

## Musiknow 102 Keyboard Layout

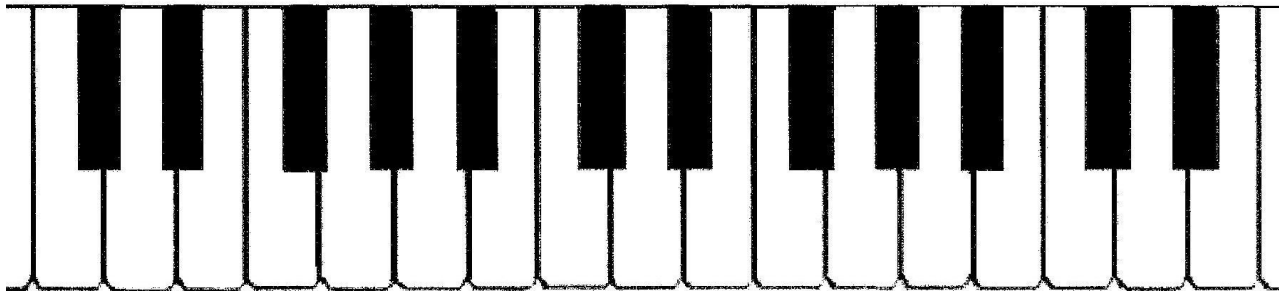
**You'll learn the basics of the keyboard pattern and how to find an octave**

You need a keyboard, real or virtual

1. The way of arranging the notes on keyboards began in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It gives the player a continuous front row of the notes used a lot and a gappy back row of notes needed less often. On most keyboards nowadays the front row is white and the back row is black. The back row is raised so the notes stick up, meaning they can be quite narrow without you pressing their neighbouring white notes by mistake.

Low notes are to the left and high ones to the right.

2. The keyboard pattern gives each note a unique position. Once you know the pattern, you don't have to put letters or stickers on the keys to find your way round.



Notice how the black notes are arranged in alternating sets of 2 and 3. You navigate by relating to them. This section of a keyboard has three lots of 2 notes and two lots of 3 notes.

Find a pair of black notes. One is on the left and one on the right.

Find a set of three black notes. One is on the left, one in the middle and one on the right.

On this picture, the lowest black note (the one most to the left) is the left one of a pair. Look to the right until you find another black note that is the left one of a pair – it's around the middle of this diagram. And there's yet another one near the right hand side. If you have a real keyboard and press these notes in turn, you'll find they are an octave apart from each other. (Musiknowledge 101 tells you about octaves).

3. The black notes have the most obvious pattern – but as you get going with music, it's going to be the white ones you're going to use most.

Find a white note immediately to the left of a pair of black notes. That's going to be one you'll use a lot. (If you know the note names, it's C). Play C. Find all the Cs on your keyboard – there are 3 on the diagram.

4. Use your knowledge about octaves to play the starts of these tunes used as examples in Musiknowledge 101. The notes involved are underlined. Use any octave pair you like. Fun to work out the notes after the octave too!

Some - where over the rain - bow

Ba - li Ha'i

Hot cross buns

High on a hill stood a lone - ly goat - herd