

# Melody<sup>TM</sup> Music Studios

## Fake It 'Til You Make It

A guide to playing a  
Fake Book on the piano



Book 1  
Lessons 1-8

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To the student:

Welcome to the "Fake It 'Til You Make It-A guide to playing a Fake Book on piano" class. Whether you're learning from this book on your own, in a private lesson with an instructor, or in a class with other students, I hope you'll enjoy learning how to play songs you know and love, by simply playing the melody in your right hand and the chords in your left hand. In this book, you'll learn keyboard geography (where the keys are on the piano), how to read the right hand melody (notes and rhythm), chords (triads) in your left hand, then finally putting them together to play songs and how to embellish your left hand to make beautiful music. Once you finish this book, you will be able to pick up a fake book of songs you want to learn and be able to play them, without going through the difficulty of learning what you would in a traditional piano lesson. Of course, once you learn how to play songs, you may want to study privately with an instructor for the fundamentals to complete your musical education, but this book gives you a start on playing the songs you love in a fun, step by step process. My contact information is at the back of this book, so please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments. Although there may be challenges in this book, remember to have fun, because in the end, that's what making music is all about!

Kathi Kerr



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Play the following notes with the left hand, starting one octave below middle C using fingers 5 (pinky) on C, 4 on D, 3 on E, 2 on F and 1 (thumb) on G:

C      D      E      F      G

This is called the five note scale. If you call each note a number starting with C as 1, here is the five note scale with numbers:


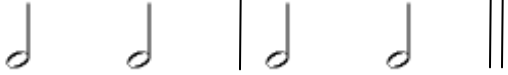
1      2      3      4      5

If you play the numbers 1, 3, and 5 together, you have a C chord, or triad (meaning 3 notes). The name of the triad is always the "1" of the five note scale, so this is called a C triad. Now play the 1, 3, 5 all together with your left hand, one octave below middle C. Feel free to keep repeating it until your hand feels comfortable playing those notes together.

①      2      ③      4      ⑤

**Assignment #7:** Play the C triad with your left hand using the rhythm on Lesson 1/ Page 5, playing line #1 and #2.

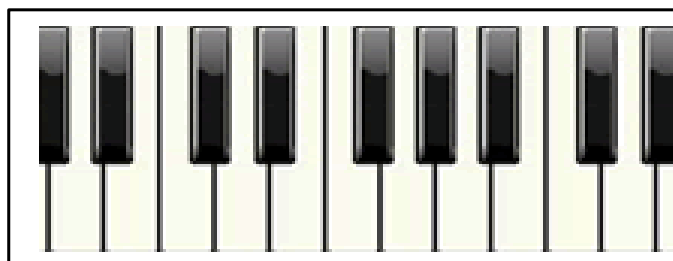
**Assignment #8:** Play the five note scale with your right hand using quarter notes up and down while playing the C triad in the left hand playing half notes, as in the following rhythm pattern:

RH		Keep repeating until you can play without stopping
	<p>1   2   3   4   5   4   3   2</p>	
LH		

There are two ways to play the triad in your left hand. You can play them all together, called *block style*, which you've been playing up to this point, or played separately, called *broken style*.

**Assignment #9:** Play the C triad in the left hand using *broken style* playing in the order 1, 3, 5, 3, 1 repeating in the following rhythm pattern:






**Assignment #10:** Play *Are You Sleeping* with your right hand playing the melody below, while playing the C triad with your left hand at the beginning of each measure. Use 1 (thumb) on C, 2 (index) on D, 3<sup>rd</sup> on E, 4<sup>th</sup> on F and 5 (pinky) on G.

\*Note: Practice your right hand first until learned, than add your left hand.


Option: After you have learned it with the block triad in your left hand, try using the broken triad. For a little variety, you can also play the song interchanging between block and broken whenever you would like to change.

## Are You Sleeping

C

Vo. 

C D E C C D E C E F G E F G

Vo. 

G G E C G G E C C G C C G C



When you played the five note C scale in the previous lesson, you probably noticed how it sounded and have heard that sound before, even if you'd never heard the word "scale". Now play the five note scale starting with G. Let your ear guide you to play the correct notes.

Do you use any # 's or b 's? \_\_\_\_\_  
Play the block and broken triad starting on G.

Now play the five note scale starting on F. Again let your ear guide you, using any black keys necessary.  
What black key(s) did you use? \_\_\_\_\_  
Play the block and broken triad starting on F.

\*Notice that even though you have a black key on the F scale, you do not use it for the triad.

**Assignment #4:** Play the triads C, G & F with the left hand one octave below middle C. Practice changing them at random order as quickly as you can.

**Assignment #5:** Play the following song, *Ode to Joy* playing the melody in your right hand (one octave higher) and the blocked triad in your left hand. Keep the same triad in your left hand until it changes to another triad, however restrike the triad at the beginning of each measure, even if it doesn't change. Notice the last measure changes the triad on the 3<sup>rd</sup> beat of the measure.

**ODE TO JOY**

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

Left hand plays the chord symbols.

Right hand plays the notes on the staff lines.

The white notes are half notes. Hold them for two beats.

The black notes are called quarter notes. Hold them for one beat.

Repeat back to the beginning

Assignment #6: Now play the song *Lean On Me* below. Notice it's in  $\frac{3}{4}$  time.

# Lean On Me

C F C G

Voice

C F C G C

Vo.



**Assignment #4:** Play *O When the Saints* below. Notice that you now have eighth note rhythms. Remember to play your right hand an octave higher and restrike the same triad if it doesn't change in the next measure.

# O When the Saints

C

O when the saints go march-ing in.

G C

saints go march - ing in. O I want to be in that

C

numb-ber. When the saints go march - ing in.





Now play the five note scales starting on the note below and figure out the #’s or b ’s needed for each and write on the line below:

D \_\_\_\_\_

Play the block and broken triad on D. Do you use the black key on the triad? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, which triad number? \_\_\_\_\_

B b \_\_\_\_\_

Play the block and broken triad on B b . Do you use the black key on the triad? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, which triad number? \_\_\_\_\_

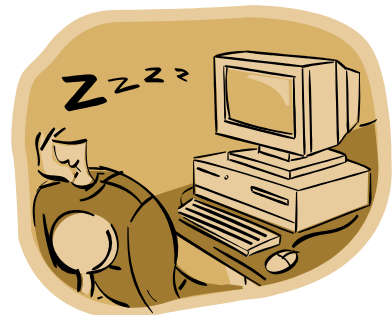
Play the D and B b triads in both block and broken randomly until you can easily go from one to the next. When accomplished, add the previous triads, C, G and F and play them all, interchanging randomly.

**Assignment #4:** Play *Are you Sleeping* below using the scale number for your right hand while playing it entirely with the following listed triads in your left hand using whole notes (remember it only has one triad for the entire song). Remember to use the # ’s or b ’s that you played in the five note scale in your right hand melody.

Triads: F, G, D, B b

1 2 3 1 | 1 2 3 1 | 3 4 5 | 3 4 5 | 5 5 3 1 | 5 5 3 1 |

1 5 1 | 1 5 1 ||



\*\*Option: Now play with the broken triad style for left hand.