

# HOW TO PLAY PIANO CHORDS

CD included

Book 3  
The Rhythm Book

**The fastest and most effective way to learn  
popular keyboard accompanying**

**Darryl Chute**





# **Piano Chords**

**Book 3**

## **The Rhythm Book**

*All the rhythm patterns you are likely to need for  
playing chords in various styles.*

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# Why this book?

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**E**ver wanted to sing your favourite songs and accompany yourself on a keyboard instrument?

Well, this book is the third in a series that will teach you just that!

Pop guitar players have a good time with little or no music theory and now it's the keyboard player's turn.

***Book 1 - Getting Started** gets you up and running with some of the world's most famous tunes.*

***Book 2 - The Chord Book** will teach you all the chords you will ever likely need. From here the huge catalogue of published popular music will be at your fingertips.*

***Book 3 - The Rhythm Book** will help your chord playing sound interesting by teaching you many rhythm patterns in various musical styles such as ballads, swing, reggae, etc.*

Each book has an accompanying CD to make your learning more interesting.

Have fun - and enjoy the journey!

# An overview of Books 1 and 2

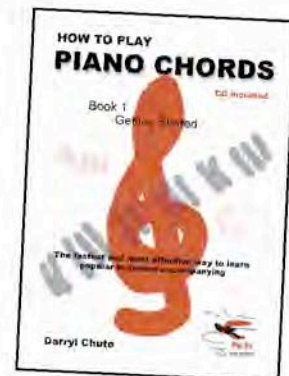
Before attempting the material in this the third book of this series it is recommended you have studied and feel comfortable with

**Book 1 - Getting Started**

**Book 2 - The Chord Book**

Below are some of the topics and songs covered.

- What is chord playing all about?
- The black and white pattern
- Where is Middle C
- The names of the keys
- The names of the fingers
- The C chord
- Tuning your instrument
- How to use the CD
- Five ways of playing a C chord
- Five more chords
- Getting used to chord shapes
- White chord jam
- What does that mean?
- The sustain pedal



## SONGS

*Danny Boy*

*Hush Little Baby*

*I Gave My Love A Cherry*

*Amazing Grace*

*Banks Of The Ohio*

*When The Saints Go Marching In*

*Scarborough Fair*

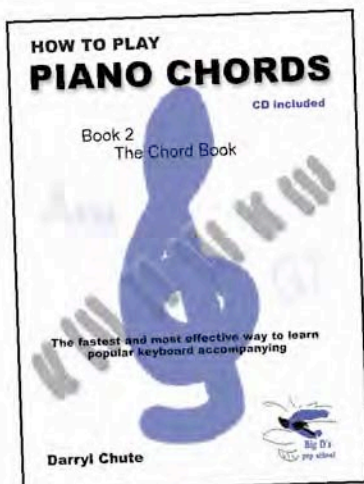
*Michael Rowed The Boat Ashore*

*Drunken Sailor*

*Frankie And Johnny*

*Rock My Soul*

Having completed *Book 1 - Getting Started* you are probably ready to learn a lot more chords so you can play your favourite songs.



- The White Family
- The Black Thumb Family
- The White Thumb Family
- Orphans
- All the Major Chords
- Minor Chords
- 7 Chords
- Maj7 Chords
- Sus4 Chords
- 6 Chords
- Diminished Chords
- Augmented Chords
- Slash Chords
- Sus2 Chords
- An overview of the rest



It is obviously not enough to just know all the chord shapes from Book 2. You must also learn how to rhythmically approach the chords in order to make your playing interesting and suitable for the style of song you are performing.

Pop songwriters tend to use either a guitar or a piano to accompany their tunes. Many of the songs you may wish to perform will not even have a piano in the original recorded version. This doesn't really matter, but you will generally find solo piano more suitable to the ballads.

Some of the other styles can sound a little inadequate when piano is the only instrument used, but are quite fine when used in a band situation.

The styles shown in this book are typically found in a lot of pop music. Of course there are different variations or styles emerging all the time, but in general you will find these useful for most of your performances.

The examples given are merely guides to get you started. I encourage you to create your own rhythm patterns once you have mastered the following pages.

- 1** Introduction
- 6** Power Ballad #1
- 8** Power Ballad #2
- 10** Soft Ballad #1
- 12** Soft Ballad #2
- 14** Pop #1
- 16** Pop #2
- 18** Country - 2/2
- 20** Reggae #1
- 22** Reggae #2
- 24** Twelve-Eight #1
- 26** Twelve-Eight #2
- 28** Waltz - 3/4
- 30** Swing #1
- 32** Swing #2
- 34** Shuffle
- 36** Swing Waltz - 3/4
- 38** Rock and Roll
- 40** Bounce
- 42** Funk #1
- 44** Funk #2
- 46** Pop Ballad
  
- 48** Two or more chords per bar
- 49** Time signatures
- 50** In conclusion/About the author

# Power Ballad #1

CD - Track 2



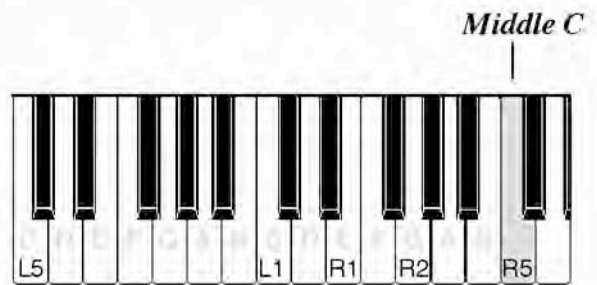
The piano is well suited to the **power ballad** style. These songs are generally fairly slow and need to be played with a some firmness. Some of the more famous songs in the **power ballad** repertoire are:

- Hey Jude* by The Beatles
- The Rose* by Bette Midler
- Everything I Do* by Bryan Adams

When playing the CD place your fingers on a C chord during the warm up period and practise without sounding the keys. When the drums enter begin playing out loud.

Make sure your fingers go deep into the keys to get the full tone of the piano but don't make it sound too harsh.

Use CD Track 1 to tune your keyboard to A 440.



Right hand

Left hand

1

Both hands play together on count 1, then while you left hand remains down your right hand plays again on beats 2, 3 and 4.

Right Hand

Left Hand

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

PLAY 4 TIMES

2

The only difference here is your left thumb lifts on the 4th beat and plays again on the + at the end of the bar.

Right Hand

Left Hand

Left thumb only

PLAY 4 TIMES

3

This time your left thumb plays on the + after beats 2, 3 and 4.

Right Hand

Left Hand

Left thumb

PLAY 4 TIMES

# Power Ballad #2

CD - Track 3



Here are three more rhythm patterns that could be used for **power ballads**.

Notice that the chords are different this time.

①

Both hands play together on count 1. Your left thumb (L1) only plays on the + after beats 2 and 4.

Right Hand

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

Left Hand

Left thumb

Left thumb

C Em F Dm

PLAY 4 TIMES



2

Here your left thumb (L1) does not play on the first beat, or the + after beat 3.

Right Hand

Left Hand

C  $\bar{\Theta}$   
L5 only

Left thumb

PLAY 4 TIMES

3

This is the same as the previous pattern but this time your left thumb (L1) plays on all the "+"s.

Right Hand

Left Hand

C  $\bar{\Theta}$   
L5 only

Left thumb

PLAY 4 TIMES