

# Piano **suite** Classroom

## Chapter 2: Lesson 12

## Chapter 2: The Grand Staff

### Lesson 12

*For specific information on Piano Suite Premier and how to purchase, please visit one of the following links:*

<http://www.adventus.com/purchase/premier.html>

<http://www.adventus.com/purchase/bundle.html>

#### Lesson Overview

- The student will get a score of “Excellent” and 85 % (or higher) on the songs “Sing Tu Yoo (1)”, and “Trot Along My Little Pony (1)”.
- The student will review the Theory Topic: Posture and Hand Position, pages i - iv.
- The student will learn the new song : “Working Song (1)”.
- The student will compose a song in Composer’s Corner which involves using one hand at a time on the Grand Staff.
- The student will practice the following song using “Wait for Note” and will earn a score of “Very Good Work” (or better): “Get Up (1)”.

#### New Material

Song:

- Working Song (1)

#### Review Material

Theory:

- I-2: Posture and Hand Position, pages i - iv.

Songs:

- Sing Tu Yoo (1)
- Trot Along My Little Pony (1)
- Get Up (1)

## Procedure

Open the Piano Player and practice the following songs until you are able to make a score of “Excellent”: “Sing Tu Yoo (1)”, and “Trot Along My Little Pony (1)”.

It is very important that you look at the notes in the music when you are playing, and not at your hands/fingers. However, when you are first learning to play, you should take a few minutes during each lesson to focus on your hand position, and then check your hand position and the position of your fingers periodically as you proceed through a lesson. Proper technique is extremely important, and therefore you want to make sure that you are developing proper playing habits from the start.

Begin by reviewing the theory topic: Posture and Hand Position pages i - iv. Now select the song, “When the Saints Go Marching In” in the Theory Topic “The Treble or G Clef”, page vi. Play the song a few times for review. Play it again, but this time, look at your hand and fingers and check that they are in the proper position. Make any necessary adjustments and play the song again.

Does your hand position look like the examples shown in the previously reviewed theory section? If your not sure, go back and look at the Posture and Hand Position theory pages again.

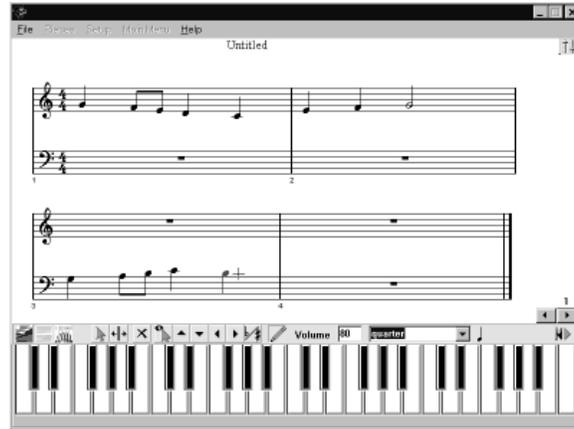
Now follow the same process as you play the following song which is located within the Theory Topic “The Bass or F Clef”, page vii: Topic 07, Page 06, Exercise 1.

Begin to learn the new song: “Working Song (1)” as you play it using the “Wait for Note” method. Practice until you can receive a score of “Good Work” (or better).

You are now ready to compose your own song using the grand staff in Composer’s Corner. You have learned several songs which use the grand staff. You can review any of these songs as an example piece for your composition.

Your piece will be four or eight bars long, in 4/4 time and will use both the treble clef staff and bass clef staff. You can use the notes middle “C” up to “G” on the second line of the treble clef staff, and the notes middle “C” down to “F” on the fourth line up on the bass clef staff. The left and right hand will not play notes at the same time. You can use the following rhythms in your piece: whole, half, quarter and eighth notes. (For a review of these rhythms see the Theory Topic: “Bar Lines and Note Values”.) You can also use the whole, half, quarter and eighth note rests. (To review the “musical rest” see the following Theory Topic: Musical Rests pages i - iv.)

Begin as you did when composing your last piece by experimenting with the notes you have to choose from. Proceed in this manner until you are able to create a melody that you like. Try creating a piece that has a musical question and answer. The first half of your melody will ask the musical question. This part of your composition should end on a note that makes the listener feel as if they want to hear the next part of your song. The listener wants to hear the musical answer. The second half of your melody, the musical answer, should end on a note which makes the listener feel that they have reached the end of the song. Experiment with different notes at the end of each section and see which one you like the best. Look at the songs you have been playing. What note does the song end on?



Return to the Piano Player and practice the song “Get Up (1)” until you are able to achieve a score of “Very Good Work” (or better).

You have been working on the songs “Sing Tu Yoo (1)” and “Trot Along My Little Pony (1)” during the last three lessons. You are now ready to play the song using the “Notes and Timing” method. Practice until you are able to score 85 % (or higher) on both songs.

### Indicators of Success

- You receive a score of “Excellent” on the songs “Sing Tu Yoo (1)” and “Trot Along My Little Pony (1)”.
- You become more aware of the importance of proper playing technique and will begin to improve the position of your hands and fingers when playing the keyboard.
- You compose a piece on the grand staff while staying within the limitations outlined for this exercise.
- You get a score of “Very Good Work” (or better) on the song “Get Up (1)”.
- You score 85 % (or higher) on the songs “Sing Tu Yoo (1)” and “Trot Along My Little Pony (1)”.

## Hints

\* Practice reading notes with the fingerings turned off. Once you have started to become familiar with a song, you should turn the fingerings off and then continue to practice the piece. You can turn the fingerings off by going to Piano Suite's main menu and selecting "Settings". Make sure that the check box located beside the words "Use Fingering" does not have a check mark in it. If it does contain a check mark, click on it once with your mouse to use no fingerings with your songs. This may seem difficult at first, but it is an important step in learning how to read music. You do not want to depend on the fingerings when playing a song.

\* Try singing the names of the notes as you play a song. Listen carefully to see if you are singing in tune to the piano keyboard. If you are not able to tell if you are singing in tune, record yourself with a tape player as you perform/sing the notes of a song. Listen to the tape to try and determine whether or not you are singing to the correct pitch. If you are still having difficulty, ask a friend to listen to you and ask for their opinion. Make sure you choose someone who is known for having a good singing voice. Singing the note names will help you learn the names of the notes on the staff. This will be helpful when you begin playing songs with the fingerings turned off.