

Little Pianist Extras



Five more songs to play, written out the same way as the book: both hands, a brace joining the staves, the note names above the notes, and finger numbers where the hand needs them.

None of these five are among the 55 in Little Pianist — or in any other Navigo book. They are all old enough to be out of copyright and famous enough that somebody in the house will start singing.

1 Old MacDonald Had a Farm

TRADITIONAL · PUBLIC DOMAIN

Five notes, one hand shape, and a left hand that holds one note a bar.

2 Lightly Row

GERMAN FOLK SONG · PUBLIC DOMAIN

A real little piano piece. The hand never moves once you have placed it.

3 Row, Row, Row Your Boat

TRADITIONAL · PUBLIC DOMAIN

Six-eight time, and your first hand move — up to G and straight back.

4 Three Blind Mice

TRADITIONAL · PUBLIC DOMAIN

Two hand positions in one song, and quick notes in pairs.

5 Beethoven's Fifth

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN, 1808 · PUBLIC DOMAIN

Both hands in unison, a black key under finger 3, and a key signature.

Page 2

How to read the letters, the finger numbers and the two staves — plus where to put your hands for each song.

Page 8

Somewhere to tick off each song as you learn it, the words to sing along to, and an honest note about recordings.

Printing. US Letter or A4, one side, at 100% (not “fit to page”), so the staves stay full size. Black and white is fine — nothing here depends on colour.

How these pages work

Three things on every song page that are not on ordinary sheet music.



1

The letters, one per note

Every note has its key name printed next to it: **C D E F G A B**. Read the letter, find the key, play it. **Right-hand letters sit above the top staff, in navy.** **Left-hand letters sit below the bottom staff, in grey.** Where the left hand plays two keys at once, both are printed, the higher key on top. After a week or two most players stop looking and read the notes instead, which is the whole idea.

2

The small numbers

Numbers are **fingers**, not notes. Thumb is 1, index 2, middle 3, ring 4, little finger 5 — in both hands. **A number above the top staff is for the right hand; a number in the gap between the two staves is for the left.** They appear only where a hand is put down or is about to move, so when you see one, look at your hand.

3

Two staves, one brace

The curly brace on the left joins the two staves into one instrument. The top staff is the right hand, the bottom staff is the left. Both hands play from the very first song — the left hand holds one long note, or two keys together, for a whole bar at a time, so it is easier than it looks.

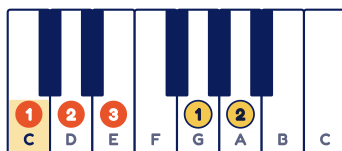
Where to put your hands

The usual hand songs 2, 3, 4 and 5



Right thumb on middle C, one finger per key up to G. The left hand makes the same shape an octave lower, little finger on its C.

Old MacDonald, the hop song 1 — start here



Play C D E with 1-2-3, then hop the whole hand up and play G and A with **1 and 2** (the yellow keys). Hop back for the E's. Easiest on a small hand.

Old MacDonald, the stretch song 1 — if you can reach



One fixed shape: finger 4 skips over F onto G, 5 on A. These are the numbers printed on page 3. C to A is a wide reach — if it hurts, use the hop.

Where the hand moves to songs 3 and 4



For the merrilys, and for the chasing lines in Three Blind Mice, the whole hand slides up so the thumb sits on G.

How long to hold each note



Whole
count 4



Half
count 2



Quarter
count 1



Eighth
half a count

Three more signs



Bird's eye

Hold the note as long as you like, then carry on. Song 5 has five of them.



Rest

A silence, counted just like a note. The short one here is worth half a count.



Flat

Play the black key just to the left. Song 5 needs one: E flat.

Old MacDonald Had a Farm

TRADITIONAL · PUBLIC DOMAIN

C major

4/4

Steady and bouncy



The whole song uses five notes: C D E, then a gap, then G A. Rest your right hand on those five keys before you play anything — feel the gap between fingers 3 and 4. The left hand holds one long note a bar — two keys together only in the very last bar — so it has nothing to do but listen.

The musical score is for the song "The Christmas Song" in 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a piano accompaniment and a vocal melody. The piano part is in the left hand, and the vocal part is in the right hand. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

System 1: The piano part starts with a C major triad (C, E, G) in the right hand and a C major triad (C, E, G) in the left hand. The vocal melody starts with a C4 (middle C) and moves up stepwise to G4. The lyrics are "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire".

System 2: The piano part continues with a C major triad in the right hand and a C major triad in the left hand. The vocal melody continues with a G4 and moves up stepwise to C5. The lyrics are "The snow is falling on the roof".

System 3: The piano part continues with a C major triad in the right hand and a C major triad in the left hand. The vocal melody continues with a C5 and moves up stepwise to G5. The lyrics are "The snow is falling on the roof".

System 4: The piano part continues with a C major triad in the right hand and a C major triad in the left hand. The vocal melody continues with a G5 and moves up stepwise to C6. The lyrics are "The snow is falling on the roof".

Playing it

- **Small hands: hop instead of stretch.** Play C D E with fingers 1–2–3, then hop the whole hand up so the thumb is on G and play G and A with fingers 1 and 2. Hop back down for the E's. This is the easier way, and nothing is lost by using it — page 2 shows both hands side by side.
- **Bigger hands: hold the shape.** Fingers 1–2–3 on C D E, skip over F, then fingers 4 and 5 on G and A — the numbers printed on this page. Press all five down together once, silently, so the shape is in the hand before the tune starts. If reaching from C to A hurts, use the hop above.
- **The moo–moo bars** are all one note, G. They are a rhythm exercise in disguise: say the words out loud while you play them.



Lightly Row

GERMAN FOLK SONG · PUBLIC DOMAIN

C major

4/4

Gently, like rowing



Piano teachers have handed this one to beginners for a hundred years, and it is here for a reason: the right hand never leaves the five keys C D E F G, so once the hand is placed it can stay put for the whole piece and you can think about the sound instead.

1 5 3 4 2 1 C D E F G G G

5 1 C G C C

5 3 4 2 1 C E G G E

9 2 3 G G G G E F G

13 5 1 C G C G C

Playing it

- **One hand position, start to finish.** Thumb on middle C, then 2 3 4 5 on D E F G. Your hand should not need to move once in this piece.
- **Play the two-bar phrases as one breath.** Bars 1-2 are a question, bars 3-4 are the answer. Lift the wrist gently at the end of each half note rather than dropping the next note on top of it.
- **The last bar** jumps from G down to C — finger 5 to finger 1. Look at the C before you leave the G.



Row, Row, Row Your Boat

TRADITIONAL · PUBLIC DOMAIN

C major

6/8

Rocking, in two



Six-eight time: count **1 2 3 4 5 6** but lean on 1 and 4, and the tune rocks like a boat. The merrilys are the only place the hand moves — and they are not random notes, they are a C chord tumbling downhill: C, G, E, C.

1 C C C D E E D E F 4

5

4 5 G C C C G G E E E C C C

hand up - thumb on G back home

7 5 G F E D C 1

G G C

Try it as a round

You

Row, row, row

your boat...

Merrily...

...but a dream

A grown-up

Row, row, row

your boat...

Merrily...

...but a dream

The second player starts when the first reaches "gently down the stream". The two tunes fit on top of each other because the left hand never leaves C.

Playing it

- **Count in two.** Say "ONE-two-three FOUR-five-six" out loud twice before you start, then keep saying it while you play.
- **The hand move, in two easy halves.** At the merrilys, slide the whole right hand up so the thumb sits on G — finger 4 lands on the high C. Then, on the three G's at the end of that same bar, the hand comes *home*: play them with finger 5, thumb back on middle C. That way nothing has to move at the barline. Practise just those six notes on their own before you play the line.
- **It is a round.** Once it is comfortable, ask a grown-up to start singing it two bars after you begin. The left hand's held C is what makes the round work.



Three Blind Mice

TRADITIONAL · PUBLIC DOMAIN

C major

4/4

Not too fast



Two halves, two hand positions. The first four bars sit in the usual place, thumb on middle C. Then the hand moves up so the thumb sits on G, and it stays there for the three chasing lines before coming home for the last bar.

Hand position 1: Thumb on middle C. Notes: E (3), D (2), C (1). Chords: G C, G C.

Hand position 2: Thumb on G. Notes: G (5), F (4), F (3), E. Chords: G, G C.

Hand position 3: Thumb on middle C. Notes: G (1), C (4), C (3), B (2), A, B, C, G, G. Chords: G C, G, G C, G.

Hand position 4: Thumb on middle C. Notes: E (3), D (2), C (1). Chords: G C, G, G C.

Playing it

- **Learn the two positions separately.** Play bars 1-4 until they are easy. Then, without playing, practise sliding the hand up so the thumb rests on G and finger 4 reaches the high C. Only then join them up.
- **Bar 5 repeats three times** — for the farmer's wife, the carving knife and the sight in your life. Same notes every time, so it is three goes at the same line, not three new ones.
- **The two quick notes** in "see how they *run*" are eighth notes, twice as fast as the others. Say "see-how-they-RUN" and let the rhythm of the words do the counting.



Both hands play exactly the same thing, one octave apart, which is why it sounds enormous for how few notes it is. Three flats at the start of the line mean B, E and A are black keys — but this piece only ever needs one of them, the E flat under finger 3.

Measure 1: G G G E $\flat$ F F F D

Measure 2: G G G E $\flat$ F F F D

Measure 3: G G G E $\flat$ F F F D

Measure 4: G G G E $\flat$ F F F D

Measure 5: G G G E $\flat$ F F F D

Measure 6: G G G E $\flat$ F F F D

Measure 7: G G G E $\flat$ F F F D

Measure 8: G G G E $\flat$ F F F D

Measure 9: G G G C

Playing it

- **Set both hands first.** Right hand: thumb on middle C, finger 3 on the black key E flat, finger 5 on G. Left hand: little finger on the C below, finger 3 on its E flat, thumb on G. The shape is the same in both hands.
- **The rest matters.** Each line starts with a short silence. Count "rest-2-3-4" in your head, or the three quick notes arrive early and the joke is gone.
- **Hold the long notes.** The bird's-eye mark over the E flat and the D means "stay here as long as you like". Count four slowly, listen to it fade, then go on.
- **Two of these lines are ours, not Beethoven's.** He plays the opening once and then carries on for another half hour; here the second line repeats the first, so you get two goes at it, and the last line (G G G, C) is ours, so the page finishes at home.

Before you go

Two notes about these five, somewhere to keep score, and the words to sing.



There are no recordings of these five

Every song in Little Pianist comes with a recording, and these five do not — not yet. They were written out for you rather than played into a microphone, so this booklet could reach you straight away. If we record them, everyone who has this booklet gets the link, at no cost and with no sign-up.

What to play next

The Practice Kit that came with this booklet has a star chart for all 55 songs in the book, a practice week to fill in and two certificates. After these five, the best next step is the plainest one: start again at the front of Little Pianist and play straight through. The songs that were hard in January are the easy ones by March.

I can play...

Colour in the star when a song goes all the way through without stopping, and write the date.



Old MacDonald Had a Farm

Date _____



Lightly Row

Date _____



Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Date _____



Three Blind Mice

Date _____



Beethoven's Fifth

Date _____

Words to sing while you play

Old MacDonald Had a Farm

Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O.
And on his farm he had a cow, E-I-E-I-O.
With a moo-moo here and a moo-moo there...

Lightly Row

Lightly row, lightly row, o'er the glassy waves we go.
Smoothly glide, smoothly glide, on the silvery tide.

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Row, row, row your boat, gently down the stream.
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily, life is but a dream.

Three Blind Mice

Three blind mice. Three blind mice.
See how they run. See how they run.
They all ran after the farmer's wife...