CPP-4 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. 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.

I will specify which books you will need, and which ones are merely optional. I try to keep cost in mind, so the mandatory list is small.

What books should I purchase?

The books you need are Norton's Connections 4 *and* RCM Etudes 4 OR Kabalevsky op. 27. Beyond that, there are optional book selections depending on which particular pieces throughout the class you'd like to learn (refer to the syllabus and the song list for this). A lot of pieces we will be working on, or have the option to work on, are copyright-free selections which I will share with you. If you like collecting books, feel free to check these out.

Please also refer to the "Grade 4 Syllabus Pieces" or the "Grade 4 Pieces" document to help you decide what books you'd like to get. I recommend a lot of listening to decide on your piece selections for the class ahead of time.

Mandatory books:

- Christopher Norton Connections 4
    - There are three non-optional Norton selections in this class, and five of his pieces used in total where two are optional between other selections.
    - Print version and digital Superscore version. See forum discussions here and here for more retailers and information about getting a hold of this book.
- RCM Level 4 Etudes ***OR*** Kabalevsky's "30 Children's Pieces, op. 27."
    - The RCM etudes book has "Chastshuka" from lesson 1. It also includes other optional etudes from the class such as "Solitude," "The Avalanche," "Masquerade," "Dewdrops," "When the Planets Are Aligned," and "Ballade." It is a very useful collection for this class.

        - Get it through the RCM, Amazon, or your local music store.
    - The Kabalevsky has "Toccatina" from lesson 1. There are 11 pieces in this collection that are on the RCM syllabus ranging in difficulty from grade 3-6.
        - Get it on Sheet Music Plus, and likely other places too (it's a popular collection).

Optional books for Level 4:

None of these are required; selections are based purely on your preference. For example, if you really like Grill's "Left Alone – Right On!" book, you can get it for one of our lessons.

- RCM Celebration Series, Repertoire, Grade 4
    - RCM website or Amazon
        - *Not a required book, since most of the pieces in here that we use are copyright-free, but it's a useful one. It has all of the Sonatina options for lesson 2, a Bach Minuet and March for the List A selection, Schumann's "Happy Farmer," Pine's "Cool Cat Waltz," and Jiang's "Flowing Stream."*
- Left Alone – Right On!: Grill (Alfred).
    - Print and digital version.
        - An RCM 3 and 4 selection. If you decide to learn the piece "Solitude" and you don't have the RCM 4 Etudes book, you'll want to grab this.
- ABRSM Level 4, 2025/2026
    - ABRSM website, Amazon, and elsewhere.
        - Worth getting if you're interested in doing an ABRSM exam. You'll find Grieg's "Waltz" and McDonagh's "Cloudscapes" from our lessons.
- Images, Pine
    - Digital version
        - An optional waltz which is also available in the RCM Repertoire 4 collection.
- Fancy Free, Niamath
    - Print version
        - An optional waltz which is also available in the RCM Etudes 4 collection.

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.

- Album for the Young, op. 68 - Schumann (print version and digital version)
    - 16 selections in the RCM up to level 8. A standard. We use a couple of pieces from here.
- Cuentos de la Juventud, op. 1 – Granados (print version and digital version)
    - Option to learn "Dedicatoria" from here, as per the ABRSM syllabus.
- Album pour enfants, op. 39 - Tchaikovsky (print version and free digital version)
    - 10 selections in the RCM up to level 7. A standard. We use a couple of pieces from here.

- 25 Melodious Studies, op. 25 – Heller (print version and digital version)
    - "Avalanche" is a mandatory selection from this collection.
- Sonatinas, op. 36 – Clementi (print version and free digital version)
    - All six sonatinas are in the RCM syllabus (Grade 3-8). The first sonatina is a mandatory selection in this class. A standard.
- Notebook for Anna Magdalena Bach – Bach (print version and free digital version)
    - Multiple selections from Grade 1-6. A standard.
- 7 Piano Sonatinas, op. 168 – Diabelli (print version and digital version)
    - Good collection, optional sonatina choice for Lesson 2
- 25 etudes faciles, op. 50 – Farrenc (digital version)
    - Very nice waltz by Louise Farrenc from the ABRSM 2023/2024 selection.
- Lyric Pieces, op. 12 – Grieg (print version and digital version)
    - Optional Waltz from the ABRSM syllabus (the RCM puts it at Grade 5 level)
- Miniatures, op. 33 – Maykapar (digital version)
    - One required piece for this class.
- 25 Progressive Etudes, op. 100 – Burgmuller (print version and free digital version)
    - An RCM 3, 4 and 5 selection. A standard.
- For Children, 1: Bartok. Print version and digital version.
    - Many selections for advanced beginner and intermediate students.

Sight reading collections

Throughout the course, I share daily sight-reading excerpts from a variety of sources. If you're curious about the collections and pieces I use, I've listed them below. No need to purchase these unless you're a book collector – every sight-reading assignment in the course is freely shared. A special shout-out to Angeline Bell's "My Garden Notebook" and Nikolas Sideris' "24 Days of Music," both of which we use extensively for supplemental pieces and sight reading. If you'd like to support their work and purchase your own copy, you can do so below.

- Angeline Bell: My Garden Notebook (physical and digital)
- Nikolas Sideris: 24 Days of Music (digital)
- Norton: Connections 4
- Grechaninov: op. 98
- Kunz: 100 canons
- Bonis: Album pour les tout-petits
- Czerny: 100 Recreations
- Czerny: op. 261
- Study in G major (Bertini)
- Study in G major (Wolfhart)
- Aria in F (Bach)

- Allegretto in C (Neefe)
- Impertinence (Handel)
- Menuet en Rondeau (Rameau)
- Harlequinade (Krebs)
- Prelude (Pinto)
- Sonatina in A Minor (Biehl)
- Sonatina in G (Attwood)
- Sonatina in F (Lack)
- Pyrenese Melody (Clementi)
- Ecossaise in Eb (Beethoven)
- Study in G (Bertini)
- Invention in A Minor (Silvester)
- Study in F (Kohler)

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