

# **Teach Yourself Piano/Keyboard Overnight!**



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## Introduction:

Hello Future Musician,

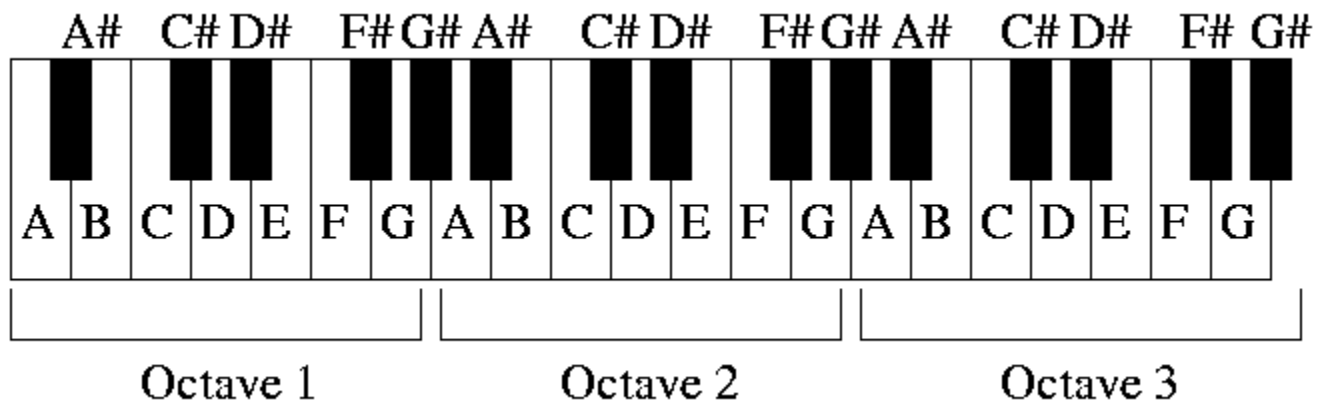
I always like to stress to all of my students that playing music is not nearly as difficult as it seems. It does not take a genius to be a good musician. You **can** learn to do amazing things with your hands. It just takes the desire/motivation to do so....and don't forget practice! "Practice makes perfect." Think about it, to excel at any profession/activity/hobby/sport/etc. it takes a lot of practice. For example, NFL Football stars practice like CRAZY every day of the week for **hours** to maintain their ability...

### **Good News!**

This course does not require an insane amount of practice. By the end of this lesson you will have a good idea of how to:

1. Play notes on the Piano/Keyboard
2. Play a simple song or two
3. Play your 'major' scale in the Key of C
4. Determine which notes are which on a Piano/Keyboard!

## Let's Get Started!



This is a Piano/Keyboard with the NOTES written on each key.

Let me break it down for you. There are ONLY 12 notes in existence and they repeat themselves over and over again in what we call 'Octaves.'

Pronounced (Octaves). An Octave obviously refers to the number 8 (Oct.) Musical Notes are identified by letters of the alphabet. The letters in music are A, B, C, D, E, F, G. There is NO 'H'. After 'G' it simply starts over at 'A' again (see above). How can you have more than one 'A'? The TONE of the note sounds the same, but the 'pitch' is higher or lower. There are many 'A's' on the piano and many of the other letters as well. The lowest 'A' will sound extremely low like a Bass and will not be very distinguishable. The highest 'A' will sound very high pitched like a flute or piccolo. The best example of an Octave I can think of is in the song 'Happy Birthday.' The part in the middle where you sing "Happy BIRTH-day to so and so..." The word 'Happy' let's say is a 'C' note, the next word 'BIRTH' would also be a 'C' note but one octave above the 'C' that you sang for the word 'Happy'. It's a big stretch, a whole 8 notes! So it's 8 notes from 'A' to 'A' and 'C' to 'C' and so on. Thus, it's called an 'Octave'.

**OK**, back to my original point. Did you realize what I said? There are ONLY 12 notes in existence! This makes music a lot easier than you thought eh? EVERY SONG YOU'VE EVER HEARD WAS MADE UP OF A COMBINATION OF THESE 12 NOTES. No matter how complicated of a Mozart song it is, there are only 12 notes to choose from:

A, A#, B, C, C#, D, D#, E, F, F#, G, G# and then back to 'A'.

The Black Keys are in sets of 2 and 3. I call them 'twins' and 'triplets'. At the beginning (the left) of the 'Twins' is the note 'C'. At the beginning of the 'triplets' is the note 'F'. The twins and triplets repeat themselves over and over again and the note at the beginning of them will always be the same. In front of every pair of twins will be 'C' ALWAYS. This will help you memorize which notes are which, without writing the notes on each key!

What do the '#' signs mean?! The # sign stands for "Sharp".

So if you see 'A#' that means "'A' Sharp." C# = C sharp and so on.

The Sharps (#'s) are the black keys. **The very next key to the RIGHT of any given key is the 'Sharp' of that note.**

On the piano, the distance between any note to the very next note (whether the next note is a black key OR white) is called a 'half-step'. So from 'A' to 'A#' is a half step. From 'A#' to 'B' is also a half step. **NOW NOTICE 'B' and 'C'**. There are no sharps in between them but they are still considered a 'Half-Step'. This is very important to understand because a lot of people think that if you go a 'half-step' from one letter the next note will be that letter 'Sharp'. This is true for MOST notes except for 'B to C' and 'E to F'. If you look at the piano above you'll see that E goes right to F and they are both white keys and the same for B to C. These are

STILL HALF-STEPS. There is no 'B#' because 'B#' would just be called 'C'. An 'E#' would just be called 'F'. These are the TWO exceptions.

If you skip a half-step and go directly from let's say, 'A' to 'B', it is called a **Whole Step**. Remember those exceptions now! The difference from 'B' to 'C' is **NOT** a whole step. Remember, from 'B' to 'C' is a HALF-STEP because they are right next to each other. So from 'B' to 'C#' would be a WHOLE-STEP. Same goes for 'E' to 'F' (half step). From 'E' to 'F#' would be the WHOLE STEP. The reason why people make this mistake is because from every other white key to the next white key is a WHOLE STEP. (Because there is a black key in between which is the half step).

### **LET'S LEARN THE 'C' MAJOR SCALE!**

This is a very important fundamental of music. This 'Scale' makes up the sounds 'Do-Re-Mi-Fa-So-La-Ti-Do.' It's called the 'Major Scale' and it is one of the MAIN modes of music. There are 'major' and 'minor'. The 'major' scale sounds more happy while the 'minor' scales sound sad.

Every song you've ever heard was either in a 'major' or 'minor' key.

OK so your RIGHT hand is numbered as follows... Your thumb is finger number 1, index finger is number 2, middle finger is number 3, ring finger number 4, and pinky finger number 5.

Your LEFT hand is the same. Thumb is finger number one, and so on.

They go opposite ways but the thumb is still number 1 and so on.

We are going to learn the scale with our RIGHT hand first. The right hand is the lead hand in the piano and plays the important lead melodies of a song.

The left hand is an accompaniment and plays chords and bass lines.

So the 'C Major Scale' is as Follows:

**C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C**

Moving from LEFT to RIGHT. Finger number One will play the first 'C'.

Then finger number 2 plays 'D' followed by Finger #3 which plays 'E'.

**NOW PAY ATTENTION:** On the FOURTH Note which is 'F', you will cross your thumb underneath your middle finger (finger #3) and play the 'F' with your THUMB! This allows you to finish the rest of the scale with the rest of your hand. Fingers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. So, in case this was confusing, the fingering for C. D. E, F, G,

A, B, C would be fingers: 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

After the third note; 'E' you CROSS your thumb UNDERNEATH your middle finger (which is still on 'E') and play the next note to the right of 'E' which is 'F' with your Thumb.

Now, when you come back down the scale...(to the left) you play every note that you played on the way up the scale AND with the SAME fingers.

So, the scale would be **C, D, E, F, G, A, B**, C, B, A, G, F, E, D, C.

Fingers are: **1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5**, 4, 3, 2, 1, 3, 2, 1.

The **Bold** letters and numbers are going 'up' the scale which is left to right. Then on the way back 'down' the scale, (not bold) it is right to left.

'Up' refers to UP IN PITCH. and 'Down' refers to DOWN IN PITCH.

When you play notes from left to right you will always be going UP in pitch from a LOW sound all the way on the left, it gets higher and higher as you move to the right and all the way on the right is the HIGHEST pitched note. So thus, when you play to the right you are going 'up'.

The video that I included in this report will show you what the 'C Major Scale' looks and sounds like! I play it slow at first, then medium, then fast.

That's just the 'C' Major scale. There is a Major scale for EVERY key.

There is an 'A Major Scale' a 'B Major Scale, even for the #'s. 'A# Major Scale, starts on a black key 'A#').

They ALL sound like 'Do-Re-Mi...' but they just start on a different pitch.

**But don't worry, I HAVE A SECRET WEAPON!**

Everyone loves the 'C Major Scale' because it is ALL white keys.

Every other scale has a black key in it, whether it's one, two, three or more!

Instead of memorizing EACH of the 12 Major Scales which would take a lot of time, you can use my **secret** formula that will allow you to play any major scale based on a pattern. Anything you can do in one spot on the piano, you can do Remember I talked about Whole Steps and Half Steps?

Well, if you look at the 'C' major scale you can see that the pattern is as such:

After the starting 'C', the next note is 'D'. The distance between these notes is a Whole Step.(because you skip over C# and go to D) Lets call a Whole Step 'W' and a Half Step 'H'. The pattern of the C Major scale is

W, W, H, W, W, W, H. Pretty easy to remember if you see the pattern: two whole steps and then a half step followed by three whole steps and a half step. **This holds true EVERY MAJOR SCALE!!! Whoa. That makes it A LOT EASIER.**

**Let's test this out...The next Major Scale, the 'D Major Scale' would be D, E, F#, G, A, B, C#, D.**

**This obeys the rule! After the first note 'D' it follows the pattern:**

**W, W, H, W, W, W, H.**

**D, E, F#, G, A, B, C#, D**  
**1<sup>st</sup> W, W, H, W, W, W, H.**

**The first note can not be a whole step or a half step because you need to be referring to the distance between TWO notes to have a whole step or a half step.**

Check out the video to see how the ‘C Major Scale’ looks and sounds!

This scale is so important because EVERY song that is in a ‘Major’ key will be made up of ONLY THE NOTES OF THE MAJOR SCALE. So, if the song is in ‘C Major’ such as THOUSANDS of songs are...the song would consist of ONLY THE NOTES OF THE C MAJOR SCALE!

Example:

The song ‘Mary Had a Little Lamb’ is in the key of ‘C Major’. This means that every note in this song will be a note in the ‘C Major Scale’.

Here are the notes for ‘Mary Had a Little Lamb.’

**3, 2, 1, 2, 3, 3, 3, 2, 2, 2, 3, 5, 5**  
**E, D, C, D, E, E, E, D, D, D, E, G, G**

**3, 2, 1, 2, 3, 3, 3, 2, 2, 3, 2, 1**  
**E, D, C, D, E, E, E, D, D, E, D, C.**

**The numbers are the fingers you should use.**  
**The letters are the notes on the piano. The numbers**  
**are right above the corresponding letter.**

**Congratulations!**

**You have learned the basics of the piano/keyboard, the Major Scale and your first song! This is the end of Lesson 1. In the next lesson, you will learn how to play the ‘Minor’ Scale, the ‘Blues Scale’ and How to Play Chords! Also, some more songs that are a little more sophisticated.**