

Lesson 12: Playing with both hands simultaneously

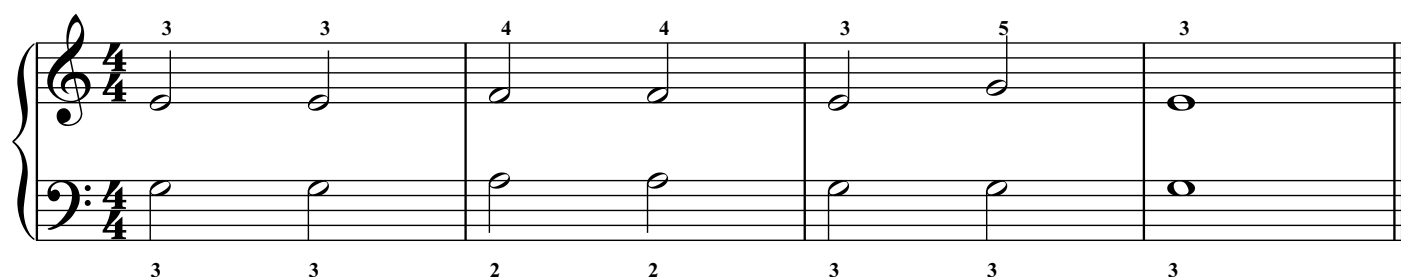
Playing hands together

How good are you at multi-tasking? Here are a couple of challenges for you. In these two exercises you need to play with both hands at the same time. It will probably help if you start by playing just the right hand part and then just the left hand part before you try both hands at the same time.

EXERCISE: HANDS TOGETHER - Slow steps

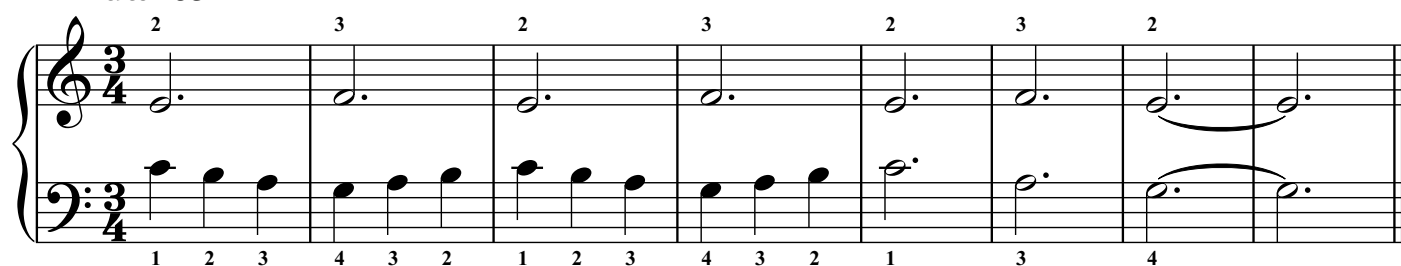
When you play hands together you should make sure that notes which are above and below each other are played at exactly the same time.

Lento



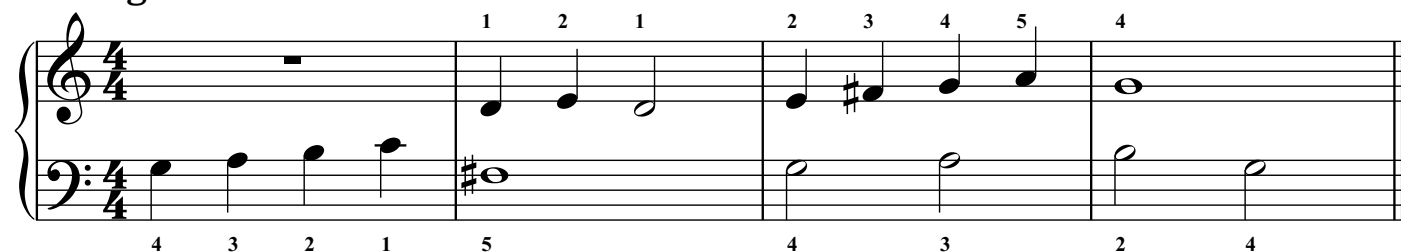
EXERCISE: HANDS TOGETHER - Rocking

Andante



EXERCISE: All the notes you know

Adagio



Ode to Joy

Ludwig van Beethoven
1770 - 1827

Andante

The musical score for the first half of 'Ode to Joy' is presented in two systems. Each system contains four measures of music. The first system's right hand starts with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) and continues with quarter notes. The left hand provides a simple accompaniment with half notes and a whole note. The second system continues the melody, ending with a half note G4 and a whole note E5 in the right hand, and a half note C4 and a whole note E4 in the left hand.

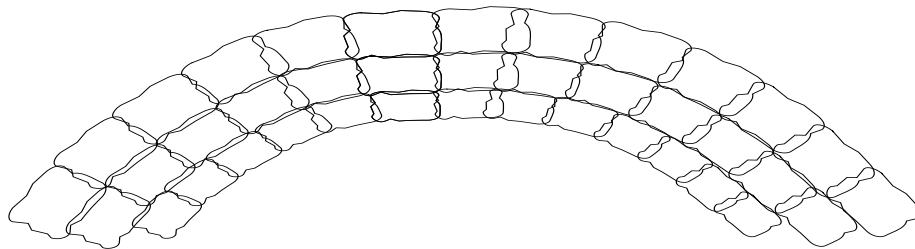
Write your own music

Here is the first half of a tune. Can you write some more notes to finish the tune.

Tips:

- 1) Play the right hand only a few times and then copy some of the ideas that are in the first half into the new bars that you are writing.
- 2) Once you have decided on the notes for the right hand, work out some left hand notes that go with them.
- 3) It will sound good if the last note in the left hand is a C and the last note in the right hand is an E or a G.
- 4) Make sure that you have a total of 4 beats per bar - no more, no less!

The writing exercise consists of a four-measure melody in the right hand of a grand staff, followed by four empty measures for the student to complete the tune. The melody starts with a quarter note C4, followed by quarter notes D4, E4, and F4. The left hand has a simple accompaniment with half notes. The key signature is C major and the time signature is common time (C).



Allegro **Sur le Pont d'Avignon** Traditional French

1 2 3 4 5 1 2

2 2 1 4

1 2

2 4

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the bass clef providing harmonic support. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Sur le Pont d'Avignon is an old French song about the bridge at Avignon. The tune dates back to the 15th century. The real name of the bridge is Pont St. Bénézet but it is better known as the Pont d'Avignon and it is where everyone dances!

When you play this tune make sure to play the staccato notes short and bouncy.