

Piano **suite** Classroom

Chapter 1: Lesson 3

Chapter 1: Introductory Theory, The Treble Clef, Bar Lines, Note Values, Rests, & The Bass Clef

Lesson 3

This lesson plan was written for use with Piano Suite Premier software, and is intended as a guideline and procedure for 1 week (5 hours) of music instruction. For specific information on Piano Suite Premier and how to purchase, please visit one of the following links:

<http://www.adventus.com/purchase/premier.html>

<http://www.adventus.com/purchase/bundle.html>

Lesson Overview

The student will review the following:

Theory:

- I-2: Posture and Hand Position, pages i - iv.

Songs:

- “Here We Go in a Row (2)”
- “Lightly Row (2)”

The student will learn about the “rest” in music and create a piece of music in the Composer.

New Vocabulary

rest, compose, composer, composition

Prior Knowledge and Experiences

The student has had the opportunity to play a number of songs/exercises using Wait for Note.

New Material

Theory:

- 2-1: Musical Rests, pages i - iv

Review Material

Theory:

- Note Values

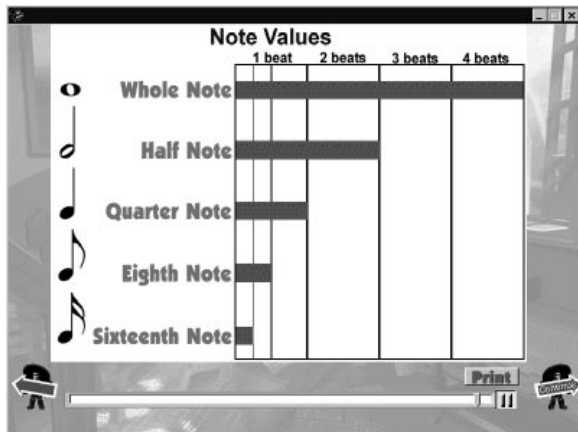
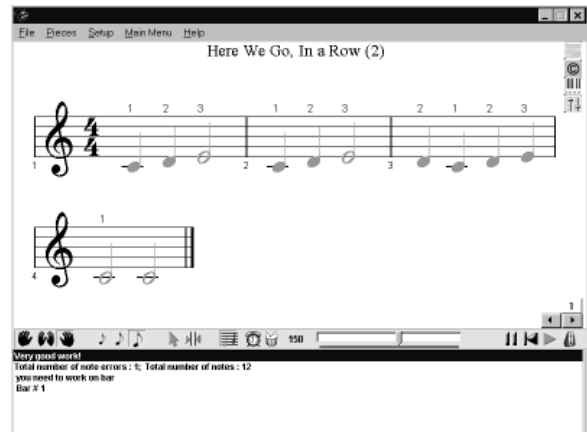
Songs:

- “Here We Go in a Row (2)”
- “Lightly Row (2)”

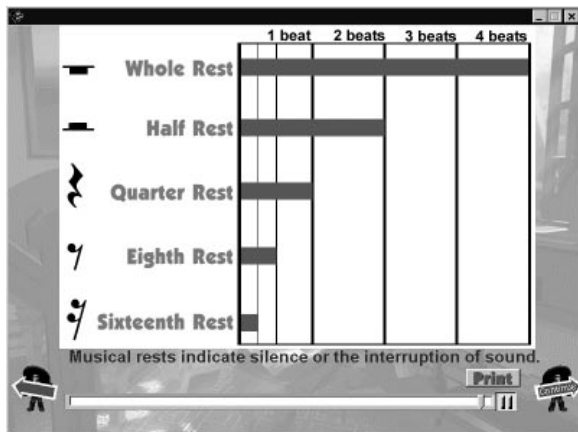
Procedure

Open the Piano Player and then select the song “Here We Go in a Row (2)”. Review this song by practising the right hand part only using the “Wait For Note” method. Practice this song until you can achieve a score of “Very Good Work” (or better).

Now practice the song “Lightly Row (2)” using the “Wait For Note” method. Proceed to the next part of this lesson when a score of “Very Good Work” (or better) can be accomplished on this song.



Open the Theory Thinker and review theory pages i - iv in Topic 1 -2: “Posture and Hand Position”. This information outlines the basics for a good playing technique and should be implemented each time you practice. Now click on the Theory Topic 2-1 “Musical Rest” and view page i: “Review Note Values”.

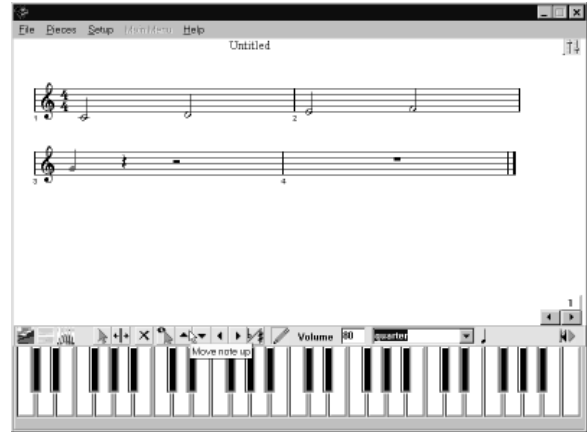


You will be using various note values in the next part of this lesson. You can continue on to pages ii - iv and learn about the “rest” in music.

Now that you have reviewed the above songs and theory pages, you are ready to compose your own song.

Open the Composer, and click on the “Show Music” button. Create a piece in the composer using the notes C D E F and G on the treble clef staff. You can use some or all of the following rhythms: whole note, half note, quarter note, eighth note, as well as whole rest, half rest, quarter rest and eighth rest. Your piece will be four measures long for this composition exercise.

To compose, click on the pencil tool and then click on the note value selection box. Select a note type (for example: eighth note), place the mouse drawing cursor over the staff and then left click. A note appears on the staff. You can move this note up/down on the staff using the up/down arrow buttons in the composer.



Remember, for this composition you are only using the notes C, D, E, F, and G. If you cannot remember where these notes are on the staff, review theory topic 1-1 page ii.

For an example of a four measure piece, you can listen to the song “Here We Go in a Row (2)”. What is the last note of this song?

When writing your own piece, try this note as the last note for your song. Also experiment by moving this note up/down and change it to one of the other four notes which you can use for this exercise. How do these notes sound for the last note of your song? The last note that you keep for your song is your choice, however this note should give the listener a sense of resolution.

When you are finished composing, type in a name for your song and save it in the Custom Library. You can also save it as a MIDI file and e-mail it to one of your friends.

Indicators of Success

- You can play the following songs using the “Wait For Note” method and right hand only and can achieve a score of “Very Good Work” (or better): “Here We Go in a Row (2)”, and “Lightly Row (2)”.
- You are able to create a piece in the composer using only the suggested notes and rhythms.

Enrichment Activities

- Add lyrics to your song as well as a picture which relates to the lyrics.
- Expand on the piece composed in this lesson. Make it into an eight measure piece. Suggested questions: Do you have to change the first four measures now that you are making your piece longer? Should the new section be similar to the first four measures or can it be extremely different. What is the last note in the fourth measure? What note does the song end with?
- Listen to various eight measure long pieces in the Piano Player as an example of how the first and last four measures of a piece can relate to and/or differ from each other. See “suggested songs” below.

Additional Materials

An alternate way to compose, and one that will be used often as you learn to play the keyboard, is to play the keyboard along with the metronome instead of drawing in the notes. To record in this manner, open the composer and click on the record button. Press any key on the piano keyboard to start the metronome. You will see a countdown displayed at the top left of the composer’s recording screen. After the countdown, play your song on the keyboard and click on the stop button when you are finished. Click on the “Show Music” button to see your song displayed on the staff. You can now edit your song by clicking on the edit button (pencil). Type in a title for your song and save it.

Suggested Songs

Here are a few examples of songs which are eight measures long which may serve as an example for your extended composition:

- “Mary Had a Little Lamb (1)”
- “Old Grey Goose (1)”