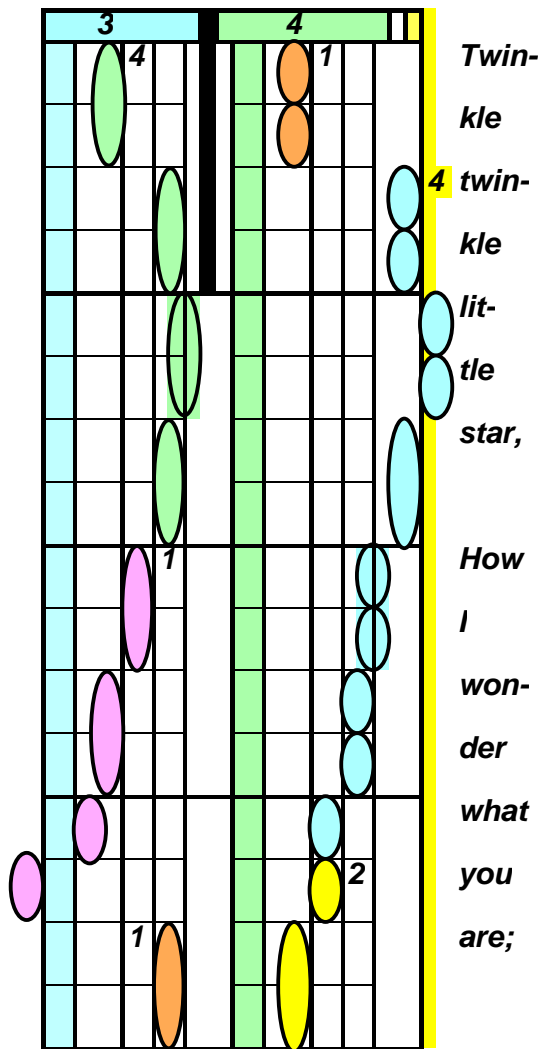
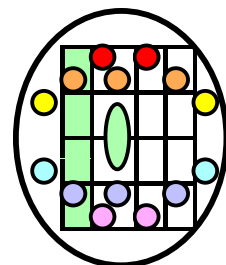


Colors of Notes on Key Maps Explained

KMA



From the Music Innovators Workshop



Introduction

About the Fill Colors of the Notes on Key

Maps. At the outset, it needs to be clear that this unit is discussing the fill colors of the NOTES - not the coloring of the octave groups. The coloring of the OCTAVE GROUPS is fixed - it does not vary. The coloring of the notes is completely independent of the colors of the octave groups. Note colors provide additional information about the notes. It also needs to be clear that the discussion of note color in this unit does NOT apply to key diagrams. (Note colors on key diagrams are used primarily to indicate rhythm.)

Functions of the Colored Notes. As you will see in this unit, the coloring of the notes on key maps (counting black and white as colors) provides several important and useful functions for the notation. Colored notes clarify which hand to use, identify the roots of chords, identify 5-finger groups, occasionally provide enhancements to the rhythm notation and provide visual cues that generally make the notation easier to read.

The Norm for Which Hand to Use. It is expected that the pianist will play the bass notes (BLUE octave group and below) with the LEFT hand and the treble notes (green octave group and above) with the RIGHT hand. This is the norm for when the notes are NOT colored. This works just fine for the simpler pieces. But for more complicated music, we have found that contrasting colors for the left and right hands often make for easier reading. You will find that much of our music is notated with PINK notes for the left hand and WHITE notes for the right hand.

Basic Key Map

Joyfully b: 1 Beats: 4

3 4 3

5 2 1 2

An-
gels
we
have
heard,
on
high,
Sing-
ing
sweet-
ly
o'er
the
plains,

This simple piece needs no note coloring to clarify any aspect of the song. The separation of the hands at Middle C is completely obvious - given the assumption that the hands normally separate at Middle C unless otherwise noted.

Simple Piece - vP -- With LH Pink Fill

Joyfully b: 1 Beats: 4

An-gels
we
have
heard,
on
high,
Sing-
ing
sweet-
ly
o'er
the
plains,

Traditional French Tune

And
the
moun-
tains
in
re-
ply,
E-
cho-
ing
their
joy-
ous
strains:

Even though there is no need for color here, you will sometimes find that left hand notes are colored pink for no apparent reason. It may be that the composer or arranger just liked the way it looks with the pink notes for the left hand.

Leadsheet Format - vLS Cds CS

Key maps for songs are often notated in a leadsheet format, for which they are well suited, showing song text, notated melody, chord notes, and chord symbols in one compact unit. LH Chord notation includes a PINK note indicating the root of the chord. File names in this format include the version code: vLS Cds CS.

Here's the interpretation: v=Version LS=LeadSheet Cds=Chord Notes, CS=Standard Chord Symbols

Joyfully b: 1 Beats: 4					Traditional French Tune				
F	○	●	○	An-	Dm	●	○	○	in
				gels	C	●	○	○	re-
				we	F	○	●	○	ply,
				have					
C	●	○	○	heard,	C	●	○	○	E-
				on	F	○	●	○	cho-
F	○	●	○	high,	F	○	○	○	ing
				Sing-					their
C	●	○	○	ing	C	●	○	○	joy-
F	○	●	○	sweet-	F	○	○	○	ous
				ly					stra
				o'er					
C	●	○	○	the					Glo-
F	○	●	○	plains,	Dm	●	○	○	---
				And	Gm7	○	●	○	---
Dm	●	○	○	the	C	●	○	○	---
				moun-					---
				tains					---

Briskly #: 4 Beats: 4

Bach - Toccata in D Minor-Lvl E - vP

Note: Hands are crossed.

Note: End of crossed hands.

Advanced Piece - vP - LH Pink Fill)

5-Finger Position Colored - v5FC

This version is based on the melodic fingering being in the basic 5-Finger Position. Each color group is in its own 5 finger position. A color change takes the player to a new 5F position. White notes indicate a note NOT in a 5F position.

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star vLS 5FC CS

Jane Taylor

French folk tune

Moderately b: 1 Beats: 4

Diagram showing the first staff of music with fingerings and color-coded notes. The staff is divided into two measures. The first measure has a light blue background and contains notes F (green), Bb (green), F (green), C (pink), C (pink), and F (pink). The second measure has a light green background and contains notes F (orange), Bb (orange), F (orange), C (cyan), C (cyan), and F (orange). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. A yellow vertical bar is on the right side of the staff.

Twinkle
kle
twin-
kle
lit-
tle
star,
How
I
won-
der
what
you
are;

2nd time – End Here

Diagram showing the second staff of music with fingerings and color-coded notes. The staff is divided into two measures. The first measure has a light blue background and contains notes F (orange), C (orange), F (orange), C (orange), F (orange), and C7 (blue). The second measure has a light green background and contains notes F (yellow), C (yellow), F (yellow), C (yellow), F (yellow), and C7 (yellow). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. A yellow vertical bar is on the right side of the staff.

Up
a-
bove
the
world
so
high,
Like
a
dia-
mond
in
the
sky,

Go back to the Beginning

In a 2-voice piece like this, there is no need for any coding to indicate which hand to use.

Themes From Canon in D - Page 1

v5FC Cds CS

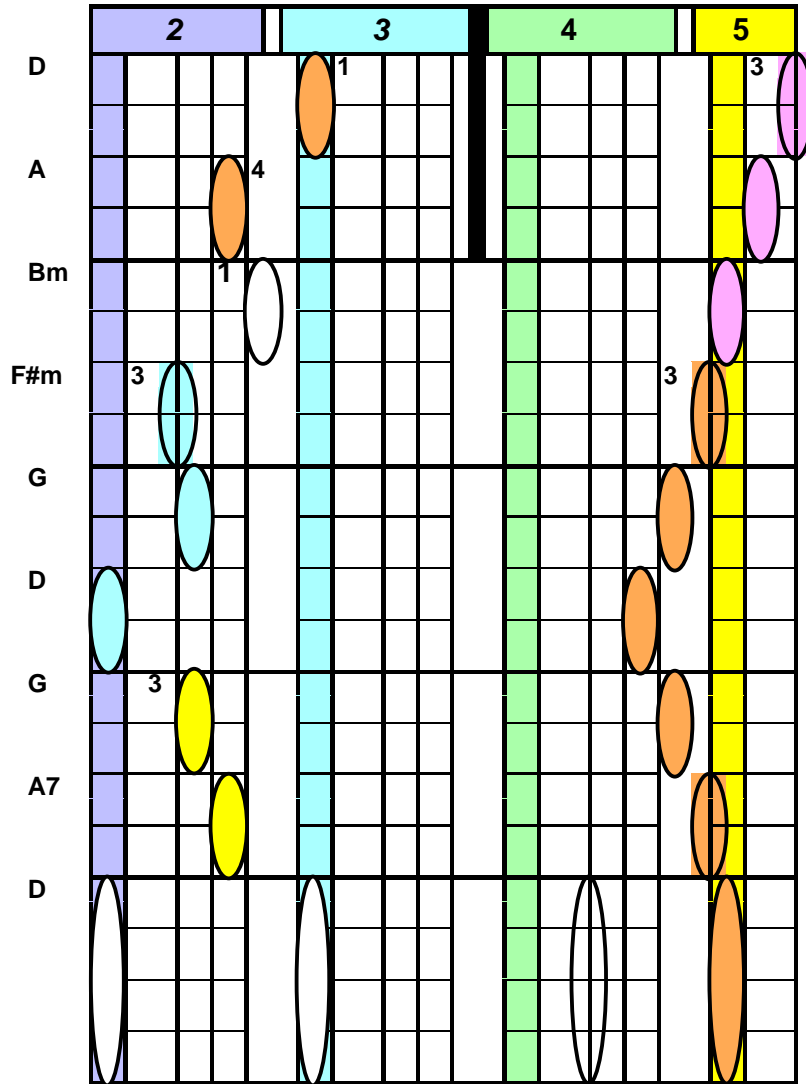
Johann Pachelbel 1653-1706

Moderately #: 2 Beats: 4

For key map chord symbols which are always shown in the blue octave group, a pink note indicates the root of the chord.

Concluded on Next Page

Themes From Canon in D - Page 2



LH Red Borders - The 5FC versions, which use colors to identify 5-Finger groups, can't use pink fill to identify LH notes in the green octave group. When this occurs, we substitute red borders for the usual pink fill, as in this piece.

Little Fugue in G Minor

Originally for Organ

J.S. Bach

With Vigor b: 2 Beats: 4 v5FC

