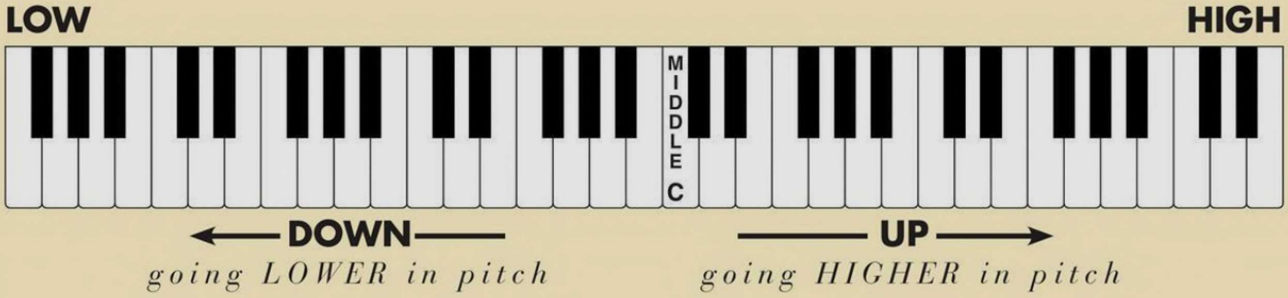
High and Low on the Keyboard

The piano KEYBOARD has white keys and black keys. Notice the black keys alternate between groups of **two** and **three**.

- Silently touch all the 2-black-key groups on the piano.
  Use L.H. for lower groups and R.H. for higher groups.
- Now silently touch all the 3-black-key groups on the piano.
  Use L.H. for lower notes and R.H. for higher notes.
- Now close your eyes. Can you find a group of 2-black-keys? A group of 3-black-keys?



Soft and Loud on the Keyboard

The keys on the piano can be played softly or loudly, with many variations in between.
Let's begin with these two basic tones:

p = *piano* The Italian word for soft, quiet.

f = *forte* The Italian word for loud. (Pronounced FOR-tay.)

Raindrops for R.H.

R.H. fingers 2-3 on a 2-black-key group

Damper pedal

1. Begin and end in the MIDDLE of the keyboard. Use R.H. fingers 2 and 3 together. Play the 2-black-key groups going UP, then back DOWN the keys (higher, then lower).
2. Play *piano*. Sink gently into the keys. Lift gently from the wrist as you move across the keys.
3. Now play and **depress the damper pedal** (right foot pedal) **throughout**. Keep your heel on the floor and your foot in contact with the surface of the pedal. Listen to the sound!

Thunder for L.H.

L.H. fingers 2-3 on a 2-black-key group

Damper pedal

1. Begin and end in the MIDDLE of the keyboard. Use L.H. fingers 2 and 3 together. Play the 2-black-key groups going DOWN, then back UP the keys (lower, then higher).
2. Play *forte*. Drop with the weight of your arm for a deep, rich tone.
3. Now play and **depress the damper pedal** (right foot pedal) **throughout**. Listen to the sound!

Repeat *Raindrops* and *Thunder* using fingers 2-3-4 on the **3-black-key** groups.