

Classical pupil-centred approach

Scenario

- Tony is a 16 year old boy with an artistic flair. He loves art and art history and started learning piano two years ago.
- He now has me as an assigned teacher for piano privately at his school.
- In art studies he has been looking at the different types of styles of paintings and recently we had a conversation regarding the pieces he had been playing. Knowing he was maturing musically and personally I suggested the Alfred piano course series Book 5, according to his knowledge and abilities.
- His parents are American so the first few patriotic songs appealed immediately and from there we were able to explore some well known “classic” tunes.
- The topic of old vs classic vs Classical has come up.
- I show him the Mozart “Turkish March” and discuss Mozart’s time and life.
- Interested in the piece he asks if he can skip ahead to learn this song.
- I am able to discuss the keys of a minor and A major with him and revise the key signatures, and show how as “The relative tonic major/minor” we “modulate”. I ask him to show me the scales of both keys.
- Quite taken by the small biography at the start of the piece I suggest that he watch “Amadeus” as one person’s “Hollywood” take on Mozart’s life.
- He is set some history homework regarding Mozart in a few questions I have prepared on a sheet.