



LEARN KEYS BY BEN

**Student's
Handbook
Level Three:
INTERMEDIATE**

GETTING STARTED



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

LEVEL THREE

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

1

Learning Piano Online

A reminder that learning to play the piano through online lessons will require you to set up 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 on 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

Also a reminder to organize yourself. I suggest you buy a three-ring binder if you haven't yet. This will become an important resource for you. Put some regular lined paper in the binder and keep track 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 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. An example of this would be to use a highlighter and mark things like repeat signs, 1st and 2nd endings, and Codas. Also write down the key that the music is being played in.



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 the beginner to the advanced intermediate. There are specific sessions that teach a concept or skill. 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 to play. In addition, there will be audio loops to play along with to help you with timing and rhythm, and sheet music you can download and print.

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.



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Clocks

LEVEL THREE

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

VIDEO SESSION



Clocks is a fun song to play that features a steady repetition of a few different Ostinatos/repeated figure). The song fades in so I wait four bars to begin. 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



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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 Three Is Made Up Of Six Session Blocks.

The main goal for Level 3 is to get you beyond becoming familiar with the keyboard and theory, and continuing to dive in to a deeper level of your instrument. 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 level much easier and better. So take your time and go back over sessions as many times as you can to get the feeling of really mastering what the session is teaching you.

1

Scales

2

Chords

3

Practice Grooves

4

Riffs

5

Song Reading

6

Song Session

You will begin Level Three with some new scales.

1. SCALES

MODES (INTRO)

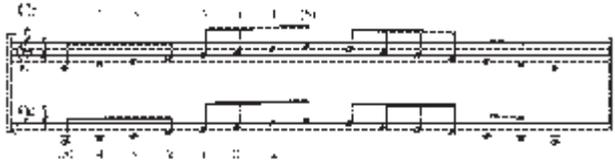
There are seven Modes. These will be introduced here and explained in more detail in a later session.

ALTERED SCALES

These scales are often played over Dominant 7 (altered) Chords which will be discussed in the Chord Sessions later in Level Three. They are demonstrated starting with C7 and moving around the Circle of Fifths, going down in Fifths. This is a favorite of Jazz and R & B players.

The Modes - Intro

Ionian - Major Scale



Dorian - minor Scale (b9, b7)



Phrygian - minor Scale (b2, b3, b6, b7)



Lydian - Major Scale (#4)



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2. CHORDS

69 CHORDS

69 (six nine) Chords are often used as a substitute for Major Chords in the Jazz and Popular styles of music. They combine the 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th scale degrees from any root. They are shown in Cycle 5.

DOMINANT 7 (NATURAL TENSIONS)

Dominant 7 Chords in Cycle 5. The Natural Tensions shown here are 9 for 1 and 13 for 5, substitutions made for a richer, more colorful sound. The choice of which Tension to use is based on which one is practical to reach, most often above the Tritone.

DOMINANT 7 (ALTERED TENSIONS)

Dominant 7 Chords in Cycle 5. The Altered Tensions shown here are b9 or #9 for 1 and #5 for 5, chosen based on which one is practical to reach, normally above the Tritone.

3. PRACTICE GROOVES

The Practice Grooves Sessions will give examples of playing some of the Chords that have been shown with a variety of different Grooves.

COOL ROCK GROOVE 66 BPM

A Funk Rock Groove at 66 Beats Per Minute. I will be demonstrating Minor Triads from Level One, 11 Chords and Minor 7 Chords from Level Two, and 69 Chords from Level Three.

BLUES / JAZZ GROOVE 80 BPM

A Swing or Shuffle Groove at 80 Beats Per Minute. I will be demonstrating Major Triads from Level One, Dominant 7(b5) Chords and Minor 7 Chords from Level Two, and 69 Chords from Level Three



Pro Metronome
The best metronome app. Period.

“I Recommend that you use Pro Metronome. It is the most versatile and it has both a free and paid version.”

4. RIFFS

TRIAD RIFF / DOWN

I began to introduce Riffs in Level Two. Here in Level Three I'm giving an example of a "Riff" I came up with called "Triad Riffs". The Triad Riff is based on two different triads per octave, going down two octaves, in Cycle 5. The fingering pattern is 3 5 1 3 2 1 on most of them, with a slight variation on a couple of them. Once you become comfortable with them, they can be used for improvising in many different styles of music. I have used them with great success while playing Rock, Jazz, Funk, R & B, and Indie, just to name a few.

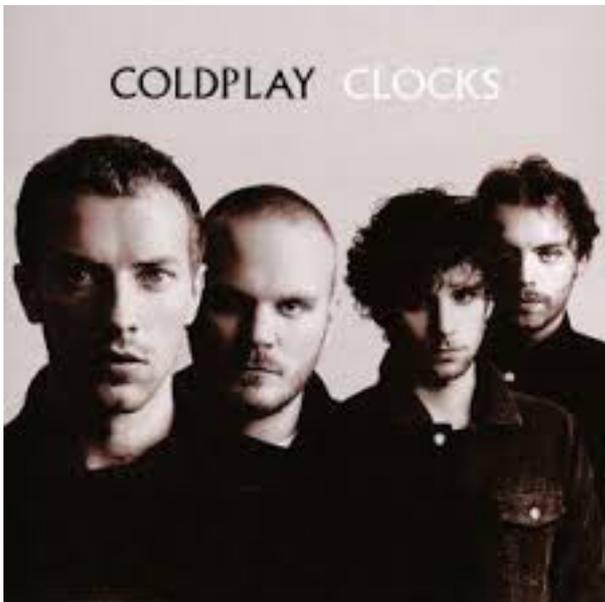
5. SONG READING

Songs are next, and the ones here are a nice step up in the degree of difficulty from Level Two. They are in a variety of styles, including Classical and Ragtime. Feel free to play through any of the songs you find in any level, using your Music Index pages in Level One to help with any new concepts. I suggest printing out the PDF's for the songs and making any notes on them that would be helpful, such as where the repeats are, and where they go back to. I would recommend using a highlighter for this, that works really well for me.



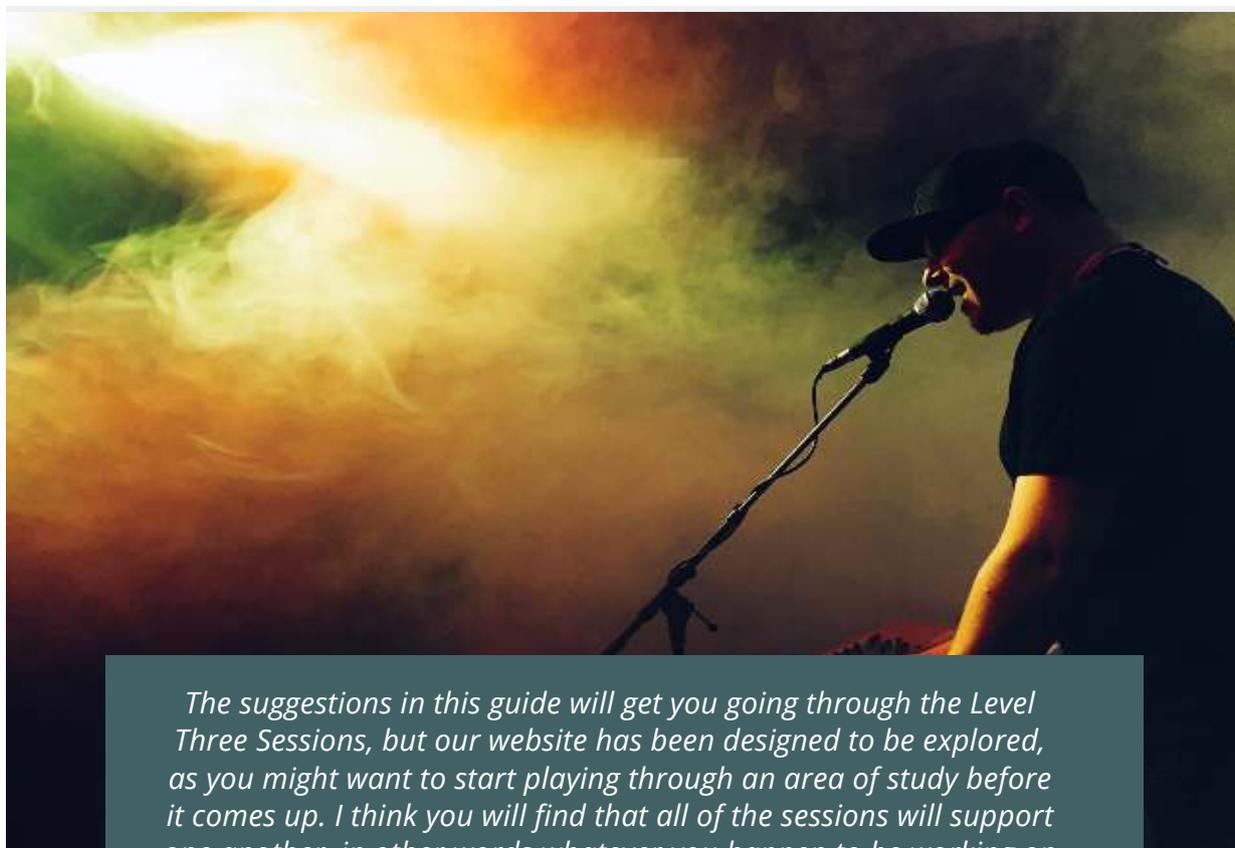
6. SONG SESSIONS

This is a way to “play along” or accompany with some very popular songs, almost as though you are a “Band Member”. On Learn Keys by Ben we teach you how to read and use charts. Playing with the sessions and then the audio clips will be a close simulation to playing a song in its normal pace, rhythm and timing. So I encourage you to have some fun with this stage of learning, we are adding new songs all the time so you will have a good selection to choose from.





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The suggestions in this guide will get you going through the Level Three Sessions, but our website has been designed to be explored, as you might want to start playing through an area of study before it comes up. I think you will find that all of the sessions will support one another, in other words whatever you happen to be working on at the time will be a benefit to the other areas of study when you get there.

Have fun!