

## Exemplary in Piano Basic Textbooks

### -- Review of the Newly Compiled Piano Basic Tutorial

Jie Qian

Anhui University of Finance and Economics, China

#### Abstract

In 2023, Shanghai Conservatory of Music Press officially published the "Newly Compiled Piano Basic Tutorial". After 5 years of careful design, it broke the traditional arrangement of piano textbooks and presented us with a brand new piano basic teaching textbook template. This article takes a set of ten books titled "Newly Compiled Piano Basic Tutorial" as the research object, aiming to analyze its innovative characteristics and practical applications in piano teaching.

#### Keywords

Newly Compiled Piano Basic Tutorial, Features, Practical Applications.

### 1. Introduction

In 2023, Shanghai Conservatory of Music Press published "Newly Compiled Piano Basic Tutorial" on the basis of the old version of "Piano Basic Tutorial". On the surface, the title of the book only adds the word "newly compiled", but "Newly Compiled Piano Basic Tutorial" has not been modified from the old version, but has undergone comprehensive changes, becoming a set of piano tutorials suitable for all ages, both professional and amateur.

### 2. Introduction to the Tutorial

A set of 10 volumes of "Newly Compiled Piano Basic Tutorial" follows the principles of science, systematicity, and rigor, gradually progressing from shallow to deep, and from easy to difficult, corresponding to the ten levels of piano grading. The complete set of books introduces 280 Chinese and foreign composers and explains 520 music terms. The repertoire of each volume is divided into five categories: Etude, Polyphony, Sonata, Foreign Music, and Chinese Music. Each category includes 4-15 works by Chinese and foreign composers, with a total of 295 works in the entire set. The tutorial not only includes numerous music works, but also includes a page of theoretical knowledge after the score of each piece: mainly presented in three sections: "musical structure", "performance tips", and "music knowledge"; Some works also have "expansion exercises", including "performance techniques" or "piano playing and singing"; Even random "good book recommendations" may appear. Such a comprehensive and detailed set of tutorials can be regarded as a model in piano basic teaching.

### 3. The Characteristics of The Tutorial

#### 3.1. The diversity and novelty of tracks selection

The content of the "New Piano Basic Course" is comprehensive and rich, with a balance between Chinese and foreign composers, diverse genres, and vastly different music styles. The repertoire not only includes works from the common European "Baroque period", "Classical period", and "Romantic attention period" in textbooks, but also works from Impressionist and 20th century composers, and even outstanding piano representative works from Chinese

composers; There are not only original piano works, but also piano adaptations of songs, ethnic music, opera and dance, pop music, jazz music, as well as playing and singing works.

In the selection of works, we did not blindly choose works from commonly used composers such as "Beyer", "Czerny", "Bach", but instead chose works from composers with equal technical requirements and musicality to replace them. For example, in the first volume of the etude, the works of Russian composer Yelena Gnossina were repeatedly selected. These etudes combined training techniques such as staccato, legato, jumping, diphthong, and scale, avoiding the training of single techniques in the "Beyer" and "Czerny" etudes; Among the polyphonic works, there are not only works by German composer Handel, British composer Purcell, French composer Lully, Italian composer Corelli, who were also Baroque period composers like Bach, but also works by 20th century Hungarian composer Bartok, French composer Faure, and others. This not only horizontally expands the polyphonic works of composers from various countries during the same period, but also vertically spans from the Baroque period to the 20th century, greatly expanding the selection range of polyphonic music works.

### 3.2. Combining Practice with Theory

Another highlight of the "Newly Compiled Piano Basic Tutorial" is that it does not follow the old version of the "Piano Basic Tutorial" by mixing various similar musical works in the textbook, but rather makes a systematic and comprehensive arrangement. On the one hand, each textbook is arranged according to five categories: exercises, polyphony, sonata, foreign music, and Chinese music, covering various genres in piano basic teaching, reflecting the comprehensiveness of the textbook; On the other hand, each piece of music not only presents the score, but also adds theoretical knowledge of music: there are melody structures, performance tips, and music knowledge at the end of each piece of music. This comprehensive and detailed theoretical knowledge added to the score is the first example in piano textbooks in China. Through musical structures, we can gain a deeper understanding of the structure of the work and strengthen our rational understanding of the work; Through performance tips, we can better grasp the difficulties, key points, technical points, and style of the piece being played; And music knowledge is very rich: it includes introductions to commonly used music terms, music knowledge, music genres, as well as analysis of composers and works, various musical structures, music history, as well as introductions to various music historical periods, piano performance genres, and world-renowned piano masters. The supplement of these theoretical knowledge will promote our better understanding and performance of works, combining theory with practice, in order to better interpret works.

### 3.3. Selection of Chinese works

Each volume of the "Newly Compiled Piano Basic Tutorial" specifically includes a category of Chinese works, increasing the proportion of Chinese works in the book and promoting Chinese music culture. It is the duty of every music teacher and piano learner. For many years, we have mainly used various foreign textbooks in teaching the piano, a foreign instrument, and the adoption of Chinese piano works has been relatively weak. In each volume of this textbook, a large number of Chinese piano works are provided by specialized categories and levels. The tutorial includes 77 piano works by 46 Chinese composers, including Tan Dun, Li Yinghai, Wang Lisan, and Luo Zhongrong. There are well-known classic Chinese works, such as Pan Yiming's "Stories on the Grassland", Du Mingxin's "Water Grass Dance", and Zhu Jian'er's "Running Water"; A considerable proportion of works are rare in many domestic textbooks before, such as Li Yinghai's "Selling Dumplings", Chen Nengji's "Pulling Camels", Lin Hua's "Dreamland", and so on. The selection of songs in Chinese works also reflects diversity, including songs, folk songs, and choral adaptations, such as Nie Er's "Selling Newspaper Songs", Wang Zhenya's "Yimeng Folk Songs", and Xian Xinghai's (adapted by Chen Peixun) "Sour Jujube Thorns"; There are adaptations of operas, film and television dramas, and ethnic orchestral music, such as Tan

Luxi's "North Wind Blows" adapted from the opera "White Haired Girl", Li Shutong's "Farewell" adapted from the interlude of the movie "Old Stories in the South of the City", and Wang Jianzhong's "Chasing the Moon with Colorful Clouds" adapted from ethnic orchestral music; There are also music from different regions and ethnic groups, such as the Yunnan folk song "Guessing Diao" adapted by Chu Wanghua, the Mongolian folk song "Gada Meilin" adapted by Li Xinghui, the Tibetan folk song "On the Jinshan Mountain in Beijing" adapted by Zhang Yuqing, and the Xinjiang dance style work "Tarim People" created by Shi Fu, which broaden our perspective on selecting Chinese works. Not only that, some works also have "good book recommendations" attached, recommending more and better Chinese piano textbooks to readers.

## 4. Practical Application

### 4.1. Combining professionalism and popularization

The comprehensive and innovative design of the "Newly Compiled Piano Basic Tutorial" divides a set of textbooks into 10 levels according to their levels. Each level includes five categories: etudes, polyphony, sonatas, foreign music, and Chinese music. Multiple works are selected from each category. This standardized textbook is not only suitable for piano students in professional music colleges, but also a good textbook for art literacy courses in ordinary universities. College students from ordinary universities have different levels of artistic quality before entering the school, and there are also differences in the degree to which they can play the piano. The arrangement of this textbook can enable students of different levels to find a suitable textbook for themselves and choose various works to practice. For piano students, this textbook is also applicable. Gradually learning according to their level can lay a solid foundation, You can also receive comprehensive training.

### 4.2. Selection of graded textbook works

Exams are an important means for many amateur piano learners to test their learning outcomes. Due to limited spare time, they often can only participate in the exams of a certain institution, which means they can only prepare a set of works from the exam materials. This will limit the selection of works. The "Newly Compiled Piano Basic Tutorial" includes many teaching materials and tracks from domestic grading institutions, including works edited by more than ten schools or institutions such as the Central Conservatory of Music, China Musicians Association, China Conservatory of Music, Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Wuhan Conservatory of Music, Guangdong Musicians Association, Zhejiang Musicians Association, and English Emperor Examination. This provides a wider range of tracks for piano learners, While taking the piano exam, one can also learn about other works of art at the same level, which expands one's musical perspective. At the same time, the "Newly Compiled Piano Basic Tutorial" has become a shared textbook for students of different levels through its comprehensive selection of works.

### 4.3. Teaching and lesson preparation basis for piano teachers

The new compilation of the "Newly Compiled Piano Basic Tutorial", especially in the areas of "musical structure", "performance tips", "music knowledge", "extended exercises", and "good book recommendations" beyond the score, has provided sufficient preparation materials for piano teachers. In addition, the textbook provides a good basis for lesson preparation, including how to teach students, how to prepare from what aspects, what knowledge is needed in theory, what technical requirements are needed, and expanded exercises, becoming a model for piano teachers to teach.

The Newly Compiled Piano Basic Tutorial, with its brand new design, comprehensive classification, and detailed theoretical knowledge, combined with practical piano playing,

provides a "template" teaching template for our piano education career and also opens up a way for piano basic teaching.

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Qian Jie, female, 1978.3, associate professor of the Art School of Anhui University of Finance and Economics, research direction: music education.

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