

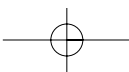
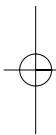
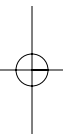
Getting a child to play piano has never been easier!

Play Piano in a Flash for KIDS!

**Buy The Complete Version of This Book at  
Booklocker.com:**

<http://www.booklocker.com/p/books/2560.html?s=pdf>

# Play Piano in a Flash... for Kids!



# Play Piano in a Flash . . . for Kids!

Scott Houston  
with Susan Stone Tidrow

 HYPERION

New York

Copyright © 2005 Houston Enterprises, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without the written permission of the Publisher. Printed in the United States of America. For information address Hyperion, 77 West 66th Street, New York, New York 10023-6298.

ISBN 1-4013-0863-5

Hyperion books are available for special promotions and premiums. For details contact Michael Rentas, Assistant Director, Inventory Operations, Hyperion, 77 West 66th Street, 11th floor, New York, New York 10023, or call 212-456-0133.

First Edition

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

What kind of music do you like?

What are your favorite songs to listen to  
on the radio?

What kinds of CDs do you like to buy?

Every kid that I know has some pretty strong opinions about music, so I'm sure that you didn't have any trouble answering those questions.

But here is a question that might be a little harder for you to answer: Have you ever watched or heard someone playing one of your favorite songs on the piano or keyboard and wished that you were the one playing?

And then have you ever said to yourself, "Boy, I sure would like to be able to play the piano, just for fun! But I don't want to take piano lessons every week and really practice a lot."

Maybe you have even tried to play the piano before but it was just too hard, or you never even got to play any of the songs you wanted to learn how to play. You thought, "Oh well, forget it. It's too hard!"

No, no, no!! Please, please don't forget it!! I have great news for you!

This book, *Play Piano in a Flash . . . for Kids*, has been written for kids just like you—kids who want to learn how to play what is called *popular-style piano* or, as you may think of it, playing piano “just for fun.”

This book will teach you how to play piano the way you hear professionals play when you listen to CDs of music that you love.

At the end of the book, there is an extra section called Nuts and Bolts. Here you will find some extra information that you don't really need to actually start playing the piano—just some other stuff about music that you might like to know for fun.

Here's how it works!

While you are reading this book, either by yourself or with an adult, you will learn to play the piano in your own home. Whether you are taking weekly piano lessons or not.

Since you will be able to choose the songs that you want to learn how to play, you'll be able to learn as many or as few songs as you wish; in other words, you can learn at your own speed!

Now you might be thinking, “OK, this sounds pretty cool, but playing the piano still looks

hard. How will I know which keys to push down? I don't know if I can play with both of my hands together. And I don't know anything about reading music notes."

Don't worry!

There are really only three things that you need to know:

1. Which key is which
2. Which key the music notes tell you to push down
3. How long to hold the keys down

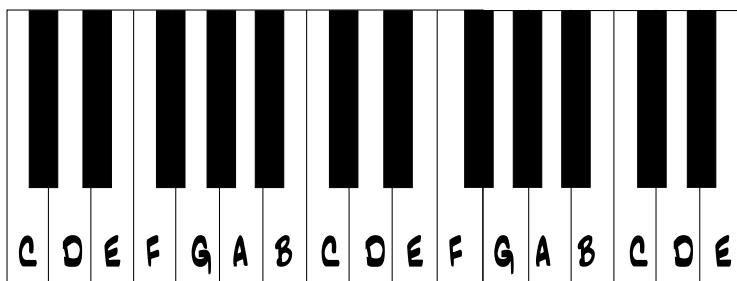
After you learn those three things, playing the piano is just as easy as pressing a button to turn on a television or turning a light switch on and off! All you have to do is press a button, flip a switch, or push down a piano key. Anyone can do it, right?

Here's how we will learn the three things that you need to know to play the piano:

In order to know which key is which, you will need to learn that each key on the piano has a letter name. Remembering these letter names is not very hard, though, because for music note reading and keyboard letters, we use only the first seven letters of the alphabet (A, B, C, D, E, F, and G) for the white keys. Each time we get to the letter G, we simply start over again at A.



I'm sure that you can guess that this group of letters is repeated many times on the piano keyboard, since there are obviously more than seven keys! For now we're just going to be paying attention to the white keys. We'll learn the black keys a little later . . .



Names of White Notes Keep Repeating A Through G

Next, you will need to learn a little about reading music notes so that you will know which key on the piano to push and how long to hold it down.

Don't worry, though, because you will need to learn to read only one line of music notes at a time, not the several notes at a time that are found in regular piano sheet music.

It's kind of like when you were first learning how to read, remember? First you learned your letters. Then you learned how to read small words. Next you put the words together in a sentence. Now reading is easy, right?

Your right hand will be learning how to do pretty much the same thing. First, you will learn to read and play short combinations of notes (called a melody instead of a word), then longer and longer ones. After that, all you have left to learn is the four different types of notes and how long they last. You'll be able to play the melody of your favorite song in less than a week!

Learning how to play popular-style piano with your left hand is even easier because your left hand will not have to play as many notes as your right hand. It will be playing groups of notes called chords.

A chord is just more than one key pressed down at the same time. In our style of playing, most chords are either three or four notes played at the same time.

Also, most songs use only four or five chords, and many of the most common chords are used over and over again in lots of different songs.

Whenever you get ready to learn a new song, all you need to do is look at the chord charts in the back of this book to see what notes are in the chords found in that particular song.

Before long, you will know most of the common chords, and you will only have to look up any new chords that you might find in new songs.

That's it! That's all you have to know in order to play popular-style piano!

As you can see, it's a lot easier than learning how to play traditional classical-style piano and a lot faster too!

It's not that one style is better than another. They are just different.

Let's compare popular-style piano playing and classical-style piano playing to two sports. How about basketball and baseball?

One sport is not better than the other one. They are just different. Some people like one and some people like the other. Lots of people learn how to play both sports.

It's the same with piano playing. Some people like classical-style piano playing and some people like popular-style piano playing. And just like with sports, lots of people learn how to play both styles of piano playing.

Speaking of learning, let's get started!

Can you really learn how to play the piano?

Yes, you can!

You'll be playing your favorite song on the piano before you know it!

Getting a child to play piano has never been easier!

Play Piano in a Flash for KIDS!

**Buy The Complete Version of This Book at  
Booklocker.com:**

<http://www.booklocker.com/p/books/2560.html?s=pdf>