

# Worship Keyboards Course

Curriculum designed by Musicademy for beginners or piano players wanting to learn how to play keyboards for worship using a chords-based playing method.

## Volume 1

### Session 1

- Setting yourself up
- Playing position
- Finding C
- 5 note scale
- Naming the notes

### Session 2

- Scales; the building blocks of playing
- Building scales using Tone, Tone, Semitone method
- White keys/notes (A – G)
- Black keys/notes (sharps # & flats b)

### Session 3

- Chords C, G, F, Am, Dm (two notes in right hand)
- Bass line (root)
- Bars & Beats
- Playing chords to different counts

### Session 4

- “Lord Reign in Me”

### Getting the right gear

### Quick tips

- Sustain Pedal
- Practice Tips

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## Volume 2

### Session 1

- Playing in another key “D”
  - Exercises in D (parallel thirds)
  - Movement in the left hand
    - Octave stretch
    - Octave Ds to F#
  - Exercises using both hands/learning to play by ear
    - Right hand; two note chord sequence D - A – Em
    - Left hand; root
    - Three note G chord
    - Practice Em – G

Chord sequence D-A-Em-G / Left Hand root position  
Chord sequence for verse of “Here I Am to Worship”

## Session 2

Start changing rhythm to push the music forward  
Practice chord sequences to quarter notes in the right hand  
Practice dotted quarter note and eighth note rhythm for left hand  
Practice both rhythms together on one chord  
Practice both hands on chord sequence  
Learn chords for “Here I Am to Worship” (new voicing)  
Learn bass line for “Here I Am to Worship”  
Hands together  
Learn the nomenclature for slash chords

## Session 3

“Here I Am to Worship”  
Verse  
Chorus  
Bridge  
Put it all together with back tracking

## Session 4

Chords (using three notes/triads); tones, semitones, majors, minors and slash chords  
Practice building major chords from any note  
Practice building minor chords from any note  
Learn chord nomenclature

## Session 5

Playing chords/triads and chord voicing/fingering  
Exercises for left hand and right hand  
Octave stretch LH  
Up and down the keyboard with chord inversions RH  
Learn the process for figuring out voicing/chord inversions  
Practice planning voicing for D to G / I to V; D to A / I to IV  
Practice same process starting on a different voicing  
Add bass along with new voicing  
Add Em (work out voicing from A to Em)  
Learn chord sequence for “Come, Now Is the Time to Worship”

## Quick Tips

Reading music  
Don't look at your hands

## Interviews with;

(Matt Redman, Tre Shepherd, Tim Hughes, Andy Piercy, Stuart Townend, Brenton Brown)

How do you see worship music developing?  
Choosing a key  
Musical Influences

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**Volume 3**  
Adding Interest  
Changing register, broken chords, passing notes

**Session 1**

Changing register

Starting at different a hand position

Process of working out chords and voicings

Chord changes for “Come Now is the Time to Worship”

Practice sequence/chord progressions for “Come Now is the Time to Worship”

**Session 2**

Broken chords/arpeggios

Practice broken chords on various chord progressions

Practice moving arpeggios up and down the keyboard

Practice both hands

Changing rhythms by combining block chords with broken chords

Add arpeggios to “Come Now is the Time to Worship”

**Session 3**

Passing notes/using notes between chord notes

Implement/practice techniques to “Come Now is the Time to Worship”

**Session 4**

Scales

Using scales to help hands move around the keyboard

C, G, F, D, Bb, A, E, major scales

One octave exercises using one hand

One octave exercises using both hands

Two octave exercises using one hand

Two octave exercises using two hands

**Session 5**

Good Rhythms

Syncopation/playing of the beat to push the music

Keeping time and identifying the syncopated beats

1) 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

Practice with chord progression G A D

Anticipation notes in the bass

Anticipation notes in the right hand

Practice both hands together

Listening/recognizing a tonal center (tonic/home)

2) 1e+a 2e+a 3e+a 4e+a

Practice with chord changes

## Session 6

Playing with feeling and expression

Exercises on chords for “There is a Redeemer”

Chord voicing/block chords/broken chords

Placing emphasis on certain beats

Phrasing

Implementing techniques to “There is a Redeemer”

## Interviews with;

(Leeland Mooring, Tim Neufeld, Tommy Walker, Stuart Townend, Brenton Brown, Noel Richards, Tim Hughes, Stu G)

How do you see worship developing?

Inspiration songwriting (Stuart Townend)

Transpose button

Men & Women voices.

Musical Influences

## Quick Tips

Listen well

Transpose button

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## Volume 4

Block chords, broken chords, syncopation

## Session 1

Combining techniques to give variation in feel

“Beautiful One”

Learn chord progression

Verse, using broken chord technique over an octave

Chorus, using different rhythms

Bridge, using syncopated rhythms and broken chords

Tag, sustains

## Session 2

Playing Hymns

Simplify

Keep beat steady

Variation while being interpretive or sensitive to text

Amazing Grace

Time signatures,  $\frac{3}{4}$

Learn chord progression

Add to by repeating chord notes with a few passing tones

Appreciate the words

How Great Thou Art

Plan chords

Practice chord progressions

Variety, changes between verses

Decorations

### **Session 3**

Singing and playing

Guidelines

Master your playing

Add voice

Be able to sing it without piano

Simplify accompaniment when first adding voices

Add passing notes and other techniques

Add parts of the melody in the right hand

### **Interviews with;**

(Leeland Mooring, And Piercy, Stuart Townend, Tre Shephard, Matt Redman, Tim Huges, Vicky Beeching, Noel Richards, Brenton Brown)

Advice to young musicians

How do we stop music from becoming soulless

Using Hymns

Choosing a set list

What goes on in your head when leading worship

### **Quick Tips**

Preparing yourself for worship

Playing in public for the first time