DIAMOND
PIANO
creating lifelong musicians

User Guide:
Student Account

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Welcome to the Diamond Piano!

As a student of Diamond Piano, you are about to embark on the most innovative and thorough piano curriculum available today. The online materials at DiamondPiano.com paired with our original, theory-rich text will fast-forward your piano instruction and get you arranging and improvising on your own. Thank you for choosing Diamond Piano!

Accessing Your DiamondPiano.com Account

Click on the **Login** button, and select **Student**. Then enter your username and password.

If you have forgotten your password, click the link **forget your password?** and you will be sent to a page asking you to input your username so a new password can be sent to your email account.

If you have forgotten your username, click the link **forget your username?** and you will be prompted to enter your email address so your username can be sent to you.

Once you have successfully logged in, you will land on the **Main Menu**. Here you will find a welcome message from your teacher in the main body of the page. In the left-hand menu bar you will see the following items:

Current Assignment

This is record of your most recent assignment. You will find the date that the assignment was made, the current Pod(s) in which you are working and the actual text of the assignment.

Pod(s)

This will link to current Pod in which you are working. *Pod* is our all-encompassing word to describe our *chapter*. Each Pod will include all the necessary materials for the successful completion of the lesson in addition to the online materials at DiamondPiano.com – games, tests, videos, audio files and more.

Clicking on the highlighted number after the words, "Current Pod" will direct you that particular Pod's information page. On this page you can access your:

> **Pod Test Score** (out of 30 possible points) click on the link to take that Pod Test and here is a snappy video on [how to take a Pod test](#).

Note Hunter Score (out of 10 possible points) *Only G Clef version available in Pod 1, and F Clef version in Pod 2 -* click on the link to play the Note Hunter Game and here's a helpful video on [how to play the Note Hunter Game](#).

> *G Clef Score* (out of 10 possible points for Pods 3-18 and 5 possible points in Pods 19 and higher) click on the link to play the Note Hunter.
> *F Clef Score* (out of 10 possible points for Pods 3-18 and 5 possible points in Pods 19 and higher) click on the link to play the Note Hunter.

Beat Buster Score (out of 10 possible points) click on the link to play Beat Buster and here's a short video on [how to play Beat Buster](#).

Scale Scorcher Score (out of 10 possible points - available only for Pods 5 and higher) click on the link to play Scale Scorcher and here is a boss video on [how to play Scale Scorcher](#).

Chord Builder Score (out of 5 possible points - available only for Pods 19 and higher) click on the link to play Chord Builder and here's a quick video on [how to play Chord Builder](#).

Chord Detective Score (out of 5 possible points - available only for Pods 19 and higher) click on the link to play Chord Detective and here's a snazzy video on how to play Chord Detective.

> *You can find all of our helpful videos on how to play each game and take Pod tests in the [FAQ](#) section of the website.*

Pod Song Score (out of 30 possible points) Song Scores are awarded by your teacher and are dependent upon 5 categories: Note reading, Rhythm, Technique, Worksheet Answers, and Effort. Each of these categories is scored from 1-6, where 6 is the highest score. The Song Score is the total of all those points. All songs scored in a Pod are averaged to come up with your Pod Song Score.

Pod Points you have earned (out of 100 available per Pod).

Refresh Scores to update your current progress.

Videos and More! Clicking on this link will take you to all the video lessons, audio files, ear training exercises and additional text materials available to you at this Pod level:

Instructional Videos – a review of the core concepts introduced in each Pod

Getting Started Videos – tips on learning how to play each song in the curriculum

Piano-only Demo Videos – an overhead view of the proper hand position for each song as well as the correct rhythm, tempo, dynamics and articulation with which each song should be played – it's best to try this hands separately first and to practice lots on a song before trying to play along

Full Orchestration Videos – just like the piano only demos, but with full orchestration and vocals

Ear Training Exercises – these are perfect for training your musical skill at hearing notes, rhythms and patterns. Click on the Ear Training Exercise and an image of hands on a keyboard will appear along with a "Play" button. Press "Play" and it will start the audio track of what you should be listening for and how to proceed. It will loop 4 times and allow you to hear it multiple times without having to start it over again. You can check your progress with the answer 'keys' found in the Parent Account or the Teacher Account.

Audio Files – mp3 files of each song for you to download and listen to and play along with. Download each individually by clicking on the word **Download** after the name of a particular song, or download the entire Pod's catalog of songs by clicking on the words, "Download all audio files for Pod."

Supplemental Materials – here you will find a list of additional songs for you to play in certain Pods. Not all Pods will have Supplemental Materials available. These will be songs that are not included in the Diamond Piano Method text. Click on the link "Download PDF" to access the song. You can print it out or use it from your tablet or laptop.

Now, back to the left-hand menu bar!

Total Gold Records Earned

Back on the left hand menu bar, you'll see the words "Total Gold Records Earned". The number you see after these words are the result of your overall progress with Pod's activities and song scores. Click on the number and it will take you to Build a Band's list of bands. Here you can select the band you wish to view or orchestrate!

Pods Mastered

This is a listing of all the Pods in which you have earned a score of 98 or more (out of 100) for all the online activities at DiamondPiano.com combined with your teacher entered song score. Click on the number following the words "Pods Mastered" and it will take to a listing of all the Pods. Each of the *Pods Mastered* will have a link for you to "Download Pod Certificate". This beautiful certificate is automatically populated with your name, your teacher's name and the date that you Mastered that Pod. It is automatically emailed to the parent account associated with your student account, but if you need an additional certificate, you would click here to download for viewing or printing.

Pods (also, "Pod List" at the top of the page)

Clicking on this link will take you to the full list of all 37 Diamond Piano Method Pods.

> *Pods One-Eight = Book 1*
> *Pods Nine-Fifteen = Book 2*
> *Pods Sixteen-Twenty Three = Book 3*
> *Pods Twenty Four-Thirty = Book 4*
> *Pods Thirty-Thirty Seven = Book 5*

From here you will see a menu of choices available to you:

> **Games and Tests** will take you to the individual Pod page, listing the requisite materials and scores for that particular Pod, links to the Games and Tests available in that Pod, your score history and a link to the Mastery Certificate for that Pod level.

Videos and More! will take you to the page listing all the videos, ear training exercises, audio files and additional text material associated with that Pod.

View Pod Test Results will take you to the page outlining the dates and times each Pod Test has been attempted and the scores for each attempt. Clicking **View** allows you to select any of the old Pod Tests to review any questions answered incorrectly before taking another Pod Test. Correct answers are given for each wrong answer. Each test is different than the last!

Take Pod Test will direct you to a new, randomly generated Pod Test for that specific Pod.

Build a Band

Build a Band is a fun way to visually track your progress through Diamond Piano. Ten *boss* bands are in frozen in limbo – awaiting clever and adept management from you. Click on the link for *Build a Band* and this is how it works:

Name Band

Click on the words **Name Band** on the top left part of the screen and a box will pop up with a place for you to type in your band's name. After you type in the name, click on the **Update** button or hit **Enter** and you will see your chosen name in the marquee above the musicians. You can rename your band at any time by clicking on the *Name Band* box.

Wake Musicians

Here you will find three or four record placeholders in gray. The number of records available to each band will vary depending upon the number of Pods in the book in which you are working. There are a total of 10 bands; two bands for each book of the Diamond Piano Method.

Once have earned 60 points on the DiamondPiano.com games and tests and your teacher has entered a score of 30 for your precise playing of a song within that Pod, the corresponding placeholder for that Pod will be filled in with a gold record. Now the fun begins! Click and drag the gold record to an empty placeholder underneath the musician you wish to "wake." Press the **play** button on the bottom left part of the screen and you will hear the musician you have

chosen. Move the record to another location to wake a different musician. If you have only one record, you will only be able to wake one of the musicians at a time. Completing the set of all three or four records will allow you to wake the entire band.

Choose Stage

To change the background and the stage on which the musicians perform, select the words **click here** underneath the *Choose Stage* box. There are 3 different stages to choose from and you may change them at any time.

Reset

To reset the gold records back into their place holders on the left of the stage, click the **Reset** icon below the *Choose Stage* box.

Play

Once you have dragged your gold record(s) to the specific locations underneath the musicians, click on this icon to hear the track(s) you have selected. Click on the icon again to pause the song.

Assignment list

Clicking here will take you to a list of the dates and assignments given by your instructor.

Student Guide

Use this link to take you to the student guide (which is what you are currently reading… just like *Inception*…)

Help/FAQ

This will take you to several different videos which explain various parts of DiamondPiano.com. Click on the link to take you to that particular video and press the **play** button to begin.

Activity log

Clicking here will direct you to a page detailing your use of the online materials found on DiamondPiano.com. All activities, dates, times and scores are listed. So be sure to log in and use the online activities - your teacher will know if you haven't!

DiamondPiano.com Games: Descriptions and Point Values

The online games at DiamondPiano.com are completely synchronous with the curriculum of the Diamond Piano Method. As the student progresses through the curriculum and is introduced to more challenging and complex material, the games will also become more challenging and complex. The total number of points needed to earn a *Gold Record* for *Build a Band* in any Pod is 60 and the total number of points needed to achieve *Mastery* status in any Pod is 68 or more.

Here is the low-down on the games available in each Pod and the scoring matrix for each.

Pod 1

Pod Test – 10 question tests worth 10 points each – you will need to ace 3 tests to max out a total of 30 points

Note Hunter – G Clef – 10 notes to identify quickly and accurately for a total of 10 points – you will need to ace 2 games to max out a total of 20 points

Beat Buster – accurately tap out the rhythm shown – you will need to score up to 10 points per game and you will need to ace 2 games to max out a total of 20 points

Pod 2

Pod Test – same as for Pod 1

*Note Hunter – **F Clef*** – 10 notes to identify quickly and accurately for a total of 10 points – you will need to ace 2 games to max out a total of 20 points

Beat Buster – accurately tap out the rhythm shown –score up to 10 points per game and you will need to ace 2 games to max out a total of 20 points

Pod 3 - 4

Pod Test – same as for Pod 1

*Note Hunter – **G Clef*** –10 notes to identify quickly and accurately for a total of 10 points – you will need to ace 1 game for a total of 10 points

*Note Hunter – **F Clef*** – 10 notes to identify quickly and accurately for a total of 10 points – you will need to ace 1 game for a total of 10 points
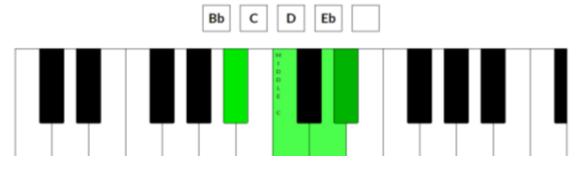
Beat Buster – accurately tap out the rhythm shown – score up to 10 points per game and need to ace 2 games to max out a total of 20 points

Pods 5- 17

Pod Test – same as for Pod 1

*Note Hunter – **G Clef*** – same as for Pod 3
*Note Hunter – **F Clef*** – same as for Pod 3

Beat Buster – accurately tap out the rhythm shown – score up to 10 points per game and need to ace 1 game for a total of 10 points

Scale Scorcher – build 3 five-note solfege patterns quickly and accurately for a total of 10 points

Pod 18

Pod Test – same as for Pod 1

*Note Hunter – **G Clef*** – same as for Pod 3
*Note Hunter – **F Clef*** – same as for Pod 3

Beat Buster – same as for Pod 5

Scale Scorcher – build 3 seven-note solfege patterns quickly and accurately for a total of 10 points

Pod 19- 25

Pod Test – same as for Pod 1

*Note Hunter – **G Clef*** – 10 notes to identify quickly and accurately for a total of 5 points – you will need to ace 1 game for a total of 5 points
*Note Hunter – **F Clef*** – 10 notes to identify quickly and accurately for a total of 5 points – you will need to ace 1 game for a total of 5 points

Beat Buster – same as for Pod 5

Scale Scorcher – same as for Pod 18

Chord Builder – build 5 root position triads quickly and accurately for a total of 5 points
Chord Detective – correctly identify the 5 chords shown on the staff quickly and accurately for a total of 5 points

Pod 26 - 37

Pod Test – same as for Pod 1

*Note Hunter – **G Clef*** – 10 notes **with key signatures** to identify quickly and accurately for a total of 5 points – you will need to ace 1 game for 5 points
*Note Hunter – **F Clef*** – 10 notes **with key signatures** to identify quickly and accurately for a total of 5 points – you will need to ace 1 game for 5 points

Beat Buster – same as for Pod 5

Scale Scorcher – same as for Pod 18

Chord Builder – same as for Pod 19
Chord Detective – same as for Pod 19

Make the Most of the Online Materials at DiamondPiano.com

Whether you have the hard-copy of the Diamond Piano Method book, have printed pages from the pdf download or are viewing it on your tablet or laptop, you should have the text open to the current page of the Pod in which you are working. You should also have your account at DiamondPiano.com open and active while you are working – this will be your "assistant teacher" during your lesson. Follow the steps outlined below to make the most out of your DiamondPiano.com account and begin learning how to understand the foundation of music so that you can play and create!

Read the opening text pages at the beginning of the Pod in the Diamond Piano Method Book. Read it slowly and carefully a couple of times. If there happens to be any written work to complete in the opening text, go ahead and do it.

Open your DiamondPiano.com student account and watch the "Instruction Videos" specific to that Pod. Watch each one, even if the title suggests to you that you know the material already (it can't hurt to have it explained again).

Watch the "Getting Started Video" for the first song in that Pod. In this video series, I give an overview of each song and point out potential tricky bits that may trip up a student.

Do the written work for the first song on the worksheet that accompanies the song. These exercises help to reinforce the theory concepts being taught and can be used to identify potential areas in need of review. The answer key to each exercise can be found in the Parent Account associated with your Student Account.

Try learning the first song at the piano. Be sure to count and to focus on using proper hand/finger position. These two things are often overlooked by beginning students who get wrapped up in which key to press.

Check your progress by playing along with the "Piano Only Demo Video" for the first song. Compare your performance of the song to the video and practice more if they don't align.

Play along with the "Full Orchestration Demo Video." Keep working at each song until you can succeed with this.

Repeat steps 3-7 for each song in the Pod. I recommend doing the songs in order. Resist the temptation to jump to a song you're really excited to learn. Taking them in order is the best way to ensure success.

Play the games and take the tests for the Pod in which you are working. Keep at it until you hit at least 60 (out of 70) points. In addition to your own work, your teacher will need to listen to you play one or more of the songs in the Pod and give you a song score – a possible 30 additional points can be added to your total. Once that score has been entered, you will have a point total. With 90 points or more, you will unlock a Gold Record for Build a Band. 98 points or more will ensure you have truly mastered the material and you will be emailed a Certificate of Mastery for that Pod.

CONGRATULATIONS! **Now move onto the next Pod.**

What to do if you get stuck: First, try re-reading the text and watching the videos again. Be patient with yourself if you can't figure everything out. Let your teacher know which areas you are struggling with when you next meet.

One last thing. Expect each Pod to take several weeks. Don't be hard on yourself if your progress seems slow. There will be some ups and downs on this musical journey. The most important thing you can do for yourself is to dedicate a small amount of time each day to practice and work online. A good rule of thumb is to spend 15 minutes a day at the keyboard and 10-15 minutes a day on games and tests at DiamondPiano.com. Good luck!

Why I Wrote the Diamond Piano Method

Why did I write the Diamond Piano Method and why do I continually update it? It's simple: I want everyone taking piano lessons to develop the skills they need to become lifelong musicians playing the music they love.

I had ten enjoyable years of classical piano lessons as a child. But throughout this decade, there was a disconnect between the piano music I practiced and the popular music of the day. I loved that pop music; it spoke to my heart in a way that my classical piano repertoire didn't. Sadly, my studies hadn't taught me that the harmonic building blocks of **both** genres were the same.

As a teen, some of my friends started a garage band. Seeing my peers actively participating in pop music was transformational. Suddenly, I knew that I wanted to create and play music with others, but, despite my thorough technical background, I had no idea how to play without written music. Still, I joined that band, and thanks to a lot of trial and error, I slowly taught myself a little about improvisation, and I loved it. It was magical for me.

I enrolled at Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA, graduating summa cum laude with a BA in songwriting in 1989. The music theory I learned at Berklee made it so much easier for me to read music, learn pieces by ear, improvise, and write music. **And, the theory was so simple that I wondered why these basics hadn't been an integral part of my study when I was a child first learning piano.**

After graduating from Berklee, I began teaching piano lessons and discovered how much I loved sharing music with others. I could not find a curriculum that made a sustained, progressive effort to develop a piano student's arranging and improvising skills, so I created handouts and songs to supplement my students' lesson books. In 1995, I organized these supplements into a series of lesson books, and my Diamond Piano Method was born.

Since then, I have been continually refining the Diamond Piano Method and its online practice support materials at DiamondPiano.com. I remain committed to sharing my love of music with all piano students and to giving them the opportunity to truly understand music so that they can take their own music wherever their hearts desire.