

Playing “There Is a Green Hill Far Away”

Place your hands on the keyboard as shown below.

Use the groups of two and three black keys to help you find the correct position.

Play this hymn, following the finger numbers as shown. Notes with stems going up are for the right hand, and notes with stems going down are for the left. Practice the hymn until you are comfortable with it. Use the principles of good fingering

technique listed in the nine-point checklist.

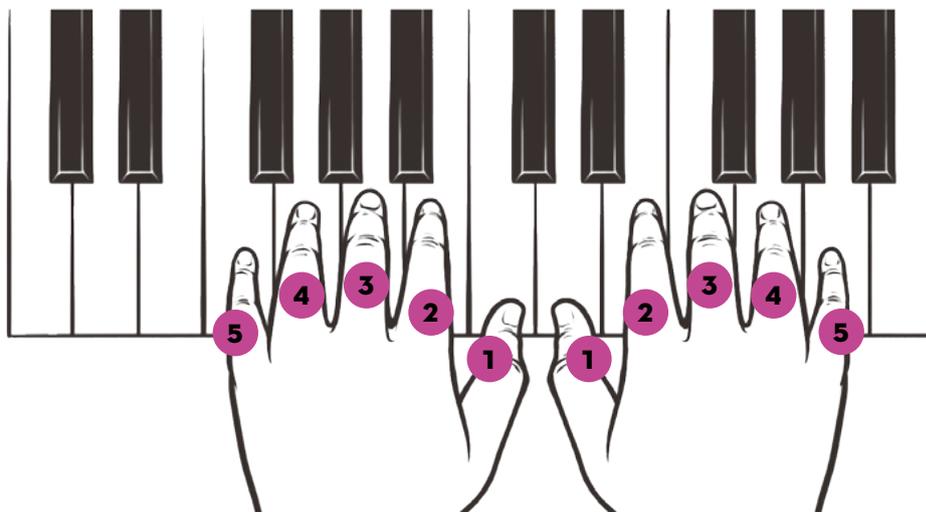
Now you’ve been introduced to playing the piano and have learned a simple hymn melody. To play other hymns, you need to learn some basic principles about beats, rhythm, and notes.

Here’s the best part: the lesson you just learned is the first lesson in the Church Keyboard Course, available in six languages from Church distribution.¹ The easy-to-follow instruction plan helps you learn by yourself or in groups.

You might even get your whole family involved in learning the piano together as a family home evening activity. The course can be completed in just six weeks.

Numerous studies show that private music lessons help improve students’ focus, academic excellence, and reasoning skills.²

By learning music skills, we develop the talents the Lord has given us, increase our knowledge, and learn many different ways we can use our knowledge and talents to build His kingdom. ■



NOTES

1. To order the Keyboard Course Kit, go to store.lds.org.
2. See Laura Lewis Brown, “The Benefits of Music Education,” pbs.org; Jessica Velasco, “How the Arts Can Help Students Excel,” the Science of Learning Blog, Dec. 11, 2012, scilearn.com/blog/how-arts-help-students-excel; “Music Helps Children Learn Maths,” *The Telegraph*, Mar. 22, 2012, telegraph.co.uk.