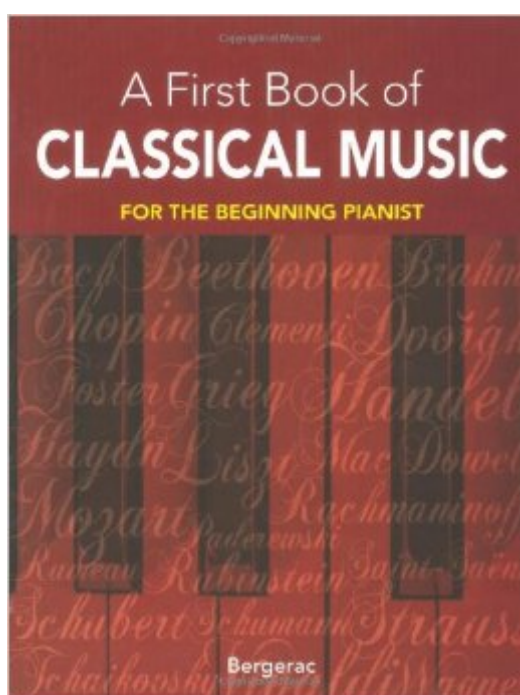


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A First Book Of Classical Music: 29 Themes By Beethoven, Mozart, Chopin And Other Great Composers In Easy Piano Arrangements



Synopsis

Fun-to-play, pedagogically sound piano arrangements include themes from Beethoven's "Pathétique" Sonata and Haydn's "Surprise" Symphony, along with such favorites as Schumann's Träumerei, Brahms's Lullaby, Chopin's Prelude, Tchaikovsky's Marche Slave, Moussorgsky's Promenade (from Pictures at an Exhibition), and many more. Includes 20 piano arrangements.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am an adult beginner and I'm teaching myself. This book has fun and easy arrangements to songs that you may already know the melody to. It's good for the adult beginner that is ready for their second book after getting down the basics. You should know how to read the notes (at least figure them out) in the bass and treble clef. It's a good book because you can probably play these songs right away, and you'll feel like you're really playing something, that otherwise would take years and years to accomplish. It's much better than playing kiddie songs. It has easy, short, two-hand abbreviated arrangements of classic's such as Nocturne by Chopin; Minuet by Bach; Ode to Joy by Beethoven; Minuet in G by Beethoven; Hungarian Dance by Brahms; Rondo in C by Clementi; From The New World by Dvorak; Sarabande by Handel; Sonata in C by Haydn; Surprise Symphony by Haydn and others.

I'm another adult who had piano lessons as a child and am now trying to relearn the piano with my own 10 year old. As advertised this book has a lot of familiar tunes that are easy for a novice player.

I like the notes about the composer and song that preface each of the pieces. Almost all of the pieces are written in either the key of C or F which was much appreciated by me. Both hands are used in all pieces but in many the left hand simply plays chords while the right carries the melody.

From a teacher's perspective: I love this book. The arrangements sound great and they are left/right hand balanced (versus having a stationary or primary chord left hand). They are not, as the book implies, for REAL beginners. My students can play SOME of these songs after they've studied for about a year, but the difficulty level in the book varies quite a bit. Only three of the 29 songs use exclusively whole, half and quarter notes. All of the others use more advanced rhythms including triplets, dotted eighths, & sixteenths. All but three songs have key signatures (F, G, D, d,) and/or accidentals. Many use ledger lines, intermediate fingering techniques (like crossing), and even have dual bass and treble clefs. Songs are in 3/2, 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 3/8, 6/8. It has GREAT teaching points for expression and phrasing. The silly irony of the book is that, after all of the complex keys and rhythms they include, they transposed and simplified Bach's Minuet in G...what a crack up! You can't beat the price for what you get.

One of my biggest regrets in life is that I didn't stick with my piano lessons when I was a child. I took for about three years, never practiced, and basically, have to struggle through most arrangements, usually with only the right hand. This book, however, makes me feel like a virtuoso! The book includes familiar sections of well-known classical pieces. Each one is done in a very simple arrangement that somehow still captures the essence of the original composition. I am able to sit down and sight-read most of the pieces without too much difficulty, and within a week or so of practicing, even my husband (a true musician) admits that I don't sound too bad. The book is easy enough that I don't get frustrated, yet challenging enough to give me a sense of accomplishment. I highly recommend it to anyone who's taken lessons for about 3 to 4 years.

This is a great book for a piano student. It allows them to enjoy true music while learning how to play fairly easy pieces. These aren't little dittys made up to teach notes. It is classical music. Beautiful Dreamer by Stephen Foster, Traumerei by Robert Schumann and The Happy Farmer by Robert Schumann are my favorite pieces. They are a joy to learn and play! This music makes you WANT to practice. I also recommend My First Book of Christmas Carols as well.

I'm picking up the piano again after a 20+ year break. I took 3-4 years of lessons as a 'tween, and

was a very good sight reader, able to play fairly well with two hands (at the same time). I bought this music thinking I'd be able to roll right through it quickly, and I found that either I'm delusional about how good a pianist I was OR this is a little harder than easy piano. The truth is probably a little of both. There are a few pieces that I was able to move through immediately, but for the most part, they are actually requiring quite a bit of work and practice. What I'm finding difficult is actually the range of octaves on the left hand (lots below the C in the bass clef staff) which is where my skills are more limited. I actually would have liked a little more complexity in using more chords on the left hand for a fuller sound and more interesting music, so for me this is an interesting mix of easy (limited chords) and hard (notes out of my familiar range). All in all, mostly recognizable pieces, and it's probably a good reach for those who think they are more intermediate than they actually are (like me). Definitely worth adding to your repertoire.

These arrangements are good, but a bit advanced. I am just not quite ready for this book. It is not self-explanatory. You need to be adept at reading both clefs, time signatures and the fingering is a bit tricky. I will have to slowly work up to it and these pieces definitely require a lot of slow, repetitive practice. Not as easy as Alfred's Basic Piano Course Book 1.

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