



Lesson 17

The Pitch-Time-Music Practice Method

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In today's world, where so much is changing and information is so freely available, I just want to outline your rights and mine with regard to this booklet, which is part of my home study course 'Read & Play Music'.

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David Dempster

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Book 2	Read and Play Simple Tunes with Two Hands
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LESSON 17:

THE PITCH-TIME-MUSIC PRACTICE METHOD

I gave you this practice method in **Book 1** when you were playing with only your right hand. I want to go over it again now as you may find it very helpful in meeting the greater challenge of reading and playing with two hands.

Start by watching this **Book 1** video again. Do at least a few of the exercises on the video to remind yourself how this method works. Then we'll discuss how to apply this to playing with two hands.



Click the blue box above,
or find the video on your Book 2 Course Materials page at
www.dempstermusic.com

Summary of video

As you've seen, the Pitch-Time-Music practice method has 3 steps:

Step 1: Pitch

Step 2: Time

Step 3: Music

Step 1: Pitch

You already know how to play accurate pitches:

Apply Know-Before-You-Go for two hands.

Step 2: Time

In the video, you saw how to play with accurate time with one hand:

Apply Count-Point-PlayC.

You'll find you can also apply that with two hands. Use lower C to tap out the bass-clef timing with your left index finger, and at the same time use middle C to tap out the timing of the treble-clef music..

Step 3: Music

The final step is to put it all together and play the music (pitch + time). And here is how to do it:

Start slowly.

In step 3, you find a speed slow enough that you can play the music accurately: accurate pitches with accurate timing.

By the time you do step 3, you've already played the pitches with no hesitation (step 1), and you've already played the timing with no hesitation (step 2). You will then be able to put them together and play the music (step 3), *provided you don't start too fast.*

This rule – ‘Start slowly’ – couldn't be simpler! And yet, many music students get into trouble and may even give up completely because they don't know it or don't apply it.

When you play music, you should feel in control. If you start playing too fast, you'll feel like someone learning to ski who is going down too steep a slope. You feel out of control, like you're about to crash at any moment.

When you get that out-of-control feeling while playing music, it means you started too fast. Instead of plunging ahead and making mistakes, go back and start again at a slower speed.

When you find a speed slow enough, you will feel like a beginning skier who has chosen a gentle slope, and is confident he can execute all the motions without falling.

You may have to start at an unbelievably slow speed. You'll see me demonstrate that in the video that's coming up shortly.

When you find the right speed, you will play accurately. Then you can gradually increase your speed, little by little. You'll feel in control all along the way.

Oddly enough, by starting slowly like that, you end up making faster progress.

Give this a try as you play the tunes with two hands in the next lesson.

What's next?

OK, now you're all set to read and play tunes with two hands.

To find Lesson 18, click the green box:

Go on to your next lesson



or go to your Book 2 Course Materials page at
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