

Reading Mallet Percussion Music

Third Edition

by **Rebecca Kite**

All tracks performed by Rebecca Kite, marimba,
(YM6000 marimba, AKG 414 microphones)
Recorded in Heartwood Studio, Leesburg, Virginia

Printed and published in the United States of America by:
TakiMusic, Leesburg, Virginia USA
www.TakiMusic.com

ISBN 978-0-9714048-4-7

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Forward

I have written this book for students of all ages who are beginners at reading mallet percussion music. This especially includes middle school, high school and college level percussion students who have had limited or no experience playing mallet instruments.

This book takes the student from the beginning of keyboard and musical staff awareness to the ability to read classical era melodies and play with musical phrasings. It includes reading studies using major, natural minor, harmonic minor and melodic minor scales in all twelve keys. Also included are thirty classic melodies arranged for the marimba specifically for practicing and improving reading ability and musicality.

The Music

All the melodies in the scale and triad based studies are original compositions. I wrote these specifically for students learning to read music. These melodies help students gain confidence quickly in their ability to learn and to read music.

I have arranged the thirty classic melodies in part four specifically for the purposes of this book. These arrangements are based on the original compositions. Many of the melodies are taken from piano music. The Corelli Sonatas are originally written for the violin and have a piano accompaniment.

The Book

This book is written in four parts. Part one includes the staff, location of pitches on the marimba, key signatures and the major scales. Part two focuses on the process of reading music using stepwise melodies based on major and minor scales. Part three introduces the major and minor triad and reading with more intervals in the melodies. In part four phrasing, articulation and musicality are discussed. The melodies are from the standard Western repertoire. While some students may skip part one, generally it is best to go through the entire book in order. There are a number of important practice suggestions contained in the text that should be used.

New in the Third Edition:

The Play-Along and Listening Recordings

I have recorded all of the music in this book for both Play-Along and for listening study with more than 3.3 hours of music. Practice your technique exercises by playing along with me! Learn to read by listening to the music while you read it, then playing it yourself- a great way to develop your "mind's ear".

Expanded Sections

Graphics for the major and minor chords are included to assist in learning arpeggios. Also, I added Part Five - thirty technical exercises that will help you play all the music in this book.

Best wishes to you, and great practicing!

Leesburg, Virginia 2010



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