

Alice Student: Piano Lesson Summary for 2015-2016

Alice has been studying piano for the 2015-2016 school year. This year she made remarkable progress in her piano studies and advanced to level 6. In *A Dozen a Day* (Book 2 and 3), she studied a variety of technical exercises covering scales, arpeggios, and challenging fingering patterns. From Alfred's Basic Piano Library Lesson Books (level 4-6), she expanded her knowledge of minor key signatures and scales, inversions of seventh chords, diminished chords, augmented chords, and ornaments such as the long and short appoggiaturas. In addition, her sight-reading skills continue to improve by learning songs from *The Best of Children's Songs*, including "Bill Groggin's Goat" and "Clementine."

Alice completed *Alfred's Essentials of Music Theory* exposing her to solfège, more advanced chord identification, modal scales, harmonization, as well as understanding passing and neighboring tones. In this theory curriculum, she also learned to recognize chord progressions and different types of minor scales through ear training. She recently composed a new song "God is My Protector" and is in the process of recording both the instrumental and vocal parts. Currently, she is studying *Alfred's Teach Yourself Songwriting* to improve her ability in creating songs.

Over the Christmas season, Alice and her sister performed several piano/violin duets from *Instruments of Praise: Volume 2*. The arrangements in this book are not simple, but Alice mastered them beautifully. For our 2015 Spring Recital, she performed "The Year's at the Spring" from *Poetry at the Piano* by Martha Sherrill Kelsey. She did a fabulous job on the speed and fingering of the scales. She also arranged "Shenandoah" into a piano/violin trio with her siblings for her recital ensemble selection. Currently, she is working on two level 6 pieces, "In the Garden" and "You're a Grand Old Flag", for upcoming performances. Alice has a lot of potential in her piano studies, and I cannot wait to see where this next year takes her as she continues to use her talent to bless others!