

TUTORS FOR CHILD BEGINNERS

The materials in this section are very clearly aimed at children, using pictures and games to help young players to get started with the piano and with music in general

First Steps into the Piano World (Preliminary Piano School)

Uwe Korn & Elena Malychева

Doblinger ISMN M-012-19714-0

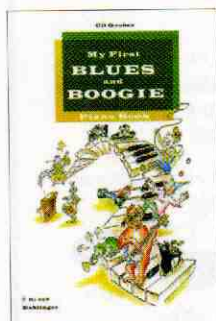


This new beginner's 'primer' for very young children from Doblinger is fairly typical of its kind in that it gradually introduces notes in the treble clef from middle C up to G, then rather hurries through the bass clef before really taking flight with the first steps at putting both hands together. The fact that this attractively presented tutor is written in both German and English will doubtless put many potential customers off, but I would argue that in an era as busy as ours there is absolutely nothing wrong with a bit of multi-tasking (why not learn a foreign language at the same time as beginning to tackle piano?). And the fact that this course insists on students writing down notes by repetition from the first pages is admirable and surprisingly rare in books for beginners. **MURRAY MCLACHLAN**

My first Blues and Boogie Piano Book

Uli Gruber

Doblinger ISMN 012-19528-3

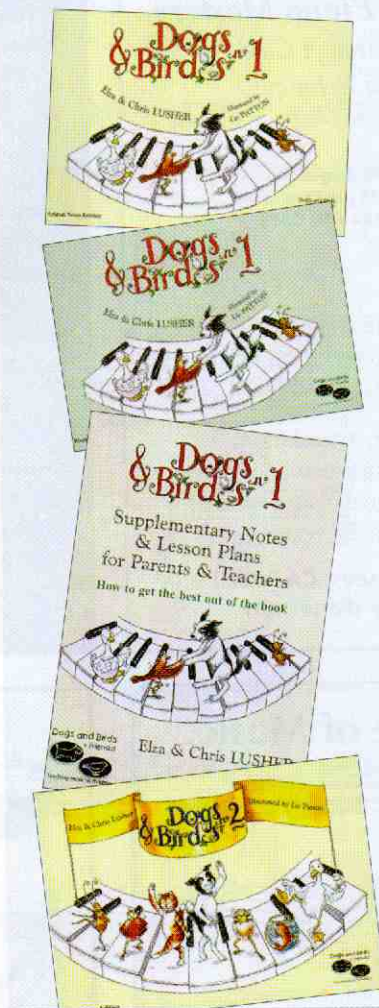


My First Blues and Boogie Piano Book for children is a collection of one and two-page pieces with titles like *Pinguin Waltz*, *Affentheater* (Monkey Theatre) and *Kindergarten Blues*. They are presented in large, clear print and for the most part are engaging, entertaining works. There are no dynamic markings at all, and although that leaves the way clear for children to experiment with their own interpretations, one or two guidelines would not have gone amiss. The pieces are illustrated with pictures which add extra entertainment value for the most part, but in one or two cases might be construed as outdated stereotypes. **MAGGIE WILLIAMS**

Dogs and Birds

Elza and Chris Lusher

www.dogsandbirds.co.uk



This fascinating set of materials from Elza and Chris Lusher is based on the principles of Kodaly teaching, enabling very young children to start their musical education before they can read notated music or understand the alphabet. Described as a 'preparation for keyboard study', *Dogs and Birds* gives each note of the C major scale the name of an animal (D for Dog and C for Cat, for example). Large wooden note heads with the respective animals cut into them plus an A3-sized staff are provided as a part of the method to familiarise children with the notes, and the music books at the heart of the method are printed with the pictures of the animals inside each note to help young learners to interpret the music. There's also an essential accompanying book plus CD of supplementary materials and teaching plans that goes into depth about the method, as well as providing ideas for musical games and other supporting activities. The method is suitable for four- to seven-year-olds and can be introduced either by a music teacher or parents. **MAGGIE WILLIAMS**

Get to know classical masterpieces

Rimsky Korsakov Scheherazade

Arranged by Hans-Gunter Heumann

Schott ISBN 3-7957-5593-X

This is a selection from Schott's ongoing *Get to know Classical Masterpieces* series, which also includes *The Carnival of the Animals*, *The Nutcracker*, *Carmen* and *Pictures at an Exhibition*. More than just a simplified piano version of the orchestral or piano original, each work is presented with some background information about the work and the composer and includes brightly coloured illustrations alongside the scores. The piano arrangement by Hans-Gunter Heumann is straightforward and accessible to players of around Grade 5 standard, and although in one case a picture inserted alongside the musical score is a bit distracting, in general the combination of pictorial and musical content work well together. **MAGGIE WILLIAMS**

