

WUNDER[®] KEYS



ELEMENTARY PIANO LEVEL 1A

This is a preview (27 of 64 pages).
Pages have been removed from
various sections.

WUNDERKEYS®

ELEMENTARY PIANO LEVEL 1A



LEVEL 1A

WunderKeys Elementary Piano Level 1A by Andrea and Trevor Dow
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Welcome

"I hated piano lessons as a child." Every time an adult says those words, our hearts break a little. So our mission with WunderKeys is simple: to make kids fall in love with piano lessons. No one should grow up to utter those seven awful words.

To help kids become piano-loving adults, a method book must: 1. be developmentally appropriate and perfectly paced, 2. have activities that allow students to engage with notated music in unique and creative ways, and 3. contain story-based excitement that makes kids connect with music. WunderKeys succeeds at all three!



Elementary Piano Level 1A follows our primer series and is an immersive musical experience divided into eight units. In what can only be described as magic, we've packed Level 1A with sight reading, technical exercises, piano games, and rockin' rhythm duets while still providing as much repertoire as a traditional method book.

Thirty years from now, your former students will be able to say the seven words we long to hear: "I loved piano lessons as a child."

Andrea and Trevor Dow

The Nitty Gritty

WunderKeys Elementary Piano Level 1A follows the WunderKeys Primer Piano Book Series. In this book your students will...

- 1 Continue their exploration of note reading on the grand staff.
- 2 Add expression using staccato, legato, crescendo, diminuendo and pedal.
- 3 Identify and play harmonic and melodic intervals of a 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th.
- 4 Improve coordination, gain confidence playing "out of position," and explore mid-piece hand movement.
- 5 Reinforce rhythmic accuracy, gain a sense of pulse, and explore rest values.



let's get
STARTED



- 1** Using tape, I will make two Xs on the floor. Place your left foot on one X and your right foot on the other X. Slowly rock from side to side on the Xs, lifting one foot off the ground as you shift your weight to the other foot. Next, place your right foot on the right X. Hold your left foot in the air. Hop to the other X, landing on your left foot. Now, hop back and forth from left to right.
- 2** Let's rock and hop on the piano keys. Place your right hand (RH) 1 on Middle C and your RH 5 on G. Play C and G over and over, "rocking" between the keys. Can you hear how the sounds of each note are connected? You are playing **legato**! Next, hop back and forth between C and G. Can you hear how the sounds are separated? You are playing **staccato**.



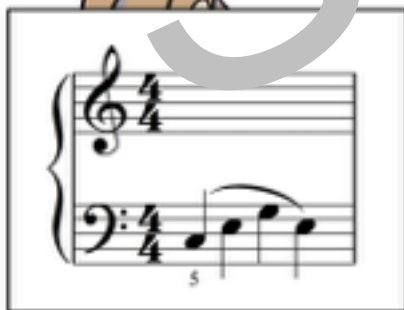
Point to a measure of music on this page that has dots above or below the note heads. These dots mean that the notes should be played *staccato*. I will play the measure. Now you try.

Point to a measure of music that has a long curving line above or below the note heads. This line is called a **slur**. It means that the notes should be played *legato*. I will play the measure. Now you try.

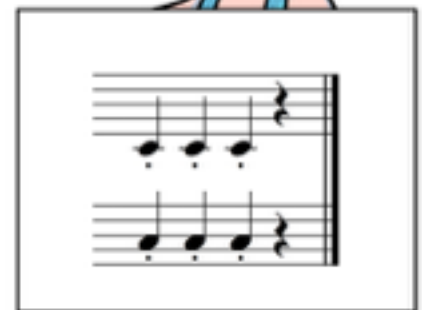
Use the finger-number clues in the music below to find your starting position. Beginning at the wolf and ending at the pig, play the four measures of music that rest on the dotted path. Next, I will use a colored crayon to draw a new four-measure path that begins at the wolf and ends at the pig. Try playing along the new path. **Let's play again.**



pick-a-path
SIGHT READING



.....



⋮



SAFE AND SOUND

Smoothly

3

mf

5

5

mp

steadily

BRICK BY BRICK



2

f

4

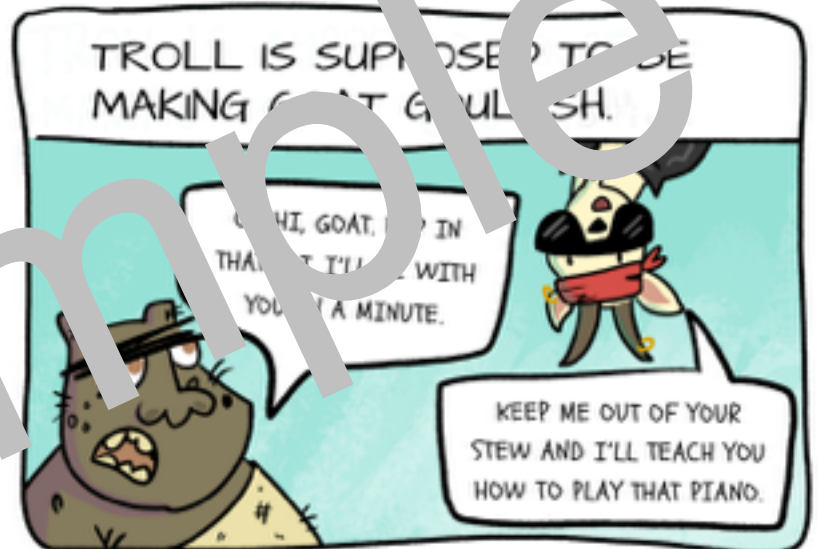
Brick by brick I'll build a wall, ten feet wide and ten feet tall!

5

mp

f

Just you try to huff and puff, wolves are sly but pigs are tough!



let's get
STARTED



- 1 Play the first musical excerpt below. Play it again. Play it again with your eyes closed. Next, move your RH 1 to C above Middle C. Close your eyes and play the same musical pattern one more time.
- 2 Guess what? You just played the second musical excerpt using two new notes: **Treble C and High G!**
- 3 Look at the second musical excerpt. Treble C is a space note (like Bass C). High G sits on top of the staff. With your RH 1 on Treble C, play the second excerpt while saying the note names.





technical EXERCISES

Before you play the exercises below, use any finger to tap all of the Treble Cs. Next, tap all of the Gs.

NEW SKILL ALERT! The third exercise has held notes on the treble staff. Take your time and have fun with this new skill.

1 *mf*

2 *f*

3 *mf*

OVER THE BRIDGE

Clip-Clopping

1

mp *mf* Keep your hoof steps soft and light!

5

mp *mf* Don't disturb me at night!

9

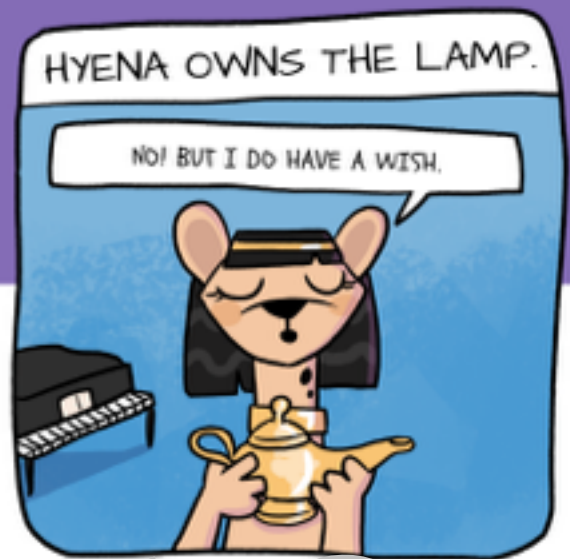
mf Who's that clopping on my bridge?!

13

mp *f* I will put you IN MY FRIDGE!



3
Cross RH over to play the lowest C on the piano



let's get
STARTED



- 1 Let's learn three new notes! High D, E, and F are sandwiched between Treble C and High G.
- 2 D is a line note like D on the bass staff. Point to D on the bass staff below. Point to D on the treble staff below. E is a space note like E on the bass staff. Point to E on the bass staff. Point to E on the treble staff. F is a line note like F on the bass staff. Point to F on the bass staff. Point to F on the treble staff.
- 3 On the piano, play and say the notes on the bass staff. Next, play and say the **new notes** on the treble staff.





Let's practice listening for **steps and skips**. To begin, I will secretly choose five numbers between 1 and 45, record them on a slip of paper, and hide the paper until the game is over.

Next, using the keys Treble C and High D, E, F, and G, I will play a step or a skip. Tell me if you heard a step or skip and then roll a die. If I played a step, color a number of **squares** below that corresponds to the value on the die. If I played a skip, color a number of **circles** below that corresponds to the value on the die. Let's play three more rounds.

ear-training
EXERCISE



Scoring The Game After all rounds are complete, I will reveal the secret numbers. Examine the numbers inside the shape below. Score yourself one point for every colored shape that corresponds to a secret number.

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 |
| 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 |



ALERT! Check your starting position before playing this Move and Groove piece.

Gently

4

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece is in 3/4 time. The right hand plays a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The left hand plays a bass line of quarter notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, B2, A2, G2. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present. A bracket with the number 4 spans the first four notes of the right hand.

mp

5

5

Musical notation for measures 5-8. The right hand continues the melody: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The left hand continues the bass line: G2, A2, B2, C3, B2, A2, G2. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present. A bracket with the number 5 spans the first five notes of the right hand.

mf

9

Musical notation for measures 9-12. The right hand continues the melody: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The left hand continues the bass line: G2, A2, B2, C3, B2, A2, G2. A dynamic marking of *f* is present. A bracket with the number 4 spans the first four notes of the right hand.

f

5

13

Musical notation for measures 13-16. The right hand plays a sequence of chords: G4-A4, G4-A4, G4-A4, G4-A4. The left hand plays a sequence of chords: G2-A2, G2-A2, G2-A2, G2-A2.

13



let's get
STARTED



- 1 Using a colored pencil, trace around each circled finger number that you can find in the music below. In this book, when a circled finger number appears in the music, this is an instruction to move your hand to a new position on the piano keys.
- 2 Using the finger-number clue in the first measure, place your right hand on the piano in its correct position. Now, using the finger-number clue in the second measure, move your right hand to its new position.
- 3 Play the music below. Remember to move your hand when the time is right.



THE SKY IS FALLING

Quickly

f 1. Some - thing bonked me on the head! All at once I'm filled with dread.
 2. Will the king be - lieve my tale? Will he say it's rain or hail?

The first system of music is in 4/4 time. The treble clef has a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3. The bass clef accompaniment consists of quarter notes G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff.

5 *mp* Will the sky come fall - ing down? *f* I should want the king in tow
 Find a hel - met, put it on, 'cuz the chick-e - n is - ve - ry long!

The second system of music continues the melody. It includes a fermata over the final note of the first phrase. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff.

ENDING OF THE KEYS

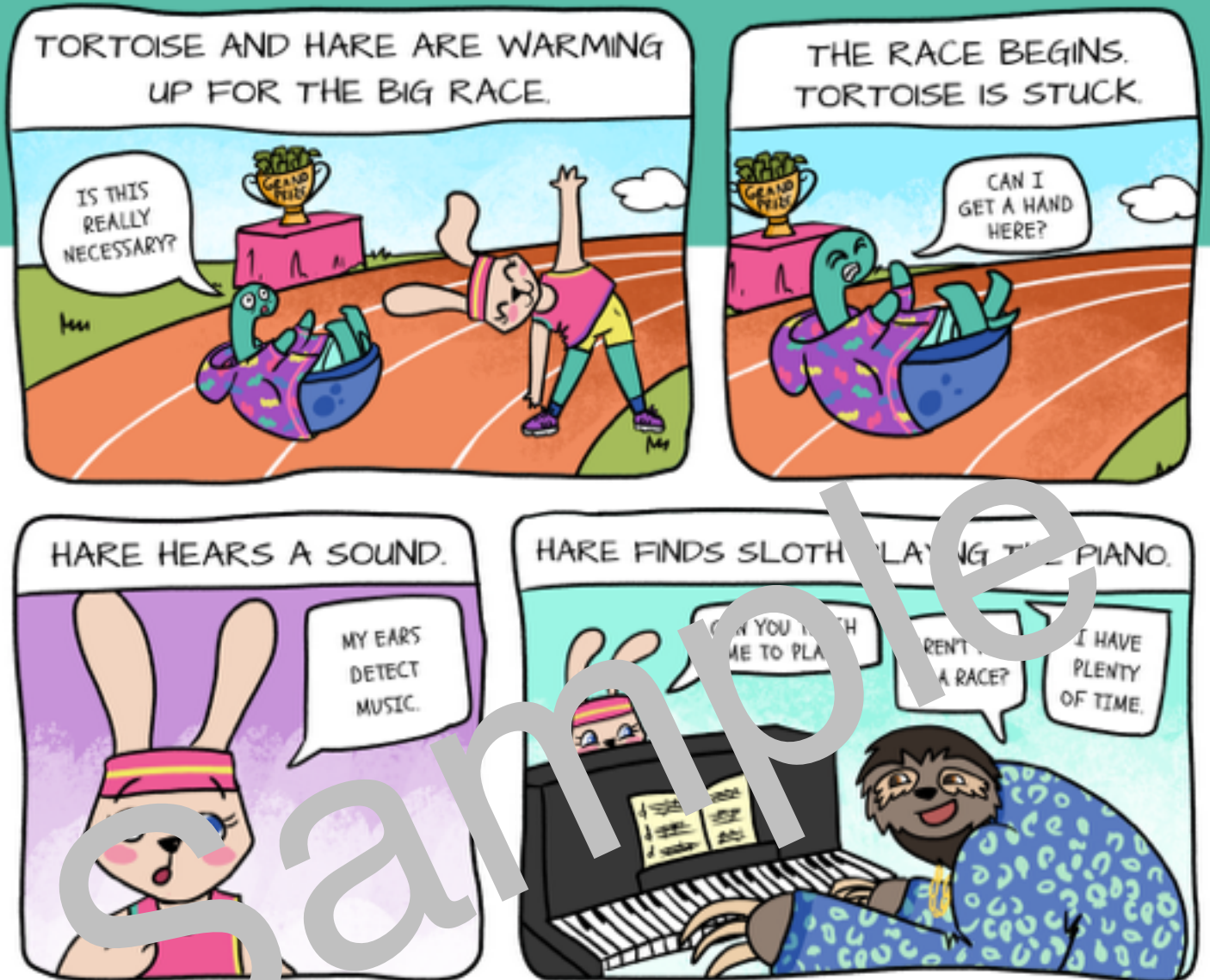


mf

The ending of the first piece is in 4/4 time. The treble clef has a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3. The bass clef accompaniment consists of quarter notes G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff.

5 *f*

The ending of the second piece is in 4/4 time. The treble clef has a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3. The bass clef accompaniment consists of quarter notes G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff.



let's get
STARTED

Look at the treble staff below. **Beginning on the first note** and ending on the second note, count the lines (L) and spaces (S) on the staff. These notes represent a melodic interval of a 3rd. A 3rd is also called a skip. It occurs when a line note follows a line note or a space note follows a space note.

A harmonic interval of a 3rd occurs when two notes representing a 3rd are stacked and played at the same time. Can you play the melodic and harmonic 3rds below?



1L + 1S + 1L = 3rd

3rd



1S + 1L + 1S = 3rd

3rd

SNEAKY SLOTH

ALERT! Check your starting position before playing this Move and Groove piece.

Groovin'

3
1

f Sloth is mo - vin', Sloth is groo - vin' as he crawls a - long the track.

5

Sloth moves slow - ly, Sloth is tired and he will be behind the pack.

9

p Some-thing's hap - pening, some-thing's chang - ing! Sloth is now in se - cond place!

13

4

f Can't be - lieve it! Did you see it? Sloth just won a run - ning race!



GOTTA RUN. MY FLIGHT LEAVES IN THREE MONTHS.



Look at the treble staff below. Beginning on the first note and ending on the second note, count the lines and spaces on the staff. These two notes represent a melodic interval of a 4th. An interval of a 4th (and any interval larger) is also called a leap. A 4th occurs when a space note follows a line note (with a space and a line in between) or a line note follows a space note (with a line and a space in between). A harmonic interval of a 4th occurs when two notes representing a 4th are stacked and played at the same time. Can you play the intervals below?

1L + 1S + 1L + 1S = 4th

4th

1S + 1L + 1S + 1L = 4th

4th



Find an excerpt that contains a melodic interval of a 4th in the music below. Find a different excerpt that contains a harmonic interval of a 4th.

An interval of a 5th occurs when a line note follows a line note (with two spaces and a line in between) or a space note follows a space note (with two lines and a space in between). Can you find a melodic interval of a 5th? A harmonic interval of a 5th?

Finally, let's try a skill-building exercise.

Use the finger-number clues in the music below to find your starting position. Beginning at the animals and ending at the hen, play the four measures of music that connect the two paths. Next, I will use a colored crayon to draw a new four-measure path that begins at the animals and ends at the hen. Try playing along the new path. **Let's play again.**



pick-a-path
SIGHT READING

The exercise consists of six boxes of music notation arranged in two rows of three. The first box contains a piano accompaniment in 4/4 time with a treble clef and a bass clef. The right hand has a whole note chord (F4, A4) and the left hand has a whole note chord (C3, E2). Finger numbers 4 and 2 are written above and below the notes respectively. A dotted line connects the first box to the second box. The second box shows a melodic line on a single staff with four notes: F4, A4, C5, A4. A vertical dotted line connects the second box to the fourth box. The fourth box shows a melodic line on a single staff with four notes: F4, A4, C5, A4. A dotted line connects the fourth box to the sixth box. The sixth box shows a melodic line on a single staff with four notes: F4, A4, C5, A4.



technical EXERCISES

NEW SKILL ALERT! There is a pedal marking in Exercise 3. When you see a pedal marking, you press and hold the damper pedal on the piano until the pedal marking ends before you begin Exercise 3. It's practice pressing and holding the damper pedal.

1 *mp*

2 *p*

3 *p*

Technical exercises 1, 2, and 3 are presented in 4/4 time. Exercise 1 is marked *mp* and features a melody in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. Exercise 2 is marked *p* and features a melody in the bass clef and a bass line in the bass clef. Exercise 3 is marked *p* and features a melody in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. A pedal marking is present in Exercise 3, indicated by a bracket under the bass line.

LAZY DAYS

Peacefully

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece is in 4/4 time. Measures 1-3 feature a piano accompaniment of chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand, marked *mp*. Measure 4 features a melodic line in the right hand marked *f* and a whole note in the left hand. A bracket under measures 1-4 is labeled with a '4' above it and a '2' below it.

Musical notation for measures 5-8. Measures 5-7 continue the piano accompaniment from the first system, marked *mp*. Measure 8 features the melodic line from the first system, marked *f*, and a whole note in the left hand. A bracket under measures 5-8 is labeled with a '5' above it and a '2' below it.

Musical notation for measures 9-12. Measures 9-11 continue the piano accompaniment from the first system, marked *mp*. Measure 12 features the melodic line from the first system, marked *f*, and a whole note in the left hand. A bracket under measures 9-12 is labeled with a '9' above it and a '2' below it.

Musical notation for measures 13-16. Measures 13-15 feature a piano accompaniment of chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand, marked *mp*. Measure 16 features a final chord in the right hand and a whole note in the left hand. A bracket under measures 13-16 is labeled with a '13' above it and a '4' above it and a '1' below it.



DON'T WORRY... AS LONG AS YOU'RE PRACTICING I WON'T ASK YOU FOR HELP.



let's get
STARTED

Can you see a new symbol in the rhythm below? It is called a half rest. It looks like a hat! It is used in music when a composer wants to fill two beats with silence.

Color the circles below the quarter notes red and leave the circles below the quarter rests and half rests blank. How many blank circles will be under a quarter rest? How many blank circles will be under a half rest? Next, clap the rhythm, saying "clap" for quarter notes, "rest" when pausing (don't clap) for a quarter rest, and "rest - rest" when pausing (don't clap) for half rests. Finally, play the rhythm on any key.



NEW SKILL ALERT! You have been playing loud and soft sounds for a long time. Now it's time to play sounds that get gradually louder or gradually softer.

The symbol under the first staff below is called a *crescendo*. It tells you to play sounds getting gradually louder. Listen as I play the measure. Now you try.

The symbol under the second staff below is called a *diminuendo*. It tells you to play sounds getting gradually softer. Listen as I play the measure. Now you try. Let's play an ear-training game!

Game Instructions: Place your finger on the vulture and listen as I play a *crescendo* or *diminuendo*. If I played a *crescendo*, slide your finger along the path until you reach a circle with a "C." If I played a *diminuendo*, slide your finger along the path until you reach a circle with a "D." When you reach the correct circle, color it yellow. Let's keep playing until you reach one of the final two colored circles.

CRESCENDO

DIMINUENDO

FALL FROM THE WALL

With Expression

1

p

2

5

8

9

mf

13

4

p



DO YOU HAVE GLUE... AND AN INTEREST IN PUZZLES?

EGG-CELLENT ASSEMBLY

Gently

Dvořák, arr. by Andrea Dow

Musical notation for measures 1-4. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Measure 1: Treble clef has a triplet of quarter notes (G4, A4, B4) with a slur and a '3' above. Bass clef has a whole note chord (C4, E4, G4). Measure 2: Treble clef has a slur over two quarter notes (G4, A4). Bass clef has a whole note chord (C4, E4, G4). Measure 3: Treble clef has a slur over two quarter notes (G4, A4). Bass clef has a whole note chord (C4, E4, G4). Measure 4: Treble clef has a whole note G4. Bass clef has a whole note chord (C4, E4, G4). Dynamics: *mp* in measure 1, *f* in measure 4.

Musical notation for measures 5-8. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Measure 5: Treble clef has a triplet of quarter notes (G4, A4, B4) with a slur and a '3' above. Bass clef has a whole note chord (C4, E4, G4). Measure 6: Treble clef has a slur over two quarter notes (G4, A4). Bass clef has a whole note chord (C4, E4, G4). Measure 7: Treble clef has a slur over two quarter notes (G4, A4). Bass clef has a whole note chord (C4, E4, G4). Measure 8: Treble clef has a whole note G4. Bass clef has a whole note chord (C4, E4, G4). Dynamics: *mp* in measure 5, *f* in measure 8.

Musical notation for measures 9-12. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Measure 9: Treble clef has a slur over two quarter notes (G4, A4). Bass clef has a whole note chord (C4, E4, G4). Measure 10: Treble clef has a slur over two quarter notes (G4, A4). Bass clef has a whole note chord (C4, E4, G4). Measure 11: Treble clef has a slur over two quarter notes (G4, A4). Bass clef has a whole note chord (C4, E4, G4). Measure 12: Treble clef has a whole note G4. Bass clef has a whole note chord (C4, E4, G4). Dynamics: *mf* in measure 9, *p* in measure 12.

Note: When using the teacher duet, the student part is played one octave higher.

Musical notation for R.H. and L.H. parts. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Measure 1: Treble clef has a whole note chord (C4, E4, G4). Bass clef has a whole note chord (C4, E4, G4). Measure 2: Treble clef has a whole note chord (C4, E4, G4). Bass clef has a whole note chord (C4, E4, G4). Measure 3: Treble clef has a slur over two quarter notes (G4, A4). Bass clef has a whole note chord (C4, E4, G4). Measure 4: Treble clef has a slur over two quarter notes (G4, A4). Bass clef has a whole note chord (C4, E4, G4). Dynamics: *mp* in measure 1, *f* in measure 4.

Musical notation for measure 9. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Measure 9: Treble clef has a whole note chord (C4, E4, G4). Bass clef has a whole note chord (C4, E4, G4). Dynamics: *mf* in measure 9, *p* in measure 9.



ALERT! Check your starting position before playing this Move and Groove piece.

Steadily

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) in the first measure, followed by quarter notes (C5, B4, A4, G4) in the second, third, and fourth measures. The bass clef staff contains whole notes (G3, C4, F3, B2) in the first, second, third, and fourth measures. A dynamic marking of *mp* is placed in the first measure of the treble staff. A finger number '3' is written above the first note of the triplet, and another '3' is written below the first note of the bass staff.

The second system of musical notation starts at measure 5. The treble clef staff contains quarter notes (G4, A4, B4, C5) in the first measure, quarter notes (B4, A4, G4, F4) in the second, quarter notes (E4, D4, C4, B3) in the third, and quarter notes (A3, G3, F3, E3) in the fourth. The bass clef staff contains whole notes (G3, C4, F3, B2) in the first, second, and third measures, and a half note (G3) in the fourth. A fermata is placed over the half note in the bass staff. A box containing the number '5' is in the top left corner.

The third system of musical notation starts at measure 9. The treble clef staff contains quarter notes (G4, A4, B4, C5) in the first measure, quarter notes (B4, A4, G4, F4) in the second, quarter notes (E4, D4, C4, B3) in the third, and quarter notes (A3, G3, F3, E3) in the fourth. The bass clef staff contains whole notes (G3, C4, F3, B2) in the first, second, and third measures, and a half note (G3) in the fourth. A fermata is placed over the half note in the bass staff. A dynamic marking of *mp* is placed in the first measure of the treble staff. A box containing the number '9' is in the top left corner.The fourth system of musical notation starts at measure 13. The treble clef staff contains quarter notes (G4, A4, B4, C5) in the first measure, quarter notes (B4, A4, G4, F4) in the second, quarter notes (E4, D4, C4, B3) in the third, and a whole note (G4) in the fourth. The bass clef staff contains whole notes (G3, C4, F3, B2) in the first, second, and third measures, and a half note (G3) in the fourth. A fermata is placed over the half note in the bass staff. A dynamic marking of *f* is placed in the first measure of the treble staff. A box containing the number '13' is in the top left corner. Below the bass staff, there are two circled numbers: '1' and '5'.

Thank you for previewing
WunderKeys Elementary
Piano Level 1A.

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