

## Welcome to Piano Band Book One

The ten ensemble pieces in this collection were written to enhance your "Way Cool" Keyboarding experience. The cool music in *Piano Band Book One* provides various styles and levels as well as great backing tracks to enjoy.

You will also find a section at the end of the book that features *Creative Ideas for Building Piano Bands*. The suggestions for each piece are intended to help everyone in the band have a memorable musical experience.

Enjoy and have a fun time making music with your family and friends. Keep playing!

/	Debra Perez  Table of Contents	Will Baily
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# Butterfly

[Track 1a Band]

Music by Will Baily Words by Rebekah Crawford



Begin this experience with students around the Teacher Piano singing and learning the words. Use the Band track.

Next, discover the C-G chord shell in the L.H.

The goal is for the students to return to their pianos and sing the melody while playing the L.H. part only.

# **Butterfly**

Piano Accompaniment [ Track 1b ]



# Grasshopper

[Track 2 Band / Track 3a Ensemble]

Music by Will Baily Words by Rebekah Crawford



Try This: Create a duet or ensemble by playing Butterfly and Grasshopper together. Try singing the Butterfly words first time through and the Grasshopper words on the repeat.

Add the Bug Band Piano Accompaniment for fun!

# **Bug Band**

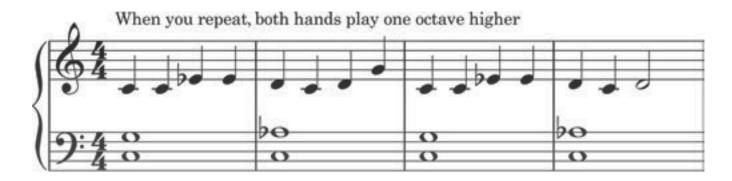
Piano Accompaniment [ Track 3b ]

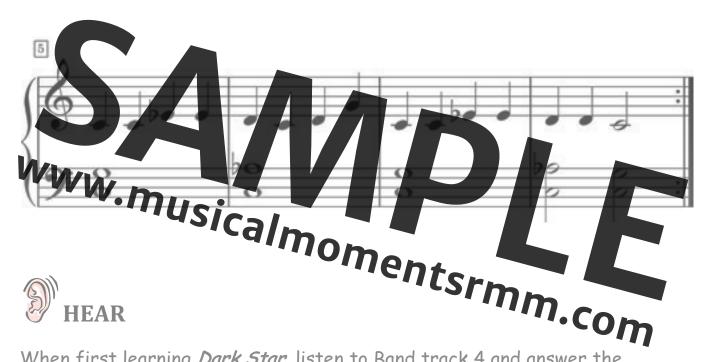


#### Dark Star

Part One [ Track 4 Band ]

Will Baily





When first learning *Dark Star*, listen to Band track 4 and answer the following questions:

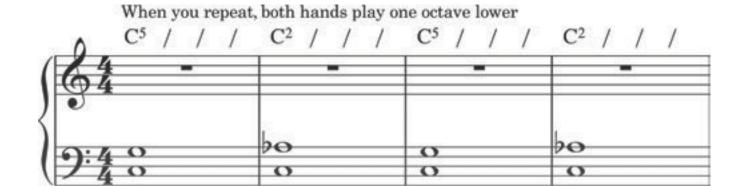
- What instruments do you hear?
- What style of music does this sound like?
- How does this piece make you feel?
- Can you make up words to go along with Dark Star?

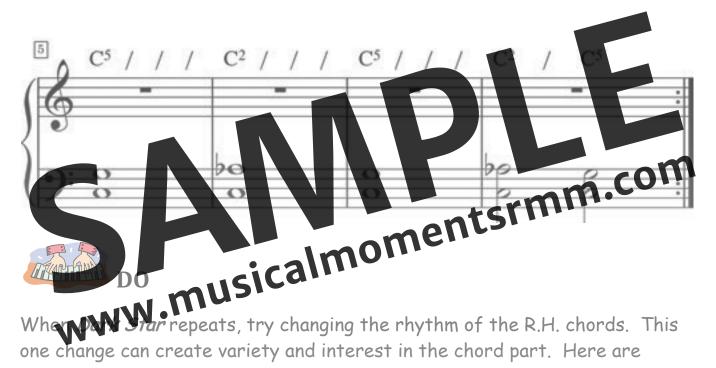
Now, listen again while looking at the music. First, follow the melody. And when it repeats, follow the chord shells.

## Dark Star

Part Two

Will Baily





far repeats, try changing the rhythm of the R.H. chords. This one change can create variety and interest in the chord part. Here are three rhythm patterns to try:



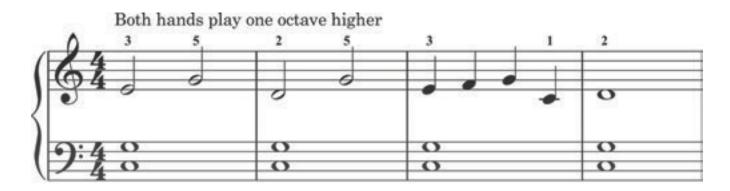




Can you think of another rhythm that would sound good?

# Scattered Light

Part One [ Track 5 Band ]





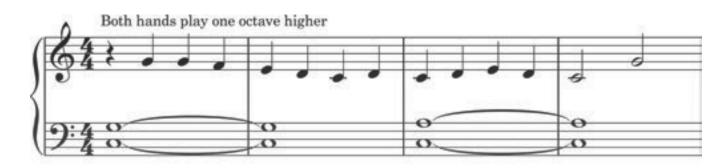


# Scattered Light

Part Two



# Part One [ Track 6 Band / Track 7 Solo Accompaniment ]

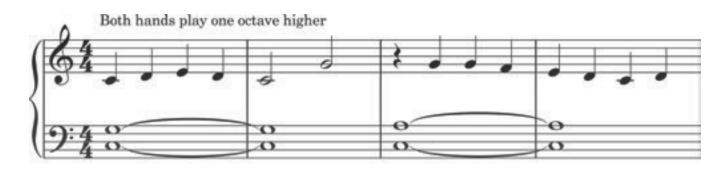


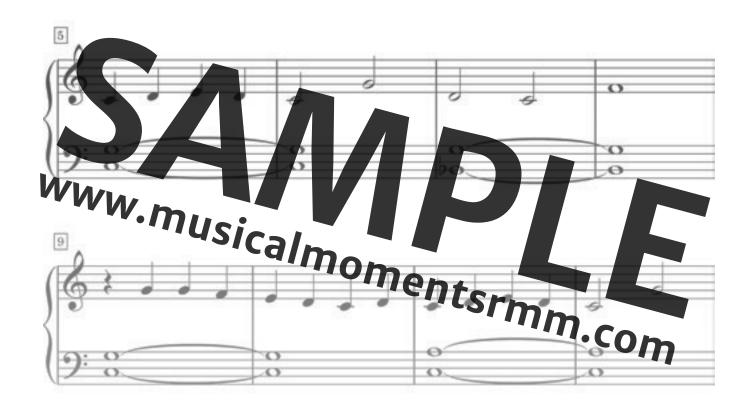






Part Two

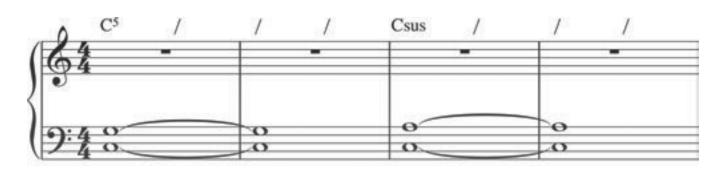


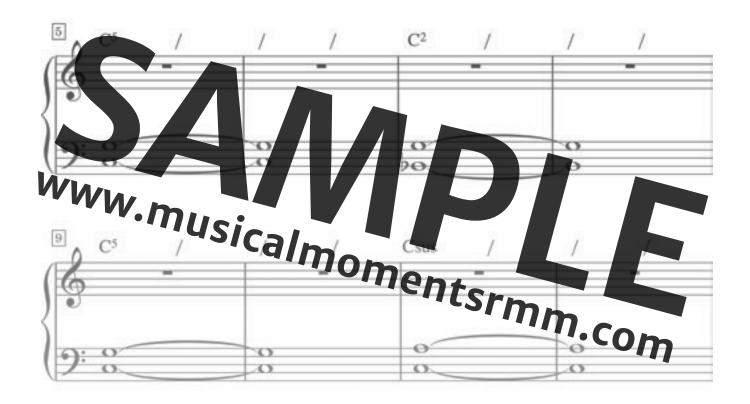


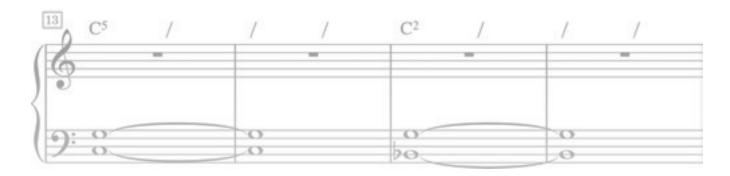




Part Three









#### Wish

#### Part One [Track 8 Band / Track 9 Ensemble]

Music by Will Baily Words by Rebekah Crawford



# Wish

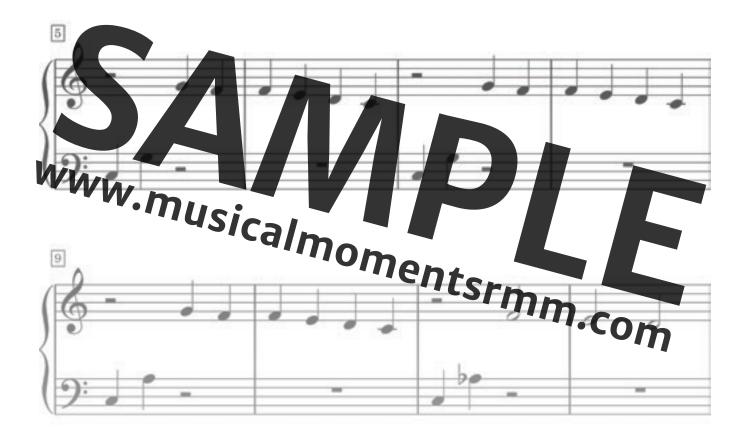
Part Two



# Blue Dolphin

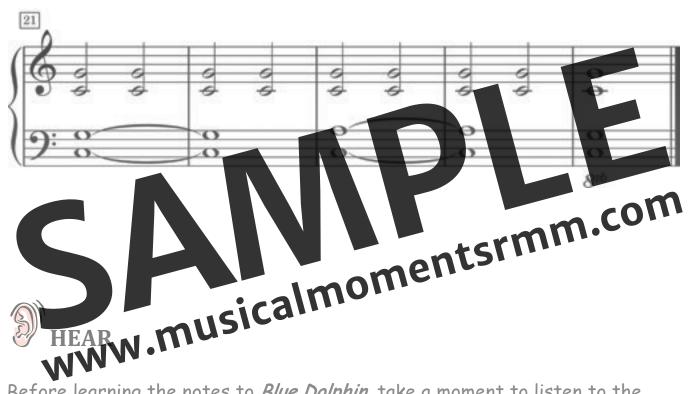
Part One
[ Track 10 Band / Track 11 Blues ]







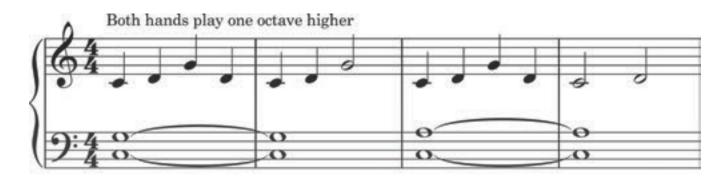


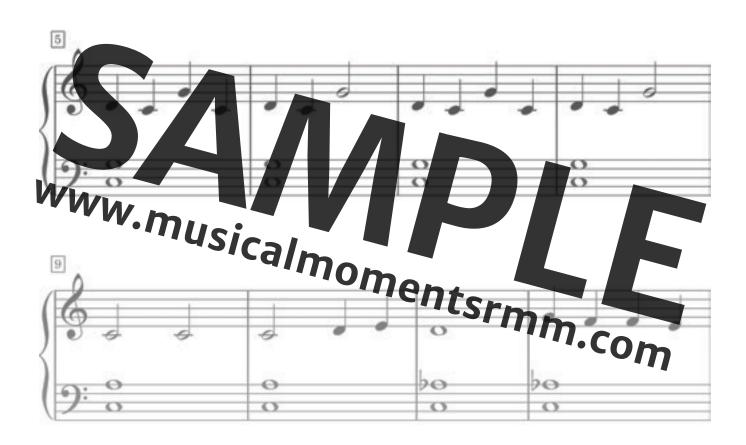


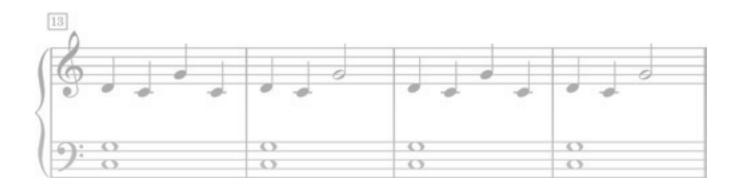
Before learning the notes to *Blue Dolphin*, take a moment to listen to the Band track (#10). As you listen, try to think of words that describe what you are hearing. Can you imagine a dolphin moving smoothly and effortlessly through the water? How can you make a smooth and effortless sound as you are playing the piano? As you play, keep this peaceful image of the Blue Dolphin in your mind.

# Blue Dolphin

Part Two











Listen to the *Blue Dolphin Blues* (track #11) and compare this style to the style you heard on the original *Blue Dolphin* (track #10). Here are three things that turned the peaceful dolphin into the fun and lively Blues:

- Faster tempo and more detached touch
- Every E was changed to Eb
- Blues style accompaniment was added

Can you think of anything else to add to this Blues piece?

#### Part One

[ Track 12 Band / Track 13a Solo Accompaniment ]



Part Two



Part Three









Piano Accompaniment [ Track 13b ]



## Shadow

#### Part One [ Track 14 Band / Track 15 Ensemble ]



# Shadow

Part Two



## Shadow

Part Three



Part One [ Track 16 Ensemble ]

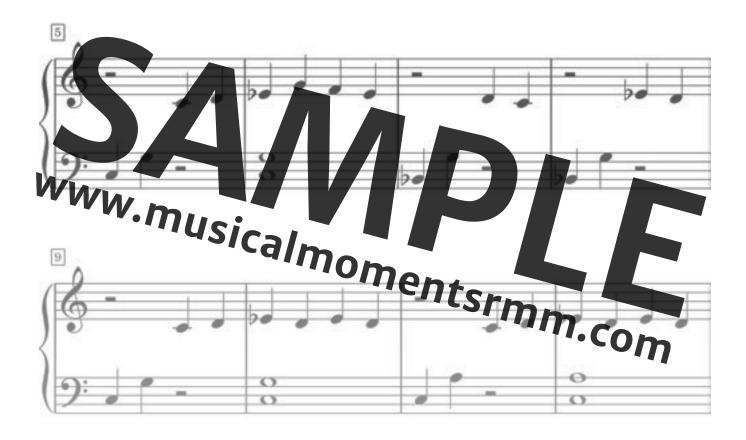






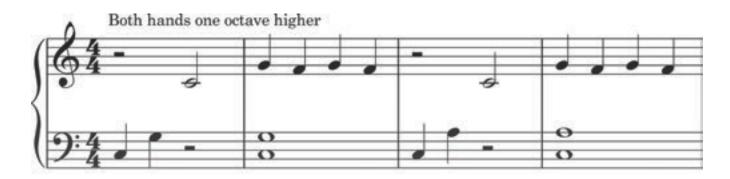
Part Two







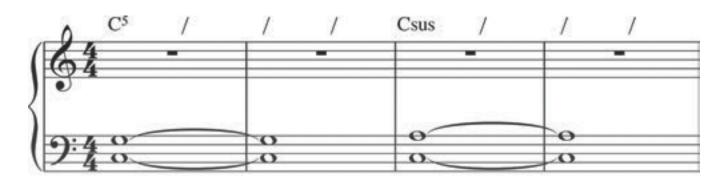
Part Three

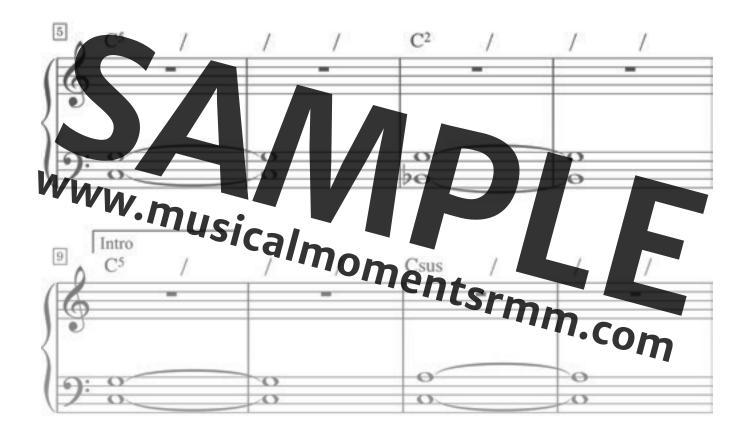


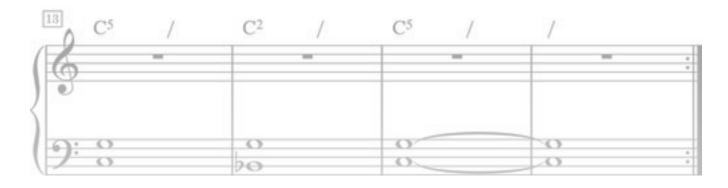




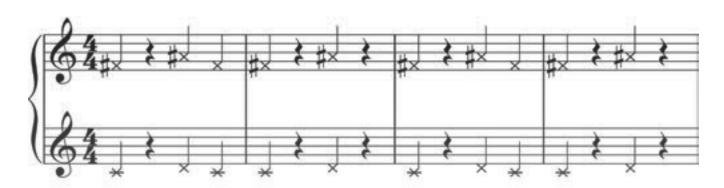
Part Four







Part Five







# Creative Ideas for Building Piano Bands

The following creative ideas are offered in the spirit of collaborative music making. The ideas and teaching techniques will help players of all ages and levels experience the benefits of creating music together. We know that musicians in orchestras, choirs and bands have known these benefits for years. And now, our *Way Cool Keyboarding* students can enjoy similar experiences as they play in a *Piano Band*. Have fun! - Debra

#### **Butterfly**

**Butterfly** is an opportunity to reinforce playing hands together while singing. Try the following steps as you prepare your students to play hands together while singing *Butterfly*.

- 1. To begin the learning process, bring students to your teacher piano to sing and learn the words. Singing the words, finger numbers and note names will create a familiarity with h the tune and the notes on the staff.
- the L.H. chord shells as they sing the melody.
  - ts retur to their nos to p the L.H. chord shells as they sing.
- g floo end playing on the
- ng R.H. and T the class i play Repeat and switch parts
- ner Gyla Hogythe keyboard. Trymon COM 5. Practice the motions of playing hands togeth match the words, "together - right - right - hold".
- 6. Put it all together.

Try this simple but effective use of voices to create a *Butterfly Piano Band*. Each person will play one of the following parts:

- Play R.H. melody on E. Piano
- Move the R.H. up an octave and play the melody with **Acoustic Guitar**
- Move the L.H. up an octave and play on **E. Piano**
- Move the L.H. down an octave and play on **Piano**
- Use the *Piano Accompaniment*
- Everybody **Sings**!

#### Grasshopper

Here are two ways to create fun musical experiences with *Grasshopper*.

#### 1. A Duet

- The *Try This* at the bottom of *Grasshopper* talks about combining *Grasshopper* with **Butterfly** to create a Duet.
- Use two different voices (**Piano** and **E. Piano**) for the Duet. This will provide a good listening experience for the students as they are challenged to listen for both parts as they play.
- Lead a discussion about what it means to be expressive. As an example of expression at the piano, ask the students to sing and play *Butterfly* slow and smooth. Then, follow by singing and playing *Grasshopper* fast and bouncy. Have fun with this!

#### 2. A Piano Band

Building a Piano Band can be a rich musical exa when studen beginning to play the piano. Below i option for assigning parts for the band

- R.H. of B
- R.H. var

higher

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#### Dark Star

- 1. Funky Town (p. 22) and Disco Ball (p. 23) in "Way Cool" Keyboarding 4 Kids Book One are both student favorites and perfect prep pieces for *Dark Star*.
- 2. *Dark Star* is a good opportunity to introduce students to the many sounds available when playing an Organ. Find video clips of Pipe, Digital or Jazz Organs to share in class. The Organ may be a new instrument to some students.
- 3. Try these ideas with the Organ voices on your keyboards:
  - Divide the two notes of the L.H. chord shell. With L.H., play C an octave lower and with R.H. pay the G and Ab as is. Talk about how to make a legato sound as the R.H. notes change.
  - Double the R.H. part by using one voice to play the melody up an octave. Try a bright bell-like sound to add variety.
  - When the piece ends, create a dramatic ending by instructing the students to hold the ait until you signal to release the sound.

you can uniform second melody one of the contract of the contr age ideas vou can tr

- 1. Create a third part by in
  - R.H. only
  - Stick with notes in the C position
  - Stick with notes in the C position

    While listening to Track 5, discover a tune that compliments the R.H. Steam 4
- 2. Improvise with the R.H. chords from *Part Two* 
  - On the repeat, take the R.H. up an octave.
  - When playing the C5 measures, rock back and forth on G and C in an eighth note pattern. The other chords will stay as quarter notes.
- 3. Create a new ending
  - Explore ways to scatter the sound during measures 13 and 14.
  - Does the sound want to travel to the high range of the piano or to the low? Or, both?
  - What about fading out at the end?

*Inside Out* is both fun to play and a great active listening experience. Here are a few ways you can help students hear and bring out the conversation that happens between *Part One* and *Part Two*:

- 1. Discover where the conversation passes back and forth between the two parts and mark the music.
- 2. Once the music is marked, demonstrate how the marked phrases will be played a little louder. And the unmarked phrases will be played a little softer. This will help create a back and forth conversation between the two parts.
- 3. Team Play R.H. only with *Part One* and *Part Two*. (Team 1 plays *Part One* and Team 2 plays *Part Two*.) Listen carefully to how the parts work together.
- **Part One** with the Piano voice and **Part Two** with E. Piano for a different listening perience.
- dd Par and enj

**Inside Out**. The piano parts are form will provide a foundation for ot included in the s track. anim hyt ·Musicalmome

Wish

Try these ideas for creating a wishful and magical Piano Band Suld Mich. Cook a out

what instrument sounds are being used.

- 2. Consider sharing a short teaching on the instrument families found in an orchestra.
- 3. Marimba, vibraphone, celeste, pizzicato strings, harp, glockenspiel and strings are all instruments that will make *Wish* shimmer. For example:

• R.H. melody

**Glockenspiel** (one octave higher)

• R.H. melody

**Pizzicato Strings** 

• L.H. chord shells

Piano/Strings

• Part Two

**Orchestral Harp** 

• Part Two

**Vibraphone** (one octave higher)

• Don't forget to **Sing!** 

#### Blue Dolphin

Let's turn a peaceful *Blue Dolphin* into the *Blue Dolphin Blues Band*! Try these ideas:

- 1. All E's will need to be played as Eb.
- 2. Improvise the R.H. of *Part Two* by adding notes and changing rhythms. This can be as simple as swinging the rhythm and adding repeated notes throughout.
- 3. Have fun with the opening and ending chords of *Part One*. Listen to the track and try to imitate the rhythms you hear in the piano part.
- 4. Unlike the smooth legato sound of *Blue Dolphin*, use a more detached and bouncy sound for the **Blue Dolphin Blues**.
- 5. Guitar, Bass, Drums, Piano, Saxophone and Harmonica are examples of instru in Blues music. Experiment with these sounds as you build your Blues Ban
- 6. Add a glissando from the top of the piano dow he end of t
- 7. Have fun!

#### us Phant

itsrmm.com playing the solo version of Circus Nation now, they can enjoy it e ten more as an ense ou can true in "Way Cool" Keyboarding 4 e as an ensemble. Here are three different Kids Book

echniques for the Band (track 12)

- After everyone learns all three parts, assign parts and decide on voices to be used.
- Practice L.H. of *Part One* with *Part Two*
- Practice R.H. of *Part One* with *Part Three*
- If a student part isn't being rehearsed, ask that they follow the music while listening to the other parts.
- This layering of the parts gives you a chance to balance the parts.
- Alternate rehearsing with the track and without the track.
- 2. Play with the Solo Accompaniment (track 13)
  - This track provides a harmonic and rhythmic foundation to create the ensemble experience. The student parts are not on this track.

#### 3. Play with the **Piano Accompaniment**

- This allows changing to a faster tempo
- This also allows flexibility in style and instrumentation
- Try combining Flute, Clarinet, and Harp or Harpsichord, Strings and Pan Flute to create a simple but beautiful sound.

#### **Shadow**

There are two different backing tracks provided for *Shadow*. The Band Track (#14) has a disco dance feel and the Ensemble Track (#15) is much slower and more introspective. The idea below demonstrates how the two versions can be used together to create a third option.

1. Begin by playing measures 1-16 in the slower, introspective style (without the track). Students play one of the following parts:

Part One L.H. only

Part One

Part Two

Part Three

Soft Strings

Piano

E. Piano (up one octave)

Acoustic Guita

2. At Masule 15, begin to relax the tempo and fade out

- 3. When the last note of measure 16 in played, create a surprise by turning on the Piano Band track (#14).
- track (#14).

  4. Students can stay with their assigned voices or switch quickly to the parameters.

  Have fun!

Try the following ideas to create your own Ensemble track for *Cat in the City*:

- 1. The introduction begins with *Part Four* (the chord chart) starting at measure 9. *Part One* through *Part Three* join in at measure 13.
- 2. *Part Five* (percussion) does not play the introduction.
- 3. The Ensemble track provided uses the following voices:

Part One Part Two Piano

• Part Two L.H. Acoustic Guitar

Part Three Piano Part Four Piano

• *Part Four* L.H. **Strings** (divided notes between both hands

Part Five Drum Kit

- 4. Bucket drums and other percussion instruments can also be included.
- 5. Rehearsal tips
  - Use the Ensemble track while learning all of the parts.
    - Layer the parts when rehearsing.
  - Rehearse Part Two and Part Three to lear how they work together.
    - Repealse **Part Four** and **Lar dive** together to create a solid foundation for the ensemble.

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- RATE Part Two through Part Five together.
  - Add *Part One* and balance the volume between all parts.

The following *Playing and Learning Tips* is also provided in the "*Way Cool*" *Keyboarding 4 Kids* materials. For many teachers, myself included, this approach to learning is different than how we were taught. As you will read, this philosophy begins the learning process with the development of the ear and is compared to the process of learning a new language. I encourage you to read through the teaching and consider the differences or similarities to how you were taught. Then, try the Hear – Do – See – Label approach as you share the *Piano Band* pieces with your students. Onward! - Debra

# Playing and Learning Tips

Learning the language of music is a very natural and enjoyable experience when the Hear-Do-See-Label approach to learning is used. As you read through the following ideas, compare this approach to the natural way children learn to talk. Their language skills begin by listening to others speak. As they grow and develop, children begin to imitate the sounds and words they hear. And lastly, they learn how to read and write what they have been hearing and speaking.



We begin the learning experience by hearing the music. This initial listening experience can be accomplished by the teacher playing the piece, the class listening to the CD, or the teacher playing along with the pre-recorded orchestration. Because it is important for students to hear how a piece will sound, we have provided CD's with all student books. Ideas for listening experiences are provided throughout to help the student develop their listening skills. This aural impression will expedite rhythmic, melodic and harmonic understanding of each piece the student plays.



s at the piano, on t d key cover and of each new piece. The with the physical spects include tapping, clapping rin plano, singing, conducting nd imagining This also wi any coordination challenges they have ce and aid in internalizi he meter a nterna...
or each student and interpendent learners. This stage of the learning process will help to omitted. These activities also show students how to b



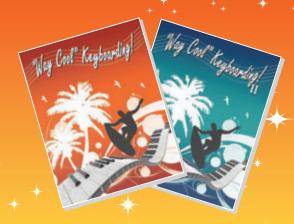
Once they have heard the music and experienced it, seeing and understanding the written page becomes a natural next step in the learning process. The student now has several experiences and reference points to connect the hearing, doing and visual aspects of the musical notation. In this stage of the learning process, directional reading and pattern recognition is the primary focus.



Lastly, labels or names are attached to what they see and what they've experienced. This learning approach provides a natural flow and logical sequence for playing piano music.



"Way Cool" Keyboarding 4 Kids



"Way Cool" Keyboarding



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