

# How To Play This Book

Each piece in this book is a duet that two people make up (improvise) as they play. The Bottom person plays an accompaniment that can be varied in endless ways, while the Top person improvises sounds and melodies using a selected group of notes. The Top part in level 1 can usually be played by pianists of nearly all levels, each according to their abilities.

Each piece can also be played solo. There is a companion Solo book that shows how to do this. It is best to explore these pieces as duets first.

Each piece in this book and also the Solo book has an accompanying video. You can find out more about these videos at [www.forrestkinney.com](http://www.forrestkinney.com).

## The Pattern Play Way

The Top person creates sounds and melodies using a suggested groups of notes.

The Bottom part in each piece has two sections, one marked **P** and another marked **V**.

**P** stands for Pattern. This is a short accompaniment that you can repeat many times and vary.

**V** stands for Vacation. This is a contrasting accompaniment pattern that you vary and also repeat as many times as you like. Sometimes there is more than one Vacation, so these are marked V1, V2, and so on. It is best to play all these accompaniments by memory because that allows you to be more responsive and creative.

## The Form of the Music

Every repeat sign in this book means: *Repeat as many times as a you like*. To create longer pieces (improvisations), the Bottom person repeats the Pattern many times and also the Vacation. Then, the Bottom person can loop back and forth between the Pattern and Vacation many times.

In general, play the Pattern to make an introduction. It usually works to play the first chord of the Pattern for an ending, but the best endings are those that you don't expect!

## Signaling

Sometimes the Vacation requires the Top person to play with a different group of notes. The Bottom person may need to signal when he or she is about to play to the Vacation. Try to do this non-verbally as much as possible, suggesting it with the music. Or perhaps signal with a movement of your wrists. Or agree in advance on the form of the piece—for example, you might agree to play the Pattern twice and the Vacation twice, over and over until the end.

## Change the Notes!

With most music books, it is considered wrong to change the notes. With this book, it is just the opposite! The notes in this book are *supposed* to transform into musical tones that keep changing and growing as long as you do! Enjoy.