Hosanna Praise

Hymns Made Really Easy for Piano

Lesson Book 1



Andrew Hsu

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May 2026

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Preface

Hallelujah, praise the Lord!

This piano lesson book is designed for complete beginners who wish to learn to play hymns, especially those who feel called to serve in church where there is a need for pianists.

Based on *Hymns of Praise: Really Easy Piano 469*, this book provides a clear, step-by-step approach with simple and practical instructions for learning to play hymns. All arrangements are written in just three primary keys—C, G, and F major—making them easy to understand and apply.

The right hand focuses on clear melodic lines, while the left hand remains within a five-finger position. This allows the player to build confidence while concentrating on expression and musicality.

May the love of God inspire and encourage us all to use the musical talents He has given us, learning and serving Him with diligence. May all glory, honour and praise be unto His holy name. Amen.

Andrew Hsu
Edinburgh, UK
May 2026

Welcome to Hosanna Praise

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Things you need to know before you begin

Rhythm

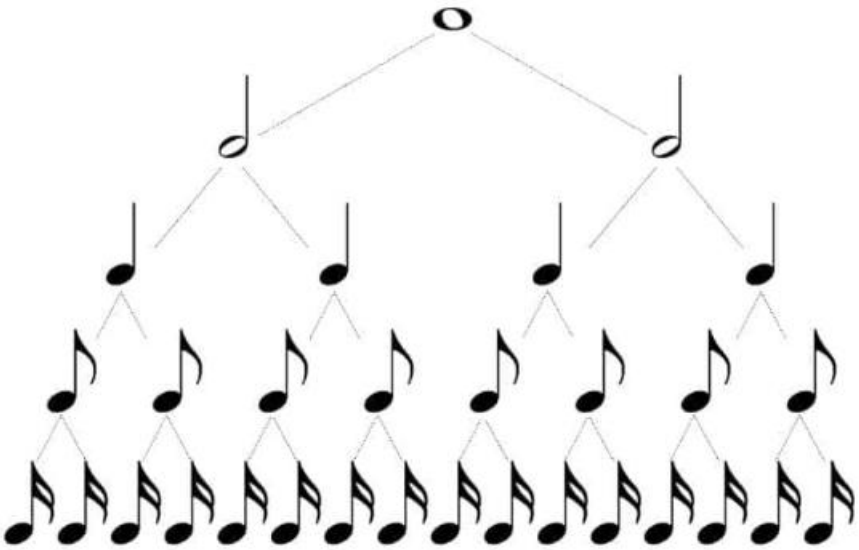
Semibreve

Minim

Crotchet

Quaver

Semiquaver





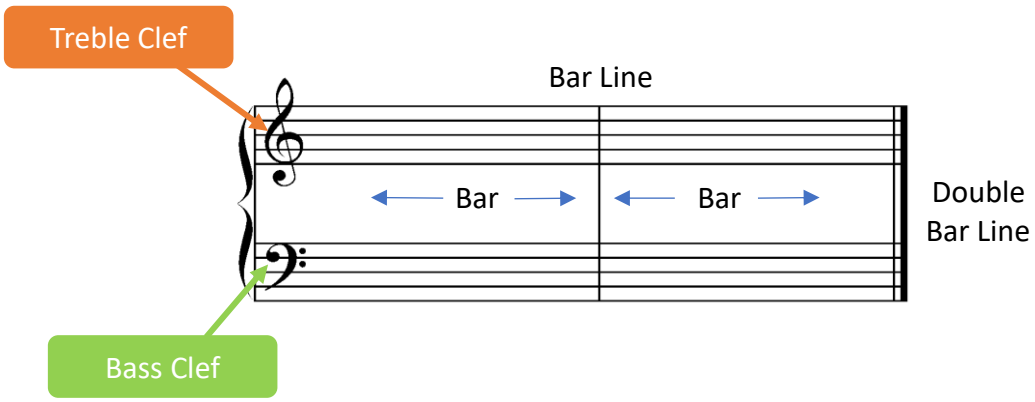
Semibreve has **4** Counts 1 - 2 - 3 - 4

Dotted Minim has **3** Counts 1 - 2 - 3

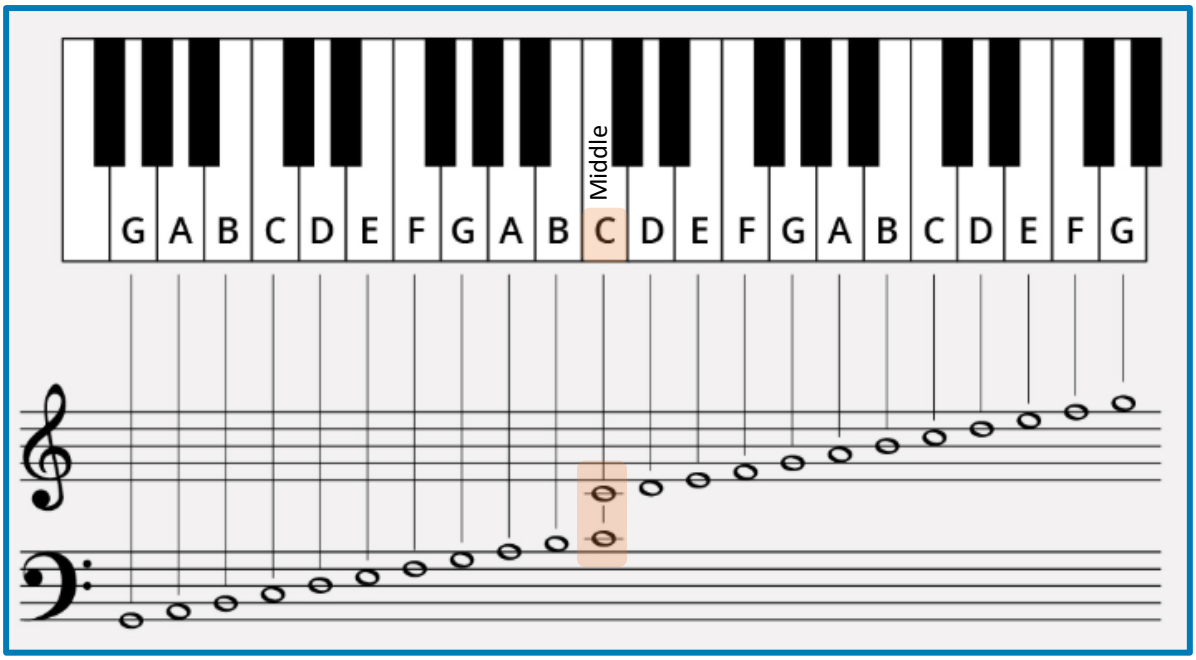
Minim has **2** Counts 1 - 2

Crotchet has **1** Counts 1



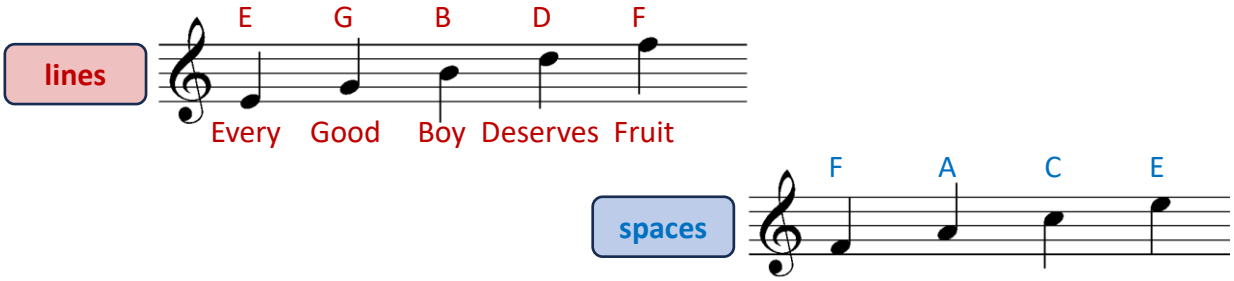


Pitch

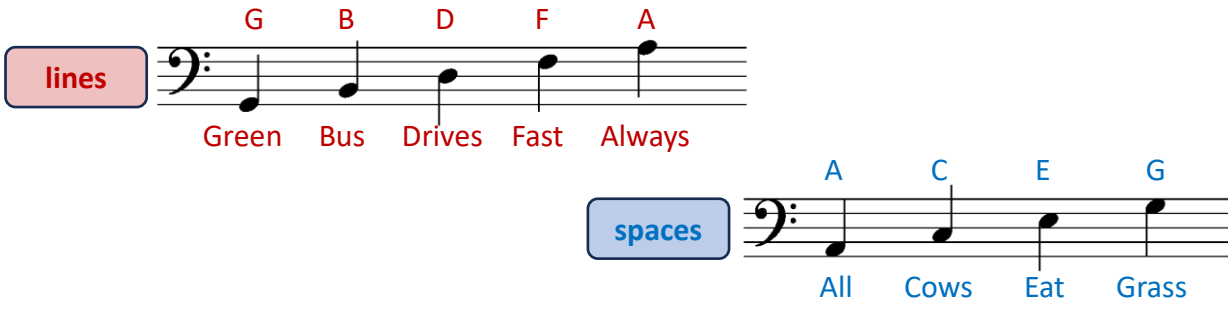


Music is written on a staff consisting of five lines and four spaces. The lines and spaces are named after the first seven letters of the alphabet, namely, A B C D E F G.
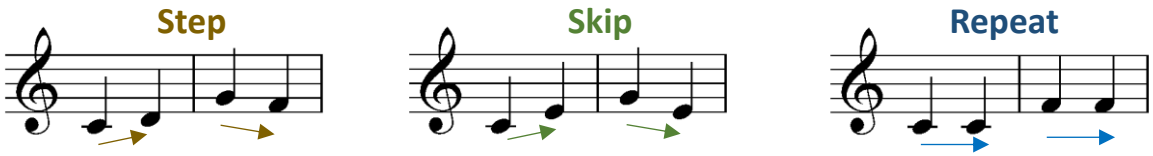
Treble Clef

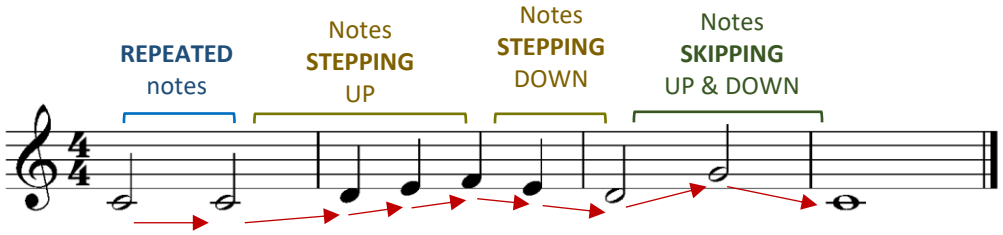


Bass Clef



Notes move on the staff in **three** ways:







Time Signature of $\frac{4}{4}$



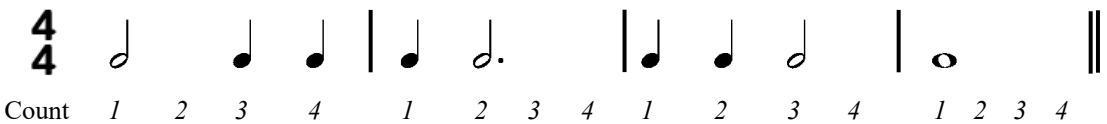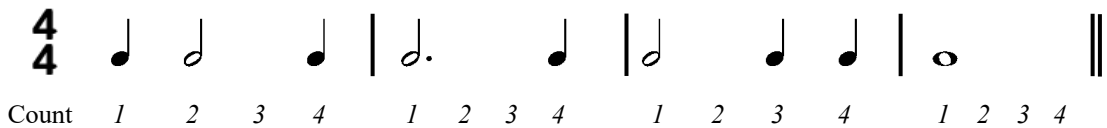


The **time signature** is the two numbers written at the beginning of a piece. The **top** number tells how many beats are in each bar. The **bottom** number tells what kind of note gets one beat.

$\frac{4}{4}$ means **FOUR CROTCHET** beats in a bar

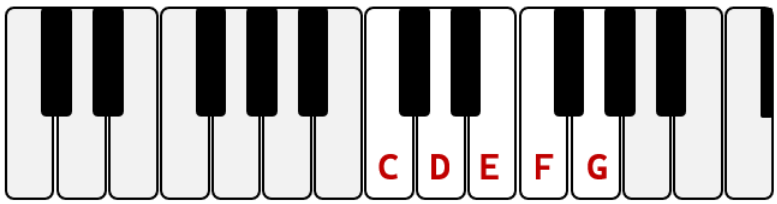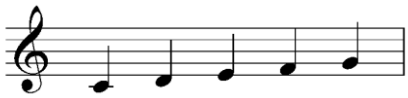


Clap these rhythm as you count out loud



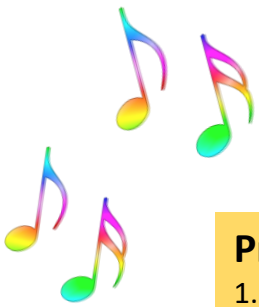


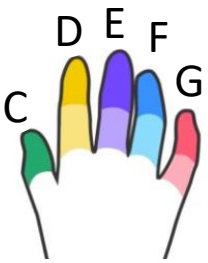
Right Hand





RH
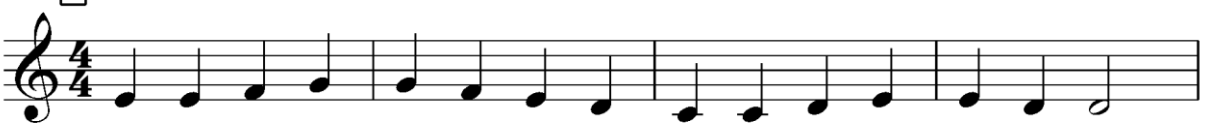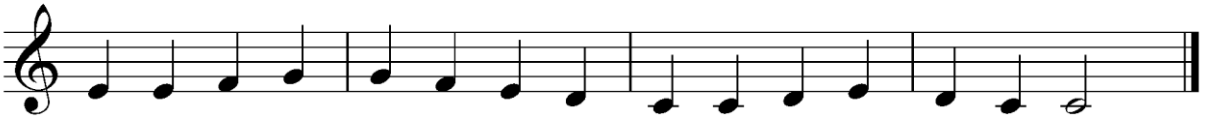




Practice Directions

1. Clap the rhythm and count aloud
2. Play and name the notes aloud
3. Play and count the rhythm aloud

1
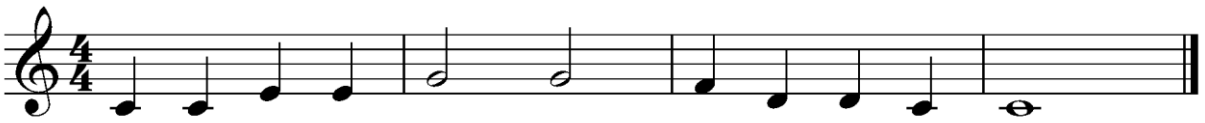


Count 1 2 3 4 etc 1 2 3 4
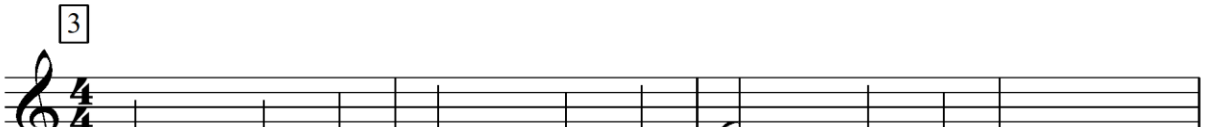


Continue COUNTING

2
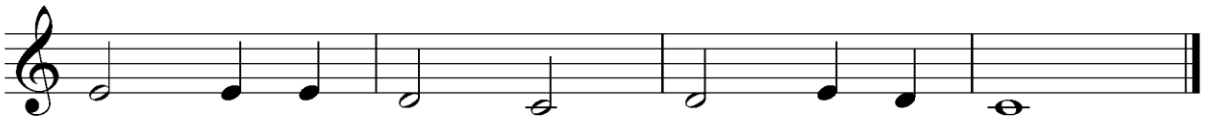


Count 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

3

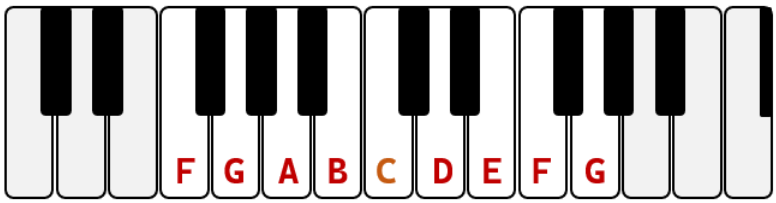


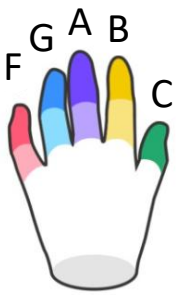
Count 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

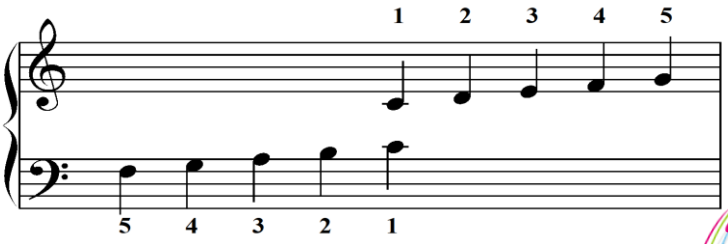


Continue COUNTING

Middle C Position
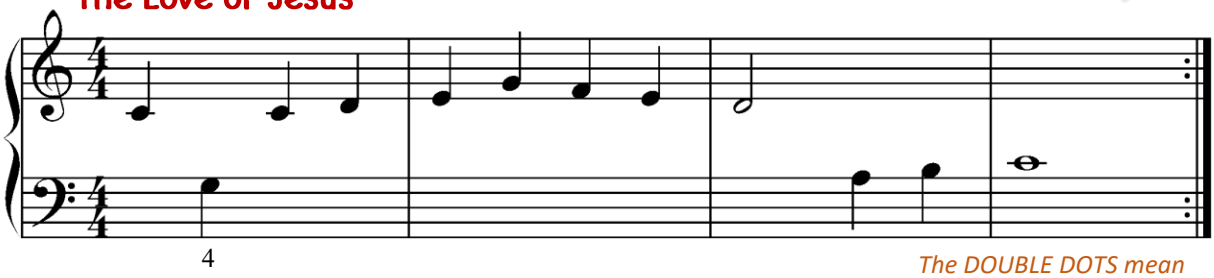






Practice Directions

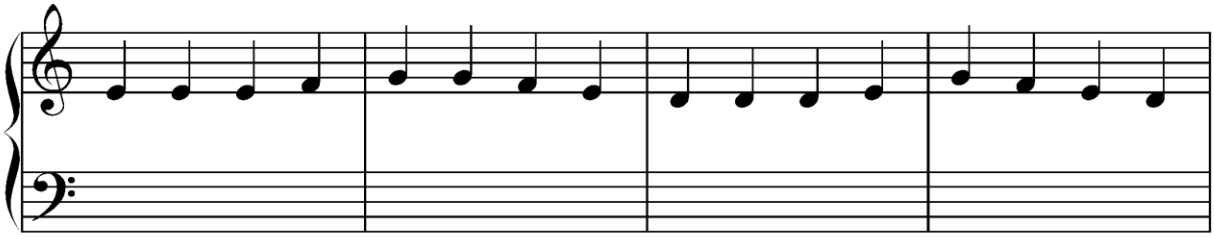
1. Clap the rhythm and count aloud
2. Play and name the notes aloud
3. Play and count the rhythm aloud
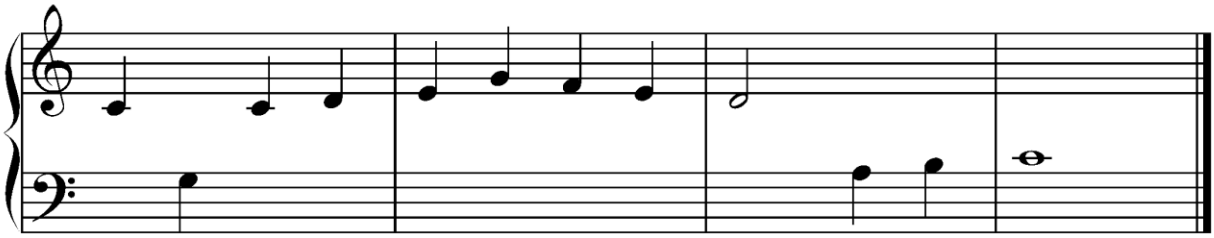


The Love of Jesus



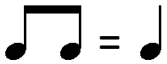
The DOUBLE DOTS mean
REPEAT FROM THE BEGINNING
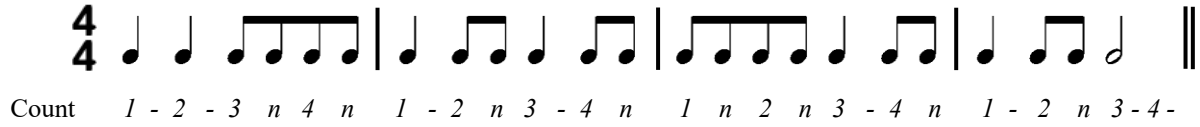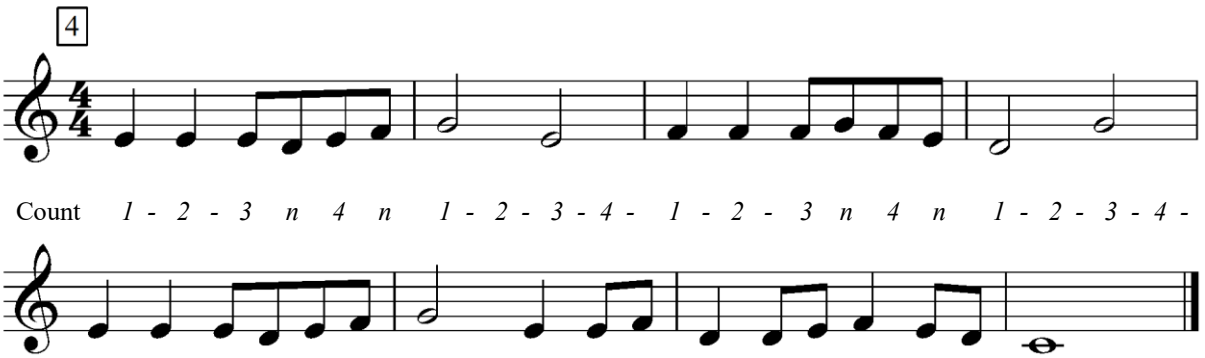




Quavers



Two quavers equal one crotchet 

Clap these rhythm as you count out loud





Continue COUNTING
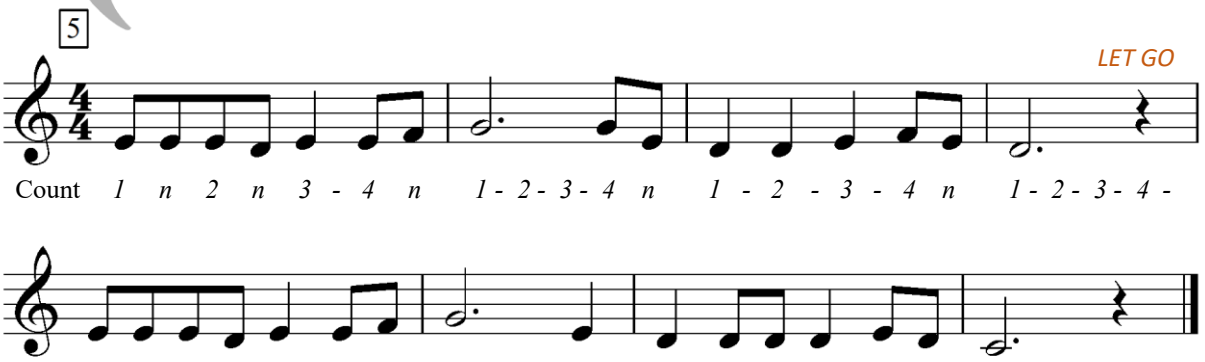
Crotchet Rest 

A **rest** is a sign of silence. A **crotchet rest** is equal to a crotchet note.

Crotchet

Note  = 1 count

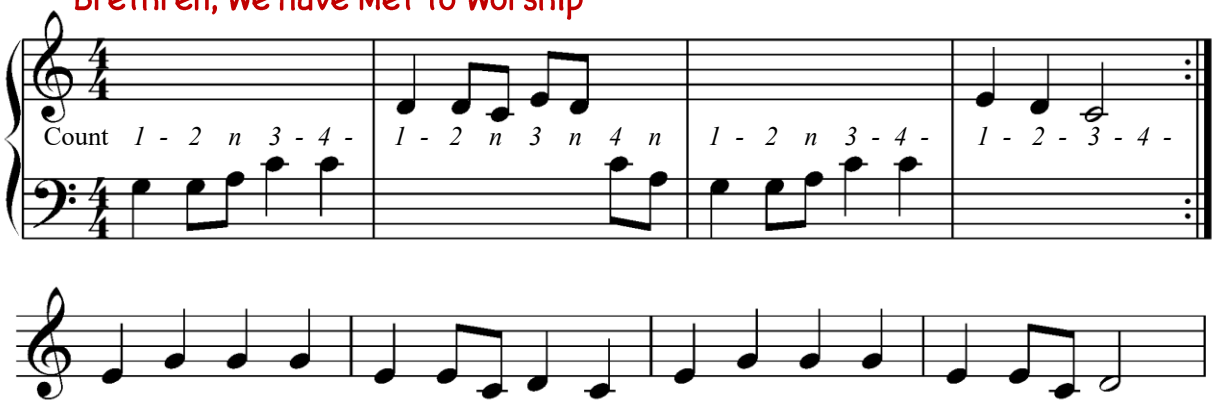
Rest  = 1 count



Continue COUNTING
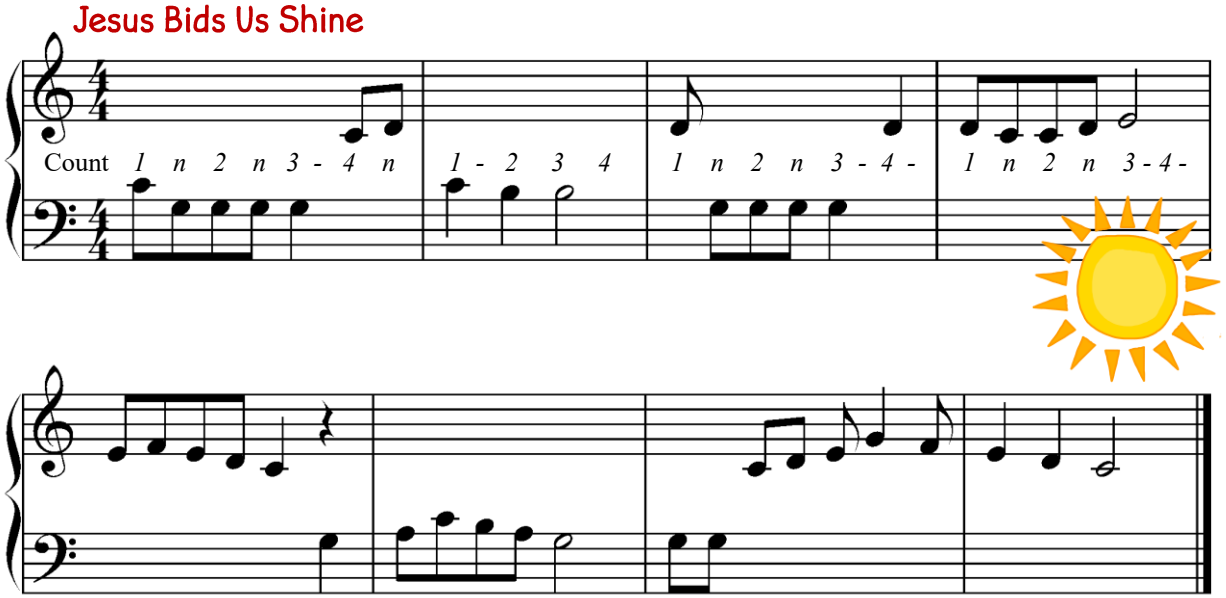


Brethren, We Have Met to Worship



Continue COUNTING

Repeat 1st line one more time
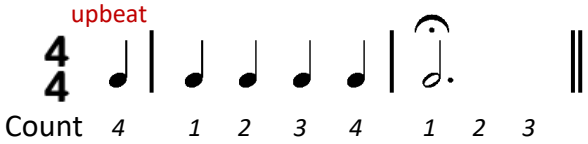
Jesus Bids Us Shine



Continue COUNTING

Upbeat

(anacrusis, pick-up)

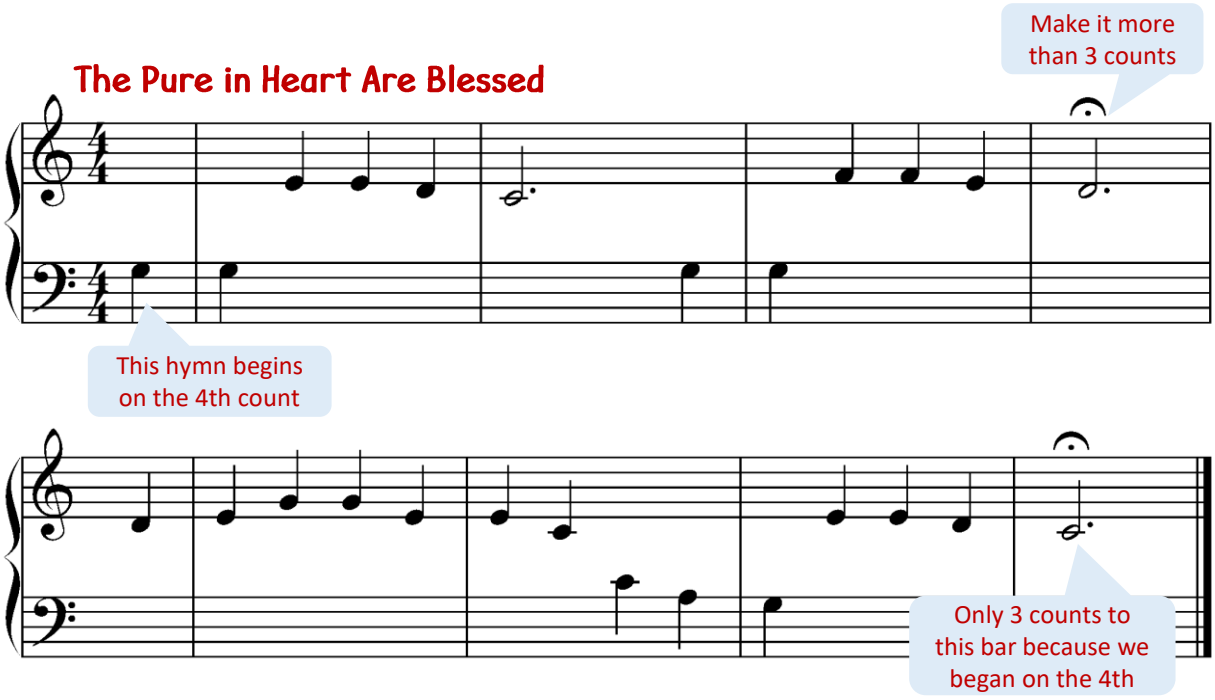


A **FERMATA**, also known as a **PAUSE**. Hold the note under The **FERMATA** longer than its value.
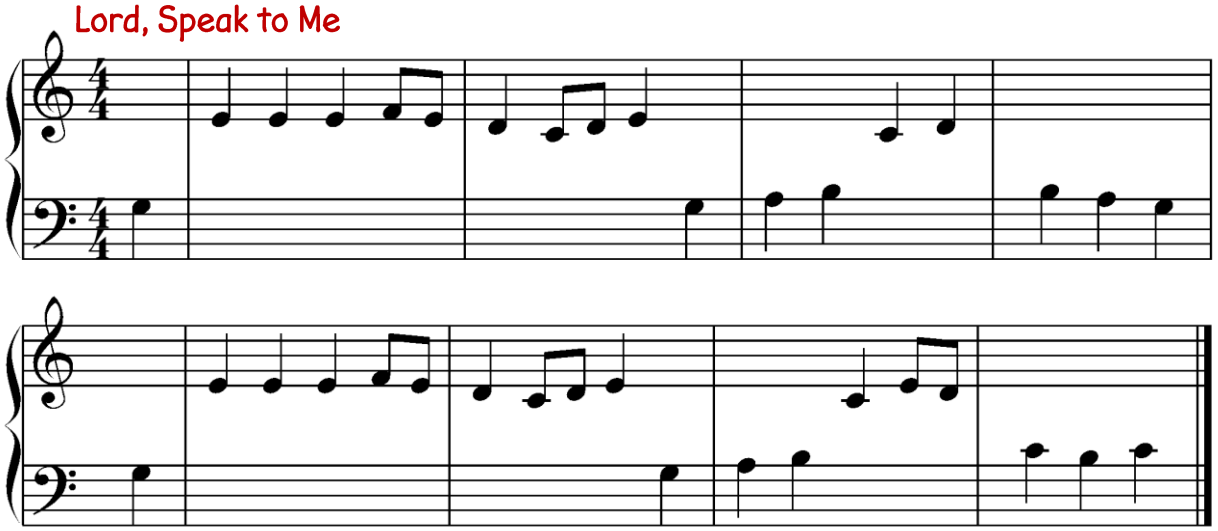
Hymns don't always start with count 1. In the next few hymns, the last bar has only 3 counts because the first bar began with count 4.

Count 1, 2, 3 then start playing on count 4.
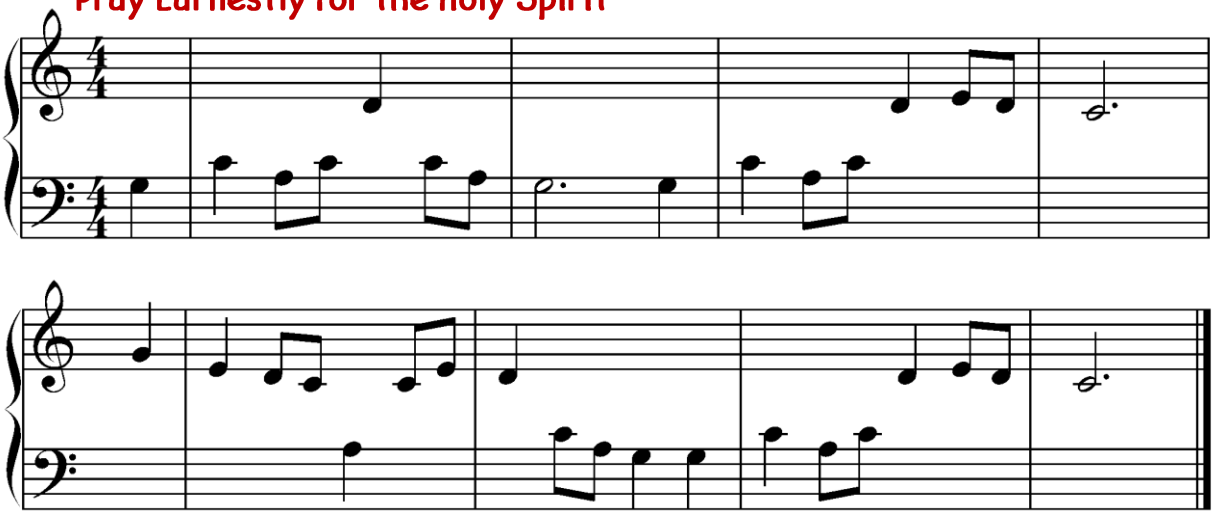
The Pure in Heart Are Blessed



Lord, Speak to Me



Pray Earnestly for the Holy Spirit

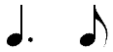


Dotted Crotchet
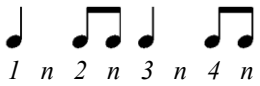
* A dot after a note makes it longer by half:



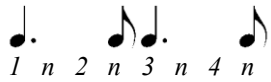
* Here is one of the rhythm which you will often find in a hymn:
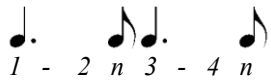


* To find out what it sounds like, clap this rhythm, counting '1 n 2 n 3 n 4 n':



* Then omit the second and fifth note, like this:



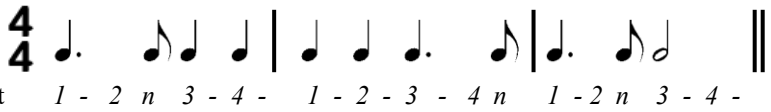
* We can simplify the counting, like this:







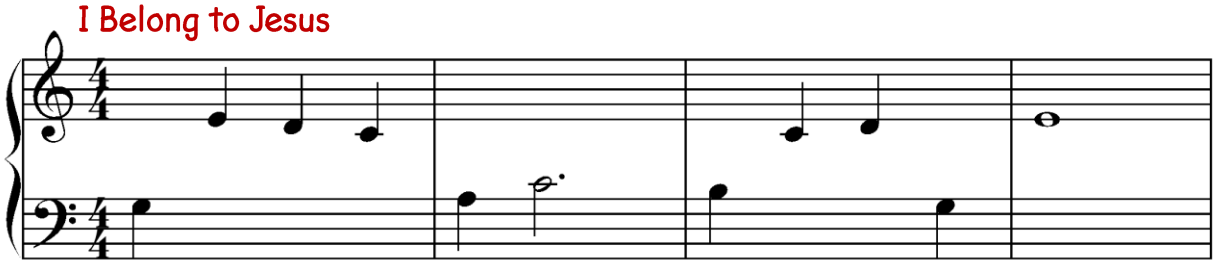
Clap these rhythm as you count out loud
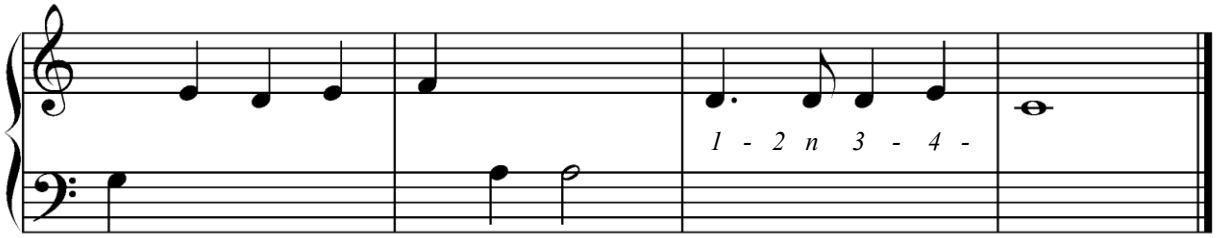


Now try these hymns with dotted crotchet



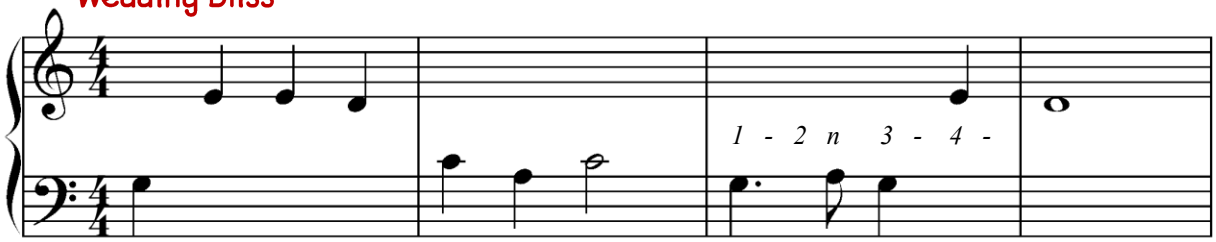
I Belong to Jesus
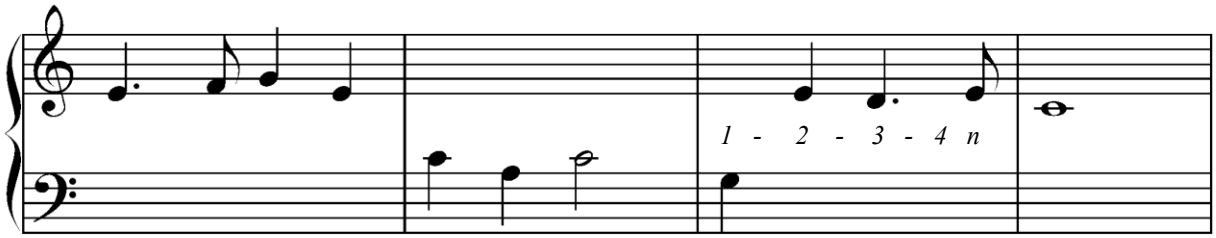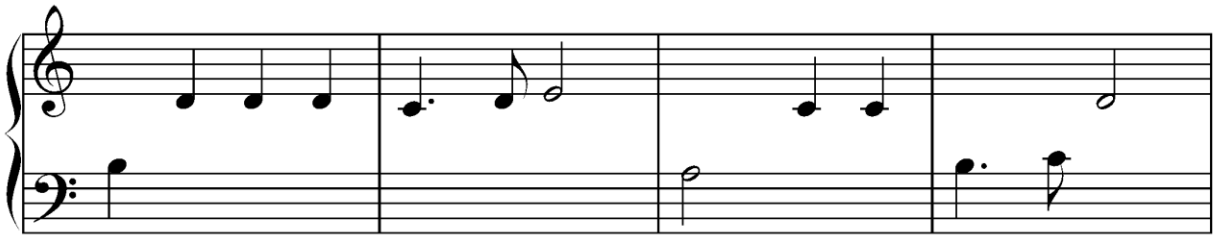




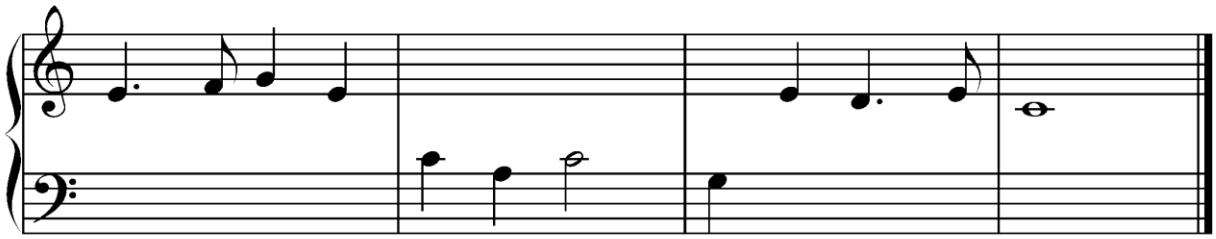


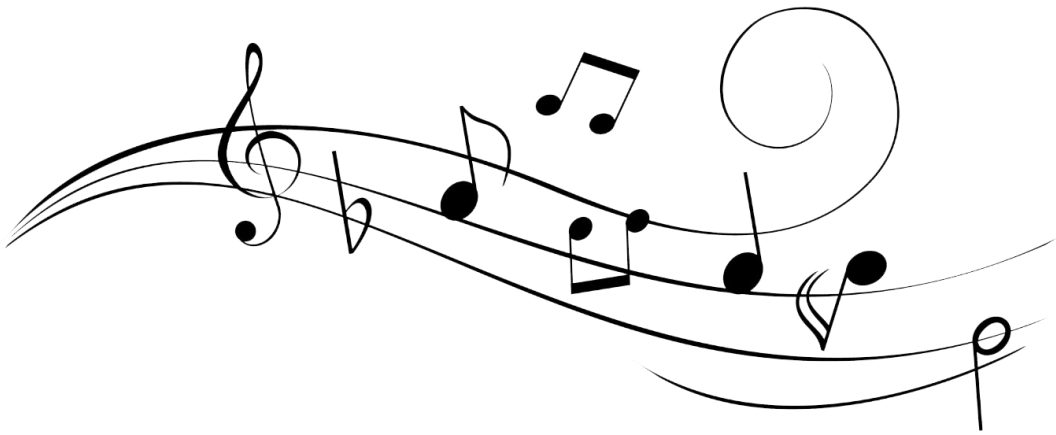
Wedding Bliss







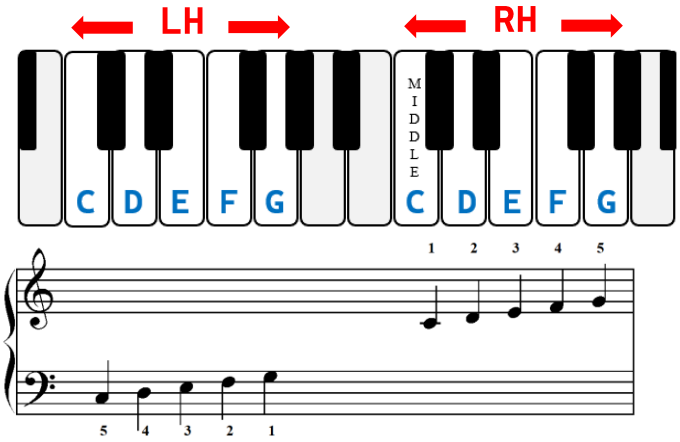




Hymns Made Really Easy

The first hymn is “Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer”. We shall go through how to learn this hymn step by step properly.

C Position



This hymn has 4 lines:

- Lines 1, 2 and 4 are the same for the right and left hands, except the left hand finishes with a chord at the very end.
- Line 3 is different in both right and left.

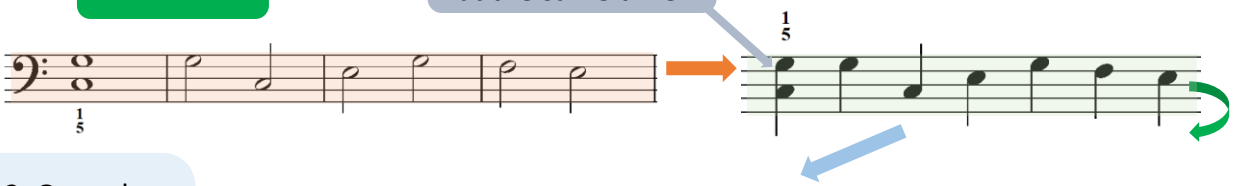


Left Hand
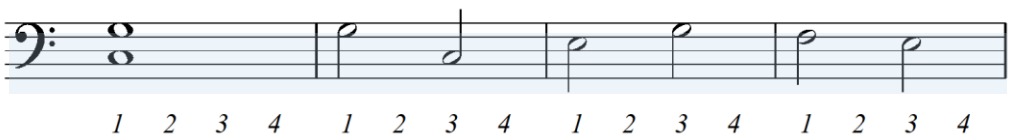
Line 1

1. Treat every note the same duration. Familiarise the notes by playing forward at a slow pace, then backward. Do this a few times.

Play the C and G at the same time.
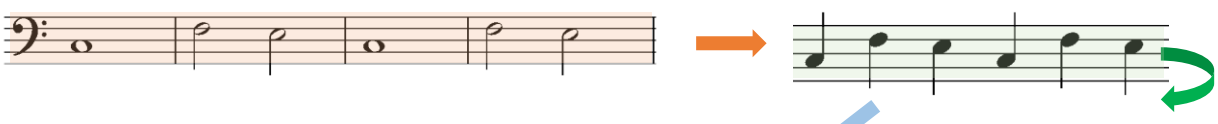


2. Once the notes are sorted, add the counting
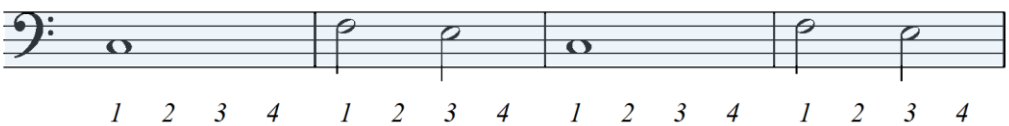


Line 3

1. Play through notes at equal length forward and backward, no timing.



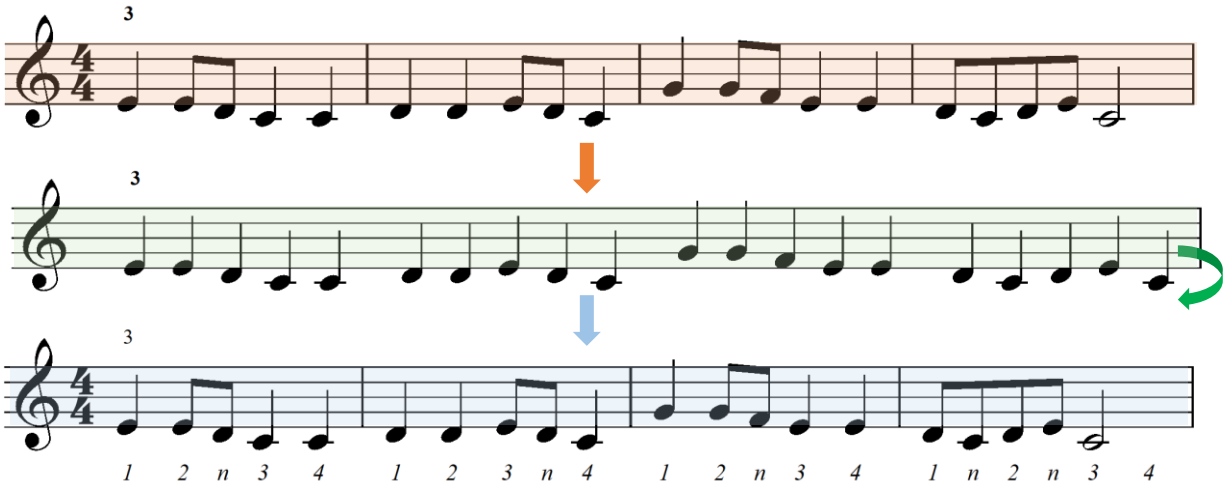
2. Add the counting



Right Hand

Line 1

Do the same for the right hand > go through the notes before adding the counting



Right Hand - D Position
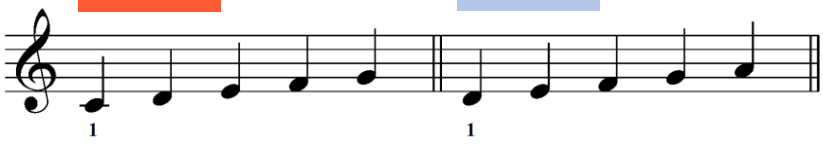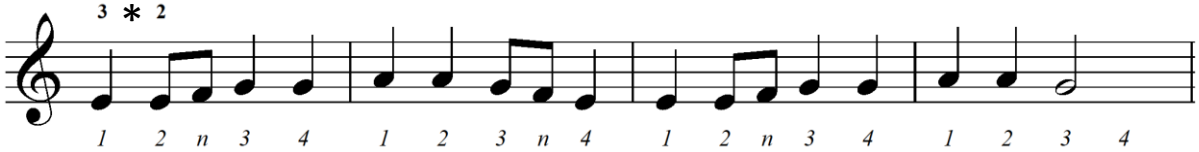


In *Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer*, the right hand plays in 2 positions.

Line 3

1 on C

1 on D





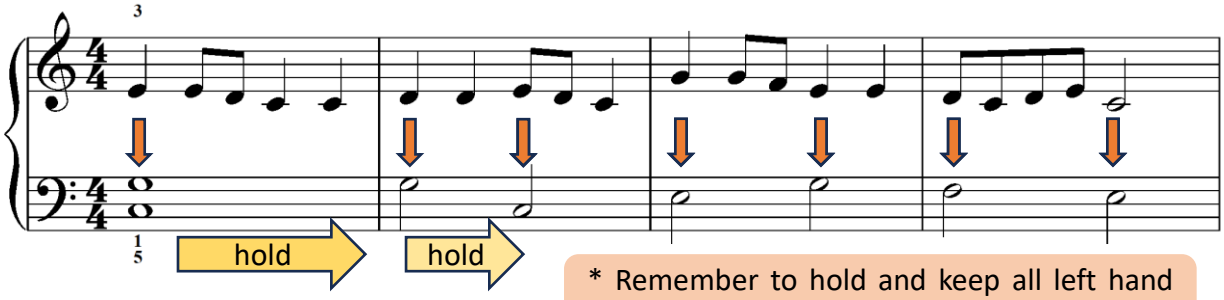
*Play the E with a 3rd, then swap to a 2nd

Do the same as before > go through the notes before adding the counting

Hands Together
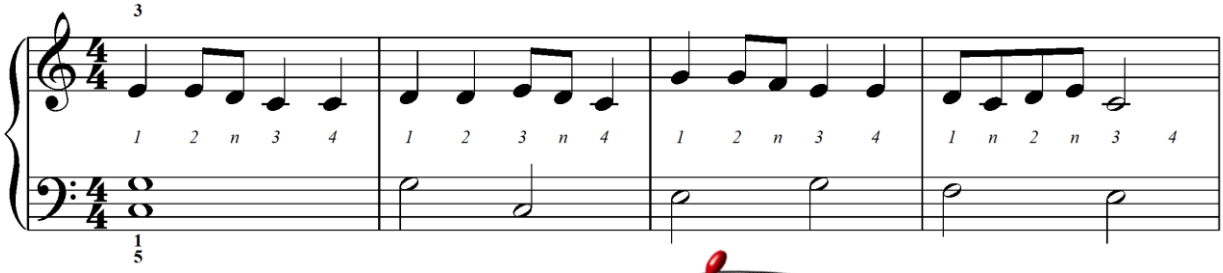
Line 1

1. Align the right hand and left hand notes as they come, play through all the notes at equal length forward and backward, no timing.



* Remember to hold and keep all left hand notes down as they are all long notes

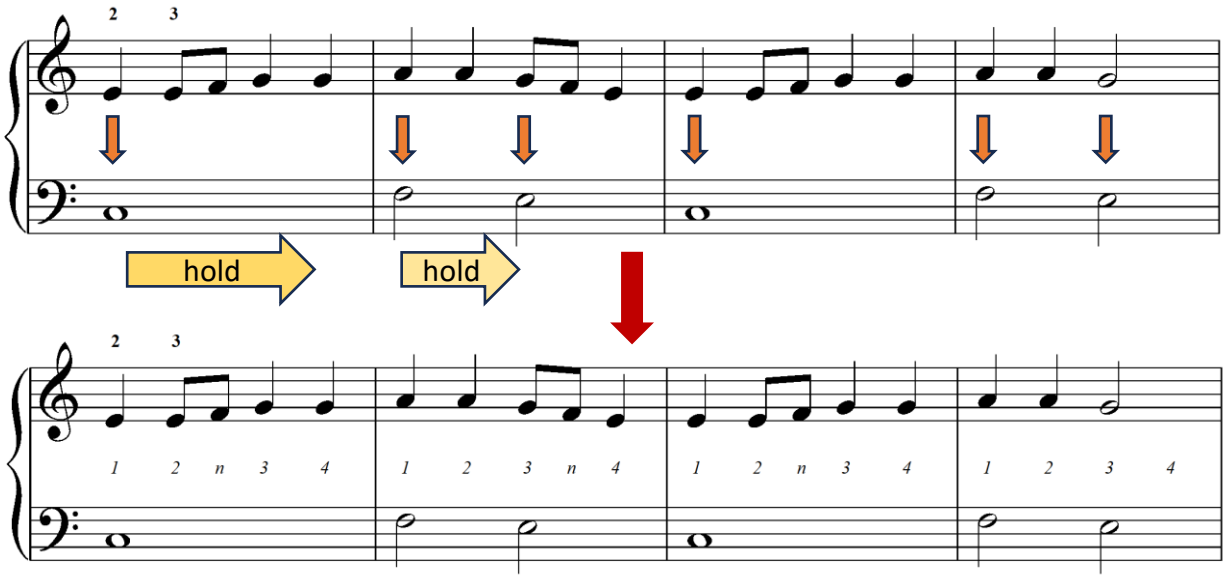
2. Once the notes are sorted, add the counting



Line 3
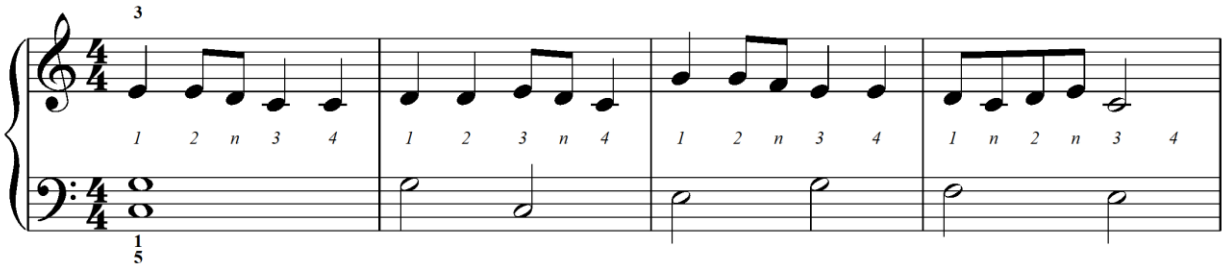


Do the same for hands together > go through the notes before adding the counting
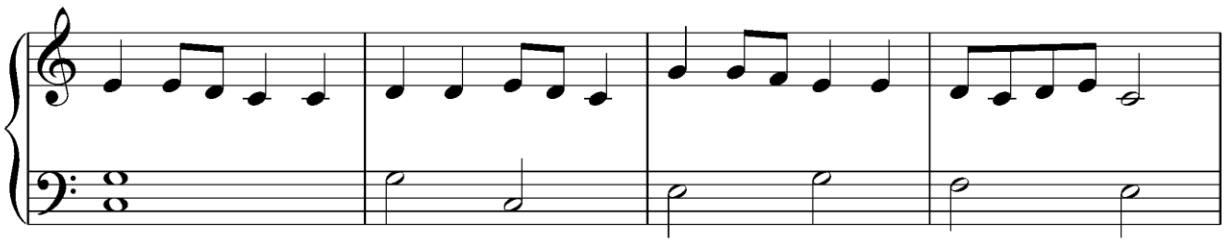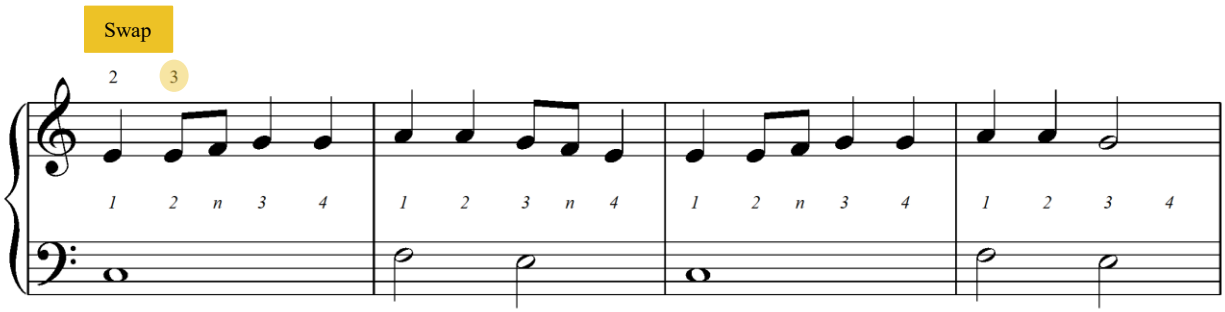


After going through left hand, right hand and hands together line by line, we are now ready to play through the whole hymn. Don't forget to count along
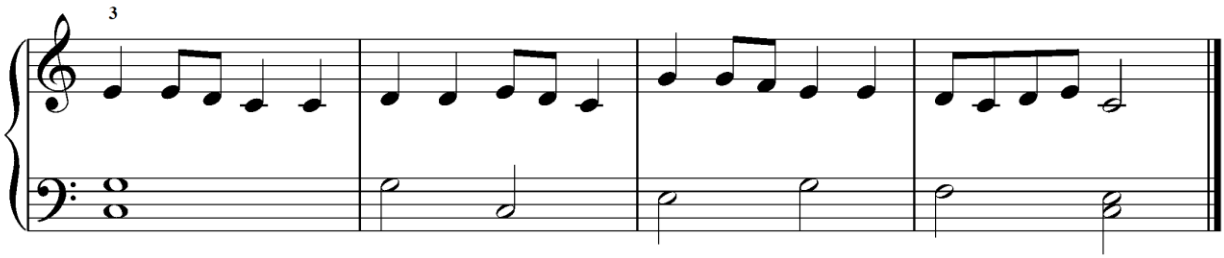
Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer
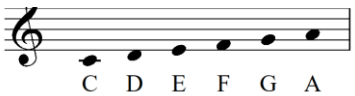
J.J. Rousseau
arr. Andrew Hsu
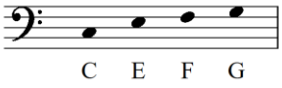












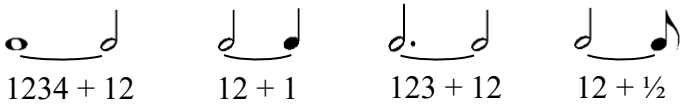


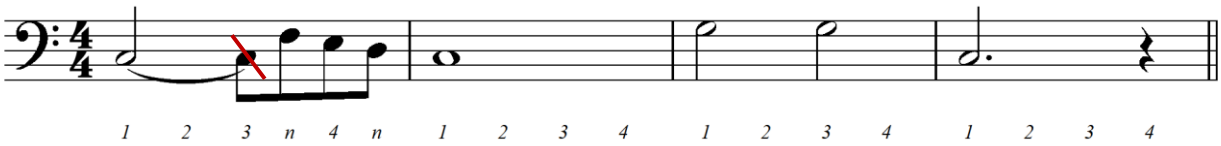
Hymns Made Really Easy Piano Tutorial Videos no. 1
https://hosannapraise.co.uk/piano-tutorial/

The second hymn we will learn is “Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”. We shall start by looking into new materials for this hymn.

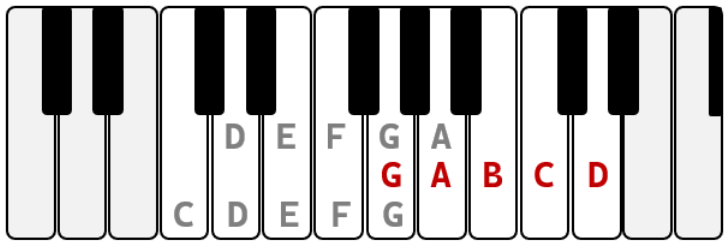
Tied Notes

A tie is a curved line which connects notes on the same line or space. Play the first note only And hold it for the value of both notes.
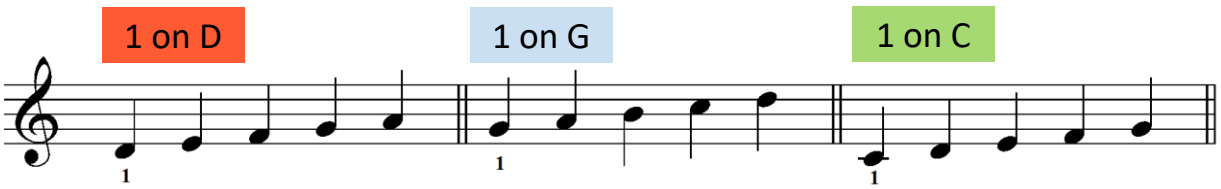




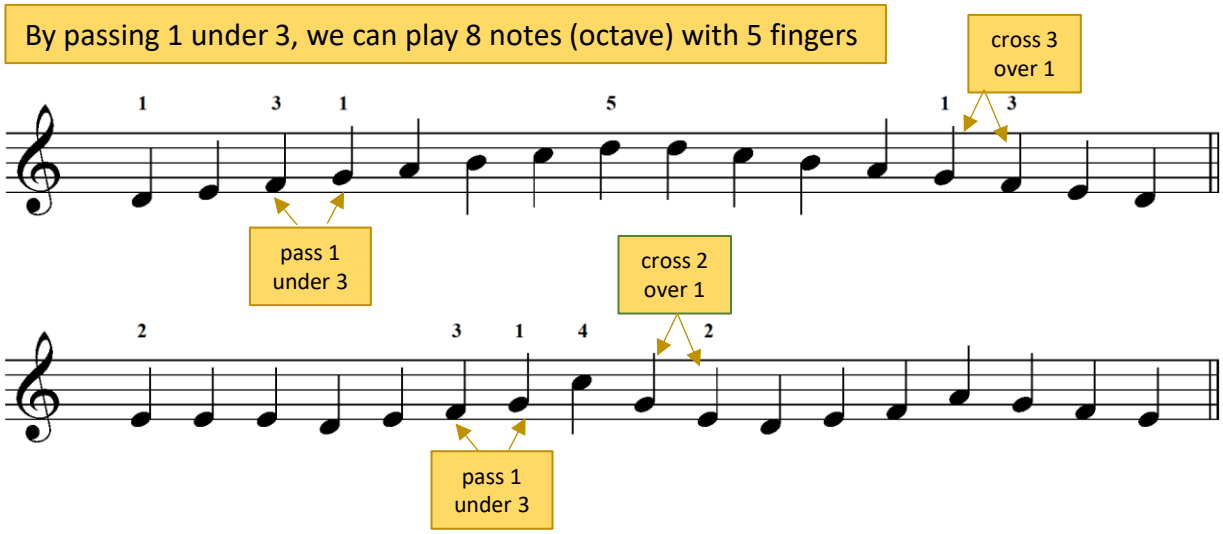
Right Hand - G Position



The right hand melody involves 3 positions



By passing 1 under 3, we can play 8 notes (octave) with 5 fingers



Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

William B. Bradbury
arr. Andrew Hsu

pass 1 under 3

cross 2 over 1

move thumb to G

move thumb to G

move thumb to C

C D E F G A B C
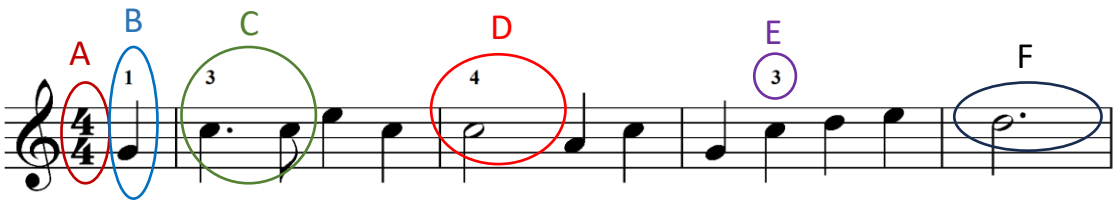
C D E F G



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https://hosannapraise.co.uk/piano-tutorial/

PRACTICE TIPS

Before starting to play any notes, firstly read through the notes hands separately and make sure you know what and where they are. Secondly, visualise when the music begins, which count it is for each note.



A. The time signature is 4 crotchet beats in a bar
B. Music begins on the 4th beat, thumb on G
C. Stretch 3rd finger out a little to C, count 1-2n
D. This C uses 4th finger and has 2 counts
E. Replace the C with 3rd finger
F. The last note D has 3 counts

Start with the left hand to avoid giving too much importance to the right hand, as we tend to do this because we know the melody.

Work on the right hand (RH) next. First, notes then rhythm and counting. Hands together always comes last.

After going through all the notes for both hands, especially when hands together, identify the hardest part of the piece and spend more practice time on it, rather than constantly playing through the whole hymn from start to end. Practice at the "speed of no mistakes"— even if it feels like a "snail's pace". Accuracy and fluency are crucial before picking up the pace.
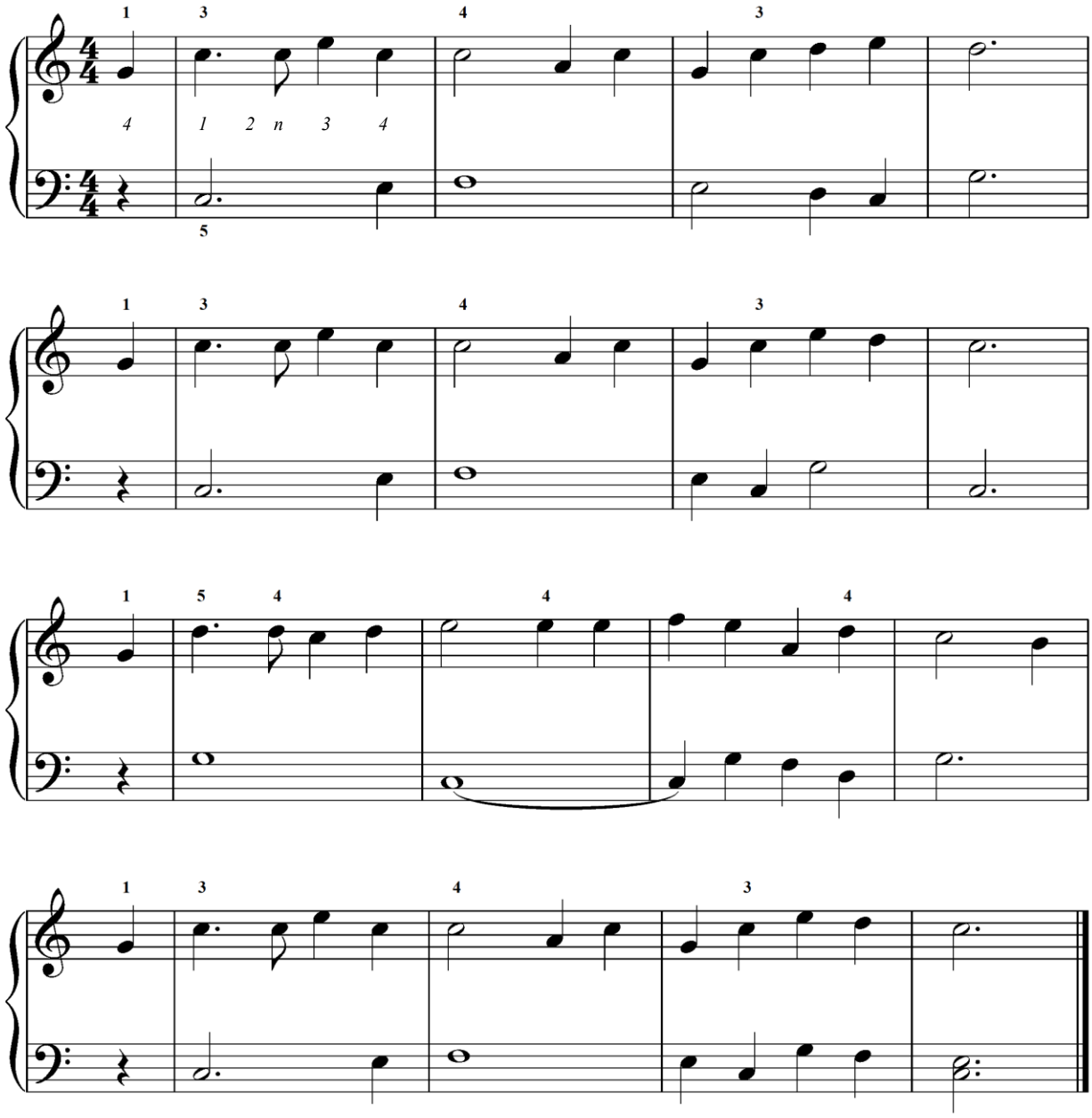
Follow the sequence below for every new hymn
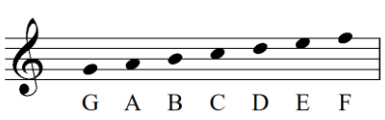
1. Left hand notes* first few times. Then add counting.
2. Right hand notes* first few times. Then add counting.
3. Hands together notes first a few times. Then add counting.
4. Always start off SLOWLY. Increase the overall pace bit by bit gradually.
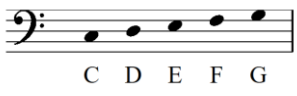
* Observe and follow the given fingerings

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

George J. Webb
arr. Andrew Hsu



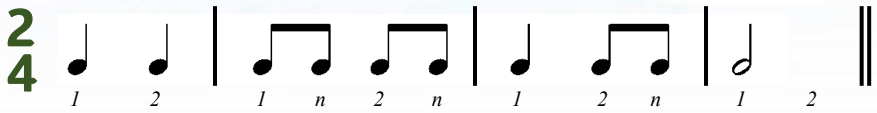






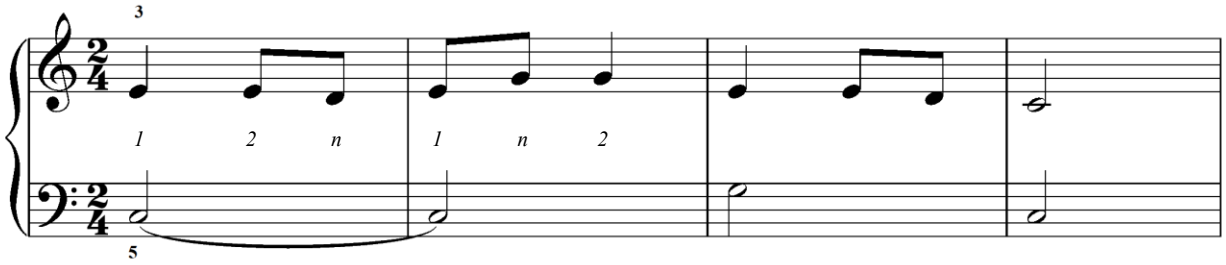
Time Signature of $\frac{2}{4}$
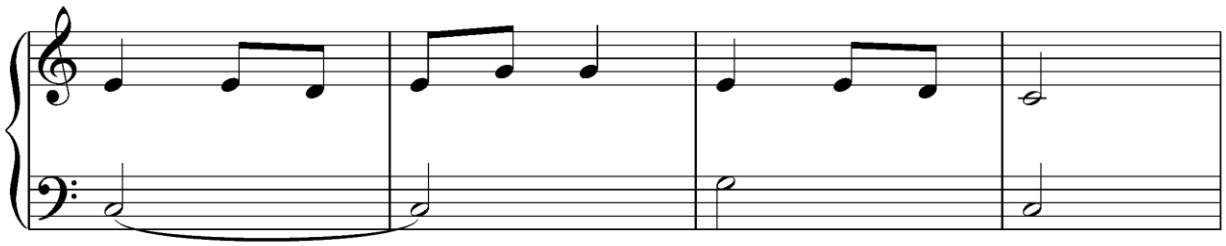
This hymn has 2 crotchet beats to a bar. Try clap and count this rhythm.
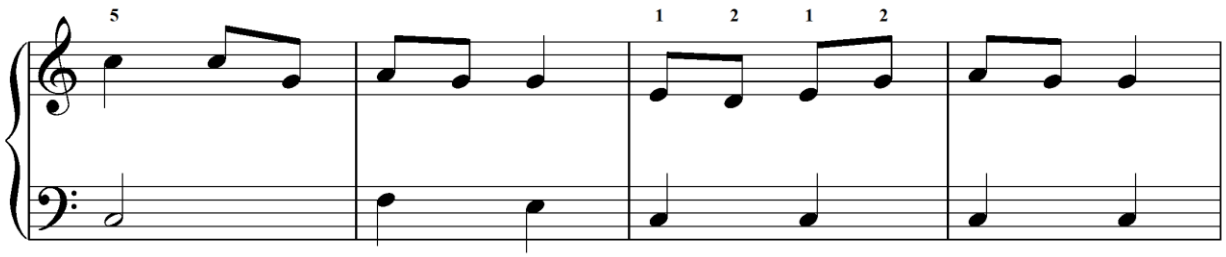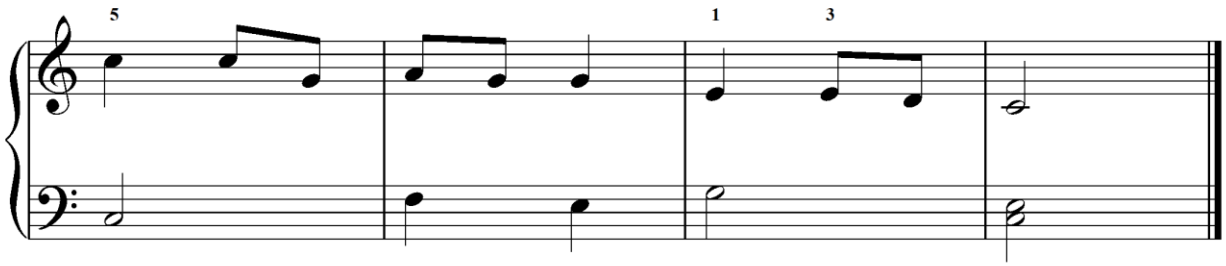


Heaven's Enlightened Saints

Leonard P. Breedlove
arr. Andrew Hsu
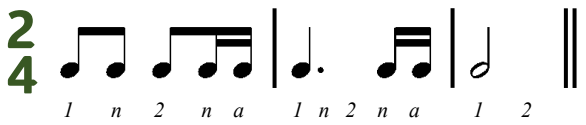










Semiquavers
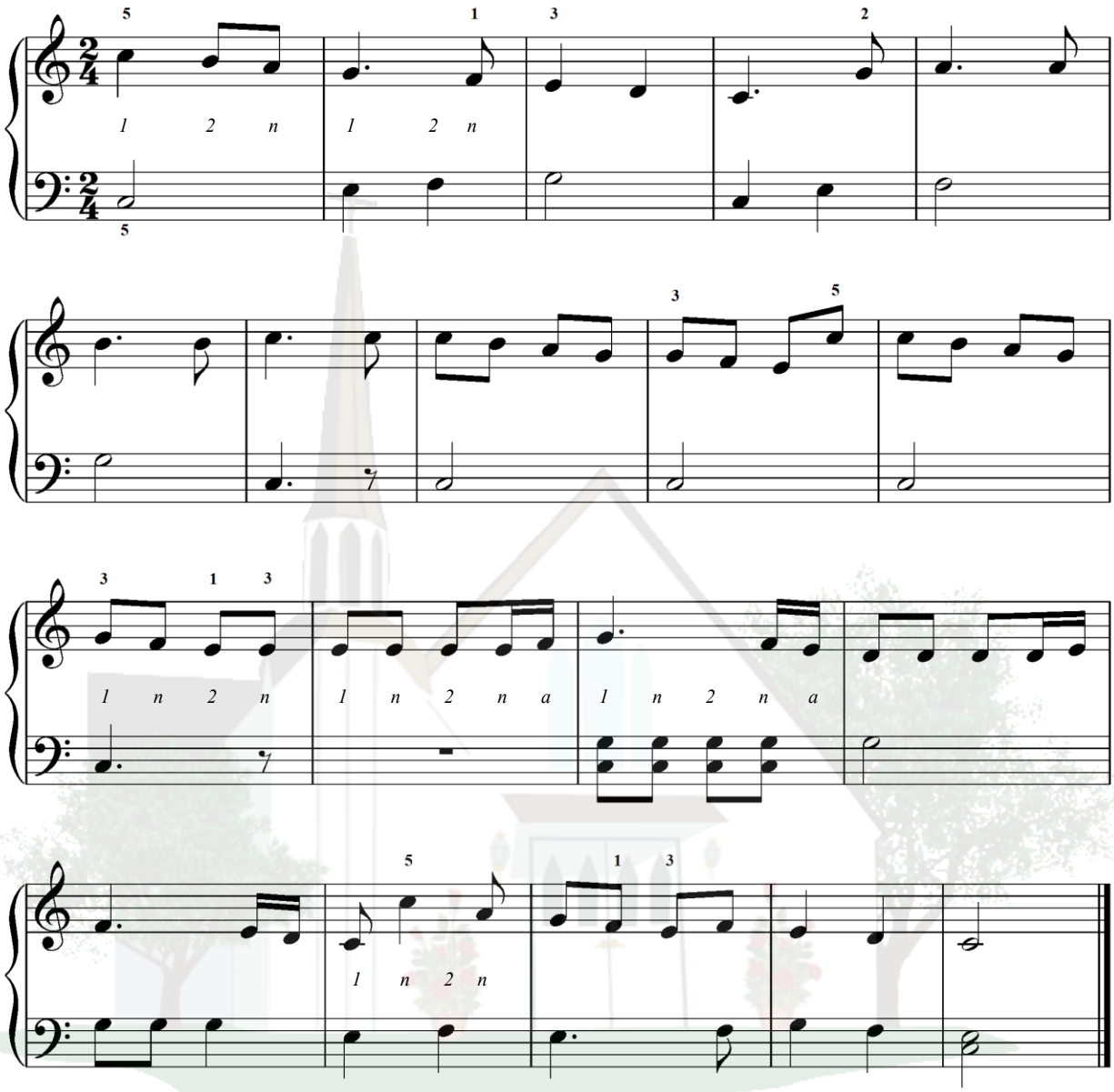
There are 4 semiquavers in a crotchet. Try clap and count this rhythm.
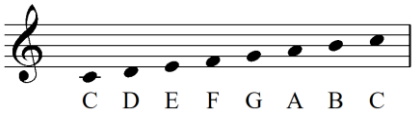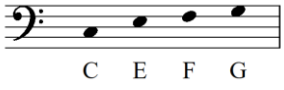




The Holy Sabbath Day (A)

George F. Handel
arr. Andrew Hsu







Dotted Quaver

A dotted quaver is a note that lasts for ¾ of a beat.



+ or =

A dotted quaver is often connected to a semiquaver (¼ beat note) and together they add up to 1 beat. This rhythmic pattern creates a "long-short" rhythm that often sounds like a swing or march.
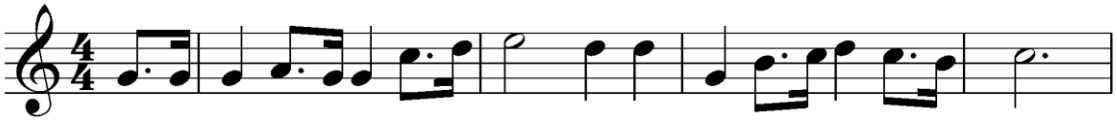
First, compare the difference in counting by clapping and counting the two patterns below:

1 n 2 n 3 n 4 n
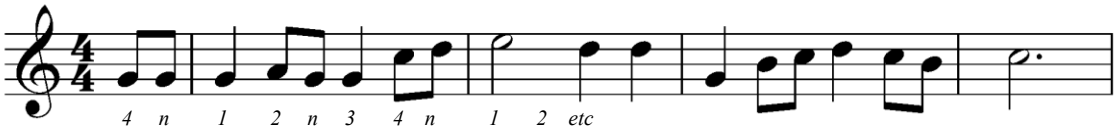
1 n a 2 n a 3 n a 4 n a OR
1 a 2 a 3 a 4 a

Moving on from now, you will come across hymns that will have this rhythmic pattern . A good practice is to first ignore them, replace the entire hymn with even quavers . Once the notes and overall flow of the hymn is established, revert back to practice the actual rhythm thereafter.

"Observe the Sabbath Day" is a very good example. Let us look at the first line of this hymn.



It has this rhythmic pattern throughout. Change all this pattern to equal quavers and practice them first.



You will find that it is much easy to play as well count to start with.

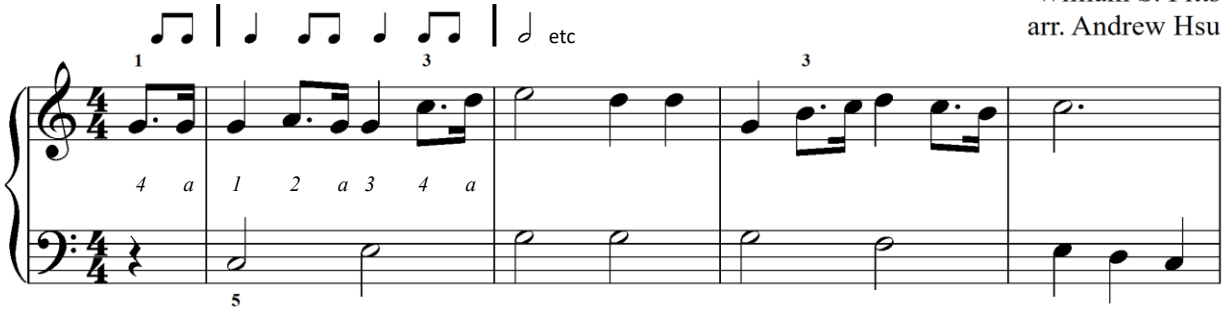
Practice Directions
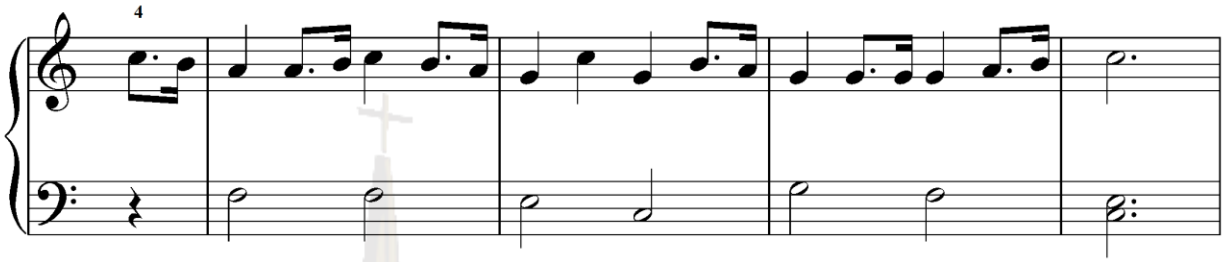
1. Left hand, first notes, then add counting
2. Right hand, first notes, then add counting
3. Hands together, first notes, then add counting
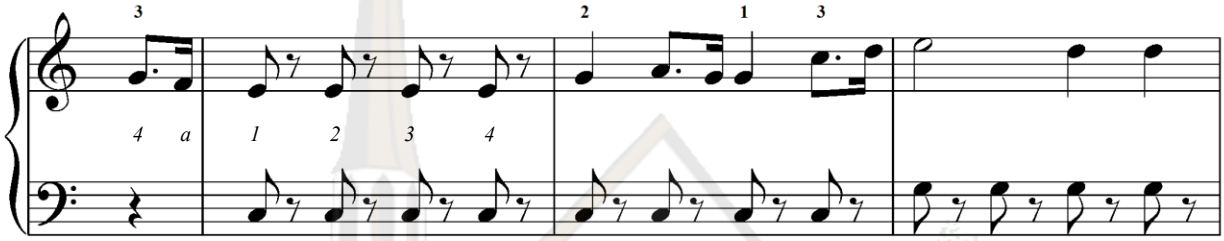


Observe the Sabbath Day
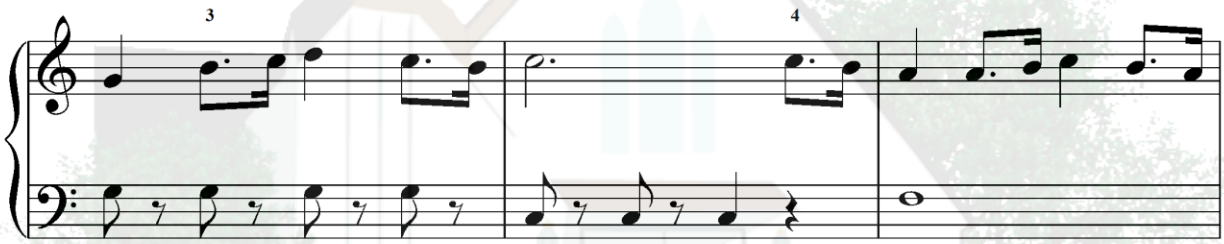
William S. Pitts
arr. Andrew Hsu
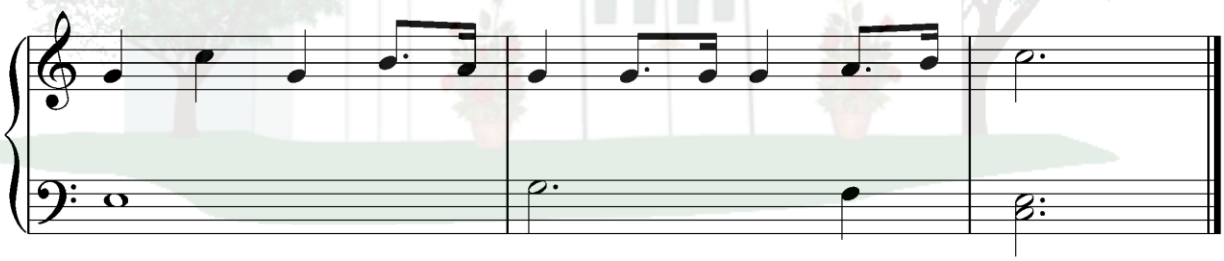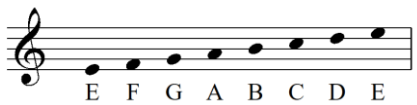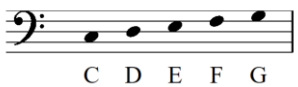




[Chorus]
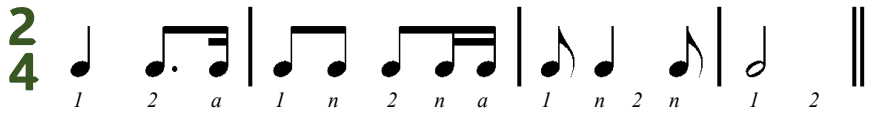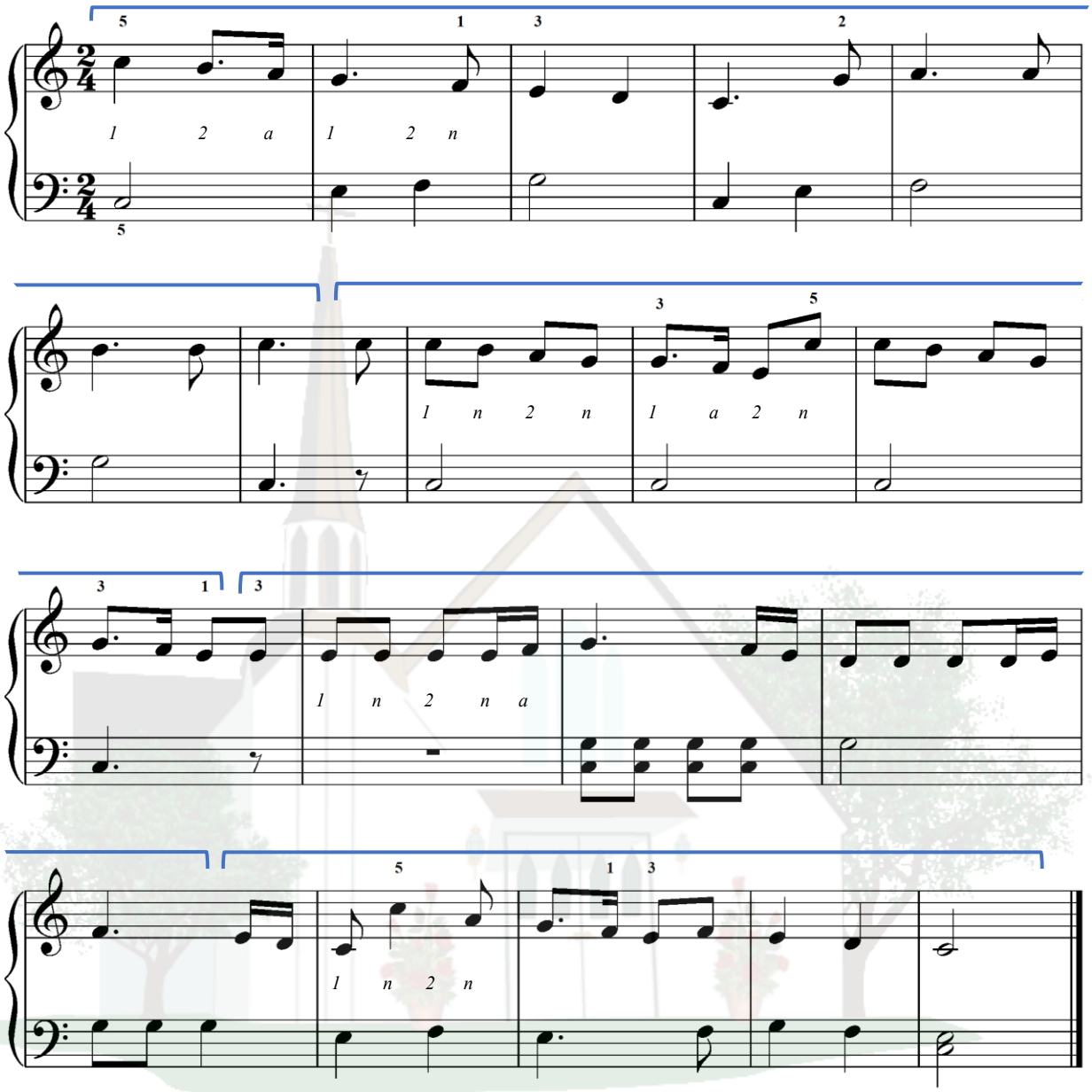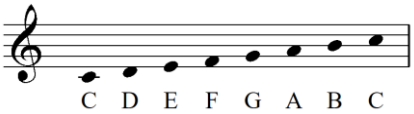










This hymn has a mixture of ♫ , ♫ and ♬. In order to play the correct rhythm, go through the right hand counting for each phrase carefully before playing.
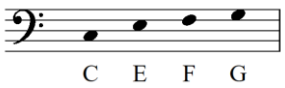


The Holy Sabbath Day (B)

George F. Handel
arr. Andrew Hsu

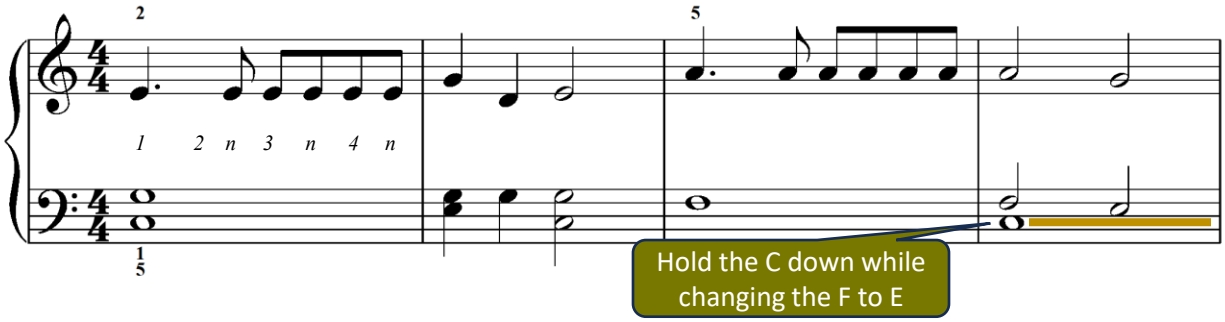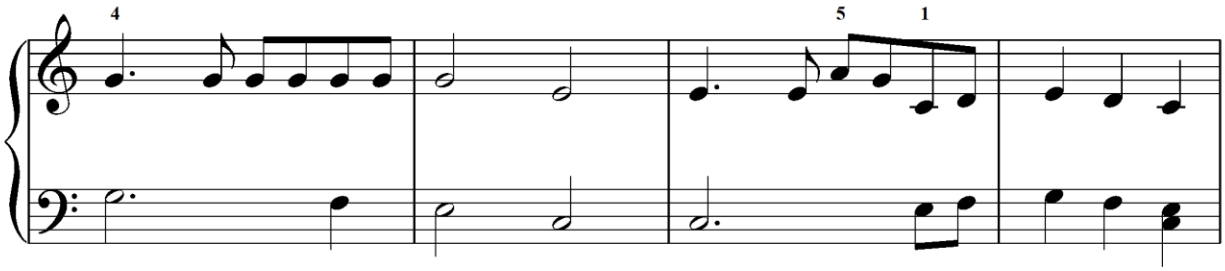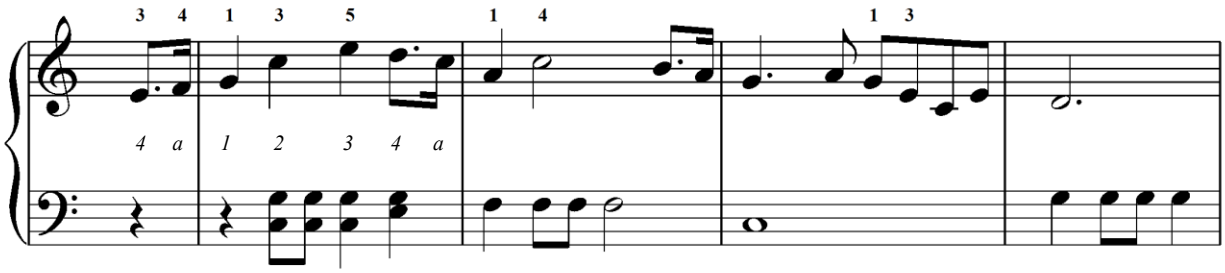






God Be with You till We Meet Again

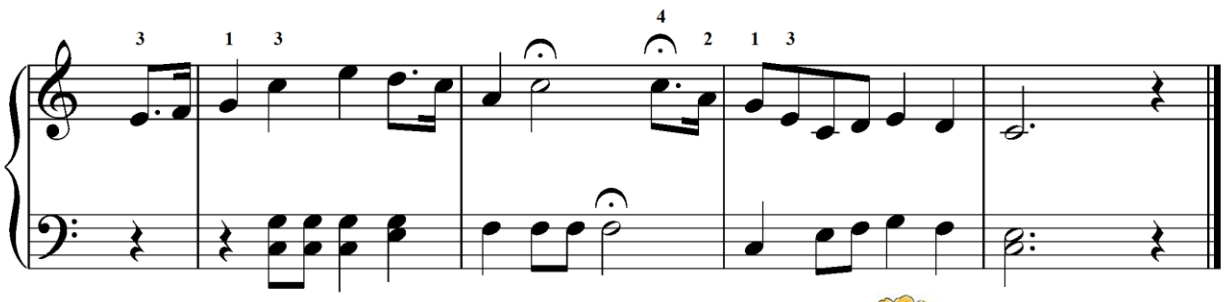
William G. Tomer
arr. Andrew Hsu
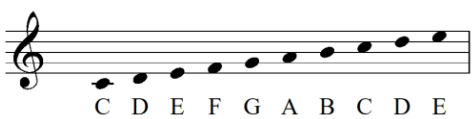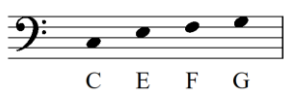




[Chorus]







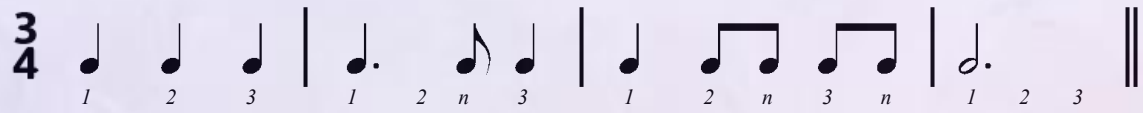




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https://hosannapraise.co.uk/piano-tutorial/
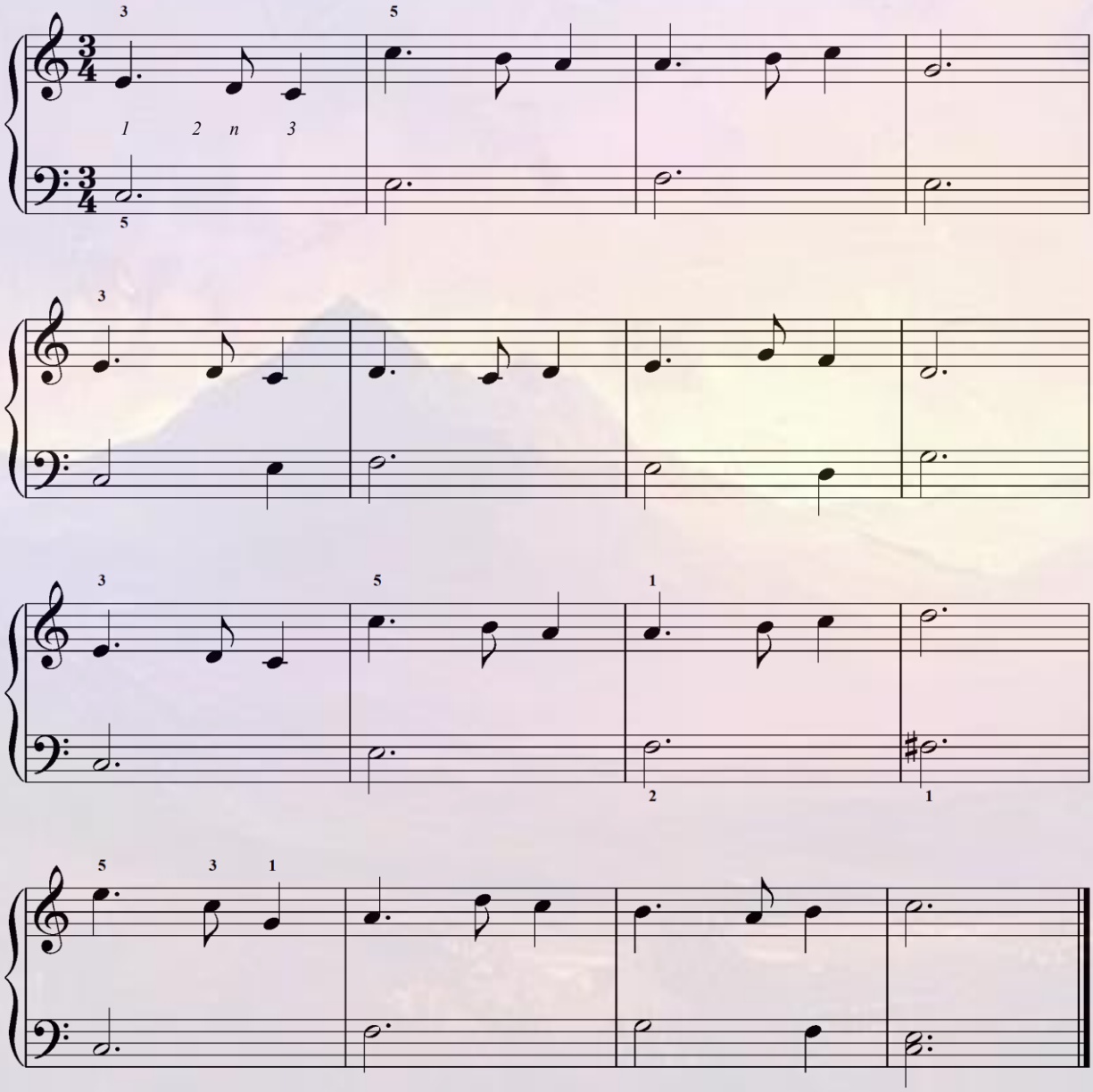
Time Signature of $\frac{3}{4}$

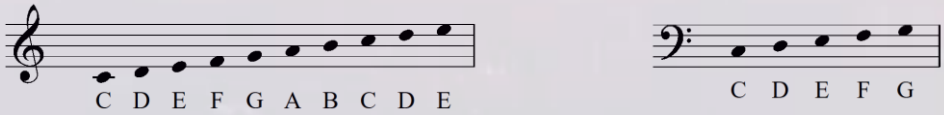
This hymn has 3 crotchet beats to a bar. Try clap and count this rhythm.
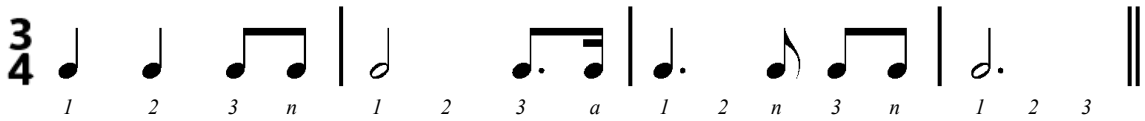


Softly Now the Light of Day

Unknown
arr. Andrew Hsu
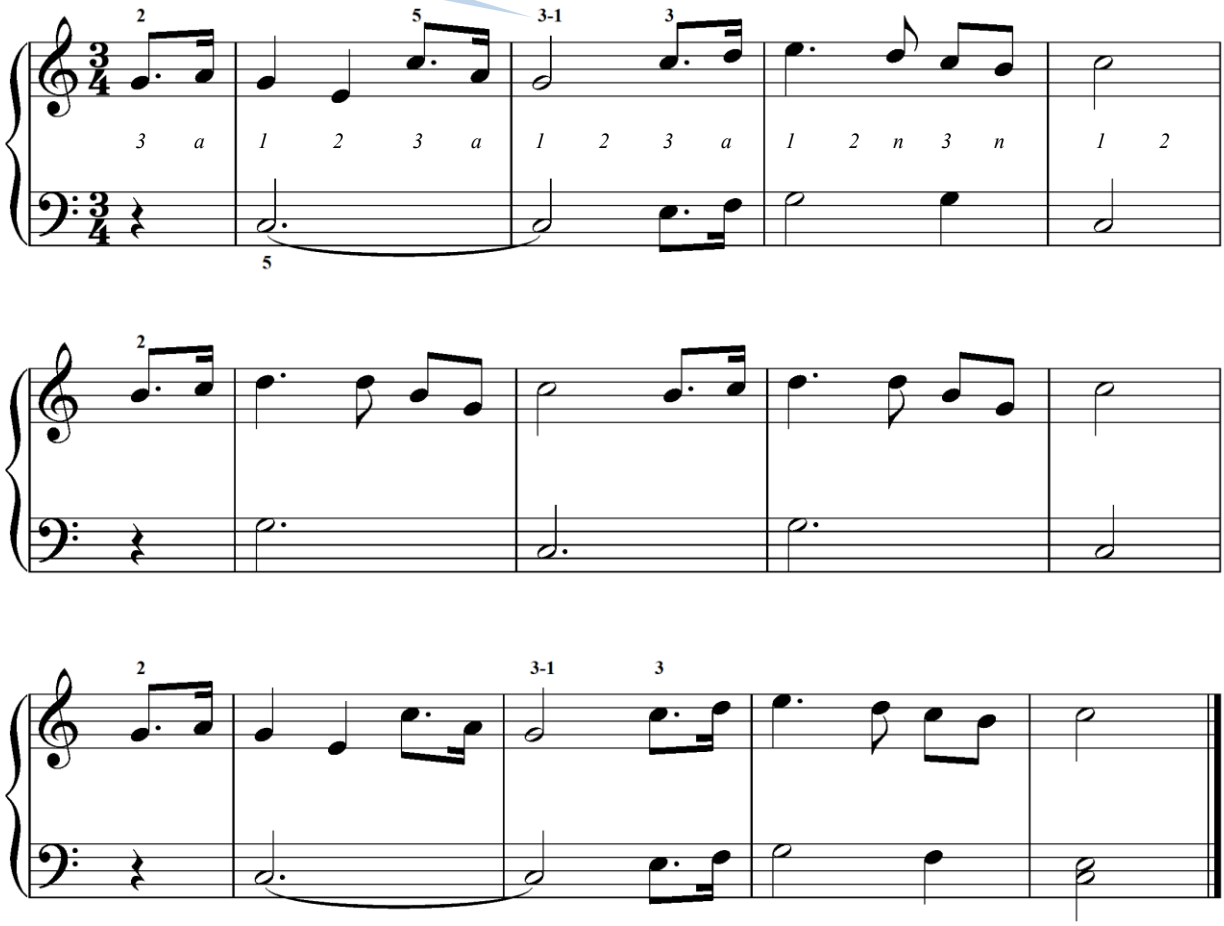




Try clap and count this rhythm.
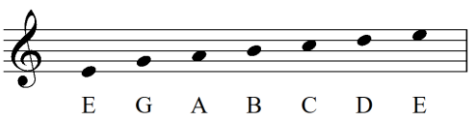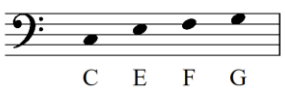


Rock of Ages

Change the finger while holding the note

Thomas Hastings
arr. Andrew Hsu





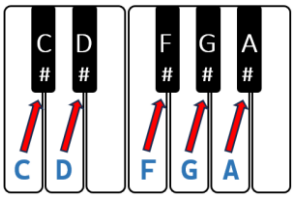




Accidentals

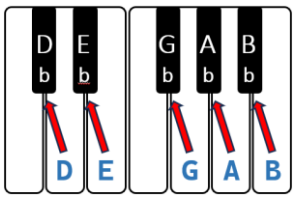
An accidental changes the pitch of a note.

- A **sharp** (♯) raises a notes by one semitone to the right, making it sound higher.





- A **flat** (♭) lowers a note by one semitone to the left, making it sound lower.

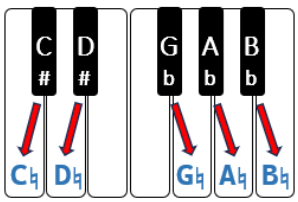








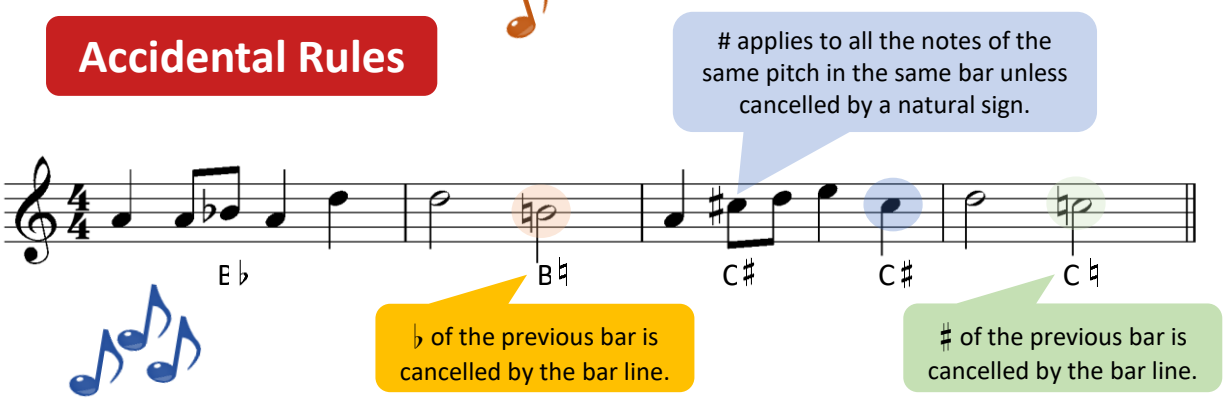
- A **natural** (♮) cancels out a sharp or flat, returning the note to its normal pitch.
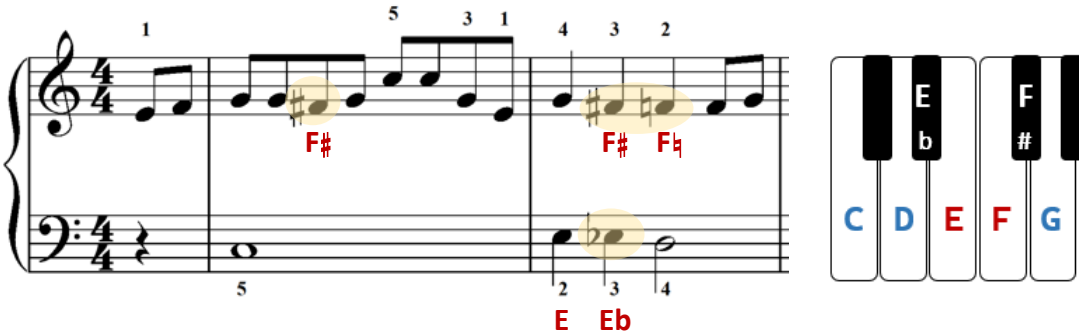






Accidental Rules
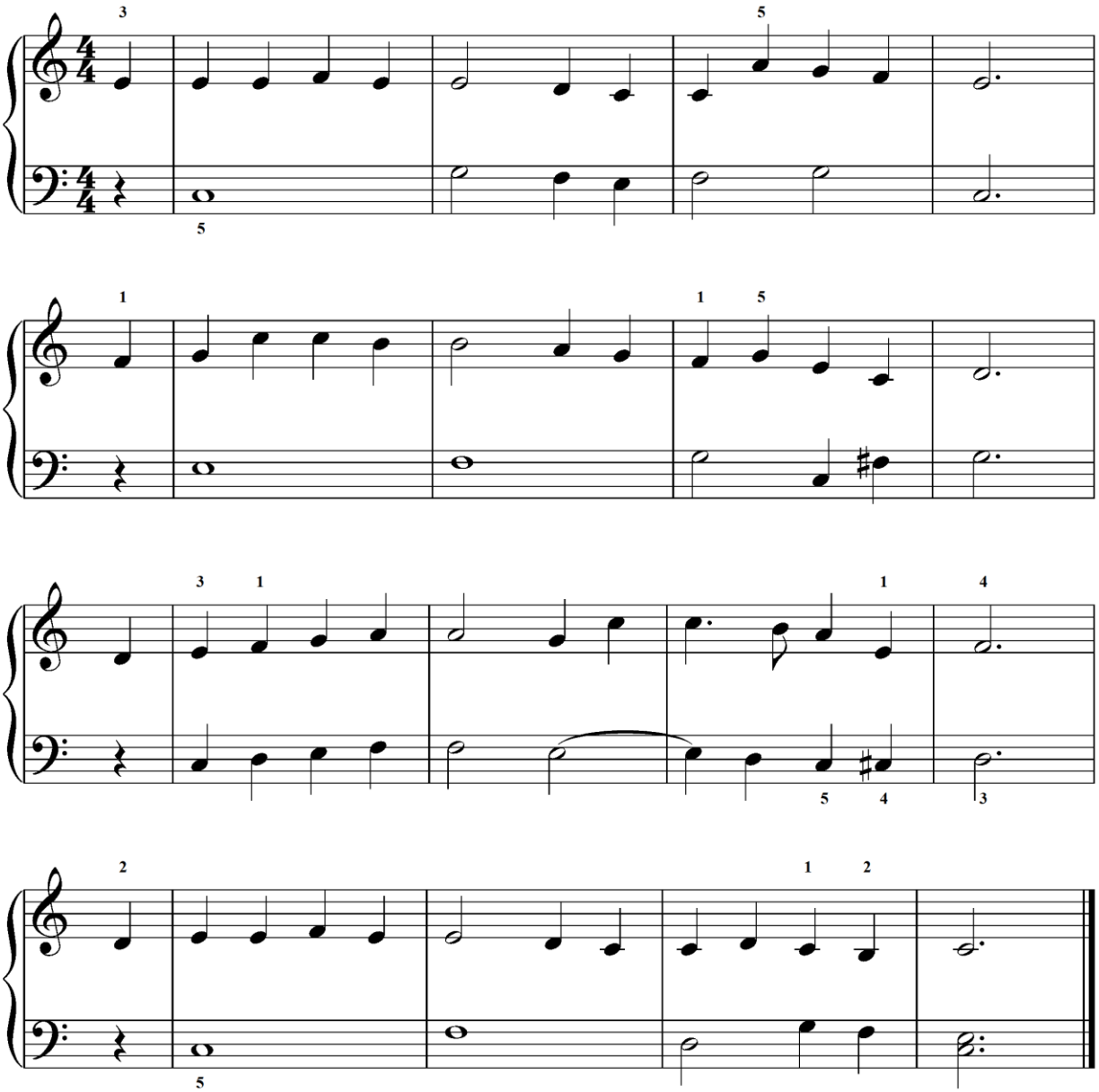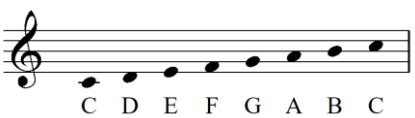


In “Brighten the Corner Where You Are”, you will find the three types of accidentals in music all appear on the first line.
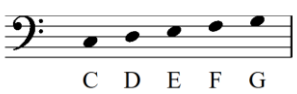


The Church Has One Foundation

Samuel S. Wesley
arr. Andrew Hsu
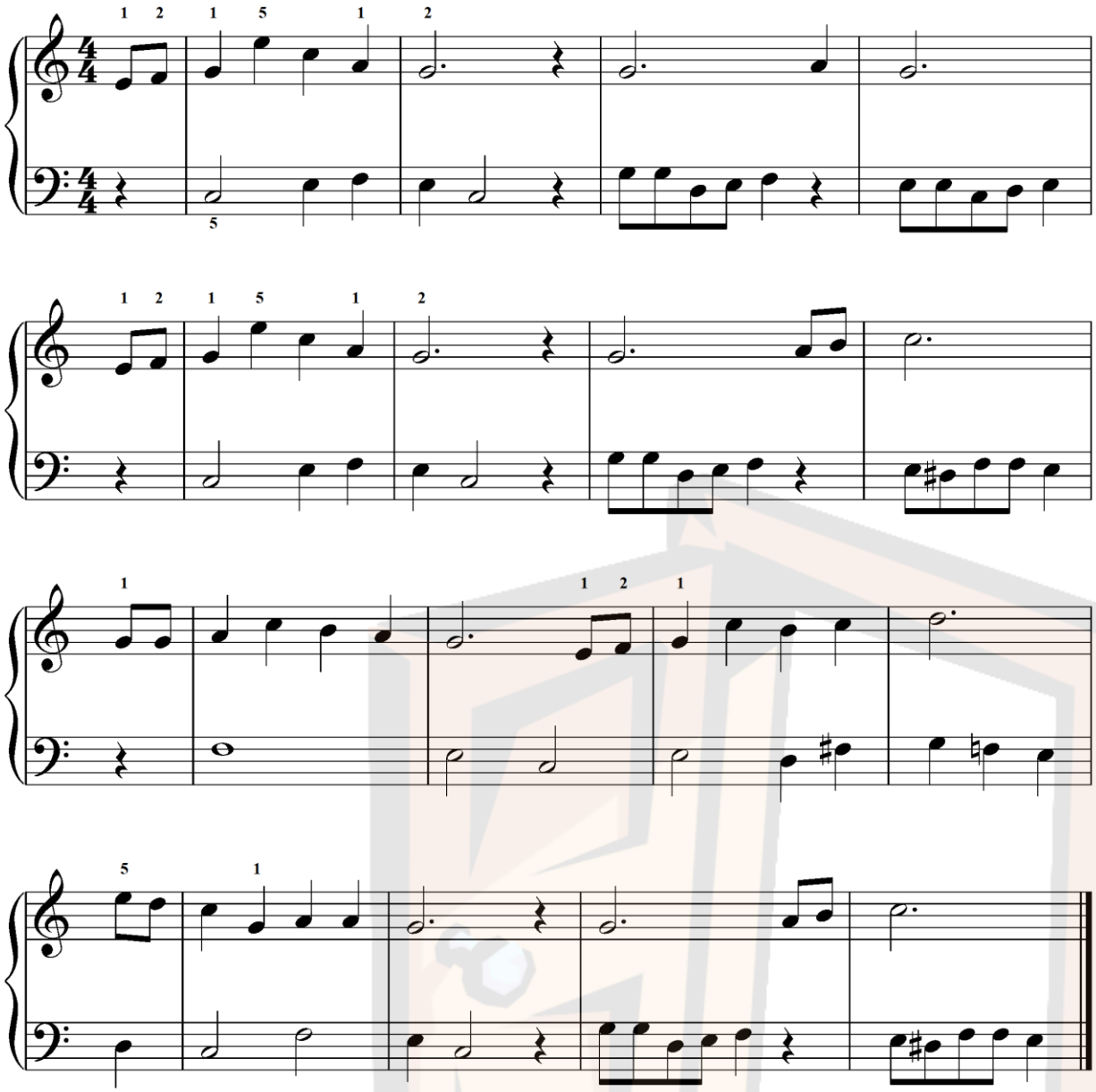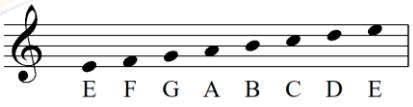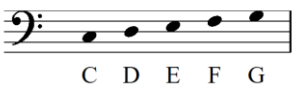








Let Him In

Edwin O. Excell
arr. Andrew Hsu









The Mercy of God Is an Ocean Divine

R. Kelso Carter
arr. Andrew Hsu

[Chorus]

C D E F G A B C D

C D E F G
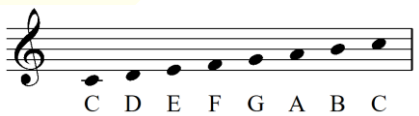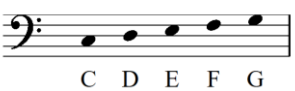


Brighten the Corner Where You Are

Charles H. Gabriel
arr. Andrew Hsu

[Chorus]
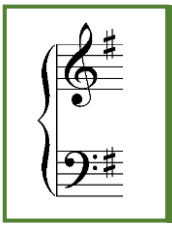






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https://hosannapraise.co.uk/piano-tutorial/

New Key - G Major



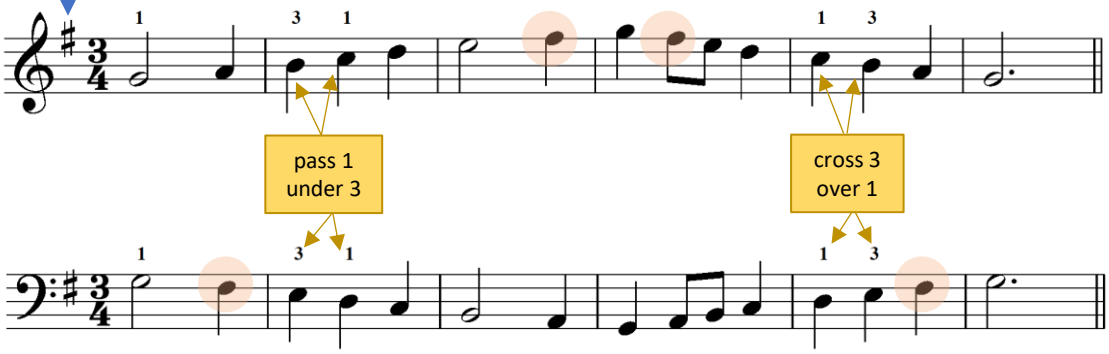
When you see this sign at the beginning of the music, it means **F** is always **sharp**.

This is called a **key signature**.



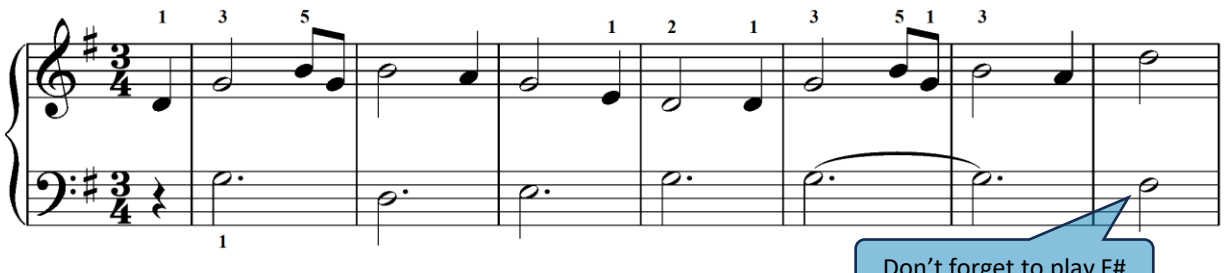
KEY OF G MAJOR
Key signature: 1 sharp (F#)
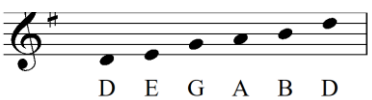
Play the scale of G major.
Remember to play a F#.
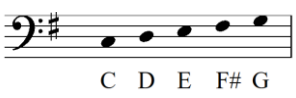


Amazing Grace

Early American Melody
arr. Andrew Hsu
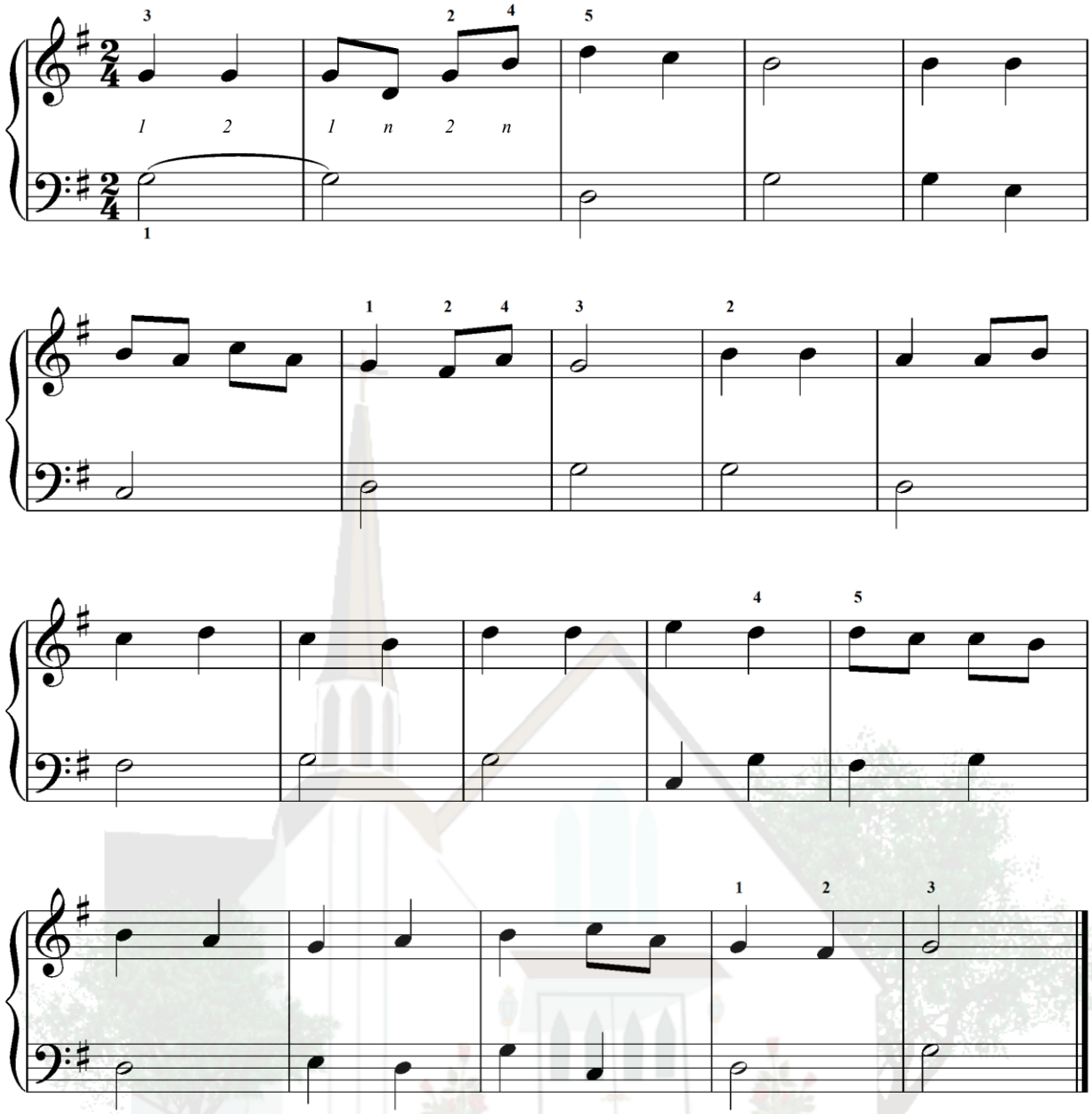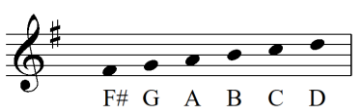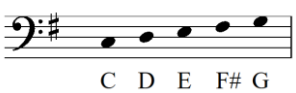








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https://hosannapraise.co.uk/piano-tutorial/

Remember the Sabbath Day

Henri A. Cesar Malan
arr. Andrew Hsu
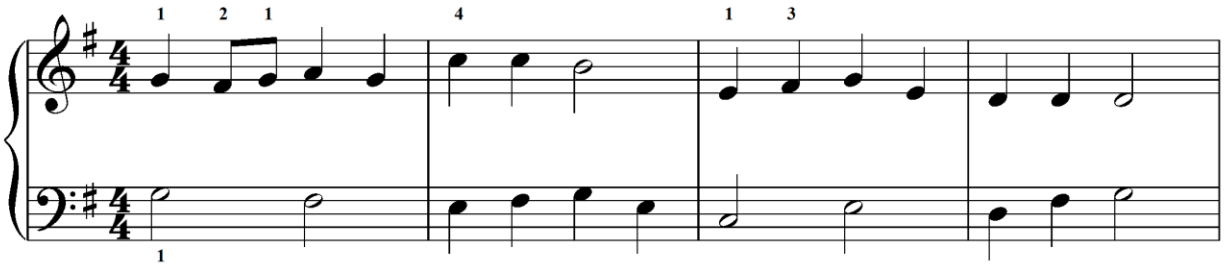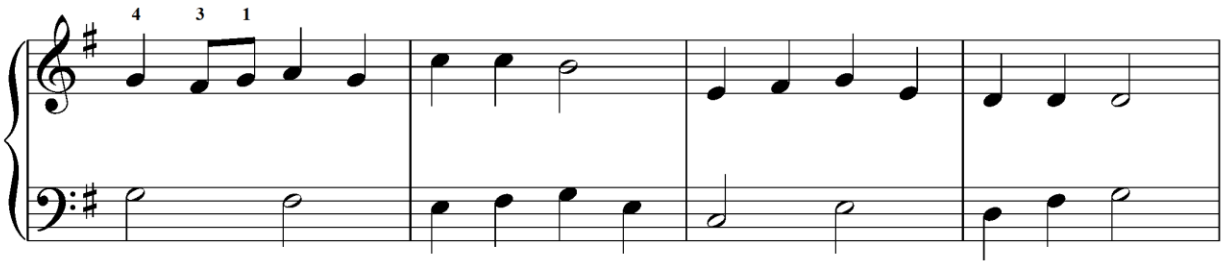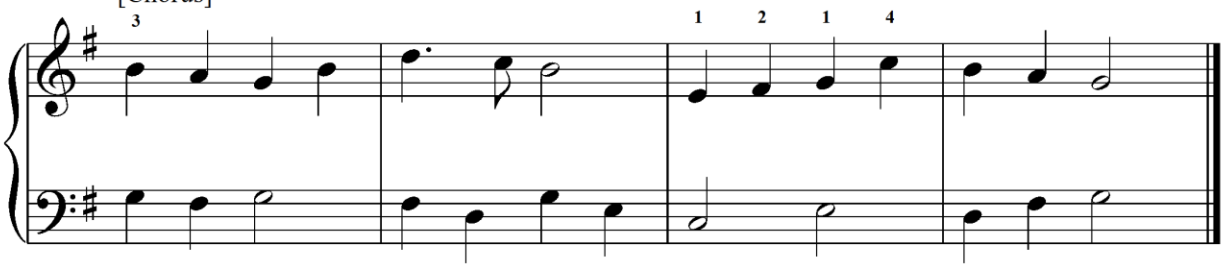






For the Beauty of the Earth
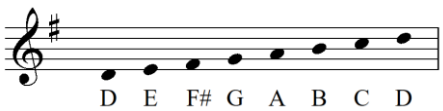
Conrad Kocher
arr. Andrew Hsu
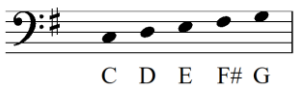




[Chorus]



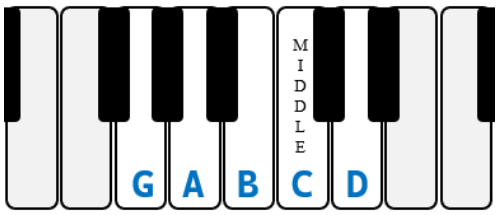


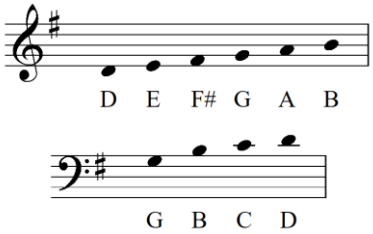






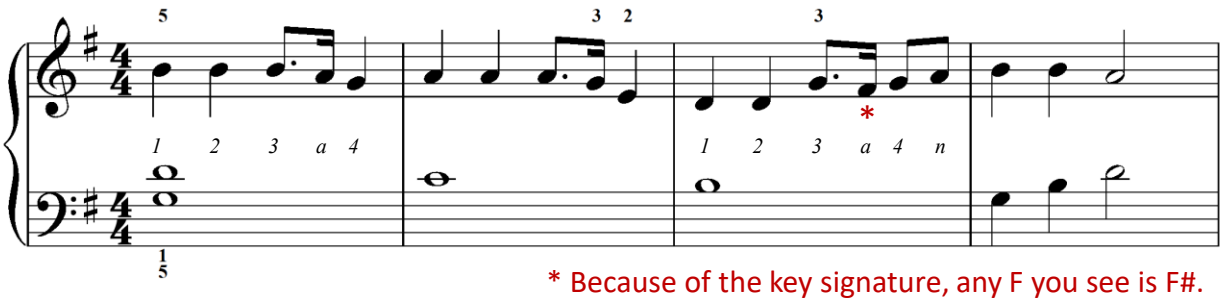
Left Hand - G Position



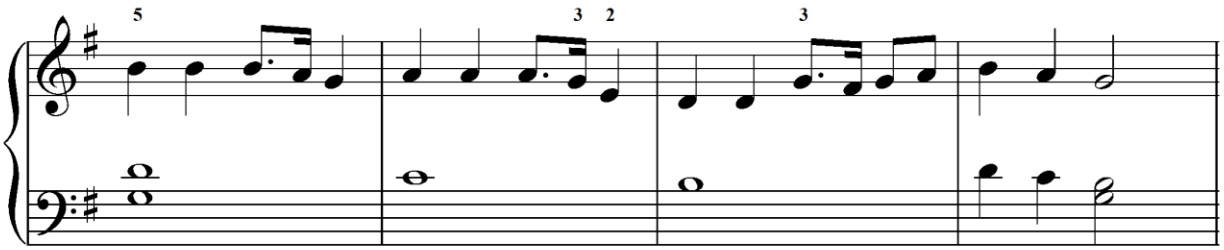


Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
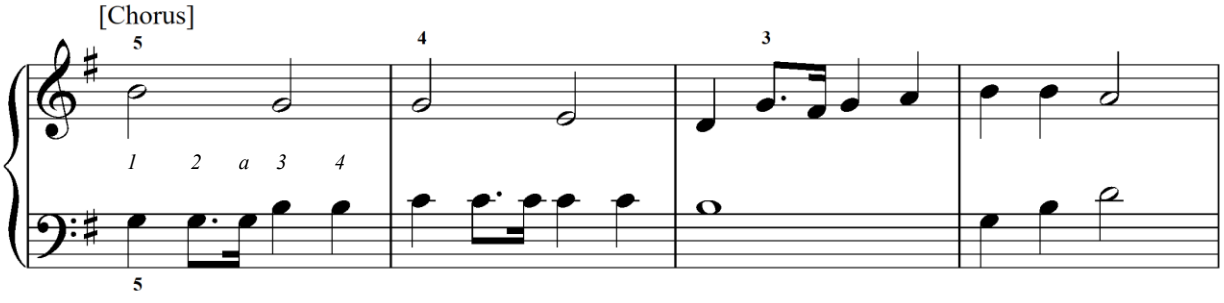
Anthony J. Showalter
arr. Andrew Hsu
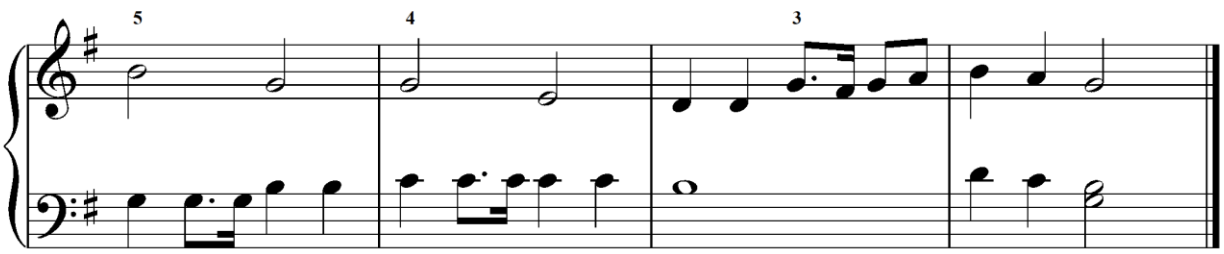


* Because of the key signature, any F you see is F#.



[Chorus]
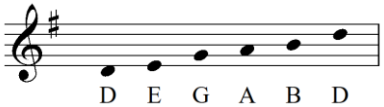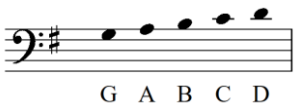




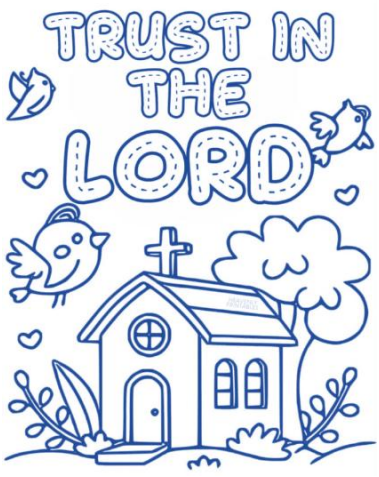
Only Trust Him

John H. Stockton
arr. Andrew Hsu

[Chorus]

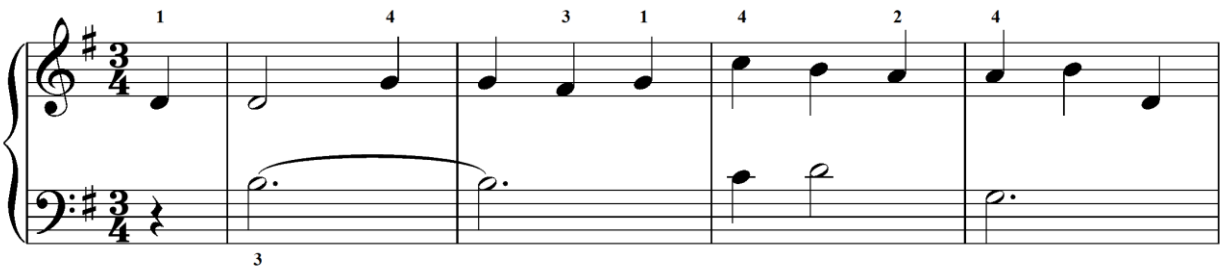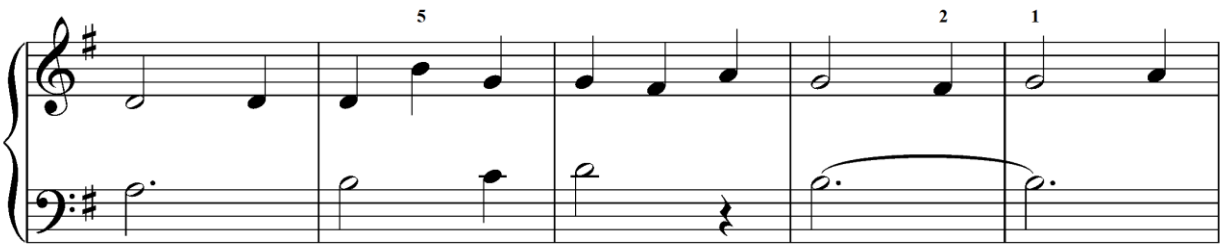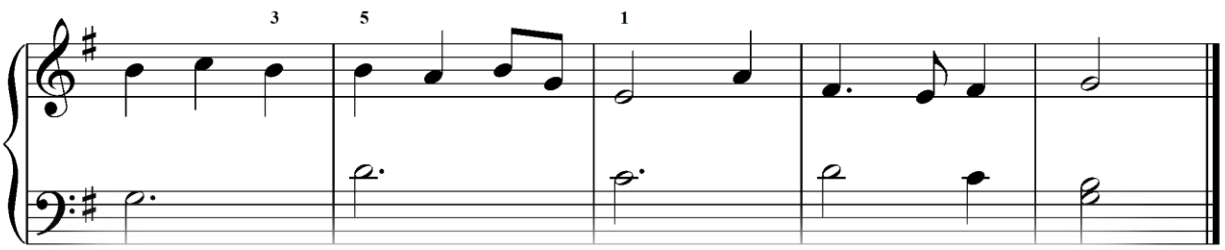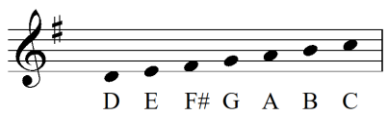






The Lord's My Shepherd
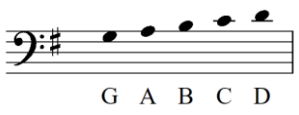
George T. Smart
arr. Andrew Hsu







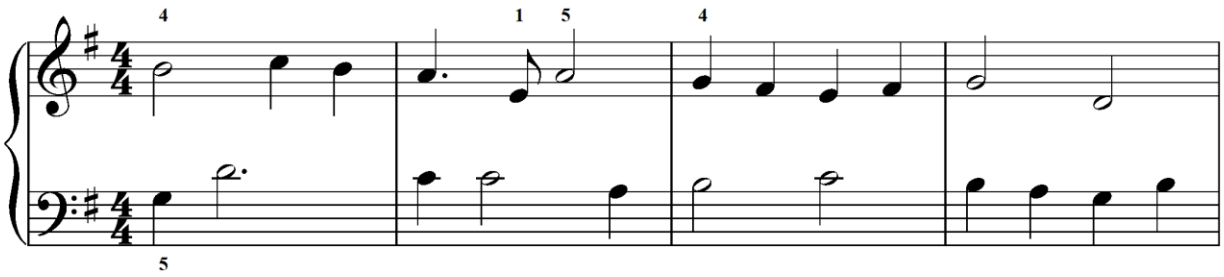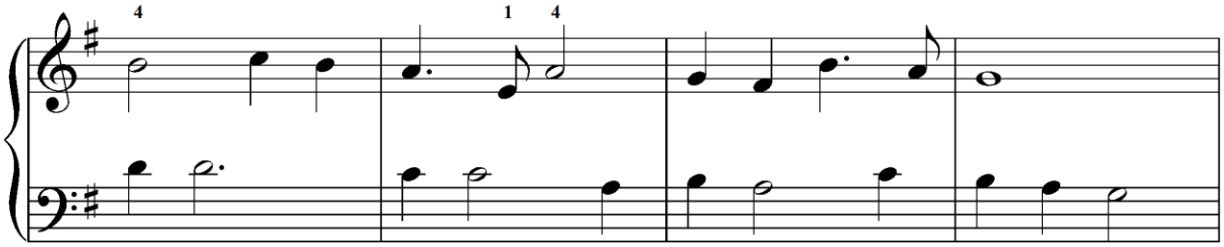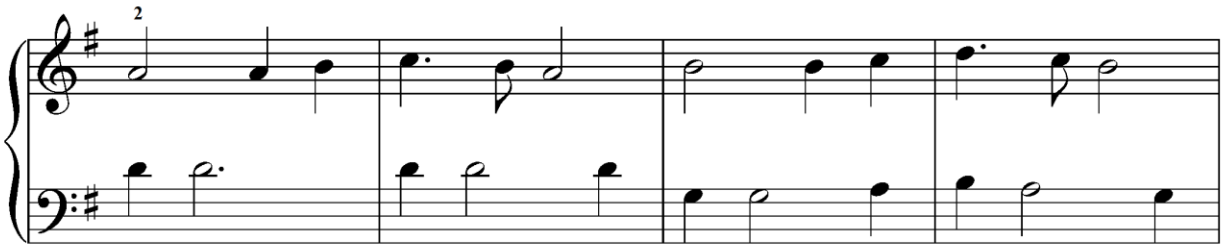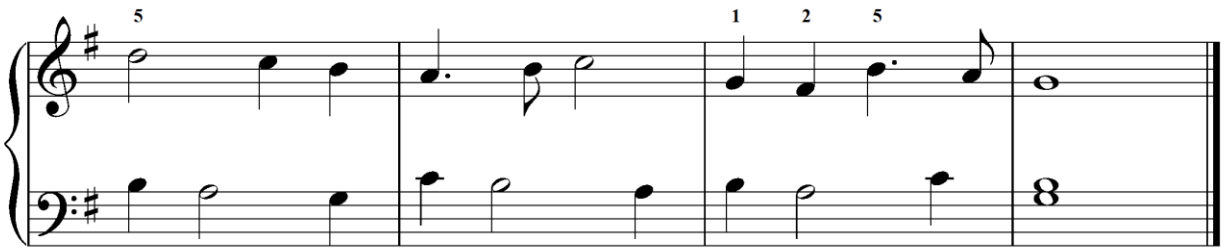






Saviour, Thy Dying Love
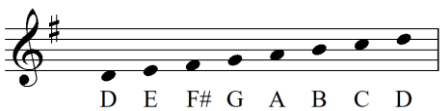
Robert Lowry
arr. Andrew Hsu
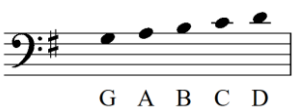










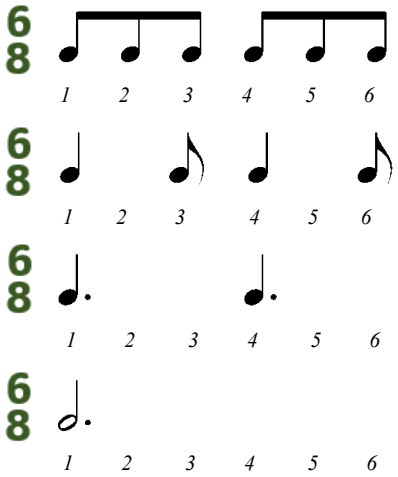




Time Signatures of $\frac{6}{8}$, $\frac{6}{4}$ and $\frac{9}{8}$

6/8 means 6 beats to each bar.
a quaver gets one count.

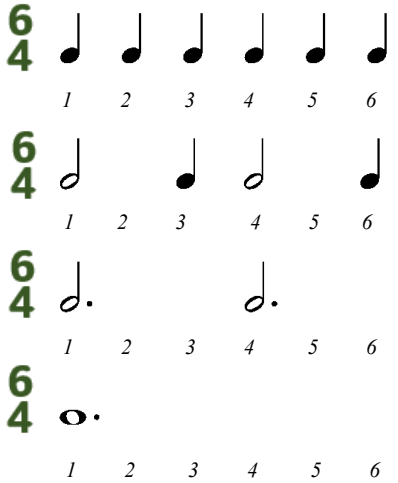
- Quaver has **1** Counts 1
- Crotchet has **2** Counts 1 - 2
- Dotted Crotchet has **3** Counts 1 - 2 - 3
- Dotted Minim has **6** Counts 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6



6/4 means 6 beats to each bar.
a crotchet gets one count.

(page 41)

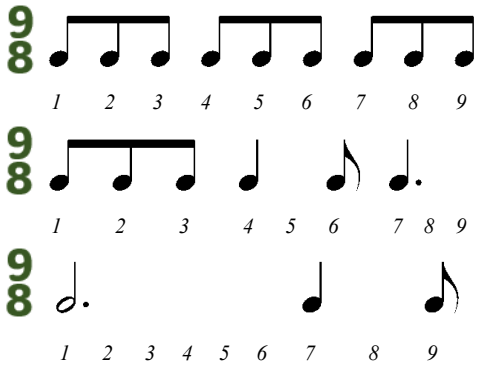
- Crotchet has **1** Counts 1
- Minim has **2** Counts 1 - 2
- Dotted Minim has **3** Counts 1 - 2 - 3
- Dotted Semibreve has **6** Counts 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6



9/8 means 9 beats to each bar.
a quaver gets one count.
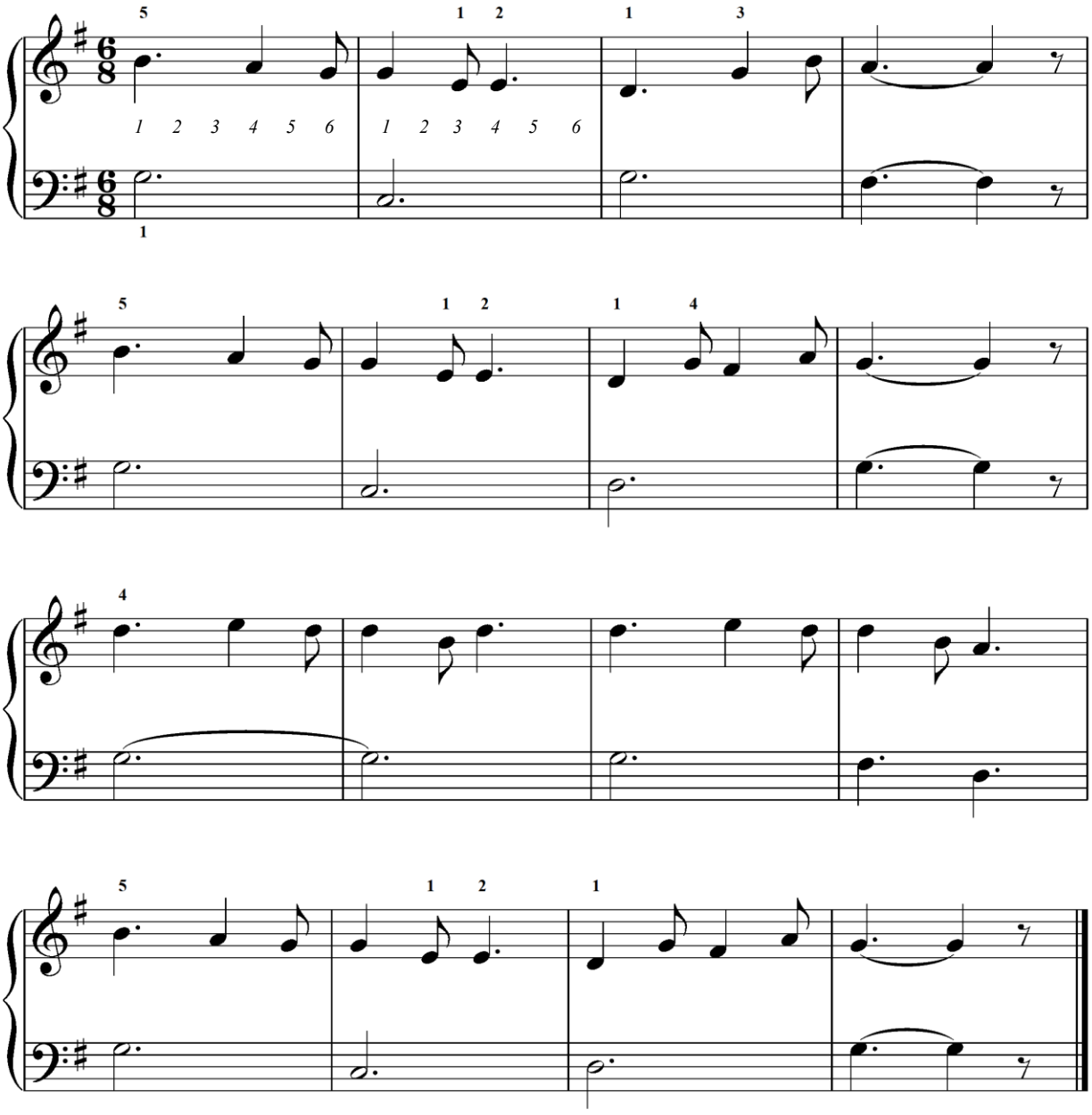
(page 42)
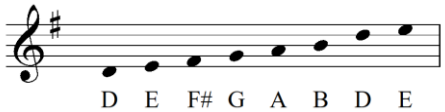
- Quaver has **1** Counts 1
- Crotchet has **2** Counts 1 - 2
- Dotted Crotchet has **3** Counts 1 - 2 - 3
- Dotted Minim has **6** Counts 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6
- has **9** Counts 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9
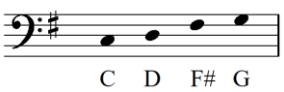


Nearer, My God, to Thee

Lowell Mason
arr. Andrew Hsu
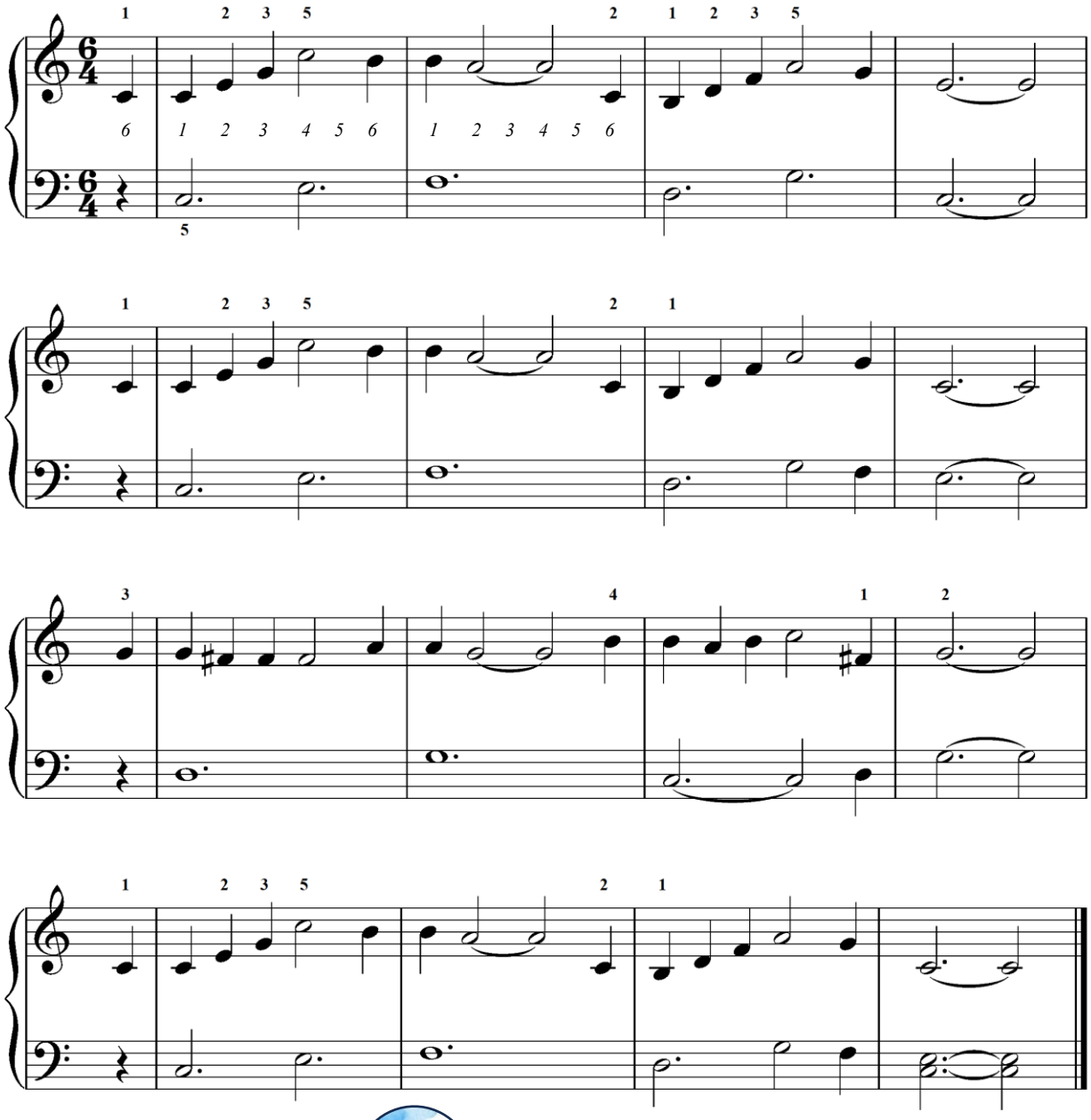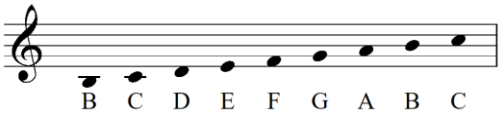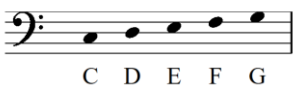








Hymns Made Really Easy Piano Tutorial Videos no. 9
https://hosannapraise.co.uk/piano-tutorial/

By Faith We Have Hope

Unknown
arr. Andrew Hsu





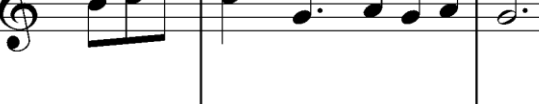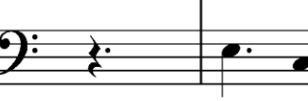


Living Hope

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine

Phoebe P. Knapp
arr. Andrew Hsu

[Chorus]





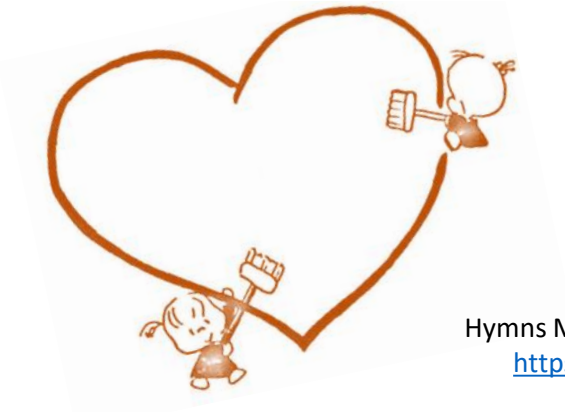


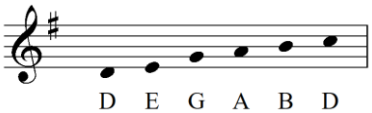
Jesus Loves Even Me
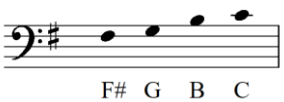
Philip P. Bliss
arr. Andrew Hsu

Don't forget to play F#

[Chorus]
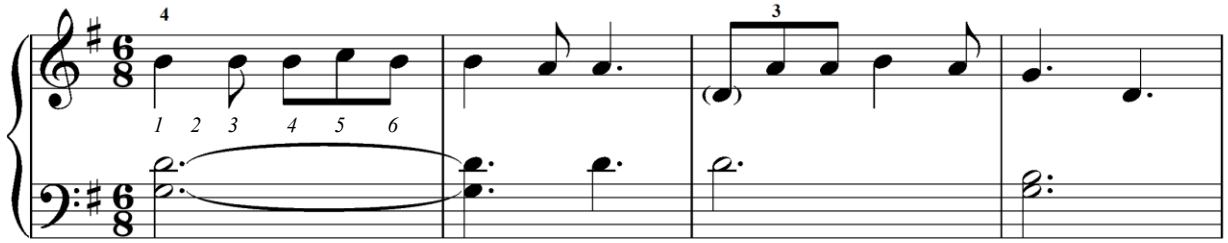




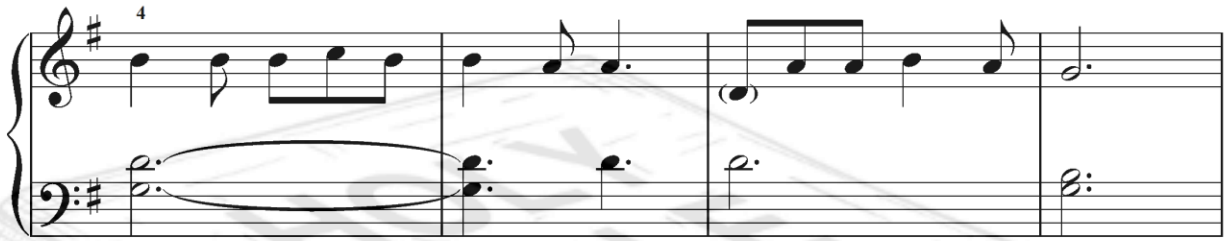


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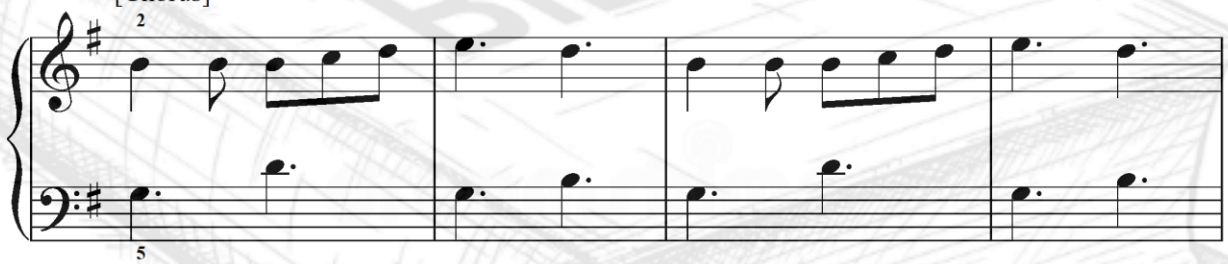
Words of Life
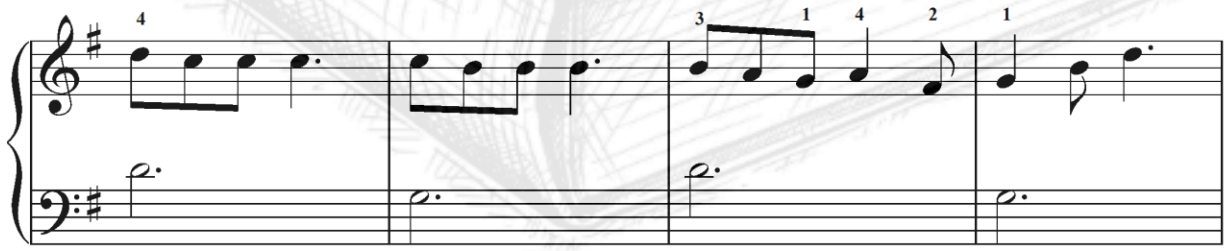
Philip P. Bliss
arr. Andrew Hsu
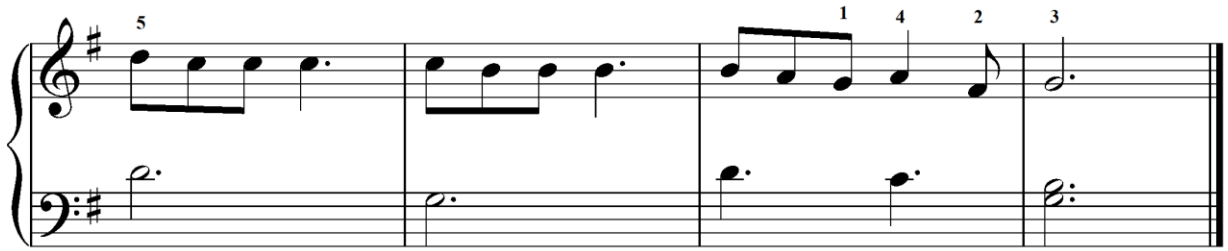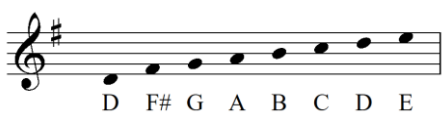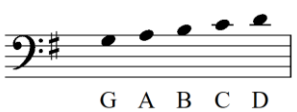




[Chorus]
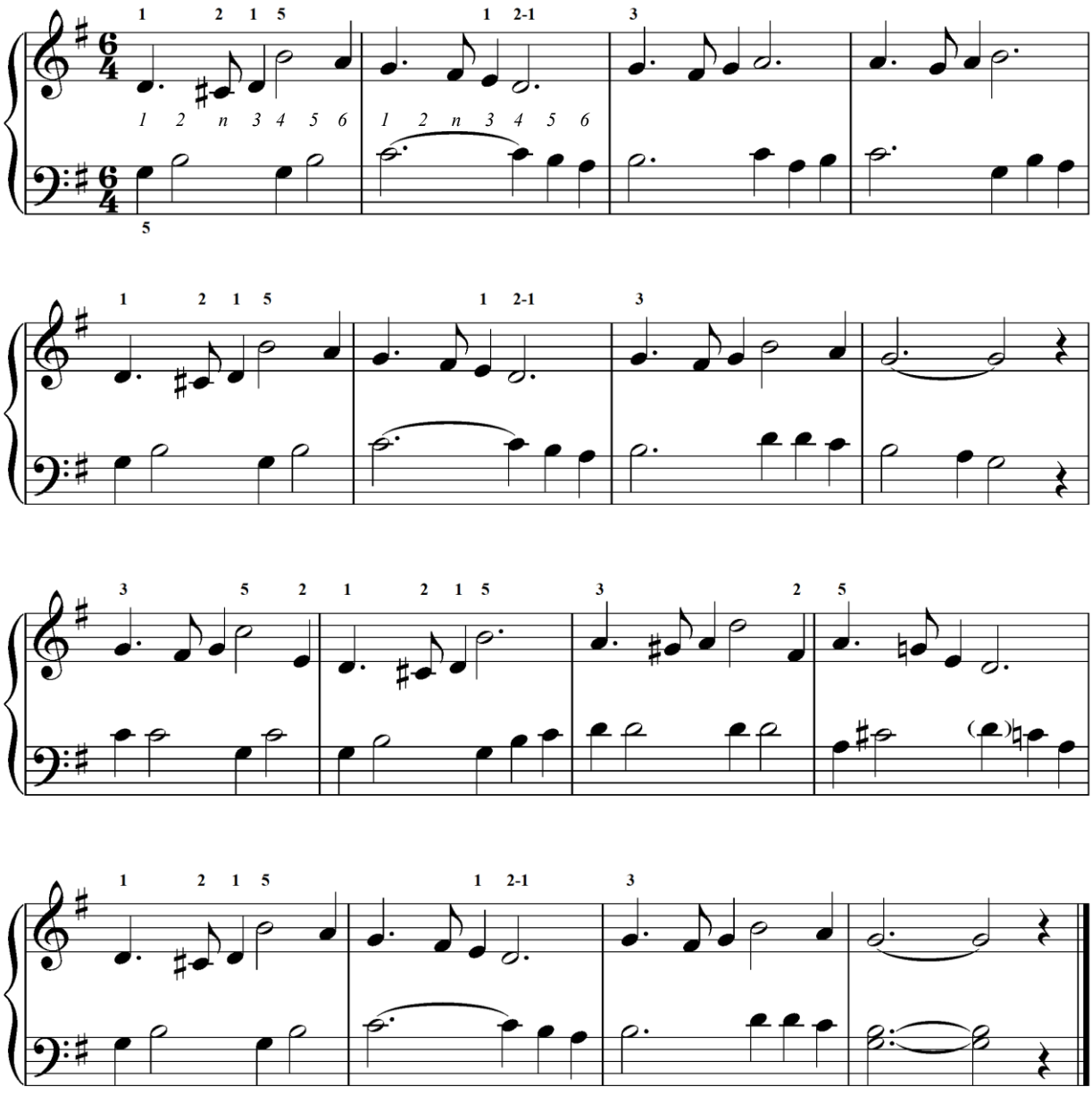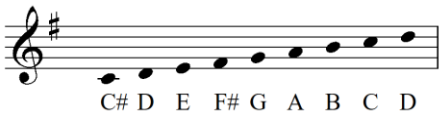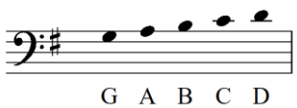










Jesus, I Come

George C. Stebbins
arr. Andrew Hsu



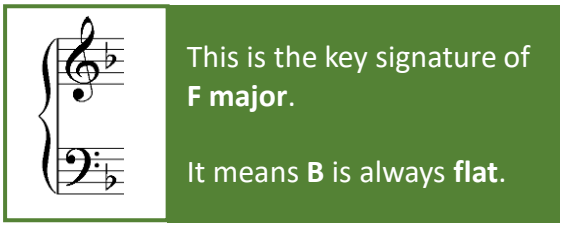






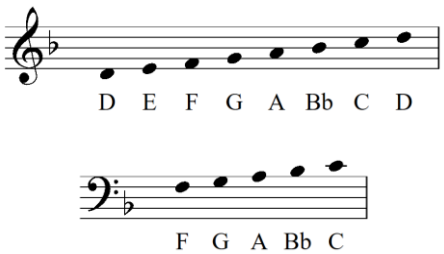


New Key - F Major



This is the key signature of **F major**.
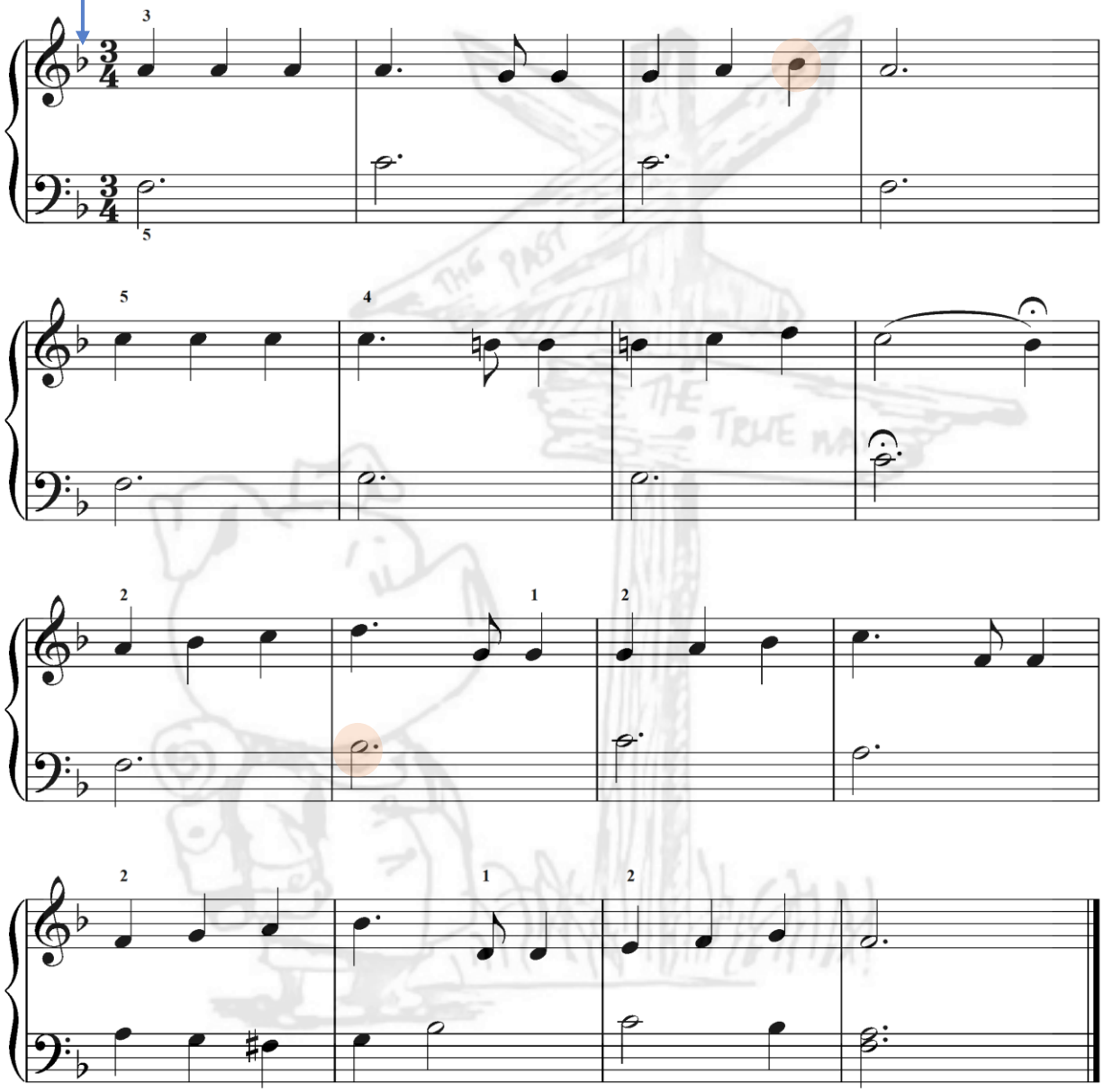
It means **B** is always **flat**.



Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord

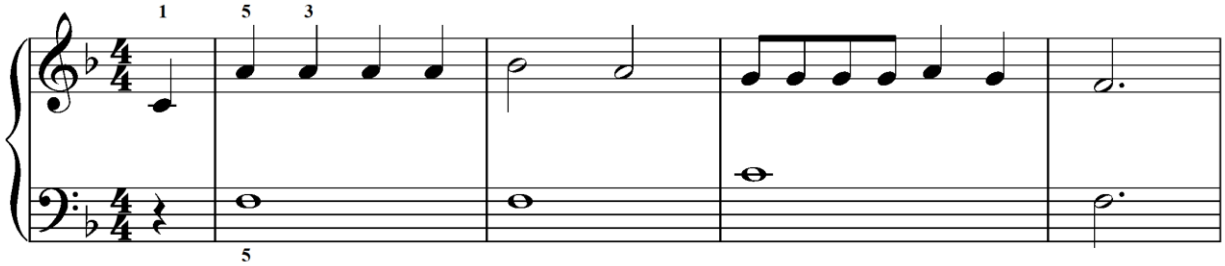
KEY OF F MAJOR
Key signature: 1 flat (Bb)

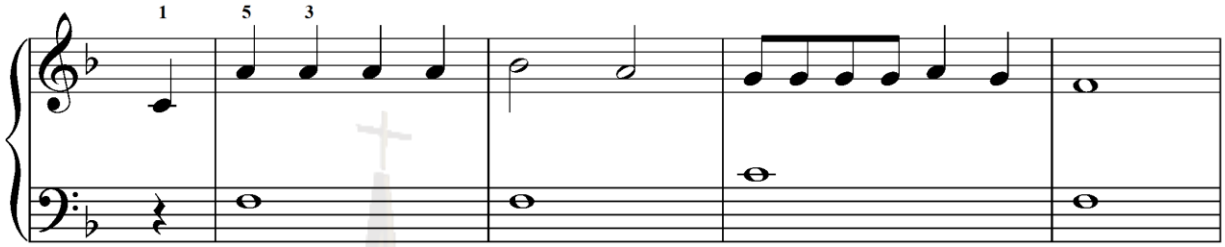
Benjamin M. Ramsey
arr. Andrew Hsu
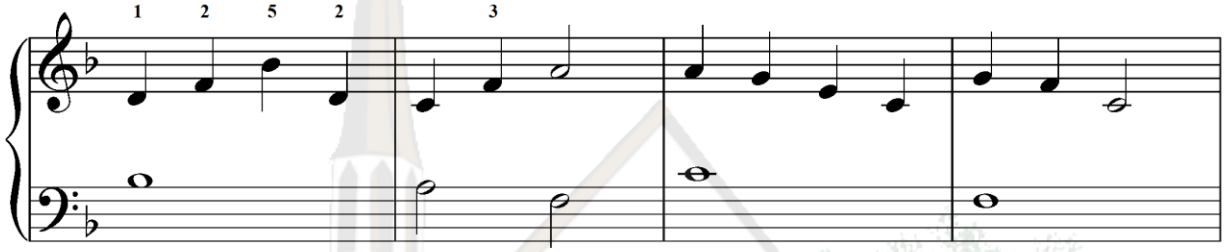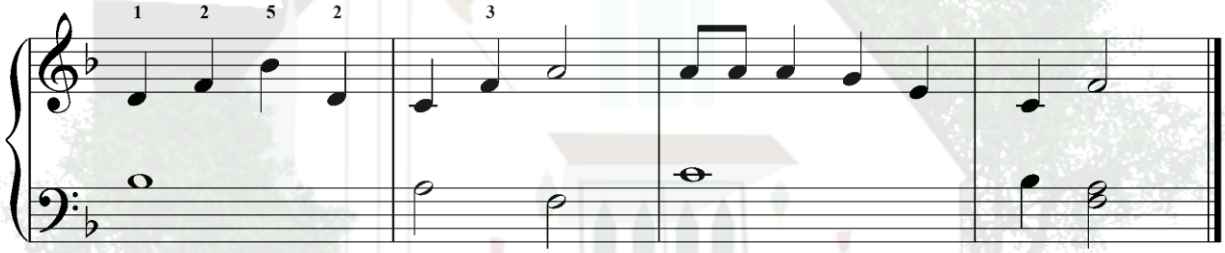


The True Church Is Established
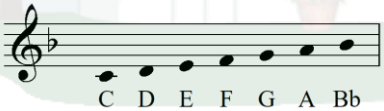
Unknown
arr. Andrew Hsu
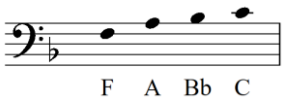






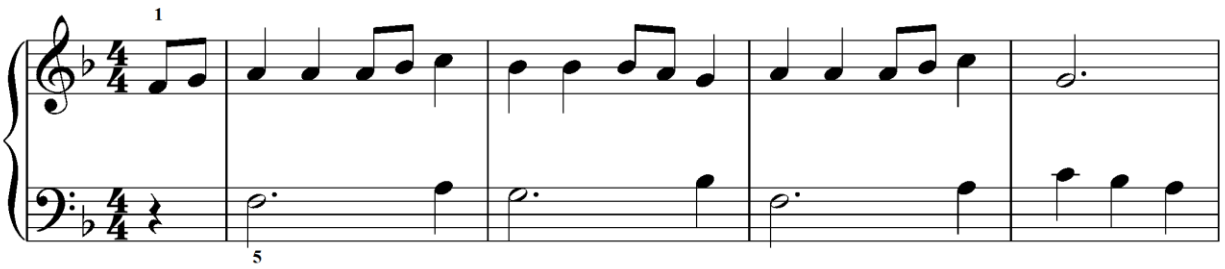


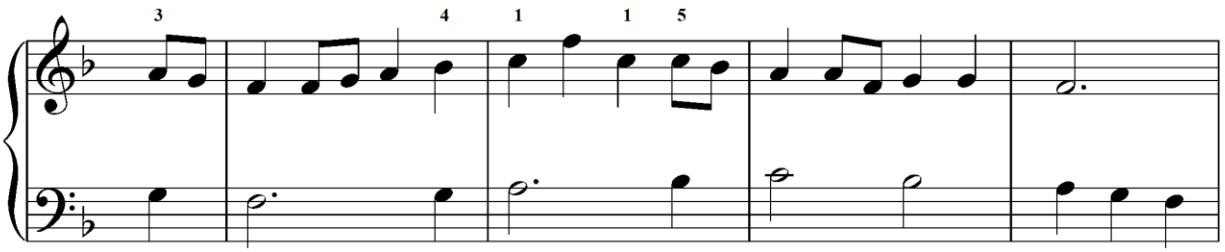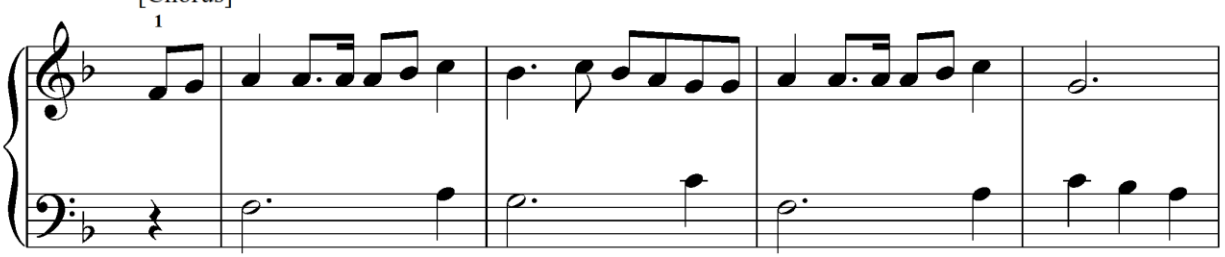




On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand
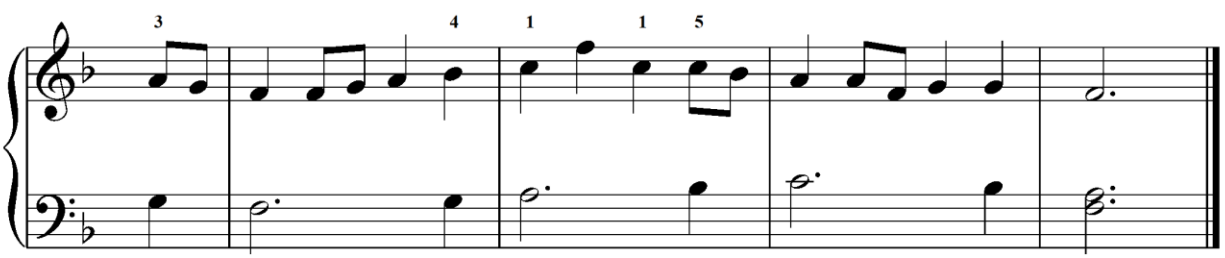
William Walker
arr. Andrew Hsu
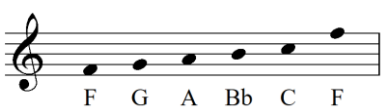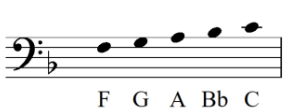




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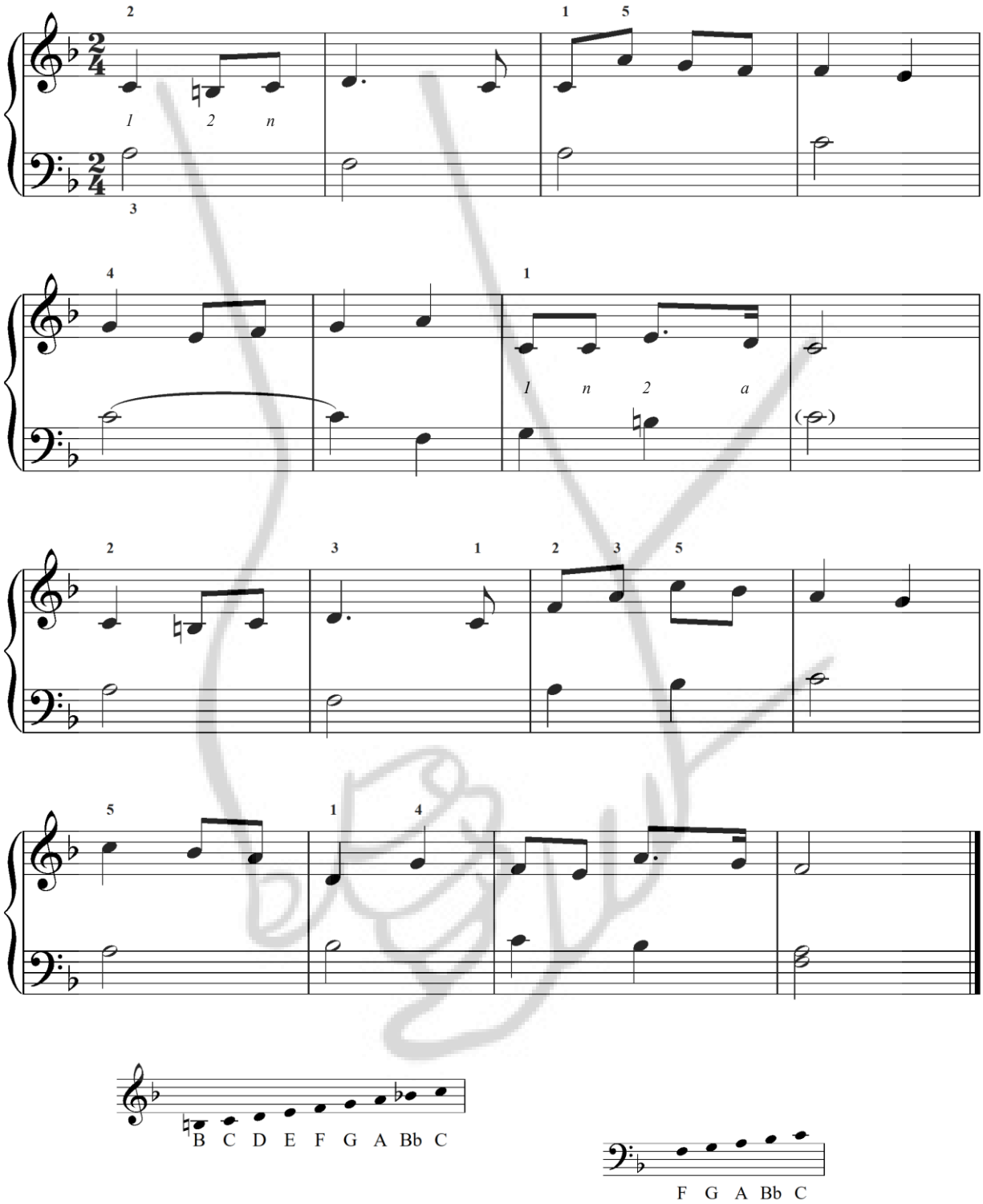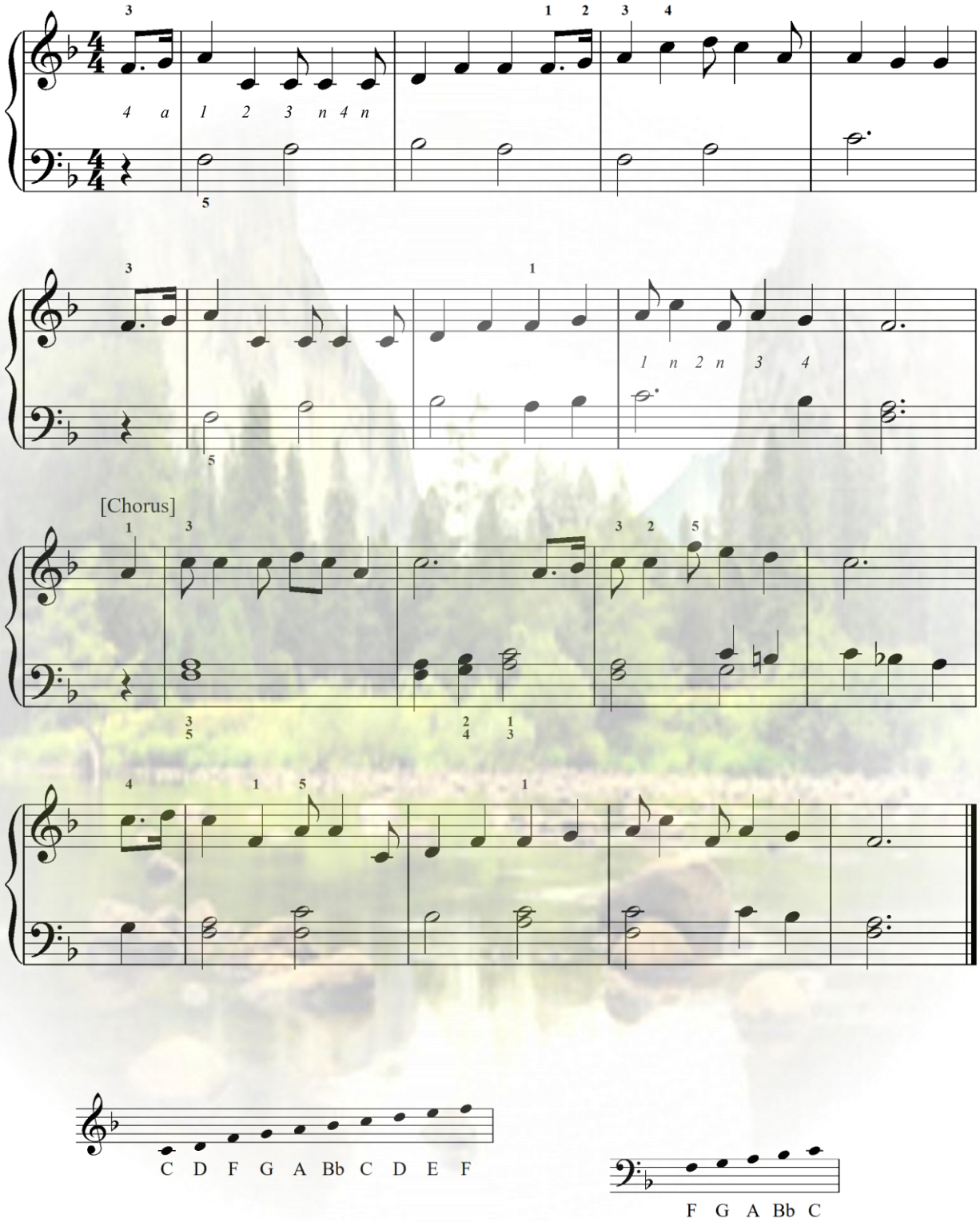










Hold Thou My Hand

Hubert P. Main
arr. Andrew Hsu



There'll Be No Dark Valley

Ira D. Sankey
arr. Andrew Hsu
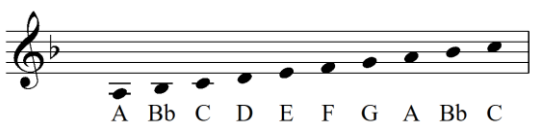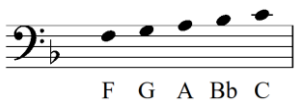


Since Jesus Came into My Heart

Charles H. Gabriel
arr. Andrew Hsu

[Chorus]

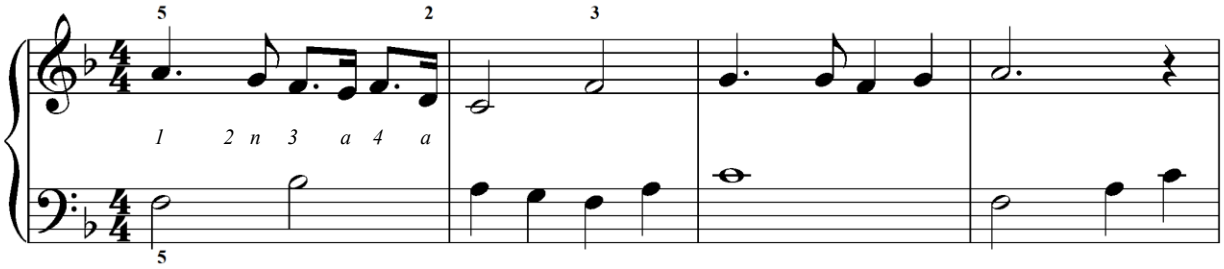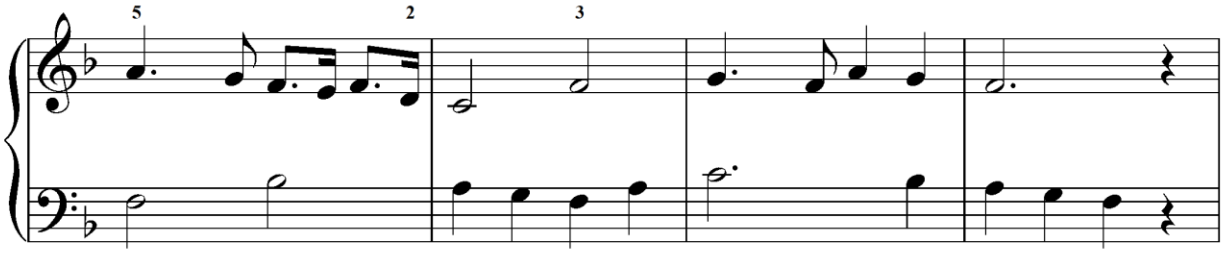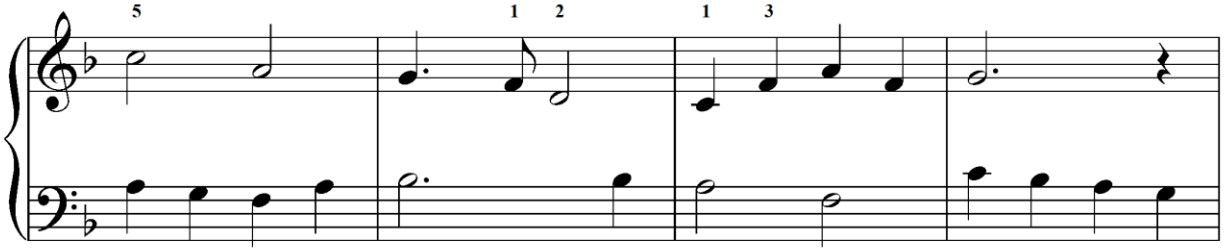






Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour
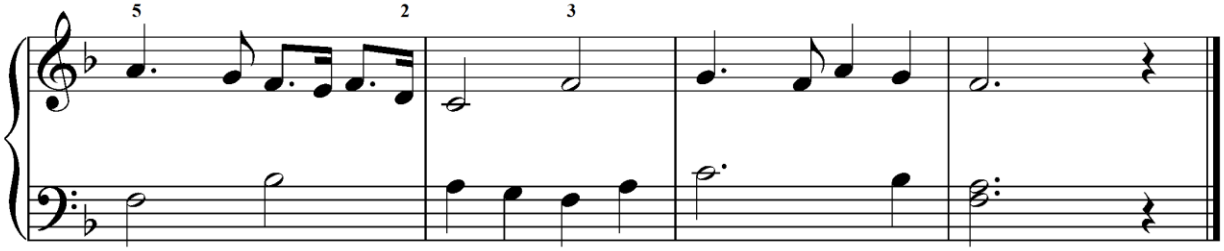
William H. Doane
arr. Andrew Hsu
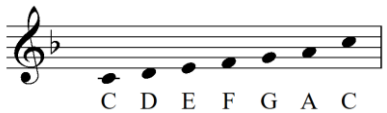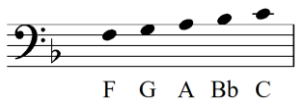




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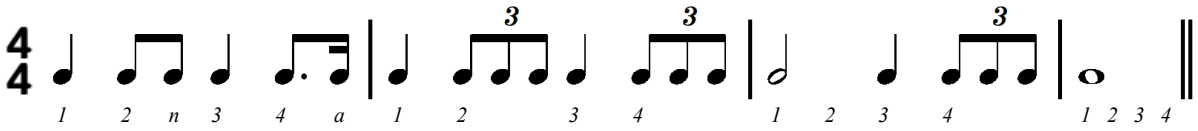










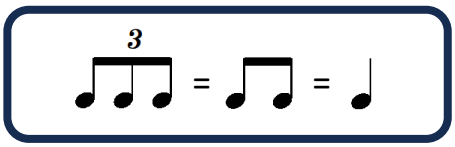
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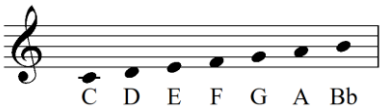
Triplet
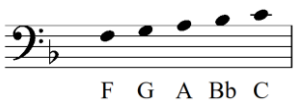
A triplet is a group of 3 notes played in the time of 2.
Try clap and count this rhythm.
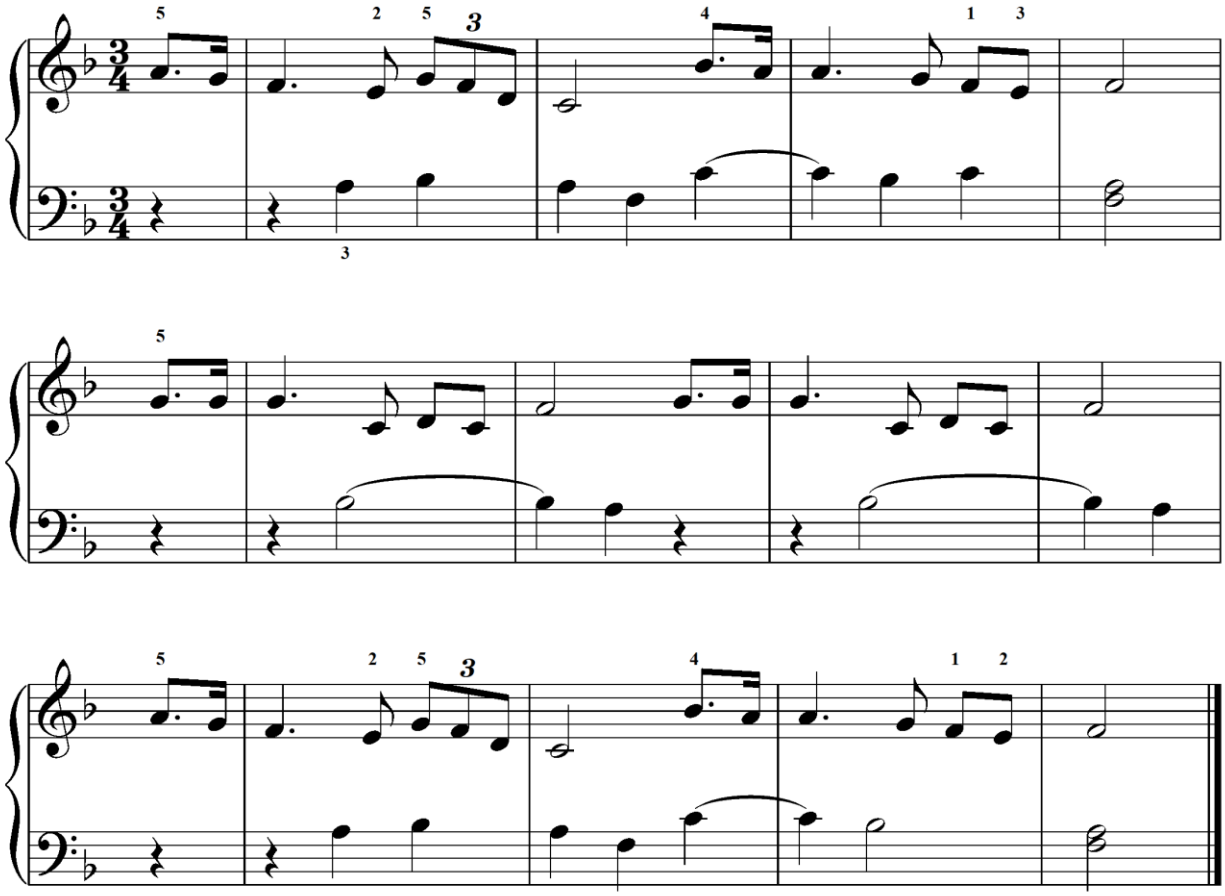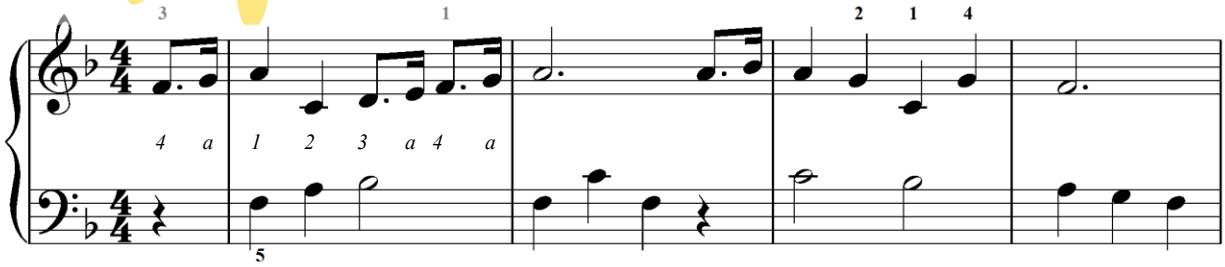










Jesus, Saviour, Pilot Me
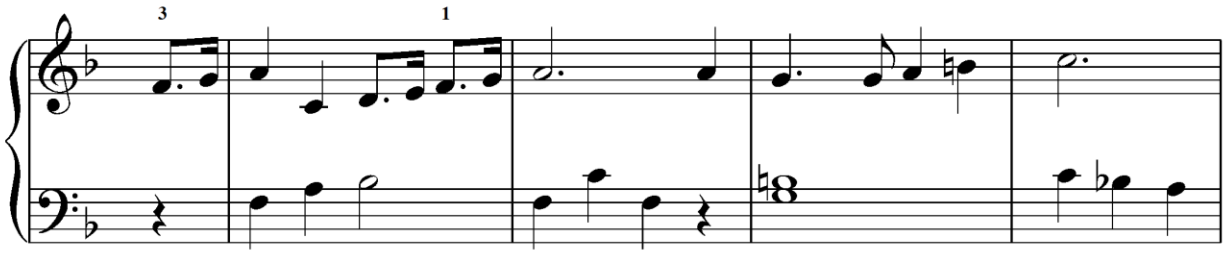
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arr. Andrew Hsu
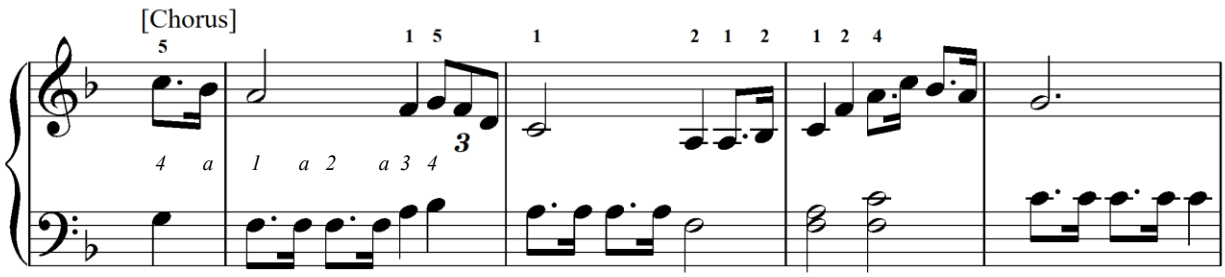


Sunshine in My Soul
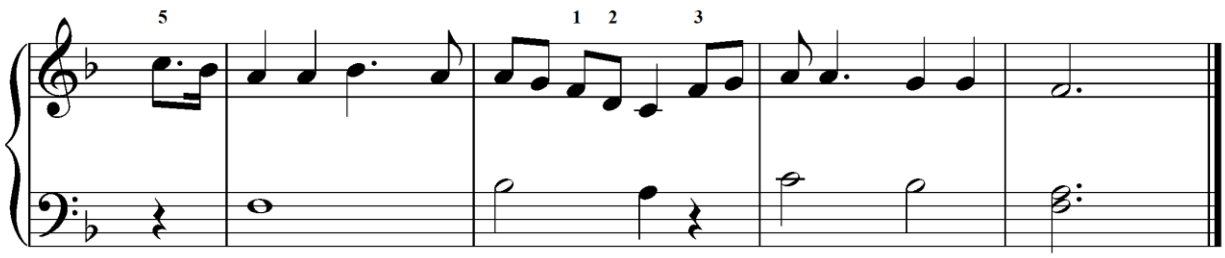
John R. Sweney
arr. Andrew Hsu

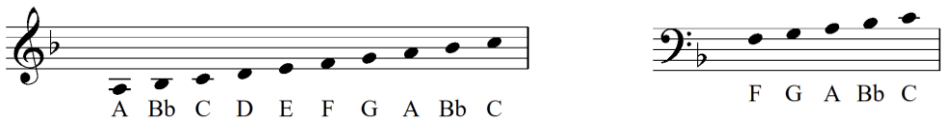




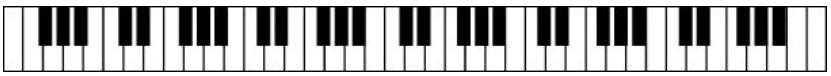
[Chorus]







List of Hymns Made Really Easy



Left Hand 5 fingers in the same position

C Major	3/2	23
	2/4	130, 169, 190, 255
	3/4	22, 32, 51B, 75, 81, 95, 101, 193, 217, 245, 258, 294, 306, 355
	4/4	17, 35, 44, 62, 73, 121, 123, 131, 143, 170, 171, 180, 195, 196, 198, 202, 211, 219, 223, 225, 231, 235, 241, 242, 250, 260, 265, 273, 285, 360, 374, 389, 390, 466
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