

Creative Online Piano Lessons

at www.musicarta.com

Musicarta is a source of creative online piano lessons for educators and keyboard players of all ages and stages alike. There are many ways Musicarta might help you or someone you know. Please read on for useful information about making music at the keyboard, or use the tag cloud to jump to a particular area of interest.

[adult re-starters](#) [self-expression](#) [classical/popular cross-overs](#) [“just sitting down and playing”](#) [effective practice tips](#) [improvising and composing](#) [pro/semi-pro ‘continuing professional development’](#) [for non-readers](#) [video piano lessons](#) [home study](#) [Musicarta for teachers](#) [distance learning](#) [spread the love!](#) [modes](#) [syncopation](#) [key theory of harmony](#) [transposing](#) [modern repertoire](#) [music theory](#) [playing by ear](#) [discount codes](#) [Pachelbel Canon](#) [scale practice patterns](#)

If you would like a linked pdf of this ‘Introducing Musicarta’ newsletter for more convenient off-line browsing, click through [here](#) to download.

Attention piano and general music teachers!

Musicarta acknowledges that you are already offering a fully professional service, and submits the following thoughts with all due respect, in the spirit of a helpful colleague sharing a ‘find’!

Are you a music teacher looking for a well-written and well-structured popular music styles component for your lessons?

Today’s music pupils are demanding a more rounded and up-to-date musical curriculum. As well as its contemporary-classical (‘New Age’) repertoire, Musicarta has ‘main course’ home study downloads, focussed theory work-outs and an abundance of free-standing (and free) creative keyboards modules ready to go.

- Something particular in mind? [Search the website](#) quickly and easily.

The Musicarta home-study courses (jump through to section) are divided into modules which are practically lesson plans in themselves. Professional musicians will quickly master the material and acquire a fun off-the-shelf creative lesson segment which addresses music theory basics in a practical, engaging way.

Musicarta also has resources designed to make practising more efficient. Click through to the [Scale Practice Patterns](#) page to view an example. The [Mister Musicarta YouTube playlists](#), where your pupils can actually watch a performance of their target material, also offer a great homework resource.

- Download a [linked pdf Musicarta sitemap](#) for a convenient site overview.

The following paragraphs are written for the general reader, but even if you find nothing of immediate interest in them (or at Musicarta), please consider bookmarking the site for future reference or ‘paying it forward’ – you could win kudos for a life-changing recommendation!

General – Is Musicarta for you?

Adult re-starters and continuers: Are you ready to take up the piano again but unable to find a sympathetic teacher or schedule regular lessons?

Were you always going to take up the piano again, one day? Well, ‘one day’ has arrived!

Learning with Musicarta, you don’t need to find a teacher nearby, or put aside a regular slot in your busy schedule. Musicarta’s distance-learning expertise and practical home study courses make teaching yourself a real option. You can learn where you want, and when you want.

These days, space needn't be a problem. Modern electronic keyboards are an acceptable alternative to acoustic pianos and pack away in seconds if space is a problem – and you can practice with headphones on whenever you want and not disturb anybody.

Have a look at the main [Musicarta](#) navbar and [Mister Musicarta YouTube](#) (MMYT) for inspiration and restart your artistic journey for next to nothing. And this time, YOU select the material!

Can you play classical music quite well but nevertheless feel that your 'inner musician' isn't getting the pay-off for all your hard work?

If it's repertoire you're looking for, Musicarta has a [Solos Album](#) with eleven beautiful pieces of moderate difficulty. The Solos Album has a couple of pages of practice notes and tips per piece, and you can listen to and see all the pieces being performed on the [MMYT Solos playlist](#).

There are two great teach-yourself 'from the ground up' piano solos ([Chords for Carl](#) and [Mariaan](#)) you might like to try, too. They're based on an accompaniment pattern that can-do keyboard players know and use all the time, and on common key chords that are the foundation of playing by ear.

All Musicarta's home study courses have module solos too. You can see performances of many of these on the [Mister Musicarta YouTube playlists](#). The home study courses have a prominent 'how this music was written' element, so you'll soon be starting to move into a more creative mode. Explore the [MMYT playlists](#) for examples.

Traditional piano lessons sometimes offer little creative outlet beyond performing syllabus pieces. Musicarta is a natural home for classically trained 'cross-overs' looking for a fast-track way to unleash their creative potential as performers, improvisers and composers.

Jump down to the home study course section to browse what Musicarta has to offer.

Do you dream of 'just sitting down and playing' the piano, with beautiful music pouring out of your fingers?

This isn't as far-fetched a dream as may sound! It's Musicarta's explicit mission to help you 'find the music in the keyboard' and make creative self-expression an achievable goal. The [Pyramids Variations](#) and the [Musicarta Easy Piano Style](#) workbooks both teach simple keyboard textures and harmonies which, with your rhythmic input and inspiration, are virtually guaranteed to produce beautiful music.

Written music tends to get in the way of us being carried away by our own playing. Musicarta has many technique which you will not have seen before for getting music into your understanding and your muscle memory, leaving even relative beginners free to develop their expression and actually enjoy their playing.

Musicarta has the repertoire for this dream soundtrack, too! Check out the sample audio tracks on the [Solos Album](#) page and at [Chords for Carl](#) and [Mariaan](#), the other major Musicarta teach-yourself piano solo projects. Musicarta's [Canon Project](#) even has orchestral backing tracks to support your explorations of this beautiful and timeless chord sequence.

Do you have a poor opinion of 'music theory'?

At Musicarta, 'theory' means theory that's worth knowing because it makes music-making easier and more exciting.

Musicarta [Key Chords Volume One](#), for example, explains which chords go together and drills them in combination, making composing and playing by ear easier. The [Modes Workbook](#) explains this powerful and beguiling pre-classical system of harmony, which generates a surprising amount of the music we hear today. There are shorter theory modules, too, like [Suspensions](#), which make simple music more interesting 'at the stroke of a pen'.

Musicarta theory pages are designed to expand your abilities, and always have practical examples showing you how to get your new theory knowledge through into your playing straight away.

Would you like to be able to play by ear?

Playing by ear isn't as mysterious as people think. It's mostly educated guesswork – and Musicarta is just the place to get that guesswork better educated!

Musicarta [Key Chords Volume One](#) introduces the four chords you're all but certain to find in any piece of music and combines and re-combines them until they're totally familiar. The [Canon Project](#) teaches this beautiful and seminal chord sequence from the ground up – and goes on to use it as the basis of 'spot the chord' ear training.

All the Musicarta home study courses explore core harmonic material in depth – the best way to train your 'musical ear' to recognise standard chord progressions and identify the scale tones that melodies are mostly made of. And all this knowledge is presented in graphics too, and with audio demonstrations, so education beyond the norm isn't necessary.

Remember, you can always:

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Are you trying to learn to improvise and/or compose?

Improvising doesn't happen totally 'out of the blue' – improvisers generally work with chord sequences they're very familiar with (like the jazz standards, for example). Any approach to improvising should start with simple chord sequences and explore the way in which chord tones form the basis of melodies – improvising is, after all, melody-writing speeded up! All the Musicarta Publications home study courses cover this essential groundwork.

The same is true of composing. Learning about key and building chord vocabulary is an indispensable foundation for any kind of composing. Musicarta's [Key Chords Volume One](#) offers dozens of examples of music based on the four most common chords, while the [Musicarta Canon Project](#) teaches you to play numerous variations on this famous and much-used chord sequence. The [Modes Workbook](#) covers modes practically and methodically with the explicit aim of putting modal harmony and melodies at your disposal.

Musicarta's hands-on theory approach makes chords 'feel right' under your fingers. Most of the music you will hear at Musicarta was worked up at the keyboard from this very practical starting point, and the Musicarta method is aimed at showing you how to create music at the keyboard in the same way.

Are you already a pro or semi-pro musician looking for new ideas and skills?

Musicians who truly succeed in the business usually have a personal ethic of constant skills development. You can always broaden or deepen your understanding of music, learn to play better or venture into new areas and genres.

Musicarta has a hundred ways to inject new pizzazz into your keyboard work! The full-length Musicarta [Modes Workbook](#) will coach you in the beguiling alternative modal harmonies, while shorter projects and pages like [Suspensions](#) and [Transposing](#) will help you squeeze more bars of music out of your musical ideas.

Nearly everything at Musicarta is aimed at putting you more in charge and making you a more active, creative participant in the act of music-making. You may well find that simply revisiting some harmony basics the Musicarta way dramatically expands your creative work-space!

Has written-out music got in the way of your musical development in the past?

Written-out music is intimidating and quite often counter-productive – creative players particularly can often play music far more advanced than the music they can easily read. Syncopated popular music looks particularly baffling on the page. (See the [Musicarta Beat and Rhythm Workbook](#) home page for this in particular.)

Here are some of the ways Musicarta tackles this perennial problem.

Non-conventional notation

Musicarta specialises in finding ways of teaching repertoire and musical skills without relying solely on written-out music (MS). Musical shorthand systems like chord symbols used to indicate broken chord patterns and the Roman numeral 'chords in any key' system are explained and used. Study courses use graphics to cut through long-winded explanations and show you what to play instantly, in ways anybody can understand.

Video piano lessons

[Mister Musicarta YouTube](#), the video arm of musicarta.com, has over 200 free-to-view videos covering everything from technical exercises to boogie-woogie. There are also performance videos of most of the Musicarta repertoire content, so you can see clearly how the performances are put together. So much more helpful than just the music, or even music plus audio.

Some Musicarta home-study courses have enhanced teaching versions of the public videos embedded in the on-line study module pages.

Musicarta + MidiPiano

Musicarta makes extensive use of MidiPiano, an easy-to-operate 'virtual keyboard' MIDI file player which is freely available and essentially gives you a coaching video for every musical example in a workbook or course.

You can see simultaneous MidiPiano playback in many of the Musicarta YouTube videos. MidiPiano has a Speed control, allowing you to slow down playback until you can place every individual note in a piece, and a Piano Roll view so you can see what's coming up and get a 'bird's eye view' of the performance. Learn more about this excellent teaching aid on the [Musicarta MidiPiano page](#).

With commitment, you are sure to make speedy progress with Musicarta, regardless of your educational background.

Is difficulty mastering modern rhythm and syncopation holding you back?

Popular music nearly always has a strong rhythmic component, but in traditional piano teaching, rhythmic skills are left mainly to chance – or assumed to be a natural endowment which you cannot learn or improve.

Musicarta has pioneered and perfected a methodical approach to learning rhythm and syncopation. The Musicarta Beat & Rhythm Workbook has three complete tried-and-tested lesson series guaranteed to get learners playing two-handed keyboard syncopations that 'just trying' will struggle to deliver.

All Musicarta study courses have learning material which coaches the build-up of difficult syncopation – and always leaves the learner with an intermediate performance to play while continuing to work on more advanced versions.

What will I find at Musicarta?

Online piano lessons

There is a huge variety of free online piano lessons at Musicarta, from fun duets, practice tips and 'theory in a nutshell' pages to one-off repertoire ideas, beautiful contemporary-classical style ('New Age') piano solos and comprehensive home study courses (see below).

The only way to appreciate the breadth and quality of the Musicarta offering is to browse the website and the Musicarta YouTube channel extensively, and to sign up for the [Musicarta Newsletter](#) for regular synopses of site content and developments.

You can also download the live-linked pdf version of this Introducing Musicarta newsletter [here](#).

Home study courses

Musicarta's main offering is its seven home study courses (the first seven tabs on the Musicarta site navbar).

There isn't nearly enough room here to tell you what they contain – but you will naturally want to have a good look at (and listen to) the courses, to check that you like the musical content and style of teaching before committing.

In the following list, the first link takes you through to the website sample content pages; the second link takes you to video content on Musicarta YouTube channel. (Note that the home study courses have enhanced teaching versions of the publicly available videos.)

The seven main Musicarta home study courses are:

- [The Pyramids Variations](#) ([MMYT playlist](#))
- [The Musicarta Canon Project](#) ([MMYT playlist](#))
- [Key Chords Volume One](#) ([MMYT playlist](#))
- [Musicarta Twelve-bar Piano Styles](#) ([MMYT playlist](#))
- [The Musicarta Modes Workbook](#) ([MMYT playlist](#))
- [Musicarta Easy Piano Style](#) ([MMYT playlist](#))
- [Musicarta Beat and Rhythm Workbook](#) ([MMYT playlist](#))

Try before you buy

Unlike some piano tutors on offer online, all Musicarta Publications products have extensive content sample pages with audio tracks and video examples at Mister Musicarta YouTube, so you have every opportunity to find a study course which suits your tastes and abilities before you order.

A practical, modern way to study

Musicarta Publications are sold as digital downloads. Each study course or publication comprises an attractive, illustration- and music-rich pdf workbook, MIDI and audio files of all musical examples and the MidiPiano MIDI file player. Some have backing and drum tracks and access to buyers-only online module web pages with audio playback and new material – see individual product descriptions for exact details.

Priced at just \$14.95 – less than the cost of single piano lesson in most countries – the Musicarta home study courses offer exceptional value for money!

Secure payment, instant download

Musicarta uses trusted e-fulfilment partners E-junkie and PayPal to handle your purchase. (You can pay from your PayPal balance or with a credit card.) Musicarta has never experienced a failed transaction – you are 100% guaranteed to get your product!

Discount codes

This is NOT the Musicarta Newsletter! You are NOT on the Newsletter mailing list!

The [Musicarta News](#) comes out quarterly, with occasional special editions to announce new publications. Musicarta News is an excellent way to get an overview of what's on offer at Musicarta – and to have your good intentions regularly reinforced!.

The Musicarta newsletter also rewards openers with codes for a 33% discount on the major home study downloads!

If you want to be on the Musicarta newsletter mailing list, [sign up here](#). And as a 'thank-you', I will send you a special Musicarta News bulletin with discount codes for all six main Musicarta Publications home study courses. Re-inspire your musical journey for just \$9.95!

Musicarta – your creative keyboard companion

Musicarta isn't a passive one-landing-page sales website! It's a living, breathing, online music school, passionate about helping you become the musician you want to be. New material is constantly being added, so you'll always find new stimulus on-site. The blog entries on the [site What's New page](#) show that Musicarta gets frequent attention in one area or another – and all of it designed to stimulate your musical growth.

Working on your piano-playing on your own can be a very solitary business. Why not [join Musicarta](#) and feel part of a wider community? And if you're not working with a teacher one-on-one, you will probably appreciate regular prompting to keep moving forward in your artistic life!

Spread the love!

Even if Musicarta isn't for you, you might still know someone who would enjoy the creative learning material outlined here, or a community directory or database where Musicarta might be a good fit.

You can recommend Musicarta with complete confidence. Pay it forward and get the kudos!

Stay in touch!

If you don't like newsletters but would like to stay in touch with developments at Musicarta, use this link to sign up for the [Musicarta RSS news feed](#) – or use the orange sign-up button on site. (Click here for a [short explanation](#) of RSS.)

As an alternative, you can simply bookmark the [Musicarta 'What's New' site page](#) and visit regularly to keep up with the RSS blog postings.

The other option is to subscribe to the [Musicarta YouTube channel](#) for brief email notification of new videos uploaded there. You can also follow [Mister Musicarta on Facebook](#) for a limited selection of updates.

Everybody has the ability to learn to express themselves musically. To develop that unique personal 'voice' and have a life-long musical conversation is one of the most human and affirming things you can do! Let [Musicarta](#) be YOUR creative keyboard companion!