

Making Everything Easier!™

3rd Edition

Piano

FOR
DUMMIES®
A Wiley Brand

Learn to:

- Master the basics of piano
- Read music notation and understand notes and rhythms
- Play melodies, create harmonies, and hone your techniques
- Explore different styles and perform popular pieces and songs



View video demonstrations and listen to audio tracks online

 **HAL•LEONARD**®
Adam Perlmutter



Get More and Do More at Dummies.com®



Start with **FREE** Cheat Sheets

Cheat Sheets include

- Checklists
- Charts
- Common Instructions
- And Other Good Stuff!

To access the Cheat Sheet created specifically for this book, go to
www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/piano

Get Smart at Dummies.com

Dummies.com makes your life easier with 1,000s of answers on everything from removing wallpaper to using the latest version of Windows.

Check out our

- Videos
- Illustrated Articles
- Step-by-Step Instructions

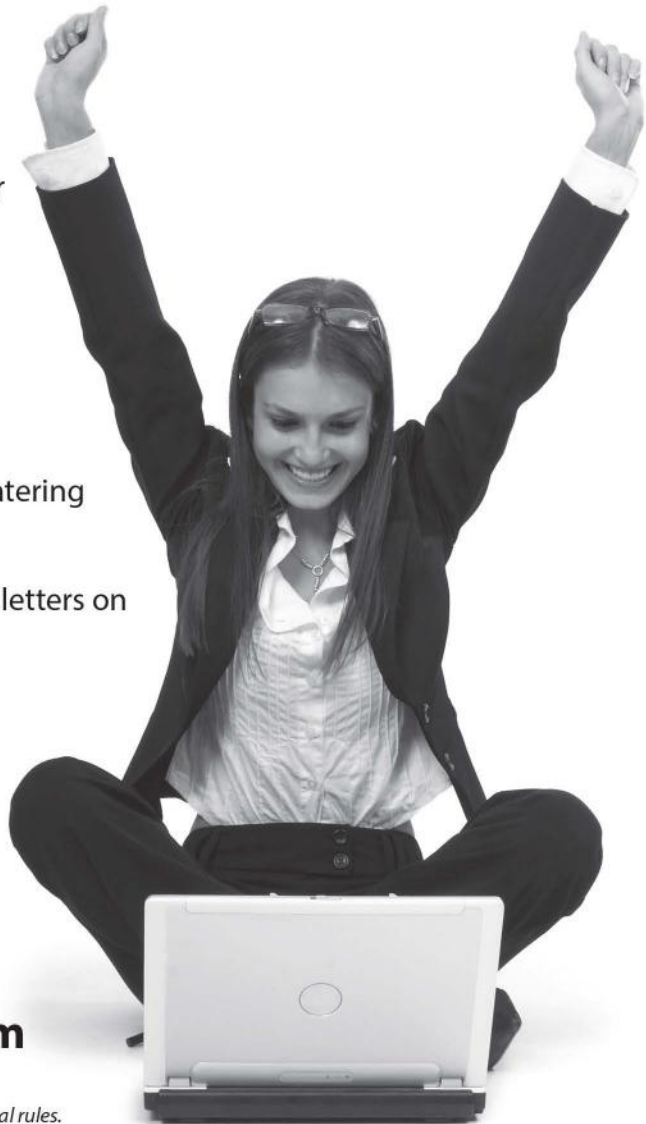
Plus, each month you can win valuable prizes by entering our Dummies.com sweepstakes.*

Want a weekly dose of Dummies? Sign up for Newsletters on

- Digital Photography
- Microsoft Windows & Office
- Personal Finance & Investing
- Health & Wellness
- Computing, iPods & Cell Phones
- eBay
- Internet
- Food, Home & Garden

Find out "HOW" at Dummies.com

*Sweepstakes not currently available in all countries; visit Dummies.com for official rules.





Revised by Adam Perlmutter

FOR
DUMMIES[®]
A Wiley Brand

Piano For Dummies® 3rd Edition

Published by: **John Wiley & Sons, Inc.**, 111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030-5774, www.wiley.com

Copyright © 2014 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, New Jersey

Published simultaneously in Canada

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning or otherwise, except as permitted under Sections 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without the prior written permission of the Publisher. Requests to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to the Permissions Department, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030, (201) 748-6011, fax (201) 748-6008, or online at <http://www.wiley.com/go/permissions>.

Trademarks: Wiley, For Dummies, the Dummies Man logo, Dummies.com, Making Everything Easier, and related trade dress are trademarks or registered trademarks of John Wiley & Sons, Inc., and may not be used without written permission. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., is not associated with any product or vendor mentioned in this book.

LIMIT OF LIABILITY/DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTY: WHILE THE PUBLISHER AND AUTHOR HAVE USED THEIR BEST EFFORTS IN PREPARING THIS BOOK, THEY MAKE NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS BOOK AND SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIM ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. NO WARRANTY MAY BE CREATED OR EXTENDED BY SALES REPRESENTATIVES OR WRITTEN SALES MATERIALS. THE ADVISE AND STRATEGIES CONTAINED HEREIN MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR YOUR SITUATION. YOU SHOULD CONSULT WITH A PROFESSIONAL WHERE APPROPRIATE. NEITHER THE PUBLISHER NOR THE AUTHOR SHALL BE LIABLE FOR DAMAGES ARISING HEREFROM.

For general information on our other products and services, please contact our Customer Care Department within the U.S. at 877-762-2974, outside the U.S. at 317-572-3993, or fax 317-572-4002. For technical support, please visit www.wiley.com/techsupport.

Wiley publishes in a variety of print and electronic formats and by print-on-demand. Some material included with standard print versions of this book may not be included in e-books or in print-on-demand. If this book refers to media such as a CD or DVD that is not included in the version you purchased, you may download this material at <http://booksupport.wiley.com>. For more information about Wiley products, visit www.wiley.com. All music engravings and illustrations © John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2014936393

ISBN: 978-1-118-90005-5 (pbk); ISBN 978-1-118-90006-2 (ebk); ISBN 978-1-118-90007-9 (ebk);

Manufactured in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Contents at a Glance

.....

<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>Part I: Getting Started with Piano</i>	5
Chapter 1: Preparing to Play a Piano	7
Chapter 2: Meeting the Keyboard Family	17
Chapter 3: Finding the Perfect Keyboard	29
Chapter 4: Taking Good Care of Your Keyboard	51
Chapter 5: Eighty-Eight Keys, Three Pedals, Ten Fingers, and Two Feet	59
<i>Part II: Deciphering Squiggles on Paper to Create Sound</i>	75
Chapter 6: Reading Lines and Spaces	77
Chapter 7: Joining the Rhythm Nation	91
Chapter 8: Changing the Beaten Path	113
<i>Part III: One Hand at a Time</i>	133
Chapter 9: Playing a Melody	135
Chapter 10: Scaling to New Heights	153
Chapter 11: Hey, Don't Forget Lefty!	169
<i>Part IV: Living in Perfect Harmony</i>	193
Chapter 12: The Building Blocks of Harmony	195
Chapter 13: Understanding Keys	215
Chapter 14: Filling Out Your Sound with Chords	229
<i>Part V: Technique Counts for Everything</i>	249
Chapter 15: Dressing Up Your Music	251
Chapter 16: Great Grooves	275
Chapter 17: Perusing the Aisle of Style	297

<i>Part VI: The Part of Tens</i>	321
Chapter 18: Ten Ways to Improve Your Practice and Performance	323
Chapter 19: Ten Ways to Supplement This Book	327
Chapter 20: Ten Questions to Ask Prospective Teachers	341
<i>Appendix: About the Website: Audio Tracks and Video Clips</i>	347
<i>Index</i>	353

Table of Contents

.....

<i>Introduction</i>	1
About This Book	1
Foolish Assumptions	2
Icons Used in This Book	2
Beyond the Book	3
Where to Go from Here	4
<i>Part 1: Getting Started with Piano</i>	5
Chapter 1: Preparing to Play a Piano	7
Knowing Why the Piano Is So Special	7
Advantages to playing the piano	8
Advantages to studying music at the piano	8
A skill and an art	9
Understanding Why People Take Piano Lessons (And Why They Often Quit)	10
Getting to Know Your Instrument	11
Comprehending the Language of Music	12
Developing an ear for horizontal and vertical music	13
Getting to know musical forms and styles	14
Starting to Play the Best Way	15
Being Aware of What You Already Know about Playing the Piano	15
Chapter 2: Meeting the Keyboard Family	17
Looking at the Acoustic Ones	17
Pianos	18
Harpsichords	21
Pipe organs	24
Identifying the Electric Ones	25
The nuts and bolts of electronic sound	25
Synthesizers	25
Digital keyboards	26

Chapter 3: Finding the Perfect Keyboard	29
To Hum or Not to Hum: Electric or Acoustic (Or Both)?	29
Buying an acoustic.....	30
Buying a digital.....	31
Buying a hybrid.....	33
Picking the Perfect Acoustic Piano	34
Taking location into account.....	34
Getting all the pedals you deserve	35
Finding good buys (and avoiding scams).....	35
If you've heard one, you haven't heard them all	36
Looking at some specific piano brands	37
Selecting a Digital Keyboard That Lasts.....	38
Digital pianos and organs	39
Arrangers	40
Stage pianos.....	40
Workstations	40
Synthesizers	40
Avoiding obsolescence	41
Knowing the digital features you want.....	41
Browsing some specific keyboard brands.....	43
Other electric keyboards.....	44
Before You Drive It Off the Lot: Sealing the Deal at the Store	45
Taking it for a spin	45
Loving and leaving it	46
Refusing to pay the sticker price	46
Shopping online	47
The MIDI Places You Can Go.....	48
A MIDI primer	48
Keyboard to computer	49
Keyboard to keyboard	50
MIDI and music notation.....	50
Chapter 4: Taking Good Care of Your Keyboard	51
Providing a Good Place to Live.....	51
Making It Shine: Cleaning Your Keyboard.....	53
Calling In a Pro for General Checkups and Serious Repairs	54
Tuning acoustic keyboards	55
Keeping digital keyboards happy	56
Dealing with serious keyboard problems.....	57
Taking the Worry Out of Moving Your Acoustic Piano	58

**Chapter 5: Eighty-Eight Keys, Three Pedals,
Ten Fingers, and Two Feet. 59**

Finding the Keys, Easy Peasy	59
The white keys	60
The black keys.....	62
Discovering What Your Parents Never Told You about Posture	63
To sit or not to sit: That's the real question	64
Sitting down: Chairs versus benches	65
Using stands and racks	67
Paying Attention to Hand Positioning	68
Arch those hands and fingers	69
Fingering	70
Giving your hands and fingers a rest	70
Pedal Power: Getting Your Feet in on the Action	71
Piano pedals	72
Digital keyboard pedals	73

***Part II: Deciphering Squiggles on Paper to
Create Sound..... 75***

Chapter 6: Reading Lines and Spaces 77

Your Guide to a Piano Score	77
Employing a staff of five lines.....	79
Hanging from a clef.....	80
Double Your Staff, Double Your Fun	84
Grand staff and ledger lines.....	85
Climbing up the staff and beyond.....	87
An octave above, an octave below	87
Punctuating Music: Bar Lines	88
Continuing to Read: Don't Stop	89

Chapter 7: Joining the Rhythm Nation. 91

Eyeing Tempo: The Beat Goes On	91
Measuring the beat using tempo	92
Grouping beats in measures.....	93
Serving Some Musical Pie: Basic Note Values.....	94
Quarter notes: One piece at a time.....	95
Half notes: Half the pie	95
Whole notes: The whole pie	96
Counting all the pieces.....	97

Faster Rhythms, Same Tempo	98
Eighth notes.....	98
Sixteenth notes and more.....	99
Listening for the Sound of Silence: Rests	100
Whole and half rests.....	101
Quarter rests and more.....	102
Counting Out Common Time Signatures	104
Common time: 4/4 meter	105
Waltz time: 3/4 meter	106
March time: 2/4 meter	106
6/8 time.....	107
Playing Songs in Familiar Time Signatures.....	108

Chapter 8: Changing the Beaten Path 113

Getting a Jump on the Start: Pickup Beats and Measures.....	113
Adding Time to Your Notes with Ties and Dots	115
Linking notes using ties.....	115
Extending notes using dots	116
Playing Offbeat Rhythms	119
Triplets love chocolate	119
Swing and shuffle time	121
Syncopation.....	123
Playing Songs with Challenging Rhythms	125

Part III: One Hand at a Time 133

Chapter 9: Playing a Melody 135

Let Your Fingers Do the Walking	136
Getting into the Right Position	137
C position.....	137
G position.....	142
Shifting your hand position as you play	143
Crossing Your Fingers and Hoping It Works.....	144
Crossing over your thumb.....	145
Passing your thumb under	146
Playing Melodies in the Right Hand	147

Chapter 10: Scaling to New Heights 153

Building a Scale, Step by Step	154
Stepping Up to the Majors.....	155
Understanding major scales.....	156
Trying a major scale exercise.....	158

Exploring Minor Variations	159
Natural minor scales	159
Harmonic minor scales	161
Melodic minor scales	161
Trying minor scale exercises	162
Showing Your Rebellious Side with Blues Scales	164
Playing Songs Made of Scales	165
Chapter 11: Hey, Don't Forget Lefty!	169
Exploring the Keyboard's West Side.....	169
Moving into position	170
Getting used to the new neighborhood	170
Tackling Some Left-Hand Melodies	172
Practicing Some South-Paw Scales	174
C, G, and F major	174
A, E, and D natural minor.....	174
A harmonic and melodic minor	176
Trying Accompaniment Patterns.....	176
Three-note patterns.....	177
Four-note patterns	178
Adding the Left Hand to the Right Hand.....	182
Sharing the melody in both hands.....	182
Melody plus one note.....	184
Melody plus three-note accompaniment pattern.....	184
Melody in unison octaves	186
Playing Songs with Both Hands	187
 Part IV: Living in Perfect Harmony	 193
Chapter 12: The Building Blocks of Harmony	195
Measuring Melodic Intervals.....	195
Interval shorthand	197
Seconds	198
Thirds	199
Fourths and fifths.....	200
Sixths and sevenths.....	203
Octaves.....	204
Combining Notes for Harmonic Intervals.....	204
Playing two notes together.....	205
Adding intervals to the melody.....	206
Harmonizing with the left hand.....	207
Playing Songs with More Harmony	209



Chapter 13: Understanding Keys 215
Homing In on Home Key 215
A whole ring of keys 216
Using keys to play music 218
Reading key signatures 218
Leaving and returning to the “home” key..... 224
Playing Songs with Key Signatures..... 225

Chapter 14: Filling Out Your Sound with Chords 229
Tapping into the Power of Chords 229
Dissecting the Anatomy of a Triad 230
Starting Out with Major Chords..... 231
Branching Out with Minor Chords 232
Exploring Other Types of Chords..... 233
 Tweaking the fifth: Augmented and diminished chords..... 233
 Waiting for resolution: Suspended chords 235
Adding the Seventh 236
Reading Chord Symbols..... 237
Playing with Chord Inversions..... 240
 Putting inversions to work 240
 Flipping the notes fantastic 241
Playing Songs with Chords 243

Part V: Technique Counts for Everything..... 249

Chapter 15: Dressing Up Your Music 251
Playing Dynamically 251
 Starting with basic volume changes..... 252
 Widening the range..... 252
 Making gradual shifts in volume 253
Articulating the Positive 255
 Interpreting articulation symbols..... 255
 The power of articulation 256
Controlling the Tempo..... 257
Putting the Pedal to the Metal 258
 Using the damper pedal..... 258
 Getting the hard facts on soft-pedaling..... 260
 Eyeing the middle pedal..... 260

Touching on Grace Notes	261
Tackling Trilling	262
Dazzling Your Audience: Gliss	263
Trembling Tremolos	266
Dressing Up Your Songs	268
Chapter 16: Great Grooves	275
Great Left-Hand Accompaniment Patterns	275
Fixed and broken chords	276
Chord picking	278
Octave hammering	280
Bouncy rock patterns	282
Melodic bass lines	282
Applying Great Intros and Finales	286
The big entrance	288
Exit, stage left	290
Playing Songs with Left-Hand Grooves	293
Chapter 17: Perusing the Aisle of Style	297
Taking Aim at Classical Music	297
Playing the Blues	300
Clues for the blues	300
12-bar ditties	301
Changing it up	302
Rockin' around the Keys	303
Rocking ingredients	304
Slamming and jamming	304
You're a Little Bit Country	305
Country-style cooking	305
Finger-pickin' good	306
Pop! Goes the Piano	307
Popular picks	307
Topping the charts	307
Soul Searching	308
Saving your soul	309
Motown sounds	309
Funky sounds goin' round	309
All That Jazz	311
Jazzing it up	311
It's up to you	312
Substituting chords	313
Playing Songs in Favorite Styles	314

Part VI: The Part of Tens 321**Chapter 18: Ten Ways to Improve Your Practice and Performance 323**

Be Comfortable at All Times	323
Shut Off the Distractions	324
Make a Schedule and a List	324
Get into Deconstruction	324
Use a Metronome	325
Rehearse Your Dress Rehearsals	325
Know Your Performance Piano	325
If You Memorize	326
Preempt Post-Performance Syndrome	326
Smile and Take a Bow	326

Chapter 19: Ten Ways to Supplement This Book. 327

Working through Method Books	327
Using Reference Books	328
Buying Music to Play.....	329
Types of printed music	329
Arrangements and transcriptions.....	330
Fake books	330
Where to buy printed music.....	331
Gigging with Others.....	332
Piano duets	332
Chamber groups	333
Bands	333
Checking Out the Masters	333
Johann Sebastian Bach	334
Ludwig van Beethoven.....	334
Johannes Brahms.....	334
Frederic Chopin	334
Franz Liszt.....	335
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.....	335
Sergei Rachmaninoff.....	335
Attending Live Concerts	336
Listening to Recordings	336
Perusing record stores.....	336
Shopping online	337
Visiting the library	337
Exchanging music with friends	337
Exploring Piano Sites on the Web	338
Enjoying Pianos on the Big Screen	338
Realizing You're Not Alone.....	340

Chapter 20: Ten Questions to Ask Prospective Teachers	341
Whom Else Have You Taught?	341
How Long Have You Been Teaching and Playing?	342
How Much Do You Expect Me to Practice?	342
Would You Mind Playing Something for Me?	343
What Repertoire Do You Teach?	344
How Do You Feel about Wrong Notes, Mistakes, and Slow Learners?	344
What Methods Do You Use to Teach Piano?	345
Where Will the Lessons Take Place?	345
How Much Do You Charge?	346
Do You Have Student Recitals?	346
 <i>Appendix: About the Website: Audio Tracks and Video Clips</i>	 347
 <i>Index</i>	 353

Introduction



Welcome to *Piano For Dummies*, 3rd Edition. Don't be nervous about wanting to play the piano; it's just a big, lazy piece of oversized furniture with a bunch of black and white keys on it. By selecting this book, you're taking the appropriate action to keep your piano from becoming a giant dust collector.

If you've never seen or put your hands on a piano or keyboard, no problem. This book starts at the very beginning and walks you through everything you need to know to tame that beast and make it sing sweet music. You'll also have fun along the way.

About This Book

Because you're in possession of a piano or keyboard or you have access to one, you may need this book to figure out how to play it. Or you may want to study how to read music. Maybe you already know how to play and you just want to improve your playing skills or develop your style. Could be you're interested in knowing more about pianos and their performers. Or you may need some help buying a keyboard or finding a teacher. For any of these reasons, this is the book for you.

You can use *Piano For Dummies*, 3rd Edition, as a teaching aid or just as a reference book. Even if you already know how to play music, you may run across some new tricks or techniques in these pages. If you read every page of this book and set about to play the examples and listen to the audio tracks and watch the video clips at www.dummies.com/go/piano, you'll be able to read piano music; know the names of notes, scales, and chords; understand a lot about different musical styles; and in general get a solid handle on some fundamental piano skills.

If you have a few specific questions about playing piano or want to go directly to something you've been dying to know, you'll find the part titles, chapter titles, and section headings practical and helpful. They make it easy to maneuver through the book and find what you're looking for.

Note: Truth be told, reading music and coordinating your hands and fingers to play musically on the piano are skills not learned in a day. It takes a bit of time and dedication. Although you may have seen or heard about methods to play the piano without reading music, this book isn't one of them. *Piano*

For Dummies, 3rd Edition, follows the tried-and-true method of teaching the basics of reading notes and rhythms from the get-go. And this book aims to do all that in a simple and fun way.

Within this book, you may note that some web addresses break across two lines of text. If you're reading this book in print and want to visit one of these web pages, simply key in the web address exactly as it's noted in the text, pretending as though the line break doesn't exist. If you're reading this as an e-book, you've got it easy — just click the web address to be taken directly to the web page.

Foolish Assumptions

In writing this book, I made a few assumptions about you, the reader:

- ✔ You like to listen to music and especially like the sound of a piano.
- ✔ When you hear someone play the piano, it sparks something in you. You say to yourself something along the lines of, "I wish I could play the piano."
- ✔ You haven't had any piano lessons before, or you had some lessons at some point in your life but you basically see yourself as a beginner. Either way, you'd like it all laid out and explained in a simple and easy-to-understand way.
- ✔ If you have a piano or keyboard, you aren't playing it as much as you want to and need some help getting to the music-making.
- ✔ If you don't have a piano or keyboard, you're considering the purchase of a keyboard and welcome some help with the whole process. Most likely, your keyboard will have at least 25 black and white keys, may or may not plug into the wall, and will cost you as much as you're willing to part with.
- ✔ You like to discover things for yourself.

If any of these assumptions is true for you, you're reading the right book.

Icons Used in This Book

As you go through the chapters of this book, you'll find the following friendly icons designed to draw your attention to different bits of information, from helpful guidance to pleasant diversions.



Be sure to pay attention to anything that has this icon attached. As you may guess, it's something important that you shouldn't forget.



When you see this icon, you know some handy-dandy information follows that can save you time, money, energy, and more.



This icon lets you know that there's an audio track and, in many cases, a video clip that demonstrates the concept, playing technique, or song discussed in the text. Check out these online resources at www.dummies.com/go/piano to deepen your understanding and speed your progress.



Pay attention to text featuring this icon. You can thank me later for showing you how to avoid mistakes and problems.



This icon points out bonus material you can find online.



This icon suggests different music that you can play on your keyboard.

Beyond the Book

In addition to the material in the print or e-book you're reading right now, this product also comes with some online goodies. Check out the eCheat Sheet at www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/piano for common musical symbols, piano fingerings, and the names of the piano keys.

You can also find several other tidbits of information online about rhythm, mode, and arpeggios. Go to www.dummies.com/extras/piano to read them.

You can view and listen to various techniques and songs that I discuss throughout the book. Go to www.dummies.com/go/piano to download the audio tracks and video clips. You can also discover a list of ten additional tips for making the most of your practice sessions at this same site. When prompted, enter the username of [pianofordummies](http://pianofordummies.com) and the password of wiley.

Where to Go from Here

If you don't know much about the piano as an instrument, start with Part I and get to know the different types of pianos. Pianos are a wonder of the world.

If you're thinking about buying a piano or keyboard, turn to Chapters 3 and 4. They'll leave you feeling so much more prepared for the tasks of shopping and buying.

Check out the guide to reading music at the beginning of Chapter 6 and test yourself by trying to identify the elements of music notation on a page of piano music. (Don't worry, there's a key that tells you where to look for a reminder or an explanation of each element.)

Go through Chapters 7 and 8, which cover rhythms. Reading and responding to rhythm smoothly are huge components of reading music. If you can get your rhythm down, it will make all the other elements come together much more easily.

If you already know how to read music, try Parts III and IV for some scales, melodies, chords, and more that fit your taste and technique. Skip around and play fun songs while you expand your knowledge. If you have trouble playing something, backtrack to where you can brush up on a particular technique.

To get an idea of the music you play as you work through this book, check out the audio tracks and video clips on the accompanying website (www.dummies.com/go/piano) and enter the username (pianofordummies) and password (wiley). Use the audio track table at the back of the book to direct you to the written music.

Part I

Getting Started with Piano

getting started
with

Piano
big no



Visit www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/piano for great free Dummies content online.

In this part . . .

- ✔ Find out what makes playing the piano so satisfying and what elements come together to make beautiful piano music (you're probably aware of some without even knowing it). Also check out some tips that will make your piano-playing journey a smooth one.
- ✔ Take a tour inside the piano and meet the extended family of keyboard instruments. Get the lowdown on the two major players in the keyboard arena — acoustic and electric pianos — along with an introduction to the organ and the harpsichord.
- ✔ Gather advice for finding and purchasing a piano or keyboard, getting one that's not only right for you now and but will also allow you room to grow as a musician.
- ✔ Keep your instrument — be it a traditional piano or a digital instrument — clean, in tune, and in perfect working order.
- ✔ Get to know the keyboard, what makes it tick, where to put your hands and feet, and what all those keys are for.

Chapter 1

Preparing to Play a Piano

.....

In This Chapter

- ▶ Understanding what makes the piano unique
 - ▶ Getting acquainted with the instrument and reading music
 - ▶ Discovering what you may already know about playing piano
-

I love to run my fingers o'er the keys, the ivories.”

These lyrics from the 1915 Irving Berlin song, “I Love a Piano,” were no doubt true for many people when they were written nearly 100 years ago. The piano was in its heyday, and your average Joe and Jane felt owning and playing the piano in their home was almost as important as putting a roof over it. But neither the song nor the sentiment has lost its charm; the lyrics certainly ring true for a whole bunch of people. The piano remains a very popular instrument, with the number of piano lovers growing and its popularity spreading throughout the world. Even as the piano is treasured for its quality as an instrument, it also adapts itself to the changing times through technological advances.

This chapter helps you understand what makes the piano unique and what’s involved in learning to play the piano. You may find out that you know a lot more about music than you thought you did, even if you’re a beginner.

Knowing Why the Piano Is So Special

Playing the piano involves the following fundamentally musical tasks:

- ✓ Playing different pitches and melodies
- ✓ Controlling the attack and release of a note
- ✓ Playing different dynamics (relative loudness and softness)

But playing the piano is different from playing other instruments in some important respects, and the piano has several attributes that make it an ideal tool for learning and understanding music.

Advantages to playing the piano

The piano occupies a central position in the world of music. It's the gold standard of musical instruments, utilized by composers and arrangers and featured routinely in nearly all musical styles, in chamber groups, rock bands, and jazz trios (everything except marching bands). The following characteristics make the piano a wonderful instrument:

- ✔ **You can play many different notes at the same time.** The fancy word for this characteristic is *polyphonic*.
- ✔ **It's a completely solo instrument.** You can play a complete song or other musical work without requiring additional accompaniment or other help from your musical friends. That makes the piano satisfying and self-sufficient.
- ✔ **It's the perfect choice for accompaniment.** You can accompany a singer, a choir, a dance class, a silent movie, your own opera, or your own soap opera, not to mention any other instrument.
- ✔ **You can play almost anything on the piano.** The piano has an unmatched repertoire of music. You name it, there's piano music for it.

Advantages to studying music at the piano

The piano is an ideal instrument for studying all about music, starting with the design of the keyboard. As you sit in front of your keyboard, the notes are laid out before your very eyes in a clear, organized, and orderly way. Understanding and playing musical pitches is quite easy because the keyboard presents a clear visual image for your brain to process the way musical notes go up (higher in pitch), down (lower in pitch), or stay the same.

Each key produces a single, distinct pitch, and you can't beat that for simplicity. Not much skill is required to make a nice, musical sound. Compared with some other instruments I shall refrain from naming (well, okay: oboe and tuba, to name just two), playing any key on the keyboard, no matter how high or low the pitch, is as easy as playing any other key.

sample content of Piano For Dummies

- [read Dust on the Sea \(Bluejacket Books\) book](#)
- [Ordeal of Gilbert Pinfold for free](#)
- [click The Journey of Robert Monroe: From Out-of-Body Explorer to Consciousness Pioneer online](#)
- [download online Take Your Time: The Wisdom of Slowing Down](#)
- [click Maids, Wives, Widows: Exploring Early Modern Women's Lives 1540 - 1714](#)

- <http://flog.co.id/library/Dust-on-the-Sea--Bluejacket-Books-.pdf>
- <http://thermco.pl/library/Ordeal-of-Gilbert-Pinfold.pdf>
- <http://econtact.webschaefer.com/?books/The-Journey-of-Robert-Monroe--From-Out-of-Body-Explorer-to-Consciousness-Pioneer.pdf>
- <http://test.markblaustein.com/library/Take-Your-Time--The-Wisdom-of-Slowing-Down.pdf>
- <http://growingsomeroots.com/ebooks/Maids--Wives--Widows--Exploring-Early-Modern-Women-s-Lives-1540---1714.pdf>