Sunrise Music
a new day, a new song

Level 3

Sunrise Music Piano Curriculum

Music tools to equip you to Play, Create, & Embellish songs

© Sunshine Piano Studio 2012 & Sunrise Music 2026. All Rights Reserved.

Preview Only

Table of Contents – Level 3

Piano/Keyboard Resources..... 4-7
RM 1 – Botany Bay 8
RM 2 – Jupiter from the Planets..... 12
RM 3 – I Saw Three Ships..... 15
RM 4 – Brandenburg Concerto 3..... 18
RM 5 – French Noel..... 22
RM 6 – Rockin' Blues..... 25
RM 7 – Bach's Minuet in G..... 27
RM 8 – Beethoven's Fur Elise - Theme..... 30
RM 9 – Love Those Blues..... 33
RM 10 – Jingle Bells..... 36
Song Building Blocks – Circle of Keys..... 38
Song Building Blocks – 3 Ways to Build Improv 40
Song Tools – Scale & Chords: Keys D,B♭,Am.... 45
Song Tools – Circle of Fifths + relative minors 44
Song Tools – Circle of Fifths + 15 Major Keys 38

Accompaniment

Skills 1 – Simple Gifts..... 51
Skills 2 – Pat-A-Pan..... 53
Skills 3 – Oh, Susanna..... 55
Skills 4 – House of the Rising Sun..... 57
Skills 5 – Ning Wendete..... 59
Skills 6 – Shalom Chaverim - Hevenu Shalom..... 61
Skills 7 – Shenandoah..... 63
Skills 8 – This Little Light..... 65
Skills 9 – Go Tell It On the Mountain..... 67
Skills 10 – Stars & Stripes Forever..... 69

Preview Only

Sunrise Music
a new day, a new song

Suzanne Solum - Sunshine Piano Studio & Sunrise Music
www.sunrisemusic.biz sunshinepianostudio@gmail.com

© Sunshine Piano Studio 2012 & Sunrise Music 2015. Revised 2026. All Rights Reserved.

Reading Music Level 3 - Resources

Remember: **Music Keys** are scale notes & chords that make songs.

New Keys D & **B^{b}** have 2 black notes. **Keys of G & F** have 1 black note.

Song Hand Position: F's & B^{b}'s Song Key: F Major & B^{b} Major
Transposing – is to put a song into a different key. Why?
*Singers need a higher/lower key for their voice range.
*Sometimes a song just sounds better in another Key.

Preview Only

Music Keys with 2 Black Notes:

Key of D - black notes **F$^{\#}$ C$^{\#}$** **Key of B^{b}** - black notes **B^{b} E^{b}**

C$^{\#}$ E^{b} F$^{\#}$ B^{b}

F B

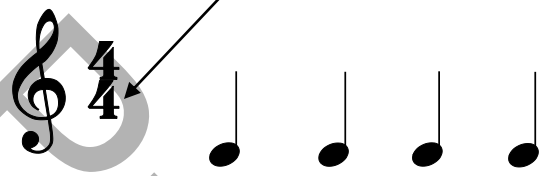
To Remember: **Sharps** go <u>up</u> to the very next key
Flats go <u>down</u> to the very next key

To Remember: **Key of D** has 2 black notes F$^{\#}$, C$^{\#}$ & begins on D
Key of B^{b} has 2 black notes B^{b}, E^{b} & begins on B^{b}

Reading Music Lesson 1

Remember: **Rhythm** is the combination of long and/or short notes.
The **Time Signature**, located by the clefs, is the music's rhythm rules.

Rhythm: the quarter note is usually the basic beat.



4 quarter notes = 4 beats

whole note = 4 beats

half note = 2 beats

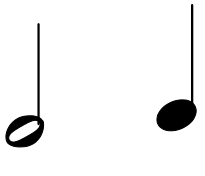
dotted half note = 3 beats

quarter note = 1 beat

½ beat
eighth notes = 1 beat (2 eighth notes)

¼ beat
sixteenth notes = 1 beat (4 sixteenth notes)

Dots after notes add extra time to the note. A dot adds half the value of the associated note

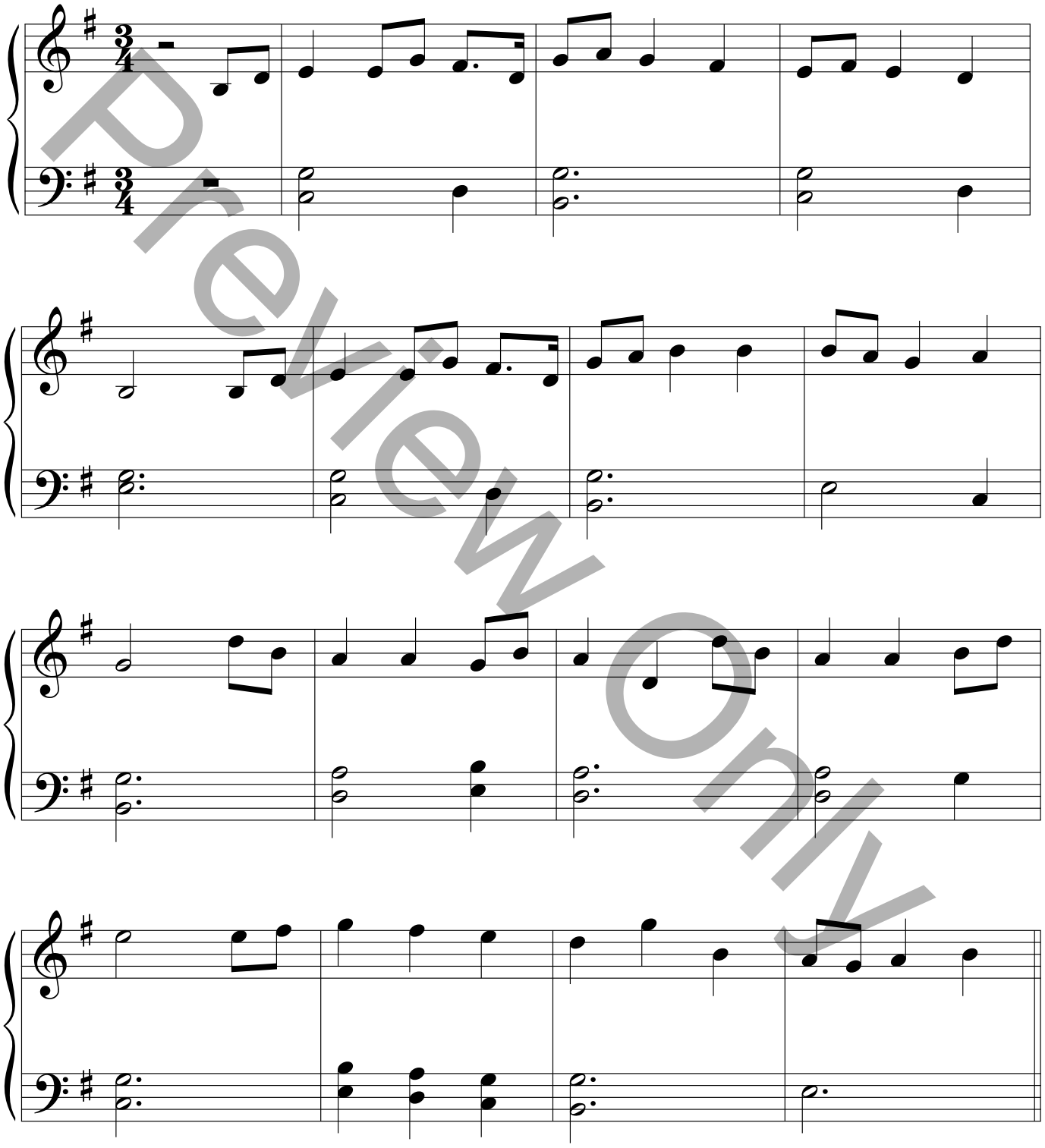


2 + 1 = 3

Preview Only

Jupiter *from* The Planets

Gustav Holst 1874 - 1934
Arr. Suzanne Solum



Preview Only

Copyright © 2018 by Suzanne Solum. All rights reserved.

Reading Music Lesson 3

Remember: **Notes Stems: up**– below middle line, **down**– middle line & up

Adding extra time to notes: 2 ways of making a note longer is to "tie" it to another note or add a "dot" after the note – basically, 2 ways of doing the same thing.
These are called **tied notes** or **dotted notes**.

Rhythm - 𝄞 4/4 Ties: Held Notes

2 Notes held as one note "tied together". Held for count of both.

2 beats

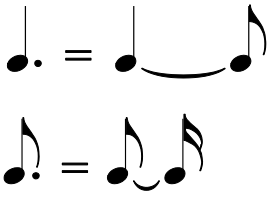
3 beats

1 ½ beats

Rhythm - 𝄞 4/4 Dots: Note Holds Like Ties

1 ½ beats

3/4 beat



Dots add ½ value of the note to the beat count.

Example: Quarter Note = 1 beat
Dotted Quarter Note = 1 ½ beat

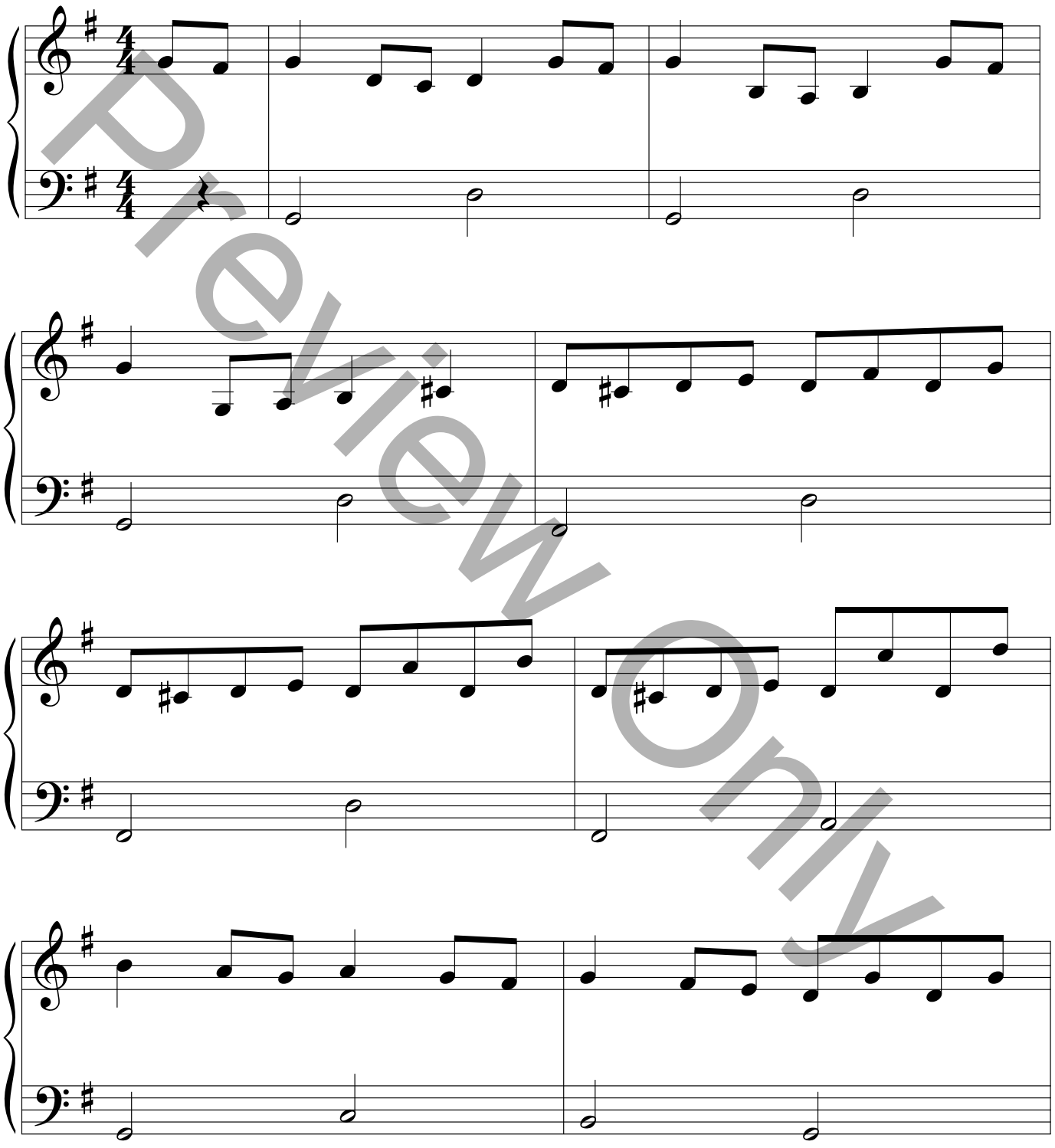
Remember: **Tied Notes** are 2 notes played as one note. They must be the same note to be tied. Held for the combined length of both notes.

Remember: **Dots** tell you to add ½ the value of the note to the beat count.

Preview Only

Brandenburg Concerto 3

J.S. Bach 1685 - 1750
Arr. Suzanne Solum



Preview Only

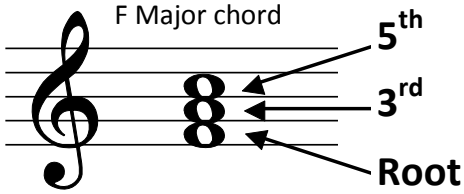
Copyright © 2018 by Suzanne Solum. All rights reserved.

Reading Music Lesson 5

Harmony in Music – chords that support "accompany" a melody

Remember: Chords provide "movement & change" through songs.

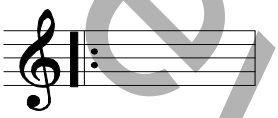
Chords:

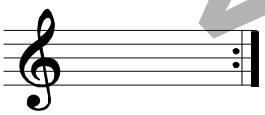


Triad Chord - 3 notes (keys) played together
Five fingers in row:
Bottom, Middle, Top

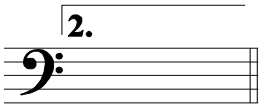
Repeat Markings:

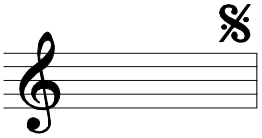
Music Repeats – song navigation
Watch for Music Navigation Signs!


Repeat Signs – forward & backward


First Ending – played 1st time with repeat

D.C. al Fine
Repeat from beginning & play to Fine


Second Ending – played 2nd time, after repeat


Segno (say-nyo) Sign - a section to be repeated

D.C.
Da Capo – repeat back to beginning

D.S. al Coda
Dal Segno – go to segno -> to coda sign -> to coda

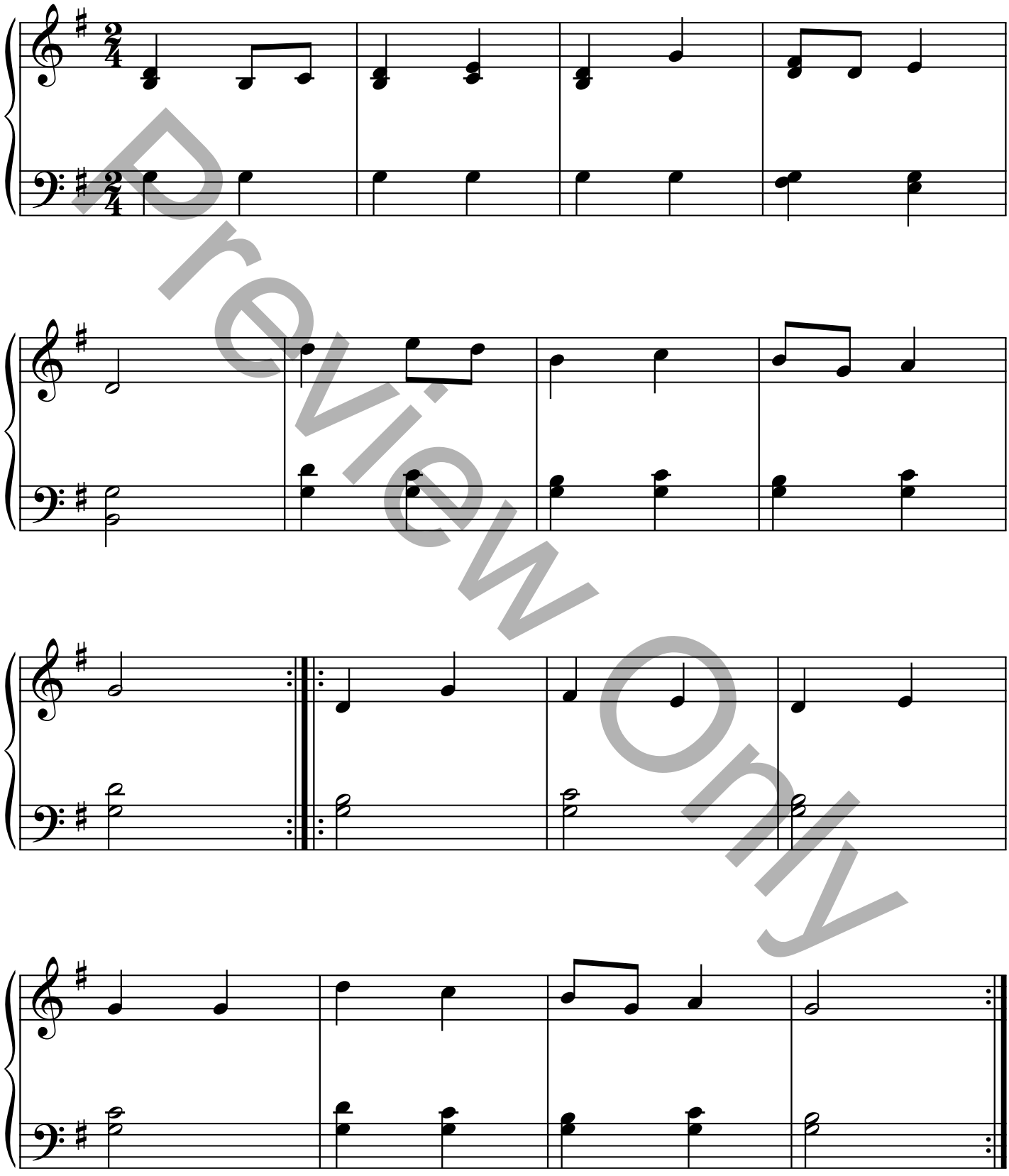
End music

Ending section of music – "the tail"

Preview Only

French Noël

Traditional French Carols
Arr. Suzanne Solum



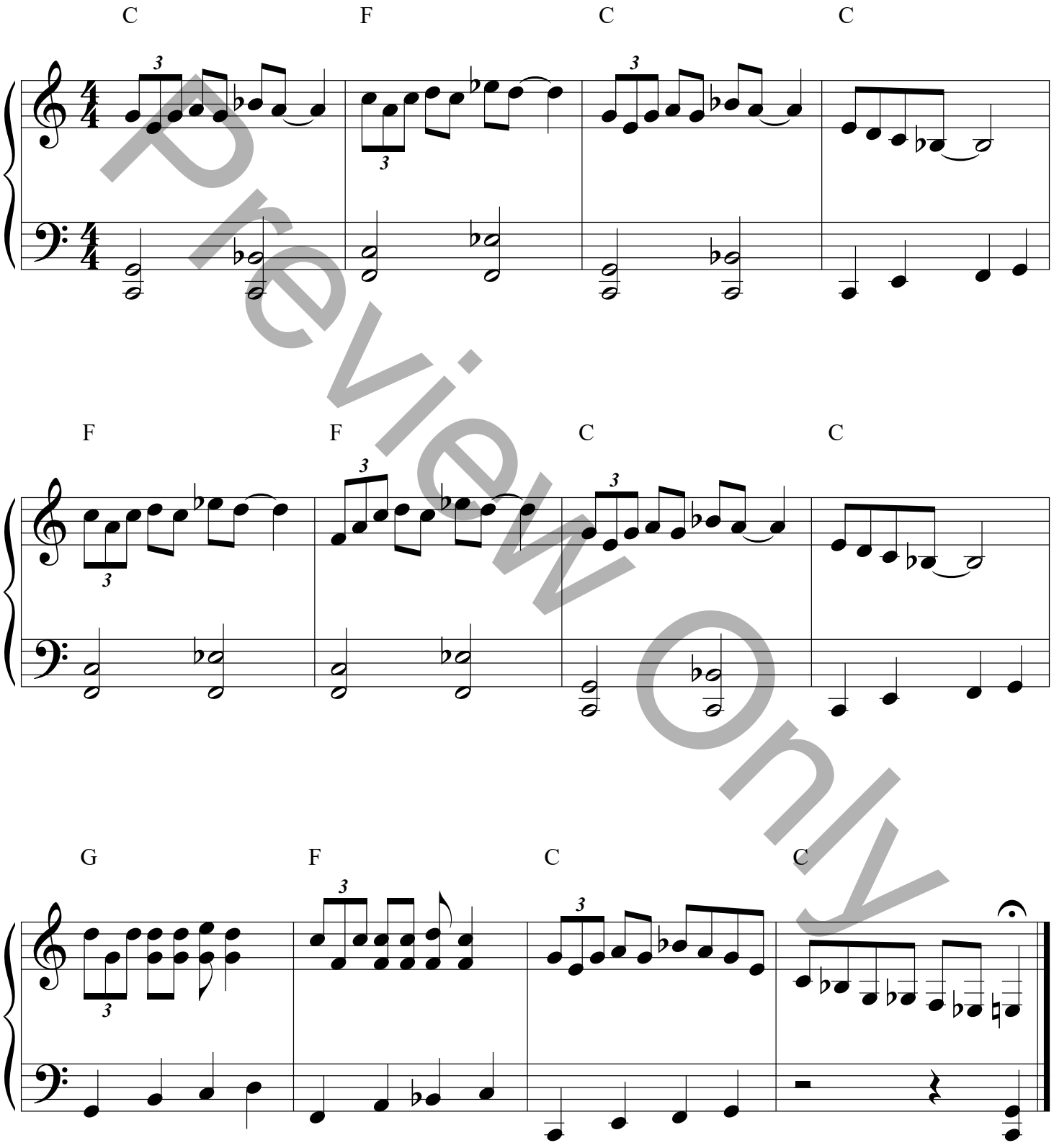
Preview Only

Copyright © 2014 by Suzanne Solum. All rights reserved.

Rockin' Blues

Suzanne Solum

Swing! ♫ = ♩³♪

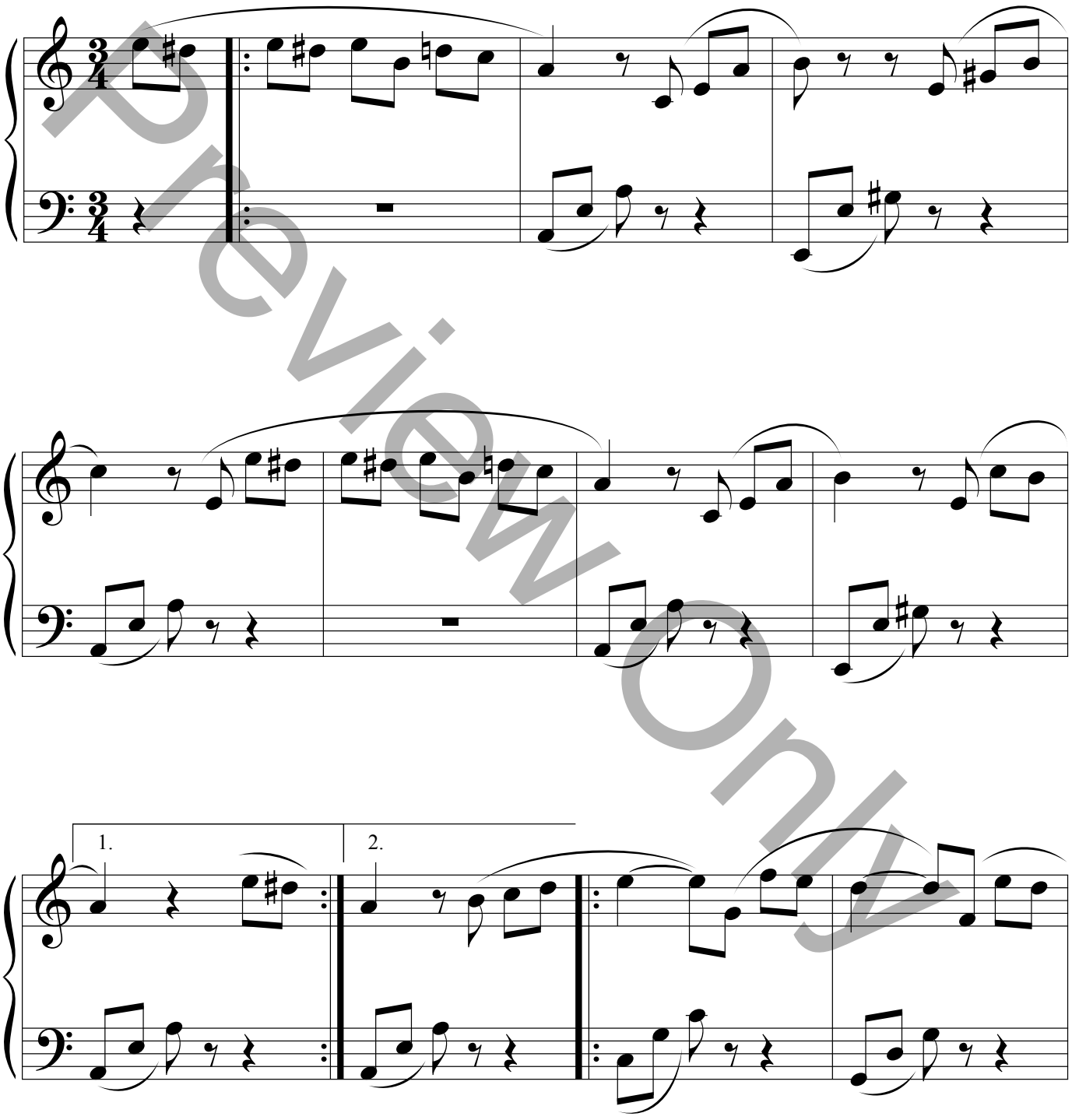


Preview Only

Copyright © 2018 by Suzanne Solum. All rights reserved.

Beethoven's Für Elise

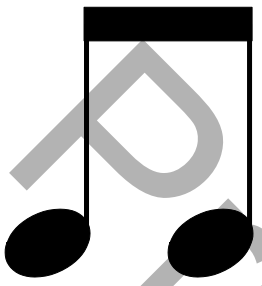
Ludwig van Beethoven 1770 - 1827



Preview Only

Copyright © 2013 by Suzanne Solum. All rights reserved.

Level 3



Sunrise Music
a new day, a new song

Song Building Blocks

Music Tools to create or arrange songs you want to play.

Preview Only

3 Ways to Build Improv Skills

- Know Chord Progressions ♫
- Know Scales for creating Melody
- Listen, listen, listen to music

Finding <u>Your</u> Musical Voice with Improv: 1st pick a key, 2nd use its scale notes for melody, 3rd use the key's primary chords for chord progression, 4th play & <u>listen</u>. Experiment & keep what you like.

Improv Example to try in **key of C Major:** ♫

LH: chords C, am, F, G, C - *keep chords moving

RH: Pentatonic Scale: 5 note scale

Use notes: C D E G A

Other Chord Choices for Key of C Major :

I	**ii**	**iii**	**IV**	**V**	**vi**	**vii°**	**I**	**Chord**
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	**Scale Degree**
C	*dm*	*em*	*F*	*G*	*am*	*b*^{dim}	*C*	

Vary tensions with chord qualities: 7th , sus, dim, etc.

Preview Only

Level 3

Sunrise Music
a new day, a new song

Preview Only

Accompaniment

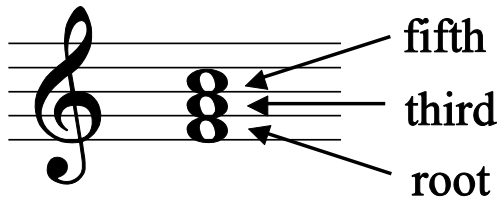
Skills to <u>unlock</u> any song you want to play, create, or embellish.

Accompaniment Skills Lesson 1

Accompaniment – chords that support "harmonizing" a melody

Remember: Create harmony by exploring different chord combinations

Chords:



Triad Chord - 3 notes played together
Five fingers in row:
Bottom, Middle, Top

Play **Major** chords: *Remember the Chord Shapes*

C F G G♭

D E A D♭ E♭ A♭

B B♭

♫ Pick any 4 chords at a time and play them with a beat.
Listen, listen, listen: Does it sound right? Experiment!

♫ Play **minor** chords: (lower 3rd half step)

♫ Play **suspended** chords: (raise 3rd half step)
Suspended chords replace the 3rd with the Perfect 4th -> 5 half steps, to create movement.

Remember: **Keynote or Tonic** - Example: Both are C for the Key of C.

Music Keys are Chords & Scale Notes that make songs.
Tonic or Keynote is the 1st note of a scale or music key & the last note.
The keynote is also called the tonic-note or key-center, "HOME".

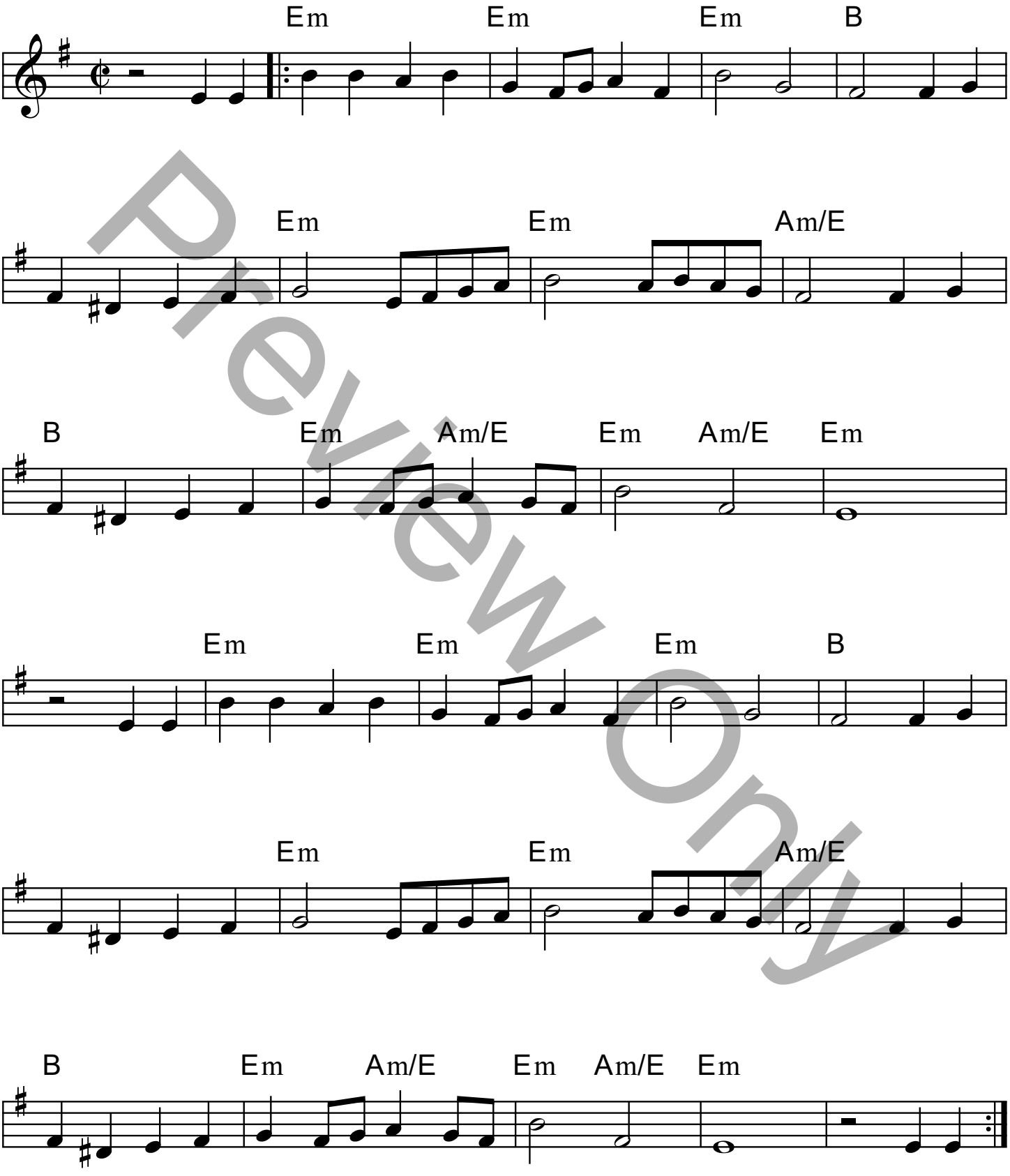
Preview Only

Type text here

Pat-A-Pan

Bernard de La Monnoye
1720 French Carol

LH: drum like



Preview Only

Copyright © 2018 by Suzanne Solum. All rights reserved.

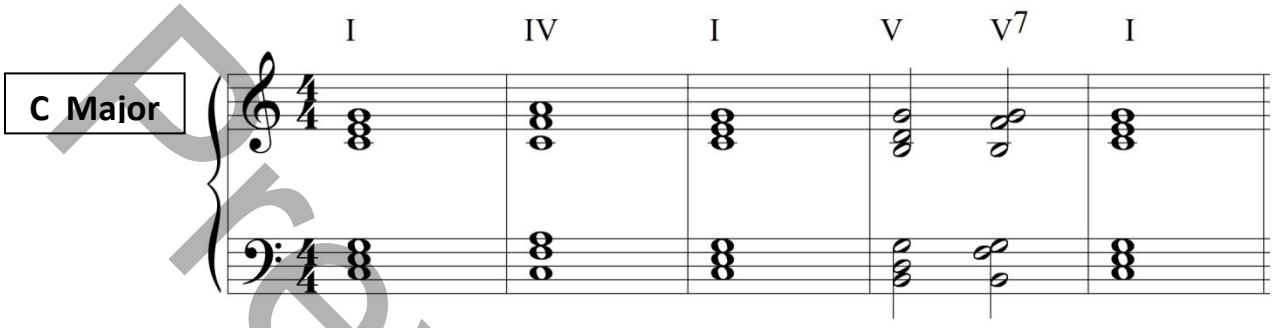
Accompaniment Skills Lesson 3

Accompaniment – Harmonizing a melody – harmonization tools

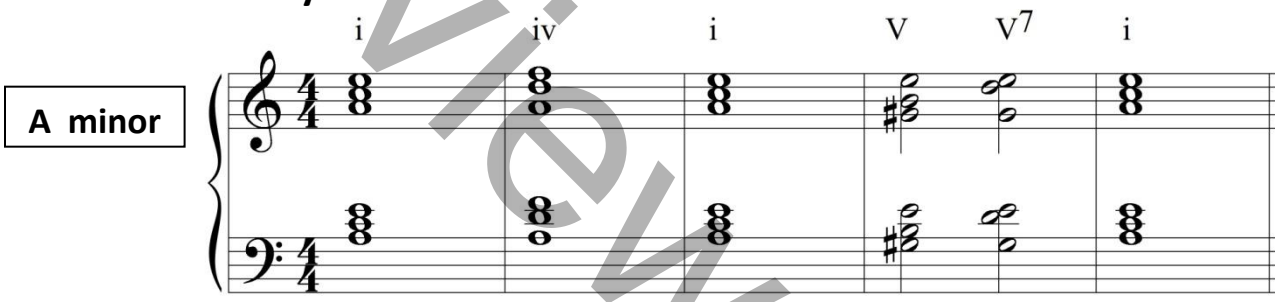
Remember: Harmonic Progressions - Chords moving through melodies

Harmonic Chord Progressions – I IV I V (V^7) I

1. **Major keys:**



2. **minor keys:**



Primary Chord Progressions - in Basic Accompaniment:

Major Keys: **I IV I V^7 I IV V^7 I**

harmonic minor Keys: **i iv i V^7 i iv V^7 i**

Secondary Chord Progressions:

Major Keys: **I iii vi IV ii V^7 I**

minor Keys: **i iv vii° i V^7 iv i**

Remember: *"Practice 'til you know where to go on your keyboard!"*

Preview Only

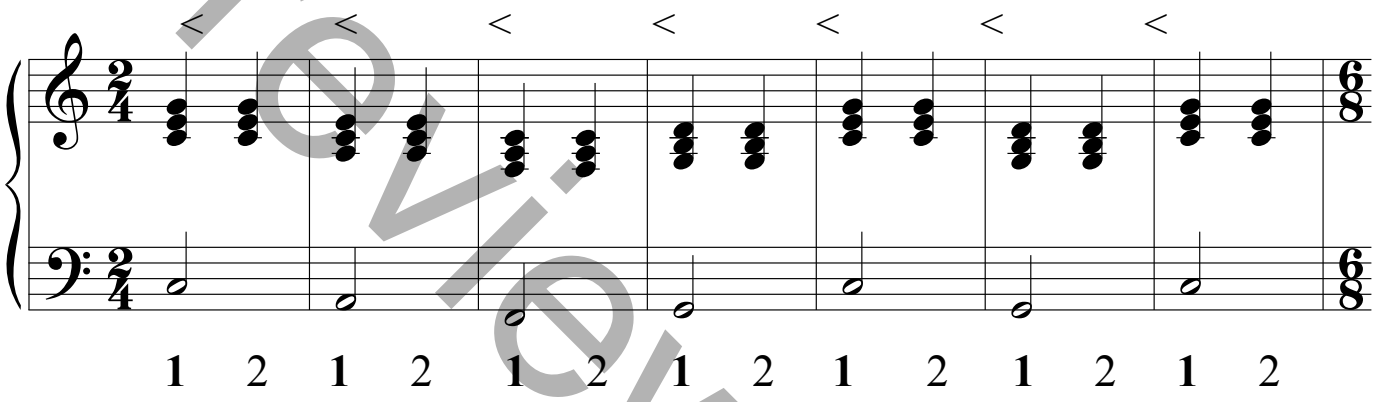
Accompaniment Skills Lesson 4

Pulse is the beat in music that makes us tap our feet.

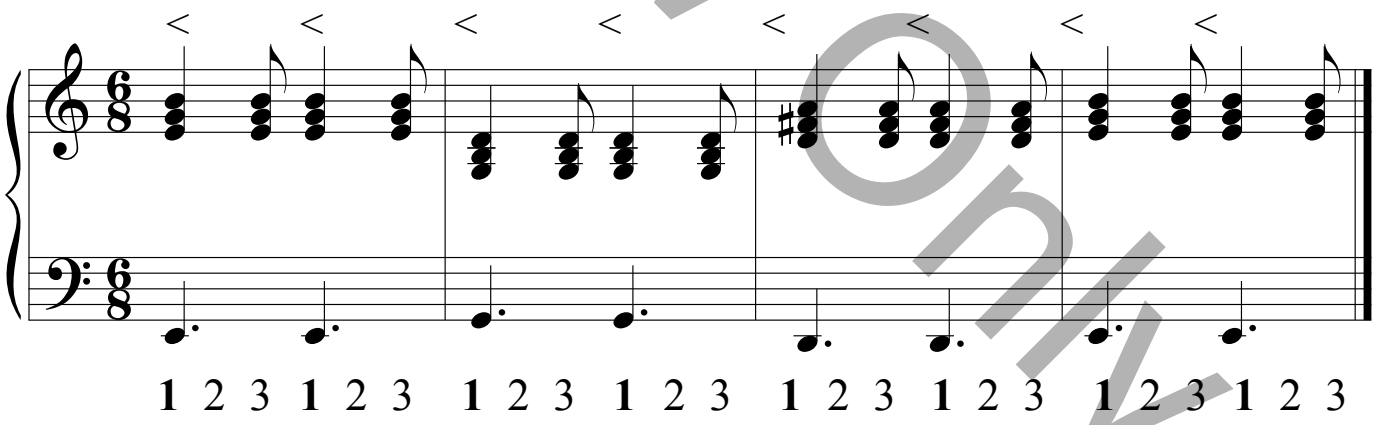
Pulse - the equal division of time (beats), like the pulse in our wrist

Pulse - organizes beats into groups of stressed & unstressed patterns

Rhythm 1: **Pulse of the Song**



Stressed Beats:



Measures in 6/8 Time: Feel in **2** groups of 3 beats each

<

4/4 Time: stressed on **1** 2 **3** 4

3/4 Time: stressed on **1** 2 3

2/4 Time: stressed on **1** 2

Preview Only

Copyright © 2013 by Suzanne Solum. All rights reserved.

Accompaniment Skills Lesson 6

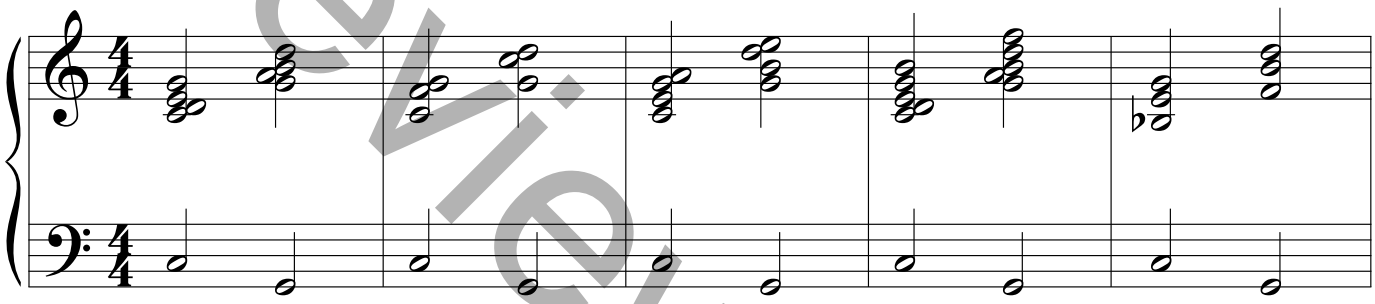
Sustain Pedal: Sustains Notes Played - use quick foot action

"Captures" sound: allows notes to vibrate longer, blending sounds - LISTEN!
Opposite Action: hands/keys go down - foot up/down quickly, clearing pedal

Chord Variations: use them for different sound "colors"

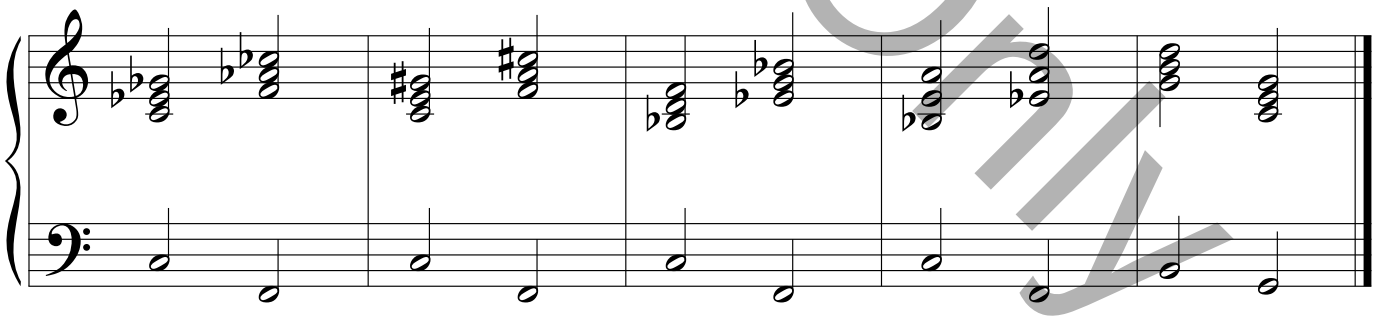
Chord Colors: creates interesting music

Spread out chord notes between hands when playing:



C+2 G+2 Csus Gsus C6 G6 C9 G9 C7 G7

+ 2 of chord | 1,4,5 of chord | + 6 of chord | M7 chord + 9 | chord + m7th



Cdim Fdim C+ F+ C11 F11 C13 F13 G/B C/G

$^{\flat}3, ^{\flat}5$ of chord | $^{\#}5$ of chord | RH chord - lower W step | $^{\flat}1, ^{\#}5$ chord | slash chords

Slash Chords: bass is not root of chord
G/B: RH G chord + B in LH

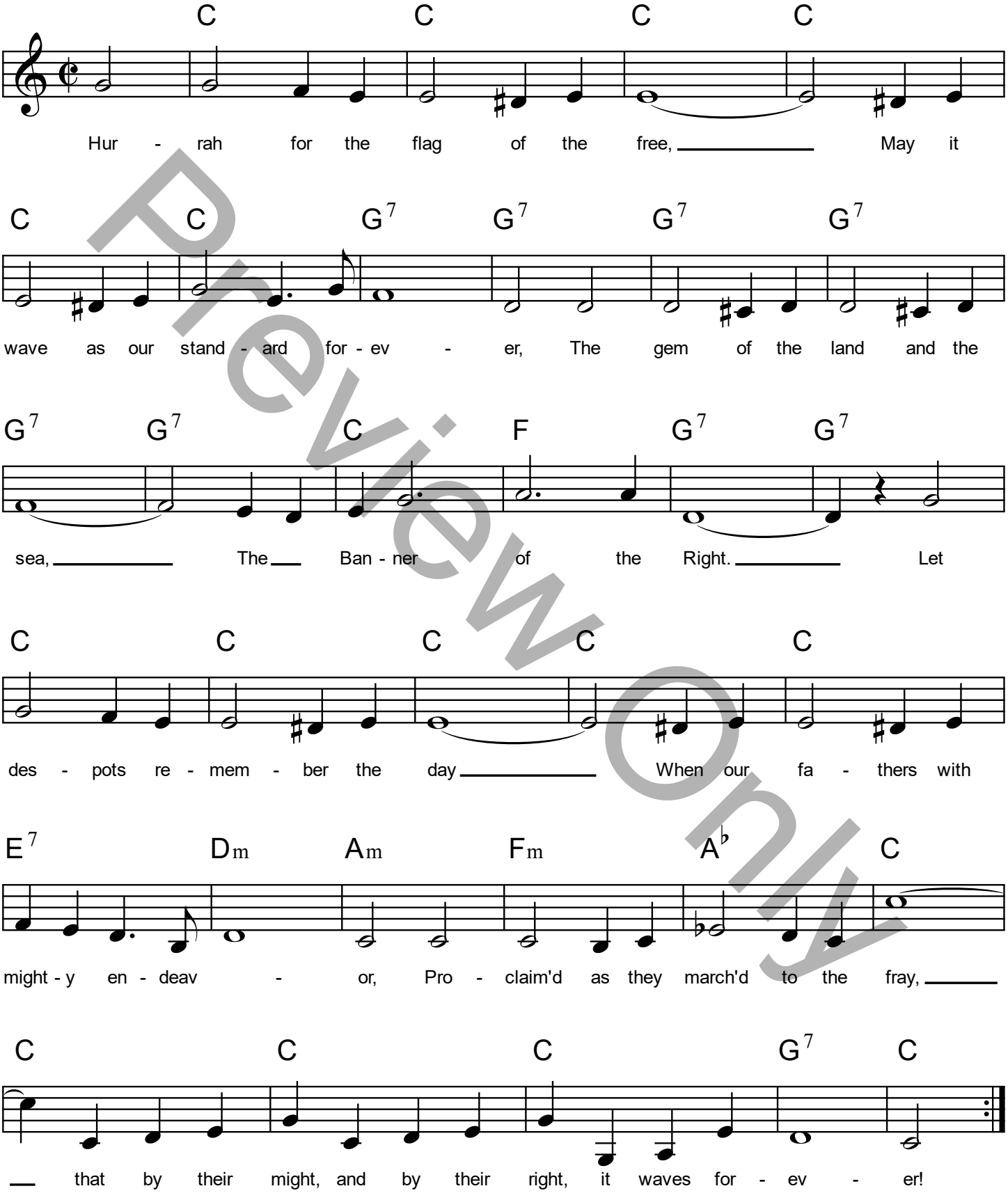
Preview Only

Copyright © 2013 by Suzanne Solum. All rights reserved.

Stars & Stripes Forever

LH: stride bass

John Philip Sousa 1854-1932
"The March King"



Preview Only

Copyright © 2015 by Suzanne Solum. All rights reserved.