

Piano

Composition Book • Complete Level 1

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This COMPOSITION BOOK is designed to be used with *Alfred's Basic Piano Library, LESSON BOOK, Complete Level 1*. The book is coordinated page-by-page with the LESSON BOOK, and assignments are ideally made according to the instructions in the upper right corner of each page of the COMPOSITION BOOK.

This Composition Book reinforces concepts as they are presented in the Lesson Book, and specifically focuses on the development of creativity and compositional skills. In the beginning, students may need help notating their pieces correctly. Eventually students should be able to complete the assignments at home if the instructions for each exercise are reviewed at the lesson. Ask students to play directly from the music they have composed so they can see the correlation between what they have written and how the music actually sounds. This reinforces new concepts and strengthens reading skills.

It is possible to use this book even after a student has progressed to higher levels. This can solidify concepts already learned and can stimulate and develop creativity and compositional skills. The book can also be used with students in other methods.

Encourage students to use the limitations given in the book as a guide, but allow them to explore beyond those limitations. This will develop their natural curiosity and creativity.


Examples for the teacher are given on pages 39–40.

Valerie Cisler • Deanna Walker-Tipps

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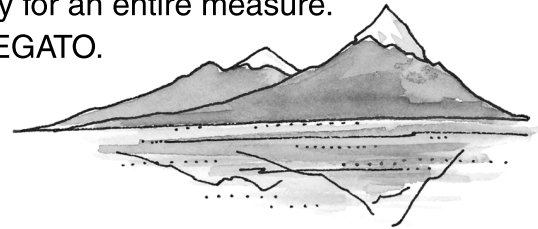
Cover illustration and interior art by Beverly Lazor-Bahr

Whole Rest

 This is a **WHOLE REST**.
It means REST FOR THE VALUE OF A WHOLE NOTE or any WHOLE MEASURE.

1. Write two pieces in **C Position** in which the LH “echoes” the RH. Use only **harmonic 2nds, 3rds and 4ths** in *Harmonic Mirror* and **melodic 2nds, 3rds and 4ths** in *Melodic Echoes*.

2. Clap and count the first two measures of each piece. How many beats will you need in each measure of *Harmonic Mirror*? _____ How many beats will you need in each measure of *Melodic Echoes*? _____
3. Draw a WHOLE REST whenever one hand does not play for an entire measure.
4. Add SLURS to *Melodic Echoes* if you wish to indicate LEGATO.
5. Play your pieces!



Harmonic Mirror

2
1

Melodic Echoes

Notice how alternating loud (*f*) and soft (*p*) enhances the echo effect.

5

Harmonizing with 2nds, 3rds, 4ths & 5ths

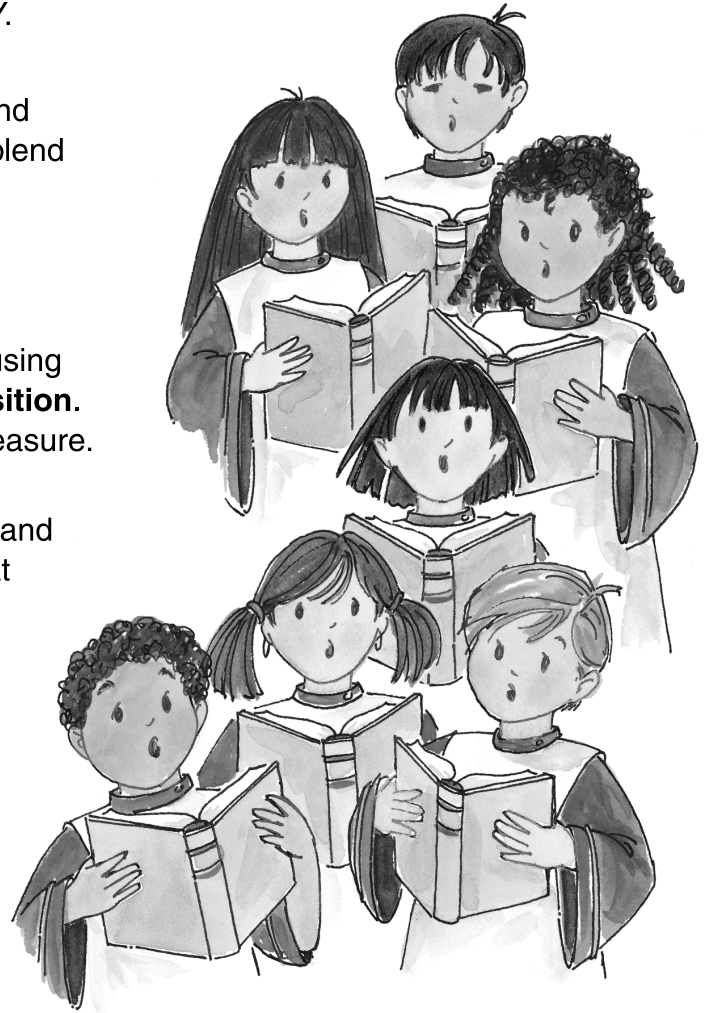
When notes are played together they make HARMONY.

To harmonize a melody played in one hand, choose harmonic intervals for the accompanying hand that blend well with the melody. When the harmony and melody blend well together they are “harmonious.”

1. Play and count the melody of *Harmonize Surprise* several times.
2. Compose an accompaniment to the given melody using only **harmonic 2nds, 3rds, 4ths** and **5ths** in **C Position**. Experiment with each of these intervals in every measure. Use only dotted half notes.

Notice the intervals that blend well with the melody and those that do not. Often, the harmonic intervals that are “harmonious” will contain notes found in the melody.

3. Write the correct TIME SIGNATURE under the GRAY arrows.
4. Draw SLURS if you wish to indicate LEGATO.
5. Play your piece!



Harmonize Surprise

1

I can make sounds that fall and rise.

5

What a sur - prise to har - mon - ize!

5