

Piano Professor™ Help Contents



[Using Piano Professor](#)



[Whats New in Version 2!](#)



[Musical Terms](#)



[Licensing](#)



[Registration](#)



[Warranty and Disclaimer](#)



[Technical Support](#)



[Trouble Shooting Guide](#)



[About SofTech Multimedia, Inc.](#)



[Credits and Contributions](#)



[Authors Comments](#)



Introduction to Piano Professor

[Navigating in Piano Professor](#)

[Note Tutor](#)

[Chord Encyclopedia](#)

[Name that Note](#)

[Key Signatures](#)

[Great Staff](#)

[Keyboard](#)

Navigation in Piano Professor

Using the Piano Professor is simple and easy. Descriptive pull down menus allow you to navigate your way through the product quickly and easily.

The File menu option

The **File** option contains the following sub options:

Music On will allow you to turn the music on or off system wide. If there is a check mark next to the option, the music will be turned on throughout the product. If there is no check box next to the option, the music will be turned off throughout the system.

Register Software will allow you to register this product with SofTech Multimedia Inc. Registering the software has many advantages, see the section on [Product Registration](#)

The View menu option

The **View** option allows you to change to any screen on demand, simply pull down the menu and select the screen that you wish to go to. The Great Staff screen will come up in a view only mode. This means that the user uses the screen as a reference, and closes it when he/she is done using it. There is help for all the screens contained in the product. The help will aid the user in using the screen he/she is on.

The Help menu option

Under the **Help** menu option, you will find the different help options that allow you access different types of help.

Help on this Screen will give you access to help that pertains to the specific screen that you are on. This will enable you to quickly access help about the screen that will give you help and tips on how to use the screen.

Contents will take you to the Help Table of Contents which includes all the major topics in the help file. From here you can just click on the highlighted topics and you will jump directly to the help topic that you just pressed.

Search for Help on... will allow you to search for help on any of the specific topics in the help file. You can search for topics by typing the key words into the search box that comes up. When you have found the topic that you wish to go to, you can press the **Show Topics** button, from there you can press the **Go to** button to go to the help screen for that topic.

About Piano Professor explains what version of the Piano Professor you are running, how to contact SofTech Multimedia Inc. , as well as registration and system information. The system information is a useful tool that will determine you system hardware as well as you currently installed multimedia devices.

Technical Support is an easy way for you to find out how to contact SofTech Multimedia Inc. for any technical support, registration information or orders for new products.



Whats New In Version 2.0!

With the overwhelming response we have received in orders and new suggestions and ideas we have dramatically improved Piano Professor with version 2.0. This new release is because of all the honest users who have registered your copy of the product. Keep sending in those ideas and orders as we will continue to pursue an even better product that meets your learning needs. We would like to thank those users who have taken the time to register their product and all registered users will receive the free upgrad to this new version 2.0 of the Piano Professor.

We chose to release this as a new version simply because of the many changes and additions that were instituted. The enhancements include the following:

- Ability to play sound through the PC speaker. This allows those of you without sound cards to still hear and enjoy the Piano Professor.
- Some people had problems with the MIDI Mapper being a requirement. This was fixed so that the Piano Professor will now correctly identify and use other ports.
- We added the ability to RECORD and PLAY your lessons in the Note Tutor.
- The Note Tutor has some new game fun added. You can race against the clock in your attempt to identify or guess the notes.
- At the request of our European users we have added the ability to see the Solfeggio notation in the Piano Professor.
- The problems that occurred in the installation program are now completely resolved.

Using the Piano Professor™

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Technical Support is an easy way for you to find out how to contact SofTech Multimedia Inc. for any technical support, registration information or orders for new products.



Reference Information

The chord encyclopedia is a reference to different chords. It allows the user to pick the key, chord name and inversion. Once the user chooses all the options, the **View Key** will enable them to see and hear the chord (if sound is available). The keys will be highlighted in red. The user will also hear the chord played if a sound device has been installed.

Explanation of Chords

A **major chord** is a three key chord called a triad. The triad contains the first, third and fifth notes of the scale that the chord is in. For the key of C, these notes would be C, E and G (at root position).

A **minor chord** is similar to a major chord, but with the third note of the scale lowered a half step. In the case of C, the third note of the scale is E, therefore if you lower this note a half step it will result in E Flat. So the a C Minor chord would be C, E Flat, G.

A **seventh chord** is comprised of the major chord and the seventh note of the scale one half step lower. As an example, the seventh note of the C scale is B. To get the seventh chord play the triad plus the seventh note minus a half step. In this case, a half step lower would be a B flat. Thus the notes for a C7 would (root position) would be C, E, G and B Flat.

Chord Inversions are simply a different way to represent a given chord. The root position has as the first key, the first note, the name of the key corresponding to the chord. So for the chord C major, the key C on the piano would be in the root position. The first inversion has the third note of the scale as the first position, and the second inversion has the fifth note of the scale in the first position. For C major - First Inversion, the first key in the triad would be E followed by G and C, and for the second inversion, the first key in the triad would be G followed by E and C.

Note Tutor

The Note Tutor was designed to help the user learn how to identify notes on the musical staves in relation to their position on the keyboard. The screen employs several different methods to help the user obtain this goal. The Note Tutor screen is comprised of several controls that allow easy operation by individuals of all ages and skill levels. The Top half of the screen contains the musical staves with both Treble and Bass levels. The lower portion of the screen contains the keyboard and the controls for different learning experiences.

The user opens the screen and selects the new note button which will randomly display different notes on the graphical staves without giving the note name to the user. The notes will only be displayed for the staff that is active. The user can attempt to guess the note without the help of the computer, but if it becomes necessary, the Eye/Ear button can be pressed and the name of the note will be displayed in the box next to the **Eye/Ear** button. The note will also be displayed in red on the graphical keyboard below the staves. As you keep practicing, the recognition of notes will become easier and easier until you are able to identify the notes without using the help button. Once you have mastered this concept, the ability to read music and play the notes on the real keyboard will be much easier. This concept can also be reversed, in so far as the user can press the keys on the graphical keyboard, and the note will be displayed on the proper staff. You will visually see the cursor change when a keyboard note is playable. Any note above and including middle C will be displayed on the Treble clef, and any note below middle C will be displayed on the bass clef.

The Controls for Note Tutor



You will have complete control of your learning experience by simply using the controls illustrated here. These controls allow you to switch between Treble and Bass; toggle Play mode or Guess mode; generate a new note; and hear and see the note illustrated both on the keyboard and the music sheet.



New Note button

This button will randomly generate notes on the currently selected staff. This allows the user to guess the note in his or her head, or to try and guess the note by pressing keys on the keyboard. If you have trouble guessing the note, you can press the **Eye/Ear** button at any time to receive the answer. By using this method, the user will become more and more proficient at reading and identifying the notes.



Eye/Ear button (Show and Hear)

This button allows the user to obtain help, by sight and sound, on the note shown on the currently selected staff. The selected staff is shown by the Staff button. If the user cannot identify the note and wishes to use the computer for help, this button will display the key on the graphical keyboard below the staff in red that corresponds to the note. The name of the note will also be displayed in the Note Information box. If sound is available, the note will be played.



Staff button

This button identifies the active staff. When you press the **New Note** button, or the **Eye/Ear** Button, the information displayed, whether it be a new note or information on that note, will be related to the note on the staff displayed on this button.

The Staff button is a toggle button. When the button says Bass on it, and has the Bass clef symbol, the New Note button (shown above) will only produce notes that fall into the Bass range (middle C and lower). Pressing the button once will toggle you into Treble mode. This allows you quick access between the two modes.



Play/Guess button

This set of buttons allow the user to switch between attempting to guess a note on the staff and playing the keyboard and seeing the notes appear on the staff. In Play Piano mode the notes pressed on the keyboard on the screen or a MIDI keyboard attached to the computer are displayed on the staves. In Guess Note mode a note will appear on the staves and the user is expected to press the appropriate key on the screen or with the MIDI keyboard.

In addition to all of this, the user can press any of the white keys on the keyboard to simulate playing the keyboard. When the key is pressed, the note is lit up in red, the musical note is played (if there is sound) and the note name is displayed in the Note Information box.

Chord Encyclopedia

The chord encyclopedia is a reference to different chords. It allows the user to pick the key, chord name and inversion. Once the user chooses all the options, the View Key will enable them to see and hear the chord (if sound is available). The keys will be highlighted in red. The user will also hear the chord played if a sound device has been installed.



Chord Selection box

By using the above control box the user can drop down a menu of the available keys to select the chord from. The user can also change the chord that is to be displayed in the same manner. The available keys are: C, D flat, D, E flat, E, F, F sharp, G, A flat, A, B flat, B. The available chords are: Major, Minor, 6, 7, Major 7, Minor 7, Dim, Dim 7, Aug, Aug 7, Sus 4.

Explanation of Chords

A **major chord** is a three key chord called a triad. The triad contains the first, third and fifth notes of the scale that the chord is in. For the key of C, these notes would be C, E and G (at root position).

A **minor chord** is similar to a major chord, but with the third note of the scale lowered a half step. In the case of C, the third note of the scale is E, therefore if you lower this note a half step it will result in E Flat. So the a C Minor chord would be C, E Flat, G.

A **seventh chord** is comprised of the major chord and the seventh note of the scale one half step lower. As an example, the seventh note of the C scale is B. To get the seventh chord play the triad plus the seventh note minus a half step. In this case, a half step lower would be a B flat. Thus the notes for a C7 would (root position) would be C, E, G and B Flat.

For further information on types of chords, refer to any book on musical theory.



Chord Inversion box

Chord Inversions are simply a different way to represent a given chord. The root position has as the first key, the first note, the name of the key corresponding to the chord. So for the chord C major, the key C on the piano would be in the root position. The first inversion has the third note of the scale as the first position, and the second inversion has the fifth note of the scale in the first position. For C major - First Inversion, the first key in the triad would be E followed by G and C, and for the second inversion, the first key in the triad would be G followed by E and C.



Eye/Ear button (Show and Hear)

This button allows the user to obtain help, by sight and sound, on the chord and key combination shown in the Chord Selection box. The selected Chord, Key and Inversion are shown on the graphical keyboard with a red highlight. Below the graphical keyboard the chord name will be identified. If sound is available, the chord will be played.

Key Signatures

The Key Signature screen will help the user to identify all the different key signatures. A key signature is shown at the beginning of each bar of music. It tells the musician what key the music is in.

The key is determined by the composer, when she or he decides that a particular note will be flatted or sharped throughout the entire piece without further instruction. The symbols may be either flats or sharps., they are never mixed. This tells the reader of the music what to do when they see that note in the music. If the symbol is on that note in the key signature, and the user is now playing that note, the musician must play that note either flatted or sharped, depending on the symbol.

A flat implies that the player lowers the note a half step. Therefore, if the key signature shown is in the key of F, that is, there is a flat symbol on the B note of the staff, every time the player sees a B in the music he/she should play a B Flat.

The same goes for sharps, except that you must raise the note a half step. Therefore, if the key signature shown is in the key of G, that is, a sharp symbol appears on the F note of the staff, every time the user sees an F in the music, they should play F sharp. It is very useful to the musician to be able to recognize the keys at a glance, and be able to comfortably play in these keys without much thought. By learning to recognize these keys quickly the player will be able to play more music with more proficiency.

Name That Note

This screen can be used to train your ear to recognize notes based solely on their sound. The computer will play a note for you, it up to you to guess the correct note. By Pressing the **New Note** button, the user can have the computer play a new note. The computer will play a note in the range designated by the **Range of Notes to Generate** selection. The **Ear** button will allow you to hear the last note played by the computer.

As you continue to try an guess different notes, the computer will keep track of you progress by displaying you current statistics. It will tell the number of notes you have guessed since you entered the Piano Professor, or since the last time you cleared the score by using the **Reset Score** menu option. The computer will also record the number of times you have tries to guess the current note. The **Average Number of Guesses** is a running average which is computed by the total number of guesses divided by the number of correct notes guessed.

HINT:

If you are really struggling trying to guess the note, you can obtain the answer by placing the mouse cursor over the ear button and pressing the **RIGHT** mouse button. Note, that this method does not contribute to your overall statistics.

The Controls for Name that Note



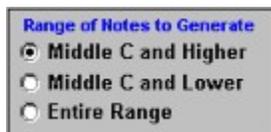
New Note button

This button will randomly generate notes over the selected note range. The user will then attempt to guess the note by pressing keys on the keyboard. The computer will then keep a record of incorrect guesses and average out the number of guesses per note. If you have trouble guessing the note, you can press the **Ear** button, with the right mouse button, at any time to receive the answer.



Ear Button

The Ear button will allow the user to hear the current note again. This button may be pressed as many times as necessary. If you should get stuck on a given note then you can click the Ear button with the right mouse button to receive the answer.



Range button

The Range button will allow you to decrease the number of notes that Name that Note can randomly pick. If the Range button is set to Middle C and Higher then the note that is generated is within the range of Middle C and Higher. If the Range button is set to Middle C and Lower then the note that is generated is

within the range of Middle C and Lower. The last option, Entire Range, will not limit the scope of notes that can be picked. It is advisable to choose a limited range of notes before trying to use notes from the entire range.

Great Staff

The Great Staff is a reference screen designed to show the user the notes names at the positions on both the Treble and Bass clefs. It is used to help the user identify what note is a specific position on either of the staves. What is nice about this screen is that it gives a pictorial and full representation of both staves, and the user can see all the note names on one screen.

This screen can be brought up from any other screen in the product. It comes up as a reference screen. What this means is that the screen is no meant to have interactive capabilities. When the user is done using this screen, he or she should press the Done button to close the screen and return to the base screen from which they brought up the Great Staff screen.

Keyboard Screen

The Keyboard screen explains the different parts of the piano keyboard, as well as some of the notation used on a piano keyboard. If you ever wondered what a sharp or flat was, or why there are white and black keys, this is the screen for you to use!



Registration



[Registering via U.S. Mail](#)



[Registering via CompuServe](#)



[Registering via Telephone](#)



[Benefits of Registering](#)



U.S. Mail Registration

You may register your copy of Piano Professor for Windows by printing the registration form. If you do not have a printer you may copy the information from the screen.

Enclose your check or money order (drawn on U.S. funds) for the amount of \$24.95 and made payable to SofTech Multimedia, Inc. New York State residents please add 8% sales tax (\$26.95 total). There is a shipping and handling fee of \$4.00 for U.S. and Canadian residents and \$6.00 outside the U.S. Mail your order to:

**SofTech Multimedia, Inc.
2199 East Henrietta Road
Suite #249
Rochester, NY 14623-4505**

The day we receive your order we will ship your 3.5 diskette(s). If you would like your software on 5.25 diskettes then you must specify this on the order form and include an additional charge of \$2.00.

You will also receive your registration serial number that will make your copy of Piano Professor for Windows a registered copy. You will also be eligible for a free update on the next version of the product.



Registering via CompuServe

Electronic orders may be placed with CompuServe Information Services. The amount of \$34.95 will be billed directly to your CompuServe statement for your convenience. This covers all shipping and handling charges as well as applicable sales tax. Just type **GO SWREG** and request SofTech Multimedia, Inc. Our SWREG ID is **2862**.

We receive confirmation of your order from CompuServe within a couple of hours. We will then send you your letter of authorization, official diskettes, and security ID by U.S. Mail within 1 day of your order. We will mail you, via CIS mail, your security ID, within 24 hours, so that you can remove the end registration reminder and gain access to all of the programs features.



Registering via Telephone



You may register your copy of Piano Professor for Windows using MasterCard, Visa, American Express, and Discover Card. This is a service provided by Public (software) Library which we will be using as our distributor for credit card orders. You may contact PsL at (800) 242-4775. You will need to specify the Product Number: **11334** for Piano Professor. PsL operates from 9:00am - 6:00pm Pacific Time Monday through Friday.

You may print the Credit Card [registration form](#) if you desire to mail or fax in your credit card order.

Please note that the above numbers are for credit card orders only. Any questions about the status of the shipment of the order, refunds, registration options, product details, [Technical Support](#), volume discounts, educational discounts, dealer pricing, or site licenses should be directed to SofTech Multimedia, Inc.

To insure that you get the latest version, PsL will notify us the day of your order and we will ship the product directly to you.



Benefits of Registering

You may have noticed that the *Piano Professor* has certain limitations built into it for non-registered users. By registering the product, you can unleash its full potential. We have tried only to limit the more advanced features while still providing you enough opportunity to explore and use the product and *try before you buy*. The following will illustrate what you will gain from registration:

- ▣ You will receive a registration serial number and password along with 2 official diskettes with the latest version of Piano Professor. You will also be eligible for a free upgrade to the next revision.

- ▣ The Note Tutor screen will allow you to play the entire piano, instead of just one octave.

- ▣ You will be able to access all the chords on the Chord Encyclopedia rather than just Major, Minor and Sixth chords.

- ▣ On Name that Note you will get the benefit of reducing the notes generated by the computer to only half of the keyboard instead of the entire range.

- ▣ Another advantage of registration will be the ability to see all the key signatures instead of a restricted set on the Key Signature screen.

- ▣ You will receive 90 days of free technical support.

- ▣ Finally, registration of the product will help all of us at SofTech Multimedia Inc. pay our bills, eat, and bring you more great software at affordable prices.

Order Form for Piano Professor for Windows Version 1.0a.

(Check or Money Order)

If you have a printer you may print this form by selecting Print Topic from the File menu. For those without a printer you may copy this information on a sheet of paper.

Enclose your check or money order (drawn on U.S. funds) for the amount of \$24.95 per copy and made payable to SofTech Multimedia, Inc. New York State residents please add 8% sales tax (\$26.95 sub-total). There is a shipping and handling fee of \$4.00 for U.S. and Canadian residents and \$6.00 outside the U.S. Please Mail to:

SofTech Multimedia, Inc.
2199 East Henrietta Road
Suite #249
Rochester, NY 14623-4505
Phone: (716) 288-5830
Product Code for Piano Professor for Windows is: 11334

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail Address:(if applicable): _____

Desired Features, Questions,Comments: _____

Number of Copies: _____ X \$24.95 = _____

NY Sales Tax(if applicable) @8.00% = _____

Shipping & Handling (see above) = _____

Total: _____

Thank you for your support!

Order Form for Piano Professor for Windows Version 1.0a.

(Credit Cards Only)

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This form is for credit card orders such as MasterCard, Visa, American Express, or Discover Card. You may Email this completed form by CIS Email to 71355,470. You may also FAX or Mail this completed form as well. Please fill out the form completely and be sure to sign the signature line. Please Fax(24 Hours a day/7 days a week) or Mail to:

**Public (software) Library
P.O. Box 35705
Houston, TX 77235-5705
FAX: (713) 524-6398**

Product Code for Piano Professor for Windows is: 11334

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail Address:(if applicable): _____

Credit Card Type: _____

Name as it appears on Credit Card: _____

Expiration Date of Credit Card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Signature of Card Holder: _____

Desired Features, Questions,Comments: _____

Number of Copies: _____ X \$24.95 = _____
NY Sales Tax(if applicable) @8.00% = _____
Shipping & Handling (see above) = _____
Total: _____

Thank you for your support!



Technical Support

Registered users of Piano Professor can obtain technical support through either CompuServe or the Internet by sending mail to our technical support department. We will provide all registered users 90 days of free technical support. Technical support questions should be addressed with the subject heading: ***Piano Professor Support Needed***. You should mail these to CompuServe Account 74043,1703. For those mailing us from the internet, the address would be 74043.1703@compuserve.com. You will receive a reply within 24 hours addressing your questions, problems, ideas, and even criticisms.

In order to answer your technical questions you will need to provide us with the following:

- Your full name.
- Your address.
- Your telephone number or e-mail address so we can contact you.
- The name of the product.
- The product version number.
- Your product serial number.

You can obtain the last three items by doing a Help/About in the program and the information will be provided to you.

While we have instituted quality control and software engineering practices, those little nasty critters called bugs may have wandered in at some point. If you happen to locate and bugs, major problems, etc. you may submit bug reports to us through CompuServe, internet, voice mail, or regular mail.

We have also attempted to test this product on a variety of computers and under various conditions, but we cant possibly try every combination, so please feel free to inform us of any difficulties that you may encounter, registered or non-registered. If you are reporting a bug, please include the following:

- An exact description of the problem.
- A list of your system's hardware and software.
- What you were last doing when the bug occurred
- Can you reproduce the bug more then once

In terms of the content. We have worked with professionals in the music arena for their input and suggestions on this product. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the content aspect, such as disagreeing with something as it is stated or presented, please feel free to let us know that as well.

We welcome any suggestion, criticism, and/or grand ideas that could help make this product better. We promise to take into consideration any reasonable ideas that you may provide. As long as their is enough support and ideas, you can be sure to continue to see new and improved versions.

Contact information:

SofTech Multimedia, Inc.

2199 East Henrietta Road

Suite # 249

Rochester, NY 14623-4505

Phone: (716) 288-5830

Compuserve: 74043,1703

Internet: 74043.1703@compuserve.com



End-User License Agreement

Shareware. This product is being released as Shareware. You may use it for a 30 day trial period. If you use it for more than 30 days then you are required to [register](#) this product. You may distribute the Shareware version of this product to anyone you wish, so long as all files remain and nothing is altered in anyway. The registered version of this product **MAY NOT** be distributed freely and you must comply with the following Licensing Agreement stated below. If at the end of 30 days you choose not to register the product it must be removed from your hard drive.

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Credits and Contributions

We would like to thank the following individuals for their help and expertise in getting this product together. Without their contributions this product would not have been possible:

- ▣ **Daryl Pietrocarlo**- For his constant devotion as the senior software engineer and lead programmer.
- ▣ **Sten McKenzie**- The great job with our Piano Professor(tm) Logo and for the Main Menu graphics.
- ▣ **Fred Costello**- For reviewing the product and providing his music expertise, advice, and guidance.
- ▣ **Edith Lawson**- For her devotion in writing the users manual and other behind the scene efforts.
- ▣ **Todd Foster**- For his art skills in developing the registration control.
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- ▣ **Kevin Brinsmaid**- for his dedication to developing a full proof installation and the other behind the scenes efforts.

We use **INSTALLShield** to build all of our installation programs and thank the people at Stirling Technologies, Inc. for all their help. Stirling has made a very fine product and we recommend **INSTALLShield** to anyone producing software. **INSTALLShield** has made our lives easier by providing a complete setup for building installation programs and hopefully makes your life easier by providing a simple and intuitive means of getting your software up and running. Stirling Technologies, Inc. may be reached at (800) 374-4353.



About SofTech Multimedia, Inc.

You are probably wondering a little about our company and the history of our company. We are a small, privately owned software development and consulting company. We have been developing applications for clients on a customized basis for about two years now. Our team of programming experience dates back about 10 years. We are in no way a large software house, but do hope to grow with your continued support. We are hoping to continue expanding our product lines and offering you quality software and low cost. We have made a commitment to produce software and sell it for less than \$25.00. We feel that properly engineered software products should not cost above that price range. Most of today's commercial applications are priced ridiculously high due to the large overhead involved in the marketing and advertising. We believe in the shareware concept and hope that you do too. Shareware allows programmers such as ourselves to bring quality products to you at the low costs simply because there is no overhead in advertising and marketing. Thus we can spend more of the money on hiring more talent in the areas of art and programming.

SofTech Multimedia's mission is to help usher in the Multimedia technologies in the professional, educational, and entertainment areas. We are achieving these goals by consulting and developing software for other companies that will be marketed by those companies and developing titles under our own label.

We do provide custom programming services and consulting services both locally, nationally, and internationally. We have consulted to small business and fortune 500 companies. Should you be interested in having software developed please feel free to contact us. If you have any suggestions for future product enhancements, new ideas, or anything else that we may be able to help with, please feel free to drop us a line.

■ Authors Note

I am writing this section in an attempt to explain in a non-technical way the reason why I wrote this piece of software, and how I think it can help you learn to play the piano.

When I was younger I took piano lessons for approximately 3 months. During this period I was taught to play scales, scales and even more scales. I was then taught to play a few songs that were not very interesting as far as I was concerned. Shortly afterward, my piano lessons ceased, but my interest and admiration for those that could play music (especially on the piano) increased more and more.

During the end of my college years, I was fortunate enough to cross paths with a friend of mine who could play the piano exceptionally well. He showed me how to play a few songs that I actually recognized, one of which was the beginning of Fur Elise by Ludwig Van Beethoven. I was hooked. The catch was that in order to play the song I would have to either drive my friend crazy with nagging questions or learn how to read music. Obviously, I took the latter path.

I went to a music store and bought the sheet music to Fur Elise. The problem was that the only note I could recognize in the sheet music and actually find on the piano was middle C. Armed with this knowledge, I started counting up or down from middle C to figure out the notes I didn't know, and quickly forgot the next time I saw them in the music. Attempting to make my fingers play the keys was one problem that I knew could be overcome with practice, but I figured that there had to be a better way to teach myself how to recognize notes. Herein lies the beginning of the *Piano Professor*.

I started with an extremely simple DOS based program that made notes randomly hop around on the staves without giving the note name. The only way to reveal the name of note was to press a special key on the computer keyboard. So, I would guess the name of the note I saw in my head and use the computer as the confirmation. If I didn't know the name, the computer had the answer! I could sit at my computer and teach myself to read music. Each time I sat down and used the program, I would become more and more proficient at guessing the notes. I noticed a great improvement in my playing because I was no longer trying to figure out the note while trying to play it. Now I could concentrate solely on making my fingers play the note. The *Note Tutor* is a representation of this first program, albeit a lot more elegant. Adding the functionality to plug in a MIDI capable keyboard was almost left out of the first version, but after seeing it work, I just couldn't leave it out.

As my playing became better I found (as did many other musicians) that I could pick up a piece of popular music, play the melody with my right hand and play the guitar chords shown above the music with my left hand. This is easier than attempting to read and play all the notes usually required in the bass with your left hand. Once you know a chord, it becomes a position rather than 3 or 4 notes. Even though there is a theory behind the creation of chords, I could not always remember the theory or I just wasn't sure if what I was playing was correct. So I wrote the *Chord Encyclopedia*, which includes most of the major chords found in music, and I refer to it often.

Name that Note was written because I wasn't born with the gift of being able to name a note simply by hearing the sound. I wrote this screen to help those of us who would like to get better at being able to recognize notes just by the sound. I think this screen has already helped me, I hope it can help you.

The *Key Signature* screen will help you to recognize the different keys that music is written in. By knowing what key a piece of music is in, playing along with music or playing by ear definitely comes easier.

The *Keyboard* screen was written to guide those that have never had any real experience with a piano, and hopefully, will be enough to get you started with the *Piano Professor*.

If you have read this far, I am grateful. I hope that this program can be of some use to you or someone you know. I wrote it because I love to play the piano and would like to take some of the fear out of learning to play it. Playing the piano does not come easy, you still have to practice. I am by no means an expert in the area, most are better than I. For those who can play the piano, I hope this proves a useful tool. For those just learning, it is my desire that the *Piano Professor* can help you to learn faster and ease the discouragement that can be accompanied when learning to play. Enjoy.

Daryl Pietrocarlo -- Rochester, New York USA

▣ Musical Terms

Used to Indicate Tempo

Used to Indicate Change in Tempo

Used to Indicate Volume of Sound

Used to Indicate Change in Volume of Sound

Used to Indicate Simultaneous reduction of Tempo & Volume

Used to indicate Mood, Degree, Intensity, or Style

Musical Terms that Indicate Tempo

Slow

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Lento</i> | Slow |
| <i>Largo</i> | Broad |
| <i>Adagio</i> | At ease, slow, drawn out |
| <i>Grave</i> | Heavy, serious |
| <i>Larghetto</i> | Not so broad as <i>Largo</i> |

Medium

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Andante</i> | Medium slow |
| <i>Moderato</i> | Moderate |
| <i>Allegretto</i> | Less fast than <i>Allegro</i> |
| <i>Andantino</i> | Less slow than <i>Andante</i> |

Fast

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Allegro</i> | Fast |
| <i>Vivace</i> | Lively |
| <i>Presto</i> | Very fast |
| <i>Vivacissimo</i> | Livlier than <i>Vivace</i> |
| <i>Prestissimo</i> | Even faster than <i>Presto</i> |

-ino, -etto: The suffix, *-ino* or *-etto*, added to one of the tempo indications weakens or implies less quality of the original term.

-issimo: The suffix, *-issimo*, added to one of the tempo indications intensifies the quality of the original term.

non troppo Not too _____ (fast or slow)

Musical Terms that Indicate a Change in Tempo

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Accerlerando</i> | Getting faster |
| <i>Stringendo</i> | Rushing |
| <i>Ritardando</i> | Slow down, hold back |
| <i>Rallentando</i> | Slowing down |
| <i>Allargando</i> | Getting broader |
| <i>Ritenuto</i> | Held back |
| <i>Piu</i> | More |
| <i>Meno</i> | Less |
| <i>Piu mosso</i> | Faster |
| <i>Meno mosso</i> | Slower |
| <i>A tempo</i> | In tempo |
| <i>Tempo Primo</i> | First tempo |
| <i>Listesso tempo</i> | The same tempo |

Musical Terms that Indicate Volume of Sound

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| <i>Forte (f)</i> | Loud |
| <i>Piano (P)</i> | Soft |
| <i>Fortissimo (ff)</i> | Very loud |
| <i>Pianissimo (pp)</i> | Very soft |
| <i>Mezzo forte (mf)</i> | Medium loud |
| <i>Mezzo piano (mp)</i> | Medium soft |

Levels louder than **ff** are indicated by adding additional **f** s:

fff **ffff**

Levels softer than **pp** are indicated by adding additional **p** s:

ppp **pppp**

Musical Terms that Indicates a Chnage in Volume of Sound

| | |
|---|--|
| <i>Crescendo</i> | Growing louder |
| <i>Decrescendo</i> | Growing softer |
| <i>Dimenuendo</i> | Growing softer |
| <i>Forte piano (fp)</i> | Begin the note loud, but drop it to soft immediately |
| <i>Sforazando, sforzato (sf, fs, sfz)</i> | Forced, accented |

Musical Terms for simultaneous reduction of Tempo & Volume

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| <i>Calando</i> | Decreasing |
| <i>Smorzando</i> | Dying away |
| <i>Morendo</i> | Dying down |

Qualifying Terms used to indicate Mood, Degree, Intensity, or Style

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Molto</i> | Very, much |
| <i>Poco</i> | A little |
| <i>Un poco</i> | A little |
| <i>Poco a poco</i> | Little by little |
| <i>Piu</i> | More |
| <i>Meno</i> | Less |
| _____ <i>non troppo</i> | Not too _____ |
| <i>Non troppo</i> _____ | Not too _____ |
| _____ <i>ma non troppo</i> | Not too _____ |
| <i>Agitato</i> | Agitated |
| <i>Amabile</i> | Affectionately |
| <i>Animato</i> | Spirited, animated |
| <i>Apassionato</i> | Passionately |
| <i>Cantabile</i> | Singing |
| <i>Con amima</i> | With spirit |
| <i>Con brio</i> | With brilliance |
| <i>con dolore</i> | With grief |
| <i>Con forza</i> | With strength |
| <i>Con fuoco</i> | Fiery, with fire |
| <i>Con moto</i> | With movement |
| <i>Dolce</i> | Sweetly |
| <i>Dolente</i> | Grieving |
| <i>Energico</i> | Energetically |
| <i>Espressivo</i> | Expressively |
| <i>Giocoso</i> | Jestingly, playfully |
| <i>Grazioso</i> | Gracefully |
| <i>Legato</i> | Smoothly, slurred |
| <i>Leggiero</i> | Lightly |
| <i>Lusingando</i> | Cajolingly, alluringly |
| <i>Maestoso</i> | Majestically |
| <i>Marziale</i> | Martially |
| <i>Misterioso</i> | Mysteriously |
| <i>Perdendosi</i> | Dying away |
| <i>Pesante</i> | Heavily |
| <i>Piacevole</i> | Pleasingly, agreeably |
| <i>Portamento</i> | Sliding of the voice |
| <i>Risoluto</i> | Resolutely |
| <i>Scherzando</i> | Playfully, jokingly |
| <i>Sostenuto</i> | Sustained |
| <i>Staccato</i> | Short and detached |

Teneramente
Tenuto

Tenderly
Held



Trouble Shooting Guide

The following section should be consulted before calling SofTech Multimedia, Inc. for technical support. This section is intended to provide questions and answers to the most common problems with Piano Professor for Windows. If you are having a problem with the software that is not covered in this section then see the section titled *Technical Support*.

Q: When first starting Piano Professor for Windows I receive a MIDI Sequencer error message like the following:



A: The above message is not an error message but an informational message. The message is stating that your sound card may not be able to correctly sequence MIDI sounds. You can disable the message by clicking on the box: *Don't display this warning in future.*

Q: Why doesn't the sound play on my system?

A: Sound may not play on your system for a number of reasons. The first and most obvious is do you have a sound card installed on your system. If there is a sound card in your system then check to see that the sound drivers (supplied by the cards manufacturer) are installed correctly. If both of the above things are checked and OK then attempt to play the file OPENING.MID from the PIANPROF\SOUND directory using the media player. If the sound does not play with the media player then you do not have your MIDI mapper set correctly for your sound card. Check the MIDI Mapper in the control panels to see that your MIDI settings are valid and are not set to *NONE*.

Q: Why do the colors in the Piano Professor look funny?

A: The Piano Professor for Windows uses 256 color graphics. If the colors are funny on your system then you are using a video resolution with less than 256 colors. The Piano Professor will run correctly with less than 256 colors but the color graphics on the opening screen and in other places will look funny. The way to fix this is to use Windows Setup to change the current video resolution to one with at least 256 colors. Please refer to your Windows manual for information on how to change the video resolution with Windows Setup.

