

# 10

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## Performing A Song



## Following a Keyboard Chart

You have learned so much in these 9 lessons, it is time to start putting it all into practice by playing a song.

This lesson focuses on playing a song, whilst following the music from a **keyboard chart**. A keyboard chart, or **keyboard guide**, is the music **session players** are given to follow when they are asked to perform a tune, be it **live**, or in a **recording session**.

To do this though we need to prepare ourselves.

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## Understanding the Chart

Lets go through the chart together step by step looking at each bit and understanding what the chart is asking us to do.

### STEP ONE

The first thing you will see is the name of the tune 'The First Time' and the name of the **composer**. The title is the important one, as if you had a number of songs to play it is essential that you play the correct one!

### STEP TWO

At the top left hand side before the tune starts you will see the note, 4 **clicks**. This means that you will hear four clicks before the tune starts. This will help count you into the song.

### STEP THREE

Next is the **time signature** C which is the sign for **common time** and means there are 4 beats in each bar. This is all familiar territory for you.

### Lesson Objectives

- Introduce a piece of music to be played on the Keyboard.
- Follow a Keyboard Chart.
- Apply the learning points developed in lessons 1–9 focusing on:
  1. Fluency of performance, through economy of movement and knowledge of triad shapes.
  2. Ability to play inversions of chords.
  3. Time Keeping.
  4. Playing in time with a Band.
  5. Use of two hand co-ordination.
  6. Reading pitch, rhythm and note values.

## STEP FOUR

The first thing you play is a 6 bar pattern using whole notes and half notes. This generates quite a relaxed feel and you will realise later that this contributes significantly to the way the track builds dynamically.

This pattern is repeated as you have the beginning of the repeat at the start of bar 1 and the end repeat sign at the end of bar 6. You have both the left hand playing the bass note in the bass clef and the triad in the right hand in the treble clef which is a feature of the entire piece.

You will need to study the triads carefully to see how the triads are formed as we are using inversions throughout the piece to create smooth sounding chord progressions with economy of movement.

## STEP FIVE

So after you have played the verse you are then ready to move into the **chorus**.

The first thing you will notice is that there is a change in rhythm, as we are now including the use of a mixture of quarter and eighth notes in the right hand part.

An additional challenge here is that the left hand is playing a different rhythm from the right hand part so this section works your rhythmic coordination skills quite hard.

Bars 16 and 20 have specific rhythms written that you need to follow very closely, as the rest of the band play the same rhythm at these bars and you need to lock into that rhythm very tightly. Listen carefully to those bars to get the full effect.

## STEP SIX

After bar 20, we are into our second verse and you should notice that we have entered a section that has repeats. Find the end of the repeat at the end bar 26 so that you know where you are going.

Although the chords are exactly the same as Verse 1, the inversions are different to create a different, feel, sound and emotion, so look carefully at your chord progressions through this section.

## STEP SEVEN

Chorus 2 varies from Chorus 1 as we are creating more urgency in the track by adding an eighth note rhythm to our right hand. Again at bars 36 and 40 we are following a band rhythm so work on playing the rhythm very tightly.

The second half of the chorus has a change of rhythm and there are more inversions of the chords to manage. Take time to work them out and practise your hand movements.

## STEP EIGHT

After our second chorus we have our last verse which takes us to the end of the song. Here we have adjusted the chords again for dramatic and rhythmic interest using quarter, half and whole notes.

The third verse is not repeated and we finish the song by playing the chord of C in the final bar. The end of the tune is marked by ***Fine***, which means finish.

## STEP NINE

Now, I would suggest that you watch and listen to the multimedia files and follow the chart through a couple of times. Once you have done that, have a go yourself. You can play with the keyboard player or mute the keyboard track so that you can play with the band on your own.

Remember to:

1. Concentrate.
2. Count.
3. Look at the chart as you play.
4. Cycle the difficult bits and practise them.
5. Slow it down to a tempo you can play and read at.
6. Have fun.

## Song 1: lesson010.ikspas01.thefirsttime

Brian Greene/GigajamKeyboardSchool  
 Arranged by Terry Gregory

## The First Time

4 clicks

Verse 1

1 / 7      2      3      4      5      6 / 12

Chorus 1

13

Verse 2

18      21 / 27

Chorus 2

25      26 / 32      33

35

2

Verse 3

40 41

Musical notation for measures 40 and 41. Measure 40 features a treble clef with a series of chords and a bass clef with a melodic line. Measure 41 features a treble clef with a series of chords and a bass clef with a single note.

44

Musical notation for measures 44 and 45. Measure 44 features a treble clef with a series of chords and a bass clef with a single note. Measure 45 features a treble clef with a series of chords and a bass clef with a single note.

Fine