

"Claire's Music Workbook" is an interesting and informative book. It incorporates material that will enable people to start from scratch and make progress towards gaining the knowledge of, and ability to use technical musical skills. The course is systematically arranged, each section building on the one before, from the very basic to real pieces of music to play, many of them being traditional favourites. There are plenty of examples to test the knowledge gained at each stage. Key points are laid out simply and clearly. The text is clear and also caters for the very young without being patronising. There are sections on music examinations including tips on how to deal with them, sets of key word lists with a little exercise to perform to ensure that active learning takes place.

As in any good distance learning course, a tutor would improve the learning experience, but I am confident that a great deal of progress could be made on the basics by the young student on their own. To advance far, they, like people of any generation, do need someone to motivate them, to make sure they are on track, to ask those questions that stretch the mind (though the book does do that!) and to help with the problems that inevitably occur. This is where the tutor comes in. The book is good, but a human input is obviously an advantage.

All in all, this is a superb addition to the armoury for music teachers and students alike. Although it is aimed primarily at the young, I suspect that even some one coming late to the idea would find it of immense value.

R.G. (Bob) Saunders, BA(Hons), FAPM, FRSA, Associate Lecturer, Open University, United Kingdom.

This workbook is helpful for children and adults who are new to music, not just the piano. It clearly and thoroughly explains all aspects of playing and there are plenty of exercises to test your understanding throughout the book. The useful analogies and diagrams help with such things as the time value of notes and the concept of scales. Some pages have a wealth of information on them so children will find it useful to be guided through these. Being able to play the tunes at the end of the workbook is a suitable reward for working through it.

Amanda Bennett, Member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, United Kingdom.

"Claire's Music Workbook" is an excellent book especially for younger musicians. It uses large fonts especially in the first part and is generally very easy to read. There is something for everyone from very young beginners, colouring notes and cutting and pasting the old-fashioned way. There are plenty of examples and worksheets, and songs to play at the back of the book.

D. Fongalland, B.Sc. (Hons), Fuel Cell Research Scientist, Johnson-Matthey, United Kingdom.

'Claire's Music Workbook' provides an excellent grounding in the basics of Music Theory. This book is extremely valuable for younger beginners as it is presented in a clear, concise and most importantly, an enjoyable way. The older beginner would also find this book of great value, as it provides them with the information they need to understand the concepts of music. 'Claire's Theory Workbook' is a fun way to learn and we are very happy to retail it in the store.

Rianna McSwan, Manager, "Mr Music", Maidenhead, United Kingdom.

Claire's Music Workbook is the clearly the result of many years of actively teaching music at a range of levels. It starts from the basics principles of music and follows a natural progression that takes the student through to a fairly advanced level. There are many opportunities for students to practice the core elements of music as well as learn the theoretical principles involved. It gives clear explanations that can be understood by the musical novice and appreciated by the experienced musician. Emphasis is placed on areas of particular importance, leaving the student and teacher in no doubt about what is relevant for maximum progress in both theory and practical skills.

Donovan Mason BSc (Hons), GRSC. Vice Principal of Tutorial College of West London, United Kingdom.

As the principal of Pointe-a-Pierre Government Primary School since 1989 and having taught there since 1968, I feel that this workbook can be introduced on the recommended list of books for the primary as well as the secondary school since music has already been introduced in the curriculum. It is easy to follow and can be used for instruments such as the recorder, guitar and steelpan both in primary and secondary schools.

Patricia Seerattan-Gopaul, Principal, San Fernando, Republic of Trinidad & Tobago.

This workbook can be used by beginners and includes music rudiments to examination boards up to Grade 3. There are lots of exercises and examples, and it is easy to follow. Big size notes and graphics make it possible for young beginners to use the workbook.

Anthony Williams, Principal, The Music College, Port-of-Spain, Republic of Trinidad & Tobago.

As a music teacher for over 25 years, a full-time teacher and teaching music privately, I can vouch that this workbook is suitable for both young and adult students and helpful to students taking the earlier graded Theory exams in music; it is also suitable for all instruments.

This book should be a part of any book collection whether private, public or specialist music, teacher, student or parent. The presentation is very good, easily understood in contrast to older reprinted music editions which have remain unchanged over the years.

Clara Skeete, Port-of-Spain, Republic of Trinidad & Tobago.

I am a full-time music teacher currently at a Senior Comprehensive School since 1979. I am a professional accompanist at several churches, a judge at competitions, and teach the guitar and the steel pan. I heartily recommend the book as a good introduction to the theory of music. It has been written in simple and plain English easily understood by a 5-year old while retaining its clarity for the older student.

Bernadette Griffith-Fraser, San Fernando, Republic of Trinidad & Tobago.