

Introduction

Moving a student successfully and positively on to the intermediate levels (Grades 3 – 5) can be a tricky process. At this stage, it takes too long to learn music by rote, so **well-developed note-reading skills** are key. Students also need to have a **good understanding of style** – they can no longer simply play music the way they think it should sound to give a convincing performance. Finally, **sound technique** and **good theoretical knowledge** are required to tackle trickier repertoire. *The Intermediate Pianist* books provide a one-stop shop for building all these skills.

The material is organised into chapters that are designed to give approximately one month's work. Each chapter contains a variety of elements as described below. The music deliberately spans a range of difficulty levels, so some pieces can be learnt in just one or two weeks, whilst others are more challenging. The terms used throughout also support and reflect those required for GCSE Music.



Quick learn

At least a grade below the ability level, these pieces and studies consolidate skills, maintain interest and improve note reading.



Repertoire

Specially selected pieces give excellent experience of the style in each chapter.



Technique

Exercises and activities to develop the key technical skills required.



Challenge

Imaginative ideas to deepen musical understanding and knowledge.



Activities

Things to do to prepare for the pieces and develop musicianship.



Theory

A range of exercises to improve theory alongside playing ability.



Recital pieces

Stand-alone pieces perfect for performances, unconnected to the style of the chapter.

We hope you find *The Intermediate Pianist* a journey of discovery that brings a love of music from many different periods and styles.

Happy music making!

Karen Marshall and Heather Hammond

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Using the pedal

The **sustain pedal** is the pedal on the right, and is also known as the damper pedal. Find out how it works and why it is sometimes called the damper pedal.



Technique

Kleine Studie

(Extract)

Remember to lift the pedal when the chords change, without lifting your hand off the keys at the same time. This will keep it sounding *legato*.

Robert Schumann

Leise und sehr egal zu spielen

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Ped.

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2
2
3
sim.

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4

9
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4
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5

13
5

9

Getting to know the blues

Blues is a jazzy style which is built on a chord structure called the **12-bar blues**. The characteristic sound comes from the use of the blues scale and syncopation (a rhythm which is played off the main beat(s) of the bar).



Technique

Play the G blues scale in your right and left hands:



Activity

Find out about the 12-bar blues chord sequence, then see if you can improvise your own right-hand blues tune. Use notes from the G blues scale above to fit over this 12-bar blues bass line.

Laid-back Blues

Laid back and bluesy

2-bar intro

12-bar blues starts here