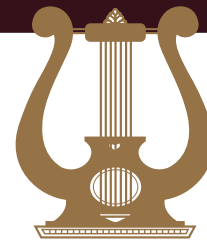


Review of **New** Publications



GIGGLES'N KIDS

S Griesdale

Red Leaf Pianoworks **SGR-P012**

A coil bound book in landscape format, this attractive volume has a cover photo of a toddler with her chubby hand over her giggling mouth and with mischief in her eyes. Inside the book are thirty etudes from **Prep A** through **Level 1** which address various technical challenges, moving from easier to more difficult. Each short etude focuses on a single musical aspect by introducing a musical sign, learning what it means and then playing it. The table of contents indicates the musical feature learned in each piece while extra instructions are given on each page. The first piece is *Stuck in the Mud* with the focus on keeping the fingers pointing down. It is suggested that the student imagines having velcro on their finger tips. Next comes *Prickly Possum* teaching staccato. The stomping in *Galoshes* is perfect for accents while *Whacky Fingers!* uses intentionally awkward fingering to force accurate reading. *Lefty is* – appropriately enough – for left hand alone and *Snake Charmer* teaches legato touch as fingers cross over the thumb. *L'ill Drummer* uses four different types of body percussion together with played notes. *Purple Crayons* introduces quartal harmony in melodic and harmonic form. Other techniques taught are arm weight, hairpin dynamics, intervals larger than a 5th, trills, glissando, balance between the hands, hand over hand movement, fifth finger reinforcement and more. Titles are appealing to a child's sense of wonder and curiosity and are well paired with the concepts they illustrate – as in dissonant harmonies in *Spicy Fries*.



Short enough to easily hold a student's interest and challenging enough to be useful for instruction, this book is a treasure trove for both learner and instructor. It could be used as a supplemental book for any method or learned from beginning to end. Highly recommended!

Joyce Janzen

