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## **Foreword**

The objective of this book is to communicate that musicality grows through understanding. Musical direction can be learned and nurtured in all music students if an intentionally creative and disciplined approach is adopted. Many hours of a piano student's life are spent in practice. Using this book as a guide during those hours will deliberately and creatively make the time spent practicing more effective. In recognition that individual students have different learning styles, the exercises vary between visual, tactile and auditory in order to complement different strengths.

This book is not a substitute for a piano teacher, nor is it to be read from beginning to end in chronological order. It is to be used in cooperation with teachers to assign chapters as needed to address certain topics. Students can also self-assign chapters as they feel necessary and take notes on what they learn. In all cases, it is most effective for a teacher to follow up with their students on progress made and concepts learned.

To inspire the fundamentals of technique, ear training, sight reading and repertoire, the book is divided into sections for each fundamental. Some chapters could be applied to more than one section; this is particularly true of the ear training chapters because so much of music involves learning to listen.

Use of this book should inspire creative discipline in your practice and allow your musical understanding and enjoyment to flourish.