

Diamond Piano Method & DiamondPiano.com:

An Overview

To my fellow piano teachers,

Thanks for taking some time to learn about Diamond Piano, the beginner-intermediate piano curriculum and online practice support system born out of my desire to help my students become lifelong musicians and put an end to statements like this one:

Rats!

"I took piano lessons when I was a kid, but now I don't really remember how to play a darned thing..."

Statements like this are tragic for three reasons:

- First, it is likely that a dedicated, capable piano teacher spent 100+ hours of his or her life instructing the speaker of the above statement.
- Second, it is likely that the speaker spent 500-1000+ hours of his or her life sitting at a piano, and now has little or no tangible music skill to

show for all that time spent.

 Third, it is likely that the speaker's parents invested a significant amount of limited family



resources in the hopes of achieving a different outcome than the statement indicates.

But, I believe that such statements are preventable if a beginner to intermediate piano curriculum is employed that teaches not only note-reading, technique, and musicianship, but also the music theory that allows people to sit at a piano and arrange and improvise with simple scale and chord patterns. I believe the latter is key to giving students a lifelong skill that they can carry with them and use in fulfilling ways as they become carpenters, accountants, nurses, moms, dads, etc.



When I got to Berklee College of Music in the late '80s and was first introduced to the "hands-on" theory involved in transposing, arranging, and improvising, I began to understand how simple music theory is at its core and how incredibly valuable it can be for a piano player. I wondered why I hadn't been exposed to more of it by the two, wonderful piano teachers of my youth, and I assumed that for some reason, they had just chosen curriculum that didn't include transposing, arranging, and improvising. So, in the early '90s when I began my own teaching career, I sought beginnerintermediate curriculum that would include the simple "hands-on" theory I'd learned in college and that I wanted all my students to have. To my surprise, I wasn't able to find any beginner-intermediate curricula that made a logical and sustained effort to develop these concepts, and so, I decided to write one myself.

Now, more than twenty years and several editions after the first, hand-written songs and worksheets of the Diamond Piano Method were handed to my students, my 5-book series is being used in teaching studios and academies across North America. In 2012, a comprehensive "practice support system" was launched at DiamondPiano.com as a companion to the 5 books.

Through this constantly growing and evolving online portal, students have instant and continuous access to: video instruction and song demos from their "assistant teacher", self-checking and prescriptive theory tests, a variety of progressive theory games, and a fun, interactive incentive system.

Diamond Piano is my life's work, and I do it with you in mind. So, thank you again for taking time to learn more about it.

Sincerely, Gerry Diamond



The Diamond Family

Book 1: Pods* 1-8

Pod 1: G Clef Gets Going: G Clef Hand Introduced in Middle C Position
 Quarter Notes, Half Notes, Whole Notes • G Clef (Treble Clef) Staff
 Reading • Finger Numbering System • 4/4 Time Signature and Counting
 Repeat Signs with and without Endings • Solfege Transposition – One
 Hand (Major – Do, Re, Mi only)

Pod 2: F Clef Gets Going: F Clef Hand Introduced in Middle C Position
F Clef (Bass Clef) Staff Reading

Pod 3: Two Hands: Two-Hand Middle C Position Melodies ● Quarter Rests, Half Rests, Whole Rests ● Grand Staff Reading ● Solfege Transposition – One-Hand (Major – Do, Re, Mi, Fa, So)

Pod 4: Three-Four Time: Dotted Half Notes (Dotted Note Rule) ● 3/4 Time Signature

Pod 5: Sharps and Flats: Rules and Fingering for Sharps and Flats

Pod 6: Harmony: One and Two-Handed Harmony

Pod 7: Tempos and Dynamics

Pod 8: Incomplete Measures and Ties: Songwriting Begins, too!

* "Pod" is Diamond Piano's term for "Chapter". Our Pods encompass much more than just the text of a chapter's worth of material – it also includes all of the online games, videos, audio files, self-checking and prescriptive tests, and incentives!

Book 2: Pods 9-15

Pod 9: G Clef Up to High C: G Clef Reading Expands up to High C ● Intervals 2nd − 5th (Melodic and Harmonic) Introduced ● Two-Handed Unison Solfege Transpositions (Major − Do, Re, Mi, Fa, So)

Pod 10: F Clef Down to Low C: F Clef Reading Expands to Low C

• Mirror Image Cs Introduced

Pod 11: Eighth Notes and Eighth Rests: Eighth Notes and Rests

Counting with "ands"

Pod 12: Dotted Quarter Notes: Counting Syncopated Rhythms

Pod 13: Articulation: Legato and Staccato

Pod 14: Crescendo and Diminuendo

Pod 15: Pedaling: Pedal/ Notation and Use of the Sustain Pedal • Songwriting Grows

Using Diamond Piano is a smart and enjoyable way to teach!

-Bryson Finney Piano Instructor and General Music Educator Nashville, TN

Book 3: Pods 16-23

Pod 16: G Clef Anchor Points: G Clef Reading Expands to High G ● Anchor Points and "FACE" ● Two Part − Two-Hand Solfege Transposition

Pod 17: F Clef Anchor Points: F Clef Reading Expands to Low F ● Anchor Points and "All Cows Eat Grass"

Pod 18: Major Scales and Key Signatures: Major Scale Formula and Tetrachords • Key Signatures • Full Major Scale Solfege Transposing in Two-Hand Tetrachord Position

Pod 19: The I Chord: Major Triad Formula ● The "I" Chord in Major Keys ● Transposing with One-Hand Major Solfege Melody and Other Hand "I" Chord

Pod 20: Minor Scales, Key Signatures and the *i* **Chord:** Minor Scale Formula • Key Signatures • The "i" Chord • Minor Scale Solfege and Transposing a Full Minor Scale Melody

Pod 21: Relative Major and Minor: Distinguishing between relative Major and Minor in pieces ● Finding the "I, i" Chord ● Transposing with One-Hand Minor Solfege Melody and Other Hand "i" Chord

Pod 22: Triads in Close Position Inversions: Triad Inversions ● Identifying Triad use in Songs ● Looking for the "V" Chord ● Transposing with "I" and "V" Accompanying Solfege Melody

Pod 23: Arpeggios and Broken Chords: Identifying Arpeggios & Broken Chords ● "IV" Chord ● Transposing with "I" & "IV" Accompanying Solfege Melody ● Songwriting Developed Further

Book 4: Pods 24-30

Pod 24: More Anchor Points: Introducing Double Low and High C ● Chord Analysis Begins for Every Song (Pods 24-37) ● Fermata ●

Pod 25: New Time Signatures: 2/2 Time Signature ● 6/8 Time Signature ● Counting with "e-and-a"

Pod 26: Sixteenth Notes and Rests: Sixteenth Notes and Rests • Transposing with "I-IV-V" Accompanying Solfege Melody

Pod 27: Eighth Note Triplets and Swinging Eighth Notes: Eighth Note Triplets ● Swinging Eighth Notes ● Counting with "and-a"

Pod 28: Chord Families in Major Keys: Diatonic Triads in Major Keys
8-Measure Major Key Chord Progression Improvisation

Pod 29: Chord Families in Minor Keys: Diatonic Triads in Minor Keys
8-Measure Minor Key Chord Progression Improvisation

Pod 30: Harmonic Minor: Harmonic Minor Scale and Resulting Diatonic Triads ● 8-Measure Improvisation - Minor Key Progression with "V" from Harmonic Minor

Book 4 Technique Section: All 12 Major and Minor Scales (1-Octave) • Triad Inversions • "I-IV-V" Cadences

Book 5: Pods 31-37

Pod 31: Common Accompaniment Styles: Stride Bass ● Root-Fifth-Root and Root-Fifth-Tenth ● Rhythmic Block Chords (close position voicings) ●Harmonizing a Melody (choosing diatonic triads to support melody)

Pod 32: Lead Sheets: Reading Lead Sheets and Arranging Accompaniment ● Improvisation with "Student Chosen" Diatonic Chord Progression

Pod 33: Seventh Chords: Seventh Chord Formulas (Major Seven, Minor Seven, Dominant Seven) ● Improvisation with Diatonic Seventh Chords

Pod 34: The Circle of Keys: The Circle of Fifths ● Quadrant Chord Families ● Parallel Keys ● Neighbor Keys ● Improvisation with Neighbors and Parallels

Pod 35: Pentatonic Scales: Pentatonic Scales (formulas for major and minor) ● Pentatonic Improvisation with Guided "Licks"

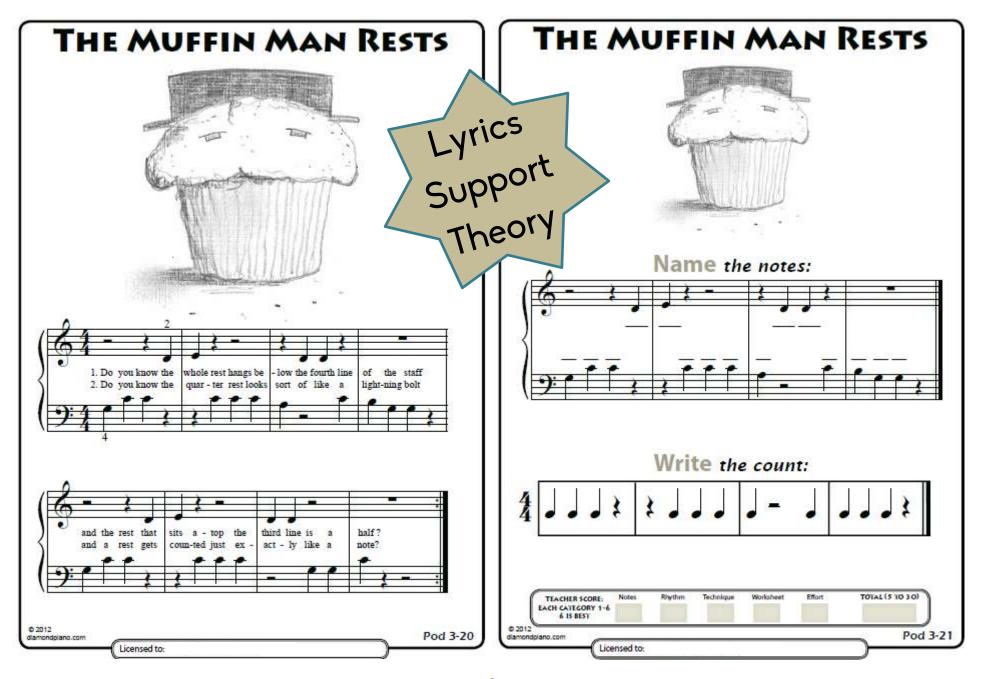
Pod 36: The Blues: Blues Scale Formula ●12-Bar Blues Standard Progression ● Common Blues Accompaniment Styles ● Melody Writing Using Blues Scale

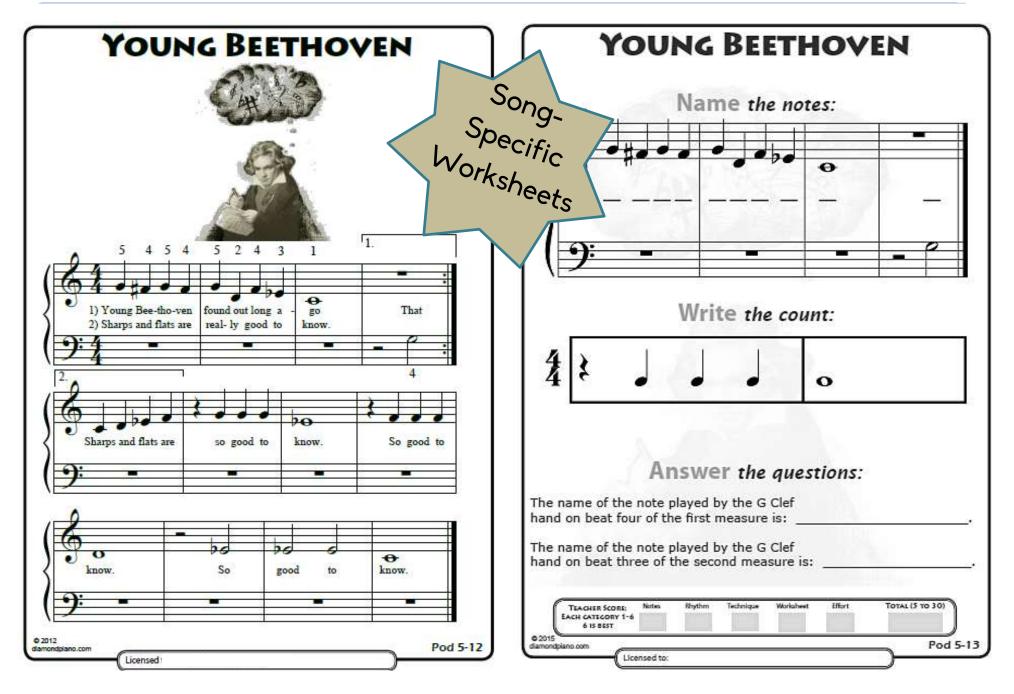
Pod 37: You Write the Songs: Creating Original Music Using Key Signature and Time Signature of Pod Songs

Book 5 Technique Section: All 12 Major and Minor Scales (2-Octaves) • Triad Inversions • "I-IV-V" Cadences • Diatonic Triad Families • Five-Finger Scale Positions from Every Scale Tone



Gerry Diamond and his son, Owen





Book 1 Sample

SOLFEGE - TWO HANDS

"Solfege" is another name for "Do, Re, Mi, Fa, So": for, the solfege song on the next page, and those in the next be using both hands at the same

Your G Clef thumb must use the same "DO" as your F Cle Of course, the chosen "DOs" must be at least one octave , names) apart from one another. See the pictures below for



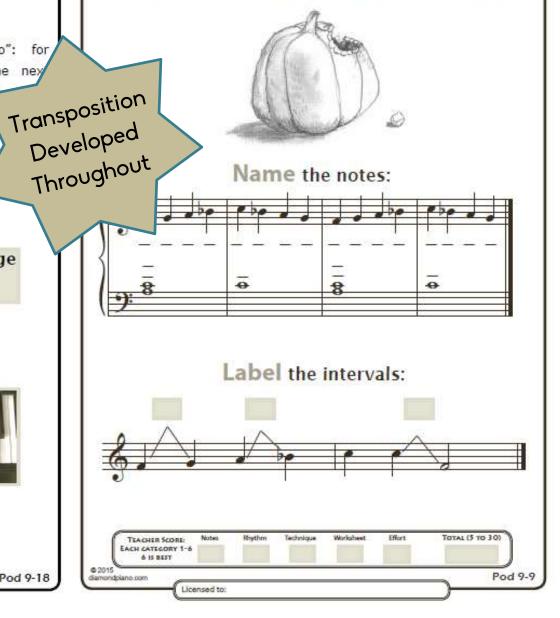
Two Hand Solfege "Do is D"

Two Hand Solfege "Do is F#"

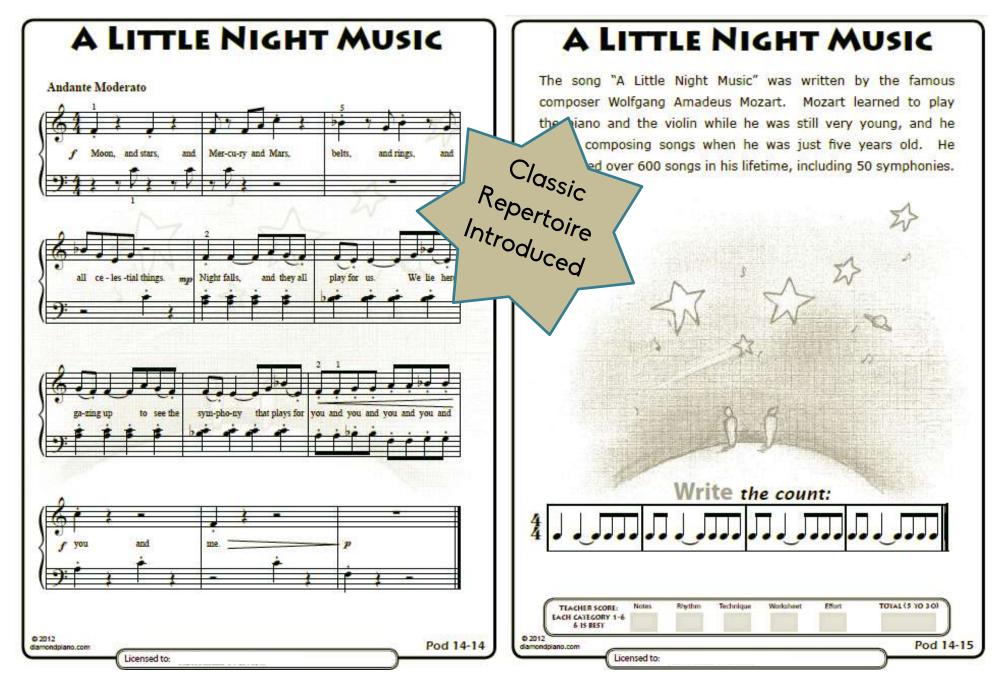


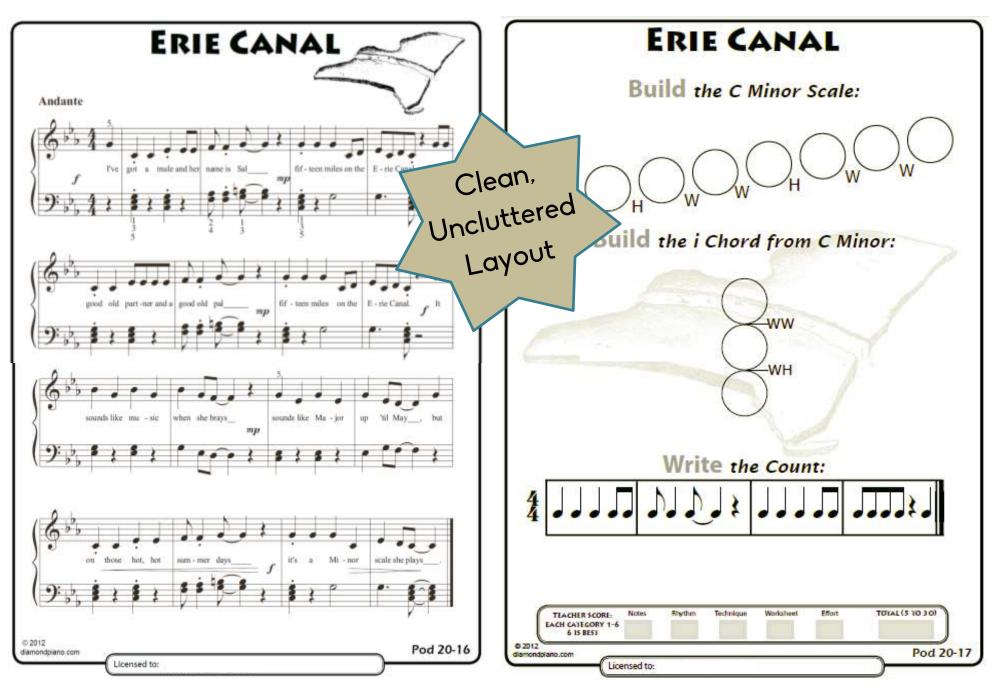
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Pod 9-18



PETER PETER PUMPKIN EATER





Theory

Foundation

RELATIVE MAJOR & MINOR

You might have noticed that each of the Major Scales you learned in pod 18 had a Minor Scale in pod 20 with the very same set of seven notes and that the 12 key signatures of all the Major Scales were exactly the same as the 12 key signatures of all the Minor Scales. These identical pairs of Major Scale and Minor Scales are called Relatives.

The following graphic shows how starting from the "La' Scale will give you that scale's *Relative Minor* and b from the "Me" of a Minor Scale will give you that scale *Major*.

WHY IT'S GOOD TO KNOW MAJOR FROM MINOR

Q:

e key signatures of Major and Minor are identical, how can if a song was based on a Major Scale or a Minor Scale?

Songs almost always end on "Do". So, the last note of the song will either be the "Do" from the possible Major Scale or the "Do" from the possible Minor Scale. Whichever "Do" you find at the end tells you the key the song is in.

Major Scale (two octaves)

Do Re Mi Fa So La Ti Do Re Me W Ti Do Re W T

Relative Minor Scale

Minor Scale (two octaves)

W Re Me Fa So Le Te Do Ti Do W H Me Fa So La Ti Do W H Me W H Relate

Relative Major Scale

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Q:

Does it matter whether a piano player knows if a song is in Major or Minor? Can knowing that information help them learn the song more easily?

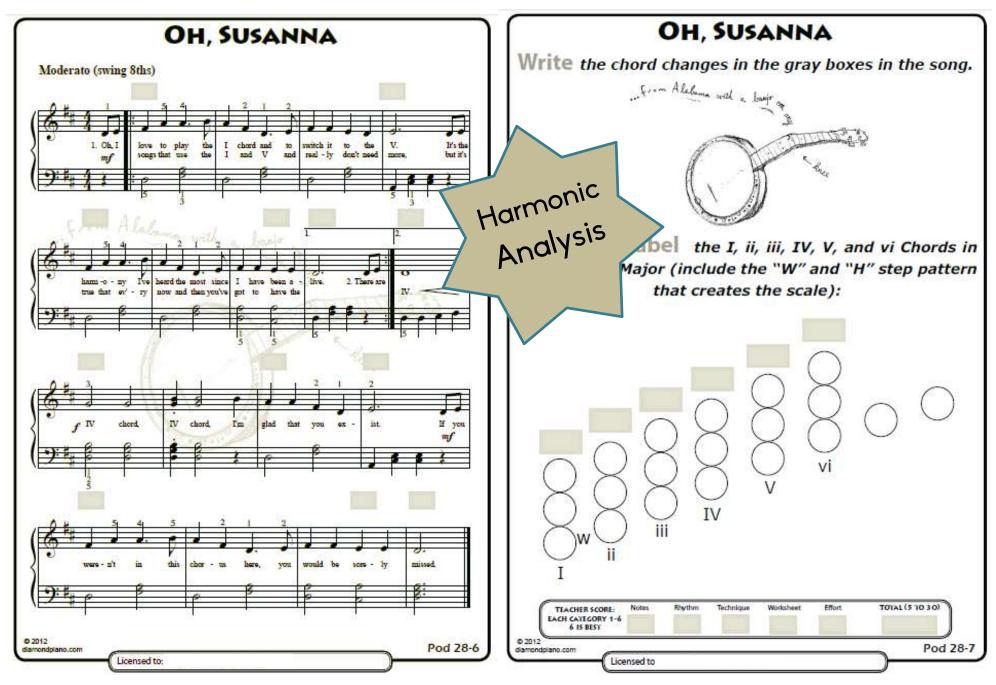
A:

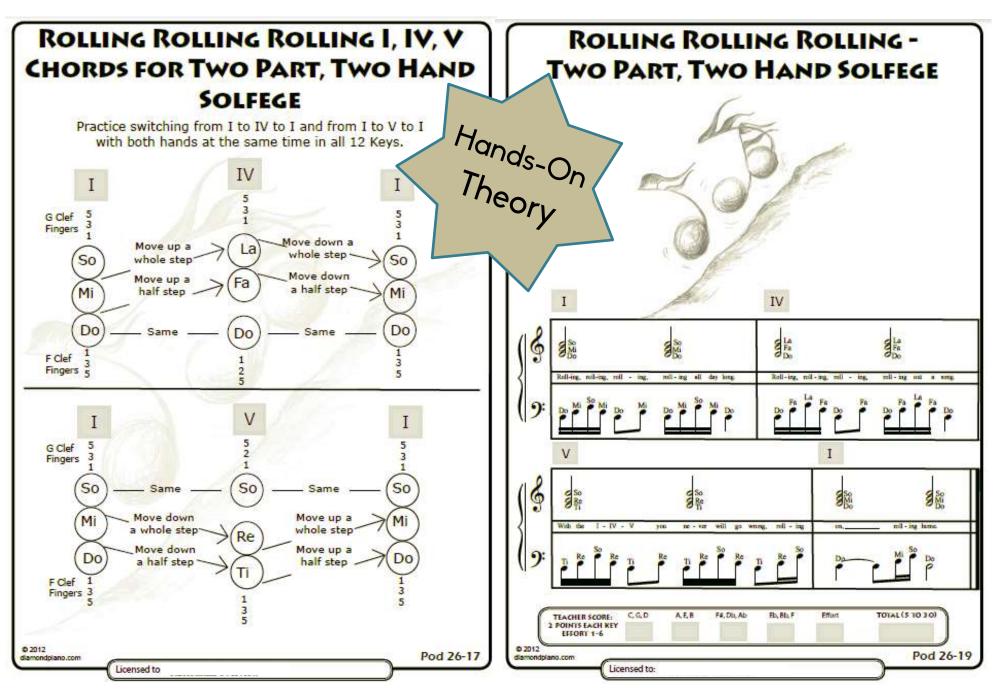
Yes, it matters! Knowing what key a song is in lets the piano player know what "one" chord to look for. Because remember, the "one" chord is the most commonly used harmony.

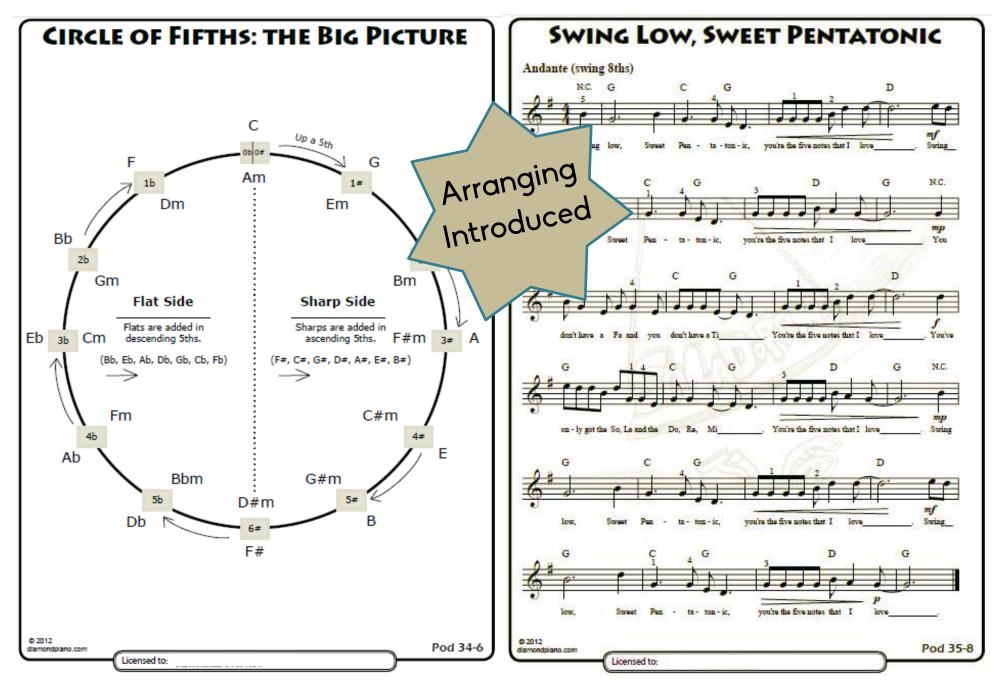
Pod 21-3

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Pod 21-2









Online Tools for Seamless Support

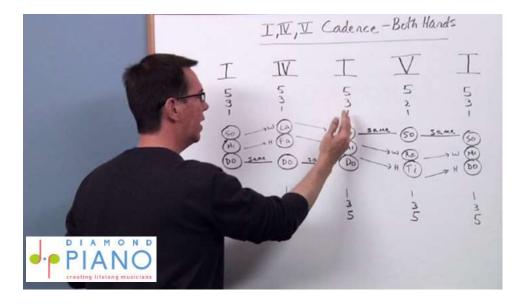


DiamondPiano.com is an incredible collection of online resources which perfectly pair with the Diamond Piano Method's 5 Books.

- Video lessons accompany the entire text
- Audio and video play-alongs with full-orchestration
- Theory games and tests help keep skills sharp and knowledge fresh
- Built-in **incentives** give students additional motivation
- **Tools** to help you fine-tune your lessons for each individual student!

Instruction Videos

Each of the 37 Pods in the Diamond Piano Method has a series of **Instruction Videos** that introduce each new concept. This allows students the opportunity to review any of the concepts covered during your lesson before their next lesson. The age-old excuse of "I forgot what you told me in last week's lesson" is no longer! Video instruction also gives motivated students an easy way to move to the next lesson when they are ready and eager instead of having to wait until their next lesson.



Getting Started Videos



Each and every song in the Diamond Piano Method is accompanied by a **Getting Started Video**. This video series gives students pointers on how to approach each song, what concepts are being practiced and tricky bits of each song that need special attention. Throughout the books, these Getting Started Videos guide students in the best practices as they sit down to approach unfamiliar pieces of music during their practice time when they are on their own.

Demo Videos

Both the **Piano Only** and the **Full Orchestration Demo Videos** give students an opportunity to both see every song in the curriculum being played properly and to also play along. Students can prop their tablets or smart phones on the music stand and observe the fingering, rhythm, dynamics, and tempo of the song being played and try to match it. The Full Orchestration Demos add vocals, percussion and other instrumentation which give students the opportunity to hear the song as a "real" song like their radio favorites.



Audio Files

Each and every song in the Diamond Piano Method curriculum is also supported with **Audio Files** from the Full Orchestration Demo Videos. Songs can be downloaded and played through any device or computer. Each song begins with a voice-over that provides a "count-off." These Audio Files can be downloaded in Podsized bundles to save time.

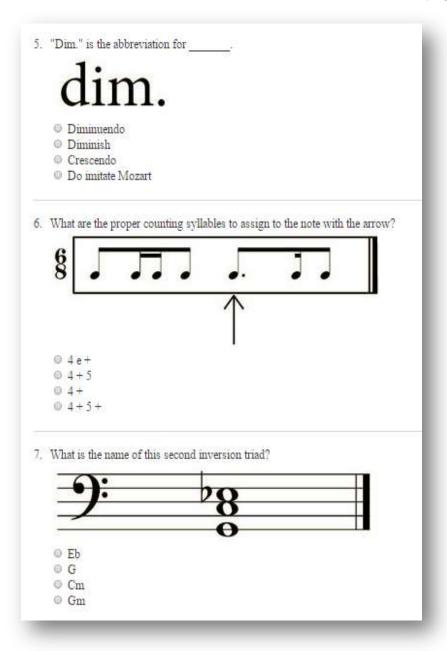
Audio files: Download all audio files for Pod		
Rolling, Rolling	0:46	Download
Right Hand Never Moves Etude	0:54	Download
Don't You Walk Away	1:33	Download
Fur Elise	1:20	Download

Ear Training



To support our burgeoning musicians' musical training, we have recently added a series of Ear Training exercises which gives students the opportunity to put their knowledge to the test. From the very first Pod, students will be presented with ear training exercises which increase in complexity as they progress through the curriculum. Answer 'keys' are found in the teacher and parent accounts in the form of video performances of the ear training exercises. This work prepares students to figure out on their own the pop songs that they love without needing the spotty assistance of internet tutorials.

Pod Tests



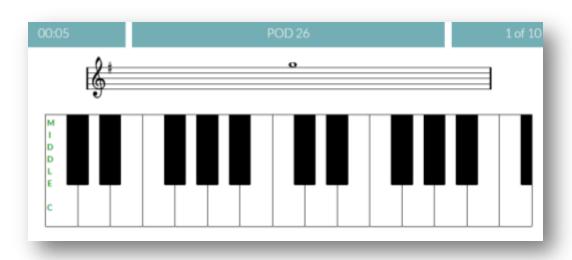
DiamondPiano.com provides students with many opportunities to solidify their music theory fundamentals.

Our **Pod Tests** are designed to allow students to show their mastery of theory concepts both new and old. With a database of over 2,000 questions to choose from, each multiple-choice Pod Test is unique and meaningful to the lesson at hand. Each Pod Test contains 10 questions. The 10 questions asked include 6 questions related to new material introduced in that specific Pod and 4 questions pulled from the database of prior Pods. Pod Tests are self-checking and prescriptive. Students are given unlimited opportunities to succeed because the program is designed to only count the highest 3 scores accomplished.

The Diamond Piano Method helped me to understand music theory in a very natural and step-by-step process.

-Ryan Burdett Former student and current music therapist Raleigh, NC

G Clef Note Hunter

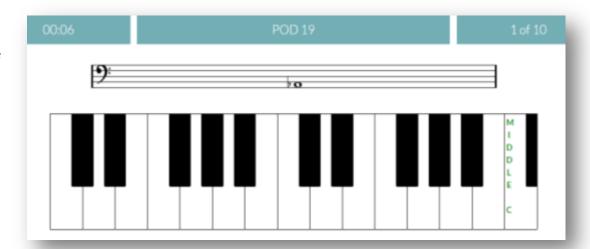


Note Hunter is a fun way to develop speed and accuracy in note reading. There are 37 levels to master!

The range of notes in a given Pod level falls within the scope of all possible G Clef notes that have been introduced. Key signatures and sharps and flats are added to the game as they are taught. Points are accrued by selecting the correct key in the shortest amount of time with penalties assessed for wrong selections.

F Clef Note Hunter

Beginning in Pod 2, 36 levels of **F Clef Note Hunter** are added to the online suite of materials. When the key corresponding to the note on the staff is selected, that key flashes green and the next note appears on the staff. Incorrect key selections result in the key flashing red and 5 seconds being added to the timer.

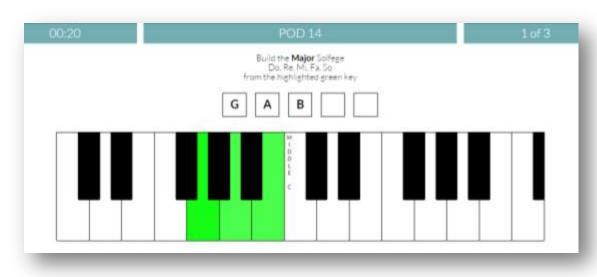


Beat Buster

Our **Beat Buster** game isolates just the rhythmic component of music to give students practice counting and tapping out progressively more challenging beats. This game comes in 37 levels too!



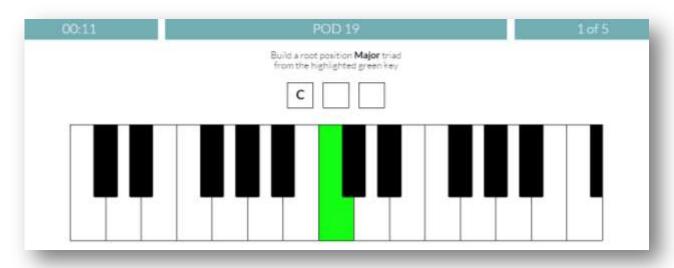
Scale Scorcher



Introduced in Pod 5, the **Scale Scorcher** gives students practice building basic solfege patterns. Students begin with building 5-note Solfege patterns and progress to building full-scale Solfege patterns in major, natural minor and harmonic minor. As with the Note Hunter games, scores are based on accuracy and speed.

Chord Builder

Introduced in Pod 19, **Chord Builder** is designed to solidify students' understanding of the root, third, and fifth components of major and minor triads. Again, this game is scored on both speed and accuracy.



Chord Detective



Also introduced in Pod 19, **Chord Detective** develops students' ability to recognize basic major and minor triads in root position, first inversion, and second inversion when they see them written in music. This game is also scored on speed and accuracy.



Build a Band

Everybody likes a reward. How about a gold record? Build a Band is a fun, educational, and fully-automated reward system that keeps students motivated. Students earn points for successful completion of DiamondPiano.com games and tests in each of the 37 Pods, receiving virtual gold records when 90 points have accrued in a Pod. Students use their gold records to "wake" band members. With 10 different bands and catchy songs (that sneak theory into the lyrics!), students are also exposed to a bit of arranging as they isolate each band member and mix different combinations.

Scoring in DiamondPiano.com is designed to reward perseverance. Only the highest scores are counted so with practice and diligence, everyone can attain our rewards!

Certificates of Mastery

Complete all of the online games and Pod Tests with perfect scores and automatically receive, via email, a *personalized Certificate of Mastery* for that Pod. Both the student and the teacher's name and the date are automatically added. Each certificate is designed specifically to coordinate with the concepts introduced in that Pod. A *Certificate of Mastery* is proof that the student has complete mastery of the material because they need to have earned nearly perfect scores for each activity.



All-in-One System

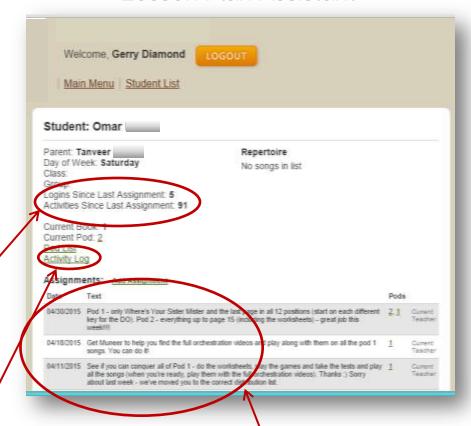
DiamondPiano.com is more than fun and games. The program automatically archives all of the information needed to help you plan your next lesson. Sign in to your Teacher Account and select a student and you will find a wealth of information at your fingertips – scores for each and every attempt at our games and tests, videos viewed, times logged in, and progress made. You literally have a window on your student's online successes and struggles between lessons and can tailor your next lesson to focus on the areas which are most in need of help.

How many times did your student log in since his last assignment? How many activities did he attempt since his last assignment?

Scan the student detail page to quickly assess login and activity.

Want to drill down further into your student's activities online? Click on the 'Activity Log' link and you will see a detailed list of each online activity attempted and the scores for each along with which answers were incorrect.

Lesson Plan Assistant



Every assignment is archived and readily available for you to review. No more lost assignments, no more assignments eaten by the dog or left at home!

Stay Connected

Parents of young students need to be kept in the loop as well. They are the linchpin to most students' success. Within DiamondPiano.com, every student assignment you enter is automatically emailed to the parent as well as recorded on the student's account within the site and on your account, as well. It is recorded in multiple places and is able to be accessed in multiple ways.

You can also email parents as a group or individually from within your DiamondPiano.com account. No more hunting for parent email addresses – everything is conveniently located in one central location to make the most of your time, allowing you to spend more time on the tasks you enjoy most – creating lifelong musicians!



Add Your Own Material to the Site!



This is BIG!

Your DiamondPiano.com teacher account gives you a safe and ad-free location to store your own material – pdfs, audio & video files. Keep all the information that your students need or want right in the same location. You will never be presented with 'suggested videos' as you are with other video sharing sites and you will NEVER see an ad anywhere in your DiamondPiano.com account.

Customize the landing page that your students see when they sign in to your teacher neighborhood. Add your own photos and text to enhance its appearance.

Q: What does Diamond Piano cost for teachers?

A: Nothing, nada, zip, zilch! It's FREE!



Sign up for a **FREE** teacher neighborhood and get access to all the video and audio tutorials and a watermarked pdf teacher copy of all 5 books!

Or you can set yourself up as a school – this option gives you control of the online accounts. Instead of the parent paying us, they pay you and we will bill you per subscribed student. Contact us for details!

Diamond Piano is incredibly affordable for your students, too. Less than \$1 a week gets them amazing at-home support between lessons!

You and your students can test drive a student account for no charge or obligation. Select the *Free Trial* link at DiamondPiano.com.

Give your students the gift of unparalleled, at-home practice support with the most theory-rich, technology-enhanced piano curriculum available today. Give yourself the gift of a virtual assistant teacher and administrator. Go to DiamondPiano.com today and let us help you create lifelong musicians!

