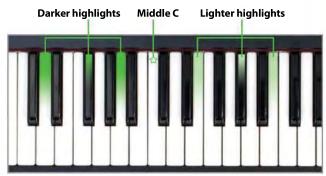
Notes and keys

Throughout this book, you will see top-down images of a keyboard with the keys highlighted. The darker highlights show the keys played in the image, while the lighter highlights show the keys that need to be played in the step





Control the volume with dynamics

Inject more personality into your music

Set and change the tempoEnsure your jigs are jolly and your ballads are slow

Add articulations to notes
Play notes with character and style

Use musical ornaments
Learn about these extra decorations

Playing the piano

Warm up your hands
Limber up before you practise

60 Introducing musical scales
Understand how scales are formed

The C major scale
A great first step for beginners

The F major scale

A scale that contains a black key

The G major scale

The major scale that has one sharp

The D major scale
Discover the scale with two sharps

70 The A minor scales
The scale with three formats

72 D minor scales
A minor scale with a flat



7 Learn about intervals

Playing two notes at the same time

78 Understanding chords
How to construct and play common chords

Using inversions

Achieve a different take on chords

Major chords
An essential tool for budding pianists

Minor chords
The mood-swingers of your chord repertoire

Suspended chords

Shake things up and add some variation

Augmented chords
Add a bit of spice to your chords

Diminished chords
How to use them properly

Dominant seventh chords
Introducing four-note chords

Major seventh chords
A warm, jazzy-sounding chord type

Minor seventh chords
How to transform a plain minor triad

Use chord progressions
The first step towards writing a song

Left-hand patternsUse your left hand to support a melody

Learn arpeggiosBreak up chords to make your music flow

The next step

Get to grips with recordingStart recording your very first masterpiece

Play through a computer

Hook up to a PC or Mac to access new sounds

Record on a Mac
Record concertos from the comfort of your Mac

1 1 \(\O\\) Record on a PC

Learn about Audacity

Improve your technique

with apps Get creative with an iPhone or iPad

Play in the style of

We outline the various musical genres and sounds that can be achieved on your piano

Pop
Pleasant progressions and simple melodies

Blues
A broad genre with a few defining characteristics

122 Jazz
A passionate and diverse genre

The Classical periodRich, obvious melodies and simple patterns

126 The Romantic period Expressing freedom and creativity

128 Contemporary piano music Fusing classical and pop

Reference

Helpdesk
Answering common queries

142 Glossary
Musical terms explained

144 Essential scales
All the scales you need to know

152 Chords list
All the chords that matter

"Deciding to take the first step towards discovering your musical talents is worthwhile at any age"