

## Piano Methods Information Chart – Music Educator’s Marketplace

|   | <b>Alfred's Basic Piano Library</b>   | <b>Bastien Piano Basics</b>  | <b>The Music Tree</b>   | <b>Piano Adventures</b>   | <b>Hal Leonard Student Piano Library</b>   |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Methods</b>                                      | <p><b>Alfred Publishing Co., Inc. 1981</b><br/> <b>Willard A. Palmer, Morton Manus, Amanda Vick Lethco</b></p> <p><b>All-in-One Course 1994 (Combines Lesson, Theory and Recital into one book)</b></p>   | <p><b>Kjos Publishing 1985</b><br/> <b>James &amp; Jane Smisor Bastien</b></p>   | <p><b>Warner Bros. Publications, 2000.</b><br/> <b>Frances Clark, Louise Goss, and Sam Holland</b></p>  | <p><b>FJH Music Co. 1993</b><br/> <b>Nancy &amp; Randall Faber</b></p> <p><b>Also Accelerated Course for the Older Beginner Books 1 &amp; 2</b></p>   | <p><b>Hal Leonard Corp 1996</b><br/> <b>Barbara Kreader</b><br/> <b>Fred Kern</b><br/> <b>Phillip Keveren</b><br/> <b>Mona Rejino</b></p>  |
| <b>Component &amp; Supplementary Books Overview</b> | <p><b>Alfred</b><br/>           Levels: Lesson 1A (\$6.95) through 6 (All-in-One Bks. = Basic Bks. 1-2)</p> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theory Books</li> <li>• Technic Books</li> <li>• Recital Books</li> <li>• Top Hits! Solo Books and Duet Books (popular music)</li> <li>• Ear Training Books</li> <li>• Theory Software</li> <li>• Duet Books</li> <li>• Merry Christmas Books</li> <li>• Classic Themes Books</li> <li>• Composition Books</li> <li>• Ensemble Books</li> <li>• Flash Cards</li> <li>• Fun Books</li> <li>• Group Piano Course</li> <li>• Hymn Books</li> <li>• Notespeller Books</li> <li>• Repertoire Books</li> <li>• Sight Reading Books</li> <li>• Sheet Music</li> </ul> | <p><b>Bastien</b><br/>           Levels: Primer (\$6.45) &amp; 1-4 (Primer A-B for younger beginner)</p> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technic</li> <li>• Theory</li> <li>• Performance</li> <li>• Sight Reading (Level 1-4)</li> <li>• Solos</li> <li>• Christmas</li> <li>• Hymns</li> <li>• Sonatinas</li> <li>• Boogie/Rock &amp; Country</li> <li>• Notespeller</li> <li>• Pencil work</li> <li>• Flash cards</li> <li>• Assignment book</li> </ul> <p>General MIDI Disk CD accompaniments</p> | <p><b>Music Tree</b><br/>           Levels: Time to Begin (primer, \$7.95), Parts 1, 2A, 2B available now. Parts 3 and 4 to be available in 2001 and 2002, respectively. Each book contains repertoire, technic, composing/improvising, practice skills.</p> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities for Time to Begin, 1, 2A, 2B. (3 and 4 as above). Each book includes skills, drills, theory, sight playing, notespeller, games, puzzles for each level.</li> <li>• Literature, duet, supplementary and technic collections available in 6 intermediate and lower advanced levels to follow the Music Tree.</li> </ul> <p>General MIDI diskettes and CDs for each level</p> | <p><b>Faber</b><br/>           Levels: Primer, 1, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, 4, 5<br/>           Lesson Book \$6.50</p> <p>Other: ( all levels)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theory (writing, sight-reading, ear training)</li> <li>• Performance</li> <li>• Technique &amp; Artistry</li> <li>• Popular Repertoire</li> <li>• Christmas</li> <li>• Classics</li> <li>• Favorites</li> <li>• Hymns</li> <li>• Jazz &amp; Blues</li> <li>• Rock 'N Roll</li> <li>• More Popular Sheet Music</li> <li>• Flashcards-in-a-Box</li> <li>• Developing Artist Literature Series</li> <li>• PracticeTime Assignment Book</li> </ul> <p>CD and MIDI Disk accompaniments</p> | <p><b>Hal Leonard</b><br/>           Levels: Book 1-5<br/>           Piano Lessons \$5.95</p> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Piano Practice Games Levels 1-4</li> <li>• Piano Solos</li> <li>• Piano Technique</li> <li>• Piano Theory</li> <li>• Supplemental Books Levels 1-5</li> <li>• Popular Piano Solos</li> <li>• Christmas Solos</li> <li>• Piano Ensembles</li> </ul> <p>CD and GM Disk orchestrated accompaniments (all books) with Practice and Performance tempos for Lesson/Solos (Books 1-3).</p> |

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|                                  | <b>Alfred (Continued)</b><br>CD and General MIDI Disk accompaniments  |   |   |   |  |
| <b>Reading Approach</b>          | <p><b>Alfred</b><br/>Eclectic (combines elements of intervallic, multi-key and middle C), (7 keys in Level 1A)<br/>Sequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-reading (black keys)</li> <li>• Pre-reading (letter names)</li> <li>• Bass F</li> <li>• Treble G</li> <li>• Intervals (2nds-5ths)</li> <li>• Sharps and flats throughout measure</li> </ul>                   | <p><b>Bastien</b><br/>Multi key - Intervallic<br/>Sequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• line/space notes</li> <li>• G-clef/F clef</li> <li>• 2nds through 5ths</li> <li>• sharps/ flats through measure</li> </ul> | <p><b>Music Tree</b><br/>Classic landmark and interval approach.<br/>Sequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Off-staff to partial staff to grand staff over 9 units.</li> <li>• Directional reading in 2-4 octave black key pieces.</li> <li>• CDE groups</li> <li>• FGAB groups</li> <li>• 8va.</li> <li>• Intervals 2nd through 5th in sequence with staff lines added as needed.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Piano Adventures</b><br/>Note recognition – Intervallic – Multi key<br/>Sequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-reading by direction</li> <li>• Pre-reading by letter name</li> <li>• Treble G/Bass F</li> <li>• Middle D-E-F</li> <li>• Staff reading by step</li> <li>• Bass C-B-A-G-F</li> <li>• Staff reading by skip (3rd)</li> </ul> | <p><b>Hall Leonard</b><br/>Multi key - Intervallic,<br/>Sequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• two blacks/three blacks</li> <li>• C-D-E</li> <li>• Mixed black key-white key patterns (whole tone)</li> <li>• F-G-A-B</li> <li>• FGAB/CDE using various finger sets</li> <li>• Bass F Guide</li> <li>• Treble G Guide</li> <li>• Interval reading by step from guides</li> <li>• Grand Staff -Middle C Guide/ steps and skips</li> <li>• Use of alternative fingerings for different note groups.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Rhythm Approach, Counting</b> | <p><b>Alfred</b><br/>Durational "1 1 1-2" or Chanting: "quarter, quarter, half note"<br/>Sequencing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarter note</li> <li>• Half note</li> <li>• Whole note</li> <li>• Dotted half note (3/4 time)</li> <li>• Tied notes</li> <li>• Quarter rest</li> <li>• Whole rest</li> <li>• Incomplete measure (upbeat)</li> <li>• Half rest</li> </ul> | <p><b>Bastien</b><br/>Chanting "quarter, quarter, half note" or Durational "one, one, one-two"</p>  | <p><b>Music Tree</b><br/>Awareness of pulse and durational counting through swinging, stepping, chanting, etc.<br/>Sequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarter</li> <li>• Half</li> <li>• Dotted half</li> <li>• Whole.</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Piano Adventures</b><br/>Durational "1 1 1-2"<br/>Sequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rhythmic grouping</li> <li>• Eighth notes later</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Hal Leonard</b><br/>Durational "1 1 1-2", Feeling pulse at different speeds, Experiential: "clap-hold" and "clap-open palms" (rests)<br/><br/>Sequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarter</li> <li>• Quarter rest</li> <li>• Whole</li> <li>• Half note</li> <li>• Half rest</li> <li>• 4/4 meter</li> <li>• Dotted half note</li> <li>• 3/4 meter</li> <li>• Tie</li> </ul>  |

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|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Theory Elements &amp; Sequence</b> | <p><b>Alfred</b><br/>Theory Book:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify keys</li> <li>• Spell words from notes</li> <li>• Write rhythms</li> <li>• Match terms</li> <li>• Draw notes, use intervals, ties, slurs, rests, sharps, flats</li> <li>• Games and puzzles</li> </ul> | <p><b>Bastien</b><br/>Melodic &amp; Harmonic Intervals-C chord</p> <p>Theory Book:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing note stems</li> <li>• Rhythms</li> <li>• Key names</li> <li>• Treble/bass clefs</li> <li>• Dynamics</li> <li>• Drawing intervals</li> <li>• Notespell words</li> <li>• Symbols</li> </ul> | <p><b>Music Tree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Form: sameness and difference among groups</li> <li>• Directional reading by interval</li> <li>• Intervals on keyboard and staff (identifying, writing, etc.).</li> </ul> | <p><b>Piano Adventures</b><br/>Theory books:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measure/bar lines</li> <li>• Writing notes &amp; rests</li> <li>• Recognizing aural patterns</li> <li>• Drawing notes</li> <li>• Steps</li> <li>• Skips</li> <li>• Clefs</li> <li>• Ties</li> <li>• Puzzles</li> <li>• Ear training</li> <li>• Eye training (sightreading)</li> </ul> | <p><b>Hal Leonard</b><br/>(Practice Games Book)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen &amp; Discover</li> <li>• Read &amp; Discover</li> <li>• Imagine &amp; Create</li> <li>• Puzzles</li> <li>• Musical maps</li> <li>• Flash cards</li> <li>• Games</li> </ul> <p>(Theory Book)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pulse</li> <li>• Pitch ( high &amp; low)</li> <li>• Finger numbers</li> <li>• Writing notes</li> <li>• Rests</li> <li>• Key name identification</li> <li>• Musical alphabet</li> <li>• Completing 4/4 meter measures</li> <li>• Dynamics</li> <li>• Rhythms</li> <li>• Step, Skip, Repeat, Line / Space notes</li> <li>• Drawing clefs,</li> <li>• Note puzzles</li> <li>• Treble G, Bass F &amp; Middle C guides</li> <li>• Interval note writing</li> <li>• Dynamics: p-mp-mf-f</li> <li>• Tempos: Adagio, Andante, Allegro</li> <li>• Meter recognition</li> <li>• Ties</li> </ul> |
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|------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Technique Sequence 1st Book</b> | <p><b>Alfred</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black Keys Fingers 2-3-4</li> <li>• Middle C Position</li> <li>• C Position</li> <li>• RH melody/LH intervals and vice versa</li> <li>• G Position</li> </ul> <p>Technic Book:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warm ups</li> <li>• Repeated notes</li> <li>• Two- and three-note slurs</li> <li>• Harmonic and melodic intervals</li> <li>• Balance between hands</li> <li>• Staccato and legato</li> <li>• Hand over hand patterns</li> </ul> | <p><b>Bastien</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black Keys Fingers 2-3-4</li> <li>• C position</li> <li>• All fingers used</li> <li>• Middle C thumbs</li> <li>• D major position</li> <li>• G major position</li> </ul> <p>Technic Book:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intervals 2-5</li> <li>• Blocked and broken chords</li> <li>• Phrasing</li> <li>• Parallel motion</li> </ul> | <p><b>Music Tree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All black keys at first</li> <li>• Fingers 2 and 3 alternating hands moving across 4 octaves</li> <li>• 3-2 slur, 4-3-2 slur, then various combinations.</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Piano Adventures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Posture/seating position</li> <li>• Arm weight</li> <li>• Range of the keyboard</li> <li>• Rounded hand position/firm fingertips</li> <li>• Dynamic contrasts</li> <li>• "Artistry Hints"</li> </ul> | <p><b>Hal Leonard</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finger 3 supported by thumb</li> <li>• Black keys-mixed black/white keys - white keys</li> <li>• 234/432</li> <li>• Blocked clusters</li> <li>• Middle C thumbs or middle B,C thumbs</li> <li>• Alternative fingers on same note positions (e.g. 123 CDE or DEF)</li> </ul> <p>Technic Book:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand position</li> <li>• Black key- clusters</li> <li>• Single notes</li> <li>• Beautiful tone, attention to silence</li> <li>• Non-legato</li> <li>• Thumb placement</li> <li>• Legato</li> <li>• Varying dynamics</li> <li>• Staccato</li> <li>• Legato between hands</li> <li>• Non-legato between hands</li> </ul> |
| <b>Layout/Form</b>                 | <p><b>Alfred</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full color</li> <li>• Large notes</li> <li>• New elements in shaded boxes</li> <li>• Teacher duet parts at bottom of page.</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Bastien</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full color</li> <li>• Humorous figures</li> <li>• Large notes</li> <li>• New elements shown at top</li> <li>• Focus on music</li> <li>• Teacher duet part at bottom of pages</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Music Tree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full color</li> <li>• Child-centered illustrations</li> <li>• Sidebars highlight discoveries and practice skills</li> <li>• Teacher duets at bottom of page</li> <li>• Larger notes with focus on music.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Piano Adventures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full color Lesson Books and Popular Repertoire Books</li> <li>• Others 3-color</li> <li>• Non-childish art</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Hal Leonard</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full color original illustrations</li> <li>• Large notes</li> <li>• Focus on music</li> <li>• New elements in shaded focus box</li> <li>• Teacher duet parts at bottom of page</li> <li>• Keyboard graphics for finger placement</li> </ul>  |

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|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Pedagogy</b>                           | <b>Alfred</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supplement Books correlated page by page with Lesson Books</li> <li>• Separate Teacher's Guide</li> <li>• Teacher duet parts for many pieces</li> <li>• Words for all songs in early levels</li> <li>• Some creative suggestions included</li> <li>• Some practice steps included</li> <li>• Written review test at end of Lesson Book</li> <li>• Certificate of Promotion</li> </ul> | <b>Bastien</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supplementary lessons correlated page by page</li> <li>• Teacher duet parts-several</li> <li>• Words for songs for many pieces</li> <li>• Practice directions highlighted</li> <li>• Written work/tests</li> <li>• Final test</li> <li>• Certificate of Achievement</li> </ul> | <b>Music Tree</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separate 64-page teacher handbooks for Time to Begin/Part 1 and Parts 2A/2B</li> <li>• Emphasis on complete musicianship, understanding, projection of artistic performance</li> <li>• Activity books correlated by page and unit</li> <li>• Cartoon characters Chip and Bobo highlight visual and aural awareness</li> <li>• Avoids position-based reading</li> <li>• Emphasis on independent learning.</li> </ul> | <b>Piano Adventures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Varied fingerings; Sequential fingerings</li> <li>• Student finds starting key and finger</li> <li>• "Discovery" activity with piece</li> <li>• "Creative" activity with each unit</li> <li>• Teacher duet parts</li> <li>• Printed practice steps</li> <li>• Certificate of Achievement</li> <li>• Blends discreet note reading and intervallic reading; multikey at level 2A</li> </ul> | <b>Hal Leonard</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Method components coordinated page by page with technique and theory.</li> <li>• Separate Teacher guide</li> <li>• Teacher Duet parts - words to many songs</li> <li>• Student improvisation on FGAB and CDE</li> <li>• Magnifying glass symbol for Student reminders</li> <li>• Characters Spike and Party Cat used throughout</li> <li>• Lessons divided into Introductory unit and 5 teaching units</li> <li>• Award Certificate</li> </ul> |
| <b>Musicality Elements &amp; Sequence</b> | <b>Alfred</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dynamics p, f, mf</li> <li>• Legato and staccato</li> <li>• Crescendo and diminuendo</li> <li>• Repeat sign</li> </ul>  | <b>Bastien</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dynamics f, p</li> <li>• Legato and staccato</li> </ul>  | <b>Music Tree</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pieces describe experiences of childhood.</li> <li>• Singable tunes and many well-known folk/popular melodies</li> <li>• f,p (sometimes to be chosen by student to fit)</li> <li>• Non-legato/ legato</li> <li>• Emphasis on phrasing.</li> </ul>   | <b>Piano Adventures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Artistry Hints" and "Artistry Magic" pieces</li> <li>• "Technique Secrets" applied toward musical expression</li> <li>• Use of pedal</li> </ul>  | <b>Hall Leonard</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• p-f-mf-mp</li> <li>• Adagio, Andante, Allegro</li> <li>• Use of damper pedal</li> <li>• D.C. al Fine</li> <li>• Repeat symbol</li> <li>• Detached / connected tones</li> </ul>  |

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|-------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|
| <b>General Comments</b> | <b>Alfred</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoids finger number association with specific keys</li> <li>• Lyrics that often reinforce musical concepts</li> <li>• Overlapping concepts with much reinforcement</li> </ul> | <b>Bastien</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes some familiar tunes</li> <li>• I, IV, V accompaniment chords</li> <li>• Practice directions included</li> <li>• All major and minor keys covered by Level 4</li> </ul> | <b>Music Tree</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasis on communicating through music</li> <li>• Emphasis on creativity through composing, improvising, and rearranging,</li> <li>• Independent practice skills developed</li> <li>• Research and testing over 5 decades by thousands of teachers and students (previous editions in 1955, 1960, 1970, 1993)</li> <li>• For use in private, group, or combination of both.</li> </ul> | <b>Piano Adventures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 years of pre-release testing and development</li> <li>• Avoids finger number association with specific keys</li> <li>• Songs have words</li> <li>• Pianistic gestures encouraged</li> <li>• Teacher accompaniments</li> </ul> | <b>Hal Leonard</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test- marketed to 1000+ teacher/ students</li> <li>• Teacher accompaniments throughout</li> <li>• Creative improvisation throughout</li> <li>• Songs have words/ variety of moods.</li> </ul> |
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We are happy to present this information on five popular piano methods. This chart can be printed out if desired. The methods are shown in alphabetical order, left to right. We have made no attempt to evaluate, but merely to describe the contents of each method so that teachers can have the information for their own use. Accuracy has been checked by the publishers and some have provided direct links to make it easy for you to learn more or to purchase their materials. (Music Educators' Marketplace does not sell any piano methods but you will find many other teaching aids at <http://www.musicedmarket.com>)

