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FOR THE TEACHER

The Purpose of This Book

This book is designed to teach the basic principles of the five stylistic periods (Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionist, and Contemporary) to piano students. The pieces were chosen to provide a helpful transition from method books and early intermediate repertoire to classics at the intermediate level. Students will learn to apply stylistic principles directly to these pieces and can then apply them to other music.

Choice of Music and Sequencing

This book includes music from the five stylistic periods—some by famous composers, others by less familiar composers. Repertoire was selected for its musical appeal and effectiveness in conveying the stylistic traits of the period. In addition, composer Dennis Alexander has written at least one piece in the style of each period.

The pieces are arranged in a suggested order of study within each period. Students should work on pieces from the different style periods simultaneously, comparing the similarities and differences.

Editorial Suggestions

Each piece appears in its original form with editorial suggestions. Since Baroque and Classical composers provided few fingerings, dynamics, articulations, or tempo indications, most of the suggestions for these periods are editorial. Composers from the Romantic and Contemporary periods were more specific, but some editorial suggestions are also included for these pieces. Indications such as f-p mean that the section is to be played f the first time and p on the repeat. A few alternate fingerings are given in parentheses. Students should experiment with each fingering and use the one that is most comfortable.

Metronome markings are suggested within a wide range to allow students to find a tempo at which they can comfortably perform the music artistically.



FOR THE STUDENT

What Is Style?

In music, art, or literature, style is usually divided into five periods: Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionist and Contemporary. Each period has its own specific characteristics. Knowledge of these traits will help you learn and perform the music. It is also helpful to learn about composers and the periods and countries in which they lived. Combine this with information about other arts, and you will possess the "Keys to Stylistic Mastery."

How to Use This Book

Information about each style period precedes the music from that period. This section lists selected composers, keyboard instruments and typical forms from the period. It also contains a section called *Keys to Stylistic Mastery* that will aid you in learning and performing in a stylistic manner.

The Keys to Stylistic Mastery section is divided into general categories such as melody, rhythm, harmony, tempo, texture, technique, dynamics, expression, ornamentation and pedal. Basic stylistic characteristics are listed in bold under each general category. Many of these characteristics will be found in the music you are studying, but all traits may not be present in every piece. The "keys" (Degree) listed below each basic stylistic characteristic suggest specific ways to apply this information to the music.

Read these pages about the style period before you begin a new piece and apply this information to the piece that you are studying. In addition, at the top of each page of music there is a section called "Keys to this piece" found in a shaded box. These "Keys" apply specifically to the piece that follows and reinforce information found in the more general Keys to Stylistic Mastery section.

Selected words that might require further explanation are written in **bold italics** in the text. These words are defined in the Glossary on pages 70 and 71.

Enjoy studying and playing pieces from all five style periods using these "keys" that lead to stylistic mastery.