

**METHOD: INSTANT KEYBOARD**

**BERKLEE PRESS**

**B E R K L E E**

# **INSTANT KEYBOARD**

**PAUL SCHMELING and  
DAVE LIMINA**

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# CD Tracks

## The Band

Tomo Fujita, *Guitar*

Larry Finn, *Drums*

Dave Limina and Paul Schmeling, *Keyboards*

Anthony Vitti, *Bass*

Larry Luddeke, *Engineer*

Recorded at Straight Up, Arlington MA

### Lesson 1. Playing a Chord

CD 1. "C Rock" Full Band

CD 2. "C Rock" Play Along

### Lesson 2. Keeping Time

CD 3. Whole notes

CD 4. "Whole Rock" Full Band

CD 5. "Whole Rock" Play Along

CD 6. "Rock On" Full Band

CD 7. "Rock On" Play Along

CD 8. "Rock Solid" Full band

CD 9. "Rock Solid" Play Along

### Lesson 3. Using Inversions

CD 10. "Inside Out" Full band

CD 11. "Inside Out" Play Along

### Lesson 4. Bass Notes

CD 12. "Upside Down" Full Band

CD 13. "Upside Down" Play Along

CD 14. "Right Side Out" Full Band

CD 15. "Right Side Out" Play Along

### Lesson 5. Half Notes

CD 16. "Around and Through" Full Band

CD 17. "Around and Through" Play Along

CD 18. "Malibu" Full Band

CD 19. "Malibu" Play Along

CD 20. "Half Coastin'" Full Band

CD 21. "Half Coastin'" Play Along

### Lesson 6. Quarter Notes

CD 22. "Blue Groove" Full Band

CD 23. "Blue Groove" Play Along

### Lesson 7. Arpeggios

CD 24. "Calypso High" Full Band

CD 25. "Calypso High" Play Along

### Lesson 8. Pop

CD 26. "After You" Full Band

CD 27. "After You" Play Along

### Lesson 9. Rhythmic Variation

CD 28. "Soundtrack" Full Band

CD 29. "Soundtrack" Play Along

### Lesson 10. Classic Rock

CD 30. "Classic" Full Band

CD 31. "Classic" Play Along

### Lesson 11. Putting It All Together

CD 32. "Final Turn" Full Band

CD 33. "Final Turn" Play Along

# Welcome to Instant Keyboard

This book will get you playing keyboard instantly-whether you read music or not. We put together a band with some of our friends and recorded some really fun music. The *Instant Keyboard CD* has songs ready for you to play along with right now!

For each tune, first check out CD tracks marked "Listen," which have us playing keyboard. Then, once you learn the keyboard part, it's your turn. Tracks marked "Play" have no keyboard part.

The lessons will help you play chords and bass parts, read music, count rhythms, and play along with other musicians. These are important for making music. This book will help you make them become part of your musical knowledge. However, you don't need to learn how to read music to have fun with this book. The diagrams show where to place your hands. Just use your musical ear as much as possible, and be creative.

## Getting Started

You can use this book with any type of keyboard-acoustic piano, digital piano, sophisticated synthesizer, or even a small portable. If your keyboard has many sounds, use a piano sound the first time through each lesson. As long as the tuning is set to the standard A440, you're all set. If you're using an acoustic piano, make sure that it gets tuned about every six months.



Digital Piano



Synthesizer



Acoustic Piano



Organ



Keyboard

Before you play along with the CD, match the volume levels of your keyboard and CD player. You can use a small boom-box and a portable keyboard with internal speakers or a large sound system and a synthesizer with an amplifier. Almost any combination is okay, if the volume levels are matched. If you use headphones, make sure that you can mix both the electronic keyboard and CD together. Avoid using headphones for either the CD or electric piano only, with the other sound coming from the room. This setup would make it difficult to hear how the keyboard and CD fit together.

Pay careful attention to the diagrams and hand positions in the early lessons. They remain the same for the more complicated songs later. Learning them will help you play all of the styles that are included in the book.

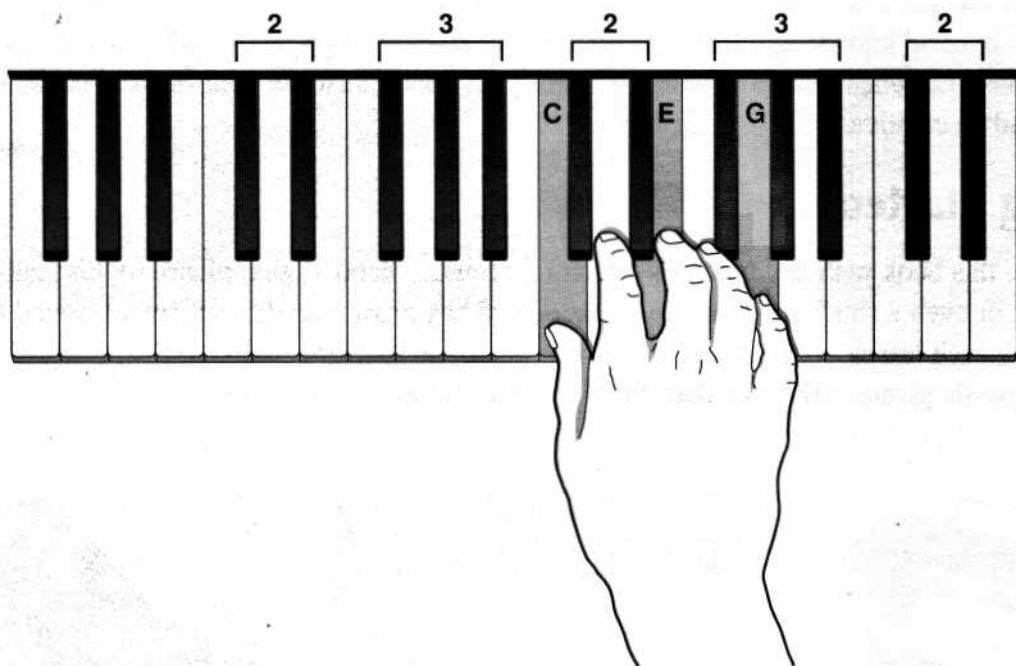
So, get your keyboard and CD player ready, and let's play some music!

# Playing a Chord

Chords (three notes at the same time) are used in most popular music. In a band, the keyboard and rhythm guitar usually play chords.

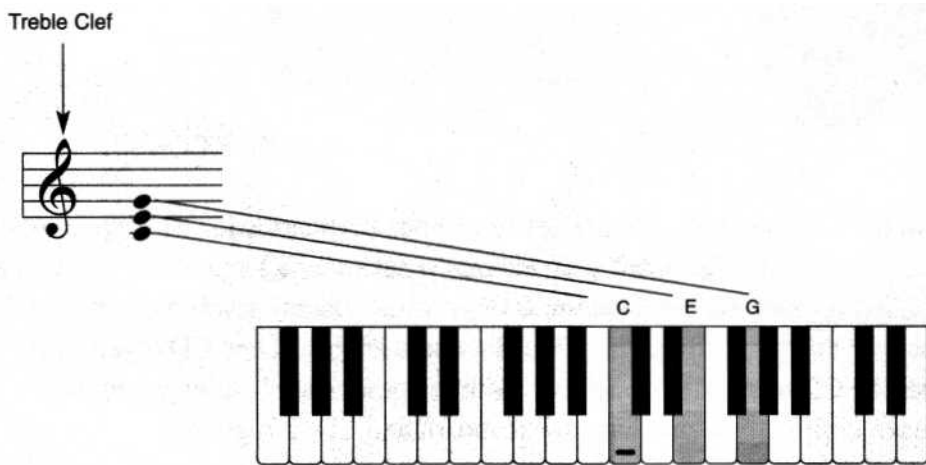
## C Chord

Play these three notes at the same time with your right hand. These three notes make up a C chord.



The black keys of a keyboard are in groups of two and three. Find the two-key group in the middle of the keyboard. The white note to the left of that group is *middle C*. Use middle C to help you find the E and G, playing every other white key.

The music looks like this. Find the notes on your keyboard.



# "C Rock"

This first tune, "C Rock," uses a C chord.

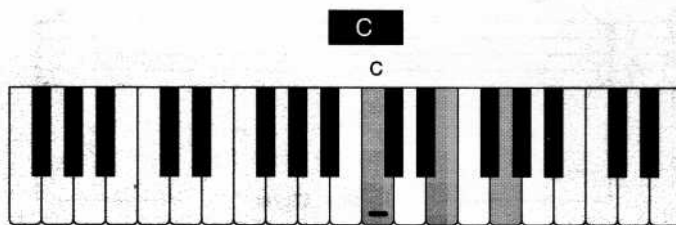
## 1. Listen

If you can play a C chord, you can play this tune. Listen to the keyboard on the CD. All it plays is a C chord.

## 2. Play

Now play "C Rock" with the band on the CD. Follow your ear. Play long notes, short notes, loud or soft notes. Play fast or slow. Try to find a "groove" that works, and rock along!

The "Try a Sound" icons are for those with keyboards that have several sounds. For this tune, if your keyboard has an organ sound, try using it. If your keyboard doesn't have the suggested sound, that's fine too. Just use what you have.



## C ROCK

PLAY A C CHORD  
WHENEVER YOU WANT.  
FOLLOW YOUR EAR.

**CONGRATULATIONS! YOU PLAYED YOUR FIRST ROCK SONG!**

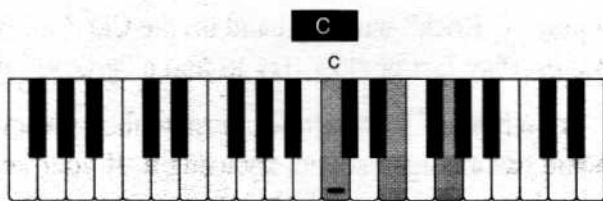
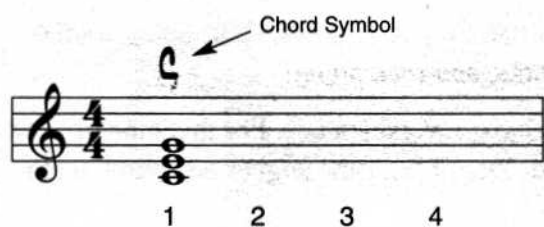
# Lesson Two Keeping Time

## Whole Notes

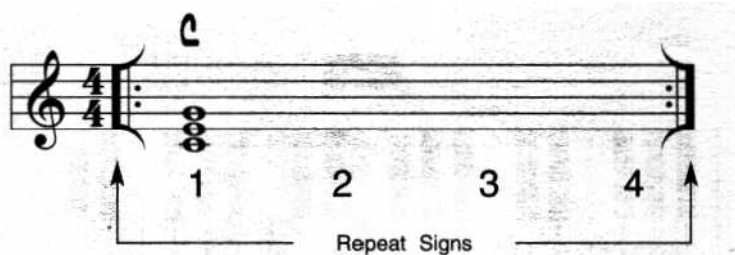
This is a *whole note* (o). It lasts four *beats* (counts). Count "1 2 3 4."

This C chord is held for four beats.

3



Listen to the drums and keyboard. The drums play the groove while the keyboard plays whole notes. The keyboard plays on beat 1 of every bar. Count and play along as you listen.



**Tip:** When you see these signs  $\{ \}$ , repeat the music between them.

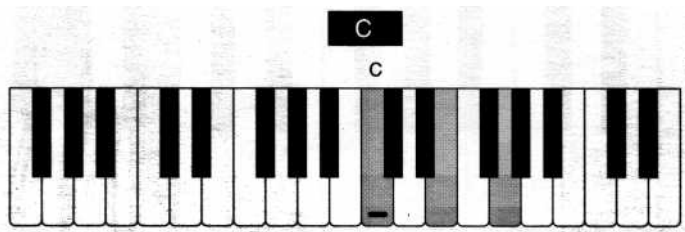
# "Whole Rock"

## 4 1. Listen

This tune is like "C Rock," but the keyboard plays steady whole notes.

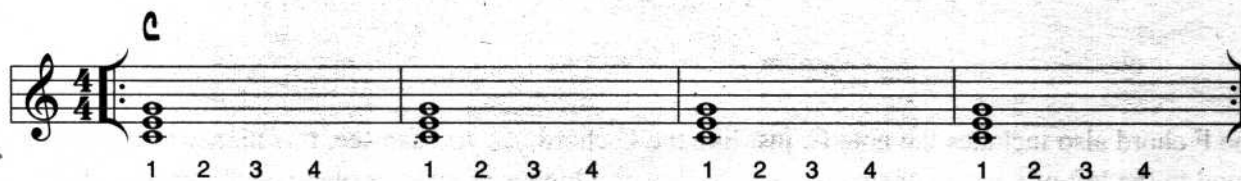
## 5 2. Play

Play along with "Whole Rock." Hook up with the bass and drums on beat 1 of every bar.



# WHOLE ROCK

Rock

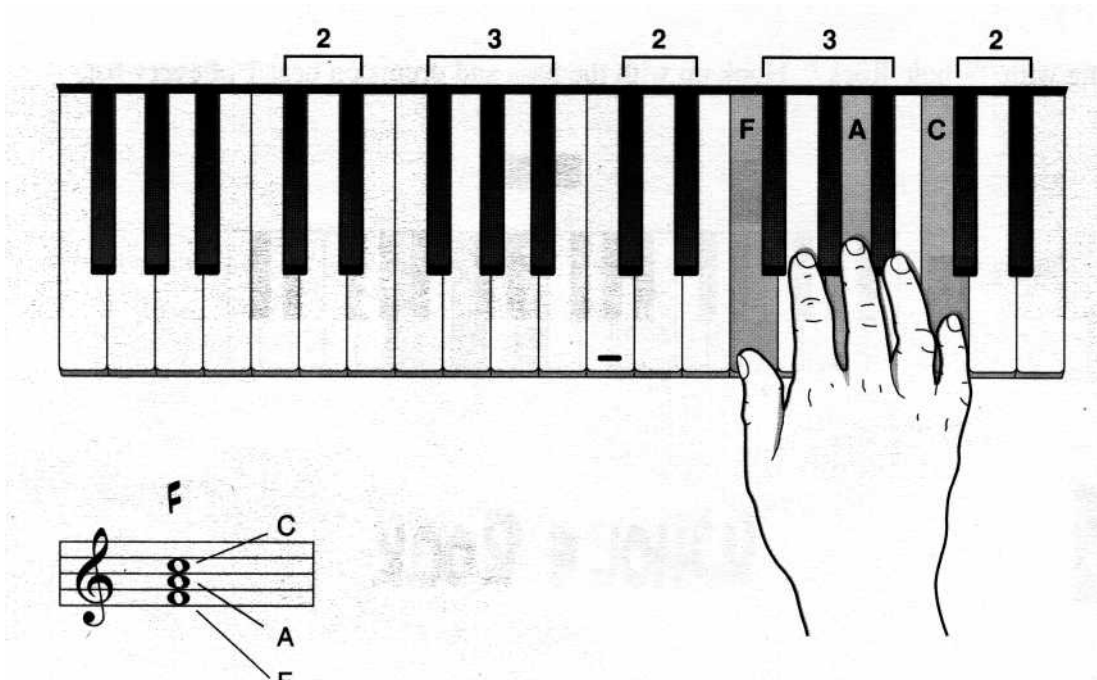


**Tip:** Play on beat 1 at **exactly** the same time as the bass and drums.  
This is called "hooking up."



## F Chord

Now, let's play another chord. This one is an F chord. It is similar to the C chord. The note F is the key to the left of each group of three black keys. Find the chord by playing every other white key, starting at F.



The F chord also includes the note C, just like the C chord. As you can see, this higher C is also found to the left of a group of two black keys, but at a higher *register* or place on the keyboard. At any part of the keyboard, C will always be the white key to the left of each group of two black key. In any register, F is always the white key to the left of each group of three black keys.

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## Challenge

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Find all the Cs and all the Fs on your keyboard. Use the black keys as your guide.

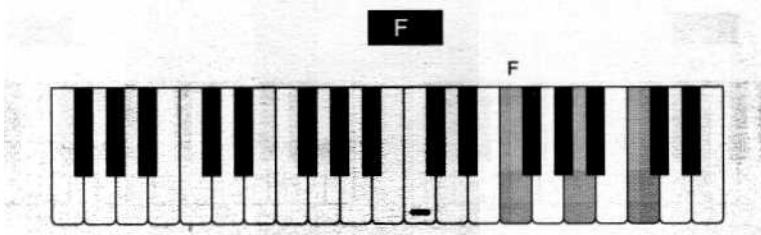
# "Rock On"

## 6 1. Listen

This keyboard part is like the one in "Whole Rock," but it uses an F chord.

## 7 2. Play

Hook up with the bass and drums on beat 1. Let the F chord ring for beats 2, 3, and 4.



# ROCK ON

Rock

1 2 3 4    1 2 3 4    1 2 3 4    1 2 3 4

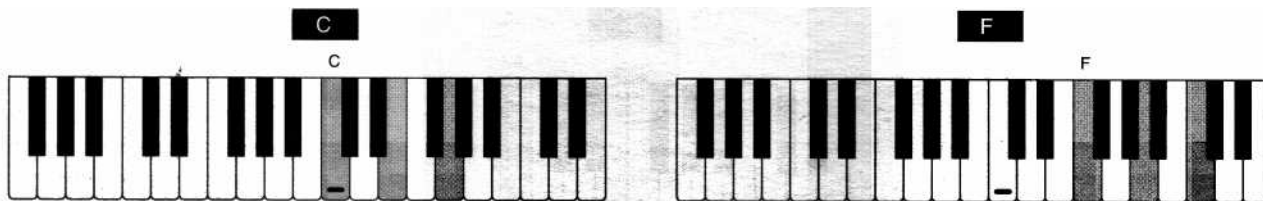
# "Rock Solid"

## 8 1. Listen

This keyboard part uses both the C and F chords.

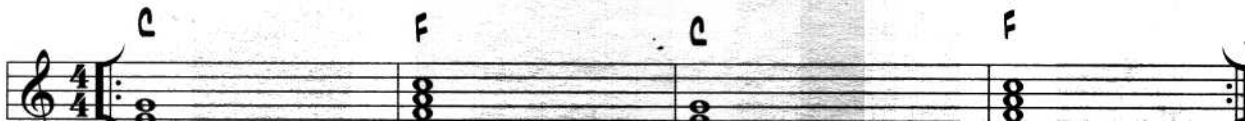
## 9 2. Play

Play along with the bass and drums.



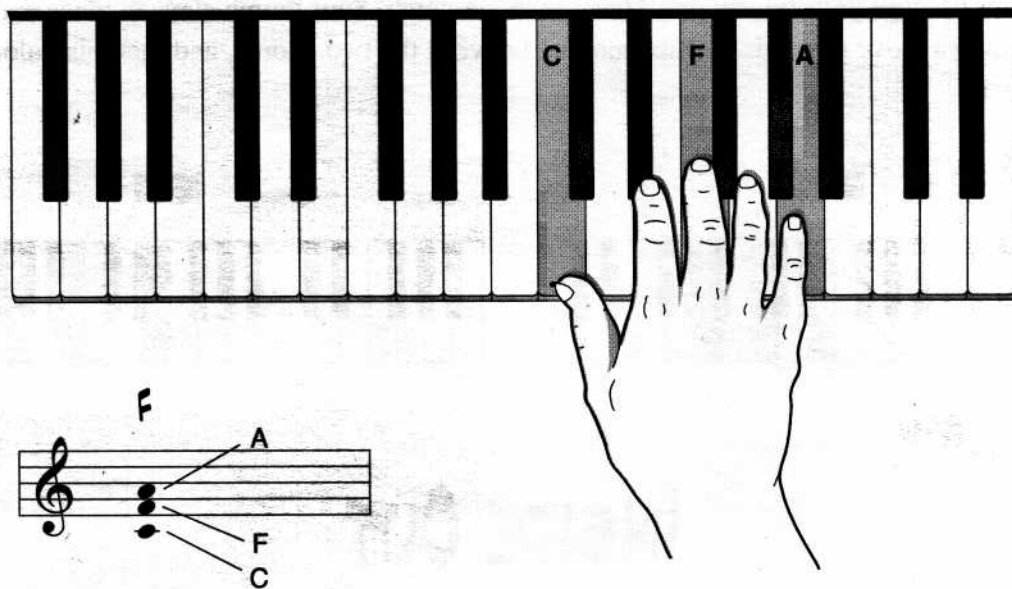
# ROCK SOLID

ROCK



# Lesson Three Using Inversions

*Inversions* are chords with their notes in a different order. Here is another way to play an F chord.



This chord has the same notes as the F chord you learned earlier, but the notes are in a different place on the keyboard. This is called an *inversion*. The note C is played in a lower register.



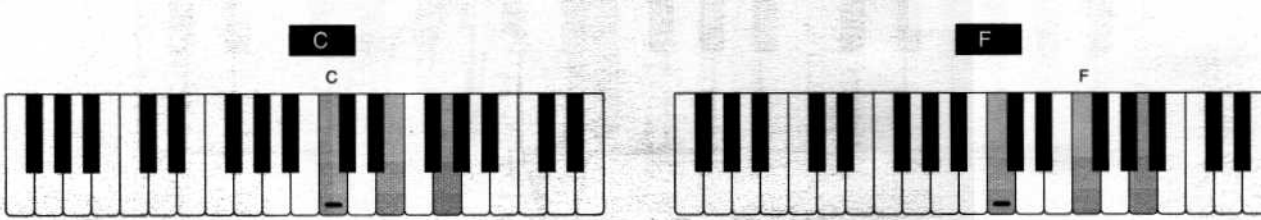
# "Inside Out"

## 10 1. Listen

Count along while you listen. "1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4..."

## 11 2. Play

Play a C chord. Then play an F chord the new way, as an inversion. The inversion makes the chord change easier because your fingers don't have to move much. Your thumb stays in place and your other two fingers move upward. Practice moving between the two chords, and then play along with the recording.



# INSIDE OUT

Rock

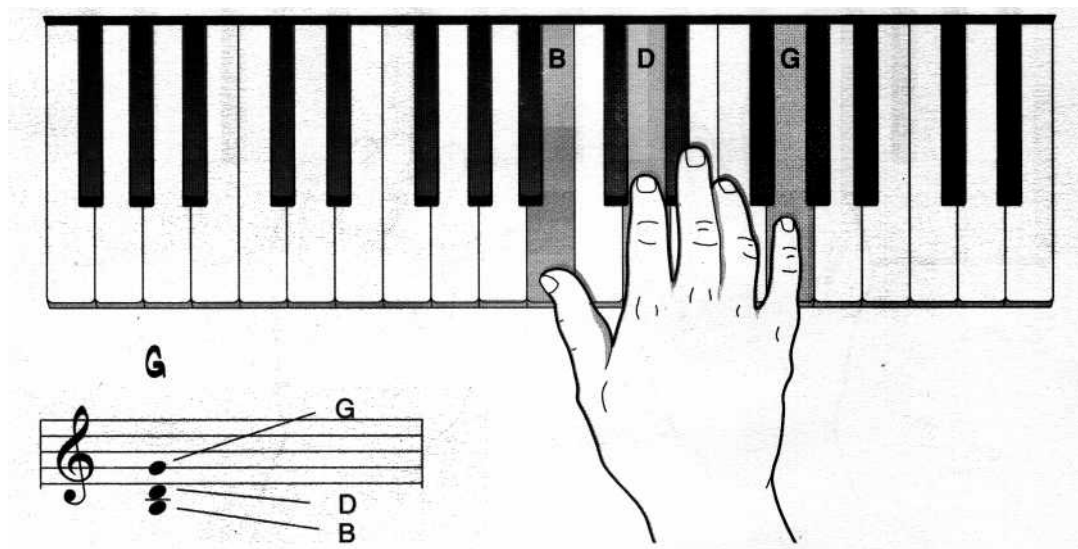


# Lesson Four Bass Notes

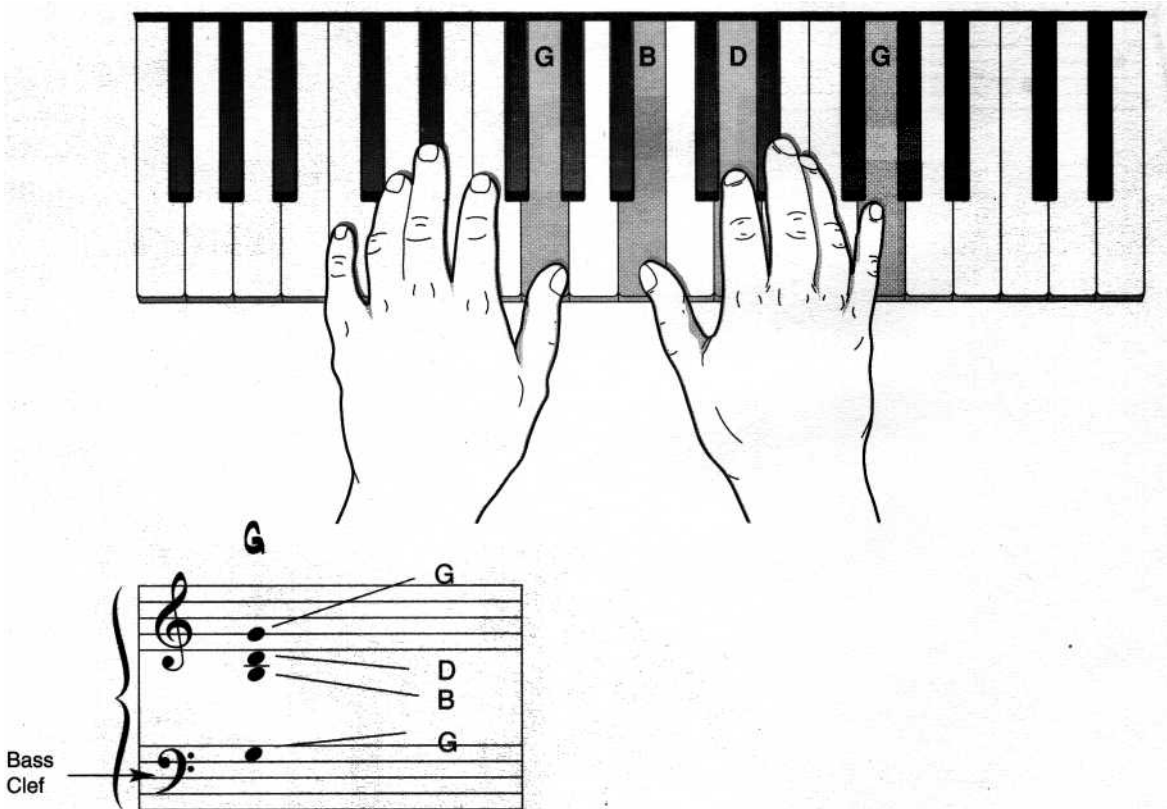
Keyboard players often play bass notes. These notes are generally played lower on the keyboard and are also played by the bass guitar or upright bass. Bass notes will round out the chords and make them sound more grounded.

## G Chord

First, play the G chord shown. This chord is also an inversion. If the G was moved to the bottom, it would be in a regular position, rather than an inversion.



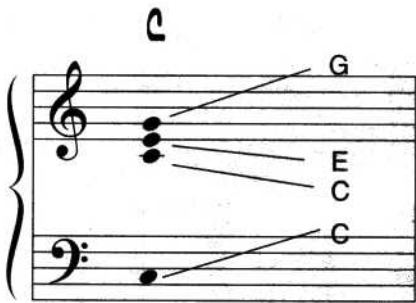
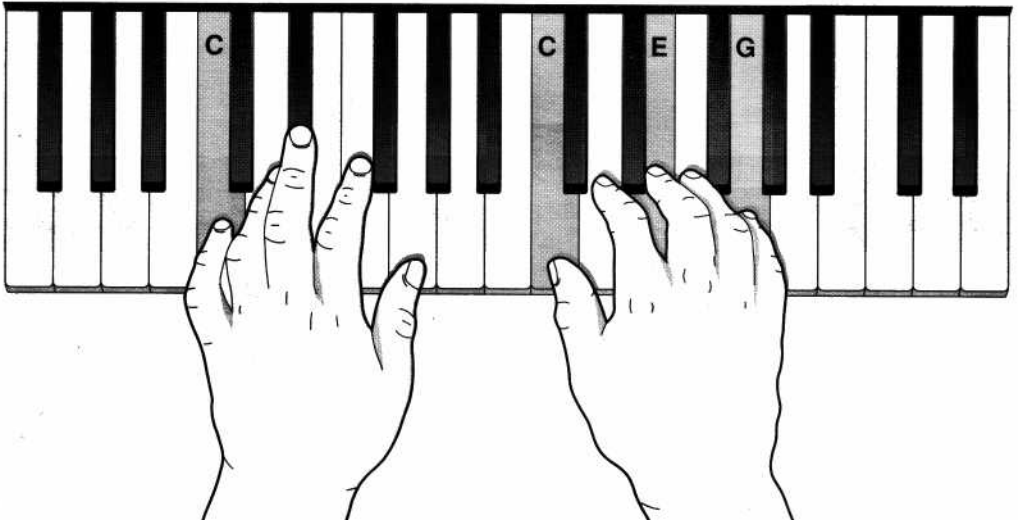
Then, play that same G chord again, but this time, add the bass note with your left hand.



Tip: Keyboard music often includes both **treble clef** (right hand) and **bass clef** (left hand).

## C Chord with Bass

Play the C chord, and add a bass note.



# "Upside Down"

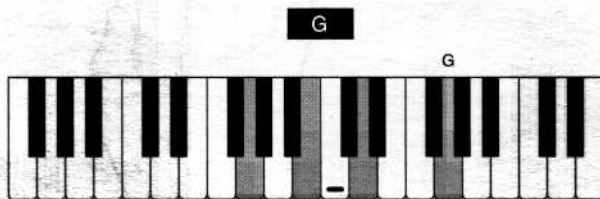
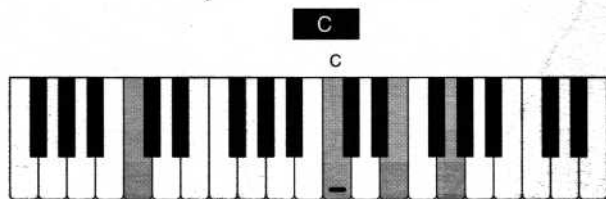
## 12 1. Listen

Count along while you listen, "12 3 4."

## 13 2. Play

Play a C chord with the bass note. Then play a G chord with the bass note.

That's all you need to play "Upside Down."



# UPSIDE DOWN

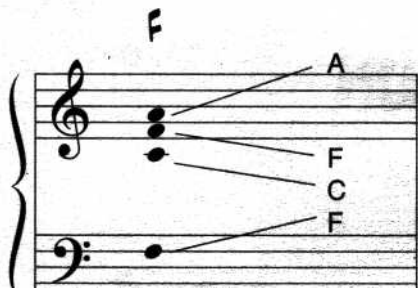
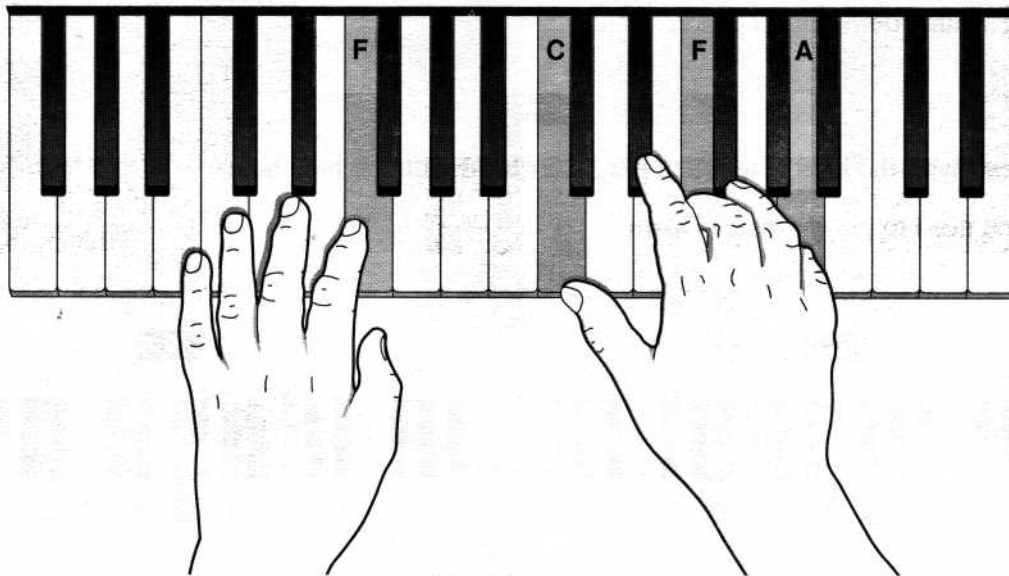
SOFT ROCK

Musical notation for the chords C and G. The notation is in 4/4 time and consists of two staves. The first staff is the treble clef and the second staff is the bass clef. The first measure is labeled 'C' and the second measure is labeled 'G'. The notes are: C (treble), E (treble), G (treble), C (bass) for the C chord; and G (treble), B (treble), D (treble), G (bass) for the G chord.



# F Chord with Bass Note

Play the F chord with the bass note.



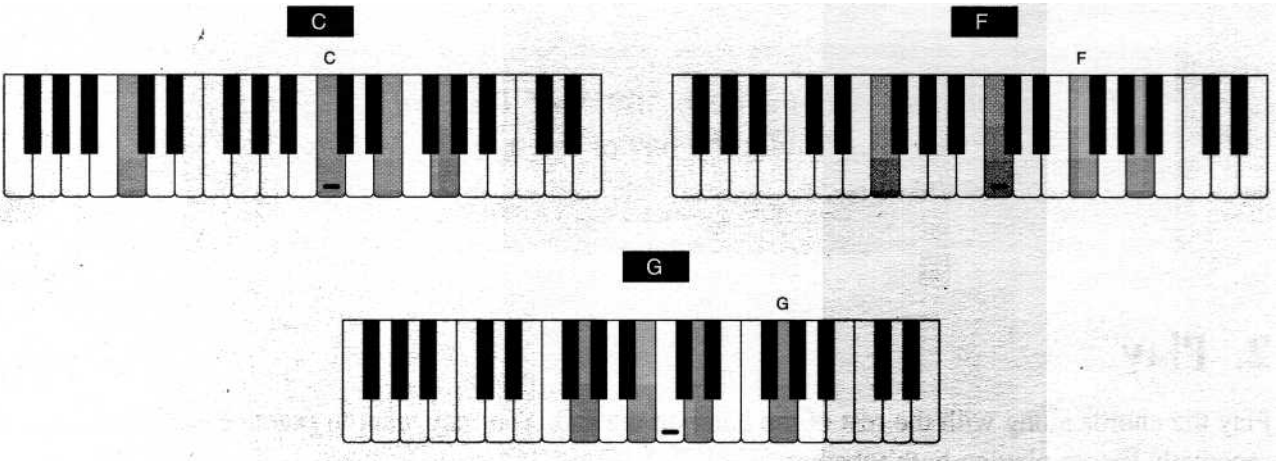
# "Right Side Out"

## 14 1. Listen

"Right Side Out" combines the chords from "Inside Out" and "Upside Down."

## 15 2. Play

Play the chords along with the band on the CD. You might want to practice each hand separately, at first.



# RIGHT SIDE OUT

SOFT ROCK

Musical notation for "Right Side Out" in 4/4 time. The notation is written for a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The tempo/style is "SOFT ROCK". The piece consists of four measures, each with a chord symbol above the staff: C, F, G, and C. The bass line consists of single notes in the bass clef, and the treble line consists of chords in the treble clef.

**Tip:** Keyboard players often use inversions to make their chord playing more musical and smooth.

## "Around and Through"

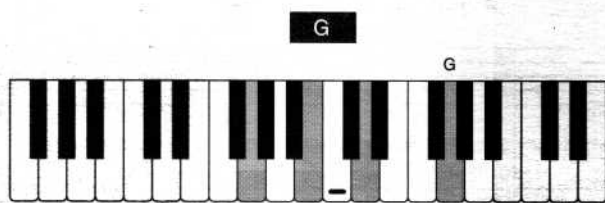
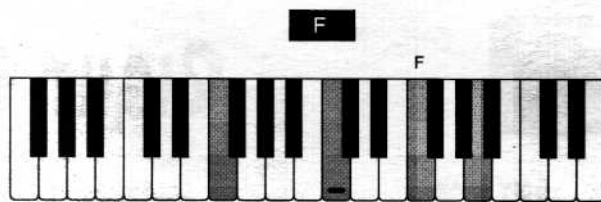
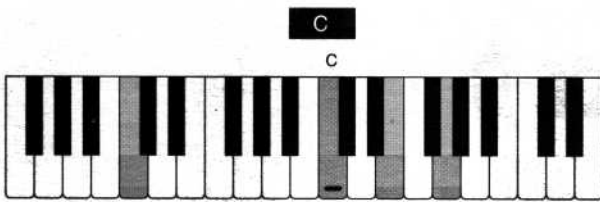
### 16 1. Listen

Follow the music as you listen. The keyboard plays half notes. *Half notes* (j) get two beats.

**Tip:** Count along with the beat, "1 2 3 4." This will help you play in time ("hook up") with the rest of the band. It will also help you follow the music.

### 17 2. Play

Play the chords along with the rest of the band on the CD. You may want to practice each hand separately before playing both together.



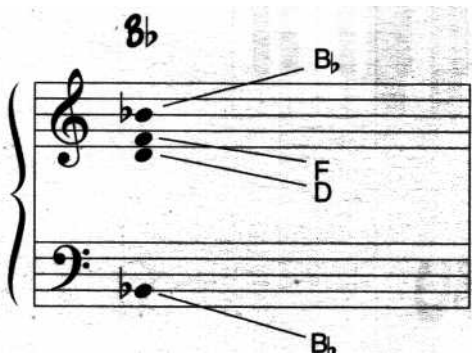
# AROUND AND THROUGH

SOFT ROCK

C                  F                  G                  C

# B-Flat Chord

Play a B-flat chord (B $\flat$ ) with its added bass note.



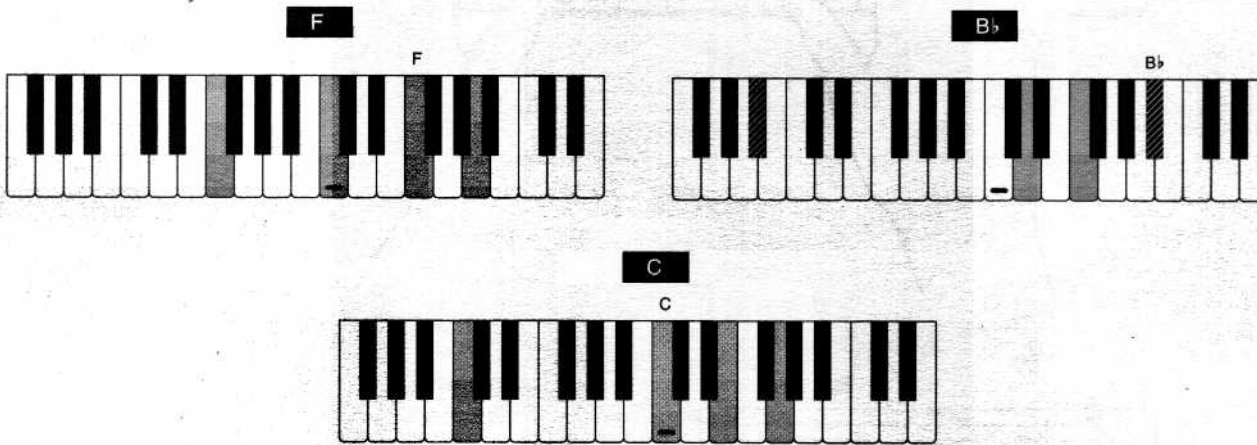
# "Malibu"

## 18 1. Listen

Follow the music as you listen to this tune. Count along with the beat "1 2 3 4." The keyboard plays half notes.

## 19 2. Play

Play along with the rest of the band on the CD.



# MALIBU

SOFT ROCK

Musical notation for the Malibu tune, showing a four-measure phrase in G major. The notation is written for a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The first measure is F (F4), the second is B $\flat$  (B $\flat$ 3), the third is C (C4), and the fourth is F (F4). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 below the notes. The bass clef part consists of a single note per measure: F4, B $\flat$ 3, C4, F4.

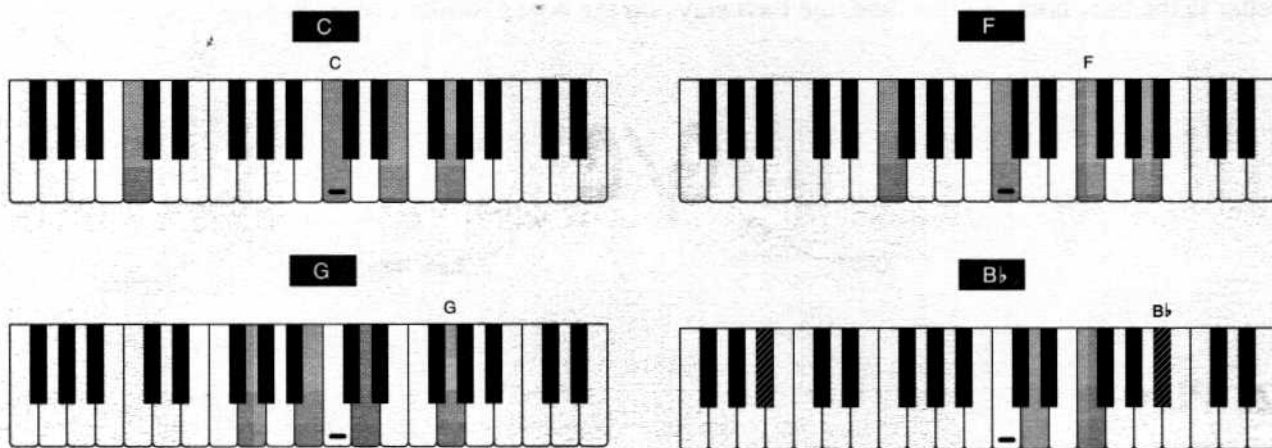
# "Half Coastin'"

## 20 1. Listen

Let's put the two patterns together into one song. Listen for where the chord pattern changes from starting on C to starting on F.

## 21 2. Play

Play along with the band on the CD. Count "1 2 3 4" as you play.



# HALF COASTIN'

SOFT ROCK

Musical score for "Half Coastin'" in 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems of chords and bass lines.

**System 1:**

- Chords: C, F, G, C, C, F, G, C
- Bass line: C4, F4, G4, C5, C5, F5, G5, C5

**System 2:**

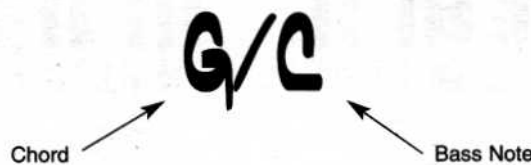
- Chords: F, B $\flat$ , C, F, F, B $\flat$ , C, F
- Bass line: F4, B $\flat$ 4, C5, F5, F5, B $\flat$ 5, C5, F5

# Lesson Six Quarter Notes

## "Blue Groove"

### 22 1. Listen

Follow the music as you listen. The bass plays quarter notes. *Quarter notes* (*j*) get one beat. Some of the chord symbols have a slash (/) separating two letters. The first letter is the chord, the second letter is the bass note. In this tune, the bass stays on the note C under every chord.

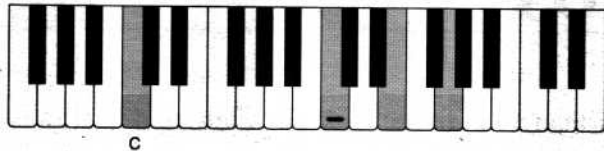


### 23 2. Play

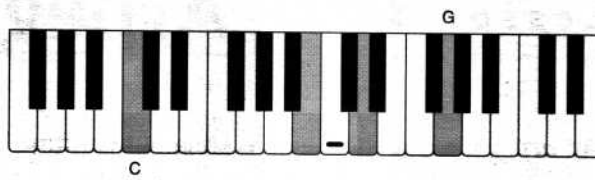
In this tune, you will play a C whole note every four beats with your left hand, while you play C-chord quarter notes with your right hand. You could also try playing quarter notes in the bass, together with the chords in the right hand. Practice both ways a few times. Then play along with the band on the CD.

Count along as you play. Try to stay in time with the rest of the band.

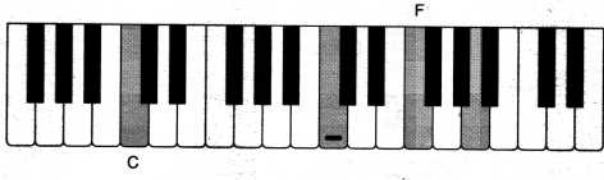
C



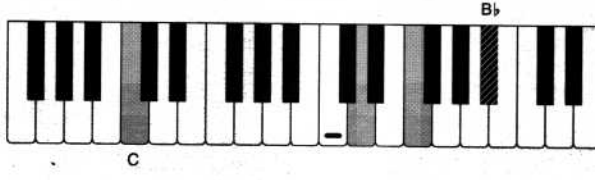
G/C



F/C



B $\flat$ /C



# BLUE GROOVE

POP

Chord progression: C G/C F/C C

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. The treble clef contains a series of chords: C (1-2-3-4), G/C (1-2-3-4), F/C, and C. The bass clef contains a steady bass line of quarter notes: C, G, F, C.

Chord progression: F/C C F/C C

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. The treble clef contains chords: F/C, C, F/C, and C. The bass clef continues with quarter notes: C, G, F, C.

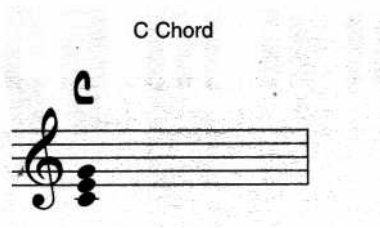
Chord progression: B $\flat$ /C F/C C

The third system of musical notation concludes the piece. The treble clef contains chords: B $\flat$ /C, F/C, and C. The bass clef continues with quarter notes: C, G, F, C.

Notice how the chords sound different over the same bass notes.



An *arpeggio* is a chord played one note at a time, rather than all at once. They are often used in slow-moving ballads.



## "Calypso High"

### 24 1. Listen

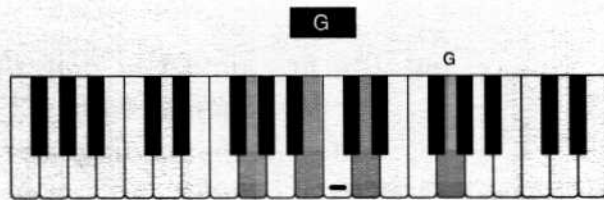
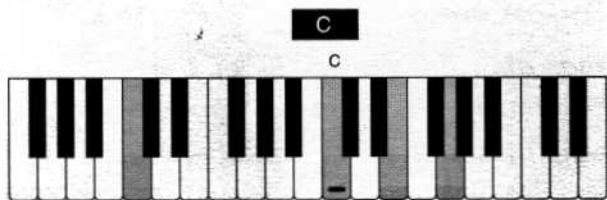
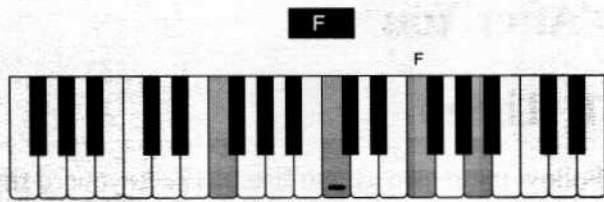
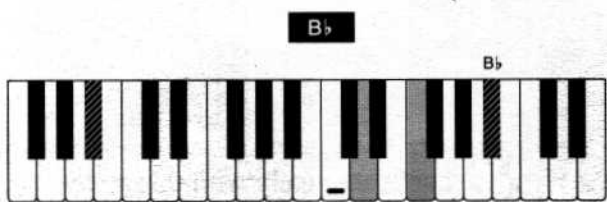
Some pop/rock styles often use "arpeggiated" chords. Listen to "Calypso High." It arpeggiates the chords in *eighth notes* ( $\mathit{n}$ ). Eighth notes get half a beat each. Notice the eighth-note arpeggios, as you listen, as well as the other new rhythms.

**Tip:** Two notes connected with a **tie** (—) are played with no space between them. A half note tied to an eighth note lasts for two and a half beats.



# 25 2. Play

Play along with the CD. Play a whole note every four beats with your left hand. The *quarter rest* (  $\zeta$  ) means "don't play" for one quarter note.



## CALYPSO HIGH

### CALYPSO

**A**  $B\flat$  F C F Play 4 Times

Musical notation for section A, 4/4 time signature. The right hand plays a melody of eighth notes: B $\flat$ 4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The left hand plays a bass line of whole notes: B $\flat$ 2, F2, C2, F2. The section is marked "Play 4 Times".

**B** C F G C

Musical notation for section B, 4/4 time signature. The right hand plays a melody of eighth notes: C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3. The left hand plays a bass line of whole notes: C2, F2, G2, C3. The section ends with a four-measure rest, numbered 1, 2, 3, 4.

**C**  $B\flat$  F C F

Musical notation for section C, 4/4 time signature. The right hand plays a melody of eighth notes: B $\flat$ 4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The left hand plays a bass line of whole notes: B $\flat$ 2, F2, C2, F2. The section is marked "Play 4 Times".

# Lesson Eight Pop

## "After You"

### 26 1. Listen

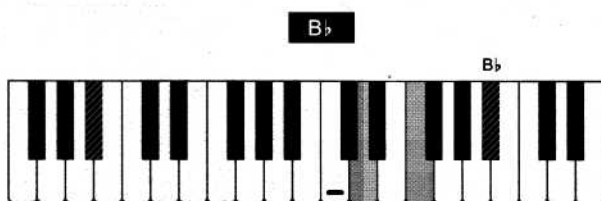
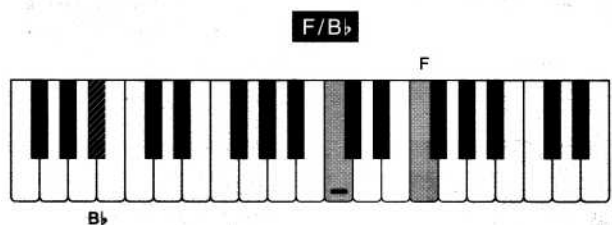
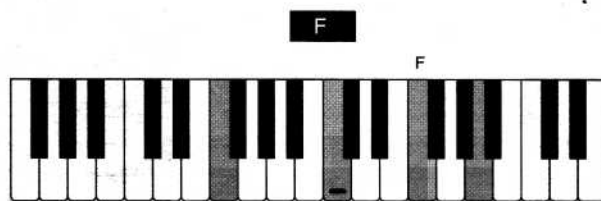
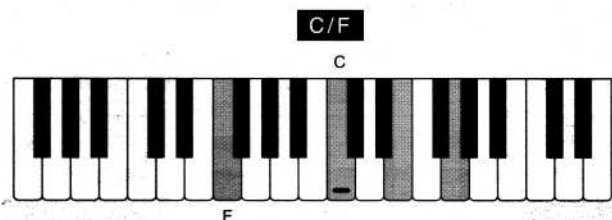
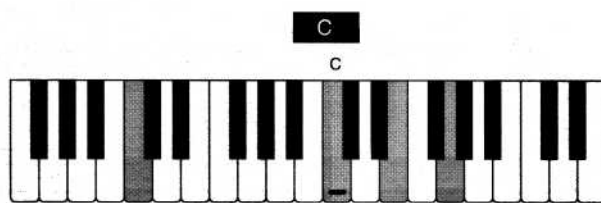
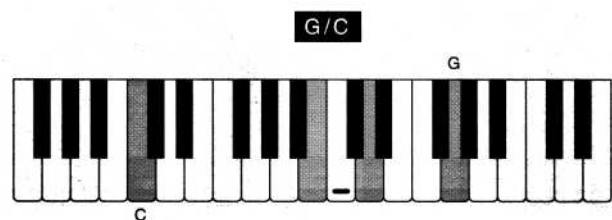
Follow the music as you listen. The keyboard rhythm ♩ ♩ hooks up nicely with this style.

**Tip:** The first time you play this tune, play the music under the number 1 ("first ending"). When you repeat, skip the music under the first ending, and play the music under the number 2 ("second ending").



### 27 2. Play

Along with the CD, play this pop rhythm using both hands. Your right hand plays the chords, your left hand plays the bass notes.

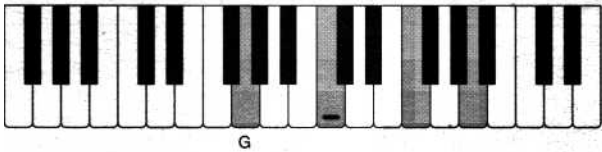


F/G

F

F

F



# AFTER YOU

Pop

G/C C G/C C C/F F C/F F

The first system of musical notation for 'After You'. It consists of a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef. The music is in 4/4 time. The first two measures are marked with G/C and C, the next two with G/C and C, and the final two with C/F and F. The bass line features a simple rhythmic pattern of quarter notes.

G/C C G/C C C/F F C/F F

The second system of musical notation, identical in structure and chord markings to the first system.

G/C C G/C C C/F F C/F F

The third system of musical notation, identical in structure and chord markings to the first system.

1. G/C C G/C C F/Bb Bb G F/G

The first ending of the piece, marked with a '1.'. It follows the same grand staff format. The chord markings are G/C, C, G/C, C, F/Bb, Bb, G, and F/G. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

2. G/C C G F/G G/C F C

The second ending of the piece, marked with a '2.'. It follows the same grand staff format. The chord markings are G/C, C, G, F/G, G/C, F, and C. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

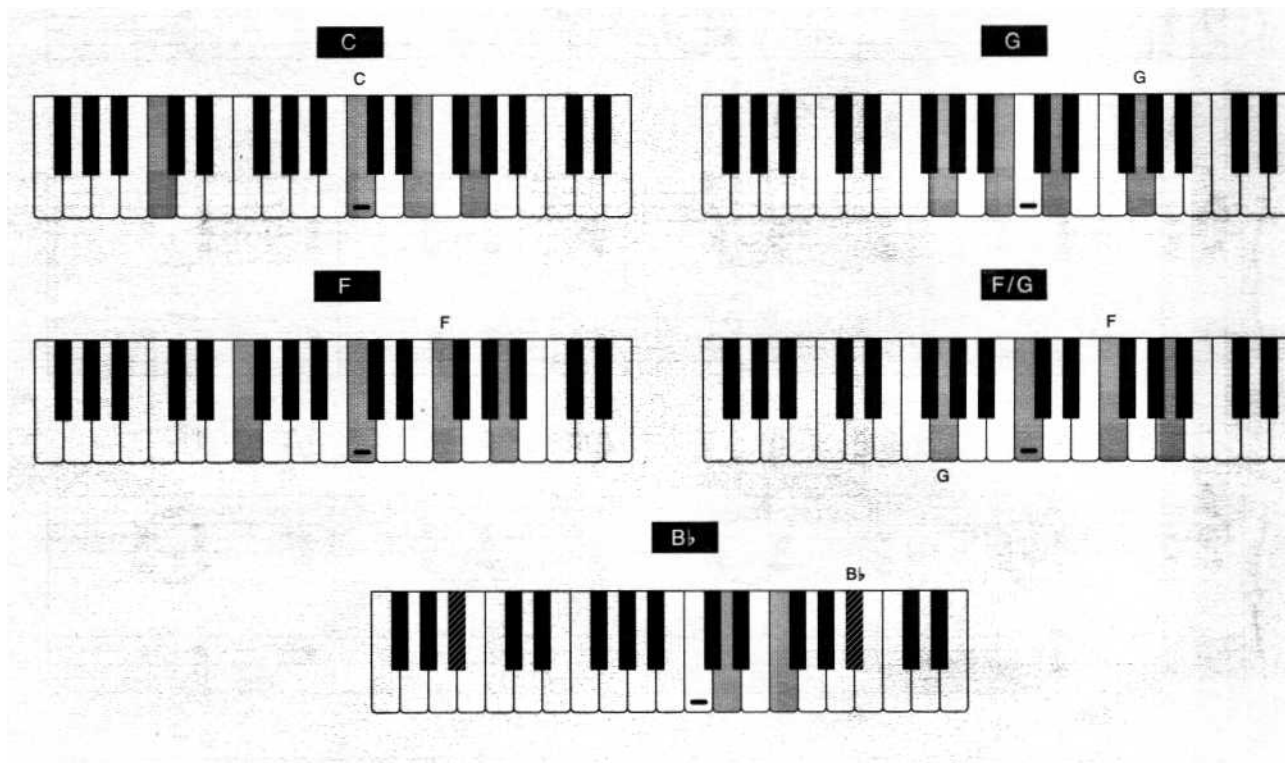
## "Soundtrack"

### 28 1. Listen

Listen to the CD. Notice how the keyboard part changes between steady half notes and the pop rhythm from lesson 8.

### 29 2. Play

Play along with the CD. Follow the changes in rhythm. When you repeat, remember to skip the first ending and play the second ending.



# SOUNDTRACK

POP ROCK

C G F C G F F/G

Musical notation for the first system, measures 1-4. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music is written for electric piano with a grand staff. The chords indicated above the staff are C, G, F, C, G, F, and F/G. The bass line consists of quarter notes: C2, G2, F2, C2, G2, F2, and F2/G2.

F C G C 1. G C Bb G

Musical notation for the second system, measures 5-8. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music is written for electric piano with a grand staff. The chords indicated above the staff are F, C, G, C, G, C, Bb, and G. The bass line consists of quarter notes: F2, C2, G2, C2, G2, C2, Bb2, and G2.

2. G F/G C

Musical notation for the third system, measures 9-10. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music is written for electric piano with a grand staff. The chords indicated above the staff are G, F/G, and C. The bass line consists of quarter notes: G2, F2/G2, and C2.

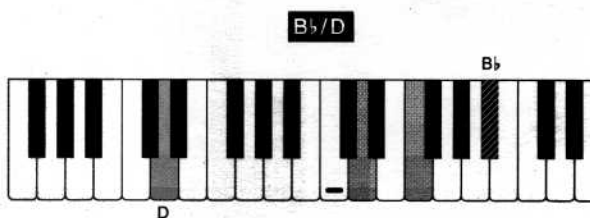
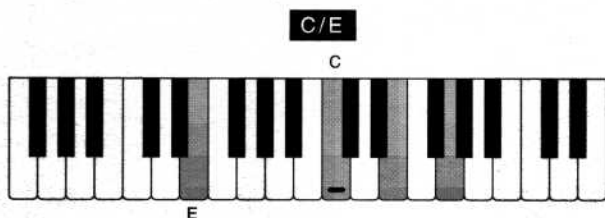
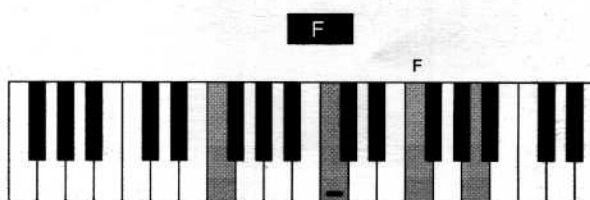
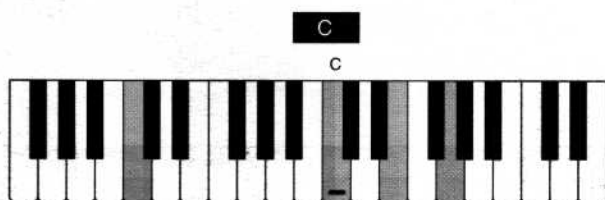
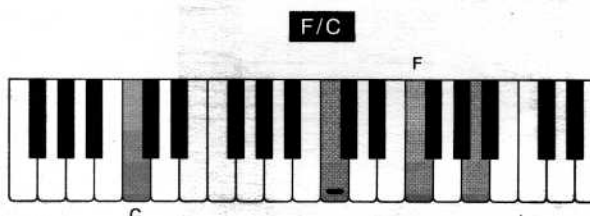
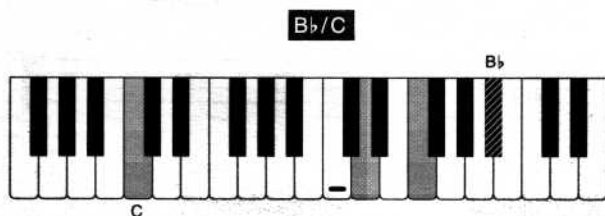
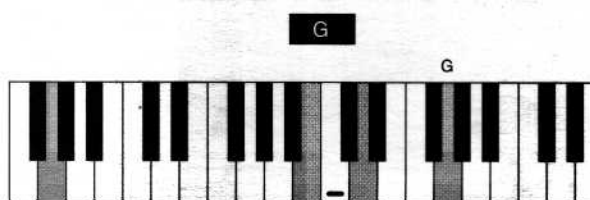
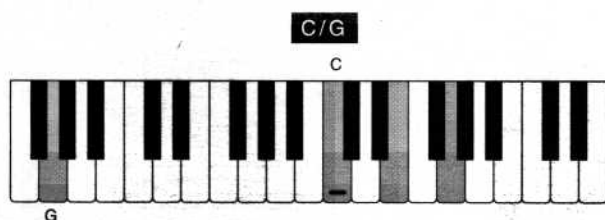
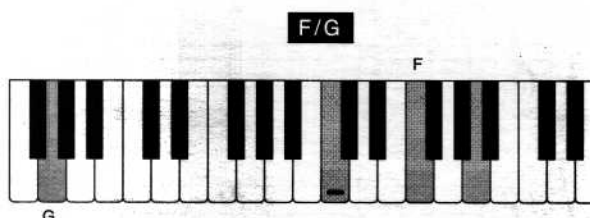
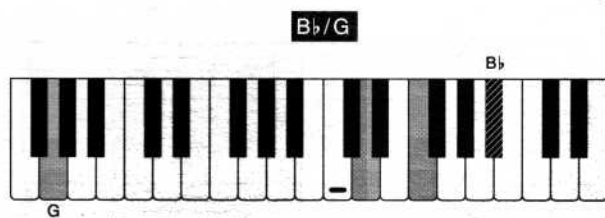


## 30 1. Listen

Listen to the keyboard part on the CD. The *intro* and the *rehearsal letters* (**A**) mark the song's different sections. Notice the new rhythm in section A and the new bass notes in section B. Also notice that the G bass note is played lower in section A than in previous lessons.

## 31 2. Play

Play along with the CD. Be careful to keep steady time especially in section D.



# CLASSIC

## CLASSIC ROCK

Intro

B $\flat$ /G

F/G

C/G

G

Musical notation for the first system of the Intro section, measures 1-4. The key signature has one flat (B $\flat$ ), and the time signature is 4/4. The notation is written for piano in grand staff format. The right hand plays chords and the left hand plays a simple bass line.

B $\flat$ /G

F/G

C/G

G

Musical notation for the second system of the Intro section, measures 5-8. The notation continues from the first system, maintaining the same key signature and time signature.

A

B $\flat$ /C

F/C

C

Musical notation for the first system of section A, measures 9-12. The key signature changes to C major. The notation is written for piano in grand staff format.

B

F

C/E

B $\flat$ /D

C

Musical notation for the second system of section B, measures 13-16. The notation continues from the first system of section B.

C

B $\flat$ /C

F/C

C

Musical notation for the third system of section C, measures 17-20. The notation continues from the first system of section C.

## Keyboard Solo

D

B $\flat$ /G

F/G

C/G

G

Musical notation for the Keyboard Solo section, measures 21-24. The notation is written for piano in grand staff format, featuring a more active right hand.



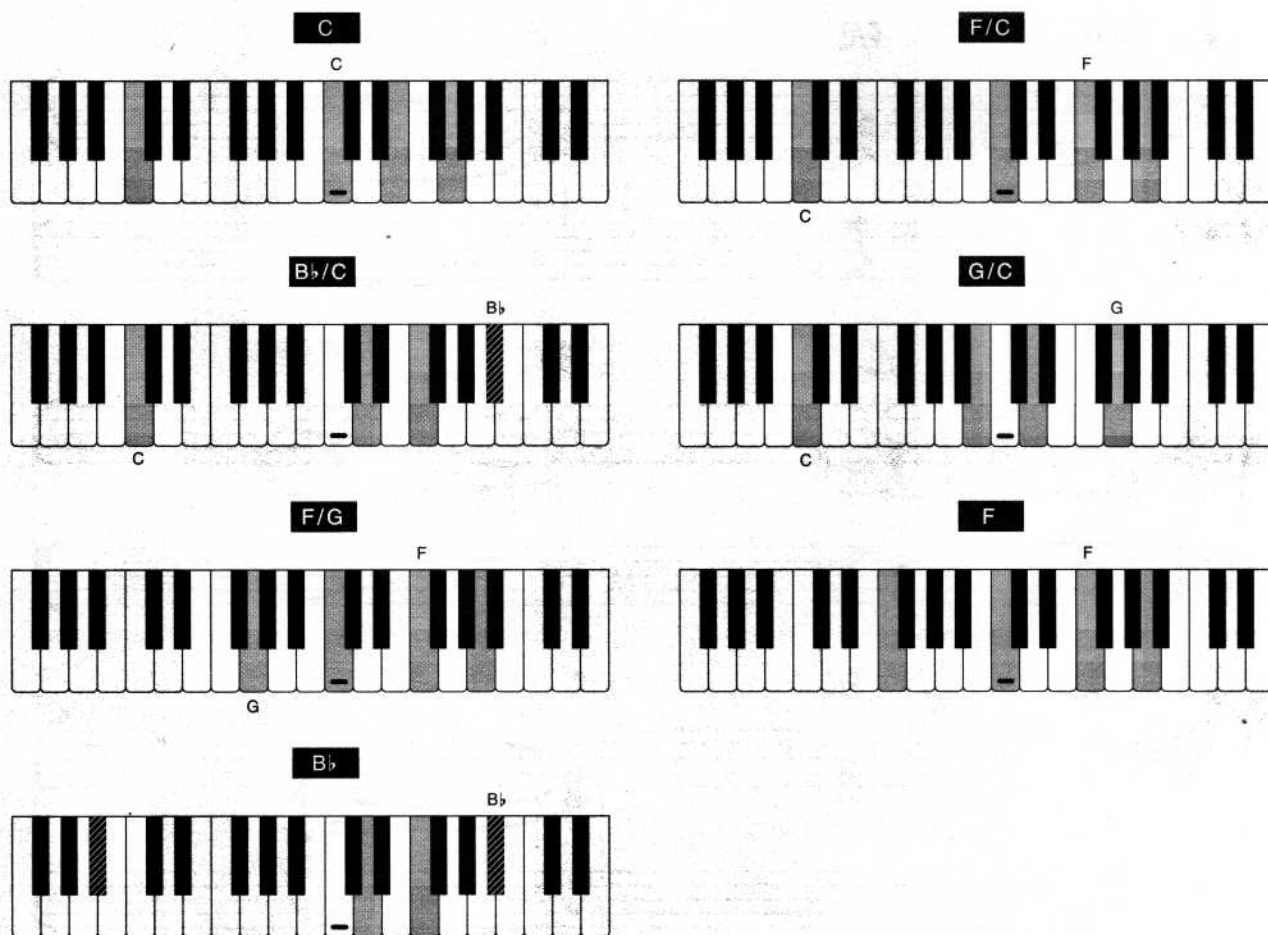
## 32 1. Listen

Listen for the *tempo* (speed) changes. This tune has four sections. It starts with an organ intro. Sections A and D are slow, and B and C are fast. The drums signal the tempo changes, so listen carefully. Notice that there is no keyboard for the first half of section B.

## 33 2. Play

Play along with the CD. This tune contains many of the chords and rhythms you already learned. Keep repeating the C section until the drums come in with the new tempo.

**Tip:** The *fermata* sign (◡) over the last note means "hold the note."



# FINAL TURN

## Rock

A Slow C

F/C

B $\flat$ /C

C

Musical notation for the first system, featuring piano accompaniment in 4/4 time. The right hand plays chords and the left hand plays bass notes. The chords are C, F/C, B $\flat$ /C, and C.

Keyboard Out

First Time, Drums

Second Time, Drums and Bass

Faster: Drum Count-off B

Musical notation for the second system, showing a drum count-off in the right hand and keyboard out in the left hand. The notation consists of a series of eighth notes in the right hand and rests in the left hand.

Keyboard Back In

G/C

C

G/C

C

F

F/G

Musical notation for the third system, featuring piano accompaniment in 4/4 time. The right hand plays chords and the left hand plays bass notes. The chords are G/C, C, G/C, C, F, and F/G.

Guitar Solo

C B $\flat$

F

C

After Guitar Solo,

Follow Drums to Slower Tempo

Musical notation for the fourth system, featuring piano accompaniment in 4/4 time. The right hand plays chords and the left hand plays bass notes. The chords are C, B $\flat$ , F, and C.

Slower

D F/G

G/C

C

Musical notation for the fifth system, featuring piano accompaniment in 4/4 time. The right hand plays chords and the left hand plays bass notes. The chords are F/G, G/C, and C.

F/G

G/C

C

C

Musical notation for the sixth system, featuring piano accompaniment in 4/4 time. The right hand plays chords and the left hand plays bass notes. The chords are F/G, G/C, C, and C.

# Authors' Note

Thanks for playing *Instant Keyboard*. We hope you had fun with the songs. The techniques you've learned in this book are actually used in most of your favorite songs. Lots of music has similar chord patterns to the ones you have been playing.

You have begun to hear how the keyboard functions in music. Also, your hands are becoming comfortable with the keys. Try creating your own songs that use these techniques. Your keyboard skills will get stronger the more you play.

We hope music and keyboard playing enrich your life as they have ours.

-Dave and Paul