

# Simply Piano Courses Syllabus Summary

## Piano Basics

First 4 notes C, D, E, F with right hand. Finger numbers.

## Essentials I - 85 songs (28 Jan 2015, 77 songs in June 2024, news songs added to most levels regularly)

C Position, First 5 notes with left hand. Right and left hand coordination

Rhythm: quarter, half, 8th notes & rest

Right hand 2nd and 3rd intervals

## Essentials II - 175 songs

Note A - extended pinky 5 and thumb 1.

5th intervals

F position. First full octave range (covered by C + F positions)

## Essentials III - 135 songs

C major scale, dotted quarter note rhythm intro

Introduction to sharps and flats (accidentals)

## Classical I - 10 songs

Classical pieces Spring, Minute in G, Sonate 11, New World Symphony, Zarathustra

Intro to Classical Musical Periods

## Theory 101

Basic notation, rhythm, harmony, steps & half steps, intervals & chord basics

## Intermediate I - 146 songs

D position, common left hand intervals, crossing over thumb technique

Rhythm: Quarter dotted note, Syncopation intro (1+2+3+4+)

## Intermediate II - 48 songs

Extended C position, Switching between C, D & F positions

Intro to ties

## Intermediate III - 171 songs

Extended F & D positions, Switching between extended positions

C Scale

## Intermediate IV - 47 songs

G Position, High C Position - Shifting to all positions

D & G scales

## Pop Chords I - 34 songs

First four chords C, G, D, Em - See table on P. 4 for chord notes and suggested fingers

## Chord Styling I - 23 songs

New chord Am

Style pattern 1: root then 3&5 together

Style pattern 2: LH Bass note joining right hand full chord on every other beat

## Pop Chords II - 59 songs

New chords F, Dm

## Chord Styling II - 34 songs

Rock pattern

Ballad pattern

## Chord Styling III - 18 songs

Alternating Bass style

Further work on Ballad Pattern

Mixing up chord styles in the same song

## Pop Chords III - 48 songs

New chords E, A & Bm

## Lead Sheet I, II & III - 20, 26 & 13 songs

Chords on the left hand and melody with the right hand, with increasing complexity and shifting positions.

Lead Sheet I: Left Hand Chords C, G, F, Am Right hand in C Position - after Essentials III & Chord Styling I

<b>C</b> - C E G 5 3 1	<b>G</b> - B D G 5 3 1	<b>F</b> - C F A 5 2 1	<b>Am</b> - C E A 5 3 1
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Lead Sheet II: Left Hand Chords D, Em, Dm - Right hand in C & F positions - after Int II & Chord Styling III

<b>D</b> - D F# G 5 3 1	<b>Em</b> - E G B 5 3 1	<b>Dm</b> - D F G 5 3 1
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Lead Sheet III: Left Hand Chords A, Bm - Right hand shifting between more positions - after Int IV & Pop Chords III

<b>A</b> - C# E A 5 3 1	<b>Bm</b> - B D F# 5 3 1
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Next chords courses require knowledge of 10 Chords - Must have completed Pop Chords I, II, III

## Blues Chords I - 11 songs

New chords G7, C7, D7

Swing Pattern, 12 Bar Blues in G

<b>G7</b> G - B F G 1 1 4 5	<b>C7</b> C - Bb E G 5 1 3 5	<b>D7</b> D - C F# A 4 1 3 5
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### 12 Bar Blues in G

G7 C7 G7 G7

C7 C7 G7 G7

D7 C7 G7 D7

## Jazz Chords I - 12 songs

New chords Dm7, Cmaj7, Am7

Jazz Pattern; 2,5,1 & turnaround chord progressions.

<b>Dm7</b> D - C F A 4 1 3 5	<b>Cmaj7</b> C - B E G 5 1 3 5	<b>Am7</b> A - C E G 1 1 3 5
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ii V I chord progression (2, 5, 1 i.e. Dm, G, C in the key of C)

Dm7 G7 Cmaj7 -> jazz version

### Turnaround chord progression

I vi ii V (1, 6, 2, 5 i.e. C, Am, Dm, G in the key of C)

Cmaj7 Am7 Dm7 G7

## Jazz Chords II - 12 songs

Seven new chords! E7, Em7, F7, Fmaj7, Gmaj7, A7, Bdim (six 7th chords + one diminished chord)

## Jazz Waltz pattern, Minor 2, 5, 1 chord progression

<b>E7</b> E / D G# B 3 1 3 5	<b>Em7</b> E / D G B 3 1 3 5	<b>F7</b> F / C Eb A 2 1 2 5	<b>Fmaj7</b> F / C E A 2 1 2 5
<b>Gmaj7</b> G / B D F# G+Bm 1 1 2 4	<b>A7</b> A / C# E G 1 1 2 4	<b>Bdim</b> B / B D F 5 1 2 4	

ii **V** i chord progression (Minor 2, 5, 1 i.e. Bdim, E7, Am in the key of Am)

Bdim E7 Am

## Slash Chords - 15 songs

Regular chords with different base notes. Notation F/C means F chord with C note, *F over C*. On this course the chord is played with RH and note is played with LH.

**Pedal Bass** - chord progression with same bass note. i.e. LH is on C bass, right hand shifts between C, F, C chords. Pedal bass on C, A, E, D exercises.

**Moving Bass** - RH plays same chord, i.e. G, LH moves between bass notes, i.e. G, F# and E.

The notation would be G, G/F#, G/E. Moving Bass G, Am and A variations exercises

**Chord Inversions** - i.e. C (C E G) chord on RH with C as bass note on LH. C chord with E bass = C/E. C chord with G bass = C/G. The bass note is any of the notes in the chord being played with RH. Chord Inversions C, F, Em, G, Am, D, Dm and E exercises.

## Arpeggios I - 67 songs

Arpeggio is a broken chord with notes played one by one, i.e. The Alberti Bass.

Right-Hand inversions music sheet in Play for practice.

Upwards arpeggio pattern + sheet music in Play for practice. i.e. C E G + inversions. C, F, G exercises and adding left hand bass.

Gmaj7 chord (see Jazz Chords II) played arpeggiated

Up and down arpeggio pattern RH - C E G E C

Left hand intervals C, G/B, Am, F.

## Pre-Advanced I - 22 songs

Intro to keys, and key Signatures G, D & F

F Scale - Rhythm: 16th notes

## Pre-Advanced II - 97 songs

Left hand development with Triads (C, F, G) - *I just called* LH Am, Dm, G (inversion D G B), C

Oompah(Swing bass) - *Are you Lonesome Tonight?* and Alberti Bass - *Amelie's Theme*

## Pre-Advanced III - 10 songs

Triplets - Rhythm: 1/8th note swing

Position free playing

## Major & Minor scales practice

### Optional Songs:

**After Int IV:** Für Elise, Bohemian Rhapsody,

Taste of Bach I (Minuet in G and Arioso),

Taste of Bach II (Minuet in Gm and Air On The G String)

**After Pre-Advanced I:** The Entertainer, Turkish March

**After Arpeggios I:** Someone Like You

## Chords Learned + Suggested fingerings LH / RH

Note that inversions are used in some chords for simplification/ease of transition

Am A / C E A 1 1 2 5 <b>LH / RH</b>	Am7 A / C E G 1 1 3 5	A A / C# E A) 1 1 2 5	A7 A / C# E G 1 1 2 4	<b>LH Am - C E A</b> 5 3 1 <b>LH A - C# E A</b>
Bm B / B D F# 5 1 2 4	Bdim B / B D F 5 1 2 4	Bb Bb / Bb D F 5 1 2 4		<b>LH Bm - B D F#</b> 5 3 1
C C / C E G 5 1 3 5	Cmaj7 C / B E G 5 1 3 5	C7 C / Bb E G 5 1 3 5		<b>LH C - C E G</b> 5 3 1
D D / D F# A 4 1 3 5	Dm D / D F A 4 1 3 5	D7 D / C F# A 4 1 3 5	Dm7 D / C F A 4 1 3 5	<b>LH D - D F# A</b> 5 3 1 <b>LH Dm - D F A</b>
E E / E G# B 3 1 3 5	Em E / E G B 3 1 3 5	E7 E / D G# B 3 1 3 5	Em7 E / D G B 3 1 3 5	<b>LH Em - E G B</b> 5 3 1
F F / C F A 2 1 3 5	F7 F / C Eb A 2 1 2 5	Fmaj7 F / C E A 2 1 2 5	Fm F / C E Ab 2 1 2 5	<b>LH F - C F A</b> 5 2 1
G G / B D G 1 1 2 5	Gm G / D G Bb 1 1 3 5	Gmaj7 G / B D F# G+Bm 1 1 2 4	G7 G / B F G 1 1 4 5	<b>LH G - B D G</b> 5 2 1

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