

# NOTE FINDER

Print this out

The diagram shows two musical staves, treble and bass, with notes placed on and between the lines. The notes are color-coded: red for the first note in each pair (C, E, G, A) and blue for the second (B, D, F). Above the treble staff, the following pairs are shown: (C, B) on the first space, (D, A) on the second line, and (E, G) on the third space. Above the bass staff, the following pairs are shown: (F, C) on the first space, (G, D) on the second line, (A, B) on the third space, and (E, C) on the fourth space. A dashed line from the text 'MIDDLE C' points to the C note on the first line of the treble staff.

The position of the C's

This diagram illustrates the relationship between a piano keyboard and a musical staff. At the bottom is a simplified keyboard with white and black keys. Five red dashed lines connect specific white keys to the staff above: the first C (bottom right), the second C (middle left), the third C (center, marked with a triangle), the fourth C (middle right), and the fifth C (top right). The staff has a treble clef on the left and a bass clef on the right. The number '6' is written above the treble clef, and a 'C' is written below the bass clef. The staff lines are numbered 1 to 5 from bottom to top.

# DEVELOPING A BASIC BALLAD STYLE



GETTING THE FEEL OF IT

# BALLAD STYLE

## GETTING THE FEEL OF IT

Believe it or not, the EASIEST way to learn Ballad Style is to IMPROVISE before you learn any actual tunes. The reason for this is that it is quite difficult to remember the notes of actual tunes but it's a lot easier to play around and experiment with chord notes and special scales and patterns

Here's how we're going to approach learning BALLAD STYLE..

### BALLAD STYLE PROCESS

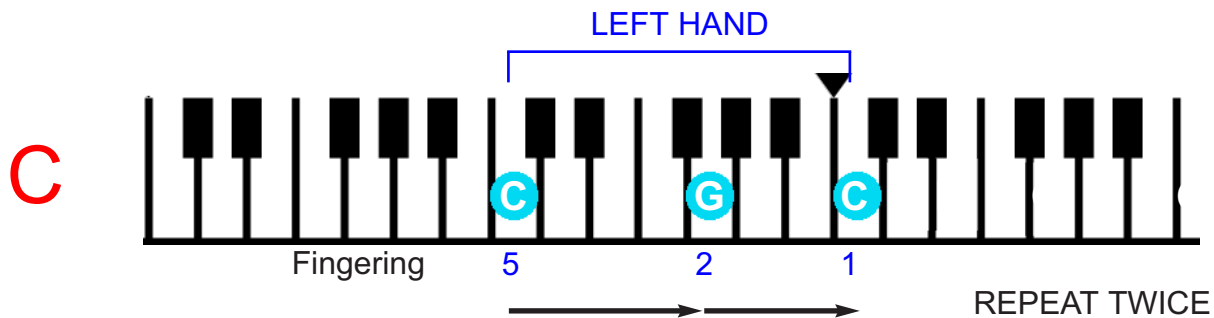
1. Learn a simple LEFT HAND pattern that can be applied to any chord.
2. Put this pattern into a sequence of chords.
3. Learn the PENTATONIC SCALE - a magic 5 note scale that will sound GREAT over ALL your chords no matter what order you play the notes in!
4. EXPERIMENT with the magic scale - NO RULES!
5. Learn a more structured approach to playing Ballad style using various patterns and chord tones
6. Apply what you have learned to ACTUAL melodies.

## BALLAD STYLE

### EXERCISE 1 - getting the FEEL of it!

Play the following sequence of notes (based on the chord of C) ONE note at a time from the low C up to the G up to the high C (hold the high C note for two beats)

Keep the sustain pedal down throughout



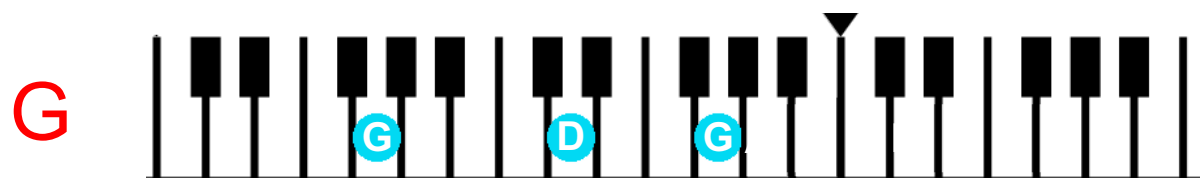
Now move the whole pattern TWO notes left based on the chord of Am



Then two notes left again to F



Then one note right again to G



**Play each sequence TWICE**

**So - 2 x C, 2 x Am, 2 x F, 2 x G and back to C**

(Keep the sustain pedal down through each sequence  
Lift it and replace it BETWEEN chord changes)

# BALLAD STYLE

## EXERCISE 1

In Musical Notation

Measures 1-3 of Exercise 1. The key signature is C major, and the time signature is common time (C). The treble clef staff contains whole rests for all three measures. The bass clef staff contains the following notes: Measure 1: C (quarter), G (quarter), C (quarter), followed by a whole rest. Measure 2: C (quarter), G (quarter), C (quarter), followed by a whole rest. Measure 3: A (quarter), E (quarter), A (quarter), followed by a whole rest. Chord symbols are written above the bass staff: C for measures 1 and 2, and Am for measure 3. A count 'count 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +' is written below the first measure.

**C**  
count 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

**C**

**Am**

C G C A E A

Measures 4-6 of Exercise 1. The treble clef staff contains whole rests for all three measures. The bass clef staff contains the following notes: Measure 4: A (quarter), E (quarter), A (quarter), followed by a whole rest. Measure 5: F (quarter), C (quarter), F (quarter), followed by a whole rest. Measure 6: F (quarter), C (quarter), F (quarter), followed by a whole rest. Chord symbols are written above the bass staff: Am for measure 4, F for measure 5, and F for measure 6.

**Am**

**F**

**F**

F C F

Measures 7-8 of Exercise 1. The treble clef staff contains whole rests for both measures. The bass clef staff contains the following notes: Measure 7: G (quarter), D (quarter), G (quarter), followed by a whole rest. Measure 8: G (quarter), D (quarter), G (quarter), followed by a whole rest. Chord symbols are written above the bass staff: G for measure 7, and G for measure 8.

**G**

**G**

G D G

Measures 9-11 of Exercise 1. The treble clef staff contains whole rests for all three measures. The bass clef staff contains the following notes: Measure 9: C (quarter), G (quarter), C (quarter), followed by a whole rest. Measure 10: C (quarter), G (quarter), C (quarter), followed by a whole rest. Measure 11: C (whole note). Chord symbols are written above the bass staff: C for measures 9 and 10, and C for measure 11.

**C**

**C**

**C**

C G C

# BALLAD STYLE

## EXERCISE 2

### THE MAGICAL PENTATONIC SCALE

OK - you have the Left Hand sorted - what about the **RIGHT HAND**?

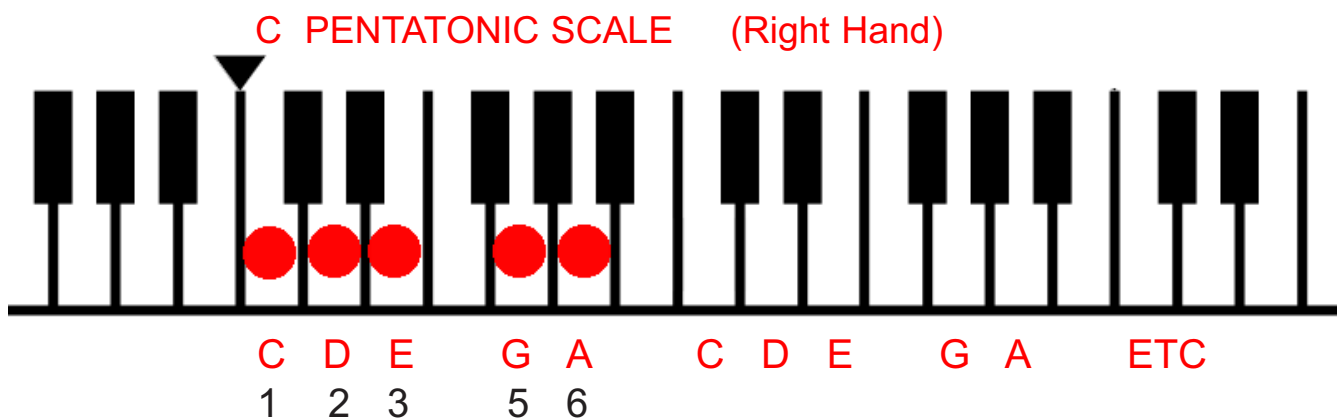
You are now going to learn the EASIEST and most useful scale of them all

The 5 note PENTATONIC SCALE.

This scale has been around since the dawn of time. The beauty of it is it sounds GREAT over a wide variety of chord changes (in the relevant key).

It's construction is simple. You play the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th of the major scale. (leave out the 4th and 7th)

So if you were playing chord changes in the key of C your C PENTATONIC scale would be as follows



On the following page you are going to play the same left hand chord changes as in exercise 1 but this time play ANY notes of the C pentatonic scale in the second half of each bar.

Don't be shy - try all kinds of variations - try running up two or three octaves

To give you more time to experiment with the RIGHT HAND only play each chord change ONCE but hold it for TWO bars

# BALLAD STYLE EXERCISE 3

C PENTATONIC



IMPROVISE C PENTATONIC

C PENTATONIC

C PENTATONIC

First system of musical notation (measures 1-3). Measure 1: Treble clef has a whole rest; Bass clef has a C4 quarter note, G4 quarter note, and C5 half note. Chord **C** is indicated above the treble staff. A count "count 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +" is written below the bass staff, with a "HOLD" instruction over the final C5. Measure 2: Treble clef has a whole rest; Bass clef is empty. Measure 3: Treble clef has a whole rest; Bass clef has an A3 quarter note, E3 quarter note, and A3 half note. Chord **Am** is indicated above the treble staff. A "HOLD" instruction is written over the final A3.

C PENTATONIC

C PENTATONIC

C PENTATONIC

Second system of musical notation (measures 4-6). Measure 4: Treble clef has a whole rest; Bass clef has an F3 quarter note, C4 quarter note, and F4 half note. Chord **F** is indicated above the treble staff. A "HOLD" instruction is written over the final F4. Measure 5: Treble clef has a whole rest; Bass clef is empty. Measure 6: Treble clef has a whole rest; Bass clef is empty.

C PENTATONIC

C PENTATONIC

Third system of musical notation (measures 7-8). Measure 7: Treble clef has a whole rest; Bass clef has a G3 quarter note, D4 quarter note, and G4 half note. Chord **G** is indicated above the treble staff. A "HOLD" instruction is written over the final G4. Measure 8: Treble clef has a whole rest; Bass clef is empty.

C PENTATONIC

C PENTATONIC

Fourth system of musical notation (measures 9-10). Measure 9: Treble clef has a whole rest; Bass clef has a C4 quarter note, G4 quarter note, and C5 half note. Chord **C** is indicated above the treble staff. A "HOLD" instruction is written over the final C5. Measure 10: Treble clef has a whole rest; Bass clef has a C4 whole note. Chord **C** is indicated above the treble staff.