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# List of Piano Methods

## An Incomplete List of Current Piano Methods

by Joy Morin

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### For the Average Beginner

#### **Alfred's Basic Piano Course**

1981 by Willard Palmer, Morton Manus, and Amanda Vick Lethco. Alfred's Basic Piano Library is the most flexible of any piano method, allowing the teacher to personally design curriculums for specific age groups and to meet the needs of each individual student. This easy step-by-step method emphasizes correct playing habits and note reading through interval recognition. Lesson Book Level 1A begins by teaching basic keyboard topography and fluent recognition of white key names in relation to black keys. It focuses on simple rhythms and prepares students for intervallic reading with entertaining songs that focus on "same," "stepping up" and "stepping down." It then introduces lines and space notes in treble and bass clefs, melodic and harmonic intervals of 2nds, 3rds, 4ths and 5ths, and graduates to reading on the grand staff. It also introduces the flat and sharp signs.

#### **Alfred's Premier Piano Course**

2005 by Dennis Alexander, Gayle Kowalchyk, E.L. Lancaster, Victoria McArthur, and Martha Mier. Alfred's Premier Piano Course is the latest basic piano method released by Alfred Publishing. Accompanied by rich illustrations, the method introduces note reading, piano technic, theory, musical terms and symbols, pedaling, and more. Games and writing exercises reinforce concepts and terms in a fun-filled way. The reading approach is comprehensive—a blend of intervallic, multi-key and Middle C. There is much less focus on the uncomfortable Middle C position with both thumbs on Middle C than other approaches. In APPC, students learn to recognize landmark notes and

move by intervals from those landmark notes—yet the music is much more melodic than most intervallic methods. Students learn to name notes, read them by interval without relating them to a position. They also move around the keyboard freely.

#### **All the Way!**

1978/2005 by William Gillock. Piano – All the Way! is a multi-key course of study written and composed for the beginning piano pupil. It is designed to present the fundamental concepts of theory and literature in a wide variety of styles, leading to musical understanding and independent reading.

#### **American Popular Piano**

by Christopher Norton & Scott McBride Smith. The integrated, comprehensive course of study provided by American Popular Piano ensures the development of well-rounded piano fundamentals using a combination of classical and popular styles. Each of the eleven levels – from Preparatory for the first year of study, through the progressive levels 1-10 – includes a Repertoire Album, a supporting Etudes Album, a Skills Book, and an Instrumental Backings CD.

#### **Artistry at the Piano**

1980/2000 by Jon & Mary Gae George. ARTISTRY AT THE PIANO is a comprehensive, thoroughly organized program of study contained in 17 books that can be used successfully by students of all ages. The INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC provides a foundation by giving students the information, skills, and confidence that allows them to achieve dramatic

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progress in the subsequent books. ARTISTRY AT THE PIANO also includes: Workbook Series, Musicianship Series, Repertoire Series, and Ensemble Series.

### **Bastien Piano Basics**

1985 by James Bastien. The Bastien Piano Basics method is comprised of five completely correlated course books — PIANO, THEORY, PERFORMANCE, TECHNIC, and A LINE A DAY SIGHT READING. Bastien Piano Basics uses a gradual multi-key approach, with reading beginning in the C five-finger position. Five levels of carefully graded lesson material provide constant opportunities for reinforcing basic concepts. It's the smoothest, most heart-warming, most entertaining, most musical way to teach eager youngsters the joys of playing the piano. And comprehensive, page-by-page correlation makes Bastien Piano Basics remarkably easy to teach!

### **Bastien Piano Library**

1976 by James & Jane Smisor Bastien.

The Bastien Piano Library is an integrated course of study containing Lesson Books, related theory and technic books, and a wide variety of supplementary materials. The Bastien Piano Library also offers the option of beginning with either a “contemporary” approach (featuring pre-staff notation and first staff reading in G, then C, then middle C) or “traditional” approach (featuring Middle C reading and the C five-finger position).

### **Bastien Music Through the Piano**

1963 by James Bastien & Jane Bastien. The Music Through The Piano Library is a unique method designed for highly motivated beginners. Students read pre-staff music in 12 five-finger positions, then proceed to reading music on the staff in all 12 keys. Correlated supplements, including technique books, supplementary collections, and Music Flashcards round out this superb original piano course from Jane Smisor Bastien. First published in 1963, Music Through The Piano set the standard in multiple-key piano instruction for aggressive teachers and motivated students. Never surpassed nor even imitated!

### **Celebrate Piano!**

2003 by Cathy Albergo, J. Mitzi Kolar, and Mark Mrozinski. Celebrate Piano!® is a beginner method of four levels that combines an intervallic and multiple-key approach to reading. By transposing pieces from white keys to black keys and vice versa, students experience a wide variety of keys in their first few lessons. The “preparation, presentation, reinforcement” approach is emphasized throughout the books. Students experience a new concept before it is formally introduced. New concepts are presented in a “concept box” that explains and illustrates the concept being taught. New concepts are immediately reinforced in written activities and in new pieces. A “Practice Plan” that leads the student through a variety of activities—such as tapping rhythms or naming intervals—is included for every piece. Celebrate Piano!® incorporates contemporary and classical compositions as well as folk songs and popular styles. Celebrate Piano!® gradually introduces students to the challenges of elementary classical literature. Beginning in Level 3, students are ready to explore the extensive range of music found in Celebration Series®, Perspectives®.

### **Creating Music at the Piano**

1971 by Willard A. Palmer & Amanda Vick Lethco. This volume surveys the major keyboard style periods with a variety of familiar compositions, each prefaced by a brief explanation. A unique aspect of this edition is the introduction it provides to music editing. Using facsimiles, the editors explain the importance of good editions and some of the steps involved in creating a performance edition. This little-known piano method is both excellent and pedagogically sound.

### **David Carr Grover Method for Piano Lessons**

1988 by David Carr Glover and Jay Stewart. A sound approach to learning the piano, with emphasis on reading music through interval and note recognition, clapping, singing and counting aloud for proper rhythmical performance, and on sight reading and ear training. Includes full-color illustrations.

### **European Piano Method**

1998 by Fritz Emonts. Following the very successful piano method published in two volumes between

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1958 and 1962, the three-volume "European Piano Method" represents a new textbook which takes into account the development of modern piano pedagogy. Winning features of the Emonts Method: songs from many European countries, pupils begin to play without music notation, improvisation and playing on the black keys, development of listening skills and aural awareness, simple and logical learning structure, lots of duets, and attractive full-colour illustrations. In Volume 1, the printed music is intended primarily for the teacher who will play through the exercises. The pupil plays from memory rather than from the book.

### **Hal Leonard Student Piano Library**

1996 by Barbara Kreader, Fred Kern, Phillip Keveren, and Mona Rejino. When music excites our interest and imagination, we eagerly put our hearts into learning it. The music in the Hal Leonard Student Piano Library encourages practice, progress, confidence, and best of all -- success! Over 1,000 students and teachers in a nationwide test market responded with enthusiasm to the variety of styles and moods, natural rhythmic flow, singable melodies and lyrics, "best ever" teacher accompaniments, and improvisations integrated throughout the Lesson Books.

### **John W. Schaum Piano Course**

1945/1999 by John W. Schaum. "Leading to Mastery of the Instrument." Charming Music and Practical Pedagogy. Easy-to-Teach – Gradual, Logical Progression. Time-Tested Middle-C Approach to Note Reading. Clever Titles and Lyrics with Gentle Humor.

### **John Thompson's Easiest Piano Course**

1955/2005 by John Thompson. A comprehensive step-by-step course specifically designed to suit the needs of all children beginning the piano. Complete with an amusing family of characters and illustrations to help emphasize the information being taught. Includes worksheet pages which encourage the review of new information and concepts. The clear and straightforward layout makes learning more fun and ideal for parent participation.

### **John Thompson's Modern Piano Course**

1936/2005 by John Thompson. Teaching Little Fingers to Play is a book for the earliest beginner, combining rote and note approach. Supplemental books present popular songs in attractive arrangements. Once a student finishes Teaching Little Fingers to Play, they are ready for Teaching Little Fingers to Play More or Grade 1 of John Thompson's Modern Course for the Piano. John Thompson became famous for his sincere efforts to interest young pupils in pianism. All of his books and pieces emphasize interpretations and expression; his pedagogical genius was in effect "to use - in miniature - the same attacks as those used by the concert artist." The Modern Course series provides a clear and complete foundation in the study of the piano that enables the student to think and feel musically.

### **Leila Fletcher Piano Course**

1950/2003 by Leila Fletcher. The latest edition of Book One, published in 2003, no longer has the abundance of finger numbers as in previous editions, thus reducing the student's dependence on them. Students begin reading early elementary, child-oriented, eight-measure tunes from the grand staff immediately, in middle C position, one hand at a time. Nursery songs, folk songs and charming originals by the author are included. The right hand moves up to middle D position for several tunes and then both hands play in middle D position. C Major position is introduced towards the end of the book. Students play repeated harmony notes, harmonic seconds and thirds in the second half of the book. Teacher duet parts are supplied for more than 19 pieces, broadening the pupil's musical experience, and also adding interest to the early-grade recital.

### **Michael Aaron Piano Course**

1945/1994 by Michael Aaron. The Primer Level immediately launches the student into reading early elementary level pieces from the grand staff, hands together, in middle C position. G and C Major positions are presented respectively with a handful of pieces to support each. Plenty of fingerings are given for notes in each tune.

### **Music Moves for Piano**

2004 by Marilyn Lowe in cooperation with Edwin Gordon. Music Moves for Piano is a new piano

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series for the 21st century that builds on Orff, Kodaly, Suzuki, and Dalcroze and applies Edwin E. Gordon's Music Learning Theory to the teaching of piano. Music Learning Theory is the same as Gordon's "theories of audiation" and is a sequential learning process that guides students to hear music with understanding. The music learning process is similar to the language learning model of: listen, speak/perform, think/improvise, read and write. This piano series can be used for beginning and transfer students of all ages and levels. Music Moves for Piano is designed to develop audition and keyboard performance skills. The series provides a solid foundation for developing music literacy.

### **Music Pathways**

1983 by Lynn Freeman Olson, Louise Bianchi, and Marvin Blickenstaff. The child-oriented tunes are predominantly originals by the late, great Lynn Freeman Olson. Level A starts the beginning piano student by playing clusters of five white keys, to gain an orientation to the keyboard and to start to develop a natural hand position and technique. Next, students play simple tunes with simple rhythms in open fifths in both hands. Students are introduced to skips and steps on the keyboard and on the staff. It is not until this point that the musical alphabet and white key letter names are presented in Chapter 5. Next, students begin reading from two and three-line staves and shortly thereafter play from the five line staff. Keyboard charts are provided to show the appropriate hand position until Chapter 6 when clefs and the grand staff are introduced. By the last chapter, Chapter 14, students have been exposed to playing over a wide range of the staff and keyboard with an intervallic approach and no fixed hand positions.

### **The Music Tree**

1955/1973/1993/2000 by Frances Clark & Louise Goss. The primer book "Time To Begin," the cornerstone of the Music Tree series, is a unique and highly effective approach to beginning piano instruction. Starting with off-staff notation, it leads the student to reading direction and intervals, and climaxes with the discovery of the Grand Staff. Also included is a carefully designed program of rhythm, technic and creative work. The CD features electronic renditions of the music: it offers the accompaniment

alone, or both the student's and teacher's parts. The Teacher's Handbook is an invaluable tool. This volume contains essays regarding how students learn, on technic, and how rhythm is presented. Teaching aspects are discussed, and suggestions are offered for each unit of the book.

### **Noona Basic Piano Course**

1988 by Walter & Carol Noona. Each book contains instruction, theory, and repertoire evolving so gradually that success is ensured for students of any ability. In addition, the unique thirteen books enable entry from any other method when reinforcement is appropriate. All-in-one and incentive oriented!

### **Noona Clavier**

1990 by Walter Noona. In this European approach, the contrapuntal use of the hands is encouraged from the start. The musical direction is toward the masterworks. All related theory and technique is incorporated in the method book, while the repertoire book contains a balanced mixture of attainable masterworks and inventive original Noona material. A complete, thorough, ageless approach to the study of piano. At each level, NOONA CLAVIER METHOD consists of: Method book and Repertoire book.

### **Noona Comprehensive Piano Library**

1997 by Walter Noona. This method begins with the use of the PrePrimer and Primer NOONA COMPREHENSIVE MUSIC MAGIC PIANO LESSONS book, intended for ages 4-6. The Pre-Primer book teaches off-staff while the Primer begins teaching notes on the staff. The Bass Staff and Treble Staff are introduced separately before the Grand Staff. Another concepts include dynamics, touch, guidepost notes, note values and intervals. Students of age 7-11 can start in the Starter level instead of the PrePrimer/Primer. Afterwards, both groups of students are ready to go on to NOONA COMPREHENSIVE PIANO LESSONS Level 1-4. Each level contains the following books: Lessons, Complete Performer, and Playing/Sound Activity. A optional "Time to Play" and duet book is also available for each level.

### **Noona Mainstreams Piano Method**

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1973 by Walter Noona. MAINSTREAMS IN MUSIC is the Noonas signature entry into the challenging world of teaching keyboard music! An excellent choice for beginning students from upper elementary through junior high. Beginners 8 thru teens. (Mainstreams) consists of: Pencil & Paper, Performer, Projects, Mainstreams in Music ... Along with delightful, original music, this course (including Intermediate Streams and The Improv) plants the seeds of improvisation and places a strong emphasis on multi-keys and keyboard harmony.

### **Noona - The Gifted Pianist**

1986 by Walter Noona [out of print]. THE GIFTED PIANIST allows you to use the method itself as an incentive or reward for your more studious musicians. The material is essentially the same excellent music as in the NOONA CLAVIER METHOD; however, the packaging, cover art, and format of this method are indeed designed for the "gifted pianist." The perfect approach for those special students who love to learn! Gifted Pianist Series consists of the following books: Conceptual Core - Divertimenti - Styles - Scriva.

### **Noona Young Pianist Library**

1981 by Walter Noona. The intervallic approach to reading is coupled with the gradual integration of multi-keys. This method is especially well suited for the study of piano at a younger age. A joyful way to begin piano lessons! Each level contains the following books: Piano Book, Theory Pages, Solo Book, Hymns, and Christmas Carols.

### **New Pageants for Piano**

1958/1986 by Donald Waxman.

The revised beginner's book, "A New Pageant," covers the same pedagogical ground as the former "Introductory Pageant: Book 1." The entire series features charming, award winning illustrations by Alice and Martin Provensen. The supplemental "New Pageant Reader Series" offers short solos and duets to supplement the reading experience and have been gathered from many sources: troubadour songs, Gregorian chants, folk songs and dances, symphonic and operatic excerpts, Elizabethan rounds and original contemporary etudes. Book 1 begins at the early elementary level and moves to the

late elementary level over the course of forty-one short tunes. Students begin reading from the grand staff immediately and progress an octave above and below middle C. It introduces basic quarter note time signatures and rhythmic values from whole to eighth notes. The most common concepts, articulation, and dynamic markings are always presented by way of original pieces. New concepts also include time signatures of 2/4, 3/4, 4/4; key signatures of one sharp and one flat; and the simplest dynamic and articulation markings. It consists mostly of single voiced, five finger position pieces with some simple holding notes and small intervals. "A Pageant Workbook" consists of a glossary of terms and symbols found in "A New Pageant" with many note and rhythm writing exercises.

### **Piano Adventures**

1996 / 2011 by Randall & Nancy Faber. Combines the strengths of intervallic reading, multi-key, and Middle C approaches and offers a wide variety of sounds and styles with many optional teacher duets. The books will entertain and delight students with beautiful color illustrations and a carefully conceived layout.

### **Piano Discoveries**

2001 by Janet Vogt & Leon Bates. Discover the difference a method can make with this exciting series! Piano Discoveries captures the musical imagination of students and teachers alike with appealing and sensitive repertoire, well-integrated and supportive music theory, creative activities, and a gradually paced building of technical skills that equips the student to progress successfully and musically. Created by an exceptional team: composer and teacher, Janet Vogt; world acclaimed concert artist and master teacher, Leon Bates; along with guidance and contributions from innovative composers and teachers including Nancy Telfer, Gail Berenson, Scott McBride Smith, Martha Sherrill Kelsey, and Rebecca Shockley, Piano Discoveries reflects the expertise and talents of its entire creative team.

### **Piano Pronto**

2006/2013 by Jennifer Eklund. Piano Pronto is a series of graded lesson books which spans from beginning to early advanced levels. Students learn

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to read music notation immediately. Piano Pronto provides clear explanations of music theory, terminology, music history, and analysis. "Pronto Prep" sections show students how to practice effectively. Students will master the instrument while playing familiar and engaging melodies from a wide variety of genres including classical, jazz, folk, ragtime, blues, patriotic songs, and pop tunes.

### **Piano Safari**

2010 by Katharine Fisher & Julie Knerr. Piano Safari is an innovative new series that provides a creative and systematic approach for teaching children to become musically literate at the piano. Highlights include:

- Interesting sounding music that students love to play.
- Improvisation ideas for developing creativity.
- A carefully sequenced, intervallic approach for learning to read music notation.
- Variety in sounds and types of pieces.
- Pieces that appeal to various learning styles.
- Animal themed exercises for developing the basic motions of piano technique.

### **Piano Town**

1994 by Keith Snell & Diane Hidy. Piano Town is the perfect place to learn to play the piano! A Multi-Key method with an intervallic concentration and a Middle C start, Piano Town combines the best of pedagogy to date with innovative new ideas. Students will love the contemporary feel as they discover the musical wonders of Piano Town. Teachers will love the success of its interactive discovery learning approach!

### **Robert Pace Piano Method**

1988 by Robert Pace. The Robert Pace Piano Method teaches outstanding piano music in relation to theory, technique, and creativity. This comprehensive approach (preschool music through adult keyboard levels) gives students invaluable tools for lifelong independent learning, creativity, and musical enjoyment. This 5-book series of educational keyboard books is packed with instruction including lessons, exercises, and songs. Each book has 48 or more pages tailored to the student's needs from

beginner (Book 1) to the intermediate or advanced pianist (Book 6). At each level, there are four books: Music for Piano, Creative Music, Theory Papers, and Finger Builders.

### **Russian School of Piano Playing**

1978 by V. Natanson, A. Nicolaev, N. Sretenskaya, and E. Kisell. Current editions of The Russian School of Piano Playing are divided into three separate volumes. Book 1, which is in two volumes, contains the material from Part I and Part II of the original Book 1. Part I takes the average student to the end of the first year, and Part II covers the second year. Book 2 takes the student to a more advanced stage, leading him/her on to repertoire pieces.

### **Step by Step Piano Course**

1959/2005 by Edna Mae Burnam. This piano course provides the student the opportunity to experience the joy of playing while learning the rudiments of music in a logical order, with gradual and steady progress, presenting a challenge toward increasing pianistic facility.

### **Succeeding at the Piano**

2010 by Helen Marlais. There are a number of distinguishing features that put Succeeding at the Piano at the head of the class! The innovative approach to reading combines conventional note reading with intervallic reading making students stronger readers faster. Succeeding at the Piano recognizes that learning is non-linear and creates a pacing system that encourages natural learning cycles. Succeeding at the Piano's natural learning cycles move students through units that fluctuate in difficulty.

### **Suzuki Piano School**

1978/2008 by Shinichi Suzuki. The Suzuki Piano School book contains few instructions and is intended for use with a Suzuki-trained teacher. The Suzuki method is a method of teaching music conceived and executed by Japanese violinist and pedagogue Shin'ichi Suzuki (1898–1998). Students are typically taught from a very young age and are taught primarily through ear/rote learning during the early years. The Suzuki Piano School is

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comprised of seven volumes with accompanying CDs.

### **Tales of A Musical Journey**

2010/2013 by Irina Gorin. Written in a form of a chapter book, "Tales of a Musical Journey" uses fairy tale setting and characters to introduce and expand musical concepts. In the series, the young minds are set on a journey through fictitious musical land, where they become friends with the inhabitants of the land. Entertaining and logically interconnected stories develop a young student's understanding and appreciation of music and piano playing.

Comprehensive analogies with the Fairy Tale characters and their adventures make complicated techniques easy and fun. Ear training exercises and theory activities further train and develop young musical ears. A CD with musical examples is included to accompany the student through his practice at home and lessons. The series is primarily targeted towards 4-6 y.o. beginning piano students. However, older beginners may benefit from it as well. Books 1 and 2 cover the span of the first year of study and will sufficiently prepare the students for the classical repertoire. This series should not be used for self-taught purposes. The success may only be achieved under a guidance of a trained instructor and a watchful eye of an involved parent.

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## For the Young Beginner

### **Alfred's Basic Piano Prep Course**

2004 by Willard A. Palmer, Morton Manus, and Amanda Vick Lethco. Alfred's Basic Prep Course was designed and written for students ages 5 years and up. These books take into consideration the normal attention span as well as the small-sized hands of the young beginner. The basics of music are introduced through the use of tuneful but simple music that advances at the proper speed for small children to comprehend and enjoy.

### **Bastien's Invitation to Music**

1993 by Jane Smisor Bastien, Lisa Bastien, and Lori Bastien. Sensitive and inspired teaching of early childhood students is a very satisfying and joyful experience for both parents and teachers. Ensure the success of these very special students with the Bastien's Invitations to Music series, an exciting introduction to the marvelous world of music. No reading or writing is presumed, all necessary skills are developed gradually in successive levels of instruction. The Bastien's Invitation to Music series uses gradual multi-key approach, guiding children from pre-staff notation to staff reading. Illustrations and activities that are fun and instructional enhance learning and heighten interest. Ideal for children 4 and up.

### **Kinder-Keyboard**

1977 by Robert and Helen Pace. Kinder-Keyboard helps young children (ages 5-6) develop elementary keyboard skills by singing, creating, listening, and writing as they explore melody, harmony, and rhythm. Graphics facilitate the development of reading skills and a variety of activities peak the interest of every student.

### **Mainstreams Primer Method**

1977 by Cappy K. Cory, Walter Noona, and Carol Noona. This is the Primer course that leads into Mainstreams Piano Method. At each of the two levels (A and B), there are the following books available: The Primer Pianist, Primer Pieces, and Primer Games.

### **Music for Moppets**

1971 by Robert and Helen Pace. Step-by-step tips on teaching each new song or game. Offers many helpful suggestions for introducing musical terms and concepts to groups of young children of divergent capabilities.

### **Music for Little Mozarts**

1998 by Christine H. Barden, Gayle Kowalchyk, E.L. Lancaster. Music for Little Mozarts was written to encourage a love for music in young children, ages 4-6, and to help them begin learning to play piano. These books help develop singing and listening skills while imparting an appreciation for many musical styles! The adventures and lessons are exciting and imaginative, both at school and at home. Your eager, inquisitive students will discover music and find out how much fun it is to play!

### **Music Readiness Series**

1984 by Glover, Glasscock, and Stewart. "My First Music Book" introduces some of the most basic elements of music. This book includes illustrations to color. "My Piano Book" is the core 'playing' book featuring four-color illustrations. It includes ear-training patterns. "My Color and Play Book" contains pictures to color, pieces to play, and songs to sing, all to reinforce musical concepts.

### **My First Piano Adventures**

2007 by Randall & Nancy Faber. Written for ages 5 and 6, My First Piano Adventure® captures the child's playful spirit. Fun-filled songs, rhythm games and technique activities develop beginning keyboard skills. My First's three levels, A, B, and C, each have a Lesson Book with CD and a Writing Book. Book C of this young beginner course leads into Level 1 of basic Piano Adventures®.

### **Pianimals**

1998 by Marie Price, Flora Arnold, and Louise E. Way. PIANIMALS is a breakthrough way to play the piano or keyboard while preparing your child to read music! PHONICS 4 PIANO is like the

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traditional methods of middle C approach with one difference...the process of playing and reading music is presented ONE CONCEPT AT A TIME.

### **Piano for the Young Beginner**

1987 by James Bastien. This Primer series for young beginners (ages-5-6) begins with pre-staff notation, and proceeds to reading on the grand staff. The combination of original, folk, and seasonal songs, and full-color artwork makes learning a treat. Students who complete both Primers A & B are ready for study in Level 1 of Bastien Piano Basics.

### **Alfred's Prep Course for the Young Beginner**

1988/1993 by Palmer, Manus, and Lethco. Corresponds to the Alfred Piano Library. Alfred's Prep Course is an exciting and colorful piano method for young beginners, ages five and up. The full-color illustrations are delightful and the wonderful melodies and lyrics were chosen to please very young students, taking into consideration their attention span as well as the reach of their small hands. The basics of music are introduced through the use of tuneful but simple music that advances at the proper speed for small children to comprehend and enjoy. Level A gives students a chance to play tunes immediately, on black key groups and then on the white keys using pre-staff notation (letter names written in notes). The staff is introduced 2/3 of the way through and students play several tunes while reading from either the treble or bass staves. The grand staff is introduced toward the end of the book and the young pianist begins to play tunes in C Major position. Rhythms throughout the book are simple (quarter, half, dotted half, and whole notes).

### **Sing and Play**

1981 by Ann Collins and Linda Clary. The "Sing and Play" series is designed for the preschool piano student studying piano individually, in small groups,

or in larger nursery school classes. Book 1 presents the keyboard in pre-reading form. Book 2 introduces reading; and Book 3 continues to prepare the child for late beginner level study in Middle-C, landmark-Interval, or Multi-Key methods. The "Write and Listen" workbooks accompany each level and are to be used as correlative in-class and at-home activities in writing and ear-training. The Teacher's Manual is an invaluable resource and guide. Flash Cards and three supplemental recital books complete the series. These are truly an ideal group of books affording children the opportunity to acquire music skills through music learning activities that are age-appropriate for four, five, and six-year-olds. Teaching manual available.

### **The Very Young Pianist**

1970/1973 by Jane Smisor Bastien. A delightful series of books (part of the Music Through the Piano Library) containing lesson material for very young beginners, ages 4 to 7. Students read, write, recognize, play, and create, while developing a firm foundation in music fundamentals. Workbooks contain additional written theory drills to supplement and reinforce concepts presented in the Lesson Books. "Listens & Creates" books provide ear training and composition activities which parallel the learning material presented in the Lesson Books. Book 1 introduces left and right hands, numbers 1 through 5, letters A through G, high and low, up and down, and basic rhythms. It presents short, pre-staff pieces in C and G Major positions and introduces the tonic chord for harmonization of melodies.

### **Wunderkeys Piano for Preschoolers**

2011 by Andrea and Trevor Dow. This one-on-one, story-based piano program takes very young children with no prior musical experience on a magical journey where they acquire the piano skills, keyboard awareness, and rhythmic understanding needed for a successful future at the piano.

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## For the Older Beginner

### **Accelerated Piano Adventures**

1998 by Randall & Nancy Faber. Featuring the proven, pedagogical approach set forth in the basic piano method, Accelerated Piano Adventures for the Older Beginner continues the tradition of learning music through discovery, creativity, and adventure. Book 1 of the accelerated series combines the Primer Level and Level One of the basic Piano Adventures method. Book 2 combines Levels 2A and 2B.

### **Alfred: Complete Level 1 for the Older Beginner**

2006 by Willard A. Palmer, Morton Manus, & Amanda Vick Lethco. Complete Level 1 is a faster-paced version of Levels 1A and 1B of the Alfred Basic Piano Library that gets to staff reading more quickly. Perfect for a student who is 8 or older, or for a

younger beginner with great musical aptitude. This course is most effective when used under the direction of a piano teacher or experienced musician.

### **Bastien Older Beginner Piano Course**

1977 by James Bastien. Teenagers and adults make rewarding, yet challenging, beginning students. The Bastiens' Older Beginner Piano Course was written specifically for the requirements and desires of students with many demands on their time. The comprehensive method assumes no prior knowledge of music, and incorporates theory and technique exercises into a fun-filled course of study. Clear, precise graphics illustrate new concepts and large notes make reading easier. It's plain to see why The Older Beginner Piano Course is the method of choice for many recreational piano students and beginning piano classes at numerous colleges!

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## For the Adult Beginner

### **Adult Piano Adventures All-In-One**

2002 by Randall & Nancy Faber. This comprehensive, "All-In-One" book includes lessons, solos, technique, and theory in a single volume for ease of use. Each unit includes a 3-Minute Technique page to develop finger dexterity and a Music Theory page to develop understanding of rhythm and harmony. The enjoyment of familiar songs is a hallmark of Piano Adventures®. You will find world-famous classic and popular melodies, as well as folk songs from around the world, jazz and blues favorites, and beloved spirituals. Book 1 presents the fundamentals of music notation, chord playing, and musical form. Book 2 teaches keyboard harmony using "lead sheets" with chord accompaniment patterns. A comprehensive course in reading, playing, and listening to music. With its logical and effective approach to note-reading, Book One gives you the basic skills to play hundreds of melodies by the completion of the book.

### **Alfred's Basic Adult Piano Course**

1983 by Willard A. Palmer, Morton Manus, & Amanda Vick Lethco. Alfred's Basic Adult Piano Course is designed for the adult beginner who wishes to learn the piano by playing chords quickly. The course has a number of features that make it particularly successful in achieving this goal. It progresses very smoothly, with no gaps that cause the skipping of hard sections. In addition, it teaches chords for both hands. Because of this, the pieces in Alfred's Basic are more musical and make playing a richer, more rewarding experience.

### **Alfred's Adult All-In-One Course**

by Willard A. Palmer, Morton Manus, & Amanda Vick Lethco. Alfred's Basic Adult All-in-One Course is designed for the beginner looking for a truly complete piano course that includes lesson, theory, technic and popular repertoire in one convenient, all-in-one book.

### **Bastien Piano For Adults**

1999 by Jane Smisor Bastien, Lisa Bastien, Lori Bastien. To teach piano basics, the Bastien have

created a new, rich course designed specifically for adult beginners, Bastien Piano for Adults is a welcome addition to the best-selling collection of Bastien methods and supplementary materials. Lessons, theory, technic, and sight reading are combined in one easy-to-use book. The series is gradually paced to ensure student confidence and success. The variety of music, custom selected for adults, includes famous classic themes, folk songs, spirituals, ragtime, blues, boogie, jazz, and Bastien originals that teach the basics in a straightforward, yet innovative manner.

### **Hal Leonard - Adult Piano Method**

2006 by Fred Kern, Phillip Keveren, Barbara Kreader, Mona Rejino. The Hal Leonard Student Piano Library's Adult Piano Method takes an all-in-one approach by combining lessons, solos, technique, and theory into a single volume. This innovative series is authored by the skilled writers of the HLSPL children's method accomplished composers, teachers, and performers with a broad background in piano pedagogy. The authors have taken a logical step-by-step approach, always keeping the adult learning process in mind. The book is well-paced, moving quickly but comfortably through new concepts and material. Beginning adult students will find this book challenging enough to be interesting, yet easy enough to experience a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction.

### **John Thompson's Adult Piano Course**

John Thompson's Adult Piano Course was written with the older student in mind. They have the same musical road to travel as the younger student, but the study material for the grown-up will differ in content. These books are compiled especially for adults and contain pieces that adults like to play and hear. Many hints are given to help the student play as artistically and with as much musical understanding as possible.

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### **Keyboard Musician for the Adult Beginner**

1980 by Frances Clark, Louise Goss, Roger Grove. Here is a complete repertoire and textbook for the older or adult beginner. Starting with material appropriate for the first lesson, it moves rapidly through discoveries, music and activities equivalent to The Music Tree and Levels 1 and 2. On completing the book, the student is ready for Level 3 of the Clark Library. The book provides quantities of music, all of it selected or composed to appeal to the older student.

### **New Horizons**

1992 by Walter Noona [practically out-of-print]. This is a comprehensive yet direct piano course for busy adults who always wanted to play the piano and never got around to it. This course is geared to maximize time input and equip the adult student with the ability to not only play music quickly...but understand it and hopefully...create music of his own. THE NEW HORIZON PIANO COURSE is contained in two 96 page volumes (KM153 VOLII) Each has 10 units. At the beginning of each unit, the concepts to be covered are succinctly listed. At the end of each unit, these concepts are carefully reviewed via a Theory Page.

### **Returning to the Piano**

2010 by Wendy Stevens. Ever think to yourself, "I wish I hadn't stopped playing the piano!"? If so, then this is the perfect book to help you dive back into the fun world of creating music! It allows you to play the songs you know and love, from pop tunes to folk songs to arrangements of familiar classical pieces. The book begins with a thorough review of music terms, symbols, note names, intervals, rhythm and technique. Then, the book is divided into six units progressing steadily from the late elementary to intermediate level. Each unit contains several songs and pieces in varying styles as well as further instruction to expand your musical understanding.