



# Complete Program Overview

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## Children's Music Journey Overview

Level 1: 25 lessons  
Level 2: 35 lessons  
Level 3: 35 lessons

**Note:** Levels 2 and 3 include review lessons and practice room (requested by our development partner, the Keys to Achievement Foundation). Therefore, the total number of units per Level is 40, and 45 respectively. The summary below discusses only the new material.

### Pitch and Notation

*Level 1:* The musical staff and notation system evolves over Level 1 to reflect the progression from relative pitch patterns to specific pitches. CMJ begins by introducing the concept of relative pitch presented in pictorial format, with bird symbols representing high notes and whale symbols representing low notes. Initially, the only specific pitch named is middle C.

Lessons 1-10 introduce directional note sequences, ascending and descending to and from middle C. The idea of double notes (playing two notes simultaneously with both hands) is also addressed. By the end of the fourth lesson the pictorial notation gives way to un-stemmed note heads and eventually, to regular stemmed notation.

In Lesson 11 finger numbers are learned and over the next few lessons students are versed in middle C position and can play simple, popular songs by finger number. Also presented is the concept of musical steps. The simple one-line staff (marking middle C) gains additional lines on either side as students step further from middle C.

In the final ten lessons, students learn the musical alphabet and then relate it directly to the keys on the keyboard in middle C position. By the end of the first level students are working with a five line staff with a central, bold line marking middle C.

*Level 2:* The middle C line is 'peeled' away and lines are added to form the grand staff. Students become familiar with the grand staff and are gradually taught the notation of the notes in middle C position, working outwards. By the end of Level 2 students are learning songs played by both hands simultaneously.

*Level 3:* Sharps, flats and naturals are first seen at the start of Level 3. Students move to notation of the standard C position and begin reading and understanding intervals of 2nds through 5ths. Students then move on to the notation of G position and finally to a moving hand position, after which key signatures are introduced.

### Rhythm

*Level 1:* The concept of rhythm is first introduced in Lesson 3. Students repeat simple, four count patterns of quarter and eighth notes, based initially on word patterns and later by counting numbers (e.g. 1 2& 3 4&).

Sustaining notes are introduced in Lesson 6. Holding notes appear as a note-head followed by numbers representing the counts to hold for. Towards the end of Level 1, students learn the proper notation of half and whole notes.

*Level 2:* Rhythmic understanding is reinforced through 'rhythm tapping', where students repeat notated rhythmic patterns, becoming more challenging as more concepts are introduced.

At the start of Level 2, dotted half notes are introduced, followed in Lesson 34 by the introduction of bar lines and time signatures. While CMJ's rhythmic assessment tool has been reasonably forgiving, now continuity and consistency of tempo become more important in terms of assessment. Quarter, half and whole note rests follow by lesson 50. Notated eighth notes and ties are introduced shortly after.

*Level 3:* Dotted quarter/eighth note patterns are introduced.

## Lesson Summary

### Level 1

- \* High notes, low notes and middle C
- \* Repeating short rhythmic patterns
- \* Variety of great piano works presented with some history
- \* Directional note sequences, descending/ascending, from/to, middle C
- \* 'Double' notes
- \* 'Holding' notes
- \* Finger numbers
- \* Middle C position (either by stepwise movement, or finger number)
- \* Stepping notes
- \* Musical alphabet
- \* Keyboard letter names
- \* Half notes and whole notes

### Level 2

- \* Dotted half notes
- \* Grand staff, treble and bass clef
- \* Progressive history of music with notable compositions
- \* Notation of middle C position notes
- \* Time signatures and bar lines
- \* Tempo, and Italian terms: andante, allegro, moderato
- \* Dynamics f, mf, mp, p
- \* Repeat sign
- \* Rests
- \* Playing hands together
- \* Eighth notes
- \* Ties

### Level 3

- \* Sharps, flats and naturals
- \* Music history with examples continued
- \* Notation of standard C position
- \* Staccato, legato, Accents, Fermata
- \* Increase range and diversity of repertoire
- \* Dotted quarter/eighth note patterns
- \* Intervals of 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th
- \* Notation of G position
- \* Introduction of orchestra instruments
- \* Moving hand positions
- \* Key signatures



## Level 1

### Lesson #

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- 1 An introduction to the piano.  
High notes and low notes.  
Pictorial notation.
- 2 Finding middle C.  
Pictorial notation for middle C.
- 3 Repeating short rhythmic patterns based on words.
- 4 Replacing pictorial notation with note-heads and simple staff.
- 5 New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 6 Two, three and four count holding notes.  
Repeating short rhythmic patterns based on number counts.
- 7 New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 8 Double notes (playing one high and one low note at the same time).
- 9 Directional note sequences ascending and descending from middle C.
- 10 Directional note sequences ascending and descending to middle C.
- 11 Finger numbers for the right hand. Right hand middle C position.
- 12 Finger numbers for the left hand. Left hand middle C position.
- 13 Directional double note sequences.
- 14 Musical steps.  
Playing middle C position notes by finger number out of order.  
Saying the musical alphabet.
- 15 Playing songs by finger number in middle C position.
- 16 New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 17 Saying the backward musical alphabet.
- 18 New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 19 Grown-up notes (adding stems to note-heads).  
Enhanced staff with extra step lines.  
Saying the musical alphabet forward and backward.
- 20 Keyboard letter names (relating the musical alphabet to middle C position).
- 21 New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 22 Half notes replace two-count holding notes.
- 23 Whole notes replace four-count holding notes.
- 24 Practicing recital songs.
- 25 Recital.



## Level 2

### Review #

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- R2-1** Review of non-pictorial notation, directional patterns, finger numbers and counted rhythms.
- R2-2** Review of middle C position, musical steps and musical alphabet.
- R2-3** Review of keyboard letter names.
- R2-4** Review of half notes and whole notes.

### Lesson #

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- 26** Dotted half notes. Musical steps on the staff.
- 27** The grand staff, treble and bass clef, middle C.
- 28** Notated C, D, E for the right hand.
- 29** New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 30** Notated A, B, C for the left hand.
- 31** Tapping back notated rhythms.
- 32** Songs using notes A-E for both hands.
- 33** New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 34** Time signatures and bar lines.
- 35** Repeat sign.
- 36** Right hand F.
- 37** New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 38** Left hand G.
- 39** New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 40** Dynamics p, mp, mf, f.
- 41** Songs using notes G-F for both hands.
- 42** New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 43** New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 44** Recital selection and preparation.
- 45** Recital.
- 46** Right hand G.
- 47** New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 48** Left hand F.
- 49** New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 50** Rests.
- 51** New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 52** Eighth notes.
- 53** New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 54** Ties.
- 55** Playing songs with both hands simultaneously.
- 56** New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 57** New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 58** New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 59** Recital preparation.
- 60** Recital.



## Level 3

### Review #

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- R3-1** Review of notation and songs using A-E in middle C position.  
Review of all time values and time signatures.  
Review of rhythm tapping of notated rhythms.
- R3-2** Review of right hand F.
- R3-3** Review of left hand G.  
Review of repeat sign.
- R3-4** Review of right hand G.
- R3-5** Review of left hand F.
- R3-6** Review of eighth notes.
- R3-7** Review of rests and ties.
- R3-8** Review of playing with two hands simultaneously.

### Lesson #

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- 61** Sharps.
- 62** Sharps continuing to the bar line.
- 63** Flats.
- 64** New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 65** Naturals.
- 66** Staccato and Legato.
- 67** "Big" C position.
- 68** Fermata.
- 69** Accent.
- 70** Steps and skips.
- 71** Interval of 2nd.
- 72** New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 73** Interval of 3rd.
- 74** Recital song selection and review.
- 75** Recital.
- 76** Dotted quarter, eighth note pattern.
- 77** Interval of 4th.
- 78** New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 79** Interval of 5th.
- 80** New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 81** G position.
- 82** New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 83** New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 83** New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 84** New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 85** New songs introduced using existing concepts.
- 86** Stretching further (6ths) for right hand.
- 87** Stretching further (6ths) for left hand.
- 88** Finger crossover for the right hand.