

# FOREWORD

COLOUR KEYS PIANO ABC is designed for young beginners and it can be used on its own or together with other beginner repertoire. PIANO ABC is suitable for private and group lessons. This method book applies the ideas of the Hungarian composer and pedagogue Zoltan Kodály. The key element is the development of inner hearing skills through audio-visual means: "What is learnt by using different senses will have the longest lasting effect".

In this beginner book, new musical concepts are introduced in the simplest manner possible. New ideas are offered and studied gradually. The different octaves of the keyboard are illustrated by individual colours as well as by inhabitants of the Musicland. The coloured staff is constructed gradually from a single-line staff into a five-line staff. Using rhythm and sol-fa syllables together with hand signs, a method originating from the relative sol-fa approach, helps a student absorb new musical notation material. Due to active use of transposition, a student learns to move across the keyboard and to play in different keys with ease. The characteristic sound of each individual octave range becomes familiar when a student also plays at the opposite ends of the keyboard. The pieces in the book are a collection of folk songs and children's songs from different countries. Learning is designed to progress from **concrete** to **abstract**.

The separate TEACHER'S GUIDE offers pedagogical

information about the teaching material as well as lyrics to the songs.

Additional supporting materials include: a **coloured slip** that is placed behind the keys to help visualize different octave ranges, a transparent and movable **transposing slip** that is placed on top of the coloured slip and works in all keys, **transforming slips** that can be used to vary the pieces.

Pictures of road signs and a suitcase function as symbols for transposition. **The little-do** wandering on the keyboard along with his suitcase and keys also suggests transposition. a **colour lift** encourages a student to play pieces in different octaves.

This book is based on the version that I developed at the East Helsinki Music Institute in 1984-1986 adapting ideas from the **Colour Strings method**. The edited book A and the new books B and C of the PIANO ABC were created as a result of a research and development project at the Sibelius Academy. The research data includes the results of a questionnaire designed for teachers using the method in Finland and abroad, as well as research material collected based on my experiences teaching groups of students at the East Helsinki Music Institute.

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