

## Private Lessons

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## Screens and Controls

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## **Welcome to Private Lessons!**

Private Lessons is a self paced, interactive keyboard teaching program. Its five level program teaches basic music reading and keyboard technique in an easy, fun way. Each level introduces a number of new musical topics in the Level Introduction. After the introduction you will have the opportunity to practice and test your musical knowledge as you learn to play familiar songs in the Practice Lessons.

Each practice lesson breaks the practice song down into smaller sections, letting you master each section before moving on. Then, when you have completed the practice session, a performance window displays the entire piece and lets you perform along with your own backup band!

# Using Private Lessons

## Registration

When you choose Private Lessons from MusicStar™'s main menu, you are presented with the Registration dialog box. Press the New button to enter your name. This will allow Private Lessons to keep track of your progress. Each time you run Private Lessons in the future, you should select your name before entering the Contents screen.

## Private Lessons Introduction

Once you leave the registration dialog you will be presented with an introduction to Private Lessons. To move through the introduction press the [Next] button. When the introduction is finish the application will display the Lesson Contents Screen.

## Selecting a Lesson in the Contents Screen

The Lesson Contents Screen is divided into five levels. Each level has a Level Introduction and five Practice Lessons. The Level Introduction introduces new musical topics for that level. The Practice lessons are songs that incorporate the new topics from the Level Introduction. When moving on to a new level you should select the Level Introduction first and study it. When you are comfortable with the introduction topics you should go through each of the five Practice Lessons.

## Practice Lessons

The Practice Lessons are songs which incorporate the musical topics from the Level Introduction. These songs are broken down into sections called "phrases". There are usually 2 - 4 phrases in each Practice Lesson song. You will learn each phrase by going through a number of drills call "Trainers". There are three trainers for each phrase; Melody Trainer, Rhythm Trainer and the Combine Melody and Rhythm Trainer. (Level 1 uses Melody Trainer only) The Melody Trainer teaches the notes in the phrase. The Rhythm Trainer teaches the rhythm of the phrase, without regard for pitch. Lastly, the Combine Melody and Rhythm Trainer lets you combine what you learned in the previous two trainers. Each of these screens share a common user interface.

The trainer interface displays the notes in the phrase in a window at the top portion of the screen. During the lessons a "hand" cursor points out the note that is to be played next. At the top right of the window the current lesson and phrase are displayed. At the top left is the current trainer. Below the musical staff are messages that prompt you with what to do next and provide status information for the program.

Underneath the notation window are a row of buttons. The [Next] and [Previous] buttons move you through the trainers for each phrase. The [Show Me] button provides a demonstration of the current phrase. Pressing the [Practice] button allows you to try playing the phrase at your own pace. Lastly, clicking the [Test] button will prompt you to play the phrase then provides a score at the end of your performance. If you score over 80% Private Lessons will suggest that you move on, however you can stay and practice if you really want to sharpen your skills. If you score below 80% Private Lessons will suggest that you practice some more. Once again, you can choose to move on or stay and practice.

The keyboard display at the lower portion of the screen shows the keys that are to be played in the phrase. When the [Show Me] button is pressed, the key that corresponds to the current note in the phrase will depress. From the keyboard display you can also adjust the Volume and Tempo of the lesson. The Instrument buttons let you practice using different instrument sounds.

Because some musical phrases are more difficult to master than others, Private Lessons was designed so that you can proceed at your own speed. If you find that a rhythm drill for a particular phrase is very easy, then press the next button to move on. Conversely, if you find that a particular melody or rhythm is difficult you can stay in that Trainer for as long as it take for you to master it. You are in control of your Private Lesson.

## Performance

Once you have mastered the last phrase of the song, in the Rhythm & Melody Trainer, pressing the [Next] button will bring you to the Performance screen. This screen displays the entire song as you would see it on a page of sheet music. Once again you can press [Show Me] to see and hear a demonstration of the song or press [Practice] to work on your technique. When you feel you are ready, press the [Performance] button and play along with your very own backup band!

## Contents Screen

The Contents Screen functions as a jumping off point for Private Lessons. To begin, simply click on Level 1 Introduction. This will take you to the Level 1 Introductory text screens. After you complete the Introduction, click on the first Practice Lesson, which will take you to the interactive practice screens. Continue working through each Level, clicking on the Introductions and the Practice Lessons that follow. Red check marks will appear on the Contents Screen as you complete each Introduction and Lesson, keeping track of your progress.

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## **Menu**

The Menu button will bring you back to the main **MusicStar™** menu.

## Setup

The Setup button will open the Setup dialog box where you can:

1. Select the MIDI Mapper setup:

Base Level Synth with Drums on MIDI Channel 16 or

Extended Level Synth with Drums on MIDI Channel 10;

Note: This is done for you automatically during the installation. However, if you change your sound card or your MIDI Mapper settings you may need to select a different setup.

2. Select MIDI Input Device. This is your sound cards MIDI driver. If a driver is not available in the drop down box then you need to refer to your sound cards documentation on setting up your sound card for Windows 3.1.

3. Select a sound to be used as your Custom Sound throughout the MusicStar™ application. You can choose one of one hundred and twenty eight sounds.



## **Songbook**

Pressing the Songbook button will display the Songbook dialog box. This dialog box lists all of the songs from the practice lessons. When you select a song and press OK the Performance Screen will be displayed with the selected song. This allows you to go back and perform any of the songs without going through the practice drills.

## Level Introduction

Each Level will have an Introduction which will teach you information corresponding to the following Practice Lessons. Read through the text, using the Next and Previous buttons to navigate. At the last text screen, pressing Next or Contents will take you back to the Contents Screen. A red check mark will appear indicating that you have completed the Level Introduction.

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## **Contents**

Pressing the Contents button will take you back to the Private Lessons Contents Screen where you can choose a Level Introduction or Practice Lesson.

## **Previous**

Pressing the Previous button will take you back to the previous screen.

## **Next**

Pressing the Next button will take you to the next screen.

## Melody Trainer

**Melody Trainer** helps you work on learning the note pitches - the melody - of a phrase. Take your time as **Melody Trainer** takes you through the phrase one note at a time. On the screen will be the staff with each note labeled with its letter name and the correct finger used to play the note.

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## Rhythm Trainer

**Rhythm Trainer** helps you learn the rhythm of a phrase - the length of notes and which beat they fall on. Instead of a five line staff, on the **Rhythm Trainer** screen will be a one-line staff notating only the rhythm of the phrase. You only need to play one note on the keyboard (any note you want) when learning with **Rhythm Trainer**. A **metronome** will be used to help you count the beats.

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## Melody & Rhythm Trainer

**Melody & Rhythm Trainer** helps you combine what you've learned in the previous two Trainers -- learning to play the right pitches (Melody) at the right time (Rhythm). A **metronome** will be used to help you keep track of the tempo.

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## Show Me

The [Show Me] button lets you watch and listen as **Private Lessons** plays through the phrase. The cursor will point to the note on the staff that is being played and the keyboard display will show the corresponding key that is to be played on the keyboard.

## **Practice**

Press the [Practice] button to practice the phrase without being graded.

## **Test**

The [Test] button tests your skills. It will present a grade and let you know if you are ready to move on in the lesson.

## **Volume**

The up and down arrows on the keyboard display control the loudness of the melody.

## **Tempo**

The up and down arrows on the keyboard display control the speed of the rhythm -- the tempo.

## Instruments

Select the sound you want to play the melody by clicking on one of the ten instrument buttons. A red light will indicate the selected instrument.

## Performance Screen

Once you have mastered the trainers in each phrase, the application will bring you to the Performance screen. This screen displays the entire score so you can play the song from start to finish. The familiar [Show Me] and [Practice] buttons let you polish up your technique. Then, when you're ready, click the [Perform] button to play the song with **MusicStar™'s** automatic back-up band!

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## **Perform**

Once you have mastered the trainers for each phrase, you will automatically be taken to the Performance Screen. Here you can practice putting all of the phrases together, and when you are ready, press the [Perform] button to play the song along with a backup band.



## **Background Volume**

The Background Volume control allows you to adjust the loudness of the background accompaniment that plays while you are performing a song.

## Fingering

Throughout the lessons, fingering notations will be found above notes.

A number will indicate which finger to use to play the note, as according to the following chart:

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

