
P plate piano –

A rewarding drive

on the road to Preliminary



Like most teachers, I am continuously on a quest for fresh, inspiring teaching materials, so I attended the introductory session for AMEB P Plate Piano. Many unsuccessful purchases have made me skeptical about the claims of any new series, but listening to Elissa Milne play the pieces and talk about the teaching strategies, my interest was captured. I decided to try the books out on my fresh

new group of primary school children aged 6 to 12 that had just finished the preparatory level, and I must say that I was astounded by the results. The kids loved everything about the books from the music to the illustrations and this happily led to an increased enthusiasm for practice, and willingness to persist past difficulties. Parents often tell me that their children continue to practice the pieces long after we are finished with them in the lessons – such enthusiasm can't be bought!

From a teaching perspective, they are so valuable because the diverse and interesting pieces deliver the opportunity to be creative and talk about musical character and styles whilst using the whole piano, not just 10 keys. The extra content with each piece encourages music education to move outside the square and think about countries and cultures, modulation, tonality, and improvisation, to name a few. They make excellent recital pieces and provide students with an opportunity to sample bite size offerings of different genres along the road of developing their musical taste and technical facility.

Working best alongside the regular instruction method books so that theory continues to be covered, they provide a stepped increase in difficulty throughout the books that neatly delivers students ready for Preliminary. All of my initial trial students have now sat for 2 assessments with terrific memories of what a positive experience their 'practise exams' were, so proud of their certificates, brimming with confidence for their next one.

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