

# SECTION A

## Lesson I - Half-steps and Whole-steps.

Modern improvising today is based solely upon the CHORD - a group of harmonious tones so arranged as to sound pleasing to the ear. However, before the structure of the chord can be fully understood, the student must realize the difference between a HALF-STEP and a WHOLE-STEP. This is important!

1. On the keyboard, a HALF-STEP is the distance between any key and its nearest neighbor, up or down, black or white. This can be explained by playing a C and then C# or perhaps E to F. If we climb up or down a ladder of half-steps, it is known as the HALF-STEP SCALE (or CHROMATIC [Crow-mat-tick] ) and would appear in music as follows:

**HALF-STEP**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 1

C C# D D# E F F# G G# A A# B C

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 1

C B B $\flat$  A A $\flat$  G G $\flat$  F E E $\flat$  D D $\flat$  C

**HALF-STEP**

C D E F G A B C D E

You will notice there are TWELVE different keys including SEVEN white and FIVE black keys.

**NOTE:**  
 When a key is RAISED  $\nearrow$  a half-step, it is called SHARP (#).  
 When a key is LOWERED  $\searrow$  a half-step, it is called FLAT ( $\flat$ ).  
 When the sharp or flat is canceled, it is called NATURAL ( $\natural$ ).

# Home On The Range

(Key of G - Remember to sharp every F in either hand!)

## Cowboy lament

FOLK SONG

Oh, give me a home Where the buf - fa - lo roam; Where the

OBSERVE Pedal Signs

Detailed description: This system contains the first four measures of the piece. The treble clef staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. Fingerings are indicated above the notes: 1, 3, 4, 5, 3, 2, 1, 5, 5, 4, 3, 4. Chords G, G, C, and C are marked in boxes below the treble staff. The bass clef staff shows a simple accompaniment with a pedal sign under the first measure.

cross L.H. over R.H.

deer and the an - te-lope play ... Where

Detailed description: This system contains measures 5-8. The treble staff has fingerings 5, 1, 1, 4, 3, 4, 5, 1, 2, 1. Chords G, A, and D are marked in boxes. A large slur covers measures 7 and 8, with a dashed line indicating a cross-hand technique where the left hand crosses over the right hand. The bass staff has fingerings 5, 3, 1, 5, 3, 1.

sel - dom is heard A dis - cour - ag - ing word .. And the

Detailed description: This system contains measures 9-12. The treble staff has fingerings 3, 4, 5, 3, 2, 1, 5. Chords G, G, C, and C are marked in boxes. The bass staff has a simple accompaniment with a pedal sign under the first measure.

cross L.H. over R.H.

skies are not cloud - y all day.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 13-16. The treble staff has fingerings 5, 1, 5, 5, 1, 1, 3, 1, 4, 5, 4, 1, 2. Chords G, D, and G are marked in boxes. A large slur covers measures 15 and 16, with a dashed line indicating a cross-hand technique. The bass staff has fingerings 5, 3, 1, 5, 3, 1.

# Return To Sorrento

(Arrows indicate the bass note - root of the chord.)

Tenderly, with feeling

Am Am Dm Am DE CURTIS

Left Hand Bass

Pedal

Dm Am Emaj Am

A G F E

Dm Dm Gm Dm

Gm Dm Amaj Dmaj