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Sight-Reading Skills for all Levels

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WELL-TEMPERED READER (RED, BLUE, GREEN), by Marilyn Lowe and Garik Pedersen Red Book G-7973, ISBN 978-1-57999-843-1; Blue Book G-7974, ISBN 978-1-57999-844-8; Green Book G-7975, ISBN: 978-1-57999-845-5. Each book is US \$11.95

Marilyn Lowe, author of the new piano method based on *audiation* skills called *Music Moves For Piano* (MMP), has done it again! She brings to us much needed and pedagogically sound sight-reading books (with activities). These three books are not meant to be used in a sequential order but to be used according to the student's needs. They are well organised by the relative major and minor "keyalities", as she refers to them, with each keyality having five pieces to choose from. Some lesser-known repertoire from the Baroque and Classical eras, with composers such as J.C. Bach, Handel, Mozart, Kunz, Beyer, Czerny, Türk, and many others, is attractively presented. I particularly like the way the student must first think before plunging in, by responding to a few simple observations about Metre (duple or triple), Macrobeat (large note-value pulse), tonality and keyality. Gentle fingering reminders appear occasionally. Titles of the pieces are simple and students are given the chance to explore musical form and analysis, for example, by composing a middle section of a Da Capo piece where only the first section is given. And they can keep a log of other repertoire studied at the back of each book. The books are used in conjunction with *Keyalities and Tonalities: The Complete Book of Arpeggios, Cadences & Scales*. Eastern Michigan University Professor Garik Pederson gives introductory insights on the use of the book. Physical considerations are also mentioned with an important observation being that small hands do not naturally cover five keys (as most methods require) but are more at ease over four keys. These books are intelligently conceived, may be enjoyed

by users of any method, and may just spark interest into what MMP is all about, if not already captivated.

NLH