

LEARNING TO PLAY

NEW MUSIC

- The easiest way to learn new pieces is to buy printed music for tunes you like, or borrow it from a library. Look for 'albums' which contain several tunes as they are normally better value than the 'sheet music' for a single tune. Your music shop should have albums of 'easy piano' arrangements in which you will probably find some tunes you would like to play.
- Start with short, simple pieces of music, preferably tunes you know well which are not too fast. Avoid music with more than three sharps or flats in the key signature at first, as it will be more difficult to read. When you have learned to play a few 'easy' tunes, you can go on to tunes which are longer, or tunes which are in different keys. Always try to learn something new from each piece of music, and continually strive to improve your playing.

- Take each tune in easy stages. Learn one thing at a time – work out what each hand does separately, before you try to play anything complicated with both hands together.
- See which sharps or flats are in key signature, and remember that they affect every note with the same name. Work out how you are going to move your fingers smoothly from one note to the next, before you worry about the timing of notes. If any tune does not sound right when you play it, check that you are reading the music correctly and following any sharp, flat or natural signs.
- Count out the beat and start playing each tune slowly and evenly, then gradually work up to the correct speed. Practice any awkward parts on their own until you have mastered them. If the timing to part of a tune is not obvious write the counting underneath the notes in pencil.
- Look for parts of the music which are repeated, as this can save you the trouble of working out everything more than once.
- Learn to play every piece of music correctly, before going on to something new, or you may

end up knowing how to play parts of several tune
without being able to play any of the completely.

