

Kahi Ka Pila

1

Lesson

Tacos? – Pianos? – who knows?

Marcello Mangino

Welcome to **Kani Ka Pila!** This is an exclusive sneak peek for my favorite teacher friends, and you made the cut!

Kani Ka Pila is Hawaiian for "jam session on the beach". It is also an innovative new methodology for those new to the piano, or those new to improvisation. In it we explore the most natural form of music using the most natural form of music education.

As a piano teacher for over 20 years I have taught just about every type of student. I teach private lessons/school programs, I work with bands/ensembles, I lead group classes/one-on-one lessons, I have taught students of all ages: 4 year olds - 24 year olds - 44 year olds to 74 year olds, I help people that have played for years and people that have never touched an instrument. The common thread throughout all students, and all types of people, was that every one of them improvised naturally and effortlessly. I also saw that all of these musicians benefited from this type of play in countless ways. The world of piano pedagogy needs to embrace this innate, natural education, and invite extemporization into our lexicon and curriculum.

Kani Ka Pila gives musicians a chance to enjoy the creative aspect of our instrument like never before. Students can make beautiful sounding music from day one and with that they learn rhythm, map out keyboard geography, explore scales, build finger dexterity, uncover music theory, create hand coordination and so many other musical concepts. These skills open doors to other playing styles like: **Classical - Jazz - Accompaniment - Arranging**. It's beautiful to revel in your own creativity and immensely beneficial.

Finally there's a progressive, step-by-step method to explore the world of improvisation. I hope you and your students enjoy my creations!

Don't merely just "learn" the piano, "play" the piano with Kani Ka Pila.



Marcello Mangino

Book 1

Lesson

Phase 1

Right
Hand
Melodies

Phase 2

Left
Hand
Accompany

Phase 3

Left
Hand
sths

Theory

Phase 1

The
Music
Alphabet

Phase 2

sharps

Phase 3

intervals

Book 2

Lesson

Phase 4

chords

Phase 5

Hawai'i
chords

Phase 6

Minor
chords

Phase 7

Canyon
chords

Theory

Phase 4

Triads

Phase 5

Half steps
+
whole steps

Phase 6

Flats

Phase 7

Formulas



**SNEAK
PEEK**

Marcello Mangino

Bah fjwbcl. Kdbwhwi Thais!!!

That was my own language for:
"Hi! Welcome to Kani Ka Pila!"

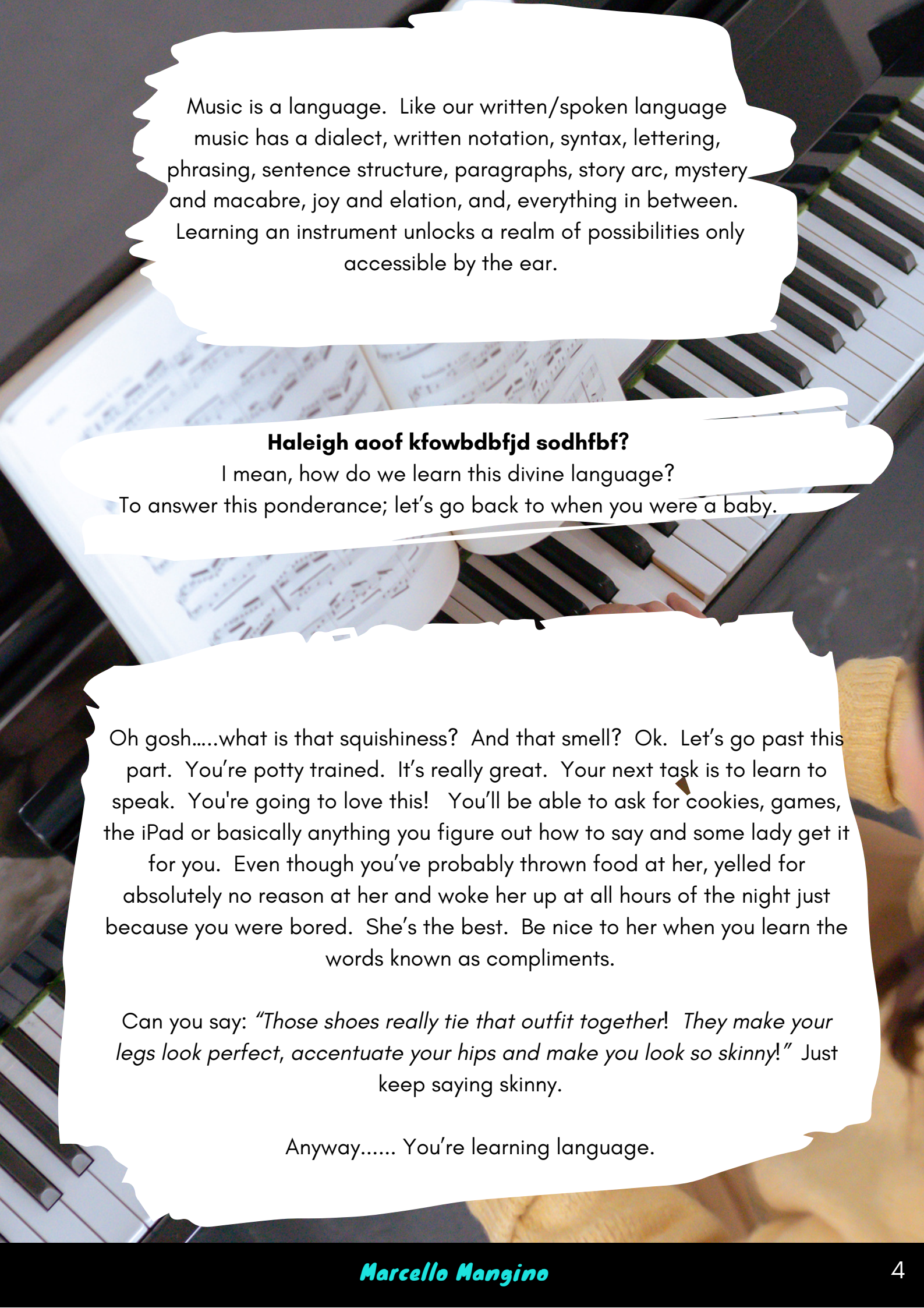
Kani Ka Pila

is Hawaiian for:
"Jam session on the beach"

Eigohg Baiiih Kajakalak!!

I just made up to mean: "I hope you like tacos!"

Luckily for you, you don't have to learn that language. You have a different language you are decoding. *You will be exploring the language of music.*



Music is a language. Like our written/spoken language music has a dialect, written notation, syntax, lettering, phrasing, sentence structure, paragraphs, story arc, mystery and macabre, joy and elation, and, everything in between. Learning an instrument unlocks a realm of possibilities only accessible by the ear.

Haleigh aooof kfowbdbfjd sodhfbf?

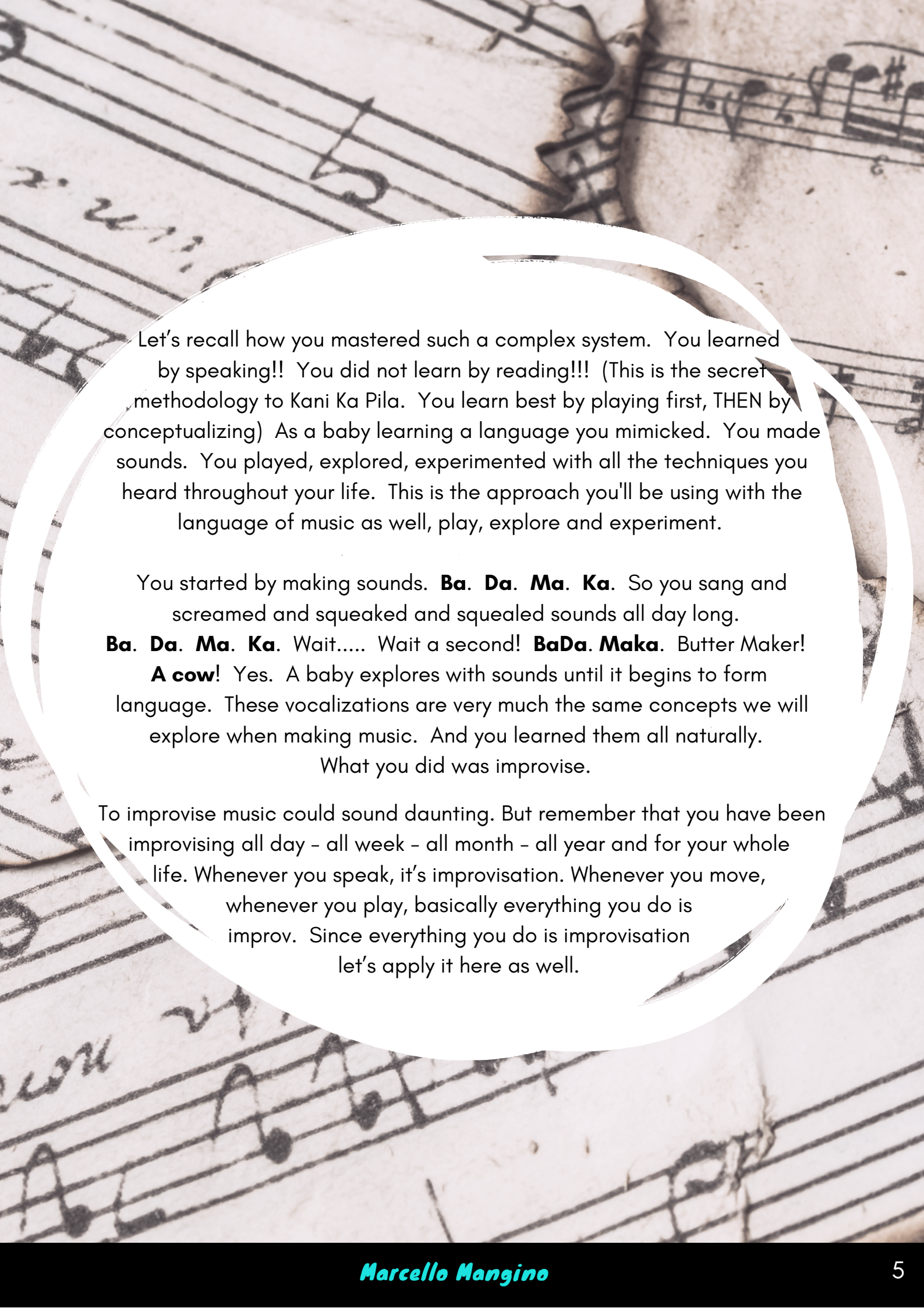
I mean, how do we learn this divine language?

To answer this ponderance; let's go back to when you were a baby.

Oh gosh.....what is that squishiness? And that smell? Ok. Let's go past this part. You're potty trained. It's really great. Your next task is to learn to speak. You're going to love this! You'll be able to ask for cookies, games, the iPad or basically anything you figure out how to say and some lady get it for you. Even though you've probably thrown food at her, yelled for absolutely no reason at her and woke her up at all hours of the night just because you were bored. She's the best. Be nice to her when you learn the words known as compliments.

Can you say: *"Those shoes really tie that outfit together! They make your legs look perfect, accentuate your hips and make you look so skinny!"* Just keep saying skinny.

Anyway..... You're learning language.



Let's recall how you mastered such a complex system. You learned by speaking!! You did not learn by reading!!! (This is the secret methodology to Kani Ka Pila. You learn best by playing first, THEN by conceptualizing) As a baby learning a language you mimicked. You made sounds. You played, explored, experimented with all the techniques you heard throughout your life. This is the approach you'll be using with the language of music as well, play, explore and experiment.

You started by making sounds. **Ba. Da. Ma. Ka.** So you sang and screamed and squeaked and squealed sounds all day long.

Ba. Da. Ma. Ka. Wait..... Wait a second! **BaDa. Maka.** Butter Maker! **A cow!** Yes. A baby explores with sounds until it begins to form language. These vocalizations are very much the same concepts we will explore when making music. And you learned them all naturally.

What you did was improvise.

To improvise music could sound daunting. But remember that you have been improvising all day - all week - all month - all year and for your whole life. Whenever you speak, it's improvisation. Whenever you move, whenever you play, basically everything you do is improv. Since everything you do is improvisation let's apply it here as well.

To improvise (or to make up music on the spot) requires minimal music knowledge. There's only two elements: **rhythm** and **tone**.

The **tones** for a pianist are simple. Each musical journey will begin with a scale. Scales are series of notes that composers use to create their music. On the piano we can a great sound within seconds. Other instruments require extensive techniques, but the piano only requires pushing down the key.

Rhythm is the second element. Rhythm is the speed, pulse, beat and tempo of the tones. Rhythm at first can be as simple as the notes. We at first will only be using fast and slow notes. This is intuitive as well because you've literally been hearing this since the day you were born.

Sounds like your whole life has been leading to this moment so let's get into it.

"The mistake a lot of us music teachers make; is we teach kids how to play the instrument first before they understand music. Teaching a kid to spell M-I-L-K before they've drunken a lot of it for a few years doesn't make sense but for some reason we still think it does in music."

- Victor Wooten





Phase 1

Right Hand Melodies



Welcome to the wonderful world of bagpipes!

You will now carry on the tradition of blowing into an awkward looking sack to make one of the saddest sounds known to man. You'll also get to wear weird clothes and men will sport dresses that they won't call dresses.

Oh. Sorry. Wrong book.

Welcome to Phase 1 in **Kani Ka Pila**

Let's learn about what we are going to learn about.

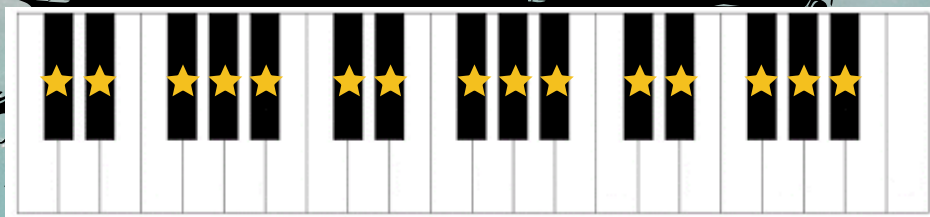
In **Phase 1: Right Hand Melodies** we are going to use the right hand to create melodies. *Gosh. The twists in this book are mind numbing.* Each song will bring you to a different soundscape to explore and create. On the page, I've linked a video in the QR code for inspiration and mood. These videos will spark your creativity but they also act as timers so you explore each concept. And don't worry, zero of the videos will be of bagpipers. I also linked tutorials on each page of me playing and explaining each exploration. Always watch them first so you know exactly what to do! And just to prove that I may in fact actually be Santa Claus, there a companion book that works in junction with each Phase. On the bottom of each page there is a corresponding theory worksheet.

Merry Christmas!

Sea Waves

Welcome to your first adventure! And hopefully I'm where that guy is below while you're reading this. To create the music of the sea play on the **black keys**, using only your **right hand**.

Scan the QR Code below for the video to play along with.



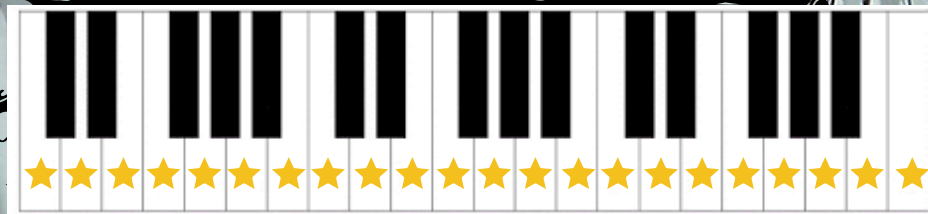
Move hand
up and down
the piano.



Hold the foot
pedal down
for a long
sound.

Rain

Rainy Days = Rainy Daze and these are the best piano days.
With your **right hand** only, play on the **white keys** to
create the music of rain. Scan the QR Code below
for the mood and inspiration to create with.



Keep fingers
down for a
smooth sound.



Use all of
your fingers
when playing.

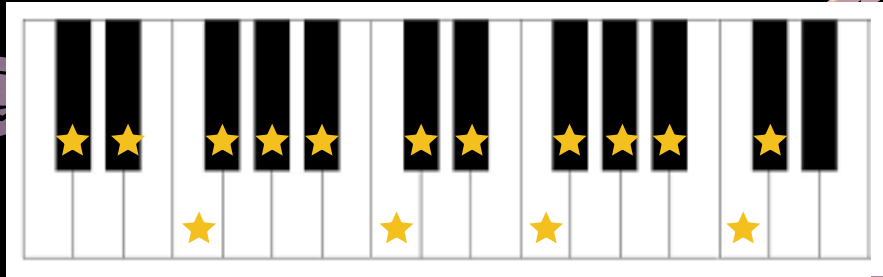
Clapping

It's time to explore the rhythmic aspect of music. As we learned in the introduction rhythm is the speed of the tones we are playing. Clap these "**fast**" and "**slow**" rhythms by yourself. Then improvise your own rhythms along with the percussive video.



Snow

Now we will add rhythm to our improvisations. Like our clapping music, add **fast notes** and **slow notes** to your melodies to create a sense of time and pulse. Also, we will begin to mix the black and white keys together for our scales. Notice this scale is all black with two strategic white keys.



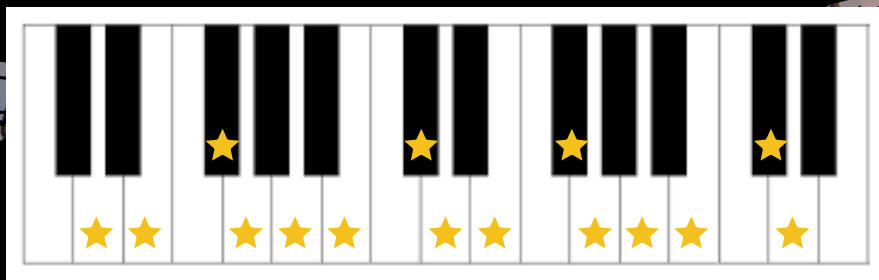
Play with
Fast - Slow
notes.



Think of
Walking - Running
notes.

Birds

Winter is over and here come the birds. The birds are smart because every winter they go far, far away to where it's nice and warm, so this piece is basically opposite of the winter. The last scale was black keys with two strategic white keys, now this time, our scale is **white keys** with **two** strategic **black keys**.



Play with
Fast - Slow
notes.



Listen for a
smooth
melodic sound.

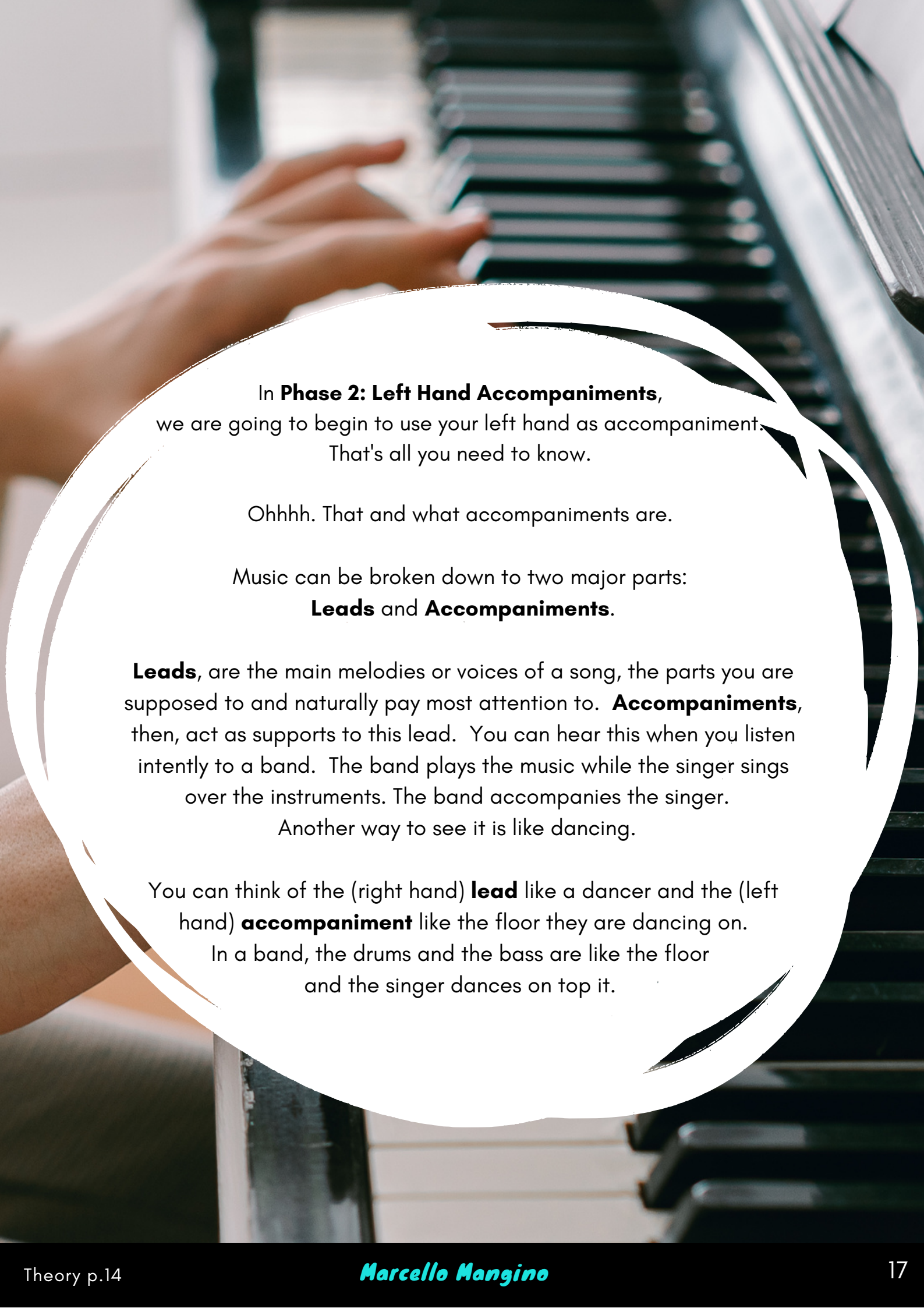




Phase 2

Left Hand Accompaniments





In **Phase 2: Left Hand Accompaniments**, we are going to begin to use your left hand as accompaniment. That's all you need to know.

Ohhhh. That and what accompaniments are.

Music can be broken down to two major parts:

Leads and **Accompaniments**.

Leads, are the main melodies or voices of a song, the parts you are supposed to and naturally pay most attention to. **Accompaniments**, then, act as supports to this lead. You can hear this when you listen intently to a band. The band plays the music while the singer sings over the instruments. The band accompanies the singer.

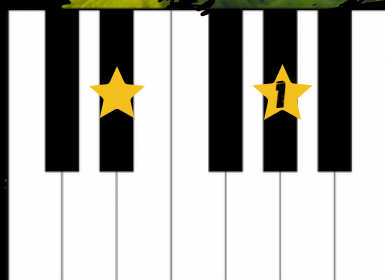
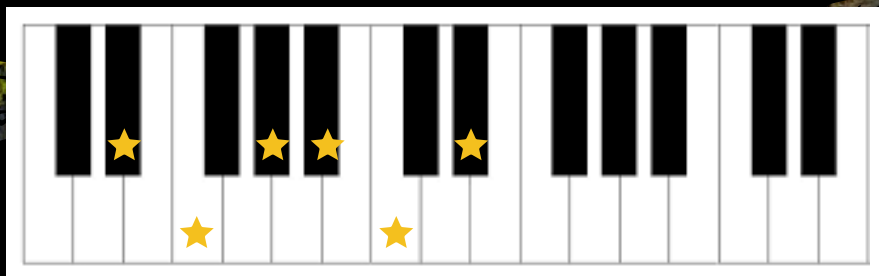
Another way to see it is like dancing.

You can think of the (right hand) **lead** like a dancer and the (left hand) **accompaniment** like the floor they are dancing on.

In a band, the drums and the bass are like the floor and the singer dances on top it.

Waterfalls

Now, since you've had this other hand attached to you all day, it's time to use both hands in our improvisations. The **right hand** will continue to create **lead** melodies, while the **left hand** will **accompany** your music by playing the notes below. Keep these accompaniment tones long and even with the pedal down.



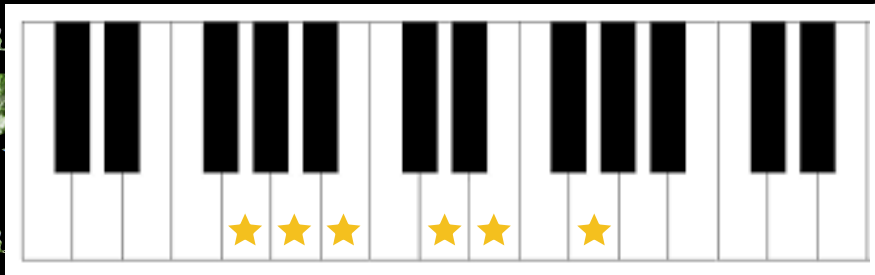
Think of the Left Hand like the band a singer sings over.



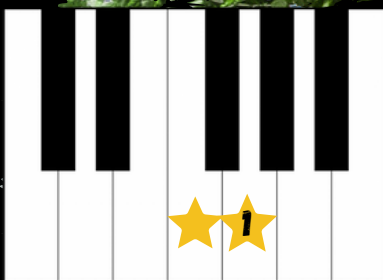
The Left Hand will hold the sound while the Right Hand plays.

Tree Songs

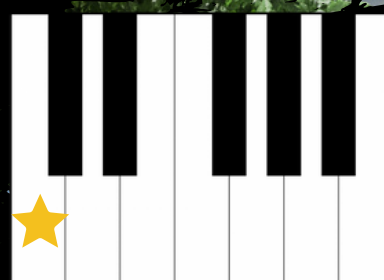
Make all your favorite trees proud with another element to our improvisation. The left hand will now use **vamps** (repeating patterns) and **variations** (alterations) to accompany the right hand. Repeat the vamp several times then visit the variation briefly before returning to the vamp.



Vamp



Variation



Vamp several times then visit the variation.



Repeat the vamp and variation several times

"The mistake a lot of us music teachers make; is we teach kids how to play the instrument first before they understand music.

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- Victor Wooten



A close-up photograph of a wooden piano keyboard. The keys are made of wood and are painted in various colors: red, green, blue, and black. The paint is applied in a way that looks like it was done with a brush, with some areas showing multiple layers or streaks. The surrounding wood of the piano is also painted with various colors, including red, green, blue, and yellow. The overall effect is a colorful and artistic representation of a piano keyboard.

Kahi Ka Pila

By: Marcello Mangino

Kahi Ka Pila

Taco me!!!



Marcello Mangino