

A Note to Teachers

The art of playing the piano requires three things; knowledge, musical feeling, and the physical skills to perform what is artistically intended, also known as technique. The development of technique is essential to future success at the piano. Developing technique is a result of first understanding, then practicing the correct physical movements many times.

The technical tools and artistic skills learned in *Alfred's Premier Piano Course, Technique Books 1A, 1B and 2A*, are enhanced and expanded in *Technique Book 2B*. Each page in the *Technique Book* correlates with a specific page in the *Lesson Book*. When the *Lesson, Theory, Performance and Technique books* are used together, they offer a fully-integrated and unparalleled comprehensive approach to piano instruction.

In *Technique Book 2B*, students encounter technical skills in four areas, similar to 1A, 1B and 2A:

- Playing Naturally
- Moving Freely
- Playing Beautifully
- Playing Artistically

The technical goals in *Technique Book 2B* are accomplished through five types of activities:

Technique Tools from Books 1A, 1B and 2A* are reviewed and new technical goals for this level are clearly presented through appealing and descriptive exercises:

1. *Three-Note Slurs* (p. 7)
2. *Preparing Quickly for Hand Crossings* (p. 11)
3. *Feel the Downbeat* (pp. 14–15)
4. *Finger Stretches* (p. 18)
5. *Legato Pedal* (p. 20)
6. *Finger 1 under Finger 3* (p. 26)
7. *Finger 3 over Finger 1* (p. 27)

These **Technique Tools** should always be introduced to the student during the lesson.

Hands-Together Workshops focus on developing the skills necessary for coordinating hands-together playing.

Patterned Exercises provide students with the necessary repetitions to make the technique feel natural. Memorization, although optional, is suggested.

Artistic Etudes showcase a student's technique in an artistic musical setting.

Masterwork Etudes, written by important composers and teachers from the past, provide training to play standard masterworks. Many of them also reinforce *Technique Tools* and *Hands-Together Workshops*.

The overall goal of the *Technique Books* in *Alfred's Premier Piano Course* is to develop the physical skills needed to play artistically, expressively and effortlessly.

* See *Technique Books 1A, 1B and 2A* for descriptions of