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Chopin -- First Book For Pianists (Alfred Masterwork Edition)



Synopsis

The 10 pieces in this book are arranged in approximate order of difficulty and include "Album Leaf," the easiest mazurkas, preludes and more. Each are in their original form and retain the sensitive, expressive character that earned Chopin the title "Poet of the Piano." Derived from "Chopin-an Introduction to His Piano Works," this edition is intended for students in the early grades. Willard Palmer has provided notes on ornamentation, pedaling and fingering.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Excellent edition. Very well done, great for young pianists or beginning to intermediate players & more. Great for composition study also!

I don't like because the book has the same content of the Chopin -- An Introduction to His piano Works

It is a very good book.

My daughter's piano teacher had us buy this book for the Waltz in A Minor to replace the version of that piece found in another book we own: Chopin, "14 of his easiest pieces" also published by Alfred. This version is written in a slightly more user-friendly format for beginning students; the

measures are slightly larger and the notes are spread out just a bit more. It is the exact same music (for the Waltz - I don't mean it has the exact same pieces) - but this book has the ornaments written out in full in grayish print above the music, and the notes are just a little bit larger and therefore a little easier to read. The difference might be too slight to matter for a more advanced student, but it was enough that our teacher thought it would be worthwhile to purchase this book to replace the other.

[Note: This is a review of "Chopin: First Book for Pianists," edited by William Palmer and published by Alfred's. There are other books with similar titles, and has been erroneously cross-posting this review to the Mozart and Beethoven books in the same series. I don't know how to fix that.] I really like this series -- I'm not so hot about this particular outing. This Chopin book belongs to a handsome series edited by William Palmer, the author of the well-known ALFRED'S PIANO COURSE books and editor of much else besides. The idea is that, once you're finished with that course, if you've got a hankering to explore the work of some composer, these books await you as the next logical, seamless step. The two other books I have in this series, the Bach one and the Mozart one, were very well done. They dumbed down a handful of the famous pieces, and included many notes on the composers would use the pedals, trills, etc. It was great. Palmer's Bach book in particular helped me when I finally started playing unsimplified Bach. But this book is not quite the same thing, though it's in the same series. It's shorter, for one. But the real problem is that these pieces are not watered down at all. They're pieces are in their unsimplified, original forms as Chopin wrote them for his students. So get ready for that. As Palmer writes in the book: "Chopin did not earn his livelihood by performing. He gave very few concerts, and most of these were presented in small chambers. he was most famous as a composer and teacher, and since he was obliged to teach many students, he composed quite a number of selections which can be played by students in the early grades without simplification. This book contains these pieces, each of which is a miniature masterpiece bearing the stamp of Chopin's genius." (p. 24) So it's mostly simple mazurkas and preludes. There are no polonaises or nocturnes, or any Chopin tune you're likely to recognize. There's only one Waltz -- a posthumous one. KINDLY NOTE that the entire contents of this book are entirely included in the thicker and more comprehensive "Chopin: An Introduction To His Piano Works (Book & CD) (An Alfred Masterwork Edition), as they warn you on the very first page. In fact, I would strongly recommend you buy that one, as the first few pages contain vital discussion of Chopin's style of ornamentation that is completely missing from this thinner one.

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