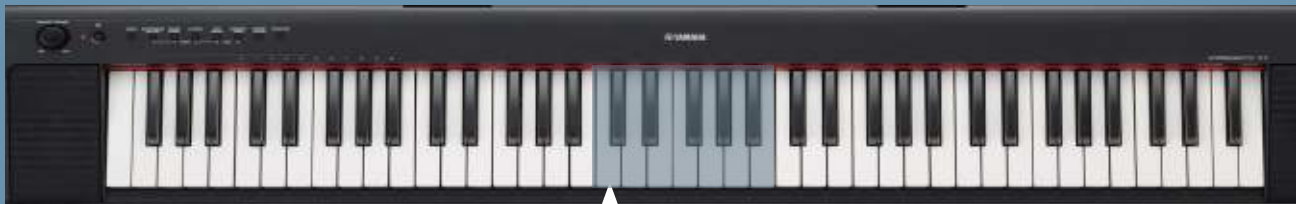
Blues Primer

You will begin your learning to play with the Foundation Block of sessions. These sessions are in a specific order and are numbered.

1. FOUNDATION

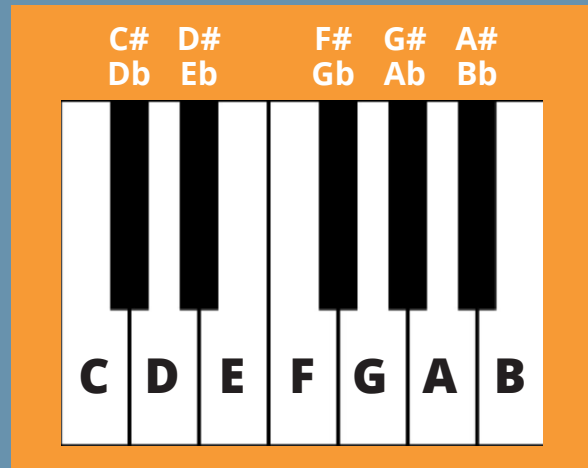
NOTE NAMES

Note Names has 3 Sessions for learning the notes. It is important to be able to name any of the notes on the keyboard, starting with Middle C, before moving on to the next step.



88 KEY KEYBOARD

Middle C ↑



1. FOUNDATION *(CONTINUED)*



5 FINGER PATTERNS

The Major 5 Finger Patterns will take you through all 12 different keys on the keyboard. They progress from the all-white keys patterns to those that include up to 4 black keys patterns. Once you start with a 5 finger pattern make it a practice to play it every day, and play it several times each time you practice. Keep adding the new ones to the list until you are practicing all 12 every day.

1. FOUNDATION *(CONTINUED)*

Triads in C

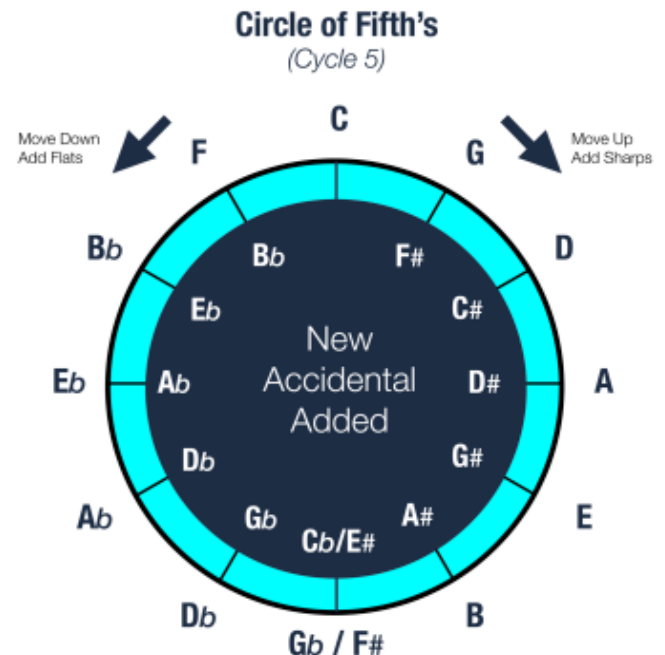
Triads in C shows how to play in a particular “key”, which is an example of Diatonic Harmony. Diatonic Harmony is the foundation of western music. Diatonic Harmony shows a basic note or chord progression in relation to a specific key. This is how musicians learn to improvise and compose songs.

Steps and Intervals

Next is the Steps and Intervals Session, which introduces you to how the distance between different notes is measured. This session covers the half steps and whole steps of note progressions and the naming of the intervals of a Major Scale, which I will introduce at the beginning of Level Two.

Circle of Fifths

The last session in the Foundation is the Circle of 5ths, which will be referred to often in all four levels on this website. It is one of the ways to become familiar with how key signatures work. The Circle of Fifths teaches you which sharps and flats go with the different keys, and often plays a large role in song writing. Another term for the Circle of 5ths is “Cycle 5”.



2. MUSIC INDEX

(SERIES, ALL LEVELS)

MUSIC INDEX NOTES

MUSIC INDEX GRAND STAFF

First I will describe how the Grand Staff, where the music notes are placed, is organized.

MUSIC INDEX NOTE NAMES

Introducing the names of the notes on the Grand Staff, starting with the Line notes on the Bass Clef, and then the Space Notes. Next is the Line notes on the Treble Clef, and then the Space Notes. In each instance they are shown from the bottom up, which will have the alphabet progressing forward with every other letter.

MUSIC INDEX NOTE VALUES

The various ways that notes and rests appear in order to know what their value or length is will be shown and presented in this section.

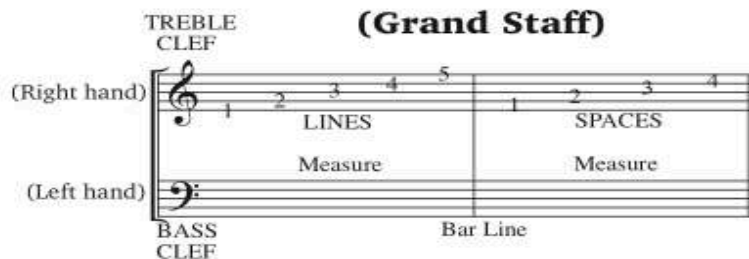
MUSIC INDEX NOTE INTERVALS

Recognizing the distance between any two notes is very helpful in being able to read music efficiently. (quickly)

2. MUSIC INDEX

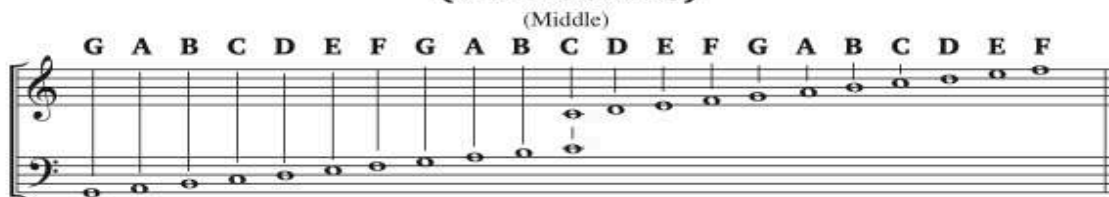
(SERIES, ALL LEVELS CONTINUED)

Music Index (Notes)

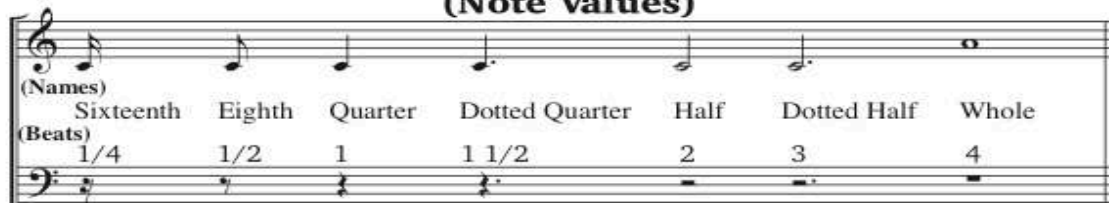


Treble Clef / (Lines E G B D F) (Spaces F A C E)
Bass Clef / (Lines G B D F A) (Spaces A C E G)

(Note Names)



(Note Values)



(Rest Values)



2. MUSIC INDEX

(SERIES, ALL LEVELS CONTINUED)

MUSIC INDEX RHYTHM

RHYTHM GRAND STAFF

The Rhythm Grand Staff, used in Rhythm Chart reading, is very similar to the Grand Staff used in note reading. Here I will point out some of the main differences.

RHYTHM VALUES

The Rhythm Values session shows how rhythm values are notated differently from the standard Note Values, using slashes and diamond shapes instead of the note heads, colored in or not.

RHYTHM STRAIGHT FEEL

The beat in a Straight Feel is divided evenly with two eighth notes per quarter or four sixteenth notes per quarter, or the equivalent.

RHYTHM SHUFFLE OR SWING

The beat in a Shuffle or Swing Feel is divided by three eighth notes per quarter or six sixteenth notes per quarter, or the equivalent.

2. MUSIC INDEX

(SERIES, ALL LEVELS CONTINUED)

TERMS

Here I describe some of the most commonly used terms in music.

Coda

Legato

Forte

SIMPLE TIME

Describing how to understand what the top and bottom numbers mean in a Simple Time Signature.

4

4

2. MUSIC INDEX

(SERIES, ALL LEVELS CONTINUED)

COMPOUND TIME

6

Describing how to understand what the top and bottom numbers mean in a Compound Time Signature.

8

ODD TIME

Odd Time is actually a combination of Simple and Compound Time Signatures.

5

8

2. CHORDS

As you continue through the Level One Sessions, it will be helpful for you to start looking at the Chords section and begin to become familiar with the Triads.

Make sure to learn them in the order given.



TRIADS ARE THE BUILDING BLOCKS UPON WHICH ALL OTHER HARMONIES ARE BASED.

2. CHORDS *(CONTINUED)*

TRIADS

Triads are the building blocks upon which all other harmonies are based, and are also known as 3-Part Harmony, of which there are 4 types. Major and Minor are the most common, but I will look at the Augmented and Diminished Triads also.

CYCLE 5 MAJOR TRIADS

I will be going through Major Triads in all twelve keys, beginning with C and going counterclockwise on the Circle of Fifths.

CYCLE 5 MINOR TRIADS

I will be going through Minor Triads in all twelve keys, beginning with A Minor and going counterclockwise on the Circle of Fifths.

3. SIGHT READING

SIGHT READING LEVEL ONE

As you are becoming familiar with the Chords, this is a good time to open up Sight Reading. This will give you a chance to begin to use what you are learning. The Music Index pages will help you to understand many of the most common terms and concepts in music, and how they relate directly to the piano. If you have any questions you can send an email to me with your question and I will answer you back. Email me at, support@learnkeysbyben.com



MIDDLE C POSITION

You will begin to learn how to read music, starting with the notes in the middle of the keyboard, and slowly working your way out in both directions.

C MAJOR POSITION

Now I will move the left hand down to the lowest note of C, with both hands playing the same notes separated by one octave.

Reading music is like reading a new language, as it takes some time to become familiar with the different terms and notes that are being used. One thing I suggest to all my students is to always print out your sheet music and write in the names of the notes (in pencil), above for the Treble Clef, and below for the Bass Clef, until you are confident of the notes.

4. SONG READING

Songs are next, as playing songs is what it's all about. Some are more for adults and some are more simple songs you may have learned or heard as a youngster, but don't worry, there are more contemporary songs in the higher levels. Also feel free to play through any of the songs you want, just use your Music Index pages in Sight Reading to help with any new concepts. I suggest printing out the PDF's for the songs and writing in the names of the notes (in pencil), above for the Treble Clef, and below for the Bass Clef, until you are confident of the notes.

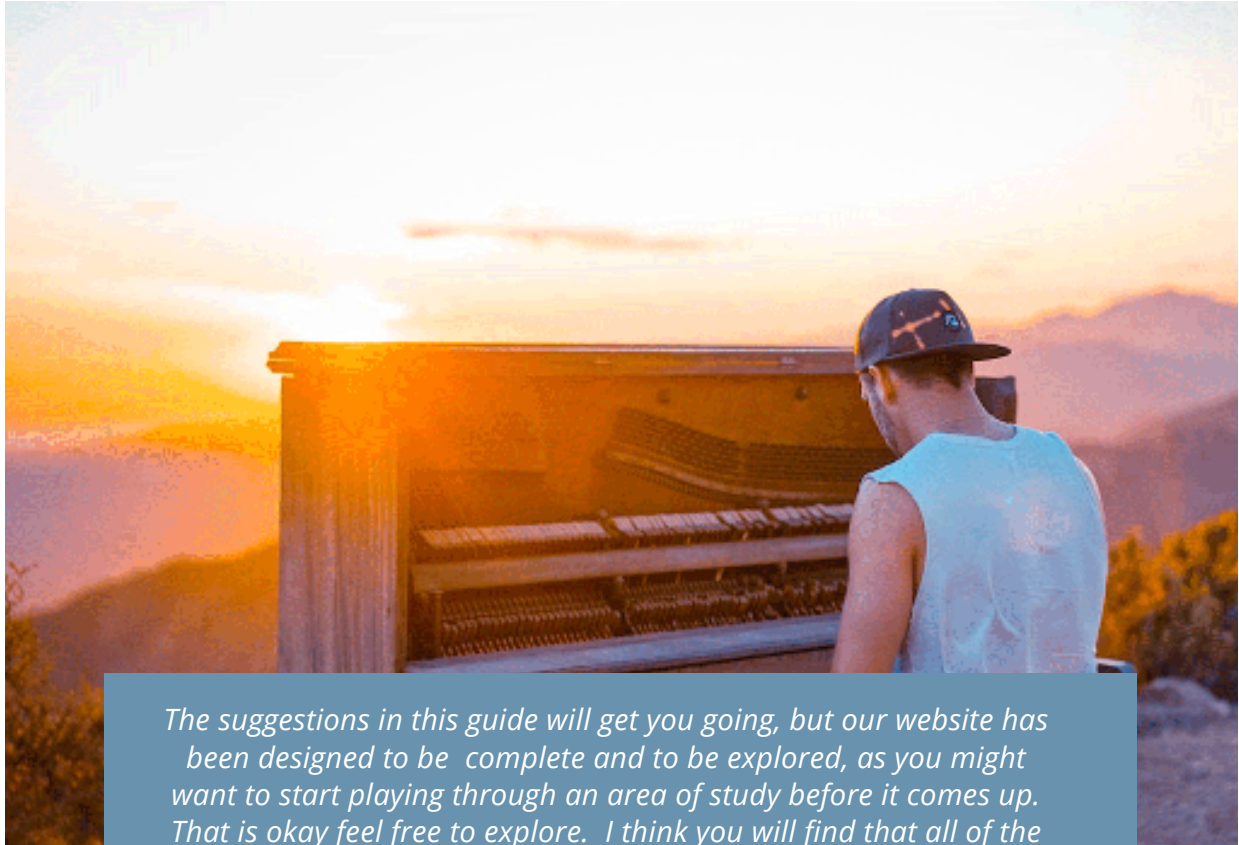
The image displays a musical score for the 'Bridal Chorus' by Wagner, presented in Middle C Position. The score is arranged in four systems, each consisting of a Treble Clef staff and a Bass Clef staff. The title 'Bridal Chorus' is centered at the top, with 'Middle C Position' and the composer's name 'Wagner' positioned below it. The first system includes the word 'Repi' above the Treble staff and a small '1' below the Bass staff. Each system features a melodic line in the Treble staff and a bass line in the Bass staff, with a dashed line indicating a slur over the Treble staff notes. The notation includes various note values and rests, typical of a piano accompaniment for a vocal line.

5. BLUES PRIMER

Blues Primer is an introduction to the “12 Bar Blues”. Putting the hands together will be challenging so make sure you spend lots of time practicing each hand alone first. Here we are featuring the Shuffle Rhythm. This is a basic Blues Rhythm that has a long note followed by a short note. Use the speed controls for viewing the video at a slower speed to help you capture the actions required to get this timing. The left hand of a blues almost always has repetition in it, so once you get the idea, you just repeat it as needed. Levels Two and Three will have a little more in-depth discussion and examples of the Blues. The Blues is where most contemporary music such as Rock, Jazz, Country, Indie, etc. comes from.



LEARN KEYS BY BEN



The suggestions in this guide will get you going, but our website has been designed to be complete and to be explored, as you might want to start playing through an area of study before it comes up. That is okay feel free to explore. I think you will find that all of the sessions will support one another, but to get the best results follow the sessions as they are presented.

Have fun!