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Practical Method For Beginners On The Pianoforte , Op. 599:



Synopsis

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Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This method is very limited in scope and not for everybody, but it is just what I need, at least so far. It's about training the hands and getting a spacial (sic) awareness of the keyboard. Unlike Hanon, it does not take zen-like attention to relax the hands while doing the exercises. Also, it trains the fingers in chord shapes. I am an accomplished musician (trumpet, bass, vocals) who never learned to play piano properly. My ears and stylistic senses are fine: I can play some Bach inventions, a bit of Chopin etc, but each piece takes me a long time to learn (I wind up memorizing them before I can play them accurately). I also can lift many rock and pop tunes I hear in my cd collection and off the radio (example: Prelude to Angry Young Man by Billy Joel - no easy piece) with plenty of gusto and authenticity but I get tired quickly. I also cannot sight read effectively (esp when chord are involved) - I know the notes and can hear it but my fingers do not automatically obey. One negative review was accurate in that the musical content is, to say the least, not inspiring. But neither are drills for learning to dribble a basketball, swinging a baseball bat or any form of physical competence. The first page of this book is ridiculously easy musically, but due to the fingering alternations, I have spent days on it, and can feel myself building awareness of my fingers, spacing and developing the neuronal connections that are crucial to good habits. I anticipate eventually being able to look at a piece of music and unconsciously being able to play it. Yes, the musical content is not exciting (this should not be your only form of musical expression or practice!), but getting the true physical

fundamentals down is worth it.

I am a piano teacher and I have recommended Czerny to my students. It is a great book to learn the basics. I saw the pretty cover and I recommended this edition from this publisher to my student. Silly me. This edition has the most awkward fingering for any student. Not only that but there are a few pages in which the ink ran out. We had to pencil the notes and lines to complete the measures because the publisher didn't bother print the book with the quality that it should have been printed. Do get the book but do not get it from this particular editor, Giuseppe Buonamici. Disappointed piano teacher, ME.

I used Opus 599 when I first learned to play the piano back in highschool. Interestingly, my mom happened to have a copy although she never played the piano and she convinced my teacher to use it on me. My teacher is a proponent of Hanon and I'm so thankful that she agreed to train me on Czerny. I'm sure Hanon is effective but I could never stand it! The Czerny etudes are very melodic so I have always had fun playing them. Unfortunately, when I went to college and after that started working, I stopped playing piano entirely. Now, 15 years later, I'm home a lot more and my husband bought me a piano! I tried to find the Czerny I used in the past but couldn't. Luckily my mom still has it and she emailed me a photo. It is exactly the same as this version (Schirmer's) except it was published by Carl Fischer - probably out of print already that's why I couldn't find it. Anyway, I highly recommend this book... you won't need anything else. Unlike the super tedious Hanon, it doesn't feel like a drudgery to go through each exercise. I was never able to play this book to the end but now I'm determined to do it. I already have School of Velocity on standby.

The exercises are challenging but within the scope of late beginners. The advantages for me so far are the demands for attention to skill in shifting the fingering on the same and contiguous notes. The melodies are simple but make the exercises more interesting - some compensation for the fingering effort required. I began using this for sight reading practice and then I learn some of the pieces just for the exercise.

I have been using this as a teaching aid for over 40 years. This is a must for beginning piano students.

This isn't the technic book for everyone, but I enjoy it immensely and really like how much my

playing has improved. This is a good study book for prep in playing individual pieces. There are lots of changes in tempo, allegro and legato passages, quarter notes, slurred notes, staccato, and both left and right hand patterns - good exposure to 19th and 20th century compositions. It is not as square as say, Hanon or Bach, and not quite as complex as Liszt or other 'virtuoso' technique books, but it is expressive. There is a very strong emphasis on legato and short allegro passages, so melody is a key here, perfect for a late beginner/early intermediate and even more advanced pianists that need to "freshen" their playing now and then.

This is a great book for mastering the fundamentals of piano technique. My only disappointment is that at least 33% of the book is in the key of C. I would have liked to see a more in-depth representation of other keys.

My child's piano teacher recommended this book, and it's very good in terms of practicing technique. I would recommend it.

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