



FREE GUIDE

4 Piano Chord Progressions That Make You Sound PRO

The same progressions behind thousands of your favorite songs.

Most people think sounding good on piano means learning hundreds of songs and memorizing complex theory. It doesn't. Professional musicians use the same handful of chord progressions over and over again. Once you know these four, you can play along with thousands of songs without reading a single note of sheet music.

i Before You Begin: Your Four Chords

All four progressions use the same four chords. Your right hand plays the full chord. Your left hand plays fifths (the root note and the fifth).

C major — C, E, G | Left hand: C + G

G major — G, B, D | Left hand: G + D

A minor — A, C, E | Left hand: A + E

F major — F, A, C | Left hand: F + C

Beginner tip: If all three right-hand notes feel like too much at once, play just the outer two notes of each chord. It still sounds great.

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The 4 Progressions

PROGRESSION 1 | I - V - vi - IV

C > G > Am > F

This is called the pop progression because it's literally everywhere.

How it works: Your right hand plays the full chord, four beats each. Your left hand plays fifths underneath. C, G, Am, F, then back to C. Keep the loop going without stopping.

You hear it in: *"Let It Be" by The Beatles*

Pro tip: Start at 60 BPM and keep your left hand steady. Speed up only once both hands feel natural together.

✨ **Practice:**

Play C > G > Am > F, 4 beats each chord. Play along with the video to hear how it should sound.

PROGRESSION 2 | vi - IV - I - V

Am > F > C > G

Same four chords as Progression 1. Different order, completely different mood.

How it works: Starting on the minor chord instead of the major one gives this a more reflective, melancholic feel. Your hands are in the exact same position as Progression 1. You're just starting on a different chord.

You hear it in: *"Apologize" by OneRepublic*

Pro tip: Give that Am some weight when you land on it. It's the emotional center of this progression. Let it ring for the full four beats before moving on.

✨ **Practice:**

Play Am > F > C > G, 4 beats each chord. Play along with the video and notice how the mood shifts.

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PROGRESSION 3 | I - vi - IV - V

C > Am > F > G

A timeless, singalong quality. This one has been around forever.

How it works: This starts on C like Progression 1, but the second chord is Am instead of G. That one change gives it a warmer, more classic feel. The move from G back to C at the end of the loop is what makes it feel so satisfying.

You hear it in: *"Stand By Me" by Ben E. King*

Pro tip: Let the G ring fully at the end of each loop before you return to C. That resolution is what gives this progression its classic feel.

✨ **Practice:**

Play C > Am > F > G, 4 beats each chord. Play along with the video and compare the feel to the first two.

PROGRESSION 4 | I - IV - V

C > F > G

Only three chords. The foundation of rock and roll.

How it works: Three chords, four beats each, back to C. That's the whole thing. This progression is behind more songs than you'd believe, and it's the simplest one in this guide.

You hear it in: *"Twist and Shout" by The Beatles*

Pro tip: Because there are only three chords, your hands have more time to settle on each one. Use that space. Hold each chord with intention before you move.

✨ **Practice:**

Play C > F > G, 4 beats each chord. Play along with the video. Simple and powerful.

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How to Actually Practice These

Reading about a progression is one thing. Making it automatic is another. Here’s how to build these into your playing.

Step 1: Get the chords in your hands first.

Before you worry about the progression, make sure each chord shape feels comfortable on its own. C, G, Am, F. Play them slowly until your hand knows where to go without you having to think about it.

Step 2: Play each progression in a loop.

C > G > Am > F, then back to C. Keep going without stopping. The transitions between chords are part of the practice, not a problem to solve before you start.

Step 3: Use the 3P Practice Loop.

Every session should have three phases:

- Prepare (5 min) — warm up by playing each chord shape slowly.
- Progress (15 min) — work on one progression. Isolate what’s hard.
- Play (10 min) — run through what feels good. Enjoy it. This is the point.

30 minutes. Consistent beats long.

Quick Reference: All 4 Progressions

#	Chords	Song Example	Feel
1	C G Am F	Let It Be (Beatles)	Uplifting
2	Am F C G	Apologize (OneRepublic)	Emotional
3	C Am F G	Stand By Me (Ben E. King)	Timeless
4	C F G	Twist and Shout (Beatles)	Driving

A quick note before you go:

You're not behind. You're not too old.

The reason piano hasn't felt joyful in the past isn't you. It's that nobody handed you the right tools. These five patterns are some of those tools.

Every PIANOLY student started right where you are now.

Ready to See the Full Roadmap?

These five patterns are just one piece of the puzzle. If you want to see exactly how we take students from zero (no experience, no music background) to playing the songs they've always loved, I put together a [free training](#) that walks you through the whole path.

You'll see the exact method, the order we teach everything, and why it works so much faster than traditional lessons.

Felix watched it in retirement and decided to join. He now plays every Sunday and Wednesday for his church prayer group and performs with the worship team once a month.

Marc had tried traditional lessons for years and gotten nowhere. After going through the training and joining the program, he surprised his wife by playing their wedding song.

Results vary depending on time invested and starting experience. But what these stories show is that with the right system, progress happens faster than most people expect.

[→ Click here to access the free training and see the full roadmap. ←](#)



Learn the songs you've always loved. Finally.

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