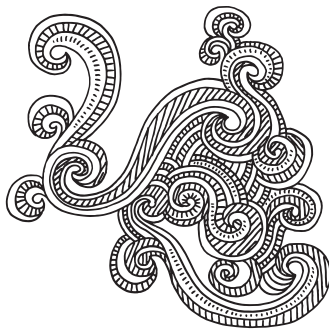


Pro Pi@no

SKILLS

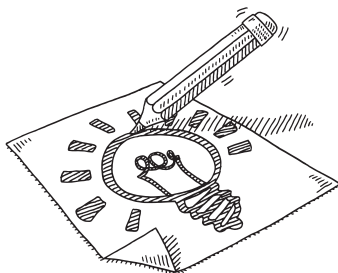
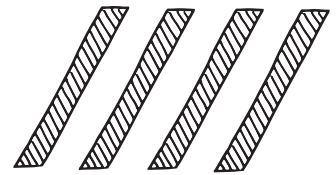
Level 4

Lead Sheets

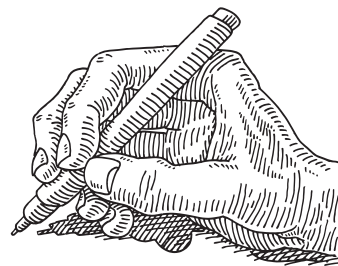


Improvisation

Chord Charts



Composition



Notation

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A Note to Students

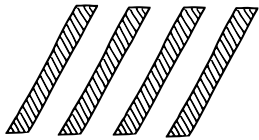
Have you ever wanted to play piano or keyboards in a band with friends? Write down your own songs? Play piano for a singer in a school talent show? The **Pro Piano Skills** section will help you learn to do all these things and take your piano studies to the next level! You'll learn:

Lead Sheets

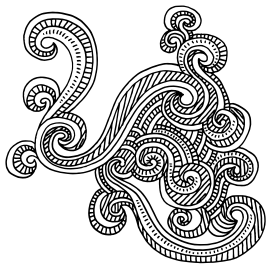


LEAD SHEETS - You'll learn how to play several pieces by reading chord symbols and a RH melody.

Chord Charts

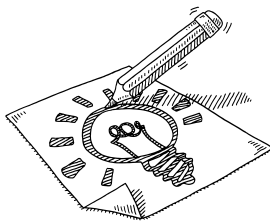


CHORD CHARTS - When you know how to play from chord charts, you can sit down at the piano and start playing just by looking at the chord names on sheet music, such as pop or rock sheet music. You need this skill to play in a band, sing songs while you play piano, or accompany other singers.

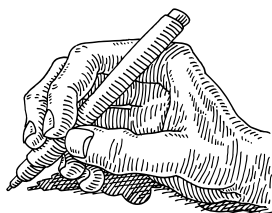


Improvisation

IMPROVISATION - Did you ever hear a pianist in a band "jamming" and making up the music as they went? That's improvisation! You'll learn blues, rock, and other types of improvisation.



Composition



Notation

COMPOSITION and **NOTATION** - Learn to compose your own pieces of music and properly write it all down (notation). This way, you can remember what you composed and even have other people play your pieces!

A Note to Teachers

Pro Piano Skills takes students beyond the printed page and puts them on the path to becoming well-rounded musicians. Some of the skills help develop a more social type of musicianship—such as playing in a band or accompanying a friend by using chord charts. Going further than reading traditional music notation gives students a greater overall appreciation and understanding of music, and makes playing the piano even more enjoyable and relevant to students' everyday lives.

About the Lead Sheets and Chord Charts

Before each **lead sheet**, a **Chord Review** provides a quick refresher of the specific chords used in the lead sheet (in the order that the chords appear). Various LH rhythm patterns are suggested to expand the student's lead-sheet-reading abilities. Consider these suggested patterns jumping off points. Students should feel free to improvise other rhythms and patterns when they are comfortable doing so.

Each **chord chart** has an optional teacher part, which provides the melody to be played above the student's *comping* (chord accompaniment). The lyrics, given in both the student part and teacher part, can be sung by the student, teacher, or both. Students should be encouraged to sing or hum the familiar melodies as they practice comping.

Triad *inversions* are used to allow for smoother chord progressions in the comping activities. (Inversions are formally introduced in the Lesson Book.) Chords in *1st inversion* are indicated by a superscript **1** next to the chord symbol in the chord chart; chords in *2nd inversion* are indicated by a superscript **2**. Note that this shorthand notation applies *only to the RH chord*; the student should play the root of the chord in the LH. *Slash chords* are also used, allowing the student to play notes in the bass other than the root of each chord.

About the Improvisation Activities

Five of the units contain an improvisation activity to be played with the teacher in the lesson. Students are given a set of notes plus several stylistically appropriate “licks” that serve as a starting point for their improvisation. Stress the importance of repeating various rhythm patterns and note combinations while improvising. Accompaniments for these improvisations are written out. Feel free to simplify or expand upon them. To begin each improvisation, start the accompaniment and have the student jump in at any point when they're comfortable.

So that students may continue practicing improvisation at home or in a lab setting, there are also *Improvisation Play-Along Tracks* that can be found along with the MP3 recordings for the level. There are no count-off clicks. Students hit play (▶), feel the beat of the music, and begin improvising when they're ready. Students don't have to improvise all the way through the tracks; the recordings give ample time for experimentation and practice, as the music loops for a few minutes.

For full flexibility controlling the play-along track tempos, import the MP3s to a device, and use an app that allows you to vary the speed while retaining the same pitches. Variable-speed playback apps are available for various operating systems and devices.

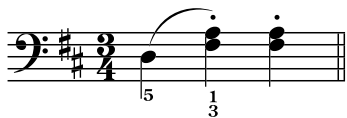
About the Composition and Notation Pages

The **Composition** and **Notation** pages develop and add to the skills students learned in prior levels. Students should apply the skills they learn in the notation sections to the pieces they write in the composition sections.



LEFT SIDE

- ✓ Practice the RH melody. (Notice the key signature.)
- ✓ Play the **Chord Review** with your LH. Then, play all the chords in the lead sheet.
- ✓ Play the lead sheet hands together. Each time you see a chord symbol, play and hold a blocked chord with your LH while your RH plays the melody.
- ✓ Finally, play hands together using the following **LH RHYTHM PATTERN**:



Chord Review

Cielito Lindo

Mexican Folk Song

Moderately fast

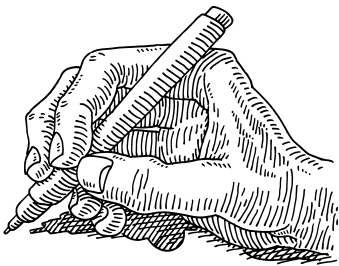
5. **D** **G**

5. **A** **D**

9. **A**

13. **D**

LH =



Notation

Writing 16th Notes

1. Complete each measure by writing a group of 16th notes (♫). Then, tap while counting out loud.



Remember:

Two 16th notes plus one 8th note can be combined together to form 1 beat:

2. Write the correct notation below each measure.
Hint: Two tied 16th notes equal one 8th note.

(Example)

PRO TIP



When writing 16th notes and 8th notes together, make sure to use proper spacing:

An 8th note gets the space of two 16ths.