

TOOLBOX SOLUTIONS



BUILDING FOUNDATIONS IN PIANO

ORIENTATION D

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PREFACE

Each of us has two native languages. Both are learned early....both stay with us a lifetime. One of them is music.

PianoFonics[®] ToolBoxes are a collection of core Orientation materials that build FOUNDATIONS in the beginning piano student. The FOUNDATIONS Orientation series unites two pedagogical approaches: 1) transposing in PentaScale positions, and 2) reading from Guide Notes. The content, design and format are appropriate for beginning students of all ages, eight to eighty.* Each volume develops four skill sets inherent in piano playing: Reading, Rhythm, Coordination, and Vocabulary.

*[Primer '**Prelude'** materials are available for the younger student, ages four to seven.]

PianoFonics[®] foundational ToolBoxes integrate kinesthetic and aural musical experiences with structured reading exercises to provide an opportune learning environment for initial success and rapid progress. The aptitudes and needs of the natural reader, the ear player, and the coordinated student are all addressed in this comprehensive resource collection for the beginning piano student.

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FOUR SKILLSETS

- 1. READING | The Guide Note structure of carefully sequenced SightPlay Reading Exercises provides music reading experiences *beyond the fixed PentaScale position* to develop fluent decoding skill and comprehension of the music notation system
- 2. COORDINATION | The PentaScale position is the ideal medium in which to develop earhand coordination with Transposition
- 3. RHYTHM | Twelve-Bar Blues improvisation quickly builds confidence as well as rhythm and coordination.
- 4. VOCABULARY | A working vocabulary with correct musical terminology is an integral part of learning this language that contains new words.

PianoFonics[®] proposes a circular orientation rather than a linear approach. The PIANO WHEEL, a circular schematic portraying the four different SkillSets inherent in piano playing, graphically enables this perceptual shift in thinking. The teacher has the freedom to go beyond a linear perspective to create a learning sequence that is based on individual student differences and learning styles.

The four SkillSets of Reading, Rhythm, Coordination and Vocabulary are integrated in 12 Stages in Orientation Volumes A, B and C. A circular orientation addresses a basic fact: students learn at different rates and have diverse aptitudes. Therefore, an Appendix in each book shows organizational content by each of the four SkillSets. When/if a student can accelerate in coordination, this ready- reference chart lists those pages that focus on coordination/ transposition - minimal reading skills required. On the other hand, maybe a student is more rhythmic and aural, motivated by the sound of the Twelve-Bar Blues. The ToolBox has sequentially numbered pages. However, the teacher and student do NOT have to follow a numbered, linear sequence of presentation and learning. Volumes D and E are additional reading exercises to extend reading facility with various presentations of double clefs, hand crossing, eighth notes and changing clefs . AND, coordination remains minimal.

The series easily coordinates with method books. The basic skill sets of Reading, Rhythm, Coordination and Vocabulary are inherent in all method books. In addition, the framework created by PianoFonics[®] ToolBoxes enables early presentation of unstructured repertoire, such as highappeal solo sheet music and beginning literature.

The Piand Wheel



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Foundations in Piano Structures in Four SkillSets

TRANSPOSITION promotes hand coordination and aural self-correction in the natural five-finger position of the twelve major PentaScale.

- Five-finger selections include songs to harmonize, literature, teaching repertoire and technical exercises.
- All PentaScale songs are notated in C-position.
- Each selection has a diagram to track student's transposition progress through the twelve keys.

SIGHTPLAY, a sequential presentation of Guide Note reading in short exercise format, demands no hand coordination to develop fluent music reading beyond the range of the fixed PentaScale position.

- Guide Note Drills and written worksheets reinforce reading comprehension.
- Four and eight-measure reading exercises are carefully sequenced to develop fluent playing *between* the hands through directional interval reading from guide notes.

All students, including the natural ear player, more easily attain this goal since there is no familiar tune in the entire collection. Comprehension of music notation is the primary goal; these are short exercises, not songs.

KEYBOARD GEOGRAPHY and ALPHABET THEORY establish an essential music vocabulary to develop basic theory concepts *on the piano* and *with the alphabet*. Understanding theory concepts is *not* dependent on reading music notation.

- *Keyboard Geography* includes practice drills on the keyboard that not only provides the teacher with lesson drill content but also enables the parent to help with at-home practice.
- *Alphabet Theory* contains written worksheets with the alphabet to reinforce the keyboard drill. The early presentation of the 'lowest common denominators" of understanding with the proper terminology can be taught with alphabet and keyboard to adults as well as to young children.

The **TWELVE-BAR BLUES** is an ideal structure for basic rhythmic, coordination, and theoretical development to emerge in several ways. [A midi file or mp3 background not only reinforces the internalization of pulse but also provides fun in these early stages]

- Developing internalization of pulse with real-time rhythm experiences,
- Extending transposition skills and theoretical understanding through chord function,
- Fostering spatial awareness with parallel-motion movement, and
- Promoting creativity with guided improvisation.

Set 3A FlashPlay 10 - 24 Mystery Notes 2 – 4

Exercises 44 - 60

Double Clefs with 2nds and 3rds

SET 3B FlashPlay 25 - 36 **Mystery Notes 5 - 8**

Exercises 61 - 68

Fifths and Fourths

Movin' On Brass Fanfare













SightPlay Set 2B

Double Clefs

Seconds and Thirds: Down Low or Up High









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Name the Guide Note. Draw the Mystery Note *Write the name of the Mystery Note*































Name the Guide Note. Draw the Mystery Note *Write the name of the Mystery Note.*





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Name the Guide Note. Draw the Mystery Note *Write the name of the Mystery Note.*



























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Name the Guide Note. Draw the Mystery Note *Write the name of the Mystery Note.*







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PANO FONÍCS

















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Guide Notes: Mystery Notes 5

Name the Guide Note. Draw the Mystery Note *Write the name of the Mystery Note.*























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Guide Notes: Mystery Notes 6

Name the Guide Note. Draw the Mystery Note *Write the name of the Mystery Note.*







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Guide Notes: Mystery Notes 7

Name the Guide Note. Draw the Mystery Note *Write the name of the Mystery Note.*





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Guide Notes: Mystery Notes Review

Name the Guide Note. Draw the Mystery Note *Write the name of the Mystery Note.*





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Movin' On











Brass Fanfare



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