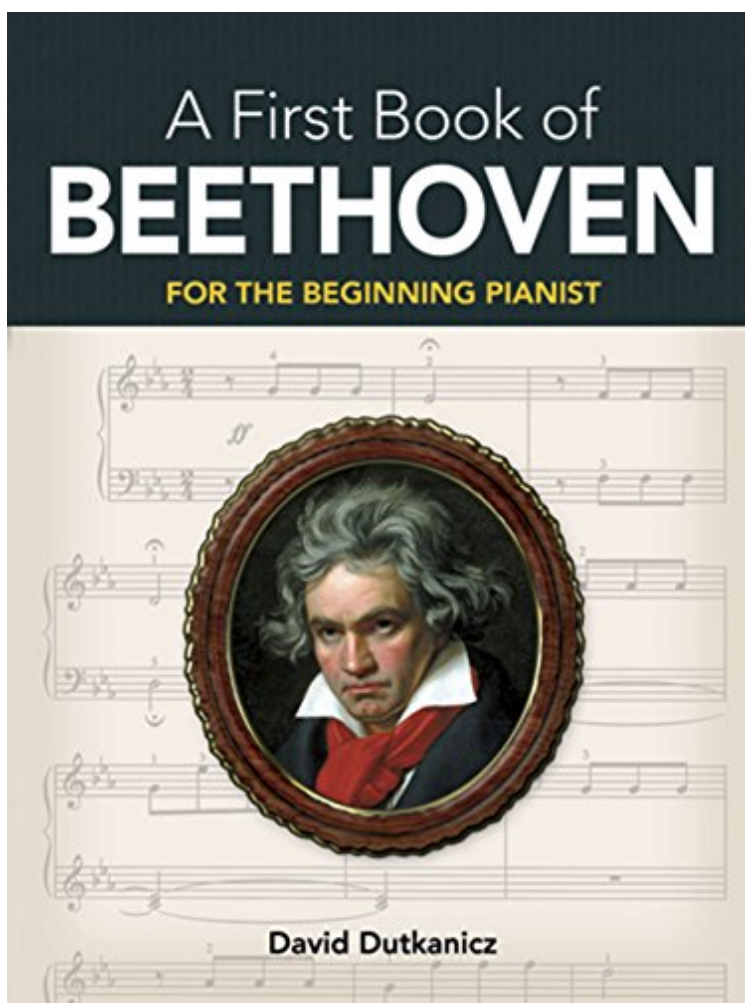




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8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Good Book for Beginning Pianists. By Beth Dodd I am in the process of learning piano, and so I ordered this book (and another in the series) to try to expand my sheet music library. I played the melody easily for "Ode to Joy" (included in this book). Two things I really like about it: the print is fairly large and easy to read, and if you can't read notes really well for a beginner, or you are just learning to sight read, it includes fingering numbers. BUT, while the book is written for beginners, it is written based on the assumption that

you have already learned what terms such as "Allegretto", "Moderato", and "Andante" are. I have not gotten that far in my learning process yet, and the "teach yourself to play piano" book does not include these in the course. I will have to do further study and advance more before I find out. Now while this book promises that it comes with MP3 downloads, I did not find any reference to these in the book about where to go to download said bonus MP3 files. It would be nice if I could find them, so that I can hear what these are supposed to sound like and at least play by ear. It is likely they are on the book publisher's website somewhere, and I will definitely edit this review when I find out for sure where they are. One more thing and this is just me: I usually take a pencil and mark my sheet music with notes, rather than the fingering numbers because I get confused when it comes to playing a left hand by fingering number, as I tend to play the pinky on left hand as a 1 rather than the thumb, and every piece of music I will encounter in the future will not always include fingering numbers: it will expect me to know how to read notes but this is just something I personally do to help myself play. For example on Ode to Joy the first note in the melody shows an F. BUT the fingering number shows a 3 which I have been taught is the E, and the middle finger when you start with middle C. This may look like a typo at first but it is not. It says at the front of the book that fingerings are provided as a suggestion and are not to be taken too literally, since each person plays differently, and tht teachers and students alike can be the best judges about how to best go about playing. So this is just something to keep in mind; I tried it both ways though, so it works both ways. If you go by notes it is just a bit more advanced. It's designed so you can improvise and make it your own as you progress in skill. Some people like fingering numbers, some like notes, but it's good for those who still can't read sheet music all that well. You're playing it either way and only the player or an extremely skilled listener is going to know the difference. This sort of goes against how I was taught since I was taught to always put the right finger on the right note to lessen confusion, then comes sheet music that tells you not to sweat it, but I guess if you are able to play it and make it sound right, this is ultimately all that matters since the book is designed to help a beginner appreciate the music of various classical composers and is for all ages. This one just happens to be Beethoven. There are dozens of different books in this series for all different composers and skill levels and the books are inexpensive. All in all, these are pretty neat and simple to follow books, intended to help the beginning pianist to develop skills. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. great book for introduction to classical music By ANNAThis is a great book for introduction to classical music for intermediate players. I have 3 students in my home ranging from late beginner to early advanced and they all enjoy it. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This book is great for someone in a similar position or someone who ...By Rae OI sort of learned piano as a child and decided to get back into it now about two decades later- so I'm rusty! This book is great for someone in a similar position or someone who has completed some beginner piano lessons (knows how to read music or at least as key stickers on their piano- the ones with pictures of the notes on the staff). I am having a lot of fun using this book.

Specially arranged and simplified, these pieces offer beginners the pleasure and satisfaction of playing Beethoven. Students and teachers alike will delight in such popular melodies as "Für Elise," "Ode to Joy," and the haunting opening of the Moonlight Sonata. A First Book of Beethoven features 24 selections, including "Romance in F," "Turkish March," "Minuet in G," and "Bagatelle in G Minor." It includes excerpts from the sonatas—such as the opening of the 2nd movement of Sonata No. 14, the "Adagio" from Piano Sonata No. 5, and "Adagio Cantabile" from Sonata No. 8—as well as highlights from the symphonies. Along with the twenty-four piano arrangements, this collection includes a free MP3 download for every piece, which will help beginning pianists develop an ear for the melodies. The MP3s may be downloaded individually or collectively.

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