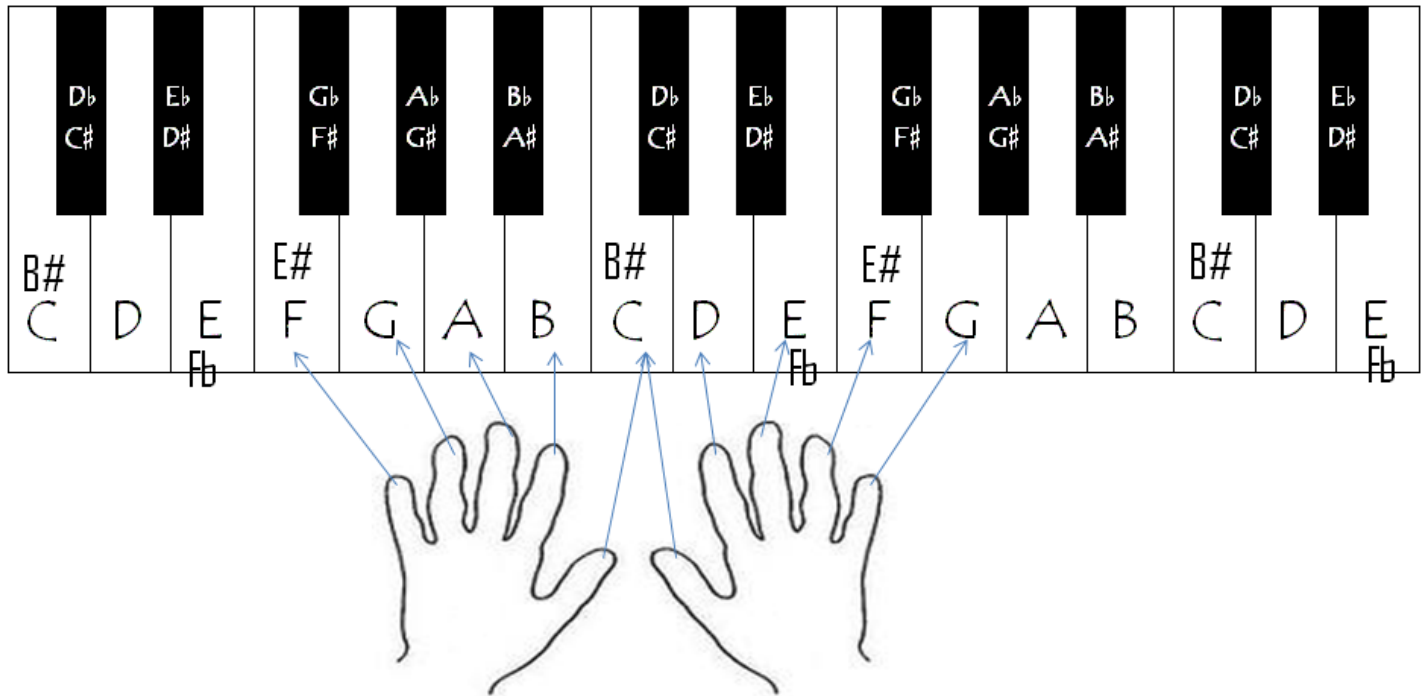


Lesson 1:

Hand Placement:



The Middle C - It is very important to know where the Middle C is because it will be the starting point in determining where all the other notes are located on the keyboard and the music staff. Here is an illustration to help you:

Remember: Start with both thumbs on the middle C, then each finger is placed on the following notes to the right and left of middle C.

Foot Pedal: A piano is played by pressing the keys with the fingers of both hands. The standard piano of today has 88 keys, 52 white keys and 36 black keys, the three foot pedals also has specific functions. The pedal on the right is called a **damper**, stepping on this causes all the keys to vibrate or sustain. Stepping on the pedal in the middle causes only the keys currently pressed to vibrate. Stepping on the pedal on the left creates a muted sound; a single note is produced from 2 or three piano strings that are tuned in unison.

The Other Keys - Now that you have located the Middle C on the keyboard and know what a music staff is, you can easily identify the other keys. Note that all C's are always to the left of two black keys, whether you go up and down the keyboard. There are only seven letters you need to memorize in order to identify the notes on both the keyboard and the music staff. They are: C D E F G A B C. Here are some illustrations to help you:

The Clefs - There are two clefs used in playing the piano: the **Treble Clef** also known as the G Clef is played by the right hand. The **Bass Clef** also known as the F Clef is played by the left hand. Both clefs are found at the beginning of a music staff. Here are some illustrations for further understanding:

