

SECONDO

MATHILDE BILBRO











Marching In The Parade











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First Melody Lessons

By Mathilde Bilbro

A COLLECTION OF SHORT AND MELODIOUS STUDIES AND PIECES FOR THE VERY YOUNG BEGINNER, USING BOTH CLEFS AT ONCE

O CLAIM for this primary instruction book a quite unusual array of practical advantages, is to say only what an examination of it will quickly confirm. On every page is shown an experienced knowledge of how to secure the interested co-operation of young pupils, and how to get results through removing the needless hindrances that beset the beginner's path unless the elementary work is skillfully and sympathetically laid out.

Summarizing the features of this book:

Staff-reading: Both clefs are intro-duced at the very out-set, and the names of the notes, their staff-places and their keyboard locations, are gradually introduced, beginning with middle C and extending the area of opera-tions by equal stages of movement up on the treble staff and down on the bass staff. Thus is avoided entirely the wrong im-pression that the two staff-systems are contradictory; instead, they are easily understood as continuous, parts of one consistent whole thing, "the great staff."

Independence between the hands:

The mistake of supposing that parallel movement, in octaves, between the hands is primary is avoided; this less natural relation between the hands (one playing away from the thumb and the other to-ward it) is properly left to be acquired by exercises (scales and broken chords) of the second grade. There is enough of material for each hand alone, and for the hands in alternation through little pleces and studies that engage each about equally. By these means, and the avoid-ance of unfairly difficult demands upon both hands at once when both begin to play together in independent movement,

advancement takes place by easy yet rapid steps—the obligations of teacher and pupil are honestly met, but needless dis-couragements are forestalled.

Technical progress, in general: The introduction of the essential technical ways and means is gradual, and remark-ably comprehensive for the early grade, but without any unnecessary lingering over such of the details as are readily picked up when interestingly presented. And just here is a vital factor in the (already assured) success of this book, that of The introduction of the essential technical

Interesting presentation: All the above elements of systematic thoroughness show themselves in **results**, without the means and methods being labored or obtrusive. The little pieces and studies are decidedly attractive, and encourage the child's play-ing, by the playful spirit and zest that has so happily shaped the author's composition of them. Not only fanciful ideas and titles brighten these pages, but merry little verses accompany the notes, in many cases.

Altogether this is a "live wire" among elementary piano books. Wherever put to the test, it will continue to be used.

The whole book is engraved in large notation, as clearer and better for the primer stage.

PRICE, ONE DOLLAR