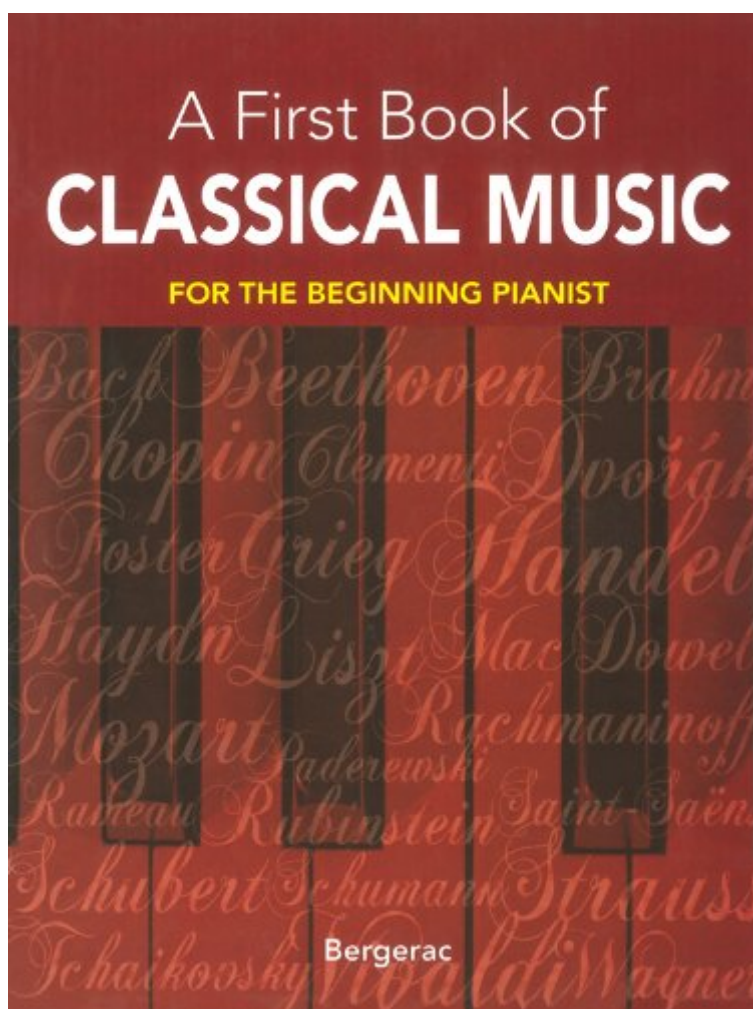


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A First Book Of Classical Music: 29 Themes By Beethoven, Mozart, Chopin And Other Great Composers In Easy Piano Arrangements (Dover Music For Piano)





Synopsis

These fun-to-play, pedagogically sound piano arrangements include themes from Beethoven's Ode to Joy and Bach's Sheep May Safely Graze, along with such favorites as Schumann's Träumerei, Brahms' Hungarian Dance No. 5, Tchaikovsky's Marche Slave, and Wagner's Song to the Evening Star. Additional composers include Chopin, Grieg, Handel, Vivaldi, Liszt, Haydn, and many others. Along with the 24 piano arrangements, this collection includes a free MP3 download for every piece, which will help beginning pianists develop an ear for the melodies. The MP3s may be downloaded individually or collectively.

Book Information

File Size: 11442 KB

Print Length: 48 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications (July 12, 2012)

Publication Date: July 12, 2012

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B008TVLSR6

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #387,571 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #72

in Kindle Store > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Chopin #98

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Classical

#108 in Kindle Store > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Beethoven

Customer Reviews

Some of the offerings in this book are good for folks who have been playing a few months now, and there are pieces that will challenge someone further along. So in a way, this book is "designed" with varying degrees of difficulty built in. There are kvetches about the arrangements being "unfaithful" to the originals. Well, any simplified work is going to lose something in the translation. I'll say here what I tell my students: the idea is to play, to sight read, to maintain capacity, to improve capacity. It

doesn't much matter what you read and play as that you must read and play in order to increase ability, facility and fluid execution of any given piece. So maybe some of the arrangements are "questionable", to a purist. Nobody is a purist when they're just starting out. They're learning. And as I said, you have to play to grow. So this is as good a book as any, with different levels of difficulty. That's a good thing. If you learn to play all the tunes in this book, you're doing very well.

I haven't taken piano since I was a child in elementary school. That was a VERY long time ago! I've always enjoyed playing, but there have been many challenges and, well basically I SUCK! I recently acquired a piano, so I decided to give it another try. I am completely amazed by the arrangements... I can actually play some of them and sound like I know what I'm doing - woohoo! However, the same folks who put out this book, put out another called the Big Book of Beginners Classics - all of the arrangements from this book are in there - arranged exactly the same, and then some. I purchased them simultaneously - not knowing any better. So if i had to pick, i would definitely recommend the other book to all the wannabes out there like me. I'm having a blast! I only gave it a 3 because their other book has so many more to choose from. The quality and arrangements are the same - so if you don't care about quantity then this book will do, but trust me, in no time you will have wished you had got the other book instead. Can I play all of the arrangements?? Not yet... But I'm working on it :)

I took 2 years of piano lessons and some time played on my own when I was a kid almost 40 years ago and did not have a piano ever since, Now I finally bought a digital keyboard for my daughter and decided to refresh my rusted piano skills and bought this book. There are many beautiful popular classical pieces, however - they seemed too easy even for such a rotten player as me. Melodies are short and easy to play, but to me they seem more like a tease because I have played some of what is in the book in a much more challenging manner and was looking for some challenge here too. Did not find one. However the essence of the beautiful melodies is captured in every piece and if nothing else, the book inspired me to find CD's and reconnect with those musical masterpieces as a listener. This book could be a great source for a young beginner to get hooked up on the fascinating melodies and get eager to play better and explore the classical music deeper.

I saw this book advertised and it looked interesting. It's a collection of classical pieces for the beginning piano player, written so anyone with a knowledge of the piano can begin to play famous pieces by the famous composers. Also, the pieces have the fingering listed so the student knows

just what finger to use to play each note. This is a great help and the student doesn't have to be left wondering what fingering should be used. This gives the beginner added confidence and encourages the student to play great music. I can't wait to learn more of the songs.

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.

I am another adult who took piano lessons as a child. I was not quite intermediate though - the hardest piece I could play was "Für Elise". I actually bought this for my daughter who is just beginning the piano, but it is too hard for her so far. However, it is the perfect difficulty for me. It has songs that range from sight-readable for me to just a little too hard for my current level. I enjoy the arrangements, and it's fun to be able to sit down and play something nice - with both hands - besides the 2 or 3 songs I have memorized from years ago.

I have been teaching myself piano for the last six months and am halfway through Alfred's Beginner Book for Adults. This is a perfect supplement. It's a little too challenging for me, but I've had no proper instruction, either. I opened to the first page and played Bach's Minuet melody line by sight-reading and it was so rewarding to hear a familiar melody coming from my fingertips! I'll keep working on it, but I love knowing that I can get immediate reward in the melody and then greater challenges putting the two hands together. Well arranged and fulfilling.

I'm an intermediate to advanced intermediate pianist. I haven't taken lessons in years but I still enjoy playing for pleasure. However, one needs to practice a little bit every day to retain skills, even if it's only for 15-20 minutes, so I try to get in some playing every day. I can get bored warming up with scales or exercises. These arrangements are perfect for easy sight reading and warming up the fingers while playing a pretty tune. Anything to entice me to sit and play if I only have 20 minutes to spare and don't want to play something difficult or just play scales, is a winner in my book. I bought it on a lark and am happy that I did.

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