

ready to play off we go!

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by Sally Cathcart
illustrations by Graham Longdin



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5. OLD MISTER WOODPECKER

Introducing the crotchet rest/finding the thinking voice

Old mis-ter wood-peck-er, sit-ting in a tree.

*Old mis-ter wood-peck-er, sit-ting in a tree.

Old mis-ter wood-peck-er, tap-ping mer-ri-ly.

*Old mis-ter wood-peck-er, tap-ping mer-ri-ly.



For the lines marked *, let your fingers tap the rhythm pattern of the words.
You can say the words very quietly or even silently as you do this.

Teacher's accompaniment

Are you read-y? Off you go. Old Mist-er Wood - peck-er

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It begins with a whole rest, followed by a series of eighth notes marked with 'x' for tapping: x x x x x x x. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature. It features a continuous accompaniment of eighth notes in a descending pattern: G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1, F1, E1, D1, C1, B0, A0, G0, F0, E0, D0, C0, B-1, A-1, G-1, F-1, E-1, D-1, C-1, B-2, A-2, G-2, F-2, E-2, D-2, C-2, B-3, A-3, G-3, F-3, E-3, D-3, C-3, B-4, A-4, G-4, F-4, E-4, D-4, C-4, B-5, A-5, G-5, F-5, E-5, D-5, C-5, B-6, A-6, G-6, F-6, E-6, D-6, C-6, B-7, A-7, G-7, F-7, E-7, D-7, C-7, B-8, A-8, G-8, F-8, E-8, D-8, C-8, B-9, A-9, G-9, F-9, E-9, D-9, C-9, B-10, A-10, G-10, F-10, E-10, D-10, C-10, B-11, A-11, G-11, F-11, E-11, D-11, C-11, B-12, A-12, G-12, F-12, E-12, D-12, C-12, B-13, A-13, G-13, F-13, E-13, D-13, C-13, B-14, A-14, G-14, F-14, E-14, D-14, C-14, B-15, A-15, G-15, F-15, E-15, D-15, C-15, B-16, A-16, G-16, F-16, E-16, D-16, C-16, B-17, A-17, G-17, F-17, E-17, D-17, C-17, B-18, A-18, G-18, F-18, E-18, D-18, C-18, B-19, A-19, G-19, F-19, E-19, D-19, C-19, B-20, A-20, G-20, F-20, E-20, D-20, C-20, B-21, A-21, G-21, F-21, E-21, D-21, C-21, B-22, A-22, G-22, F-22, 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Sally says...



“

Ask your teacher to tap the pulse while you tap the rhythm.

Can you hear two places where the beat keeps going and the singing stops?

”

Rhythm is made up of sound and silence. The silence is called a:

REST

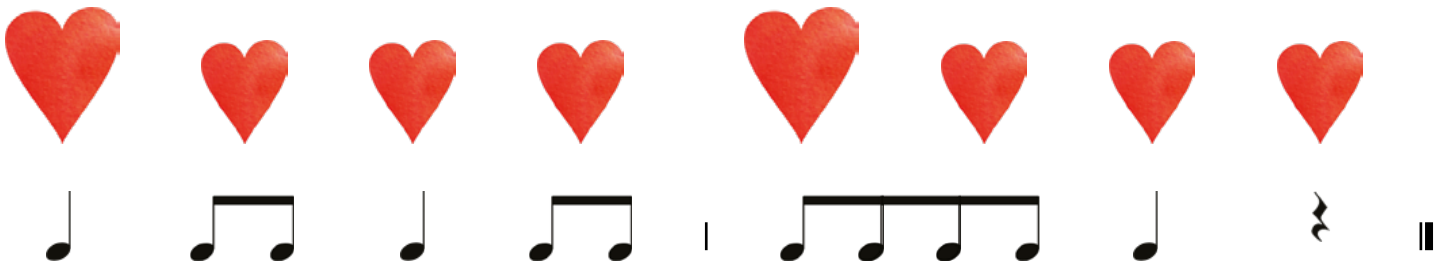
This is a crotchet rest:



A crotchet rest lasts for one beat.

To feel a rest lightly touch your shoulders and keep your voice silent.

Here's the rhythm of the first line of Old Mister Woodpecker. Tap it on your fingers or on the piano lid. Can you find something wooden to tap it on?



Teacher's accompaniment



OLD MISTER WOODPECKER

IMAGINE:

The feel of putting on a pair of wet socks... **URGH!**

The taste of a lemon... **YUCK!**

The sound of Mum or Dad's voice telling you to get up in the morning... **OH NO!**

To be a musician you have to be able to remember sounds, voices, songs and music in your head. We will call this the:





It helps us to recreate music and to create our own music.

I CAN

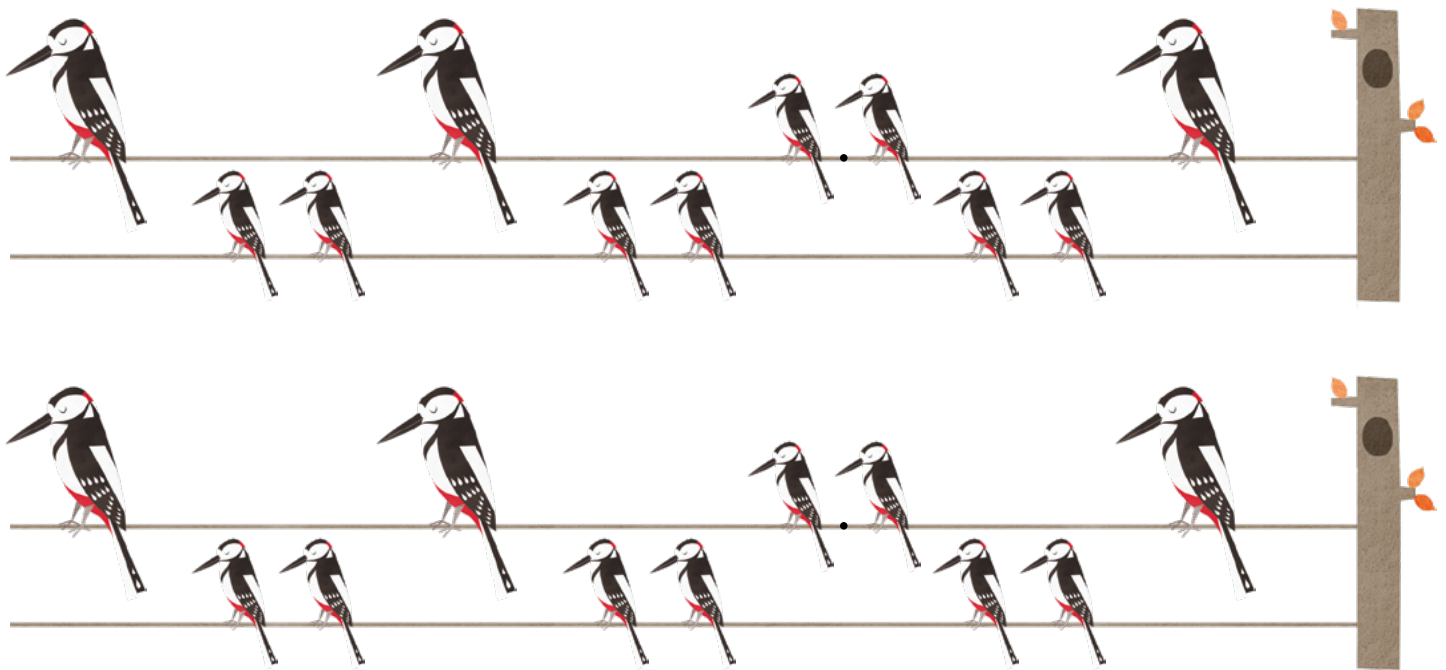
- ☐ Sing the song from memory and touch my shoulders on the rests
- ☐ Tap the rhythm pattern of lines two & four on the piano lid and say the words using my thinking voice
- ☐ Play the rhythm pattern of lines two & four on a single note using a whole arm movement
- ☐ Sing the song and play the rhythm patterns

Sally says...

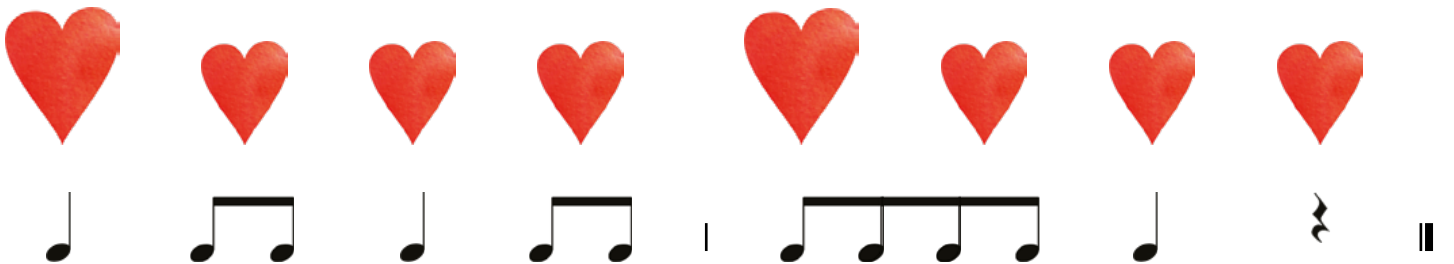
“ Old Mister Woodpecker uses the same two pitches as No Robbers  and . Can you sing the song using the singing names following the patterns of the woodpeckers below?

Does it start on the higher note **so** or the lower note **mi**? ”

Add your answer below:



Copy out the rhythm of Old Mister Woodpecker in the box below. To draw a rest write a sideways **2** with a **C** on the bottom.



OLD MISTER WOODPECKER

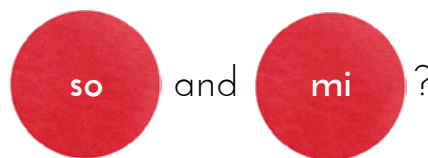
Ready to play...

Now you can sing the song with the singing names, it will be much easier to play on the piano.

Here are two places you can play it:

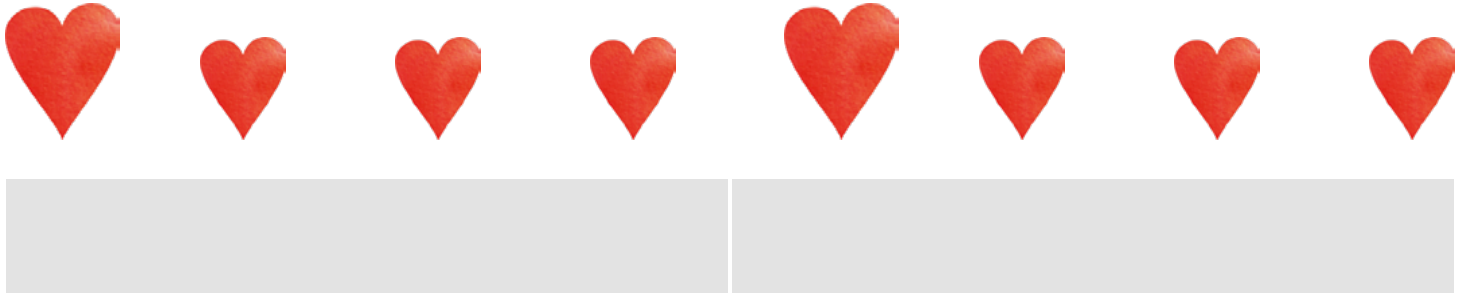


Can you find any more pairs of keys that work as
Mark any keys you find on the keyboard below.



Once you can play the song, teach someone else in your family to tap the Woodpecker rhythm - then play it together!

Write a new rhythm for Old Mister Woodpecker to tap. It should have eight beats.



RHYTHM MUDDLE

Here are the first line rhythms of Cobbler, Cobbler, No Robbers and Jelly on a Plate - but they've got in a muddle. Can you help to sort them out by connecting the right rhythm to the right picture?



An introduction to ready to play!

This sampler is from ready to play, the brand new series of musicianship books by Sally Cathcart. Musicianship for beginners and beyond!

Listening, internalisation, and musical understanding are encouraged from the very earliest stages in this colourful, attractive, and comprehensive series. Full of progressive and engaging activities that develop a secure and wide-ranging foundation, *off we go!* starts piano students on the path to being truly ready to play.



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The official ready to play Soundcloud profile features piano accompaniments and singing examples from the books:
bit.ly/readytoplaySC



You are also invited to join our active, supportive Facebook group:
bit.ly/readytoplayFB

