

TEACHING LIFE THROUGH MUSIC, AND MUSIC THROUGH LIFE



Music Tution

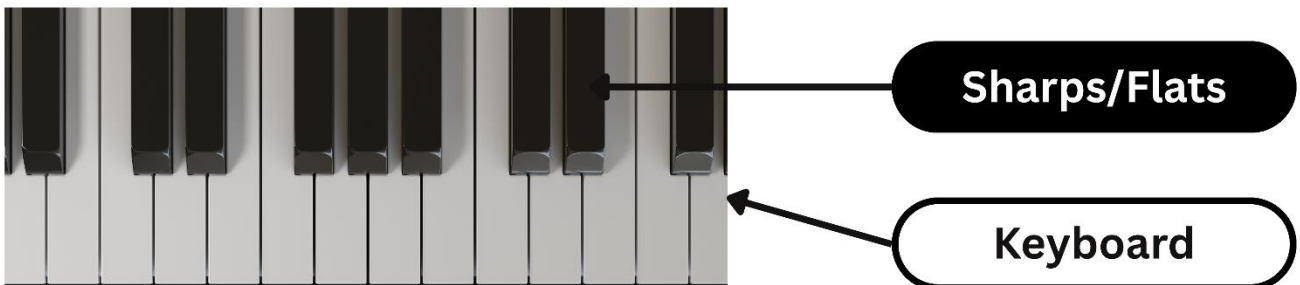
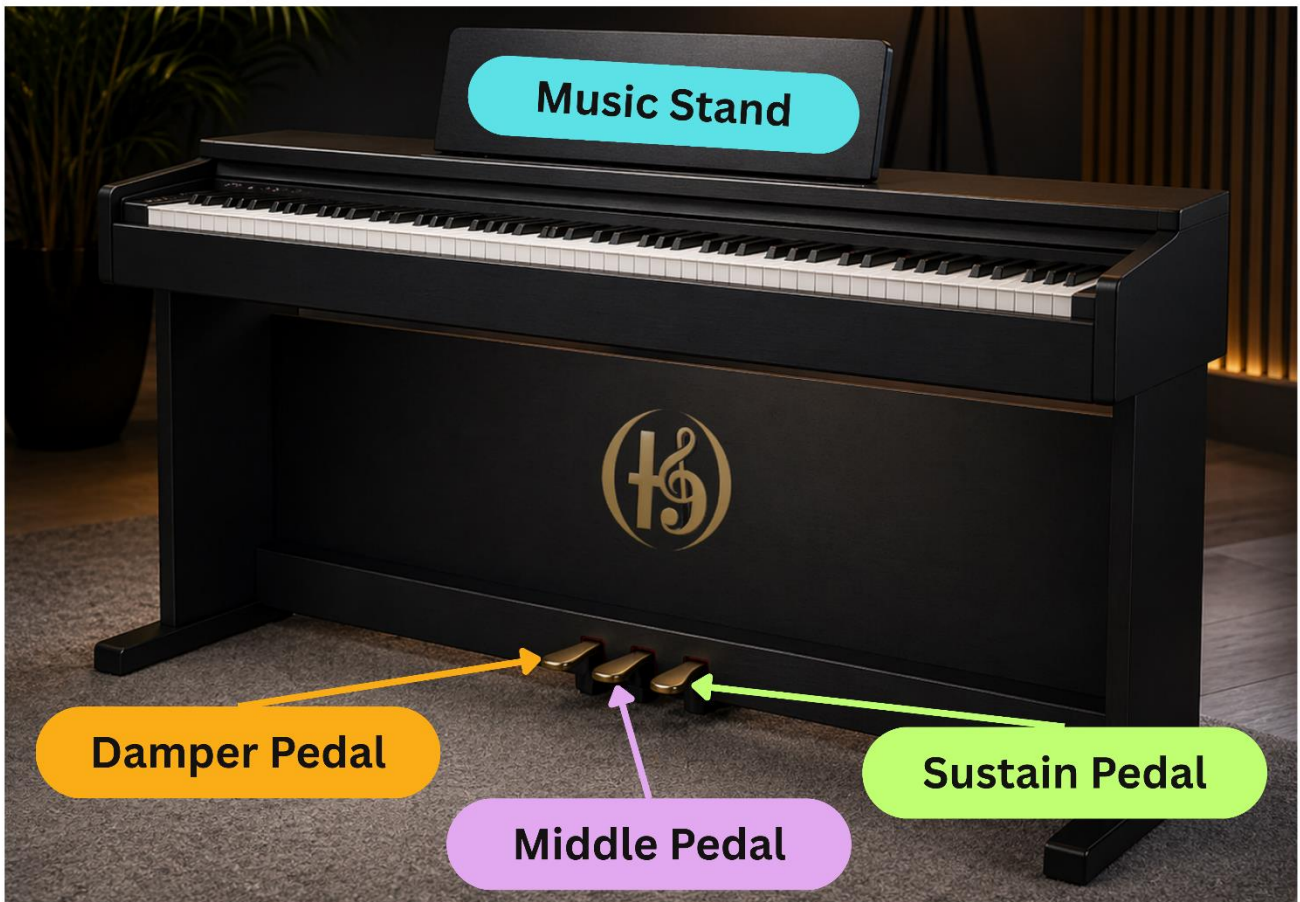
PIANO

QUICK START GUIDE



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Piano/Keyboard Diagram



Sustain Pedal (Right Pedal)	Lifts all dampers from the strings so notes continue to ring after the keys are released.
Soft / Damper Pedal (Left Pedal)	Reduces the volume and creates a softer tone when played.
Sostenuto (Middle Pedal)	Holds only the notes that are already pressed when the pedal is used, while new notes can be played normally.

Welcome to Your Piano Quick Start Guide!

Kia ora! (A traditional Māori greeting from New Zealand)

My name's **Hamish**, and I'm based in Palmerston North, New Zealand. Over the years, I've had the privilege of helping learners of all ages build confidence through music.



One of my favourite things is seeing people go from:

“I wish I could play...”

to

“Hey... I can do this!”

Inside this guide, you'll find beginner-friendly chords, helpful diagrams, tuning tips, rhythm ideas, and practical tools to help you get started quickly and confidently.

This booklet is designed to be **clear, simple, and useful**. No unnecessary fluff — just the foundations you need to start making real progress.

Keep it nearby, practise a little at a time, and most importantly —

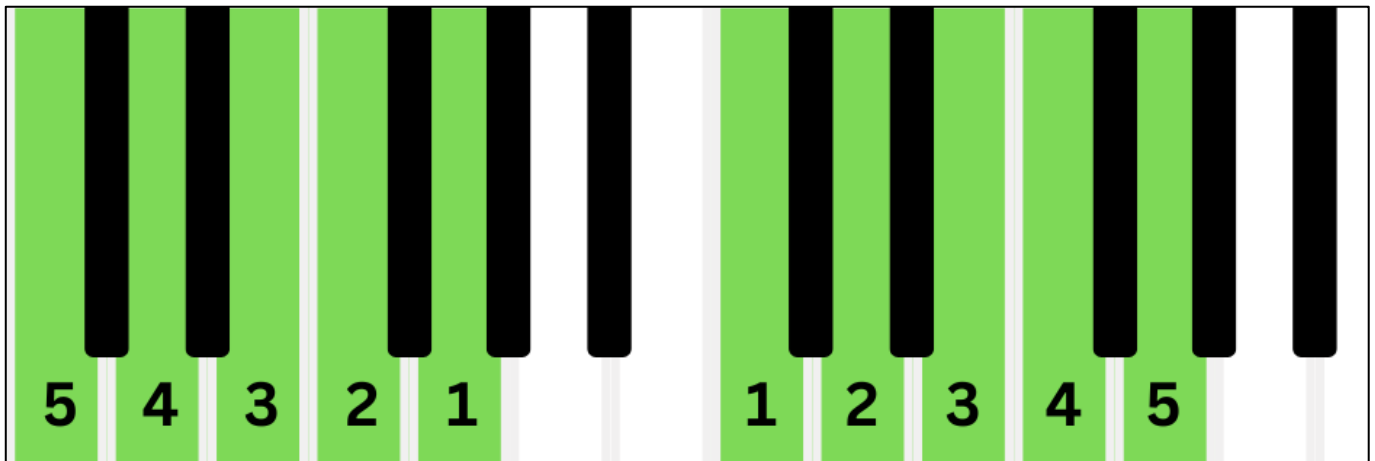
Enjoy the journey.

Hamish Guthrie

Understanding your Digital Piano or Keyboard

Power Button	Turns the digital piano on and off.
Volume Control	Adjusts how loud or soft the sound is.
Keyboard / Keys	The part you press to play notes, chords, and melodies.
Display Screen	Shows settings, sounds, tempo, and menu options.
Voice / Tone Button	Lets you choose different instrument sounds such as piano, organ, or strings.
Style / Rhythm Section	Provides backing rhythms or automatic band-style accompaniment such as pop, rock, jazz, or waltz patterns.
Tempo Control	Changes the speed of rhythms, songs, or metronome beats.
Metronome Button	Produces a steady click to help keep time while practising
Record Button	Allows you to record and play back your performance
Transpose Function	Raises or lowers the pitch of the keyboard without changing finger positions
Split Mode	Divides the keyboard into two sections with different sounds on each side
Layer / Dual Mode	Combines two sounds together, such as piano and strings
Pedal Inputs	Connection points for sustain or other pedals
Headphone Jack	Allows private practice using headphones
USB / MIDI Port	Connects the piano to computers, apps, or other devices

Finger Locations for "C" Position



Mary Had a Little Lamb

Right Hand ♩	3	2	1	2	3	3	3	}	2	2	2	}	3	5	5	}	3	2	1	2	3	3	3	}	2	2	3	2	1
Left Hand ♭	C Chord 5, 3, 1				C Chord 5, 3, 1				G⁷ Chord 1, 2				'C Chord' 5, 3, 1				'C Chord' 5, 3, 1				'C Chord' 5, 3, 1				G⁷ Chord 1, 2				C

Note Values

# Beats per note	4 Beats	2 Beats	1 Beat	½ Beat	¼ Beat
British Term	Semibreve	Minim	Crotchet	Quaver	Semiquaver
Note Symbol					
American Term	Whole	Half	Quarter	Eighth	Sixteenth
Rest Symbol					

Reading

Music



Treble Clef

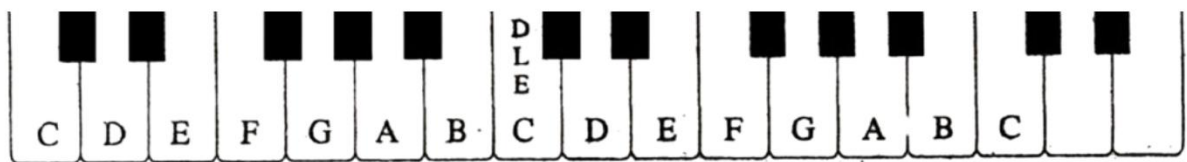
Line Notes
E very
G ood
B oy
D eserves
F ruit

Space Notes
F avourite
A unties
C all
E veryday

Bass Clef

Line Notes
G ood
B oys
D eserve
F ruit
A lways

Space Notes
A ll
C ows
E at
G rass

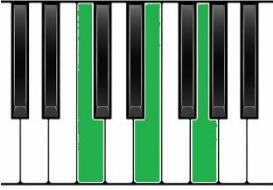


Intro to Accompaniment Playing

Accompaniment playing means using the piano to support singing or another instrument by creating harmony, rhythm, and a steady musical foundation.

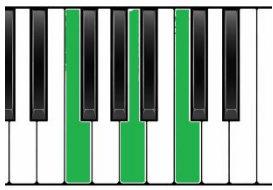
↓ For this activity, you'll need 3 chords (played in your *right hand*) ↓

C Major



Left Hand: C
Right Hand: C E G

F Major



Left Hand: F
Right Hand: F A C

G Major



Left Hand: G
Right Hand: G B D

C ///	F ///	C ///	C ///
F ///	F ///	C ///	C ///
G ///	F ///	C ///	C ///

Using Ratios / Rhythm Patterns

You can repeat notes and chords in simple counting patterns to keep time.

Together	Both hands press down at the same time
Left	Just the left-hand plays
Right	Just the right-hand plays

Try these Examples:

1:4 Ratio	Play (and hold) the bass note once and chord 4 times Count → <i>(Together, Right, Right, Right)</i>
1:2 Ratio	Play (and hold) the bass note once and chord 2 times Count → <i>(Together, Right, Together, Right)</i>
Waltz Ratio	Play (and hold) the bass note once followed by the chord 2 times Count → <i>(Left, Right, Right)</i> <i>Note: There are 3 counts per bar.</i>

Bonus Chord Reference Chart

	Major Chord Formula: 1 - 3 - 5 <i>A bright, happy, and uplifting sound.</i>	Minor Chord Formula: 1 - b3 - 5 <i>A sad, mellow, and emotional sound.</i>	Seventh Chord Formula: 1 - 3 - 5 - b7 <i>A rich, jazzy, and expressive sound.</i>
A			
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			

Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Chord	A chord is a set combination (2 or more in my one hand) of notes played at the same time. <i>Example, if press down the C, E, and G on a piano keyboard, then you will be playing the "C Major" chord. And... this combination can be played in any order (see the definition of 'Inversion' below)</i>
Major	A chord or scale that generally sounds happy, bright, or uplifting. A major chord is made from the root note, major third, and perfect fifth.
Minor	A chord or scale that generally sounds sad, mellow, or serious. A minor chord is made from the root note, minor third, and perfect fifth.
Seventh	A chord that adds the seventh note of the scale to a major or minor chord, giving it a jazzy or bluesy sound.
Sharp	A symbol that raises a note by one semitone (half step). For example, F becomes F#.
Flat	A symbol that lowers a note by one semitone (half step). For example, B becomes Bb.
Tuner	A device or app that helps you check (and adjust) instrument tuning (more relevant for stringed instruments like Ukulele and Guitar) to ensure we're playing the correct pitch.
Metronome	A device or app that produces a steady beat to help you keep time when practising.
Beat	The basic unit of time in music, like the pulse you tap your foot to.
Root Position	A chord played with the root note as the lowest note. Example: C Major = C, E, G.
1st Inversion	A chord played with the third of the chord as the lowest note. Example: C Major = E, G, C.
2nd Inversion	A chord played with the fifth of the chord as the lowest note. Example: C Major = G, C, E.
Arpeggio	When you play a chord (usually 3 or more) as a broken chord (i.e., for a C Major arpeggio you would play C, E, G, E, C (you may also play an additional 'C' above the root chord shape. This is also known as an ' Octave ' or ' 8va ').



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