



HOW TO PLAY BY EAR & IMPROV ON THE PIANO



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Book 1
Levels 1-3

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Level 1

Keyboard Geography

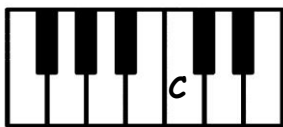
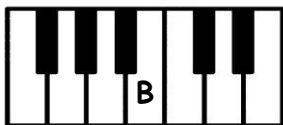
Major Scales/Key Signatures

Triads

Chord progressions

KEYBOARD GEOGRAPHY

To begin, we will learn the keys on the piano. You'll see the keys as a pattern of 2 black keys, then 3 black keys and so on. Below is a chart showing the notes, starting with the 2 black keys:

C is to the left of 2 black keys**D** is in the middle of 2 black keys**E** is at the end of 2 black keys**F** is at the beginning of 3 black keys**G** is the 2nd of 3 black keys**A** is the 3rd of 3 black keys**B** is at the end of 3 black keys

MAJOR SCALES AND KEY SIGNATURES

Before learning to play chords, we must first learn the basics of major scales and key signatures.

What is a major scale? A major scale consists of 7 different notes, starting on one note until you reach the next octave (notes that are 8 notes apart), using the white and black keys needed for that scale. The major scale has a common sound that most people recognize.

What is a key signature? A key signature tells us what keys to play in a given song, whether each note should be a natural (white) or a \sharp or \flat . The name of the key signature is the first note of the scale that uses the same number of \sharp 's and \flat 's.

The following chart below is called the **Circle of 5ths**, showing every key signature possible. Notice that each key signature is 5 notes apart from the next key signature adding another \sharp or \flat , hence the reason it's called the circle of 5ths.

Going to the right of the chart will show the key signatures using \sharp 's, and to the left will show the \flat 's.

*Notice that key signatures will either have \sharp 's or \flat 's, but will never have both in one key signature.

