

Lesson 3

Orientation

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Course	Read & Play Music
Book 3	Read and Play Tunes with Fascinating Rhythms
Lesson 3	Orientation

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LESSON 3: ORIENTATION

Where we're heading

The purpose of this whole course (*Books 1 to 4*) is to give you a thorough grounding in the essential elements of reading music, while playing the piano to bring the music to life.

By the end of this whole course, **you will be able to read and play the music you want to play, with two hands.**

And how will we get there?

Here's the roadmap we saw at the start of *Book 1*. It shows you how this course is structured in 4 books. You have reached the start of *Book 3*:



Roadmap for the Read & Play Music Course.

By the end of **Book 3**, you will be able to read and play tunes that have much more intricate rhythms than we encountered so far. Then **Book 4** will give you one more major skill, as shown in the roadmap above.

You are making great progress, and there's lots more to come.

You watched this short video at the start of **Book 1**. Please watch it again now so you can see where you're heading on this amazing journey.



Click the blue box above,
or find the video in your **Book 3 Course Materials** page at
www.dempstermusic.com

Recap of Book 1

In **Book 1**, you travelled the first part of the road, and gained the ability to read and play simple tunes. This was your first step in building your musicianship.

Reminder: musicianship is the collection of knowledge and skills needed to be a fine musician.

Here are all the knowledge and skills you acquired when you studied **Book 1**:

- Knowledge of frequency and pitch
- Knowledge of how pitches are represented on a staff with treble clef
- Knowledge of the pitches of the white notes on the piano
- Skill in reading pitches from a staff with treble clef.
- Skill in playing pitches on the piano, playing white notes with your right hand
- Knowledge of how timing is represented in printed music
- Skill in creating a beat
- Skill in reading timing
- Skill in playing music on the piano with correct timing

Recap of Book 2

In **Book 2**, you gained the ability to read and play tunes with two hands. This was a significant step in building your musicianship.

Here are all the knowledge and skills you acquired when you studied **Book 2**:

- Knowledge of how pitches are represented on a staff with bass clef
- Knowledge of how piano music for two hands is shown on the grand staff
- Knowledge of the basics of chords and harmony
- Skill in reading music from a staff with bass clef, and playing it on the piano with your left hand
- Skill in reading music from the grand staff, and playing it on the piano with two hands

What's ahead in Book 3

Now you're embarking on the third leg of your journey.

In **Book 3**, you are about to acquire new knowledge and skills. Here they are:

- Knowledge of notes that are shorter in duration than a beat
- Knowledge of time signatures other than 4/4 and 3/4
- Knowledge of symbols for finding your way around in a piece of music
- Knowledge of how rhythms are used in various styles of music
- Skill in reading and playing complex rhythms
- Skill in playing with accurate timing
- Skill in playing faster, while still being accurate
- Skill in playing with different styles

By learning these new skills, you will continue to build your practical knowledge of music. This will benefit you in your musical pursuits for the rest of your life.

We'll continue approaching this one step at a time. Each step I ask you to do will be just a little more than the previous one.

And you'll do just fine.

The lessons that make up Book 3

The first 3 lessons provide an interesting introduction to Book 3. These lessons give you a quick taste of the subject of rhythm, and show you what you'll be learning in Book 3.

Lesson 1: Read and Play an Interesting Rhythm in 15 Minutes!!

Lesson 2: Have You Ever Wondered . . . What is Rhythm?

Lesson 3: Orientation [this lesson]

PART 1: PRECISION AND SPEED

In Part 1, you will learn about the importance of precise timing in music. You'll start using a tool that is invaluable in achieving precision: the metronome. Then you'll learn my 'Speed-Up-Slowly practice method', which will enable you to gradually increase your speed. Finally I'll give you my Learning Procedure which will bring it all together.

Lesson 4: The Metronome

Lesson 5: Play with Precision

Lesson 6: Read and Play with Precision

Lesson 7: The Two Styles of Playing

Lesson 8: Playing Legato

Lesson 9: Playing Staccato

Lesson 10: Legato and Staccato Mixed

Lesson 11: A Note Followed by Silence

Lesson 12: The Speed-Up-Slowly practice method

PART 2: 8TH NOTES

In Part 2, we take our first in-depth step into the fascinating world of rhythm. An important aspect of this is reading and playing notes that are shorter than a beat in duration. First, you'll learn to read and play 8th notes (an 8th note has half the duration of a quarter note). And you'll explore all the ways that 8th notes can be used to add character to a piece of music.

Lesson 13: Pair of 8th Notes

Lesson 14: Get the Timing from the Notes, Not from the Spacing

Lesson 15: Group of 8th Notes

Lesson 16: 8th Note + 8th Res

Lesson 17: 8th Rest + 8th Note

Lesson 18: Dotted Quarter + 8th: Dotted Rhythm

Lesson 19: 8th + Dotted Quarter

Lesson 20: 8th + Quarter + 8th - Syncopation

Lesson 21: Mixed 8th-Note Rhythms

PART 3: 16TH NOTES

Having become thoroughly familiar with 8th notes in Part 2, we now explore 16th notes. (A 16th note has half the duration of an 8th note.) This greatly expands the rhythms available to us in reading and playing music.

Lesson 22: Introducing 16th Notes

Lesson 23: Group of Four 16th Notes

Lesson 24: 8th + 16th + 16th

Lesson 25: 16th + 16th + 8th

Lesson 26: 16th + 8th + 16th - Syncopation

Lesson 27: Dotted 8th + 16th: Dotted Rhythm

Lesson 28: 16th + Dotted 8th -Scotch Snap

Lesson 29: Mixed 16th-Note Rhythms

PART 4: TRIPLETS

The note types we've learned so far – 8th notes and 16th notes – give us all we need to read and play most published music. There are a few more note types that are less commonly used. In Part 4, we'll learn one of them: the triplet, a note formed when one note (usually a quarter note) is divided into 3 equal parts.

Lesson 30: Triplets

PART 5: TIED NOTES

There are some situations where we have to combine notes together to create a longer note. In Part 5, we learn how this is done using a 'tie'.

Lesson 31: Tie

PART 6: MORE TIME SIGNATURES

Throughout the course so far, all the music has been in the two time signatures that are in most common use: 4/4 and 3/4. In Part 6, we explore the next most frequently used time signatures.

Lesson 32: 2/4 Time

Lesson 33: 6/8 Time

Lesson 34: 6/8 Time, with 8th Notes

Lesson 35: 6/8 Time, with 16th Notes

Lesson 36: Shifting Between Time Signatures

PART 7: MIXED TIMING

So far in Book 3, each lesson has focused on one rhythm at a time. In Part 7, we mix them all together, which is how they are found in real music. ^ discuss with marcia – use of 'rhythm'

Lesson 37: Mixing 8th and 16th Notes

Lesson 38: Mixing 8th Notes and Triplets

Lesson 39: Mixing Everything

Lesson 40: Coming Off the Metronome

PART 8: FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND IN THE MUSIC

In a simple piece of music, you start playing at the beginning and play until you reach the end. But sometimes a composer tells the performer to do something else, such as repeating a section of music or jumping to a different place in the music. In Part 8, we learn the symbols used for this in printed music.

Lesson 41: Numbering Measures

Lesson 42: Repeat Signs

Lesson 43: Jumping Around

PART 9: READ AND PLAY RHYTHMS WITH TWO HANDS

In our exploration of rhythm so far in Book 3, I've mostly had you playing exercises and tunes with one hand at a time (left or right). The purpose of that was to speed up your learning of new rhythms. In Part 9, we put it all back together, playing the new rhythms with two hands.

Lesson 44: 8th Note Rhythms for Two Hands

Lesson 45: 8th Note Rhythms for Two Hands, Advanced

Lesson 46: 16th Rhythms for Two Hands ^triplets?

Lesson 47: Solving Problems with Two-Hand Playing

PART 10: FASCINATING RHYTHMS

In Part 10, we explore examples of how different rhythms are used in various types of music.

Lesson 48: Rhythms in Various Styles of Music

Lesson 49: Grand Finale

Book 3 Tune Album

In this album, you'll find a collection of tunes that exactly fit the skills you've learned in Book 3. You've done some hard work studying this book, and now it's time for some fun.

Glossary

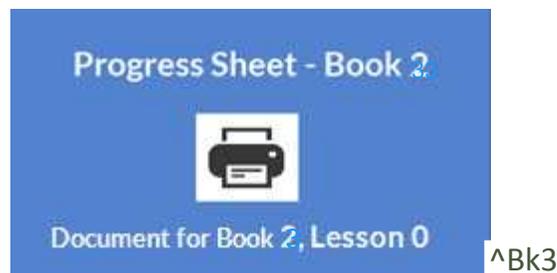
Definitions of all the music terms you've learned in Book 3, and a cumulative glossary of all the terms from Books 1 to 3.

Progress Sheet

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1er4HYAsTS9WWfIPX7g_ez7J4rZlkgC0rt0V-nKZyPM/edit

You might like to print out a Progress Sheet, and sign off each step as you do it. This helps you see how you're progressing through the course.

You can download and print the Progress Sheet for **Book 3** here:



Click the blue box above,
or find the document in your **Book 3 Course Materials Page** at
www.dempstermusic.com

What you need in order to do this book of the course (Book 3)

Type of keyboard

If you're planning on getting a new keyboard, read my guide first:

www.dempstermusic.com, click on Keyboard Buying Guide. It's also good to read the guide just so you understand about the different types of keyboard.

Whatever music keyboard you used for doing **Book 2** of this course can be used for doing this first lesson of **Book 3**. But if all you have is a basic keyboard (as defined in my guide), it would be better if you could upgrade to something more sophisticated. As you progress into **Books 3 and 4**, you are no longer in the baby class. You are becoming a real musician, and you deserve an instrument that allows you to play musically, varying the loudness of each note as you play.

For Book 3, your keyboard also needs to sustain the sound when you hold down a key. If the sound dies out after a couple of seconds, that is not workable for Book 3 and 4.

Metronome

Definition: a **metronome** is a device that makes a regular ticking sound. The metronome can be adjusted to various speeds, measured as beats per minute (BPM). Musicians use a metronome to help control the speed and regularity of their playing.

We're going to be making extensive use of a metronome in this book (Book 3). You need a metronome in order to study Book 3.

Fortunately, these days you can get a metronome for a very low cost, or even free. You'll find a guide to the different types when you get to Lesson 4: The Metronome.

REVIEW

SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO

Congratulations! You are embarking on **Book 3** of 'Read & Play Music'.

It is very important that you are confident in the skills covered in **Book 1** and **Book 2** before you carry on with **Book 3**. I want you to do well in your pursuit of music, and find fun and satisfaction in what you're doing. And the way to achieve that is to be confident of each step before going on to the next one.

So, please do this review of your **Book 2** skills.

If you find you are weak in any of the areas covered by the review, go back to **Book 2** and restudy the relevant part or spend more time doing the exercises. You can also review parts of **Book 1** if you need to. Then you will sail through **Book 3**.

You'll find the answers to the questions at the end of the review. Where you have to play something on your keyboard, I'll give you an audio recording so you can check your playing.

Theory from **Book 2**

(Answers are at the end of the review)

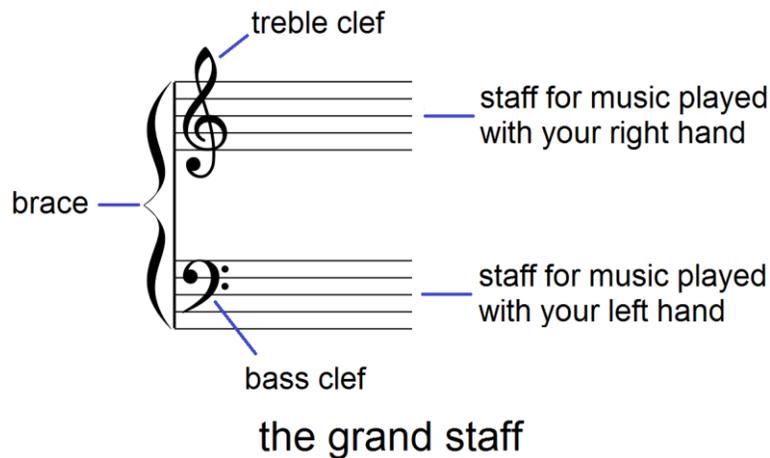
Define these musical terms:

1. brace

2. grand staff (British name: great stave)
3. harmony
4. chord
5. triad
6. broken chord
7. arpeggio

Answers

1. **Brace:** a curved bracket connecting two staves, shown at the left edge of the staves, indicating that both staves are played at the same time on one instrument.
2. **grand staff** (British name: **great stave**): a pair of staves connected by a brace. The grand staff is used for printing the right hand and left hand of piano music together.



3. Harmony:

1. the effect created when a number of pitches are played together.
2. a pleasing effect created when a number of pitches are played together.

4. **chord:** the sound made when a number of notes are played at the same time.

5. **triad:** a chord consisting of 3 notes that appear on 3 consecutive lines or 3 consecutive spaces of the staff.

6. **broken chord:** a chord played one note at a time, instead of all the notes being played at the same time.

7. **Arpeggio:** Another name for a broken chord. See above.