

Level Up! Ascending Beyond the Standard Method Book

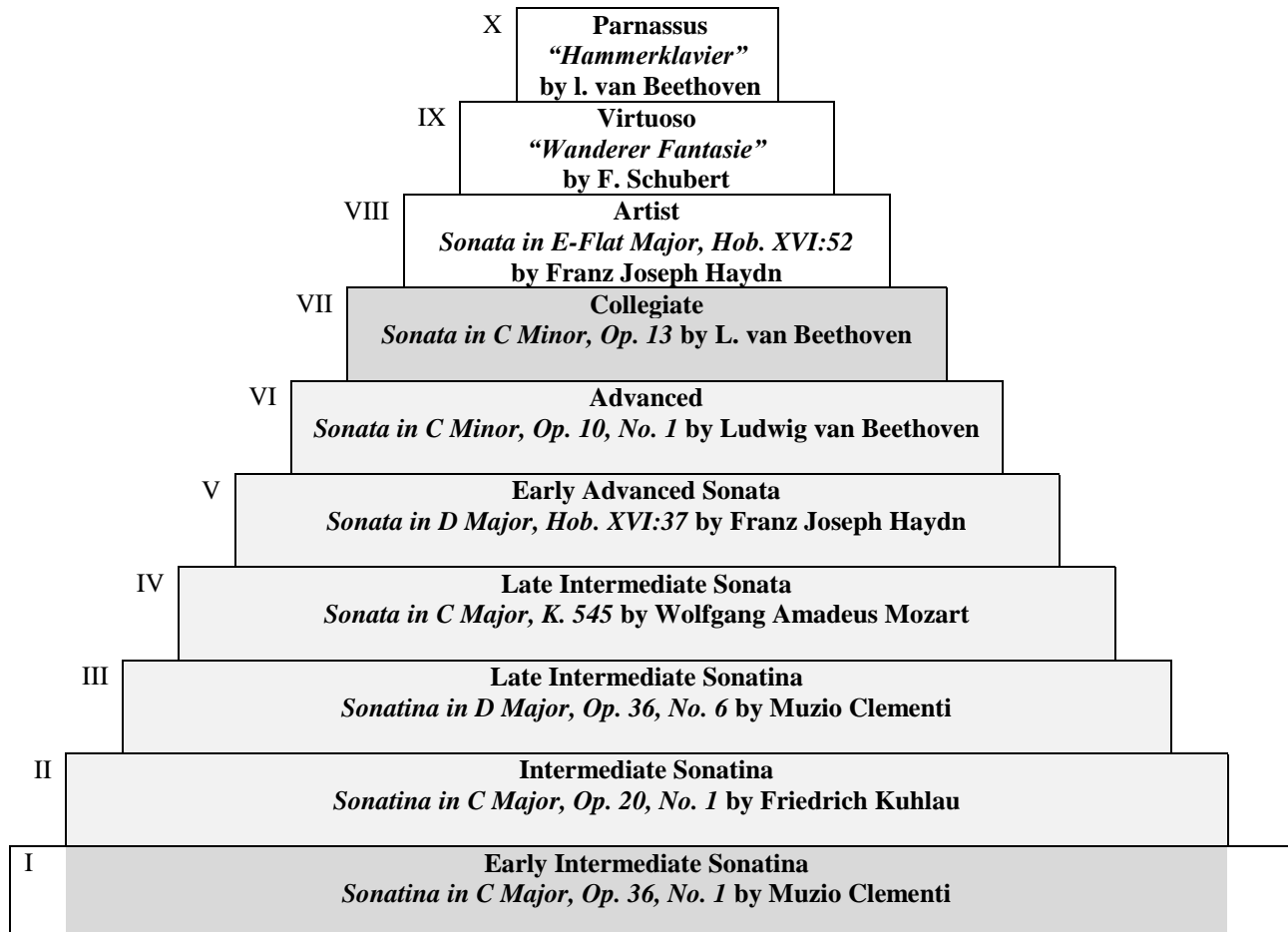
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Our Journey begins

- Successful Completion of the Final Standard Method Book (Level One)
- Discussion will begin with Level II, Standard Intermediate Repertoire
- Progressively Levels III through V will follow
- We will end with Level VI, Standard Advanced Repertoire
- The discussion of the preparation to perform Standard Collegiate Repertoire is complete

Ten Steps to Parnassus



Level Up! Ascending Above the Standard Method Book – Bennett, Tan, Van Dyke

Popular Method Books

- *John Thompson's Modern Course for Piano, published by Willis Music*
 - *Five Levels*
 - *Most Advanced Piece: Mozart, Sonata in A Major, K. 331 – Alla turca; Allegretto*
- *Piano Adventures by Nancy and Randall Faber, published by Faber Piano Adventures*
 - *Five Levels*
 - *Most advanced piece: Clementi, Sonatina in C Major, Op. 36, No. 1*
- *Premier Piano Course, published by Alfred*
 - *Six Levels*
 - *Most advanced piece: Clementi, Sonatina in C Major, Op. 36, No. 1*

Popular Series

- *Celebration Series 2015*
 - *12 Levels of Repertoire from Prep A, Prep B and Levels one through Level Ten*
 - *Accompanying Etude, Technical Requirements and Theory Books*
 - *Designed to prepare students for the Royal Conservatory of Music Certificate Program*
 - *Most Advanced repertoire from Level 10: Sonata in G minor, Hob. XVI:44 by Franz Joseph Haydn*
- *Keith Snell Piano Repertoire Series Level 10*
 - *11 Levels of Repertoire from Preparatory and Levels One through Ten*
 - *Accompanying Etude, Technique and Theory Books*
 - *Most advanced sonata: Sonata in F minor, Op. 2, No. 1 by Ludwig van Beethoven*

Ballade, Op. 100, No. 15 by Johann Friedrich Burgmüller: Common to the following method books

- John Thompson, Grade Three
- Piano Adventures, Level Five
- Premier Piano Course, Level Six
- Royal Conservatory of Music, Level Four
- The Pianist's Guide to Standard Teaching and Performance Literature, Level Four
- Essential Piano Repertoire, Level Four

Scales Taught (2 Octaves – HT)

- Faber (5) – Major C, G, D, A, E, B, F, B-flat, E-flat
- Faber (5) – Minor a, b, e, d, g, c
- Alfred Premier (6) – All Major
- Alfred Premier (6) – Minor c, g, d, a, e and b
- Essential Piano Repertoire – All major/minor scales and arpeggios in two octaves completed by Level 5
- Thompson – Scale supplements necessary
- Thompson – Preparatory Drills in all twenty-four major and minor keys begin in Grade Three
- RCM (4) – C, G, D, A, F, B-flat, E-Flat Major
- RCM (4) – a, e, b, d, g, c Minor

Level II: Intermediate (Compares to Level 5-6 of 10 in many graded repertoire series)

- The first level upon completion of the *Piano Adventures* and *Alfred Premier Series*
- Introduction to larger forms requires better developed:
 - Facility
 - Sense of Pulse
 - Touch
- These are expanded compositions with greater harmonic interest

Sonatina in C Major, Op. 2, No. 1 – I. Allegro by Friedrich Kuhlau

Recommended Technical Skills

- Scales, two octaves hands together: ♩ = 120, play ♪
- Major and minor arpeggios, hands separately, two octaves: ♩ = 100, play ♪
- Chords with Inversions, hands together: Solid play ♩ at ♩ = 80; Broken play in 8th triplets at ♩ = 80
- Chromatic Scales, hands together: ♩ = 120, play ♪
- Etudes: Comparable in difficulty to RCM Level 6

Musical and Technical Considerations

- Maintaining a Steady Pulse
 - Duplet to Triplet and Duplet to Quartet
 - A Tool: Kodaly Rhythmic Syllables
- Tempo Considerations
 - Caution with beginning tempo
 - Not too fast
- Balance between RH and LH melodies
 - Fast 16th note scale passages
 - Contrasting dynamic levels
- Formal Design
 - Sonata form with Two contrasting Themes
 - Exposition (mm 1-31)
 - Development (mm 32-49)
 - Recapitulation (mm 50-80)

Kodaly Rhythmic Syllables

ta		ta-ah-ah	♩
ti-ti	⌏	ta-ah-ah-ah	♩
tri-o-la	⌏⌏	syn-co-pa	♩ ♩
tiri-tiri	⌏⌏	tai ti	♩ ♩
tiri-ti	⌏⌏	ti tai	♩ ♩
ti-tiri	⌏⌏	tim-ri	♩ ♩
ta-ah	♩	ri-tim	♩

Level III: Late Intermediate Sonatina (Compares to Level 7 of 10 in many graded repertoire series)

Sonatina in D Major, Op. 36, No. 6 – I. Allegro con spirito by Muzio Clementi

Recommended Technical Skills

- Scales, three octaves hands together: ♩ = 100, play ♪ in triplets
- Major and minor arpeggios, hands together, two octaves: ♩ = 120, play ♪
- Major, minor, dominant 7th and diminished 7th chords with inversions: Solid play ♩ at ♩ = 100; Broken play in ♪ triplets (major and minor) at ♩ = 100 and play ♪ (dom 7th and dim 7th) at ♩ = 80
- Etudes: Comparable in difficulty to RCM Level 7

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Musical and Technical Considerations

- Length
- Shaping a well-projected RH melody
- Rapid scales and passagework
- Changing LH accompaniment patterns
 - Alberti bass
 - Solid and broken and octaves
 - Broken intervals
 - Rapid changes in pattern

Level IV: Late Intermediate Sonata (Compares to Level 8 of 10 in many graded repertoire series)

Sonata in C Major, K. 545 – I. Allegro by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Recommended Technical Skills

- Scales, four octaves hands together: ♩ = 100, play ♪
- Scales in contrary motion or formula patterns (RCM): ♩ = 88, play ♪
- Major, minor, dominant 7th and diminished 7th arpeggios: hands together, four octaves, ♩ = 72, play ♪
- Major and minor four-note chords, dominant 7th and diminished 7th chords with inversions: Solid play ♩ at ♩ = 120; Broken play ♪ at ♩ = 80
- Chromatic Scales: ♩ = 100, play ♪
- Etudes: Comparable in difficulty to RCM Level 8

Musical and Technical Considerations

- Fluent and even scale passages
- Firm bass and punctuated chords
- Balance between hands
 - Melody and accompaniment
 - Dialogue between hands
- Fluid Trills
- Other details: pedal, rests, note duration, sensitive phrasing
- Character and dynamic contrast (articulations)

Level V: Early Advanced Sonata (Compares with Level 9 of 10 in many graded repertoire series)

Sonata in D Major, Hob. XVI:37 – I. Allegro con brio, by Franz Joseph Haydn

Recommended Technical Skills

- Scales, four octaves hands together: ♩ = 112, play ♪
- Scales in contrary motion or formula patterns (RCM): ♩ = 100, play ♪
- Octave Scales: ♩ = 60, play ♪
- Major, minor, dominant 7th and diminished 7th arpeggios: hands together, four octaves, ♩ = 84, play ♪
- Major and minor four-note chords, dominant 7th and diminished 7th chords with inversions: Solid play ♩ at ♩ = 120; Broken, play ♪ at ♩ = 92
- Chromatic Scales: ♩ = 112, play ♪
- Etudes: Comparable in difficulty to Moritz Moszkowski, Op. 91

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Musical and Technical Considerations

- Meter (Common Time vs. Cut Time)
- Exposition Difficulties
 - LH concerns
 - RH concerns
 - HT coordination
- Development Difficulties
- Cadenza Interruption

Level VI Advanced Sonata (Compares with Level 10 of 10 in many graded repertoire series)

Sonata in C Minor, Op. 10, No. 1 – I. Allegro molto e con brio, by Ludwig van Beethoven

Recommended Technical Skills

- Scales, four octaves hands together: ♩ = 120, play ♪
- Scales in contrary motion or formula patterns (RCM): ♩ = 112, play ♪
- Scales in parallel motion all major keys at the 3rd, 6th and 10th: ♩ = 100, play ♪
- Octave Scales, ♩ = 80, play ♪
- Major, minor, dominant 7th and diminished 7th arpeggios, hands together, four octaves: ♩ = 96 play ♪
- Major, minor, dominant 7th and diminished 7th chords with inversions: Solid play ♩ at ♩ = 100; Broken play in four note form (major and minor) and dom 7th and dim 7th at ♩ = 100, play ♪
- Chromatic Scales: ♩ = 120, play ♪
- Etudes: Comparable in difficulty to Moritz Moszkowski's Op. 72 or Frédéric Chopin's *Nouvelles Etudes*

Musical and Technical Considerations

- Abrupt shifts of contrasts
- Dotted rhythm and pulse
- Detailed markings
- Attention to multiple voice parts
- Balance between lines and hands
- Technical issues: staccato scale, trill followed by arpeggio, awkward turn
- Coordination issues
- Chordal voicing
- Octave melody

Ready to proceed to Level VII:
***Sonata in C Minor, Op. 13* by L. van Beethoven**

Important Resources

- *A History of Keyboard Literature* by Stewart Gordon
- *Guide to the Pianist's Repertoire* by Maurice Hinson
- *The Pianist's Guide to Standard Teaching and Performance Literature* by Jane Magrath
- *Piano Repertoire Guide: Intermediate and Advanced Literature, 5th Edition* by Cathy Albergo and Reid Alexander
- *Royal Conservatory of Music Piano Syllabus 2015*
- *Beethoven's Piano Sonatas: A Short Companion* by Charles Rosen
- Audition Requirements for The Juilliard School (undergraduate and graduate), <http://www.juilliard.edu>