
CPP LEVEL 2 BOOK LIST

Here are the recommended books for the course. Some companies have made the transition to digital better than others, and some are easier to get a hold of than others. I'll specify these below, as well as provide details on how and where to purchase these.

Question: Why do I need to purchase books? Why don't you provide all the music in the course for free?

A lot of the course pieces are available for free to download (the older copyright-free ones), but there are many excellent collections and books that span beyond what I'm able to share myself. Most Classical music is freely available, but the selection is limited at a Grade 2 level, and I believe a Classical-only musical education to be lopsided and lacking. I also believe strongly in supporting composers and artists, and generally oppose copyright infringement. Finally, with the amount of time and energy you are investing into piano (least of which includes the investment in your instrument), books should be considered a necessary, non-optional expense.

Since this course is around 8 months, these books are a one-time purchase used over a large timespan. Many of them can be used for multiple years. If you participated in CPP-1, you might already have most of the required books.

What books should I purchase?

The bare minimum would be to purchase 2-3 books: Piano Adventures 3b Lesson Book, Christopher Norton Connections 2, and Kabalevsky's op. 39 and 89 (see details below). These three books, along with the material I share, will get you through most of the course. Note that there are online versions of many of the pieces mentioned that you can find for free, though I don't condone or encourage copyright infringement. Though the Piano Adventures 3b book is a method book, and targeted for youth, I like the background structure of learning these pieces alongside our other material, and the pieces themselves are appealing. However, this is optional and only recommended for those who crave more variety and have extra practice time.

Additionally, I recommend purchasing the digital version of *Legends and Lore*. We draw on this book several times in the course, just as we did in Level 1. *Jazz, Rags and Blues* is only used once – it is no biggie if you do not purchase/practice this one (you can work on your other pieces/Piano Adventures book for that week instead). The same goes with Shostakovich.

No other book on this list is necessary to participate in the course – I list them here simply for the sake of completion, and if you happen to be a book collector, you might enjoy getting your hands on some of these. Many, such as *For Children 1 and 2*, and Schumann and Tchaikovsky's *Album(s) for the Young*, can be used for multiple years.

Books used near-weekly in the course:

- Piano Adventures 3b lesson book
 - [Digital version](#) and [print version](#)
- Christopher Norton Connections 2, along with free audio downloads

I recommend doing a quick search in the PTV forum, as people have shared many options for where to purchase these books depending on your location.

 - [Digital version \(Superscore\)](#)
 - *Highly recommended by others! Using the app, you can play along with the score and play along with the backing tracks.*
 - [Books - Christopher Norton's Connections \(christophernortonconnections.com\)](#)
 - *Note: this book can be hard to get a hold of depending on your region (not on Sheet Music Plus), but I consider it an excellent book and use it frequently. Apologies for any inconvenience.*
 - Audio downloads: [Connections for Piano Level One - Christopher Norton's Connections \(christophernortonconnections.com\)](#)

Books used in Level 2:

These are books you probably have already if you participated in CPP-1. We will use these books more in CPP-2.

- Kabalevsky's op. 39 and op. 89 (*multiple pieces used in course*)
 - [Print version](#), bundled
- Childhood Notebook, op. 69 – Shostakovich (*only 1 piece*)
 - [Print version](#)
- Jazz, Rags and Blues – Martha Mier (*only 1 piece*)
 - [Print version](#)
 - If you have a Scribd subscription, it's [available there in digital form](#)
 - [Digital version](#) of book on Alfred's website
 - [Digital version on Superscore app](#)
- Legends & Lore – Christine Donkins (PDF or print) (*multiple pieces used in course*)
 - [Legends & Lore \(elementary piano\) – Christine Donkin](#)

Collections I share with you:

No need to purchase the following books, as I'll share these pieces with you. They are simply listed for completion's sake.

- Children's Book, op. 98 – Grechaninov ([print version](#) and free [digital version](#))
- Glass Beads, op. 123 – Grechaninov ([print version](#) and free [digital version](#))
- Kunz Canons ([print version](#) and [digital version](#))

- For Children, 1 and 2 - Bartok ([print vol. 1](#) and [vol. 2](#) and [free digital version](#))
- Album for the Young, op. 68 – Schumann ([print version](#) and free [digital version](#))
- Mikrokosmos, 1 – Bartok ([print version](#) and free [digital version](#))
- Notebook for Nannerl – Mozart ([print version](#) and free [digital version](#))
- Album for the Young, op. 39 – Tchaikovsky ([print version](#) and free [digital version](#))
- 100 Progressive Studies, op. 139 – Czerny ([print version](#) and free [digital version](#))

Sight reading collections

Throughout the course, I share daily sight-reading excerpts from a variety of sources. If you're curious about the collections I use, I've listed them below. Many of these collections are quite complex and can be used for years. No need to purchase these unless you're a book collector – every sight-reading assignment in the course is freely shared.

- Beyer: op. 101
- Kunz: 100 canons
- Bartok: Mikrokosmos 1
- Bartok: First Term at the Piano
- Turk: op. 30
- Carroll: Scenes at a Farm
- Czerny: op. 261
- Czerny: op. 823
- Czerny: 100 Recreations
- Berens: op. 70
- Mozart, L: Notebook for Nannerl

Note: For full disclosure, I receive a small commission on any orders placed on Sheet Music Plus.