

Recommended Music Books/Curriculum Resources

[Choosing Music Books/Curriculum](#)

[Piano](#)

- [1. Faber Piano Adventures](#)
- [2. Alfreds Premier Piano Course](#)
- [3. Bastien Piano Basics](#)

[Voice](#)

- [1. 24 Italian Songs and Arias](#)
- [2. Sight Singing Made Simple](#)

[Guitar](#)

- [1. 21st Century Guitar Method](#)
- [2. Alfreds Kids Guitar Course](#)
- [3. Hal Leonard Specialized books](#)

[Drums](#)

[Elementary Drum](#)

[Brass & Woodwinds](#)

[Strings](#)

[Beginner/Intermediate](#)

- [1. I Can Read Music \(Book 1\)](#)
- [2. Essential Elements \(Books 1&2\)](#)
- [3. Essential Elements \(Books 3&4\)](#)
- [4. Suzuki](#)
- [5. Christmas Kaleidoscope \(Books 1&2\)](#)
- [6. String Explorer, Highland](#)

[Advanced](#)

[Cello](#)

[Violin](#)

[Viola](#)

[Other Books](#)

[Online Resources](#)

[Other Resources](#)

Choosing Music Books/Curriculum

MUSIC LESSON CURRICULUM

Musical Empowerment teachers are expected to teach the following elements of musicianship: note reading, rhythm, technique, artistry, performance, creativity, theory and structure. See the “Teacher Resource Guide” for worksheets and suggestions for teaching general theory as well as instrument-specific topics.

We recommend you choose a book (or two) *before your first lesson* using the criteria below and based on the instrument you’re teaching and your student’s age/musical experience.

- **What book to use?**
 - Based on age
 - 3-6 Early beginner (My First Piano Adventure, etc.)
 - 6-12 Beginner (Piano Adventures, etc.)
 - 12+ Older beginner (Piano Adventure for the older beginner, etc.)
 - *Choose the book you know best.* Everyone has their preference and most books are nearly identical. Pick the one that suits you!
- **Supplementary Books**
 - A half hour can be a long time, supplementary books can be great
 - Start with a theory book as well as lesson book, if a theory book isn’t available in your series, use a note speller.
 - If needed add other supplemental books for that level (sometimes popular or jazz songbooks can be great!)
- **Know your book!**
 - Take the time to go through each book and make sure you know the material backward and forwards, you might be surprised. The worst thing that will happen if you prepare is that you will learn something new.-if there is something in the book that you don’t understand or feel comfortable with asking questions! Improvising only works to an extent.

Piano

1. Faber Piano Adventures

Notes: Start at Primer, not at lesson 1! Lesson, performance, and theory books available for all levels.

Levels available: primer, 1, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, 4, 5, accelerated, adult

Pros:

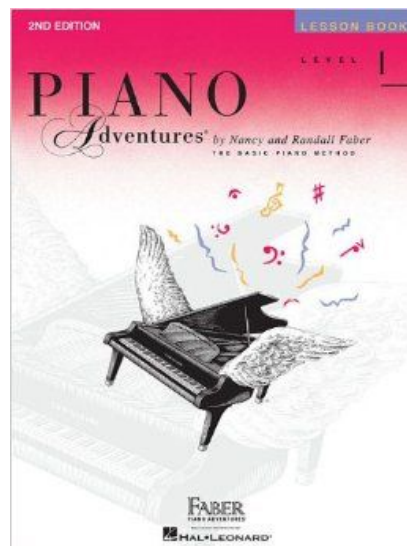
- Moves at a smooth pace
- Good Theory, Sight-reading, and Technique add-on books
- The standard for most teachers

Cons:

- Songs are not the most interesting
- Some Techniques are only touched upon

Read more about each level here:

<http://pianoadventures.com/publications/mainLibraries/pa/primer.html>



2. Alfreds Premier Piano Course

Notes: Start at Primer level. Lesson, performance, and music theory books available for all levels.

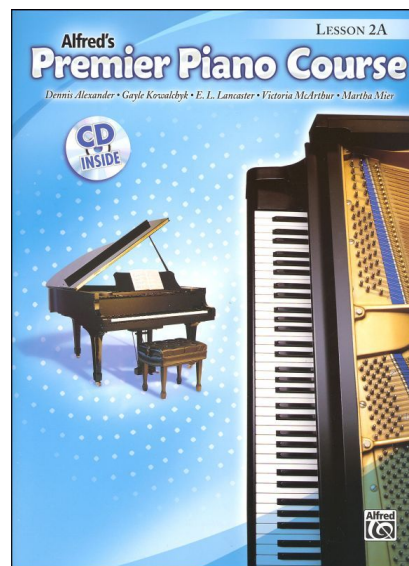
Levels available: 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3, 4, 5, 6

Pros:

- Good Pacing
- Paired with Piano Maestro App

Cons:

- Poorly arranged Popular songs
- Doesn't teach rhythm well



3. Bastien Piano Basics

Notes: Favorite for starters between 4-6 years of age. Lesson, performance, technique, and theory books available.

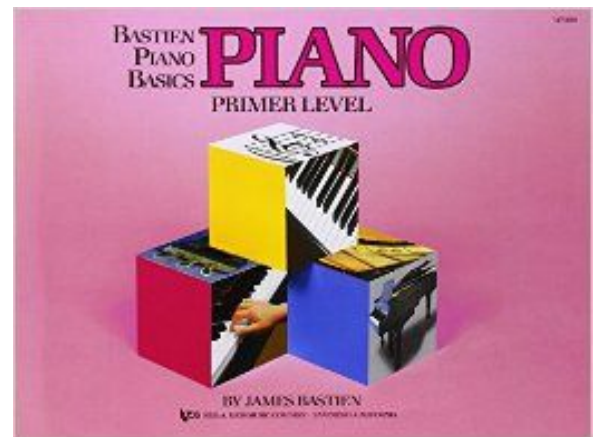
Levels: primer, 1, 2, 3, 4

Pros:

- Fun Pictures
- Good interactive activities for small kids

Cons:

- Boring for older students
- Slow Pacing



Voice

1. 24 Italian Songs and Arias

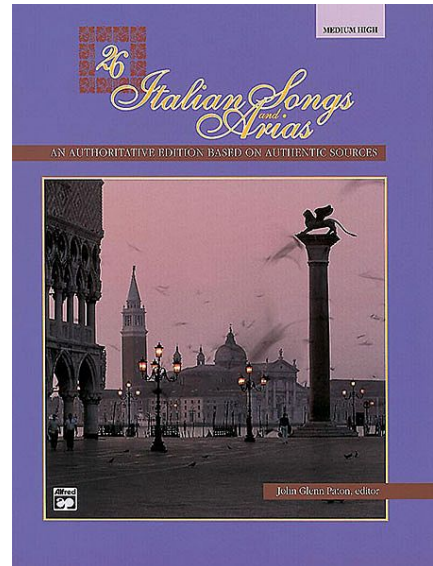
Notes: Standard repertoire for voice students, not a book you go through. Should be paired.

Pros:

- Great Dictation Guide
- Good Selection of songs
- Is the standard

Cons:

- Requires the teacher to know how to teach technique



2. Sight Singing Made Simple

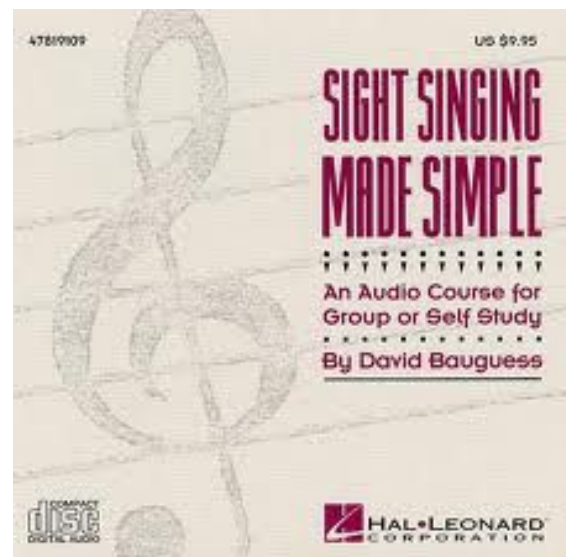
Notes: Pair with Repertoire

Pros:

- Great music training, theory and the like

Cons:

- Not a standalone



Guitar

1. 21st Century Guitar Method

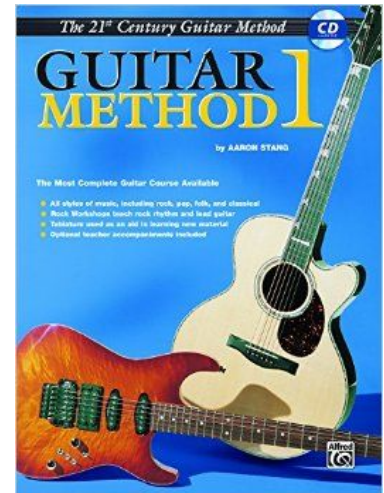
Notes: The best guitar book for early teens to adults, Should be paired with chord work at the teachers discretion

Pros:

- Moves at a good pace
- Teaches sight reading, tabs and chords eventually

Cons:

- Moves fast for kids
- Takes time to get to chords



2. Alfreds Kids Guitar Course

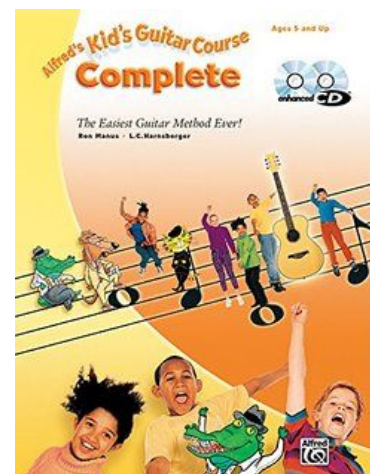
Notes: Great for kids

Pros:

- Moves very slow
- Fun pictures
- Individual notes and chords

Cons:

- Moves VERY SLOW
- Boring for older students



3. Hal Leonard Specialized books

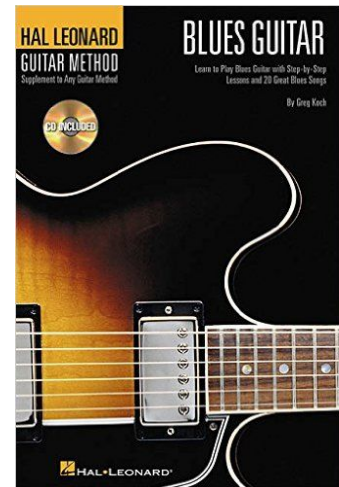
Notes: Not a beginner book. Great place to go. DO NOT GET THEIR BEGINNER BOOK! It is terrible.

Pros:

- Great Stylized guitar books
- Keeps Students involved in what they want to play

Cons:

- Not a beginner book
- Terrible intro books



Drums

Elementary Drum

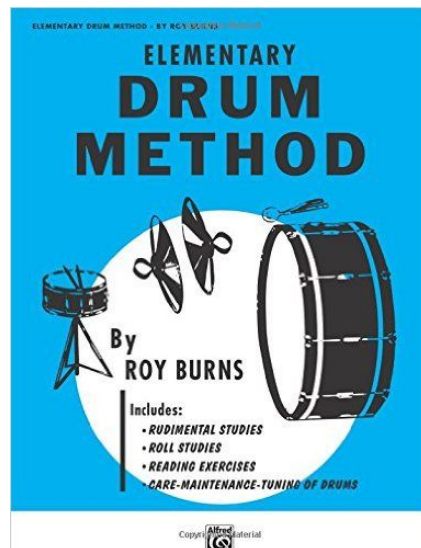
Notes: THE Drum book

Pros:

- Great pacing
- Works from early middle school to early high school band percussion techniques

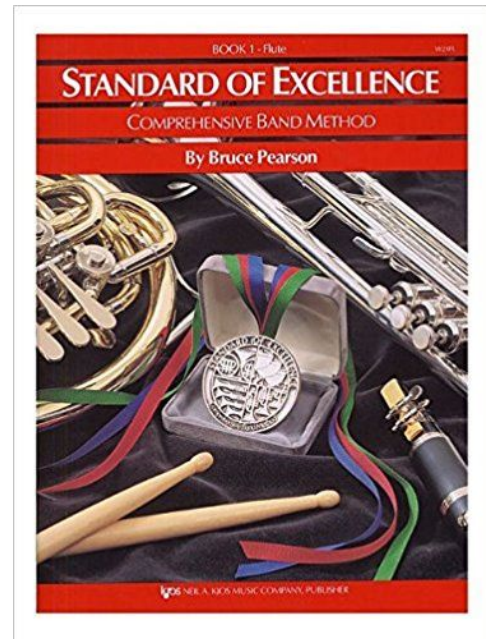
Cons:

- Very dense, no fun pictures, get over it



Brass & Woodwinds

1. Standard of Excellence
2. Essential Elements 2000
3. Sigmund Hering method
4. Arban's Complete Conservatory Method
5. Accent on Achievement
6. Learn to Play



Strings

Beginner/Intermediate

1. I Can Read Music (Book 1)

For use with students who are struggling with note sequence/ hesitant to put fingers down. This book allows for

2. Essential Elements (Books 1&2)

Basic music terminology, theory, history, etc. Moves quickly so that students don't become bored.

3. Essential Elements (Books 3&4)

Shifting! Intermediate music terminology, music theory, history, etc. Focuses on shifting and hand positions.

4. Suzuki

Good literature, great pieces for recitals. Teaches students to work towards mastery of a piece over the course of weeks/months. I utilize the duet and ensemble books for recitals.

5. Christmas Kaleidoscope (Books 1&2)

These books can be utilized between October and January. They progress nicely so that there's something for everybody. It's also good for teaching students who don't have an orchestra how to play as an ensemble.

6. String Explorer, Highland

These books are great for string beginners to moderately progressing players. They are equipped for different learning styles.

Advanced

Cello

Schroeder
Popper
Bach Cello Suites

Violin

Wolfhardt
Kreutzer
Violin Sonatas and Partitas

Viola

Wolfhardt
Kreutzer

Other Books

Making Money Teaching Music - Newsam
Playing the String Game - Phyllis Young
Nurtured by Love - Shinichi Suzuki
The Suzuki Concept - Shinichi Suzuki
The Cello Suites - Eric Soblin
Joys and Sorrows - Pablo Casals