

rubank intermediate method flute or piccolo rubank educational library no 75

Rubank Intermediate Method Flute or Piccolo: Rubank Educational Library No. 75 - A Comprehensive Review

So, you're looking to conquer the intermediate level on the flute or piccolo? You've stumbled upon the Rubank Intermediate Method, No. 75, a cornerstone of many a woodwind player's journey. This comprehensive guide dives deep into this legendary method book, exploring its strengths, weaknesses, and ultimately, whether it's the right fit for you. We'll cover everything from its pedagogical approach to its specific exercises, helping you decide if Rubank Intermediate Method Flute or Piccolo (Rubank Educational Library No. 75) is the key to unlocking your musical potential.

Understanding the Rubank Intermediate Method: A Legacy of Excellence

The Rubank Educational Library is a titan in the music education world. For decades, their method books have provided a structured and effective pathway for instrumentalists of all levels. Rubank Intermediate Method No. 75 specifically builds upon the foundation laid by the elementary method, gradually introducing more challenging concepts and techniques for both flute and piccolo players. It's not just a collection of exercises; it's a carefully crafted curriculum designed to improve your technical skills, musicality, and overall musicianship.

What's Inside Rubank Intermediate Method No. 75? A Detailed Look

This isn't your average "play these scales" book. Rubank Intermediate Method No. 75 offers a holistic approach to intermediate woodwind playing. Let's break down its key components:

1. Technical Exercises:

The core of the book revolves around meticulously designed technical exercises. These focus on:

Scales and Arpeggios: Moving beyond simple major and minor scales, this method introduces more complex scales, chromatic scales, and arpeggios in various keys and rhythms, solidifying your finger dexterity and intonation.

Articulation Studies: Mastering different articulations - legato, staccato, tongueing techniques - is crucial for expressive playing. The book provides comprehensive exercises to refine your control over these nuances.

Interval Studies: Developing the ability to accurately play intervals is fundamental. Rubank Intermediate Method meticulously guides you through various interval patterns, building your ear training and accuracy.

Chromatic Exercises: Building your comfort level with chromatic scales and passages is vital for fluency and fluidity.

2. Musical Etudes and Pieces:

Mere technical proficiency isn't enough. To become a truly accomplished musician, you need musicality. This method incorporates:

Etudes: Short, self-contained pieces designed to practice specific technical skills within a musical context. They are a bridge between pure exercises and complete musical works.

Short pieces: The book also features a selection of carefully chosen pieces, offering a chance to apply the learned techniques and develop musical expression. This provides a tangible reward for mastering the technical aspects.

3. Progressive Difficulty:

Rubank Intermediate Method No. 75 is structured progressively. It doesn't throw you in the deep end; instead, it gradually introduces new challenges, allowing you to build upon previously mastered concepts. This incremental approach ensures a steady learning curve and prevents frustration.

Flute vs. Piccolo: Adaptability and Differences

While the method book is designed for both instruments, there are subtle differences in application. The fingerings, range, and even the embouchure requirements differ slightly. The book generally presents exercises adaptable to both, but you may need to consult additional resources or your teacher for specific piccolo adjustments, particularly regarding higher registers.

Who is Rubank Intermediate Method No. 75 For?

This method is perfect for students who:

Have completed a basic flute or piccolo method.

Are ready for a more challenging and comprehensive approach.

Want a structured curriculum that builds a solid foundation.

Desire to develop both technical proficiency and musicality.

Potential Drawbacks: Addressing Limitations

While Rubank Intermediate Method No. 75 is highly regarded, it's not without its limitations:

Limited Contemporary Style: The emphasis is on classical techniques and musical styles. Students seeking a modern or jazz approach may need to supplement with other materials.

Repetitive Exercises: Some may find the repetition of certain exercises somewhat monotonous, although this repetition is crucial for skill development.

Lack of Accompaniment Tracks: While not a dealbreaker, accompaniment tracks would greatly enhance the learning experience.

Maximizing Your Success with Rubank Intermediate Method No. 75

To get the most out of this method, consider these tips:

Find a Qualified Teacher: A good teacher can provide personalized feedback, address technical challenges, and guide you through the material.

Practice Regularly: Consistency is key. Even short, focused practice sessions are more effective than infrequent, lengthy ones.

Focus on Musicality: Don't just play the notes; strive for musical expression, phrasing, and dynamics.

Record Yourself: Listening back to your playing helps identify areas for improvement.

Conclusion

Rubank Intermediate Method Flute or Piccolo (Rubank Educational Library No. 75) remains a valuable resource for intermediate woodwind players. Its structured approach, progressive difficulty, and focus on both technique and musicality make it a worthwhile investment for serious students. While it might not be a perfect fit for everyone, its enduring popularity speaks volumes about its effectiveness. Remember, the key to success lies not just in the method itself, but in consistent practice, dedication, and the guidance of a qualified instructor.

FAQs

1. Can I use this book if I've never played the flute or piccolo before? No, this is an intermediate method. You'll need to complete a beginner's method book first.
1. Is there an accompanying CD or online resources? No, unfortunately, the Rubank Intermediate Method No. 75 does not come with any accompanying audio materials.
1. Can I use this book for self-teaching? While possible, having a teacher is strongly recommended for optimal progress and to address any technical issues that may arise.
1. How long will it take to complete this method book? The completion time varies depending on your practice habits and musical background. It could take anywhere from 6 months to a couple of years.

1. Where can I purchase Rubank Intermediate Method No. 75? You can typically find it at most music stores, both online and brick-and-mortar, as well as through online retailers like Amazon and sheet music websites.

Additional Resources

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