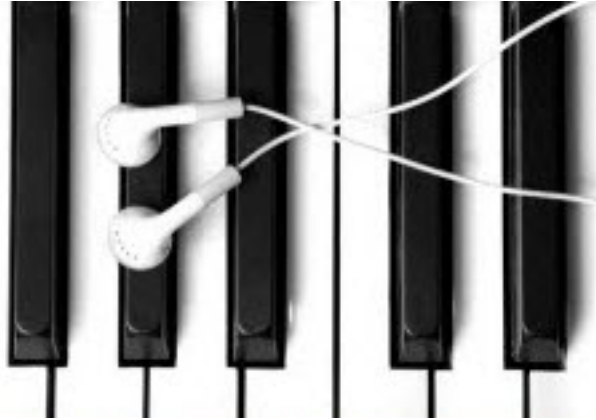
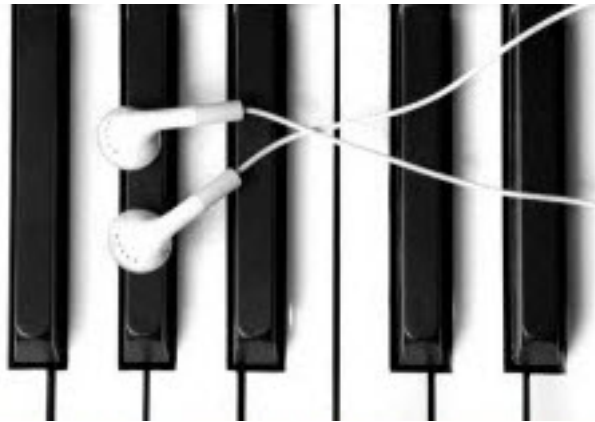


# The #1 Obstacle To Playing Piano By Ear



by [David Longo](#)

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A common aspiration shared by most people learning piano is to acquire the confidence to play music by ear. Much can be said on the topic of how to accelerate the process. However, what I would like to acknowledge here is the major obstacle that stands in the way of people reaching their goals in this area. By the way, if you think that playing music by ear is reserved for only a select few "gifted" people, please put that idea to rest permanently, beginning today, because this is simply a useless idea that many people were exposed to at one time or another and decided to

believe it. In fact, questioning your old beliefs is one of the most positive things you can do for yourself (you might want to grab a copy of [\*The Ultimate Secret To Creative Piano Playing\*](#), which touches on this issue). It's amazing how many dreams come to a halt because of past beliefs that people never learn to do away with. *The truth is that you have way more potential than you have ever imagined - please know that now.*

Have you ever sat at your piano or keyboard and just tried to pick out a familiar melody on those keys? If you have, perhaps you achieved some accurate results... or perhaps your efforts resulted in something that sounded nothing like what you were hoping to hear. Either way, *you arrived at results of some kind.*

How did you react to those results? Did that experience lead you to wanting to explore your potential to play by ear more and more, applying your efforts to other songs you love as well? Or did you resolve that you just don't have what it takes? I hope the latter is not true for you but, sadly, this is what happens with many. It doesn't have to be this way.

I would like you to go to your piano right now and think of a favorite song that perhaps you find yourself singing, whistling, or humming regularly. It can be any tune whatsoever. Go ahead and sing (or hum or whistle) a short segment of that melody. Now find the key on the piano that matches that first note you're singing. Following that, just allow your fingers to play different keys as you continue hearing that melody... match the keys you are playing to that melody as well as you can for now...

Question: what is your attitude while approaching this little exercise? What are you thinking? What are you feeling?

Are you smiling as you eagerly follow through? Are you experiencing full acceptance of the results you are getting, knowing that whatever they are, you have the potential to get better and better at this?

Or...

Are you approaching this exercise, even before you begin, with an inner belief that you probably won't have a positive experience? As you play those keys, do you find that you have the tendency to hesitate, secretly fearing that you might play the "wrong" notes? Do you find that your fingers are very hesitant to play certain keys, thinking "that key might not be the right one?" Is your focus more on what is going wrong with the process than on the fun you are having while experimenting?

The truth is that nothing is "going wrong" at all. Understand this: training your "musical ears" involves a process of elimination. The "key"... yes the "KEY" to success is to experience this "process of elimination" with enthusiasm and full acceptance!

Is "failure" a word that you relate to? If so, then let me put this another way: you will enjoy monumental success when it comes to playing by ear in proportion to how much you learn to love "failure!"

I would like to say that again to be sure you will pay attention to it:

*You will enjoy monumental success when it comes to playing by ear in proportion to how much you learn to love "failure!"*

*Yes, the #1 obstacle faced by people when it comes to learning how to play piano by ear is the combination of doubt, fear and hesitation they experience during their efforts.* It does not - and should not - be this way. What I mean by *doubt* is your basic inner attitude that says, "I can't do this" or "This is too challenging," etc. The *fear and hesitation* is something that only you can catch yourself in the act of... that feeling of doubt combined with that tendency to avoid playing that "wrong" key.

Of course, this applies to playing anything by ear, including intervals, chords, chord progressions, etc.

Training your "musical ears" should ALWAYS be a process you enjoy, while maintaining FULL ACCEPTANCE of your results along the journey. If you have ever seen a little child sit at a piano keyboard for the very first time, you've witnessed the playful, non-judging attitude that I am referring to.

You have a choice. You can make the ear training process a positive experience for yourself. Realize that those "wrong" notes are not wrong at all. Instead, they are "stepping stones" along your journey toward reaching new levels of accuracy, understanding and skill.

Absolutely know that each and every effort you make is a positive move toward success. By the way, this is not just positive thinking. Rather, it is reality. Imagine a rock climber as he or she ascends toward the goal of arriving at the top... there is only way to look, and that's UP. Is there any slipping and sliding along the way? You bet. Regardless of how many of these slips and slides on the way toward that goal, is any one of them a reason to stop the journey upwards?



I think you know the answer.

It should be no different for you when it comes to learning how to play by ear or learning anything new for that matter. Make a commitment to yourself today - right now - that each and every time to sit at that piano or keyboard of yours, you will have a smile on your face and you will know,

in advance, that success is yours.

Believe in yourself and exercise complete self-acceptance each and every step of the way.

You have what it takes.

Follow your dreams:)

And remember...

Always...

ALWAYS...

PLAY WITH PASSION!

Musically,

A handwritten signature in a cursive style, appearing to read 'Dae'.

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[How To Play Piano By Ear In All 12 Keys Without Knowing How To Read A Note Of Music](#)

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