



A BUZZ-IN SYSTEM has been installed at the side entrance to the house. Find your teacher's name and push the button next to it, 'Once, Gently and Quickly'. The bell is VERY loud on the receiving end. If you feel you don't think your teacher heard first time, count slowly to 10 and try once again. One of us may be still getting ourselves up off the floor due to shock.

I'm just now beginning to fill my Thursday Pre-piano class fro 4 1/2 to 6 year olds Thursdays, @ 3:45 for an hour. If you know of anyone interested, please send them my way?

AND NOW, I want to tell you about my most enjoyable project his summer: arranging songs you listen to on your ipod and radio in very easy and medium easy formats. I take no credit for this undertaking, except for its concept (more later).

For years, it's been on my mind that the music publishing business has adopted the commercial tactics of book publishers. The first edition of a new book comes out in expensive hard cover. When sales begin to sag they release the title in paperback. The same thing happens with piano transcriptions of Broadway, well-loved popular performer's creations, and many of the other interesting genres.

First version: for voice, piano accompaniment with guitar chords, reasonably difficult. This is fine if a student is pretty advance, and is going to be a backup for a singer only, or will be playing the piano or guitar, while accompanying themselves.

Second version: (called 'Easy') the student gets to play melody AND harmony... but for the most part it's not easy for the beginning and early intermediate student. In fact it's very difficult for the very YOUNG school child who is 'into' Taylor Swift, Katy Perry, and Mika, as they are becoming more sophisticated in what they listen to earlier and earlier.

So what's a teacher to do who isn't versed in making arrangements for this new generation, without running the risk of 'dating' herself by adding a Rock & Roll, or Disco styles reminiscent of my good old days?

FIND SOMEONE who knows the new harmonies and can simplify them while keeping the basic harmonic underpinnings (and Carolyn learns as we go along ^J^

TA-DA!!! Meet JESSICA DOYLE!! My Roosevelt Intermediate student, who fits the bill. There isn't any style of music that we cover at lesson time (Classical, Japanese anime) that we haven't wish we had more time to ponder the nuances of some composer's intentions, or wonder how a certain piece would sound adapted for piano or violin. One day I was commiserating about how students who receive gifts of the first editions of the latest superstar. They're so excited when they arrive to the lesson with music in hand but being that it's the difficult version, eventually they get discouraged. Although many are quite savvy and can judge if a piece is right for them by going on-line to Sheetmusic.com and/or Pianolicious.com and find just the right adaptation of a piece for them. Yet, even then the student finds the versions on those websites to be too hard, or not even there at all. That's why Jess not only arranges pieces but does to fit the student.

Each selection is arranged for a different level of proficiency:

Super Simple: For very early beginners. One or two staves, no hands playing at the same time, a great way to really spark a pupil's interest in piano.

Simple: Two staves, no chords, hands playing at the same time, also for beginners, but just a bit more difficult.

Simple Accompaniment: Also two staves, chords now added, but this time with two piano parts. The first piano part is just the melody, but the second piano is the harmony. The harmony part can be played by either a teacher or a student, with simple chords.

Easy: Two staves, chords, harmonies, definitely for the intermediate student who can't find what they're looking for on either Sheetmusic.com or Pianolicious.com...

Also, there's a cute computer game for the little ones just learning their 'note names' that's been a hit in my teaching. Just go to Google and enter 2 words: 'funbrain' 'piano' and up pops 'The Piano Player'.

Needless to say, I'm psyched to get this newsletter into the mail for you, and get on to my favorite time of year, when I 'tweak' every aspect of running the studio while looking forward to a delightful year to come.

Fondly, CKK