

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Easy Piano Sheet Music

African-American spiritual

Level 2 | Full score, fingering, practice tips

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Go Tell It on the Mountain

Key	Time Signature	Tempo	Difficulty	Measures
F major	4/4	Moderato, 96 BPM	Beginner - Level 2	24

About This Piece

Go Tell It on the Mountain is an anonymous African-American spiritual. The earliest print we found is Religious Folk Songs of the Negro as Sung on the Plantations, new edition, arranged by the musical directors of the Hampton Institute (Hampton, Va.: Institute Press, 1909), page 174, and our pitches come from it. That page has the verse first; we put the chorus first and last. The rhythm uses the even eighths of Utica Jubilee Singers Spirituals (Boston: Ditson, 1930), taken down by J. Rosamond Johnson. In measures 4 and 20 the tune turns back down, A-G-A-F, as in the 1909, 1925 and 1930 prints. The higher turn many singers know today came later and is not used. The words are not printed here.

Notes and Hand Positions

> **Fingering Guide**
>
> Right Hand: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, C5, D5
> Chorus: thumb on C4, 2 on D4, 3 on F4, 4 on G4, 5 on A4. Verse (measures 9-16): thumb on F4, 2 on G4, 3 on A4, 4 on C5, 5 on D5. In measure 15, G4 from 2 to 5 brings the hand back down.
>
> Left Hand: F2, Bb2, C3 (a whole note or two half notes per measure)
> One position: pinky on F2, 2 on Bb2, thumb on C3. Bb2 comes only in the verse (measures 9, 13 and 15).

Notes Used in This Piece

Right Hand

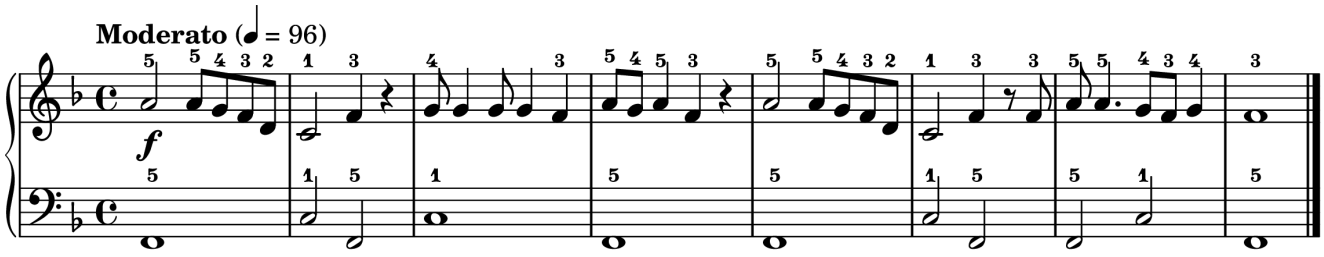
Note	On the Staff	On the Keyboard	Finger
C4	Ledger line below treble staff	Middle C	Thumb (1)
D4	Space below treble staff	Between C# and D# black keys	Index (2)
E4	Bottom line of treble staff	Right of two black keys above C4	Middle (3)
F4	First space of treble staff	Left of three black keys above C4	Middle (3)
G4	Second line of treble staff	Between F# and G# black keys	Ring (4)
A4	Second space of treble staff	Between G# and A# black keys	Pinky (5)
C5	Third space of treble staff	One octave above middle C	Ring (4)
D5	Fourth line of treble staff	Between two black keys above C5	Pinky (5)

Left Hand

Note	On the Staff	On the Keyboard	Finger
F2	Space below bass staff	Octave and a fifth below middle C	Pinky (5)
Bb2	Second line, flat in key sig.	Black key between A2 and B2	Index (2)
C3	Second space of bass staff	One octave below middle C	Thumb (1)

Section A - The Chorus (Measures 1-8)

The chorus, forte, in even eighths. A4, A4, G4, F4, D4 fall to C4, measure 3 repeats G4 four times, and measure 4 turns back down, A4, G4, A4, F4, as in the 1909 print. The section ends on a whole-note F4 in measure 8.

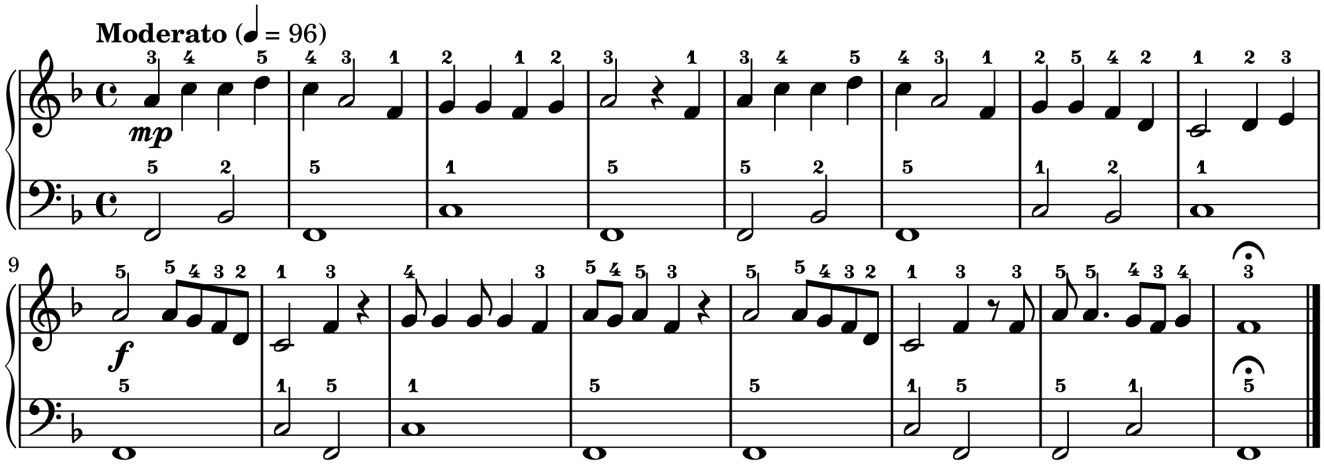


Go Tell It on the Mountain - Section A - The Chorus

> **How to Practice This Section**
>
> Count one-and-two-and aloud at x0.5 and keep the eighths even. Measure 3 goes eighth, quarter, eighth, quarter, quarter: clap it once before you play it.

Section B - Verse and Chorus (Measures 9-24)

The verse, at mp in quarter notes, with the hand up on F4: A4, C5, C5, D5 and back to A4. Measures 13-14 repeat 9-10. Measure 15 brings the hand down, measure 16 walks C4, D4, E4, and the forte chorus returns to end on F4 under a fermata.

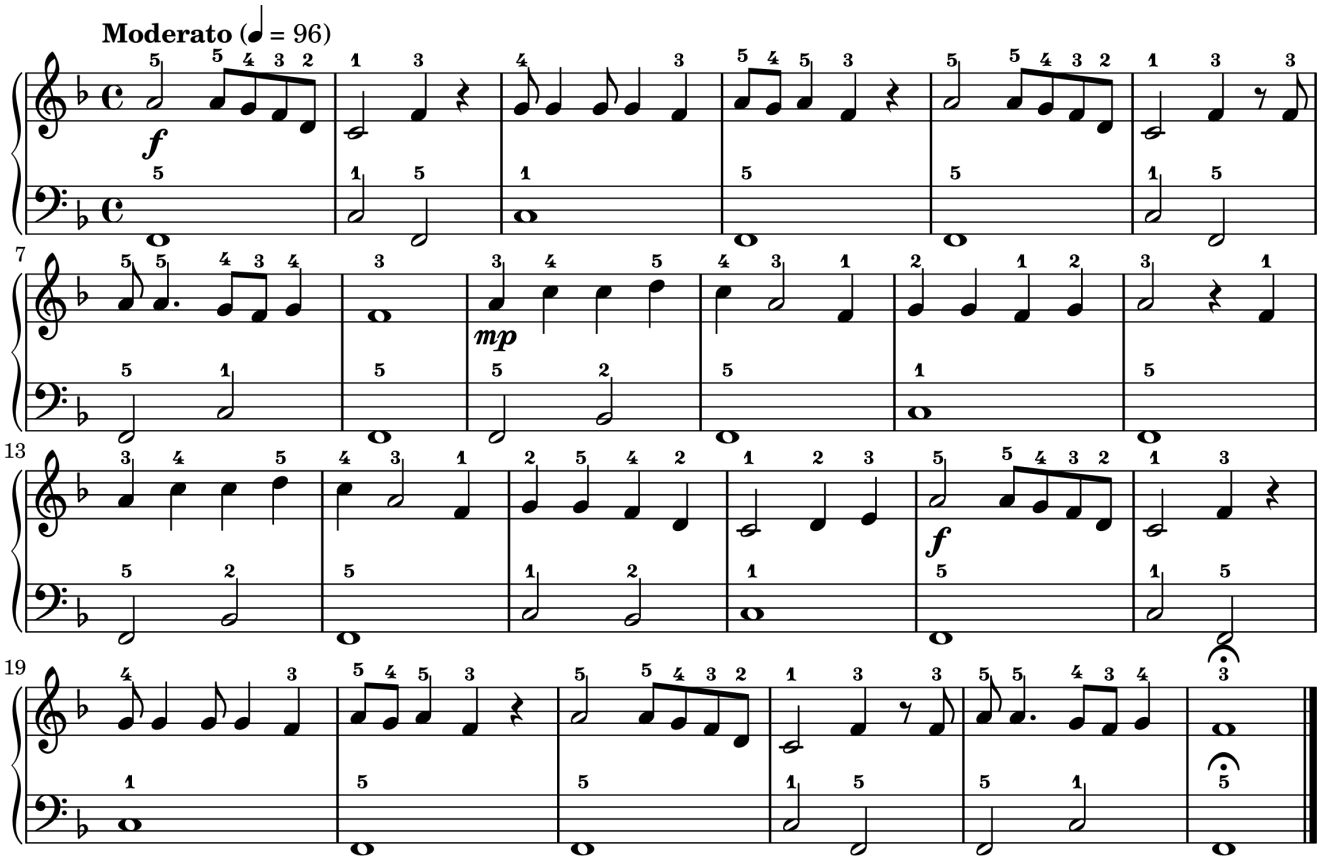


Go Tell It on the Mountain - Section B - Verse and Chorus

> **How to Practice This Section**
>
> Loop measures 15-17. Change from finger 2 to 5 on the repeated G4 in measure 15, then let C4, D4, E4 on 1-2-3 lead into the half-note A4 on finger 5.

Full Score

Here is the complete piece with all sections combined.



Go Tell It on the Mountain - African-American spiritual

Step-by-Step Practice Guide

Step 1: Right Hand Alone

1. Thumb on C4, pinky on A4, then measures 1-2: A4, A4, G4, F4, D4, C4, F4
2. Measures 3-4: G4 four times on 4, F4 on 3, then A4, G4, A4, F4 on 5-4-5-3
3. Verse, measures 9-12: thumb on F4, then A4, C5, C5, D5 on 3-4-4-5
4. Measures 15-16: G4 on 2 then 5, F4 on 4, D4 on 2, then C4, D4, E4 on 1-2-3

Step 2: Left Hand Alone

1. Pinky on F2, thumb on C3, index ready over Bb2
2. Chorus: F2 and C3 only, in whole notes and half notes
3. Verse, measures 9 and 13: F2, then Bb2 with finger 2
4. Measures 15-16: C3 then Bb2, then a whole-note C3

Step 3: Hands Together

1. Hands together at about 70 to the quarter, chorus first

2. Section A, counting the eighths aloud and holding the whole-note F4 in measure 8
3. Verse, with extra loops on measures 15-17
4. Target 96 to the quarter: f in the chorus, mp in the verse, and the last fermata held



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