

Keyboard Kids' Companion

Created by Teachers & Approved by Kids

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A=♩ B=♭ C=C D=mf E=♯
 G=< H=> I=8va J=L# M=b
 N=q O=ff P=p R=:|| S=♪ T=■
 U=8vb V=♪ W=sf Y=♪

Back-to-School Piano Practice Treasure Chest

Composers give us many hints for unlocking their musical treasures. It's our job to read and follow their clues in our daily practice. We will talk a lot about good practicing in upcoming issues of *Keyboard Kids' Companion*. Let's get started with a symbol review. Tell your teacher the name and meaning of each symbol in this Treasure Chest Key. Circle and review with your teacher symbols you don't know or don't remember.

Using the Key to crack the code, find a few ideas that will help you find musical treasures in your daily practice. Make these ideas part of your daily game plan!

Preview your music before you start to practice.

1. Identify and define new or unfamiliar terms and $\{ \} \downarrow \flat \text{bass clef } ff \# \{ \}$.
2. $C \quad ff \quad \# \quad ff \quad :|| \quad C \quad ff \quad mf \quad \hat{p}$ details, such as dynamics, to focus your attention when you practice.
3. Write in the counting for tricky rhythms. $C \quad \# \quad \text{treble clef} \quad p \quad C \quad ff \quad 8vb \quad q \quad \text{bar line}$ and $C \quad ff \quad 8vb \quad q \quad \text{bar line}$ the rhythm before playing.
4. Set specific $< \quad ff \quad \text{treble clef} \quad \# \quad \{ \}$ for each piece before practicing.

Attention to details right from the start of your practicing sets you up for a great finish! Here are a just few ideas that can help you best pay attention to details:

1. Work in $\{ \quad \flat \quad \text{treble clef} \quad \# \quad \# \quad \{ \quad \hat{p} \quad C \quad \text{bar line} \quad 8va \quad ff \quad q \quad \{ \}$.
2. Practice each section using the HATT trick: $> \quad \text{treble clef} \quad q \quad mf \quad \{ \quad \text{treble clef} \quad \# \quad ff \quad q \quad \hat{p}$, then together.
3. Practice everything $\{ \quad \# \quad ff \quad sf \quad \# \quad \downarrow$ to help build security in tricky passages.
4. Use a $\hat{p} \quad 8va \quad mf \quad \hat{p} \quad ff \quad :|| \quad \hat{p} \quad C \quad ff \quad :|| \quad mf \quad \hat{p} \quad :||$ as your practice "mirror."

You will understand your playing more clearly than ever!

To see the solution, go to www.claviercompanion.com.

What else can you think of that will help you with great practice sessions? Write your idea with the code word in a sentence spelled out in symbols from the Key. Ask your teacher to crack your code!

My Idea: _____

BIRTHDAYS



September

8 Antonín Dvořák

Born: September 8, 1841, in Bohemia

Died: May 1, 1904, in Czechoslovakia

Fact: Dvořák made a living composing and teaching at the Prague Conservatory in Czechoslovakia. In 1892, he came to America to work. While in the United States, he wrote the “New World” Symphony.

Famous Works

Symphony No. 9, “New World”

Slavonic Dance in E minor, Op. 72 No. 2

Carnival Overture

Listen

<https://youtu.be/HCIX2s8A9IE>
(Largo at 10:07)

<https://youtu.be/15RuBxyJ3qk>

<https://youtu.be/aijNQgTVYrY>



29 George Gershwin

Born: September 26, 1898, in New York

Died: July 11, 1937, in California

Fact: Early in his career, Gershwin made a living by demonstrating sheet music to boost sales at a music store in New York. He was a composer who worked to make jazz music accepted as a serious art form suitable for concert halls. He was very successful at creating his own style by combining classical and popular music styles.

Famous Works

Rhapsody in Blue

An American in Paris

“I Got Rhythm”

Listen

<https://youtu.be/cH2PH0auTUU>

<https://youtu.be/EGt000iascg>

<https://youtu.be/uPRIM5JvYx8>



October

9 Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns

Born: October 9, 1835, in France

Died: December 16, 1921, in Algeria

Fact: Camille Saint-Saëns was a child prodigy. He composed his first piece at age three, and by seven, he was giving public concerts as a pianist and organist. It is said that he had a perfect memory for any piece he ever played. Only *The Swan* was published by the composer.

Famous Works

Carnival of the Animals

Symphony No. 3, “Organ Symphony”

Violin Concerto No. 3

Scherzo A Musical Joke

Would you like to
hear a joke about
a fermata?

Never mind,
there's not
enough time. It's
long.

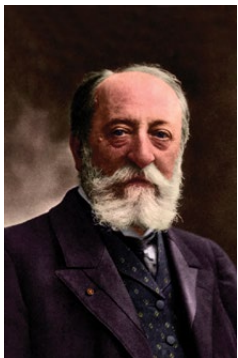


Listen:

<https://youtu.be/hjaBGAfWGSU>

<https://youtu.be/eW-7S9fjyfU>

<https://vimeo.com/173988990>



22 Franz Liszt

Born: October 22, 1811, in Hungary

Died: July 31, 1886, in Germany

Fact: One of the greatest pianists and teachers of all times, Liszt composed more than 2,000 works for piano. He worked to push beyond what was thought to be the limits of color and technique in piano playing.

Famous Works

Totentanz (Dance of Death)

Mephisto Waltz No. 2

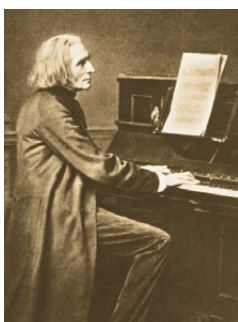
Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2

Listen

<https://youtu.be/nbEvKFqLLZs>

<https://youtu.be/EzrfgnRTZpE>

<https://youtu.be/LdH1hSWGFGU>



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