

# Play Piano Chords Today Overview

## Unit 1

Get started on the right foot with a lively Rock n Roll tune. We'll explore a ROOTS and ROCK lead sheet with a beginner approach and then with a more experienced approach.

All the videos and downloadable sheets are here at your fingertips. You need a keyboard/piano and a tablet, iPad or laptop to view the videos.

UNIT 1 - Rock'n Roll

### Unit 1 - ROOTS & Rock 'n Roll

*"Practice only on the days you eat"*



Rock 'n Roll is your first r/pe to explore. Rock music is generally centered on the electric guitar but there are great ways to 'rock' on the keys.

Wherever you are in your piano adventure (from new, to renewing, to classical musician), playing off lead sheets allows you to play within your technical ability and make some really good music.

Download the **audio tracks**, watch the **video tracks**, and listen to **Make Music Today** before you turn the page -:) Password is **CHORDS**. When you have listened to the audio track, turn the page and join the piano chord journey.

Audio - [www.playpianochordstoday.com/mp3](http://www.playpianochordstoday.com/mp3) 


Video - [www.playpianochordstoday.com/video-tk1](http://www.playpianochordstoday.com/video-tk1) 

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UNIT 2 - Chords

### Unit 2 - Chords and More Chords

*"Each man (and woman) has their own music bubbling up inside them." Louis Armstrong*



Louis Armstrong is known as the father of jazz. He reinvented jazz with new ways to play the trumpet and new ways to improvise solos. He had another quote that goes like this " We all to Do-Re-Mi but you gotta find the other notes yourself". This unit helps you find those other notes by showing you the chord FUNDamentals. Please don't buy a chord chart, get out of the notes on the page and absorb the basic rules of chording. Then, like and artist, you will bring new colours of music to your playing :-)

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## Unit 2

Next up... getting a foundation in chords.

The 3 basic chord types for **beginners** and a smorgasbord of chords for **more experienced** hands.

**Beginners** - chords are like words. They're combinations of notes that you can use over and over again!

**More Experienced** - this is the start of thinking like a chord player vs. a note reader. You will look at chords in a whole new way.



## Unit 3

After Roots and Chords it's time to play!


In Unit 3, you will apply your new knowledge of chords to a beautiful Classical piece, Ode to Joy.

We'll learn this piece a few ways. Simply so Beginners can play it and with bigger chords and extra notes in the melody for More Experienced players. That's the beauty of lead sheets!

UNIT 3 - Classical

### Unit 3 - Classical Chords

*Brahms is 'one' with the piano*




There is something about the chords that Brahms uses in his compositions that has taken my breath away since I was in my teens. It took learning jazz chords in my 40's to finally understand what he was doing and it is spectacular! We will start your chord journey with an easier classical piece by Beethoven. Playing Ode to Joy with a lead sheet allows you to interpret it in a variety of ways. Be sure to listen to the audio tracks.

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UNIT 4 - Folk

### Unit 4 - Folk Chords

*All the sounds of the earth are like music." Oscar Hammerstein*



Folk songs have come down through the ages and are full of lyrics about love and nature. The herbs mentioned in this song represent virtues: Sage - strength, Parsley - comfort, Thyme - courage and Rosemary - love. Simon and Garfunkel turned it into a 20th century hit with their magical version in 1966. Have fun creating your own magical version.

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23

## Unit 4

Scarborough Fair is a great song to explore new chords and add extra creative notes.

We'll explore the lead sheet as a **beginner** and then look at it through the eyes of a **more experienced** player.

Add your own special touch for the perfect Scarborough Fair!



## Unit 5


Time to get lively and play with Stride piano. It's the perfect accompaniment to the The Entertainer.

Beginners, we'll explore a starter stride and a for more experienced players a more athletic stride. Are you ready?

UNIT 5 - Stride

### Unit 5 - Stride Chords

*"Music brings families together" L. Gould*




Fats Waller, Art Tatum, and Scott Joplin were all famous stride pianists. It can be a very athletic form of piano playing or, as in Scott Joplin's case, it transformed into Ragtime with a more ragged or syncopated rhythm. Scott Joplin's music was written out so all the note readers were happy to play his music. Here you can play your own version of was of his most famous Rag and then add your own special touches.

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UNIT 6 - Blues

### Unit 6 - Blues Chords

*"If music be the food of love, play on" Shakespeare*



I will admit that I wasn't a fan of the blues. It was depressing and wasn't one of my favourite styles of music. That all change when I started to play the blues and even more when I started to teach the blues. This is where improvisation can shine. This unit will change how you look at improvisation and the blues. Prepare to have some fun, it's not depressing at all!

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35

## Unit 6

These aren't sad blues, these are **freedom** blues!

Freedom from the notes!

Freedom to get creative!

Blues are great because ALL LEVELS can play together. There's something for everyone.

## Unit 7

After all your hard (but fun) work in Unit 5 and 6, it's time to chill with a laid back Pop tune.

**Lazy Day** will have you swaying on your piano bench.

UNIT 7 - Ballad/Waltz

## Unit 7 - Pop Chords

*"Music melts all the separate parts of our bodies together" -Anais Nin*



At the turn of the 20th century, the piano was to the people of that time what the smartphone is today, the major source of entertainment. Every home had a piano and families and friends gathered around to listen to each other play, to play together in bands and to sing. They forgot their troubles and melted together in harmony. This is a modern age ballad that is lyrical and relaxing. You've come through the BIG units on Stride and the Blues and this is your reward :-)

42

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UNIT 8 - Latin

## Unit 8 - Latin Chords

*"Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent." -Victor Hugo*



Now you can see that changing how LH chords are played creates different *styles* in music. The change we will make to create a *Latin* feel is both simple and complex. Enjoy it's subtle complexity. If you find playing Latin rhythms like rubbing your head while patting your tummy, watch the video for other ideas. The beauty of Latin rhythms cannot be put into words but they should never remain silent...

43

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## Unit 8

We'll finish off book 1 with some spice and add some Latin rhythms to our chords.

What makes a tune Latin? Join me and find out! Marianne is at the seaside waiting for you 😊

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