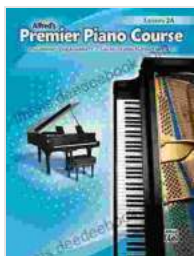


# Premier Piano Course Lesson 2a: Laying the Foundation for Piano Mastery



## Premier Piano Course: Lesson Book 2A by Dennis Alexander

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 14006 KB

Screen Reader : Supported

Print length : 48 pages

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Welcome to Premier Piano Course Lesson 2a, the stepping stone on your path to piano mastery. In this lesson, we'll embark on a journey of

discovery, unlocking the secrets of proper hand position, fingerings, and rhythm – the essential building blocks for any aspiring pianist.

## **The Importance of Hand Position**

Just as a sculptor carefully positions their tools to carve a masterpiece, so too must a pianist place their hands correctly on the keyboard to produce beautiful music. The correct hand position allows for maximum dexterity, control, and comfort while playing.

### **Step 1: Position Your Hands Flat**

Begin by placing your hands flat on the keyboard, with your fingers parallel to the keys. Avoid curling your fingers or arching them, as this can lead to tension and discomfort.

### **Step 2: Curve Your Fingers**

Once your hands are flat, gently curve your fingers so that the tips touch the keys. Imagine holding a small ball in each hand, allowing the ball to press down on the keys.

### **Step 3: Position Your Thumbs**

Your thumbs should be placed slightly behind your other fingers, directly under the black keys. This positioning allows for a strong and stable foundation for your hand.

## **Unlocking the Secrets of Fingerings**

Each finger on your hand is uniquely suited to playing specific keys on the piano. Understanding and applying the correct fingerings will enhance your accuracy, speed, and fluidity while playing.

## **Step 1: Meet Your Fingers**

Let's get acquainted with your fingers. Starting from your thumb, they are labeled 1 through 5:

- Thumb (1) - Index Finger (2) - Middle Finger (3) - Ring Finger (4) - Pinky Finger (5)

## **Step 2: Assign the Fingers**

Each finger has its designated keys on the keyboard. For Lesson 2a, we'll focus on the middle C scale, which uses the following fingerings:

- Middle C (C4): 1 - D (D4): 2 - E (E4): 3 - F (F4): 4 - G (G4): 5

## **Mastering the Rhythm**

Rhythm is the heartbeat of music, giving it its sense of movement and flow. In piano playing, rhythm refers to the timing and duration of the notes you play.

### **Step 1: Understanding Time Signatures**

A time signature tells you how many beats are in each measure and which note value receives one beat. In Lesson 2a, we'll use the time signature 4/4, which indicates four beats per measure and a quarter note receiving one beat.

### **Step 2: Counting the Beats**

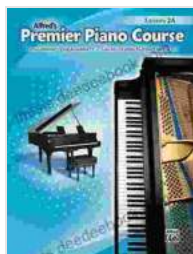
To maintain a steady rhythm, count the beats aloud as you play. In 4/4 time, count "1, 2, 3, 4" for each measure.

### **Step 3: Note Values**

Different note values represent different durations. In Lesson 2a, we'll use whole notes (four beats), half notes (two beats), quarter notes (one beat), and eighth notes (half a beat).

Congratulations! You've successfully completed Lesson 2a of the Premier Piano Course. By mastering the proper hand position, fingerings, and rhythm, you've laid the foundation for your piano-playing journey. Remember to practice regularly and consistently to reinforce these concepts and unlock your musical potential.

Embark on the next chapter of your piano adventure with Premier Piano Course Lesson 2b, where we'll delve deeper into fingerings and scales. Stay tuned for more exciting lessons and resources to guide you towards piano mastery.



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