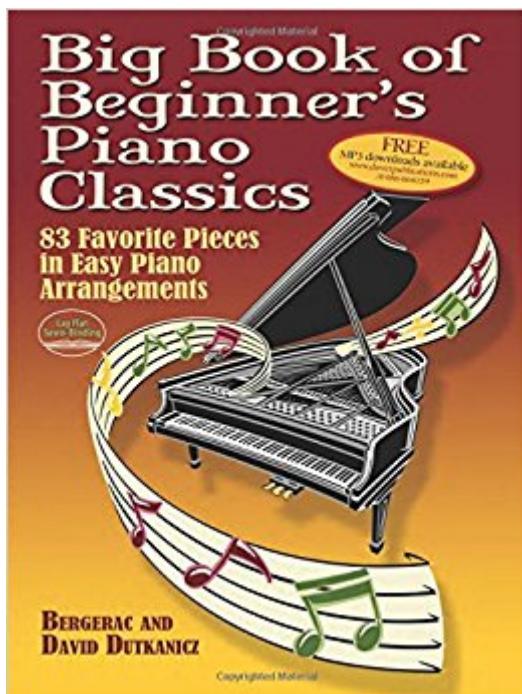


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Big Book Of Beginner's Piano Classics: 83 Favorite Pieces In Easy Piano Arrangements (Book & Downloadable MP3) (Dover Music For Piano)



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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Age Range: 7 and up

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Customer Reviews

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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.

I am an adult (late 30's) and had piano lessons when I was a kid. I was never a virtuoso, but could play Moonlight Sonata, or Fur Elise up until it gets hard. After many years of not having a piano in my life I finally do again, and am terribly, terribly out of practice. This book is perfect for me. It's grown-up music, simplified to a point where I look at the music and think, "I'll need to practice a little while to be able to play that perfectly, but I can totally get there." Which is exactly what I want in a book of sheet music designed for learning. I see some debate (of sorts) in the reviews as to whether this is a "beginning" book or not. I would say yes, it is a beginning level book, but towards the advanced end of "beginning." It is a book for practicing skills you already have learned or are learning elsewhere, rather than a teaching book. I'm only a little way into it, but so far it has chords in both hands, melodies moving from clef to clef, cross-over fingering, and timing as complex as triplet eighth notes but not much more complicated than that. Many but not all pieces have fingering suggestions. From what I've tried so far, most pieces seem to be 1-3 pages long, most often 2 or 3 pages. I've seen up to 4 flats or sharps. My one complaint is the way the book is organized. It's simply alphabetical by composer. Very easy for them to put together, I'm sure, but it could have been better organized to better help the learner. A rough order of easy to difficult would have been useful, or grouped for some sort of lesson, e.g. unusual time signatures or challenging keys. I think either of those methods of organization would make the book more useful--it's obviously aimed at learners so why not help them out a bit more and steer them toward pieces that will help them with whatever it is they'd like to learn, or whatever part of the difficulty spectrum is the best level of challenge. With the organization as it is, I'm just kind of working through alphabetically, practicing the ones that look interesting and doable for as long as I feel like it, and moving on. When I've gotten a look at everything in it I'll probably choose a few to focus on and actually practice until I can play them well. If they were organized by difficulty level, it would be much easier to hone in on the best ones for me to practice.

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.

(I've played accordian for years. But at 75 years old, the accordian is too heavy to lift. So I turned to a piano keyboard.) So....I'm very much enjoying this book. Its helping me learn the left hand with songs that are familiar to me. Not too hard, but it's teaching me. And I love the classical songs. I'm working on about 25 songs now. The book is just what I wanted.

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