

Beginner Method Overviews

The Music Tree

- multiple key approach
- all black keys until pg 32
- first notes G & F
- 5-7 years
- Attractive, colour
- Great activities (incl. improvisation and composing)
- Directional reading
- *Time to Begin* designed in an intelligent manner, teaches simple facts of direction (high and low), rhythm, key names, dynamics intervals (through the 5th) and other basics.
- Divided into 9 units and each unit has two parts; 'Discoveries' and 'Using what you have Learned'.
- Bass staff and Treble staff introduced at end stressing F and G

Leila Fletcher

- Middle C approach
- notes named
- Black & White, plain cover, old fashioned looking
- lots of finger numbers (danger of reading numbers and not notes and problems when shift out of C position)
- Philosophy of teaching by imitation and rote playing
- 7-11 years
- "original", folk song and nursery songs
- single line melody divided between hands
- some duets

Beanstalk

- Nice colour cover
- Black and white inside (not too distracting) but colour stickers as rewards to place in pages
- Multiple key approach in 2 octave
- 5-7 years
- Stave introduce at page 27 (47 page book)
- Certificate at end
- good rate of progress for age

The Russian School of Playing

- no colour
- ridiculous rate of progress
- not instructional
- basics covered in 2 pages
- strict philosophy “educate the pupil in the art of working seriously”

John Brimhall’s Young Adult Course

- fast rate of progress
- introduction to chords
- most appropriate for adults or as a supplementary book for quick learners (eg after Alfred Piano Course Bk1)
- plain but clear layout
- “instant” music through melody and chord accompaniment

John Brimhall’s Piano Method

- Middle C approach
- attempts to bridge “classical” and “popular” (in books 1-5)

- Primer for youngsters
- Melodies divided between hands
- Some duet accompaniments

Piano time

- 7-11 years
- basics covered quickly
- straight into notation- 3 notes LH & RH

John Thompson's Modern Piano Course

- Not very modern!
- old fashioned songs no colour
- 7-11years

John Thompson's Easiest Piano Course

- 6/7 years
- good pictures and characters for notes
- theory and piano activities
- boring songs and repetitive notes

Alfred's Little Mozarts

- no stave for the entire 1st book
- for "not too interested/committed" 4-5 year olds or for bright 3 year old
- note names and finger number approach
- good colour
- good teacher and parent notes
- up to page 30 all black keys

Piano Adventures (Faber)

- 5- 8 years
- Middle C approach
- good layout with colour but not distracting to music
- Certificate at end
- 1st half of book finger and note names established
- pg 31 (of 62) Staff introduced
- rate of progress very good
- Complimentary Technique and Artistry book makes this a good course for group tuition where advanced students could be given extra work with the same lesson material but refining skills
- Theory book works in very well and is noted in main course
- CD accompaniment

Alfred Piano Course

- Middle C approach
- Very fast rate of note introduction
- 8-11 years
- black and white but good pictures and text to songs
- single line melodies divided between hands
- rhythms confined to 2/4, 3 /4 and 4/4
- introduces Bb and F# near end

Alfred Adult Piano Course

- Multiple key approach
- Thorough introduction of notes and hand positions
- consolidation of new elements e.g. chords introduced to melodies learnt
- Mature look and good page layout

Alfred Chord Approach

- good for teenagers
- not too babyish
- decent sound quickly
- notation straight away
- 2 hand C position straight up
- fast pace

Alfred Basic Piano Course Level 1a

- 6 -11 years
- CD accompaniment
- colour attractive
- fairly quick notation learning pace
- big jump from no stave to 10 notes in notation

Bastien's Piano for the Younger Beginner

- Middle C approach
- directional notation to pg 28 (of 45)
- introduces 4/4 and $\frac{3}{4}$ time
- introduces crotchets, minims, dotted minims and semibreves
- 5-7 years

Hal Leonard Piano Lessons

- Middle C method
- nice colour
- all directional music no staff with letter names for 4 units (page 36 of 63)
- 5-8 years

Howard Kasschau Piano Course

- *Teach Me to Play* 48pg
- Middle C approach (position used to pg 23)
- remainder of book uses C, F, and G position
- some written work included
- single line melodies divided between hands mostly
- clear explanations of clefs, notes, rests and accidentals