

Traditional staff music is the obstacle that prevents many people from learning to play the piano. Though thousands of students have mastered this notation and become proficient readers, many thousands of others have been left behind, either abandoning the piano or never having the courage to start because they knew it would take too long before they could play anything interesting.

Teachers are well aware of this problem, and for this reason they are constantly pursuing new and better ways of teaching staff music to beginners. The problem, however, lies not in the *method* of teaching staff music to beginners, the problem lies with trying to teach staff music to beginners before they can play the piano. What is needed is a notation that will allow students to learn to play the piano with a comprehensive easy-to-read, easy-to-play notation. The Oxford Companion to Music compares trying to learn the piano with staff music to trying to learn long division with Roman Numerals.

Today we have a new notation, the Jean Warner Key-Read music notation. Jean will illustrate this music to you by teaching a small class of students who have never before seen the notation. You will see for yourself how students read, count, and play the music. She will be assisted by Wendy Bacola, a teacher with wide experience teaching Key-Read music both to private students and to keyboard classes at the Royal Conservatory in Toronto.

After the demonstration class there will be ample time for the attendees to learn the new music for themselves with Jean and Wendy available to answer questions.