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Holly Day
Jerry Kovarsky
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Piano & Keyboard

ALL-IN-ONE

by Holly Day, Jerry Kovarsky, Blake Neely,
David Pearl, and Michael Pilhofer

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Piano & Keyboard All-in-One For Dummies®

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Introduction

Welcome to *Piano & Keyboard All-In-One For Dummies!* You hold in your hands a well-rounded compendium of tips and advice about playing piano and other keyboard instruments, including electronic keyboards.

If you've never seen or put your hands on a piano or keyboard, no problem. This book starts at the very beginning and walks you through everything you need to know to tame that beast and make it sing sweet music. You'll also have fun along the way. That's the whole idea.

Maybe you have a little experience — like, say, maybe you were “encouraged” to take piano lessons as a youngster but are just now actually becoming interested in playing as an adult. Or maybe you poke around on your grandma's upright, or you got a Casio keyboard for your last birthday, and you want to start taking your playing a little more seriously. You too are in the right place. Or perhaps you're not bad on piano but are thinking of digging in to your wallet to buy a fancy new synthesizer or arranger keyboard, but aren't sure you can deal with the complicated-looking technology. This book can help you, too.

Basically, there's a whole lot here for anyone interested in playing piano or keyboards or taking their playing to the next level.

About This Book

Piano & Keyboard All-In-One For Dummies covers a wide range of topics, ranging all the way from what a quarter note is and how to find middle C, to breaking down the 12-bar blues structure, to hooking your keyboard up to

your music player so you can jam out to your favorite tunes on headphones.

The chapters in [Book 1](#) focus on getting to know the instrument — how to find a good, affordable one, what to look for, how to maintain it, and basically how it works and the best ways to play it. [Book 2](#) turns to the fundamentals of music itself, with chapters covering how music breaks down into notes and rests, how to read sheet music, and how to keep up with beats and rhythm. [Book 3](#) brings all that together and introduces scales, melodies, harmonies, keys and key signatures, and chords.

[Book 4](#) starts getting into more fancy stuff, like how to add flair to your playing, how to turn your left hand into your favorite accompanist, and what defines different classical and pop music forms. It also offers great tips on playing all kinds of music on piano and keyboard. [Book 5](#) is all about practice. As with anything, playing piano and keyboard do require dedication and repetition — it is, after all, the way to Carnegie Hall — but these chapters try to keep things as fun as possible while refining your skills. [Book 6](#) is all about electronic keyboards, how to choose one, how to find out what it can do and get the most out of it, and how to take advantage of its more complex features. The book finishes with a guide to the free online music tracks that are sprinkled throughout this book. Listening to these tracks can speed up your understanding and help sharpen your playing skills.

The book also contains an absolute ton of music. You'll have plenty — *plen-tee* — of songs and snippets to play and have fun with. And a lot of it is available for listening on the free online audio tracks.

Within this book, you may note that some web addresses break across two lines of text. If you're reading this book

in print and want to visit one of these web pages, simply key in the web address exactly as it's noted in the text, pretending as though the line break doesn't exist. If you're reading this as an e-book, you've got it easy — just tap the web address to be taken directly to the web page.

Foolish Assumptions

This books makes a few assumptions about you, the reader:

- » You like to listen to music and especially like the sound of piano and keyboard.
- » When you hear someone play the piano, it sparks something in you. You say to yourself something like, "I wish I could play like that."
- » You haven't had any piano lessons before, or you had some lessons at some point in your life, but you basically see yourself as a beginner. Either way, you'd like it all laid out and explained in a simple and easy-to-understand way.
- » You have a piano or keyboard but aren't playing it as much as you want to and need some help getting to the music making.
- » You don't have a piano or keyboard but are considering a purchase and would welcome help with the whole process. Most likely, your keyboard will have at least 25 black and white keys, may or may not plug into the wall, and will cost you as much as you're willing to part with.
- » You like to discover things for yourself.

If any of these assumptions is true for you, you're reading the right book.

Icons Used in This Book

As you go through the chapters of this book, you'll find the following friendly icons scattered here and there. They're designed to draw your attention to different kinds of information, from helpful guidance to pleasant diversions.



REMEMBER Be sure to pay attention to anything that has this icon attached. As you may guess, it's something important that you shouldn't forget.



TIP When you see this icon, you know that some handy-dandy information follows that can save you time, money, energy, and more.



TECHNICAL STUFF There's an occasional step into the swamp of technical jargon or complex discussion, and this icon gives you fair warning. It's not essential stuff. Feel free to flip past it if you just don't care.



WARNING Pay attention to text featuring this icon. It can help you avoid mistakes and problems.