

## *What makes Succeeding at the Piano<sup>®</sup> different?*

The Succeeding at the Piano (SATP) method is a **holistic approach**, based on the idea that an effective piano teaching method offers the means to build a well-rounded musical foundation for life by engaging all aspects of the person: the ear, hands, mind and imagination. From the Prep level up through Grade 5, there are core components that are introduced and reinforced in overlapping ways that produce a synchronicity of musical growth. These core components are: reading and rhythm skills, an understanding of theory elements, musical creativity & imagination, expressive playing supported by detailed attention to body-friendly technique, ear training, musicality, and a commitment to and ownership of mindful practice habits.

1) Body-friendly technique. This is the method that teaches technique in a way where students connect the sounds they create to specific techniques they learn. The Technique lessons reflect the most up to date research on how the entire playing mechanism works, including how the back, torso, arms, hands, wrists, and fingers move. In this way, students learn superb and injury-free technique. Excellent technique is fluid movement with attention to listening, and not finger “strengthening”.



2) Students learn how the piano touch originates in the mind first, and then they learn how to use physical gestures to create the sound.

3) The unique reading system combines patterns (called intervallic reading), with guide notes (specific notes on the staff). The reading system moves along quickly, so that students learn how to read readily. Students also move to different positions early on, and key signatures and ledger line note reading are learned earlier than in other methods. Therefore, students become stronger readers.

4) The rhythm approach utilizes clapping, speaking, and moving to the beat. In this way, students learn an inner pulse much more easily, which means that they play better.



5) Technique IN the Lesson book makes it possible for students to learn and review their technique every day.

6) Theory, ear training, and composition in the same book becomes part of the daily work, easily reinforcing the Lesson and Technique concepts.

7) The entire method fosters musicality.

8) Students learn valuable practice strategies so that they know how to practice

9) Students use “discovery learning” – which is learning a new concept aurally first, experiencing it, and then learning the symbol and its definition. Educational experts have proven that this is the best way for students to learn.

10) As the student advances in SATP, the method smoothly transitions a student into the study of classical pieces. From the earliest stages, there is attention paid to classical composers. Friendly illustrations of the composers Beethoven, Haydn and Mozart, for example, begin the series, piquing a child’s natural curiosity.



And very importantly, the SATP Method guides the teacher. Teachers are encouraged to interact with the student as they explore the pages and pieces of music, and to listen to the student as they learn to develop and rely on their own ideas and imagery to express the musicality of a piece. This makes the process a two-way method, where the teacher comes to believe in a student’s ability and potential to progress as the teacher constantly reinforces the progress a student is making. Through student-teacher feedback and interaction, aided by the activities and music presented in the series, a process of self-discovery takes place, which leads to even stronger encouragement, confidence, and progress.