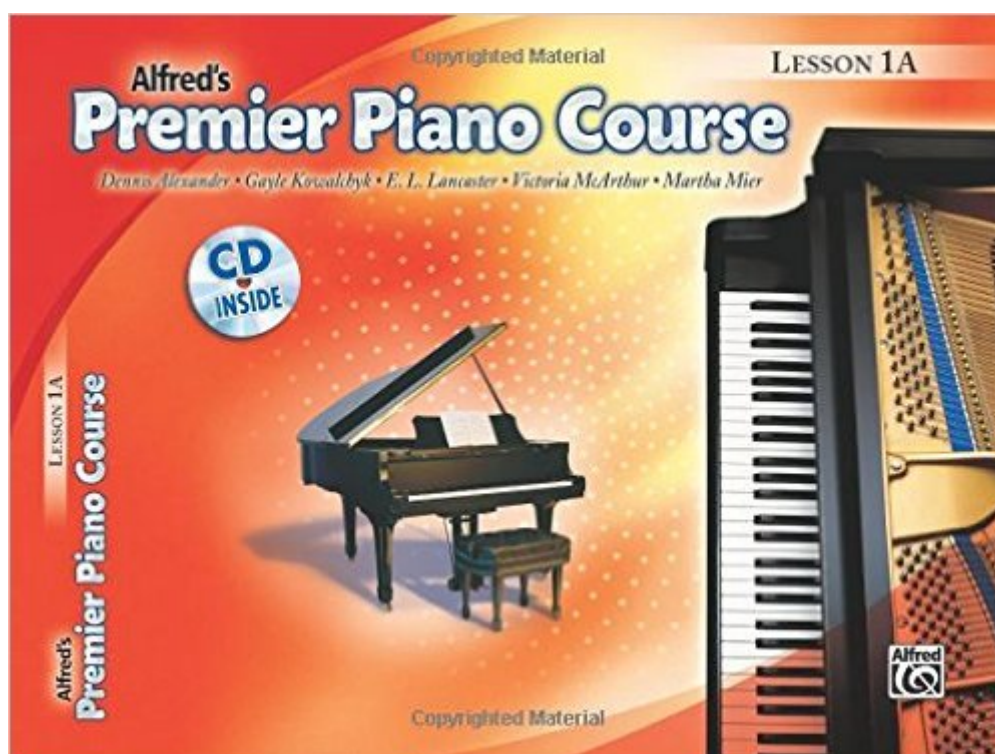


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# Premier Piano Course, Lesson 1A



## Synopsis

Beautifully presented and intelligently paced, the Lesson Books combine unusually attractive music and lyrics. The books feature note reading, rhythm reading, sight-reading and technical workouts. Each piece on the CD was recorded at a performance tempo and a slower practice tempo. The music from this book is available in the Piano Maestro app that's downloadable at <http://app.appsflyer.com/id604699751?pid=web&c=alfred>. Learn more About JoyTunes, the maker of Piano Maestro at [http://teachers.joynotes.com/?jt&utm\\_source=alfred&utm\\_campaign=web](http://teachers.joynotes.com/?jt&utm_source=alfred&utm_campaign=web).

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (24 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I have a degree in music and seven years of experience teaching piano students, and this is by far the best curriculum that I have used. I use the lesson books in conjunction with the performance and theory books, and together they make a very nice combination. The pieces are more interesting and melodic than the ones in most beginning piano books (especially when played with the teacher duet parts), new concepts and rhythms are well paced, and sight reading is presented in a way that really works. A few years ago, I heard Dennis Alexander speak about this curriculum at a local music teachers' event. He emphasized that this curriculum is not simply a revision of Alfred's Basic Piano Library--it is a completely new entity. He explained that Alfred Publishing had done an extensive survey of piano teachers, asking what they liked and disliked about the piano curricula currently available, and what they would change if they could write their own. With the information gleaned from this survey, a group of composers and pedagogues compiled this curriculum. The pieces

include original compositions (by Dennis Alexander and Martha Mier, who are already familiar names to most piano teachers in their own right), as well as arrangements of folk songs and classical melodies. The aspect of this curriculum that makes it stand out most in my mind is the presentation of sight reading. It uses a blend of intervallic, multi-key, and Middle C approaches that I have never seen in any other curriculum. When the concept of the grand staff is presented, the student learns a few landmark notes and then begins to read notes in various intervals above and below those landmark notes. Even in the very earliest pieces, students learn to move freely on the piano. There are pieces that start with fingers other than the thumb, pieces that start with the left hand rather than the right, and pieces that move to higher and lower octaves on the piano. Instead of having students who glance at a new piece and automatically place their hands in C position, or students who stare blankly at a new piece and then ask me, "which position is this in?", I now have students who can look at a new piece of music and figure out from the notation where their hands should be. It's delightful. The book also comes with a CD. Each piece is played twice--once at a slower practice tempo and once at performance tempo. The recordings are done on an acoustic piano and played with good musicality. The curriculum is recommended for ages 6-12, which seems appropriate. It is set up for students who can already read well, and the lyrics of some of the pieces target elementary school age students.

When my 9-year old daughter decided she wanted to learn piano (and she wanted me to teach her), I took a look to see what was new in the world of Piano methods. I had learned 20+ years ago, and didn't have fond memories of the books I used. Luckily, the local library had books from four different methods, and local music stores had several others. From browsing, I was most impressed by "Alfred's Premier Piano Course", so I picked up the Lesson Book 1A and the accompanying Theory Book 1A. I have not been disappointed. Starting with the very basics, this method has steadily and smoothly progressed my daughter through the paces. Each page builds on the last one, and it seems perfectly paced so my daughter is learning to play without getting frustrated (but staying steadily engaged). The pages in the lesson book are directly referenced to the theory book, so there is no mistake where she needs to be. As a young musician, I started on saxophone (treble clef only), and have always struggled with note reading on the bass clef. My daughter already played guitar, so I was concerned this might be a problem for her as well. But the "Premier Piano Course" focuses on the bass clef very early, and it is given equal time and focus from the get-go, which is different than many other methods. We are now almost done with the 1B books, and I am still very pleased. I'm looking forward to exploring the other books in the series as she progresses (performance

books, Christmas music etc.). Highly recommended!(Alfred's recommends this course for ages 6-12, and I concur. It's too advanced for our 5-year old, and our 12-year old hasn't shown much interest in it.)

I bought this book to start teaching myself piano. It is more designed as a book to be shared by both student and teacher, but it is written well enough and contains what I needed to start learning piano by myself. I like the content and how I can practice along with the CD. I will probably continue on with the other course lesson books.

I have taught piano lessons since 1998, and have reviewed and utilized many collections of method books over the years. Alfred Premier is currently my favorite method to use with children ages 7 and up in the beginning through intermediate stages of learning. The pieces in the Premier books are more diverse in sound than those in many other popular method books. Their sequencing is logical and the method definitely emphasizes artistry as well as solid technical development. This method is similar to Piano Adventures in pedagogy style in many respects, but I definitely tend to prefer the music in Alfred Premier over the music in Faber's Piano Adventures. I did not care for the way note reading was presented in the older Alfred method series, but this new Premier series is not just a revamp of the old Alfred method, it is a totally new creation with the biggest flaws eliminated. I definitely suggest using the coordinating lesson, performance, and theory books for each level together. The first several levels also having coordinating technique books, but you will need to supplement the upper levels of this method with other technique books since there currently aren't any coordinating books available. This is a VERY minor issue, however, since technique is integrated into the lesson book fairly regularly, and there is an abundance of solid technical materials out there to pick from for intermediate level students needing more work in this area. I highly, highly recommend that teachers give this sadly under-utilized method a fair chance. It is the best thing on the market as far as I am concerned.

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