

to online materials such as scores or, in one case, a film whose partial soundtrack is one of the works featured in the collection.

Keillor also takes care to include piano music representative of a wide variety of Canadians, including women, Black and Aboriginal Canadians, and immigrants to the country. Her conscientiousness in doing so is a credit to her and will, it is hoped, be emulated by those undertaking similar projects. The collection *Sounds of the North* is a valuable resource for music teachers, showcasing the extremely wide variety of the piano music composed in Canada over the past two centuries. It would be a worthy addition to the collection of anyone with an appreciation for the beauty of Canadian art music.

Katherine Murley - Prince Edward Island

CATCH THE MAGIC

Susan Griesdale

Redleaf Pianoworks

Use your imagination . . . no, use your inner child's imagination and what do you think of? Space travel? Castles? Dinosaurs? Fairy tales? All this and more is found in a slim volume of ten pieces for elementary to early intermediate piano students aptly titled *Catch the Magic*. *Cloaked* creates a scenario of a hidden spacecraft with *sfz* chords together with *pianissimo* staccatos. Suddenly the spacecraft is visible with loud descending quartal chords, then disappears again. Two castle pieces, *Magic Carpet Ride* and *Cinderella's Waltz* create the dreamscape of fairyland with lyricism. *Sleuth* returns us to the atmosphere of stealth and sudden surprise. *Dinosaur Bones* is ponderous and heavy, *Blue Jeans* 'chills' with swing, and *A Musical Ride* requires a literal change of pace as the trotting rhythm of the beginning gives way to a rocking 6/8 and then returns

to trot again. My favorite is *Twinkle, Twinkle* which, without ever quoting the nursery rhyme, manages to express it exactly! Many of the pieces require playing sections an octave higher or lower than written, both hands may play in the bass or the treble clef, melodic interest may move from one hand to another and key signatures may change, shifting the piece from black to white keys. All of these reading challenges are worth a student's persistence as the pieces unfold their promised magic. Layout is clean and legible and performance notes from the composer both whet the appetite and give insight into imagination and assistance in performance. Sound clips are available at the composer's website: www.susangriesdale.com I recommend this book for its idiomatic approach to pianistic writing that is accessible and compelling in its appeal.

Joyce Janzen – British Columbia

JUST FOR TWO

A Collection of 8 Duets in a Variety of Styles and Moods

Dennis Alexander
Alfred Publishing

True to its name this book by Dennis Alexander does contain a variety of styles and moods. The styles included in this modestly priced 32 page book range from rag to ballad and Latin to a slow dance in ¾ time. The tempi range from slow to fast. The keys are very accessible as none of the repertoire goes beyond one flat or sharp. The level is early intermediate and the repertoire is very appealing with something for most musical tastes. Here are a few of the descriptive titles: Autumn Splendor, Fiesta Fever, Soft-Sally, and Bright Red. This book would make a fine addition to any piano library.

Andrew Harbridge - Ontario

CLASSICAL PIANO

ANTHOLOGY 2

25 Original Works

Schott

Hal•Leonard Publishing

Both beautiful and practical, this book and CD combo would make a great gift as well as a fine teacher resource. It follows in the steps of a four volume Romantic piano anthology by the same publisher and editor. This is volume 2 of a Classical anthology. Although the cover classifies this as Grades 3 – 4, it would fit within RCM 4 – 8. Consisting of twenty five works by seventeen composers, this anthology seeks to present both familiar as well as new repertoire from a wide stylistic range in an ascending order of difficulty. The pieces are selected, edited and played by Nils Franke. In addition to the requisite Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven there is the familiar Samuel Wesley *Sonatina in Bb* found in the RCM 4 Repertoire book (although here it is called *Vivace*) and the CPE Bach *Solfeggio*. There are many lesser known names represented such as Carl Ditters von Dittersdorf (a contemporary and colleague of Mozart), Ferdinand Ries, Cramer, Hummel and Czerny as well as many pieces not found in graded books. The music is printed on cream colored paper in an easily read layout. The last five pages of the book consist of helpful teaching notes complete with tempo suggestions, alternate fingerings and performance practice tips as well as biographical information – each in English, French and German. Wrapping this up in an attractive package is a glossy cover with a reproduction of a painting. A thorough, well planned and realized product.

Joyce Janzen – British Columbia