



# THE CANADIAN MUSIC TEACHER LE PROFESSEUR DE MUSIQUE CANADIEN

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Providing Leadership in Music Education across Canada  
Chef de file de l'éducation musicale au Canada

**Review** of Publications - cont.  
**Critique** de publications - suite.

**MIX AND MATCH FOR OLDER BEGINNERS**

**Primer & Level 1 Performance Book**  
 by Stephen Chatman and Tara Wohlberg  
 ECS Publishing 70708

My students and I had a great time playing through the thirty-six pieces. They all have complimentary duets that add depth and great colour and make for pleasant music making! I used this book for sight reading after time off during Spring Break. A number of the pieces are familiar which is always enjoyed by students. It was rather fun playing Christmas Carols in the end of March as well, although I must say I drew the line at *Jingle Bells!*, *Happy Birthday*, a song all students need to learn, is in the early part of the book. The music increases in difficulty and could definitely compliment any method books used with your students. A multi-key, five finger approach is used throughout. The second piece is titled *Glissando Boogie* and contains both descending and ascending glissandi. I like the footnote: 'optional mitten, oven mitt, or shirt sleeve on RH'. The book is pedagogically sound incorporating numerous terms and symbols our students learn in their theory books. The key signatures are basic; never exceeding a single sharp or flat and chromatic passages are also available in numerous pieces. There is varied articulation and hand crossing to make the music more interesting and complex. The shortest note value in the student's parts is an eighth note. The time signatures are primarily  $\frac{3}{4}$  or  $\frac{4}{4}$  but *Pomp and Circumstance* by Elgar is in cut time. I like the frequent use of the anacrusis as it really helps the student learn to get to the important beat 1. My students and I especially enjoyed the *Texas Tango* which has syncopation.

I found this book fun and very playable. A bonus for students is the included CD that contains two tracks for each arrangement: a full demo performance track for listening and practice, plus a separate play-along track that lets the student be the soloist. Truly enjoyable!

Jean Ritter - British Columbia

**INSPIRED**  
**7 Intermediate Piano Solos**  
 by Irene Voros  
 Red Leaf Pianoworks

This is another lovely collection of music by Canadian Irene Voros. From the composer "Inspired features jazz elements of syncopated rhythms, complex harmonies and expressive melodic lines."

This collection features seven pieces of music with such evocative titles as Solace, Reflection, Impact, Compassion, Hope, Courage and Inspired. Each piece sets out to portray the mood of the title and there is something for every student.

This collection would be at the intermediate level and any of the pieces would make a great piece for a Canadian class in festival or as a year end recital piece.

A great book for the teacher to add to the Canadian section of their music library.

Lauren Kells - Saskatchewan

**Piano Methods Books**

Stephen Chatman and Tara Wohlberg

**Mix and Match—Performance Books**



**PRIMER LEVEL**

7.0706

\$14.95



**LEVEL 1**

7.0707

\$14.95



**FOR OLDER BEGINNERS  
 PRIMER & LEVEL 1**

7.0708

\$15.95

- Imaginative and diverse
- Designed as an innovative mix-and-match complement to any standard piano method book
- Paired with harmonically rich duets
- Ideal for recitals or festivals
- Corresponds in pedagogical approach to popular method books
- Each book includes a CD and access to downloadable audio tracks

Sample scores of each of these publications are available for viewing at [www.ecspublishing.com](http://www.ecspublishing.com)



## ETUDES

### Book 1

by Stephen Chatman

ECS Publishing 31370675

If you are familiar with Stephen Chatman's piano music through his aptly named *Amusements (Earthquake, Sneaky)*, through his expressive *British Columbia Suite (Maple Bay at Twilight, Douglas Firs)* or through his evocative and often melodic *Preludes (Tara, Nocturne)* you may want to buckle up your seat belt before tackling the five etudes for piano solo in Book 1. All of them are very fast! All of them are creative, innovative, exciting and technically demanding.

*Maze* features five pages of rapid sixteenth notes in contrasting and mostly contrary figures between the hands. Beginning in a very low register the maze of patterns winds its way up through middle register, to high register and back down again, repeating this several times, mostly keeping the hands so close together that they overlap each other's space.

*Bash* is also atonal but completely triad based as each hand hammers out major triads in an alternating but changing pattern. There are frequent repetitions of a triad but in an inconsistent way so that the rhythm completely overwhelms the meter.

The third etude is for left hand alone and is somewhat similar to the first etude in its unflagging sixteenth note rhythm. The patterns here however, are more like alternating broken chords rather than the stepwise motion of the first.

*Inversion* consists of half notes, quarter notes and dotted quarter notes, many of

them accented, around which staccato eighth notes dance.

The final etude, *Evolution* is written in  $\frac{1}{4}$  time with sixteenth notes which move up and down from LH to RH in a close wave like pattern. After establishing this figuration a dotted eight note melody begins to appear at the beginning of each group of six sixteenths as the undulating motion changes from up and down to down and up. While the patterning remains the same, the direction of motion changes from section to section, ending as it began.

Each of these advanced technical challenges are a minute to a minute and a half long. Dynamic and pedal markings are frequent and precise. Changing meter often accomplishes a ritardando or a pause between sections. These are dynamic material for an eager advanced performer!

Joyce Janzen - British Columbia

*I had a bit of mailing issues this time and some of the books did not make it in time to be reviewed, so they will be included in the Fall issue.*

*Thank you Jean, Joyce, Laureen, Nancy and Sarah for taking the time to review these books for the members. I do enjoy them.*

*Dina*

## SOLOS FOR WEDDINGS

### 50 Advanced Arrangements

The Professional Pianist Series

arranged by Dan Coates

Alfred Publishing 44276

This book contains a comprehensive selection of classical and popular music commonly played at weddings and would be a useful addition to the library of an advanced student embarking on a career as a wedding musician. The arrangements are at an early advanced level and contain technical challenges such as octaves, four-note chords, arpeggiated accompaniments, 16<sup>th</sup> note runs, syncopated rhythms, 3 against 2 rhythms, and multiple voices in the same hand. Many selections are arrangements of music that was originally composed for larger ensembles or for a singer with accompaniment and the piano arrangements effectively capture the character of the original music. Titles include classical selections such as *Bridal March (from Lohengrin)*, *Wedding March*, *Canon in D*, *Ave Maria* (both the Bach-Gounod and Schubert versions), *Jesu*, *Joy of Man's Desiring*, and *Trumpet Tune in D* among others. The book also includes jazz and pop standards such as *At Last*, *Embraceable You*, *My Funny Valentine*, *You Raise Me Up*, and *They Can't Take That Away from Me* and movie tunes such as the main title theme from *The Notebook*, *So This Is Love*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Can You Feel the Love Tonight*. While the repertoire in this book is not particularly innovative, it is a very marketable collection that would provide a solid foundation for any aspiring wedding musician.

Nancy Mitchell - Ontario

