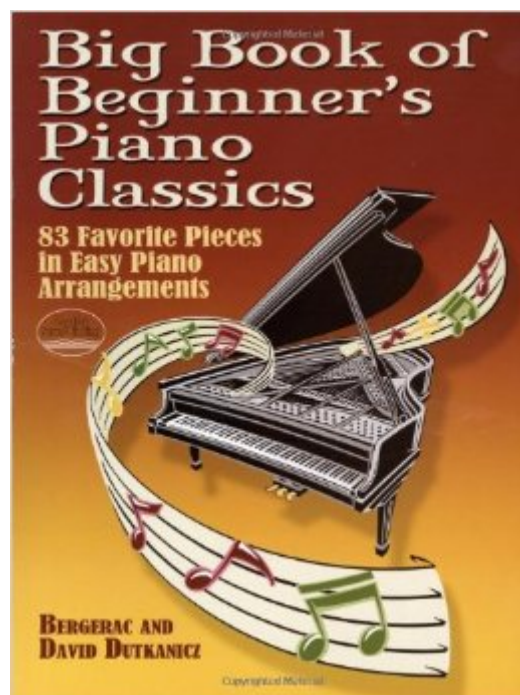


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Big Book Of Beginner's Piano Classics: 83 Favorite Pieces In Easy Piano Arrangements (Book & Downloadable MP3) (Dover Music For Piano)



Synopsis

Beginning pianists of all ages will cherish this excellent compilation of beloved piano classics. Each piece has been carefully selected and simplified to help students develop their skills. The special arrangements also offer novices the pleasure and satisfaction of playing music that's usually beyond their grasp " and free MP3 downloads of each tune make mastering the music even easier. Some of the master composers are represented by several pieces each: nine works by Bach include Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring; Mozart's Rondo alla Turca appears along with eight other selections from his oeuvre; seven by Chopin include Funeral March; the "Emperor" Concerto, Ode to Joy, and "Für Elise" are among the eight Beethoven features; and eight by Tchaikovsky include Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy from The Nutcracker. Other well-known pieces include Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 by Liszt, Brahms' "Lullaby," Morning Mood by Grieg, Haydn's "Surprise" Symphony, plus compositions by Schubert, Verdi, Debussy, Handel, Mendelssohn, and others.

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Customer Reviews

I have minimal piano playing skills, am an adult teaching myself. I hate using the beginner's books with songs like "Mr. Turtle goes slow" or "The Blue Coyote." One, I have no idea if what I am playing sounds right and well, they're childish. So, I love that these are simple enough for me to attempt (not all are easy, but I'm working my skills up) and I can tell if I'm getting them to sound right (if I haven't heard the song I can youtube it. About 80% of the songs I can hear someone play although sometimes if the chosen selection is not the opening theme of the song I have difficulty

finding it). Plus it's "grown up." Definitely one of my favorite easy level books.

I read many of the reviews here and wasn't sure if this book was what I was looking for. Would it be "too easy"? "Too hard"? "Too short"? "Too simplified"? Or, as many said, perfect for his/ her level. Fortunately, for me it turned out to be just what I was looking for. But I do understand how difficult choosing the right level could be. This says it's a "Beginner's" book--not an "Intermediate's"--and I think that's right. You should be able to read music two octaves up from middle "C" and one octave below, but the base is simple--usually one or two notes at a time, many slow selections and almost every song is in the key of C or F. Even as someone who doesn't sight read well, I can play the pieces from the beginning with both hands--slowly. This is a good level for me--feels very "doable" but also a challenge as my practices begin rather haltingly. I feel my sight reading is improving because the notation doesn't overwhelm a beginner with too many notes at a time. Some people were frustrated that the pieces were short excerpts of classics--1-3 pages of music. (The notes are nice and large, by the way, which I found very helpful) For me, I really liked the shortness of the pieces because the easiest ones made good warmups and, since I don't sight read well, I appreciated the variety of options. Three pieces I recommend that I enjoyed and feel are among the easier ones are: "Chopin's Nocturne in E flat" (arranged to be in C). It has part of the accompaniment in the treble clef and part with bass so, while its simple bass and melody lines, it's good "thinking exercise" to switch between them as you play. Plus, it's a slow, pretty piece, nice to warmup with. Another good one for beginners (like me) is "Brahms Lullaby". And I liked "The Waltz of the Sugar Plum Fairy", too. Nice variety--9 from Bach, 8 from Beethoven, 7 Chopin, 9 Mozart, 8 Tchaikovsky plus 1 or 2 each from Bartok, Brahms, Clementi, Debussy, Dvorak, Foster, Gluck, Grieg, Handel, Haydn, Liszt, MacDowell, Mendelsohn, Moussorgsky, Paderewski, Rameau, Rachmaninoff, Rubinstein, Saint-Saens, Satie, Scarlatti, Schubert, Schumann, Scriabin, Sibelius, Strauss, Verdi, Vivaldi, and Wagner. A very nice variety--good as a refresher (many were familiar but not by name and some -should- have known, but didn't). There are also little "factoids" above each piece--a few sentences of interesting information about the music or the composer. Fingering suggestions are also included. I found this a very motivating and enjoyable book at my beginning level and great for warmups/improving sight reading in a pleasurable way.

These are significantly simplified short excerpts from classical masterpieces. If you want something longer and otherwise closer to the original, look elsewhere. On the other hand, this book may work for beginners who want to supplement their technique development with musically meaningful

exercises (often based on well-known classical melodies). It is probably way too much for early beginners and too little for "advanced beginners". This book contains all the material from "My First Book of Classical Music: 29 Themes by Beethoven, Mozart, Chopin and Other Great Composers in Easy Piano Arrangements" and "My First Book of Great Composers..." by the same authors, and much more.

I am enjoying starting piano with these pieces (in addition to a method book). Each one is a brief, easy arrangement that gives you a taste of the "real thing", but at a beginner's level. You do not need an orchestra and Beethoven by your side, to have fun playing these classical music selections. Most of them have been easy enough for me (as an adult with some musical background, but new to the piano) to read and play. I am really enjoying recognizing themes I have heard before on TV or in cartoons. The notes with each piece give information about the composer, purpose, context of the music, and more. Very pleasing and a nice book for the beginning adult!

This is a great beginner's book of classics and simple enough that even a first-year student should be able (with assistance) to play these pieces perfectly. If you love the classics and want to teach (or play) them well, this book is a definite asset.

This is what I've been looking for to introduce my students to famous works of music! This book captures the essence of themes of music. Young and beginner students often aren't familiar with the tunes of well known music. These simple arrangements give students the opportunity to learn good music without having to play the entire piece. A lot of books of classical music I've seen for beginner students have simple pieces in them, but they aren't well known themes. Considering one of my young students had never heard of Beethoven, I don't want to teach my students obscure pieces that really won't round out their education about music. This book includes well known and loved themes of music over the centuries. Each piece also has a snippet of information about the composer or the piece. It's nice to have specific information right there for the student to see. So much of what is explained about music during a lesson is audible, so it's nice to have another medium of teaching. One tiny disappointment is that the arrangements are really short. For instance "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desirings" only has the first part of the piece. The second section of that piece easily could have been included. But overall, this is a great book.

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