

Everything to Know about Piano Books

Bastien Piano Books

I prefer the Bastien piano methodology to teaching piano than many of the others out there. Especially for beginners. Bastien gets students right into the notes and staff. Other methodologies tend to over-emphasize number fingering rather than notes, at the start. I have found that generally this just causes confusion. Often the Bastien piano books have different versions. Whichever one you find is usually fine. Some have a plain white cover with a piano graphic on it. Another one has a colored background with stacked blocks with pictures on them. Either will suit, as long as it says: James Bastien, or Bastien Piano Basics.

Nancy and Randall Faber Books

While the Faber books do not tend to use the teaching methodology I prefer, initially, I do like them at higher levels. They also have a wonderful library of songbooks geared toward learners at each stage. I often utilize their books in the “other” section for early levels, and in “required” from level 3 on.

Additional Piano Music

Aside from Bastien and Faber, I use Schuam, Hal Leonard and other piano instruction composers, and occasionally introduce music from my own collection. Music from my own collection will be photocopied and placed in the student’s piano log/binder and he/she is responsible to take care of it (and not lose it). If a student has a desire to play a specific piece of sheet music or movie music, I will research and find those pieces personally and add them to my collection OR the student can buy them.

What to know when buying piano books

Piano books can be found on Amazon, at reasonable prices. Please ensure books are new **OR, if used, that you have erased all previous markings or covered them with white out.** But if you buy used, please put in the effort to ensure they are “clean”, so that past markings will not impact your student. Do not buy books for succeeding levels (2, 3, 4) until notified.

For each level you will find “required” books and “other” books listed below. You *must* purchase the required books for your student based on the level that I assign after our initial meeting. The “other” books are supplemental and therefore optional for you to buy for your student.

Why and when should I invest in supplemental books?

Why? Supplemental books expand the repertoire I have to work with when teaching a student. The more songs available, the easier it is for me to customize the lessons and keep the student engaged and excited about playing. They also get more experience playing and have a more solid foundation when leveling up.

When? Based on our initial meet and greet, I will recommend certain supplemental books based on the goals you and/or your student have for lessons. However, supplemental books do not need to be purchased immediately, and sometimes (depending on the student) it’s better to wait a bit before introducing extra material.

One asterisk* = highly recommended for increasing your student's repertoire

Two asterisks** = geared toward ensemble work (playing with instruments and accompanying singers)

Level I

Required

Bastien Piano Basics, PIANO Level I

Bastien Piano Basics, THEORY, Level I

Bastien Piano Basics, TECHNIC, Level I

Bastien Piano Basics, PERFORMANCE, Level I

Schuam Finger Power, Level 1

Notespeller, Hal Leonard, Book 1

Other

Any you find at the music store at the current level of the student

Schaum Finger Power ETUDES, Level 1*

James Bastien, Favorite Class Melodies, Level I

Bastian Piano Library, SIGHT READING, Level I**

Jane Bastien, NOTE SPELLER, Level I**

Popular Christmas Songs by James Bastien, Level I

Playtime Piano FAVORITES by Nancy and Randall Faber, Level I*

Playtime Piano CLASSICS by Nancy and Randall Faber, Level I*

Playtime Piano POPULAR by Nancy and Randall Faber, Level I*

Playtime Piano DISNEY by Nancy and Randall Faber, Level I

Level II

Required

Bastien Piano Basics, PIANO Level II

Bastien Piano Basics, THEORY, Level II

Bastien Piano Basics, TECHNIC, Level II

Bastien Piano Basics, PERFORMANCE

Schuam Finger Power, Level 2

Note Speller, Hal Leonard, Book 2

Notespeller, Level 1, Bastien Piano Library

Other

Visit Booth Music in Spanish Fork for Easy Piano books and other music. It's great when the student gets to pick their own supplemental books.

Schaum Finger Power ETUDES, Level 2*

Boogie, Rock, and Country by James Bastien, Level II

30 Note Spelling Lessons: Level 2 by David Carr Gover Piano Library**

Alfred Basic Piano Library – Sight Reading, Level 2**

The Bastien Piano Library, POP PIANO STYLES, Level II**

Super Mario series for Easy Piano by Koji Kondo

Playtime Piano JAZZ & BLUES by Nancy and Randall Faber, Level 2A, 2B*

Playtime Piano CLASSICS by Nancy and Randall Faber, Level 2A, 2B*

Playtime Piano CHRISTMAS by Nancy and Randall Faber, Level 2A, 2B

Playtime Piano DISNEY by Nancy and Randall Faber, Level 2A, 2B

Playtime Piano POPULAR by Nancy and Randall Faber, Level 2A, 2B*

Level III

Required

Piano Adventures (Faber), Level 3A LESSON book | 3B

Piano Adventures (Faber), Level 3A PERFORMANCE book | 3B

Piano Adventures (Faber), Level 3A THEORY | 3B

Piano Adventures (Faber), Level 3A TECHNIQUE & ARTISTRY | 3B

FunTime Piano CLASSICS, Level 3A-3B

Schaum Finger Power, Level 3

Note Speller, Hal Leonard, Book 3

Other

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Schaum Finger Power ETUDES, Level 3*

Piano Adventures (Faber), Level 3A POPULAR REPERTOIRE* & 3B*

Piano Adventures (Faber), Level 3A SIGHTREADING** & 3B**

Essential Piano Scales, Chords & Arpeggios Guide - Complete Collection: 3 levels in 1 (Beginner to Advanced): Fingering, Keyboard illustration, Chord ... Harmonic, Melodic), Blues**

100 of the Most Beautiful Piano Solos Ever (paperback, January 1, 2014)*

Selected Piano Masterpieces, Early Intermediate Level Schirmer's Library of Musical Classics V.2128**

16 Easy Classical Pieces for Solo Piano: Beginner and Intermediate Arrangements of Every Song—Mozart, Chopin, Beethoven, Bach, and More! (16 Easy Piano Songs Sheet Music) Paperback – November 2, 2022

Adventure Solos for the Early Intermediate Piano Student: A Magical Forest Quest Paperback – November 30, 2024*

Level IV

Required

Piano Adventures (Faber), Level 4 LESSON book

Piano Adventures (Faber), Level 4 PERFORMANCE book

Piano Adventures (Faber), Level 4 THEORY

Piano Adventures (Faber), Level 4 TECHNIQUE & ARTISTRY

FunTime Piano HITS by Randall Faber and Jon Ophoff, Level 4

BigTime Piano CLASSICS (Faber), Level 4

BigTime Piano HYMNS (Faber), Level 4

Schaum Finger Power, Level 4

Other

Visit Booth Music in Spanish Fork for Easy Piano books and other music. It's great when the student gets to pick their own supplemental books.

Schaum Finger Power ETUDES, Level 4*

Piano Adventures (Faber), Level 4 SIGHTREADING**

BigTime Piano DISNEY (Faber), Level 4

BigTime Piano RAGTIME & MARCHES, Level 4*

Masterwork Classics Level 4 Paperback – April 1, 1988*

If you would like further recommendations than what is here, you can ask me personally.