



LEARN KEYS BY BEN

Student's Handbook Level Two:

ADVANCED BEGINNER

GETTING STARTED



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

LEVEL TWO

I want to share with you three key things for success as you begin The Level Two 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. Write the note names above the Treble Clef and below the Bass Clef notes. Write down the key that the music is being played in. You may not understand this yet, but it will make sense 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 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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Star Wars

LEVEL TWO

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

VIDEO SESSION



Star Wars uses a D.S. al Coda, which means go back to the sign on bar 2 and then when you get to the Coda, continue playing at the next Coda sign. Also notice the sustain pedal markings to allow for the right hand to move back into position with the 4th finger on G. 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



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.

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LET'S BEGIN

Level Two Is Made Up Of Seven Session Blocks.

The main goal for Level 2 is to get you beyond becoming familiar with the basics of the keyboard and theory, and starting to dive in to a deeper level on 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 two levels 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.

MAJOR SCALES, OR A VARIATION OF THE MAJOR SCALES, ARE THE BUILDING BLOCKS UPON WHICH ALL OTHER SCALES, MELODIES AND HARMONIES ARE BASED.

1

Major Scales

2

Minor Scales

3

Sight Reading

4

Chords

5

Song Reading

6

Riffs

7

Blues

You will begin Level Two with the Major Scales. These scales are in a specific order and are numbered. You will want to learn C first, then work on one sharp and one flat, two sharps and two flats, etc.

1. MAJOR SCALES

NOTE NAMES

This is the only major scale with all Natural Notes, which means there are no sharps or flats. Become comfortable playing each hand alone before putting them together. When you do play them together, notice the right hand crosses first on the way up and the left hand crosses first on the way down.

The image shows the C major scale in 4/4 time, written for both hands. The right hand (treble clef) starts on middle C (C4) and ascends to G4, then descends back to C4. The left hand (bass clef) starts on C3 and ascends to F3, then descends back to C3. The scale is written in a single system with two staves. The right hand uses fingerings 1-2-3-4-5 for the ascent and 4-3-2-1 for the descent. The left hand uses fingerings 5-4-3-2-1 for the ascent and 2-3-4-5 for the descent. The key signature is C major (one sharp, F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The piece ends with a double bar line.

1. MAJOR SCALES *(CONTINUED)*



SHARP KEYS

The Sharp Keys start with G, which has one sharp, adding one new sharp to each new key until you've reached six sharps. As I said earlier, the best and easiest way to learn these scales is to alternate between sharps and flats, learning the ones, the twos, etc.. Once you become comfortable with the first key, play it every day, then just keep adding new ones to the list.

FLAT KEYS

The Flat Keys start with F, which has one flat, adding one new flat to each new key until you've reached six flats.

2. MINOR SCALES

As you continue through the Level Two Sessions, you will want to start to look at the Minor Scales and begin to become familiar with them. We will be looking here at the Natural Minor Scale, which is a Major Scale with a b3, b6 and b7.

A MINOR SCALE

This is the only minor scale with all Natural Notes, no sharps or flats. Become comfortable playing each hand alone before putting them together. When you do play them together, notice the right hand crosses first on the way up and the left hand crosses first on the way down.

FLAT KEYS

The Flat Keys start with D Minor, which has one flat, adding one new flat to each new key until you've reached six flats. Again, the best and easiest way to learn these scales is to alternate between flats and sharps, learning the ones, the twos, etc. Once you become comfortable with the first key, play it every day, then just keep adding new ones to the list.

SHARP KEYS

The Sharp Keys start with E Minor, which has one sharp, adding one new sharp to each new key until you've reached six sharps.

3. SIGHT READING

As You are becoming familiar with the scales, this is a good time to open up Sight Reading. The Music Index pages in Level One 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

Sight Reading Level 2 will help you to progress with your reading by beginning to read “out of position”, which is having at least one of your hands starting on something other than the “Keynote” as the lowest note. Reading music is like reading a new language, and it will take 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 continue to 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. CHORDS

4 PART HARMONY

The chords sessions in level two begin with 4 Part Harmony, which is 3 Part Harmony (Triads) and an added 4th Part that is the 6th, b7th or 7th note of that particular Major Scale. This will be invaluable for understanding chord symbols and also figuring out what chord is being played as you read a group of different notes.

CYCLE 5 MINOR 7 CHORDS

These chords are an example of where (the inversion) to play them whether you are playing them in the right or left hand, and they should be practiced either way, I just happened to use my left hand in the video. If played in the left hand you are free to play a melody or improvise in the right hand. If played in the right hand then the left hand will often play a bass line.

INVERSIONS ARE WHEN YOU PLAY A CHORD WITH A NOTE IN THE CHORD THAT IS NOT THE ROOT AS THE LOWEST NOTE. LEARNING TO PLAY WITH INVERSIONS WILL HELP YOUR PLAYING TO BE “SMOOTHER” AND MORE “MUSICAL”.

4. CHORDS *(CONTINUED)*

CYCLE 5 – 7SUS4 CHORDS

These chords are an example of playing a Major Triad in the right hand with the root a full step below the bass note. For example a C7sus4 would be a Bb triad in the right hand and a C note in the left hand. These are also known as 11 Chords.

TRITONES

These are used primarily for playing Dominant 7 chords because they include the two essential chord tones, the 3rd and b7, in either order. This will make it possible to substitute an allowable note for the root or the 5th, and we will be going into this in detail in a later session.

5. 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 find, 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 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.



6. RIFFS

This is our first look at riffs, which are basically patterns of notes that will help you to gain control of your hands and fingers in order to play with more variety and “feel”. The Black and White Riff is an example of playing with your hands literally right on top of each other, and will become very helpful as you continue to progress.



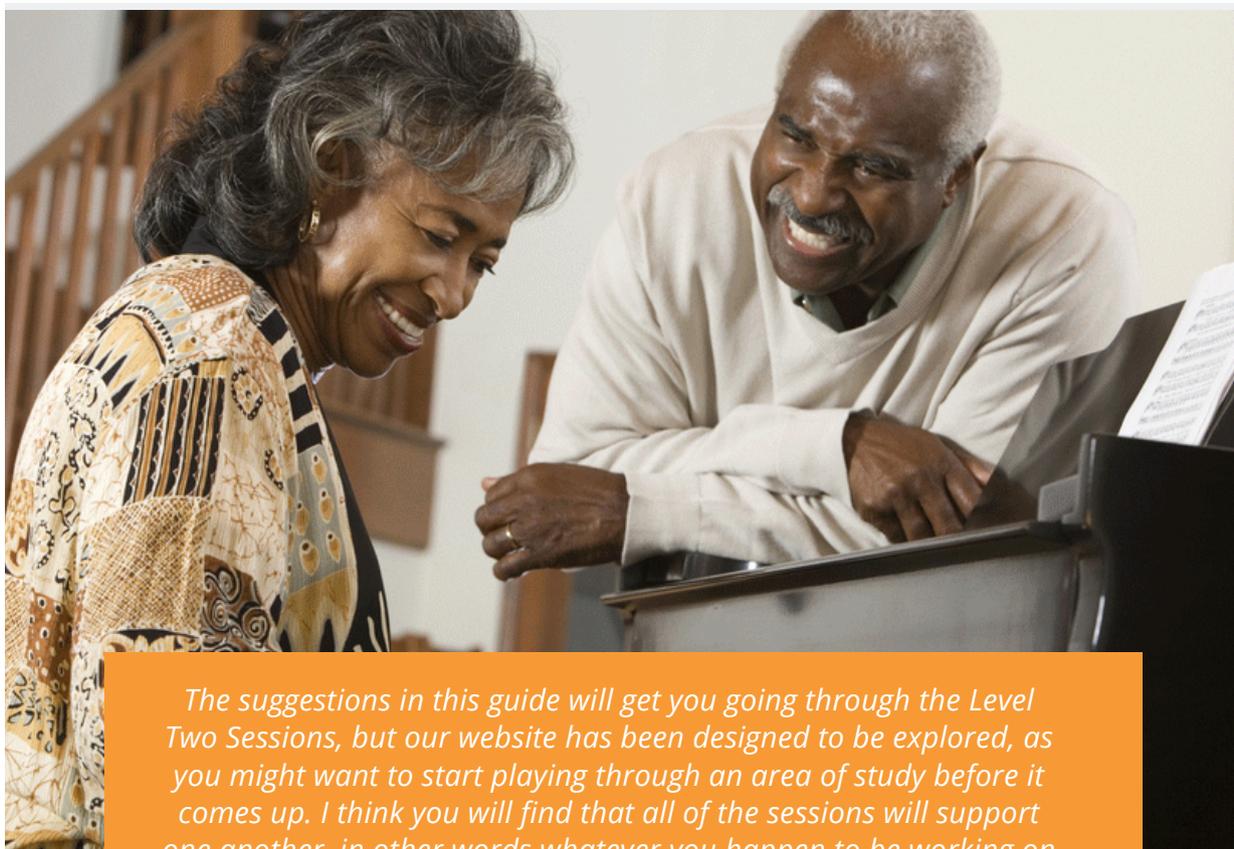
7. BLUES

Blues #1 is an example of the “12 Bar Blues” in the key of C. The right hand is playing what is called the C Minor Blues Scale, and the left hand once again has repetition in it, so once you get the idea, you just repeat and move to a new starting note as needed. Again, the Blues is where most contemporary music such as Rock, Jazz, Country, Indie, etc. comes from.





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The suggestions in this guide will get you going through the Level Two 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!