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## How to play simply piano

Learning how to play the piano with both hands together can seem like a bit of a puzzle to figure out! Can you pat your tummy while you rub your head at the same time? Or do the reverse?Maybe not the first time, but after a few tries, you can! This is just what it is like when we start playing with both hands together on our piano keyboards. Each hand is doing its own thing but at the same time. Playing with both hands together is one of the biggest challenges any new piano player faces. Once this technique is mastered, however, a whole new door of music and learning opens up and your piano playing will move into an exciting new level. Let's look at some important things to do when you're first starting to play with both of your hands together on the piano. When we look at a piece of piano music, we see that the top and bottom lines have different notes in them. The top notes are the Treble Clef notes and these are played with our right hands.The bottom notes are the Bass Clef notes and these are played with our left hands.Ultimately, we end up playing both the top and bottom lines of music at the same time. In order to do this, though, we need to break down the music and learn one hand at a time. Start with the top line which is the Treble Clef line and is played with your right hand. Make sure you know how many beats you are counting in each measure and what your key signature is. Read through your notes verbally at least once before you start playing them on the piano. Play through the Treble notes on your keyboard next and do this several times until you feel you know the music.Next, do the same steps with the bottom line which is the Bass Clef and is played with your left hand. TIP:Don't try to play either line faster than you can correctly. This will have an effect on your ability to play both lines of music together. Remember, you can always speed up your tempo later on. after you've mastered this technique in a slower tempo. Are you ready to try both hands together? Let's see what you need to do first in the next step. Next, we're going to break the music down a different way from how we did it to learn each line of music separately. Take just the first measure. In this example, we have 4 quarter notes in the Treble Clef along with a whole note in the Bass Clef. If you want to review each hand separately before trying them together that's fine; do that as much as you need to.Now, put your finger down on the Bass Clef C note at the same time you put your Middle C finger down in the Treble Clef and hold the Bass note while you play each note in the treble clef throughout the measure, for 4 counts. Notice that you don't have to lift or move your left-hand note even though you do, in your right-hand notes. Play this measure with both hands together as many times as you need to get secure with the notes and rhythm. See how much easier it is when you break it all down into smaller sections? Now that you've gotten the first measure learned, move on to the second measure and do the same process. Slow down your tempo if you're having any difficulties. When you've worked through the first 2 measures separately, try playing them together and keep doing that until you can play them as a group of measures comfortably. Keep doing this throughout the entire piece until you are able to play all of the notes in both hands together. TIP: Be aware of where rhythmic and note patterns change from measure to measure as this will help you play them all together smoothly and easily. Now it's time to put all of this together so you can be sure that you're doing everything correctly! Come Practice With Me in the Final Step!This quick video tutorial takes you through the steps we've gone over here using the same sample that is in the images and it will reinforce your learning as you play along with me and see just how easy it can be to play your piano with both hands together. Once you've mastered this skill in easier music, you'll be able to move on to playing both hands together faster and smoother with more difficult music, in no time. "The Piano Lesson" is part of August Wilson's cycle of 10 plays known as the Pittsburgh Cycle. Each play explores the lives of African American families. The dramas take place in a different decade, from the early 1900s until the 1990s. "The Piano Lesson" premiered in 1987 at the Yale Repertory Theatre. Set in Pittsburg during 1936, "The Piano Lesson" centers on the conflicting wills of a brother and sister (Boy Willie and Berniece) as they vie for possession of their family's most important heirloom, the piano. Boy Willie wants to sell the piano. With the money, he plans to buy land from the Sutters, a white family whose patriarch helped murder Boy Willie's father. Berniece, 35, insists that the piano will stay in her home. She even pockets her late husband's gun to ensure the piano's security. So, why the power struggle over a musical instrument? To answer that, one must understand the history of Berniece and Boy Willy's family (the Charles family), as well as a symbolic analysis of the piano. During Act One, Boy Willy's Uncle Doaker recounts a series of tragic events in their family's history. During the 1800s, the Charles family was enslaved by a farmer named Robert Sutter. As an anniversary present, Robert Sutter traded two enslaved people for a piano. The exchanged enslaved people were Boy Willie's grandfather (who was only nine years old at the time) and great grandmother (after whom Berniece was named). Mrs. Sutter loved the piano, but she missed the company of the people she enslaved. She became so upset she refused to get out of bed. When Robert Sutter was unable to trade back the pair of enslaved people, he gave a special task to Boy Willie's great grandfather who was left behind (after whom Boy Willie was named). Boy Willie's great grandfather was a gifted carpenter and artist. Robert Sutter ordered him to carve pictures of the enslaved man and woman into the wood of the piano so that Mrs. Sutter would not miss them as much. Of course, Boy Willie's great grandfather missed his own family more earnestly than his enslavers. So, he carved beautiful portraits of his wife and child, as well as other images: His mother, Mama Esther His father, Boy Charles His marriage His son's birth His mother's funeral The day his family was taken away In short, the piano is more than an heirloom; it is a work of art, embodying the family's joy and heartache. After the Civil War, members of the Charles family continued to live and work in the south. Three grandchildren of the aforementioned enslaved people are important characters of "The Piano Lesson." The three brothers are: Boy Charles: the father of Boy Willie and Berniece Doaker: a longtime railroad worker "who has for all intents and purposes retired from the world" Wining Boy: a lousy gambler and formerly talented musician During the 1900s, Boy Charles constantly complained about the Sutter family's ownership of the piano. He believed that the Charles family was still enslaved so long as the Sutters kept the piano, symbolically holding the Charles family legacy hostage. On July 4, the three brothers took the piano away while the Sutters enjoyed a family picnic. Doaker and Wining Boy transported the piano to another county, but Boy Charles stayed behind. That night, Sutter and his posse set fire to Boy Charles' home. Boy Charles attempted to escape by train (the 3:57 Yellow Dog, to be exact), but Sutter's men blocked the railroad. They set fire to the boxcar, murdering Boy Charles and four homeless men. Over the next 25 years, the murderers met a dreadful fate of their own. Some of them mysteriously fell down their own well. A rumor spread that the "Ghosts of the Yellow Dog" sought revenge. Others contend that ghosts had nothing to do with the death of Sutter and his men—that living and breathing men threw them into a well. Throughout "The Piano Lesson," Sutter's ghost appears to each of the characters. His presence can be seen as a supernatural character or the symbolic remnant of an oppressive society that still attempts to intimidate the Charles family.

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