

# FUNCTIONAL PIANO

by

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By "playing" the piano I mean something quite different from "functioning" at the piano. It is important for you to understand that difference so that our goals as teacher and student will be unanimous.

"Playing" the piano usually means performing a well-rehearsed piece of written music, while "functioning" at the keyboard requires the skills to handle unrehearsed, impromptu musical tasks such as sightreading, playing by ear and interpreting a "fake sheet".

Some of your goals as a student of functional piano will be to do the following:

1. To improve your sightreading in bass and treble clef.
2. To play melody by ear.
3. To play harmony by ear.
4. To harmonize melody by use of chord symbols, with an appropriate rhythm.
5. To function in all keys.
6. To be able to interpret from a "fake sheet" (a line of melody with chord symbols provided.)
7. To improvise.
8. To master enough "functional" skills to produce a good sound at the keyboard for simple accompanying.

Each new principle will require considerable practice, sometimes as much as several weeks or months. Don't be discouraged - just continue to build carefully, one skill at a time.

Although with two years' piano lessons you should be able to accomplish most of the goals set in this course, I would suggest that at some time you make a point of attending a functional piano workshop, based on this book, and sponsored by Ukulele Yes!

You can be put on the Functional Piano mailing list by writing to:  
Functional Piano, Box 125, Armdale, Halifax, N.S.

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# SECTION II

## Chords



A triad is made up of three notes, but in our music, because four-part harmony is very common, often one of the notes is repeated. Thus, many chords are really three notes with one or more notes repeated.

i. e. C chord



same note

Four important chord formations and their symbols are:

MAJOR	C		MINOR	C <sub>m</sub>	
AUGMENTED	C <sup>+</sup>		DIMINISHED	C <sup>o</sup>	

Exercises: play these chords:

1.	C		C <sub>m</sub>		C <sup>o</sup>		C <sup>+</sup>		
2.	D		D <sub>m</sub>		D <sup>o</sup>		D <sup>+</sup>		
3.	E		E <sub>m</sub>		E <sup>o</sup>		E <sup>+</sup>		
4.	B <sup>b</sup>		B <sup>b</sup> <sub>m</sub>		B <sup>b</sup> <sup>o</sup>		B <sup>b</sup> <sup>+</sup>		

Continue with these exercises for several weeks until you can play all keys.